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## Sex suspect behind bars

A MAN who allegedly sexually assaulted and robbed a woman before setting fire to her home has been sentenced to two years and three months in prison for a separate crime in August 2016.

The man, known only as Richard PHD, pleaded guilty to robbing a house in Manacor.

He reportedly stole watches, mobile phones, a video game console and €1,009 in cash from the property, some of which was recovered by police, and was ordered to repay the victims the €1,009 in compensation.

The Frenchman has been remanded in custody since October after allegedly raping a woman in Palma and setting her house on fire.



Photo by BombersDePalma/Twitter

**BLAZE:** Firefighters in Palma tackle the huge fire.

# Arson attack

## Police probe string of fires

By Benjamin Park

Police are on the hunt for a suspected arsonist after multiple incidents of bin fires in Palma.

Firefighters in Palma were

called early on Tuesday morning to put out two large fires after several bins became engulfed in flames.

Huge flames rose from bins in the neighbourhood of El Molinar at approximately 3am and less than half an hour later, similar flames rose from bins in Coll de Rabasa.

Emergency services were able to quickly extinguish the flames, but two homes, a parked car and a telephone pole were reportedly affected by the fires.

According to Spanish media, further bins were then found on fire in the Ciutat Jardi neighbourhood in the evening around 11:30pm.

Firefighters again acted quickly to put out the fire but the extent of the damage caused by the blaze is currently unknown.

It is not yet known whether the incidents are linked, but police reportedly believe that it is the same person/people behind the fires.

An investigation is reportedly now underway.

## €20m drugs fine

A GROUP of drug traffickers have been sentenced to a total of 23 years and four months in prison as well as millions of Euros in fines for a number of drug and violence related crimes.

The Public Prosecutor had initially asked for a total of 49 and a half years for the group of nine, but the sentence was considerably reduced after an agreement was reached with the Provincial Court of Palma.

Made up entirely of Moroccans, the five men and four women reportedly brought narcotic substances into Mallorca through an unnamed contact located in Tarragona and later commercialised the drugs across

the island.

Investigating officers were first made aware of the gang after intercepting a truck carrying six bales of cannabis being delivered to one of those sentenced in February 2015.

The defendants were found guilty of a number of different crimes against public health while one was also found guilty of resisting arrest.

In total, fines for the group reportedly total more than €20 million, with three of those sentenced ordered to pay €2.16 million each, two have been fined over €1 million while the rest received fines between €108,000 and €195,000.

See us on page 24



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## NEWS EXTRA

## Wheelie bags axed

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

## Hospital calls

PUBLIC hospitals in the Balaeric Islands have seen almost 9,000 emergencies in the first week of January. The 8,998 emergencies show a 5 per cent increase to the same period in 2017.

## Cable ties

THE Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda is working to add a new electric cable linking Mallorca and Menorca. The cable is expected to be fully operational by 2020.



Photo by Virginia Revach/Twitter

**CRIME SCENE:** Ses Estacions Park in Palma where the incident occurred.

# Prison sentence for pervert

A COLOMBIAN man has been sentenced to two years in prison after he exposed himself in front of several children and then assaulted two police officers.

The incident occurred in February 2013 after the man, aged 32 at the time, lowered his trousers in Ses Estacions Park in Palma and proceeded to touch himself inappropriately.

He allegedly proceeded to masturbate for more than 15 minutes in front of a woman

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and several children between the ages of five and eight.

When officers arrived on the scene, the man attempted to flee, pushing one of them to the ground and running away. In the process of the arrest he reportedly kicked, punched and violently struggled with officers leaving two of them injured.

During the sentencing, the man was also ordered to pay the two injured officers €1,164 and €291 in compensation.

# Green fingers

A 62-YEAR-OLD gardener has been arrested in Palma on suspicion of theft.

The man, who worked as a gardener at a house in the Can Pastilla neighbourhood, is accused of committing multiple robberies from an adjoining property.

According to reports, police believe that his profession allowed him to see the movements of the victims and allegedly choose the correct time to act.

Several jewels were reported stolen after a wave of robberies between mid-October and December last year that allegedly all followed the same pattern.

The arrested individual reportedly has a long standing criminal history, having allegedly been arrested 26 times previously for similar crimes.

# New Year's Day bust up

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested in Cas Capiscol, Palma, after he allegedly threatened his mother with a knife on New Year's Day.

The man reportedly arrived at his mother's house at approximately 9am on New Year's Day with his girlfriend and asked his mother for €20.

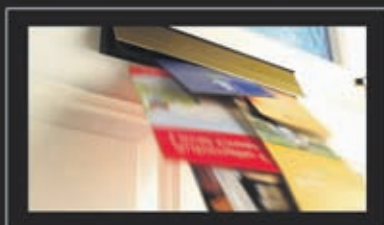
When she refused to

give him money, he allegedly began screaming, braking windows and hitting the walls before taking a knife and threatening his mother.

Police subsequently arrested the man, who had also allegedly committed 'several' robberies from his mother's house, and he has been charged with a crime of domestic violence.

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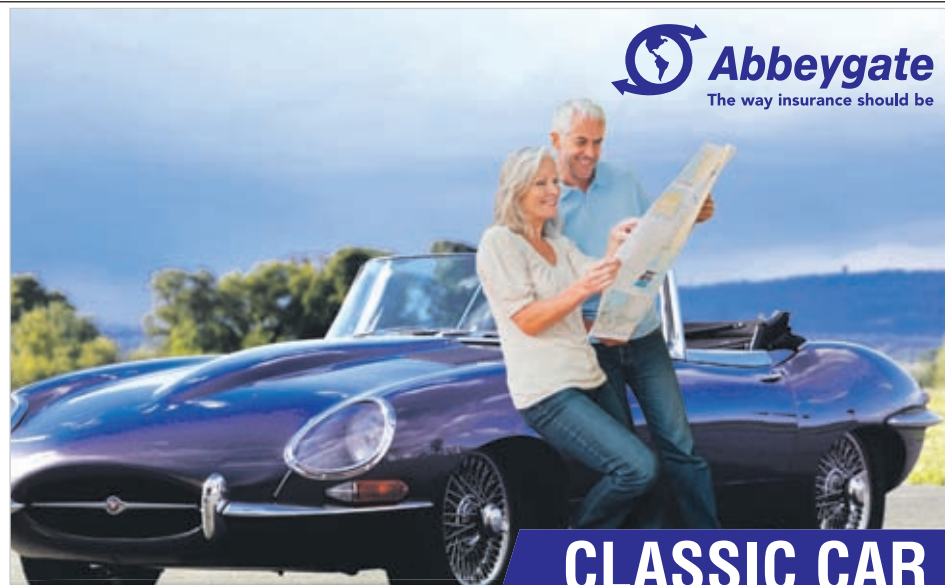
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**P27****LETTERS**

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

**P32****HOMES & GARDENS**

INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION FOR INSIDE AND OUT

**P39**

# Gang sentenced

A GANG made up of four men and two women has accepted a total sentence of nine years and six months in prison, one year and seven months each, for drug crimes. The group were responsible for bringing drugs into Mallorca and subsequently sold cocaine and hashish on the island in 2012.

## Car crush

A MAN has died after being crushed to death by his own vehicle in Inca. According to reports, the 45-year-old reportedly got out of the vehicle after parking it on a slope without properly applying the handbrake before dying of asphyxiation as he was crushed against a column.

## Deadly waters

EIGHTY-SIX PER CENT of drownings that took place in the Balearics in 2017 occurred when there was no active lifeguard, according to a report released by the Royal Spanish Salvage and Life-guard Federation. A total of 481 people drowned in Spain last year, 44 more than 2016.

## Top course

SON GUAL, Mallorca's number one golf destination has broken into the top 50 of popular golfing website Top 100 Golf Courses' European ranking. The website, which named the course 42nd in its list of the Top 100 Golf Courses of Continental Europe 2018, ranked the course seventh overall in Spain.

## Pile up

AN accident involving five vehicles at kilometre 12.3 on the Inca MA-13 motorway caused a giant backlog of traffic towards Palma yesterday (Wednesday). No serious injuries have currently been registered as a result of the collision.

## 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.

## Raging blaze

FIVE people have been injured after a fire broke out at a house in Mar-ratxi. A 55-year-old man has suf-

fered serious burns to his face while attempting to extinguish the fire, while two women and two Guardia Civil officers were also rushed to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

# 155

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1696 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 51 local stories.

## PLUS THE REGULARS

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**2010** I Love Marbella - Professionalism award

**2005** Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall

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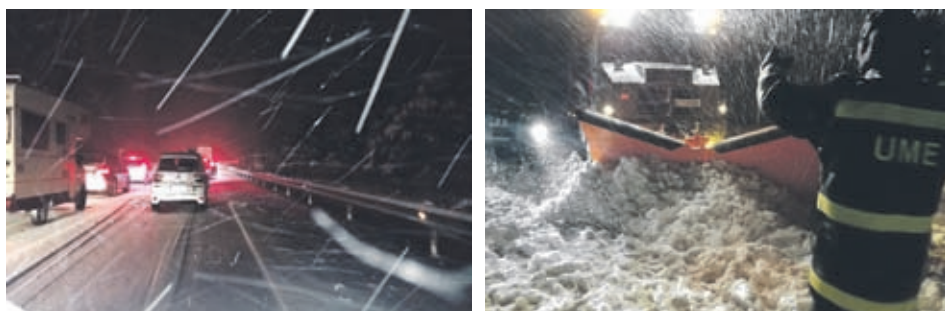


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# Snow joke!



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%

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## Top 5 stories



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

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

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

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

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

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

*\*For week 1-8 January*

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## 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 and her New Year outfit.

## Plumb job

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

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



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Photo by Screenshot@Arran\_Joventut/Twitter

**CONTENTIOUS:** The group posted the video to their Twitter page.

## Pro-independence protest

YOUTH independence and far-left organisation Arran have released footage of members burning the Spanish national flag.

Footage posted on the group's official Twitter account is believed to be from December 30, after the group's protest on the Day of Mallorca.

The short video shows two hooded individuals burning

an upside down Spanish flag reportedly hung on a fence of the Ses Estacions de Palma Park.

In the footage, there also appears to be another banner with the words 'Organitzem-nos al carrer pels Països Catalans' brazen across it which translates to 'Let's organise in the street through the Catalan Countries.'

It is not the first incident

involving the group in recent times.

Last summer, Arran protested against mass tourism on the island in the port of Palma and lit flares in front of a group of tourists at a restaurant.

On December 6, Constitution Day, the organisation also posted another video showing members of the group burning the Spanish Magna Carta.



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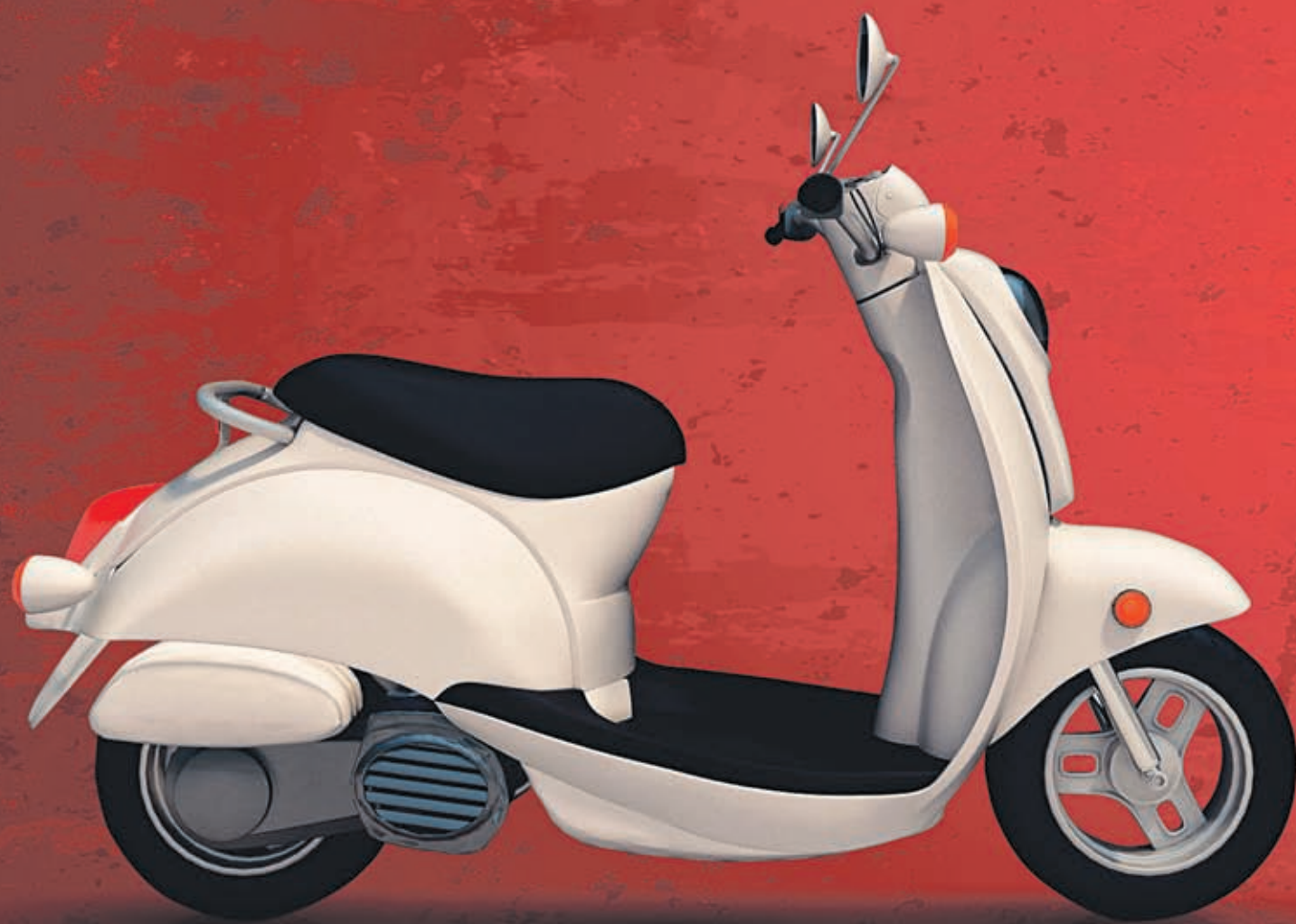
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## Population predicament

SIXTEEN Mallorcan municipalities saw a decrease in population in 2017.

Ariany, Banyalbufar, Bugar, Bunyola, Calvia, Capdepera, Deya, Escorca, Esporles, Estellencs, Fornalutx, Montuiri, Pollensa, Puigpunyent, Ses Salines and Valldemossa all saw a decrease in their populations according to statistics released by the National Statistics Institute.

The figures relate to those people registered with the town hall's 'padron' across the island with many influencing factors.

Ageing populations compared to a low birth rate, departure of foreign residents and economic improvement are all factors that could be related to the decrease in numbers.

Mallorca's overall population increased to 868,693, an increase of almost 7,000 compared to 2016.

# Second time's a charm

FOUR Spaniards have been arrested for allegedly selling marihuana from a property on Calle Caracas in Palma.

Police had already dismantled an operation from the same property in January last year, after it was reportedly detected that students from the nearby schools were buying marihuana for €10 and €20 at a time.

The sales point, which is in the vicinity of two schools, was reportedly known locally as '11.'

Emergency action was reportedly taken by police after a child, who had allegedly bought drugs from the property, needed emergency medical attention in late December.

Police raided the property in question, along with two others and a caravan, and seized more than 500 grams



Credit: Policia Nacional

**SEIZED:** The cash and drugs taken by police.

of marihuana, some of which was already packaged for sale, and €1,800 in cash among other items.

## 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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MPH-1778 2.900.000 €

### Peguera

New contemporary style villa with seaview



🏠 5 🛏 4 🏠 298 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 857 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1438 1.350.000 €

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Magnificent villa in picturesque area



🏠 3 🛏 2 🏠 159 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 809 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1843 795.000 €

### Costa de la Calma

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🏠 3 🛏 3 🏠 150 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 30 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1787 390.000 €

### Santa Ponsa

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🏠 4 🛏 3 🏠 400 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 1.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1211 1.100.000 €

### Port Andratx

Amazing townhouse with sea views



🏠 4 🛏 4 🏠 180 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 200 m<sup>2</sup>  
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### Santa Ponsa

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## Cheap as chips!

### Air Europa launches inter-island flights

AIR EUROPA has launched a new campaign offering inter-island flights for residents for as little as €8 each way.

The airline has officially launched its 'minimax' campaign, which sees ticket prices starting at €29 per trip to fly to national and Euro-

pean destinations, as well as the inter island flight deal for Balearic Island residents.

Flights to/from the Balearic and Canary Islands between January 6 and June 20 this year, with a few date exceptions, will fly from as low as €8 with

resident's discount, and €27 without.

Flights to other destinations including New York or Miami begin at just €199 per trip while flights are also available to Sao Paulo, Lima, Quito Guayaquil and Montevideo from just €299.

# Playing with fire

AN estimated 80 per cent of bars, cafeterias and restaurants with terraces in the Balearic Islands reportedly break smoking laws.

According to the government's General Directorate of Public Health and Participation, eight out of 10 bars currently break smoking measures put in place.

And it has now been announced that a new campaign to inspect the control of tobacco consumption in outdoor spaces of catering establishments will be launched this month.

Rules currently state that any space used for smoking can only be covered by a maximum of two walls or parameters.

But currently, many of the premises' terraces are closed off by more than two walls, which is a health hazard to non-smokers.

Government regulations state that offences against this rule have a three-tiered system with corresponding

finer.

Penalties for minor offences, which include smoking in prohibited places

and among others, range from €30 to €600, while serious offences, including allowing smoking in banned places, sale of tobacco by individual units and selling tobacco outside of vending or authorised machines can see a fine between €601 and €10,000.

If an establishment is found to have caused a very serious offence, which in-

cludes the advertising, sponsorship or promotion of tobacco products, they face a fine of up to €600,000.

## Running van

NATIONAL POLICE have arrested a man in Son Castello after he allegedly broke into a warehouse and attempted to steal a van.

The 35-year-old allegedly boarded a ship in the region and is believed to have used a pair of shears to break the parking lock of a van stored in a cargo on board.

Police reportedly inter-

## NEWS EXTRA

### Bus works begin

WORKS on the new bus stops in Puerto Pollensa has begun. The works, which will see the instalment of several bus stops, toilets and a pergola, are expected to cost in excess of €300,000,

### New spaces

CONSTRUCTION work has begun to create 50 new disabled parking spaces at the Sa Pobla train station. The works have been given a budget of approximately €103,000 and is expected to take three months.

### Cleaning up

TWENTY-FIVE tonnes of solid waste has been removed from water pumping stations in Calvia. More than 140 hours were dedicated to the operation that saw the removal of the accumulated waste and dirt.



Photo by Policia Nacional

**EVIDENCE:** The shears allegedly used to break the van's lock.

cepted the man in the vehicle after he had set off the alarm on the ship before allegedly attempting to drive the van home.



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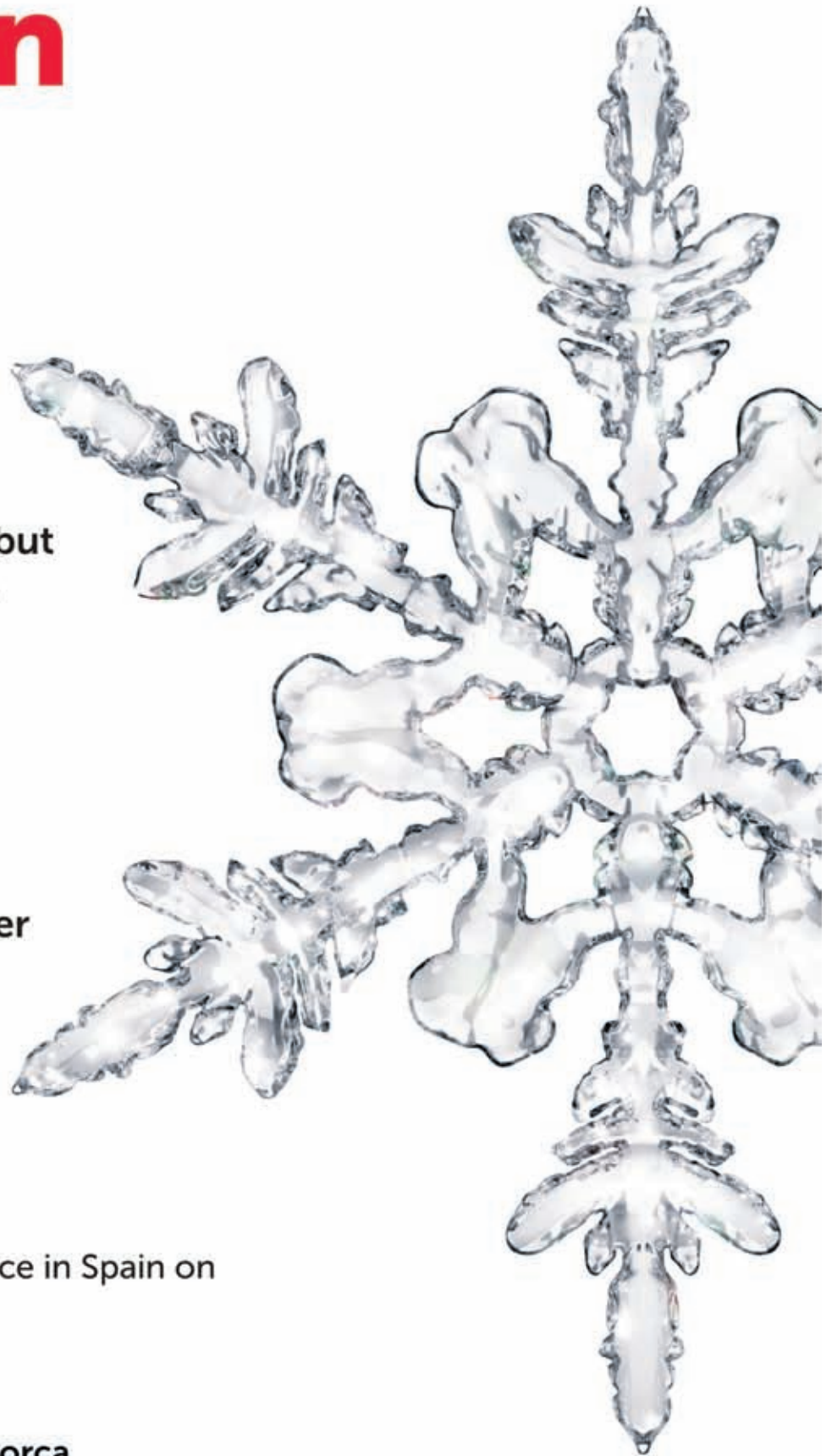
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# Calanova Cancer Care update

THE shop sent surplus summer clothes on a boat collecting for Puerto Rico and Dr Angel Camejo once again took many bags to personally distribute to the people affected by the last hurricane in Guantanamo.

These are some of the poorest people in the world who had practically nothing but who lost absolutely everything.

As the year 2017 drew to a close on November 30 they were unexpectedly invited to the annual dinner in the Grand Hotel in Palma of the Association of Palativo Care - DIME - who honoured the help given to them by all the volunteers of Calanova Cancer Care Charity Shop. Their President Mateo Roca presented

the shop with a silver plaque.

To end the year on a good note, on December 22 Dr Javier Cortes, the President of the Spanish Association of Cancer Care in the Balears, and the Director Ana Belen Velasco came to the shop for a glass of mulled Christmas wine and a mince pie and were presented with a cheque for €10,000 for the AECC.

Jaime Coll, President of the Association for Children with Cancer in the Balears, and their parents ASPANOB also came and were also presented with a cheque for €10,000.

The numbers for the two Christmas Hampers were called and won by a Mallorcan client of the shop and a

volunteer respectively.

On January 5 Angela McGrath presented a cheque for €2,000 to Jaime Coll - donated by Jimmy, Mirta, Livia and Claudia of Senso Yachts in Monaco.

This kind generous family wanted to help the children with cancer have a good Kings' Day in Mallorca, and ASPANOB sends them a big 'thank you' from all their little heroes and heroines who are fighting this disease.

After all the expense of the holidays everyone should visit the shop to find some super bargains including a lot of unwanted Christmas presents which might be just right for you.

A lot of ski suits and snow gear and some wonderful winter coats and raincoats for both men and women... now the bad weather is coming it is better to be prepared!

As always a big thanks to everyone who visits the shop to buy or donate and help. A very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you all!

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**AECC PRESENTATION:** From left to right are Anna-Lisa, Teresa, Tina, Jaime Coll, Angela McGrath, Dr Javier Cortes, Ana Belen Velasco, Victoria, Ledey Sue, Maggie and Noreen.



**ALL SMILES:** Dr Angel Camejo in the Palmanova Clinic.



**RICHLY DESERVED:** Receiving the plaque on behalf of the shop from Mateo Roca are Anna-Lisa and Eileen.



**ANOTHER DONATION:** Angela, Jaime Coll and Anna-Lisa.



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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.





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## Junqueras has appeal case in court

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

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

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

# Services industry grows

By John Smith

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

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

Harker, an associate director at HIS Markit said.

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

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

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

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

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

## IT sector in need of reboot

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

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

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

### Quote of the Week

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



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

## Minimum wage boost

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

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

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

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

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

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Jobless down

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

## Ortega stays

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

## Diesel injection

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



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## Santander axes 1,100

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

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

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



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Admiral Group	1,875.25	3.25	0.17	5,376.65
Ashtead Group	2,024.50	9.50	0.47	10,048.32
Antofagasta	985.30	3.50	0.36	9,679.14
Aviva	507.50	0.90	0.18	20,328.22
AstraZeneca	5,206.50	2.50	0.05	65,894.17
BAE Systems	578.60	6.60	1.15	18,225.11
Barclays	199.37	0.19	0.10	33,980.90
British American Tobacco	4,943.50	-26.50	-0.53	113,993.55
Barratt Developments	652.20	-5.60	-0.85	6,660.19
Berkeley Group Holdings	4,227.50	2.50	0.06	5,721.30
British Land Co	677.90	3.10	0.46	6,745.84
BHP Billiton	1,575.20	13.60	0.87	32,982.11
Bunzl	2,064.50	1.50	0.07	6,930.27
BP	527.85	-1.75	-0.33	105,168.07
Burberry Group	1,790.25	7.75	0.43	7,565.37
BT Group	271.15	0.15	0.06	26,888.15
Coca-Cola HBC	2,370.00	-13.00	-0.55	8,753.19
Carnival	4,853.00	1.00	0.02	10,181.61
Centrica	146.03	-0.12	-0.08	8,184.81
Compass Group	1,564.00	-4.00	-0.26	24,826.74
Croda International	4,475.00	-4.00	-0.09	5,885.08
CRH	2,738.50	-23.50	-0.85	23,170.55
DCC	7,562.50	12.50	0.17	6,734.67
Diageo	2,668.75	-3.25	-0.12	66,480.47
Direct Line Insurance Group	368.50	-1.30	-0.35	5,084.75
Experian	1,668.75	19.75	1.20	15,167.57
easyJet	1,526.50	15.00	0.99	6,003.80
Ferguson	5,449.00	19.00	0.35	13,515.63
Fresnillo	1,395.00	0.50	0.04	10,275.98
G4S	282.80	7.60	2.76	4,269.99
GKN	327.15	0.85	0.26	5,604.13
Glencore	389.95	1.35	0.35	55,937.96
GlaxoSmithKline	1,380.10	19.10	1.40	67,477.67
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,801.00	-23.00	-1.26	8,651.57
Halma	1,286.50	-3.50	-0.27	4,897.37
Hammerson	536.60	0.60	0.11	4,257.05
HSBC Holdings	759.65	-3.85	-0.50	152,665.21
International Consoldtd Air Grp	665.20	1.20	0.18	13,599.04
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,690.50	-0.50	-0.01	8,912.44
3i Group	937.20	-6.60	-0.70	9,182.01
Imperial Brands	3,171.50	1.50	0.05	30,233.46
Informa	721.20	-0.80	-0.11	5,949.32
Intertek Group	5,326.00	8.00	0.15	8,582.75
ITV	170.08	-0.82	-0.48	6,879.42
Just Eat	807.70	-3.30	-0.41	5,514.43
Johnson Matthey	3,186.50	-12.50	-0.39	6,191.13
Kingfisher	337.50	-2.10	-0.62	7,353.84
Land Securities Group	990.25	4.65	0.47	7,307.73

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 8				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	272.00	0.30	0.11	16,189.08
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	68.12	0.05	0.07	48,991.99
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,753.00	-5.00	-0.13	13,030.37
Micro Focus International	2,336.50	-245.50	-9.51	11,244.25
Mediclinic International	629.10	3.10	0.50	4,615.15
Marks & Spencer Group	312.00	-1.70	-0.54	5,096.82
Mondi	1,926.75	-1.75	-0.09	9,363.91
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	226.10	0.90	0.40	5,305.07
National Grid	867.00	-1.40	-0.16	29,267.83
NMC Health	3,131.00	-7.00	-0.22	6,414.82
Next	4,868.00	14.00	0.29	7,087.43
Old Mutual Group	225.05	-0.45	-0.20	11,123.27
Paddy Power Betfair	8,660.00	-210.00	-2.37	7,501.74
Prudential	1,921.75	1.25	0.07	49,686.70
Persimmon	2,748.00	-30.00	-1.08	8,580.03
Pearson	735.50	0.30	0.04	5,893.27
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,818.00	-23.00	-0.34	48,147.27
Royal Bank of Scotland Group (The)	277.60	1.30	0.47	33,058.09
Royal Dutch Shell	2,525.25	-4.75	-0.19	116,307.54
Royal Dutch Shell	2,556.25	-6.75	-0.26	95,996.83
RELX	1,710.75	-2.75	-0.16	18,219.82
Rio Tinto	3,967.50	8.00	0.20	53,491.83
Rolls-Royce Group	868.00	4.00	0.46	15,902.76
Randgold Resources	7,230.00	-38.00	-0.52	6,837.49
RSA Insurance Group	623.40	-2.20	-0.35	6,398.86
Rentokil Initial	312.55	1.65	0.53	5,712.27
Sainsbury (J)	242.05	1.05	0.44	5,278.44
Schroders	3,578.00	16.00	0.45	8,050.92
Sage Group (The)	805.00	-2.00	-0.25	8,726.43
Segro	586.60	-0.10	-0.02	5,883.17
Shire	3,842.50	-32.50	-0.84	35,254.08
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,456.00	-8.00	-0.32	5,836.01
Sky	1,012.25	2.75	0.27	17,353.48
Standard Life Aberdeen	433.20	5.50	1.29	12,740.91
Smith (DS)	514.20	-3.80	-0.73	5,531.74
Smiths Group	1,542.50	-2.50	-0.16	6,114.14
Scottish Mortgage Invst Trust	466.10	4.10	0.89	6,484.26
Smith & Nephew	1,286.75	1.25	0.10	11,250.94
SSE	1,322.00	-2.00	-0.15	13,431.40
Standard Chartered	797.40	3.40	0.43	26,172.80
St James's Place	1,246.50	-4.50	-0.36	6,618.76
Severn Trent	2,145.50	5.50	0.26	5,056.14
Tesco	210.55	0.85	0.41	17,177.22
TUI AG	1,556.00	1.50	0.10	9,130.93
Taylor Wimpey	209.60	-1.60	-0.76	6,917.68
Unilever	4,093.50	1.00	0.02	50,410.07
United Utilities Group	819.80	2.00	0.24	5,576.48
Vodafone Group	236.65	-0.15	-0.06	63,164.82
Worldpay Group	437.95	2.95	0.68	8,700.00
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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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

DOW JONES

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

NASDAQ

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%

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9314 .....

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0002

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1624 .....

£1.0790 .....

£1.3354 .....

£1.2275 .....

£1.4958 .....

£1.3821 .....

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0009

-€0.0013

£0.0016

€0.0008

£0.0037

€0.0027

.....

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

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# Investment in roads

## Costs are lowest for three decades

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

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

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

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

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



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

ly sensitive areas like health and pensions.

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

# ONLINE GIANT WILL LAUNCH LABOUR PROGRAMME

## Amazon to 'Flex' its muscles

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

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

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

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

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



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

which online commerce and collaborative economy platforms converge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Property firm to float shares

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

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

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

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

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

## Rental prices rise again

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

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

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

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

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# SPANISH BRANDS HOPING TO BOUNCE BACK

## Bargain boom begins

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Brent oil price at high level

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

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

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

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



# Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

**by Stone King**

Charlotte Macdonald

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



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

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

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



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

**What is an LPA?**

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

**Why should you get an LPA?**

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

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

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

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

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





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# Locals don't know what's hit them

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Keep the faith*

*Love Leapy*

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

## 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

## 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?

estimated 160-million kilometres to 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

consideration 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 reducing 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 truck that 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?



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY	BBCone	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
11 JANUARY	5:30pm Antiques Road Trip 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Big Cats 10:00pm Death in Paradise 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News 11:45pm Question Time	5:15pm Great Barrier Reef with David 6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico 9:00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure 10:00pm A House Through Time 11:00pm Live at the Apollo 11:30pm Newsnight 12:15am Michael Palin: A Life on Screen	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Tonight 9:00pm Emmerdale 9:30pm The Cruise 10:00pm Transformation Street 11:00pm ITV News 11:30pm ITV News London	6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 10:00pm Hunted 11:00pm Derry Girls 11:35pm The Undateables 12:35am Working Class White Men	4:15pm Dear Diary, I Died 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Baby Ballroom 9:00pm Big Family Values: Celebrity Big Brother 10:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter! 11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side 12:05am	11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Info not available 12:30pm Sky Sports Daily 1:00pm Live European Tour Golf 4:00pm Info not available 4:30pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm Info not available 8:30pm Live European Rugby 11:00pm Info not available 12:00am SKY Sports News
FRIDAY	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	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	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 The latest ITV News.	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	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	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 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live Cricket 12:00am
SATURDAY	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 10:15pm BBC News 10:30pm Weather 10:35pm Hard Sun	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	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	12:30pm 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	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 11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Cricket 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
SUNDAY	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	12:15pm Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well 12:45pm Food and Drink 1:15pm MOTD2 Extra 2:00pm Masters Snooker 6:35pm Ski Sunday 7:20pm Mr Holmes 9:00pm Yellowstone 10:00pm Dragons' Den 11:00pm The Water Diviner 12:40am Masters Snooker Highlights	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 11:00pm ITV News and Weather 11:15pm Peston on Sunday 12:10am Next of Kin	1:30pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food 2:00pm The Simpsons 2:50pm Two by Two 4:50pm Channel 4 News 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	2:30pm Dennis Strikes Again 4:05pm Will and Grace 4:35pm Blind Date 5:35pm Garfield 7:10pm Pixel 9:00pm Badass Brides 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm The Boy Next Door	7:00am Eurasia Cup 10:00am Cricket 1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 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
MONDAY	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	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	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	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	4:15pm Her Dark Past 5 News 6:00pm Neighbours 6:30pm Home and Away 7:00pm 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	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Cricket 4:45pm Best of Sky Cricket 5:00pm SKY Sports News 6:00pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm Football 12:00am SKY Sports News 1:00am SKY Sports News
TUESDAY	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	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	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	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	4:15pm The Wrong Mother 5 News 6:00pm 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	5:15am Cricket 7:00am Cricket 10:00am Cricket 4:45pm Best of Sky Cricket 5:00pm SKY Sports News 6:00pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm Info not available 11:00pm The Debate - Live SKY Sports News 12:00am SKY Sports News 1:00am SKY Sports News
WEDNESDAY	3:15pm Father Brown 4:00pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Match of the Day Live 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico 9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good 9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor 10:00pm Millionaires' Ex-Wives Club 11:00pm Mock the Week	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Giffriends 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:40pm Transformation Street	4:00pm Village of the Year 5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it 10:00pm Kiri 11:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?	3:15pm NCIS 4:15pm False Pretences 5 News 6:00pm Neighbours 6:30pm Home and Away 7:00pm 5 News 8:00pm Starting Up Starting Over 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Celebrities in Therapy 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	7:00am Cricket 8:50am Lord's Pavillion Portraits 8:55am Cricket 4:45pm Best of Sky Cricket 5:00pm SKY Sports News 6:00pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm Info not available 11:00pm Cricket

|| 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.





## 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.

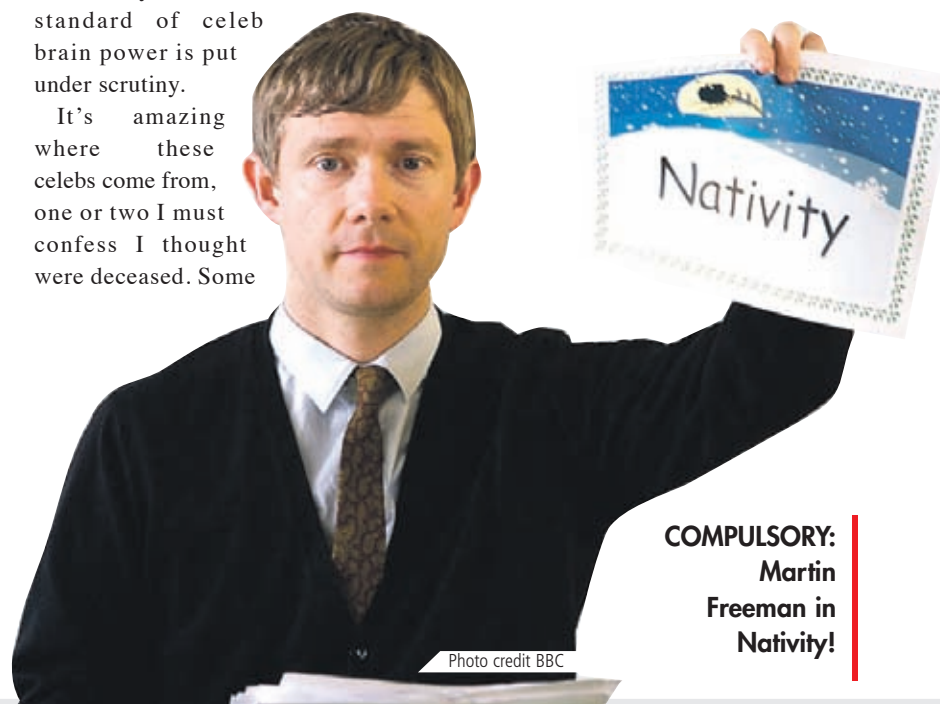
*Storage Hunters* on Dave TV is a rip off from the American series of the same name. It features a motley crew of punters bidding for the contents of storage containers presumably left by their owners. The original American version is slick, smart and full of brilliant one liners from

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

### 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.

As Ciudadanos was the most-vot-

**TOUGH CHOICE:**  
Rajoy is putting  
pressure  
on Ines  
Arrimadas.



Ines Arrimadas/ Facebook

ed 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



## 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 worldly, 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.

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

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

Nora Johnson  
Breaking Views

Nora is the author of popular psychological suspense and crime thrillers and a freelance journalist. To comment on any of the issues raised in her column, go to [www.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson)

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

For others, it's plates filled with cloud eggs, Yorkshire pudding wraps or 'unicorn' food - ie anything dressed in rainbow pastels with a shedload of sprinkles. (A side of 'unicorn sprinkle,' anyone? Hmm, must be a Leave Voter's invention!). Plus: 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](http://www.nora-johnson.net)) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

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



Credit: lottielondonau/instagram

## 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.



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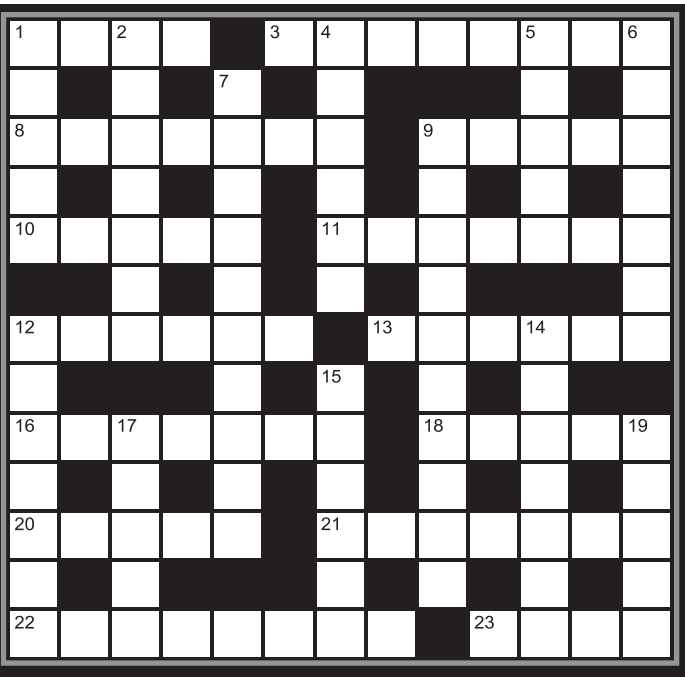
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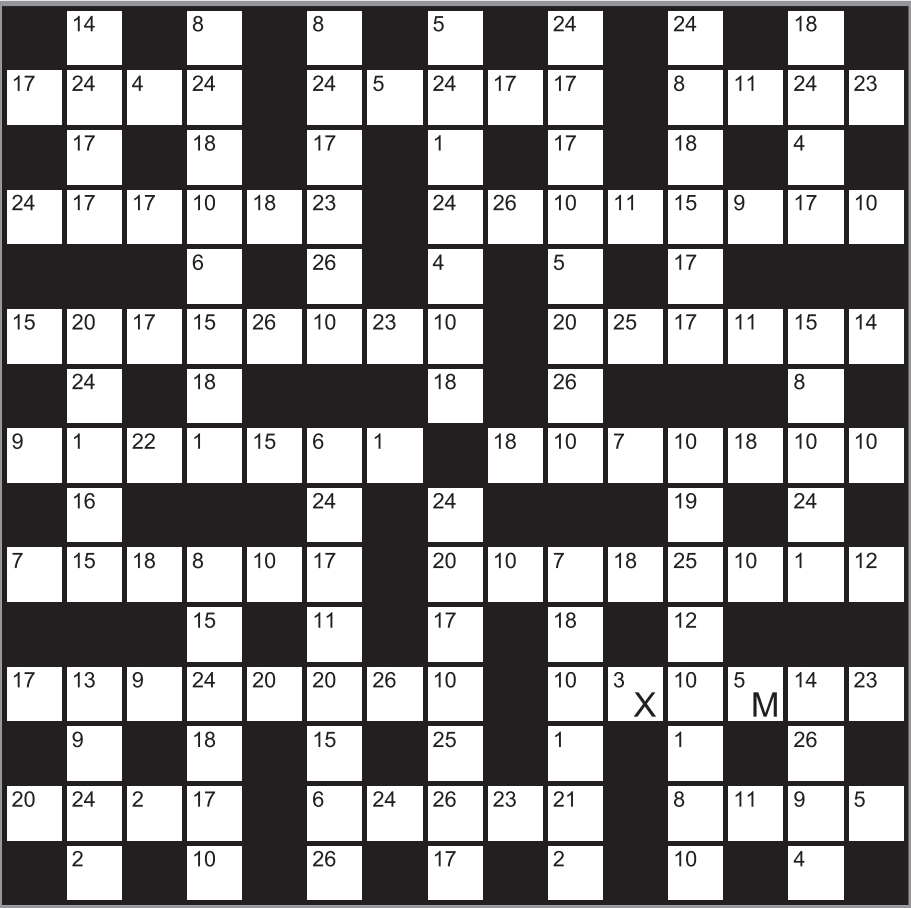
- Across**
- 1 Alternative in church's centre (4)
  - 3 West Indian songs about plays in Greek island (8)
  - 8 Communication from dining room takes a long time (7)
  - 9 Bring tea round in porcelain (5)
  - 10 The first ceremony is ordinary (5)
  - 11 Socialist leader in fitting decline (7)
  - 12 Reading,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



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

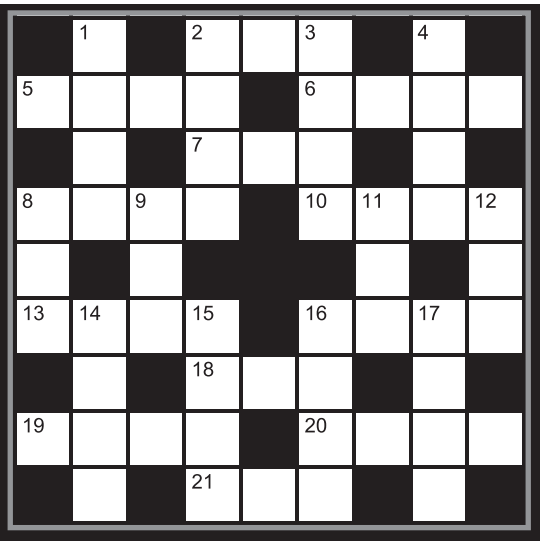
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents X and 5 represents M, so fill in X every time the figure 3 appears and M every time the figure 5 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

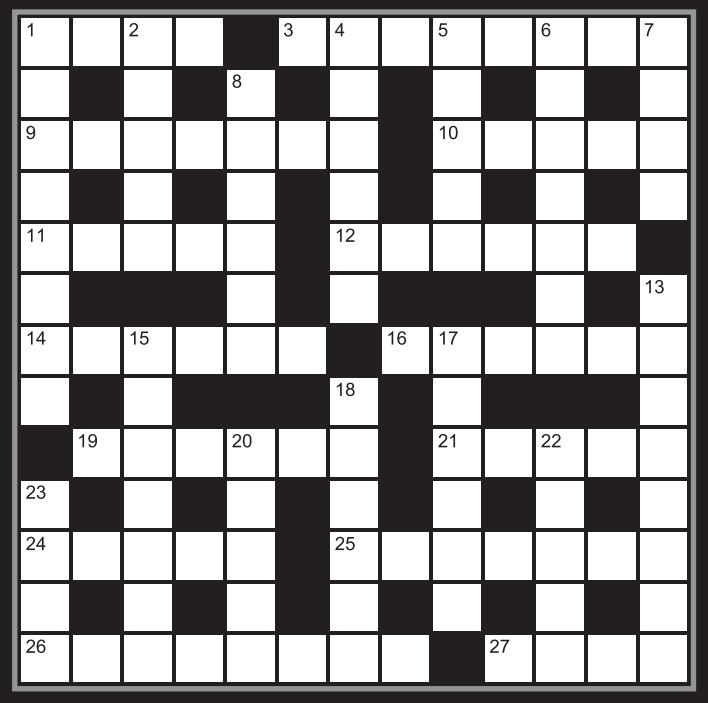
Quick



- 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)
- Down**
- 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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VIEW ON LIFE' MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - I INTEND TO GET OUT  
AND ABOUT MORE! '

## Kakuro

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



## Nonagram

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



## TARGET:

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

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

## Sudoku

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

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## ENGLISH-SPANISH

## Across:

1 Crudo, 4 Cuchara, 8 Galleta, 9 Nests,  
10 Racha, 11 Chupete, 12 Day off,  
14 Noises, 17 Sendero, 19 Poner,  
21 Erizo, 22 Prayers, 23 Toenail,  
24 Early.

## Down:

1 Cigar, 2 Unlucky, 3 Oveja, 4 Charco,  
5 Canguro, 6 Aisle, 7 Answers,  
12 Dessert, 13 Fregona, 15 Sonreir,  
16 Gospel, 18 Naipe, 19 Peace,  
20 Rusty.

## CRYPTIC

## Across:

1 Cinch, 3 Disband, 7 Nastier, 9 Gnats,  
10 Enact, 11 Soothe, 13 Seesaw,  
15 Easter, 18 Candle, 20 Canoe,  
22 Urban, 23 Salvage, 24 Theseus,  
25 Audit.

## Down:

1 Condense, 2 Hoist, 3 Duress, 4 Signora,  
5 Awash, 6 Dash, 8 Shave, 12 Briefest,  
14 Andante, 16 Tonga, 17 Versus,  
19 Amble, 20 Cilla, 21 Just.

## QUICK

## Across:

1 Imports, 7 Confident,  
8 Oral, 9 Able, 11 Aluminium, 12 Message.

## Down:

2 Miniature, 3 Omit, 4 Trembling,  
5 Acrobat, 6 Streams, 10 Wins.

## CODE BREAKER

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

## KAKURO



## LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL  
LOTTERY

Saturday January 06



## IRISH LOTTO

Saturday January 06



## EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday January 02



Friday January 05



EL MILLON: VSX56204

## LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday January 04



JOKER: 5 207 129

Saturday January 06



JOKER: 263 047

EL GORDO DE  
LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 07

YOUR STARS  
FOR NEXT 7 DAYSAQUARIUS  
(January 21 - February 19)

Spirituality seeps right through the week. As you are feeling particularly sensuous, invite someone special to dinner or on a trip. Visit garden centres and plan ahead. The colours and perfumes will be particularly pleasing.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

LIBRA  
(September 24 - October 23)

Having suffered a bit of a setback last week, you may be feeling less confident. Revving up your social life will certainly help to bring spirits up again. Be with people who live or inspire you in some way and avoid boring or moaning folk.

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.

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.

CAPRICORN  
(December 22 - January 20)

It's a better week for travel with less likelihood of delays. Should you be feeling a little lethargic and sorry about recent events, just count your blessings. Consider raising some money and having fun at the same time by indulging in a garage or car boot sale. Doing something entirely different can boost your mind and activity levels, which can't be bad.

## QUIZ: ENDS IN Z

- Derived from the Hebrew for 'to gather', what name is given to a collective farm or settlement owned by its members in modern Israel?
- Les Troyens, Symphonie fantastique and La Damnation de Faust were all works written by which 19th century French composer?
- Let's Dance (1962) and The More I See You (1966) were both UK hit singles by which American singer?
- The US musicians John Lewis, Milt Jackson, Percy Heath and Connie Kay were collectively known as the ----- Quartet?
- What was the name of the politician and revolutionary who served as the president of Venezuela from 1999 until his death in 2013?

- Which alcoholic cocktail is made of two parts Champagne to one part orange juice?
  - Which American cartoonist is best remembered as the creator of the Peanuts comic strip that features a range of characters including the boy Charlie Brown and the dog Snoopy?
  - Which city in northern Morocco gives its name to a flat-topped conical red hat with a black tassel on top, worn by men in some Muslim countries?
  - Which city is the capital of Liechtenstein?
  - Which printed multicoloured cotton fabric with a glazed finish is used for curtains and upholstery?
- Not a lot of people know that... according to the Oxford English Dictionary (Third Edition) the first attested use of the word 'quiz' is from 1781 and means 'an odd person'

## Answers:

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



# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to [yoursay@euroweeklynnews.com](mailto:yoursay@euroweeklynnews.com) or make your comments on our website: [www.euroweeklynnews.com](http://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](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com).

## IN PICTURES: Spain slides to a halt as snow grips country

Yesterday in the morning it was rain but soon started snowing heavily lasting throughout the day. Today the mountains (Fuensanta) are still covered and cold temperature, more snow threatened... On the day of the Kings I did not appreciate snow as my present from them... chocolate next year please...gracias. *Tim McMahon*

We need the water this is good. *Angela Mansfield*

Sunny and dry in Mojacar! *Anita Oakes*

Sun and clouds Coin campo, Malaga, with snow on the Sierra de las Nieves, bit chilly. *Ruud Faber*

What! No snow? I'm not going to La Manga then. Gonna stay in North Wales. *Davejune Higgins*

### 38 starving dogs rescued

Wouldn't it be great if we could now stick them in a cage and let them starve to death! *Jean Gray*

I wonder what punishment these scum will get? How can anybody do this to these poor dogs? Absolutely heartbreaking. I hope they will rot in hell. *Doris Teasdale*

### Comments from EWN online

Could the Animal Shelter not put down the animal that lead to these poor dogs suffering the way they did? *Andrew*

### Passenger leaves plane by emergency exit

Good on him! There is never enough information given.... No drinks, no food and continual lies!! Why stay on board!! *Rob Whaley*

He was probably thinking he was going to die whilst having an asthma attack and needed air but was being ignored, so he let himself out. *Stephen Richards*

You're all too quick to criticise Ryanair. That plane was on the ground and on its stand. It

then becomes the airport's designated ground handling service, not the airline. If they failed to service the flight with stairs, the agent service are to blame. *Will Murphy*

### Catalan crisis 'cost Spain €1 billion'

The damage these people have done is incalculable. Which is why it would have been a good idea for Rajoy to put a stop to it a lot sooner. Even now, he's just pussyfooting around the problem. *Peter Harvey*

### Two dead in 'massive' pitched battle in southern Spain

How is it that no arrests were made in the four hours that this lasted? *Jace T Adams*

What an awful situation leaving two dead, it must have been pretty frightening for people in the area. *Necie Russell*



# 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.



## 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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**Travel**

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

## Alicante's underrated tourist base

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

### Are dash cams legal in Spain?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Are they exempt from fees?

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

*D S (Costa Blanca)*

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

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



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

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


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

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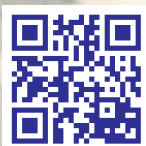
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## A touch of class



**TOP NOTCH:** The string orchestra.

THE Foundation Studium Aureum is sponsoring a concert of Russian music at the Theatre and Auditorium of Manacor on Sunday January 21.

Entitled Russian Music for string orchestra the 20-piece ensemble will feature work by Tchaikovsky and Arensky.

The Serenade for string orchestra by Tchaikovsky is one of his most beloved works and since its immediate success when premiered, it became a major work of any string orchestra repertoire.

The Andante for solo cello and strings by the same composer is a work of delicate and great lyricism and was inspired by a popular melody that in its repetition gradually changes the accompaniment to achieve a really exquisite climax.

The variations on a theme of Tchaikovsky by Arensky are considered to be full of contrasts and atmospheres, which leads to and incorporates a beautiful and inspired melody.

Under the direction of Carles Ponseti Verdaguer and with soloist Dmitry Struchkov, this one-hour concert starts at 7pm with tickets costing €13 from the Auditorium box office or online.



Photo by Fundacio Studium Aureum/Facebook

**IN TRIBUTE:** Perfect interpretations of the songs and music that fans know so well.

## Brothers in Band are back

IT is becoming increasingly more difficult to attend the concerts of some of the great musicians of the 60's and 70's due to death, ill health or simple old age.

So, it is becoming more and more attractive for audiences to attend 'tribute' concerts performed by musicians who have studied their idols in minute detail and present musically perfect interpretations of the songs and music that fans know so well.

With Mark Knopfler concentrating on his solo career and as a composer for film soundtracks, Dire Straits, the first group to sell one million CDs, have not performed together since 1995 and it appears unlikely that they ever will do so again despite their enormous success.

Today, a band made up of nine Spanish musicians who call themselves Brothers in Band are in

the middle of a tour of Spain and Europe where they are presenting all of the best known numbers recorded by the original band.

If the guitar and voice of Mark Knopfler have been fundamental in the original band then the same is true of Oscar Rosende.

His voice, posture, gestures, expressiveness and his spectacular way of playing the guitar are certainly reminiscent of Mark Knopfler of a bygone era.

Guy Fletcher himself, keyboardist with Dire Straits and Mark Knopfler since 1984, has observed after hearing one of their performances "I have to admit that I thought it was a recording of us."

They are due to appear at the Palma Auditorium on Saturday February 17 with tickets costing €35 and €40.

## Open history day

IF you would like to learn a little more about some of Mallorca's history there is an open day on Sunday January 28 in Montuiri.

In fact on the last Sunday of every month, the Archaeological Museum of Son Fornes in Montuiri holds an open day inviting visitors to view the museum and the archaeological site.

It is located in an 18th-century flour mill and exhibits findings from the archaeological site just over two miles from town.

The exhibition covers four periods: talayotic, post talayotic, classic and medieval.

To find out more about what is on offer, visit <http://sonfornes.mallorca.museum/>.

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## 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, Forcayot, 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 Villarobledo are priced €4 - €6, though some can be found for just over €1.

*Happy tasting.*

## Pop sensations coming to Palma on Ladies Tour

THERE might just be a few tickets left to see Spanish girl band Sweet California at the Trui Teatre in Palma on Saturday February 17.

Although only in existence since 2013 and having lost one of the original band members, the trio consisting of Sonia Gomez, 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's 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



Sweet California/Facebook

**TALENTED: The girls in the band.**

across Latin America and the USA where some of the songs have been produced and recorded.

The concert is due to start at 8pm and tickets are priced from €24 to €26 with some VIP options at €50.



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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.



**BOOM:** 2018 is expected to be an excellent year for Spain.

## Bumper 2018 projected

### The future's bright

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.

## 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



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

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 obvious cause, with buyer confidence in every other Spanish region remaining high.

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Ever heard of Llucmajor? Nice town in the south eastern part of Mallorca, very well communicated with Palma and offering some of the most interesting coast sites on the island.

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#### Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

Semi-detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with American kitchen, garden and roof terrace. 75m² living area.



#### Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

Terraced house near the sea with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, laundry room, private garage, garden, aircon



#### Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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#### Ref 3118, Llucmajor, 106,500€

Apartment in good state of repair, 3rd floor. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, 2 balconies. No lift. Living area 90m2 plus terraces.



#### Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

Plot with building permission, mains electricity and mains water possible. Nice views.





# Your garden in January

By Dick Handscombe

APOLOGIES that my column disappeared for a couple of months but software problems, delays in obtaining a compatible hard disk and becoming acquainted with significant changes in user friendliness caused my first major problem since Google appeared in 1998.

This was the same time when gardening problems multiplied with a drying climate, the use of an increasing number and variety of plants from outside Spain, wide variations in the sources and qualities of composts and the occurrence of unwanted plant pests, from the ever increasing number attacking fruit trees to feral cats.

Most expat January gardening needs are common along the Mediterranean coast from north to south, but what is feasible from day to day are influenced by the tremendous gales, continued droughts on the Costa Blanca and widespread rain in Andalucía.

Fortunately mild temperatures so 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



## PRUNING ROSES: Recommended for January.

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 hene-gada allotment we always had a

20-metre row that supplied bunches of flowers and seeds to passing village ladies for whom sweet peas were a novelty.

If you have an area of bare vegetable growing soil top it up with a layer of animal and vegetative compost to renew and improve the fertility and moisture retaining properties.



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Traditionally small wood remnants such as branches are burnt to ash, which is a waste. It's better to mulch them into small wood chips and use them for covering your garden. It prevents the soil from drying out in the summer and eventually it will compost and give nutrients back to the soil. It's better for both the garden and the environment.

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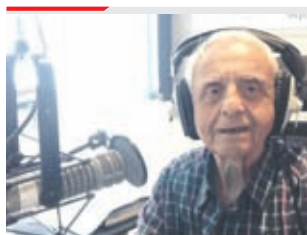


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IF you give your dog a command - even a simple one like 'sit' - then the reward of good dog is given as the dog's bottom hits the ground. Just a verbal praise given in a light happy voice can be enough for most dogs.

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.

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**PETS:** Organise care.

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### Who are the pet-sitters and why will they want to house-sit for free?

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**Client testimonial - David, Pet owner in Malaga, Spain**  
*HouseSit Match must be the best in the business. So polite and helpful in every way. We have and will continue to recommend them to friends, family and others that want to do a house-sit. 10 out of 10. (See reviews in Trustpilot)*

## Progress made on 'pawternity leave'

AN increasing number of businesses have started to offer time off for employees who have just welcomed a new furry friend into the home.

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



**HAPPY FAMILY:** Spending time with your new pet is important.

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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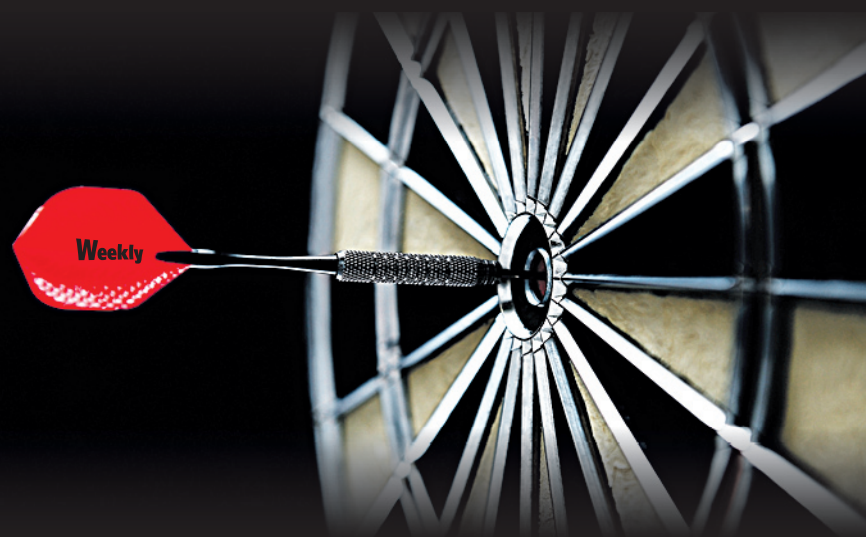
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# New Spanish cruiser unveiled in London

SPANISH manufacturer Rodman Polyships based in Pontevedra has launched their new coupe version of the Rodman SPIRIT 42 at the London International Boat Show.

Fulvio de Simoni's design studio together with Rodman's technical team have combined their expertise and experience, gained in previous collaborations, in the design and building of this model. From her launch, the Rodman SPIRIT 42 has become a reference model within the flybridge cruise boats range, up to 12 metres in length.

In this case, Rodman is introducing a new coupe version of this model, thus entering into this new class of crafts that is becoming so popular nowadays.

The new version also integrates new materials and new features, keeping the personality and style of



Photo by Rodman Polyships

**NEW FEATURES:** The Rodman SPIRIT 42 coupe.

the remaining boats of the Rodman SPIRIT range, offering a life on board which is comfortable, yet exciting.

A versatile boat aimed at a wide range of customers, thanks to the boat's conception and configuration possibilities that is now available in different versions, the HardTop and Flybridge.

The almost vertical bow confers on her a modern look and at the same time recalling a classic style. The first impression is that of a sound and powerful boat, emphasized by the verticality of her bow, a typical feature of the Atlantic boats, strong, reliable and safe under any navigation condition.

This new coupe version integrates

a sliding electric roof that provides the boat with a more contemporary and sportive line.

The roof itself incorporates two fixed windows, providing the inside space with splendid light and a feeling of a bright airy space.

In addition, at both sides of the hull, the boat is fitted with wide fixed windows and embedded portholes to provide even high luminosity inside and in the cabin areas.

Neutral colours, comfortable materials, lightwood and a combination of modern and sober textures complement the interior definition, designed for the enjoyment of all spaces on board the New Rodman SPIRIT 42 Coupe.

The propulsion chosen for this new model is two VOLVO IPS engines in two different optional powers: IPS 400 or IPS 500.



Photo by London Boat Show Twitter

**HANNAH:** Receiving her award.

## Paralympic sailor honoured at Boat Show

YESTERDAY, on the opening day of the London Boat Show which runs until Sunday, British Paralympic sailor Hannah Stodel was given a special award.

In the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, Hannah was named Yachtmaster of the Year 2017 in recognition of her first class sailing skills. She won her first Paralympic Gold medal in 2005 and has been a regular participant in the Mixed Sonar class and has been sailing since the age of three.

# Three Nautical Kings

WHILST the Three Kings travel in different forms of transport around Spain, the arrival of the Magi in Puerto Portals was as it should be by sea.

The Three Wise Men, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar together with their Royal Courts were brought into port by the Salvamento Marítimo vessel, the Salvamar Acrux, to the cheers of the 200 plus children waiting excitedly for their arrival.

Parents of all of the children present had donated €3 each to the organisers and the money raised will



Photo by Puerto Portals

**BY SEA:** The Kings and their Royal Courts arrive.

be used to help young underprivileged children in Mallorca by the island

branch of charity Caritas.

Those at the port were given sweets and were all suitably excited after having their own party prior to the arrival of the Three Kings.

Once the Three Kings were seated on their thrones on a raised stage, each child was invited up to be greeted by the Kings to receive their own special gifts which meant that the evening was a great success, embodying all that is special about January 5.



Photo by Volvo Ocean Race

**MAPFRE:** Stuck in the Doldrums.

## A long slow journey to Hong Kong

AS forecast when the yachts left Melbourne en route for Hong Kong, the dreaded Doldrums has caused a major problem.

The Spanish vessel MAPFRE managed to regain its lead before all of the competitors came to an almost dead stop as they spent three days trying to get out of painfully light winds and blistering heat.

The wind has been almost non-existent, reducing average speeds to as little as three knots, while the air and sea temperatures have risen to uncomfortable levels.

The only respite to the flapping sails and glassy seas is when a cloud appears - and then the temporary breeze it brings can be friend or foe.

"It's hot and slow," said Jens

Dolmer, boat captain on second-placed Team Brunel. "It's been frustrating - we've done under 100 miles in 24 hours. During the day it's very, very hot with no breeze at all. It saps your energy completely."

Whoever can plod on and hit the trade winds which are lying some 250 miles north is likely to be in a very strong position to get to Hong Kong first.

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**Clarkson  
Quote of the Week**



*Driving a Reliant Robin is about as dangerous as inviting your mum over for an evening on ChatRoulette.” Some might say...*



## British favourites

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

# Northern light Norway goes green



**TOP UP:** Teslas rule the roost in Norway.

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 Model X on the bus

lane while paying almost no tax.

A controversial Tesla tax was introduced on

electric vehicles weighing over 2,000 kilos, but quickly scrapped.

Norway is the biggest oil producer in Western Europe but also produces 98 per cent of its electricity from hydropower, making electric cars clean and reliable.

The only hurdle in the way of achieving the 2025 goal is manufacturing might.

It takes longer to produce electric cars and, while demand might be rising, sceptics wonder whether car makers can keep up.

There are now long waiting lists for electric cars and delivery schedules are notoriously lengthy.

But the Norwegian experiment will be watched keenly by other European nations.

BRITAIN'S biggest used car website Auto Trader has revealed its most searched for used cars of 2017.

The BMW 3 Series was the most searched for car for the seventh year running as the British public's love affair with the German classic. It beat stiff competition from the Volkswagen Golf, which is also one of the UK's most popular new cars. The mid-size Mercedes Benz C-Class scooped third spot, making an all-German top three. The Ford Focus came in fourth, proving more popular second-hand than the Fiesta, which leads Britain's new car sales.

Fifth spot was another BMW, this time the 1 Series. The rest of the top 10 was made up by the BMW 5 Series, Ford Fiesta, Audi A3, Mercedes Benz E-Class, and the evergreen Vauxhall Astra.

**ROAD TEST** by Nick Fletcher

# Nissan X-Trail Tekna

NISSAN'S large SUV the X-Trail has been a big-selling model for some years and received a significant makeover in 2017, getting more curvy styling, upgraded interior and a punchy new diesel engine.

One of the roomiest and most practical in its sector, X-Trail is available with petrol and diesel engines, and the option of four-wheel drive and seven seats, with prices starting at €26,305 (£23,385).

The new engine is a 175 hp 2.0 litre diesel and it offers crisp acceleration - the 0-100 kph time is 9.4 seconds and top speed 204 kph (127 mph). Fuel economy is pretty good at 17.2 kpl (48.7 mpg).

In flagship Tekna spec and in 4WD form, this version costs €37,976 (£33,760) and

comes laden with kit including auto headlamps and wipers, privacy glass, climate control, lane departure warning, touchscreen system with DAB radio, sat-nav, connectivity features, surround-view cameras, parking-assist and powered leather seats.

The previous X-Trail looked rather boxy, but the latest version has a more classy and curvy appearance, with wider front grille, revised bumpers and a refreshed and more upmarket interior which allows it to better compete with recent rivals such as Skoda Kodiaq, Kia Sorento and Renault Koleos.

The X-Trail, now longer, wider and taller, offers class-leading interior space, with a 550 litre boot, expandable to a whopping 1,982 with flat-



fold rear seats. Tiered seating still leaves good head and legroom and wider doors permit good access.

Its capacious cabin and overall versatility - with 18 different load/passenger configurations - give it a distinct edge in a very competitive sector.

On the road, X-Trail is very car-like with light steering and a slick six-speed manual gearbox. While perhaps not quite as engaging as some rivals when it comes to all-round handling, it still delivers composed cornering and comfortable ride quality and feels agile in city traffic.

**X-TRAIL:** One of the roomiest and most practical in its sector.

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Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.



# 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.



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