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ISSUE No. 1698 | 18 - 24 January 2018 **COSTA BLANCA NORTH** » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION [WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM](http://WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM)

## Mum-of-one and dog killed

A RUSSIAN expatriate has been killed in a Javea traffic accident.

The victim, 50, was run over on a zebra crossing when she was out walking

with her dog. Named only as Elena by police, she lived in an

apartment with her son in Finca del Castillo.

She was crossing Avenida Juan Carlos I in front of the 24-hour supermarket when she was hit by a blue Ford driven by a 20-year-old and dragged 50 metres along the road. Her dog, a boxer, was also killed.

According to reports, the driver claimed that he had not seen her.

Witnesses immediately tried to help her but despite the efforts of the medics who were called to the scene, nothing could be done to resuscitate her.



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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Prompt payers**

TOWN and city halls must settle municipal bills within 30 days to receive state subsidies but by late 2017 Alcoy City Hall was paying suppliers within five days, compared with 18 months in 2011.

**Late warning**

A NEW prisoner at Fontcalent jail threatened to throw a female officer downstairs after he was refused tobacco. Warders complained that the warning he was aggressive arrived 24 hours after he did.

**Moorish past**

ROADWORKS in Aspe revealed another burial ground following last summer's discovery of 15th century Christian and Moorish interments. The latest find dates from the 14th century.

# Hotel death probe

## Progress for family as case goes on

By Matt Ford

FIVE British men questioned in the wake of a tragic hotel accident may be ordered to return to Spain.

Kirsty Maxwell, 27, from Livingston, West Lothian, last year plunged to her death from a Benidorm hotel balcony.

She fell from a 10th-floor room in which the men were staying after apparently entering by mistake.

The incident came after the Scot flew to Spain for a hen party alongside 19 friends.

And the legal team working on behalf of the newlywed's family have now requested the investigating judge to order a full reconstruction of events leading up to her death.

It comes after lawyer Luis Miguel Zumaquero managed to overturn an earlier decision which blocked husband Adam and parents Brian and Denise

from knowing what DNA tests had been carried out on the clothes she was wearing when she died.

He claimed in a written document submitted in court that Mrs Maxwell was fleeing "a sexual attack," and demanded to know if DNA belonging to any of the five men who were in the room was found on the clothes.

The appeal was accepted

and the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Alicante, where the post-mortem examination took place, must now provide full details including the location of the clothes, which the family have been battling to find for months.

Police must also reveal what was done to find and interview potential witnesses, after a report concluded that many hotel guests were not spoken to.

A source close to the family told UK media: "The family and her lawyers are concerned that the five men under investigation will not come back to Spain if they are ordered to stand trial and feel they should be remanded in prison.

"All the weight of the investigation has fallen on her family and those assisting them because of the passive attitude of the police and state prosecutors, who have not requested any tests or examina-



**MYSTERY:** Police have so far failed to reveal where Kirsty's clothes are being kept.

tions which could clarify what happened." Kirsty, who married Adam in September 2016, had been out partying before going to bed in her ninth-floor room around 4am on April 29, 2017. She later woke up and left the room fully-dressed before being let into the men's room one floor above after knocking on the door.

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**SPECIAL FEATURE**

As the Spanish water crisis deepens, David Noon asks what can be done to stop the drought in its tracks.



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**LETTERS**

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

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**MOTORING**

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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



# Home again

AN 86-year-old woman suffering from Alzheimer's who disappeared from her Benidorm home was found next day safe and sound. She was finally located in a wooded area near Foietes and the Xixo gully after firemen, police, Proteccion Civil and the Red Cross combed the area.

## Badge begrudged

TWO non-aligned councillors at San Vicente Town Hall requested that disciplinary proceedings be started against the mayor, Jesus Villar. Although it has now been removed, he included the town's crest on his web page without having asked permission or paying the obligatory fee, they complained.

## Ball game

ANTONIO MARIN SEGOVIA, a Valencia-based defender of the region's heritage, challenged Jijona Town Hall's intention of demolishing a 19th century mansion to make way for a municipal paddle court. The decision was based on an incomplete study that dismissed other reports, Marin Segovia said.

## Fine dining

ANIMAL protection associations criticised the introduction of €600 fines for feeding street cats and announced a demonstration for January 25. The town hall is criminalising people who altruistically feed strays, said Gatitos en Apuros (Cats in Need), calling for "ethical management" of Elda's feline colonies.

## New use

THE owners of a vacant apartment block in Avenida Emilio Ortuño in central Benidorm applied for planning permission to tear it down and build offices on the site. A mural by Alicante artist Manuel Baeza would be removed, restored and relocated

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 46

If there's one thing Spain isn't lacking, it's cathedrals. From the classics to more modern designs, Kat Ashton explores some of the most interesting and beautiful ones the country has to offer.

# See, pray, love

THERE are over 90 official cathedrals in Spain, many of which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites.

As the architecture and history of these religious buildings reflects the Christian reconquering of Spain following the Moorish period, it is hard to determine which the oldest cathedral in Spain is as several were built as mosques, while the 10th century basilica in Foz, Galicia is no longer classified as a cathedral, although it was in the past.

Every major town and city has its own stunning masterpiece, to the point where 'cathedral fatigue' is apparently a recognisable condition amongst tourists. While they are all beautiful, there are so many that share similar features, they can start to blur into one.

However, there are some true stand-outs that are always worth a visit.

### The Mezquita, Cordoba

Right in the historic centre of the southern city is this unusual landmark, which is also one of the oldest buildings still standing in Spain. Part of Cordoba's cathedral belonged to the old mosque which was converted into a Catholic church when the city returned to Christian rule during the Reconquista in 1236, but its Arabic origins are still apparent. The mismatch of different cultures and religions has blended to create a work of unforgettable architecture.

### Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, Zaragoza

Situated in the city halfway between Madrid and Barcelona, the cathedral sits on the banks of the river Ebro, making the site picture perfect with the reflection in the river - especially at night. Legend says the Virgin Mary appeared to the Apostle James as he was praying at that spot by the river, and the cathedral is revered throughout Spain for this reason.

### Sevilla Cathedral

The biggest gothic cathedral in the world, the sheer size of Sevilla's cathedral is awe-inspiring in itself. Covering over 11,500m<sup>2</sup>, the cathedral has undergone many significant transformations since it was first built in the 15th century. Its first dome collapsed early on and part of the cathedral had to be rebuilt, but the new dome was destroyed by an earthquake in 1888. It is also the resting place of Christopher Columbus, who is buried there.



MODERN MARVEL: Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.



STUNNING: Zaragoza cathedral.

### Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

The final destination of thousands of pilgrims who take on the 'Camino de Santiago' each year, the cathedral is the site of the tomb of Saint James (Santiago). The building is essentially Romanesque in design but also has also been influenced by the Gothic and Spanish baroque styles.

### Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

Last but not least - while not technically classed as a cathedral, the Sagrada Familia is undoubtedly one of the most famous churches in Spain. Designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi, the building is still being completed, despite the fact it was started 135 years ago. The Sagrada Familia is one of the city's most popular tourism attractions.

elsewhere in the town.

## Kitchen fire

RESPONDING to a call that an elderly person in Altea's Calle Jaime

I was in difficulties, firemen rescued a 73-year-old woman trapped by a fire in her kitchen. After breaking down the door they freed the victim who was admitted to Villajoyosa Hospital with smoke inhalation.

**180**

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1697 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca North edition, including 67 local stories.

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Photo credit: Dronestagram

**DRONE'S EYE VIEW:** The shot was taken from the sky.

# Eye in the sky

THIS incredible aerial image has bagged third prize in the 'People' section of the International Drone Photography Contest.

Taken from a drone, the shot shows revellers taking part in the La Vijanera festivities in Cantabria, northern Spain.

Originally celebrated in a number of nearby valleys, it is now observed only in the hamlet of Silió - population 620 - on the first Sunday of every year.

It is said to be Europe's first carnival of the year and has been declared a fiesta of National Touristic Interest due to its pre-Roman roots in pagan rituals practised by ancient tribes.

During the festivities, 60 Vijaneros, colourful male characters, among them a dame, a young man, the trappers (with

suits covered in plants and mosses), a bear and its owner, a gentleman, a doctor and a farmer parade through the village in colourful costumes.

Each symbolises an aspect of life, including the passage of time, fertility, man's conquest of nature, good and evil.

But it is the zarramacos - the messy ones - who are the real stars of the show.

Dressed in sheepskins and pointed hats, with their faces painted black and jingling bells attached to their bodies, they are responsible for warding off evil spirits from the year ahead.

At noon an animal horn is blown and a small group of Vijaneros heads to the woods to 'capture' the bear, after which the entire group marches to the edge of town, drawing a line in

the ground to warn neighbours not to mess with them.

Celebrations continue with Las Coplas, humorous rhymes recounting the previous year's news from local to international level. Events reach their climax with la Preñá, a comedic scene depicting the 'birth' of the new year, followed by the killing of the bear, symbolising the triumph of good or evil.

And the latter scene is that pictured above by a snapper identified only as 'feeling-movie.'

Overseen by Paris-based photo sharing community Dronestagram, with sponsors including National Geographic, Kodak and Lowepro, it is the fourth time that the contest announcing the 20 best drone pictures of the year has been held.

**POLL OF THE WEEK**  
**Have you taken up the Dry January challenge?**

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**  
 Will you be shopping in the January sales?

**Yes** 19% **No** 81%

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**15,186** views In pictures: Spain's Costa del Snow
- 5,005** views Ryanair explain new cabin baggage policy
- 4,891** views Body of woman washed up on Costa del Sol beach
- 2,635** views Beat the January blues with new flights between UK and Spain
- 2,424** views Spain slides to a halt as snow grips country

*\*For week 8-15 January*

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Heart of stone**

ALICANTE Province's marble quarries, facing competition from quartz and next-generation ceramics, admitted that the future was worrying although its use by the funeral trade and for 'exotic objects' was encouraging, sources said.

**More jobs**

UNEMPLOYMENT fell by 8.6 per cent in the Marina Alta last year, with Denia heading the list with a 10.4 per cent improvement and Calpe coming in last with 1.1 per cent.

**Soft soap**

TRANSPARENCY regulations require regional government members to detail Christmas presents received from institutions and associations. Quince jelly and beer-scented handmade soap were amongst those that Generalitat president Ximo Puig kept for personal use.

# Wife planned husband's death

THE widow of Antonio Navarro, murdered in Valencia City last August, was accused of planning his death with a lover.

The 26-year-old nurse known as Maje and Salvador, a male nurse who worked with her, are now remanded.

Navarro, a 36-year-old civil engineer from Novelda, was killed in the underground car park at his home in Calle Calamocha.

National Police investigators concluded that his death caused by eight stab wounds to the chest and heart, was not a spontaneous attack by a mugger surprised as he robbed the victim's car. Despite a broken window, nothing was missing from the vehicle, prompting the police to consider other motives.

They found traces of blood that did not match the victim's DNA, suggesting that the supposed killer was also wounded during the attack.

They drew a blank after checking Valencia City hospitals, clinics and health centres although the blood sample later clinched the case.

The crime was carried out by someone who knew the victim's daily routine, decided investigators. They had begun to suspect Maje and Salvador although by

then she was in a relationship with another man and the couple denied that they were having an affair.

Novelda sources now claim that Navarro had

wanted to call off their September 2016 marriage, but Maje persuaded him to go ahead.

Homicide Unit officers recently took her and Salva

in for questioning, charging them on the strength of tapped conversations and his DNA which matched the second sample of blood found at the murder scene.

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## Back with a banger

POP megastar Lady Gaga kicked off the European leg of her Joanne World Tour in Barcelona.

The 31-year-old was greeted by 15,600 screaming fans as she belted out a string of hits including Poker Face, Alejandro and Just Dance.

Among those cheering on at the Palau Sant Jordi arena was Colombian songstress Shakira.

The Hips Don't Lie siren, 40, lives in the Catalan capital with footballer boyfriend Gerard Pique, 30.

But it was the headline act - real name Stefani Germanotta - who stole the show in spectacular fashion after appearing in a series of racy outfits.

It comes after the Grammy award-winning singer last September cancelled the European gigs due to 'trauma and chronic pain' which she said were preventing her from living a 'normal life.'

She is known to suffer from fibromyalgia, a long-term condition that causes pain all over the body.



**WOWING THE CROWD:** Lady Gaga.

**HOT MAMA:** Jennifer Metcalfe.

Photo credit Shutterstock/Twitter



Photo credit LowLoaderKing/Twitter

## Fun in the sun

IT is cold and snowy in her native Bradford.

But Hollyoaks star Jennifer Metcalfe, 35, dodged the winter chill by jetting to Tenerife with Geordie Shore boyfriend Greg Lake, 33, and their seven-month-old son, Daye.

The bombshell flaunted her incredible post-baby figure in a mismatched bikini before slipping into tight gym gear as the family took a stroll in the sun.

## De Gea's stunning WAG bedridden

SHE'S the long-term girlfriend of Manchester United shot stopper David de Gea, 27. And Spanish pop singer Edurne Garcia, 32, is set for her own injury lay off after undergoing knee surgery.

The stunner shared pictures of herself in hospital with her left leg wrapped in bandages on social media.

Although she didn't tell her 900,000 followers why the procedure was needed, she did confirm it had been planned as she

wrote: "I begin the year with an operation on my knee that was pending!!

"It went very well and will be just like new in no time!! Thank you all for the messages of love!"

Edurne represented her country at Eurovision 2015 and once described Manchester as "uglier than the back of a fridge," but that is unlikely to stop her squeeze penning a new contract which will reportedly see him become the club's best-paid player.



Photo credit Edurne Garcia/Instagram

**KNEE BOTHER:** Edurne Garcia.



## Tonsil tennis!



Photo credit Twitter

**LOVED-UP:** Sandra and Feliciano.

HE'S currently ranked number 38 in the world.

And after winning at Queen's Club last year Spanish tennis star Feliciano Lopez, 36, showed he's on a roll after jetting off to Dubai for a sun-soaked luxury break with new love and model Sandra Gago, 22.

The pair have been rumoured to be dating for months and have now spent their first holiday together.

## French bliss

SHE'S the singer and model who became First Lady of France.

And fans turned out in their droves to greet Carla Bruni Sarkozy as the 50-year-old arrived to perform a concert in Spanish capital Madrid.

The French-Italian performed at a number of venues in Spain to promote her fifth studio album French touch.

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# Moors and Christians take the capital



Muchamiel town hall

## LOS PACOS: All prepared for Madrid.

MUCHAMIEL'S Moors and Christians fiestas will be present at the Fitur tourism trade fair that starts this week in Madrid.

Los Pacos, a Moorish troop created in 1923 will parade with other Costa Blanca Moors and Christians and fiestas groups through the heart of the city this Saturday. They will be setting out from Plaza de Callao at 5pm, continuing along Calle Preciados and eventually finishing in the Puerta del Sol.

Muchamiel has been holding Moors and Christians fiestas each September since 1843 although they were not

known as such until 1875.

Los Pacos are the most emblematic of Muchamiel's comparsas (troops) owing to the music that accompanies them as they march with footwork that combines a goosetstep with the traditional Moors sidestep.

The band took their name from the Paco, a tactic used against the Spanish army during the Moroccan war that was experienced by Muchamiel residents called up to fight in the conflict.

The music Los Pacos still march to was compiled by Vicente Perea Lledo, a Muchamiel officer posted to Tetuan during the war.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Alicante AWOL

ON January 1 2017, Alicante Province had 1,825,332 registered residents but six months later statistics office INE calculated that this rose to 1,840,669, suggesting that 15,000 residents are not on a municipal padron.

### Fine mess

THE Generalitat must pay the European Union an €8 million fine because previous regional governments failed to invest €33m of a €42.3m Education subsidy.

### In a stew

A BENIDORM restaurant is a semi-finalist in a national competition to find the best fabada outside Asturias, which is the birthplace of the celebrated bean, chorizo, blood sausage and pancetta stew.

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## OUR VIEW

### Truth will out

THE family of tragic holidaymaker Kirsty Maxwell, who died while on a hen party in Benidorm, are to be applauded. Not content with what they viewed as an insufficient police response to the death of the 27-year-old, husband Adam and parents Brian and Denise have successfully won their fight for answers. After months of battling the authorities, their tenacity and persistence has paid off, and it is to be hoped that a new probe will reveal what really happened that night last April. Spare a thought for these brave souls who have remained dignified throughout what must have been an incredibly traumatic few months.

*Hotel death probe - page 2*

### Time to count the cost?

SPAIN is expected to be crowned the world's second most popular tourist destination behind France. The number of visitors last year rose to 82 million, 8.9 per cent up on 2016, while spending now accounts for 11 per cent of the Spanish economy. But there is a flipside. Charities and activists have lamented the lack of affordable housing in holiday hotspots as rents skyrocket, while some cities have seen protests over uncontrolled mass tourism. On the Costas, the road network is unable to cope, and natural sites including Mar Menor have become lifeless and polluted. Perhaps it is time to regulate the number of people entering the country so it remains an attractive holiday destination for decades to come.

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## Watch out at the lookout

AS recently reported in the *Euro Weekly News* firemen assisted a woman after a fall at the Gerro tower. The woman of 49 was trying to reach the entrance to the 1553 lookout tower in Les Rotes in Denia but slipped and lost consciousness after hitting the ground three metres below. She soon recovered and did not need hospital treatment, but the accident drew attention to the risks involved when visiting the tower. There are no steps up to its entrance, although generations of visitors have worn away toe-holds, and inside only a rope ladder leads to the battlements at the top. The tower occupies public land inside the Montgo national park but lacks notices warning that entering the tower is prohibited and trying to do so is dangerous. There are more towers in Javea and Portixol, but although they are listed as Assets of Cultural Interest (BICs) they are on privately-owned land. By law the public should be able to visit them but as they are now inside villa grounds, they remain closed. An exception is the 1742 tower on Moraira's seafront which houses a small exhibition on piracy and the function of the towers.



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## Politician takes a stand

FRANCESC GUARDIOLA, Callosa councillor responsible for Culture and Linguistic Normalisation, has relinquished both departments. According to local media sources, Guardiola who belongs to the PSOE socialist party, felt that Compromis was not meeting the terms of the pact that brought the two parties into the town hall after the May 2015 municipal elections. His decision had nothing to do with his fellow socialist councillors, Guardiola was quoted as saying. This was influenced by several factors but none in particular, he added. Guardiola remains on the council and Callosa's mayor, Josep Saval is taking over the Culture and Linguistic Normalisation departments. Their combined seven seats give the coalition control of the local council although the local PSOE party is meeting next week to review the 2015 pact.



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# One crime exposed another

CAMPELLO Guardia Civil officers answering a gender violence call also encountered a marihuana plantation.

They had been alerted that a crime could be taking place and when they arrived at the address they were giv-

en they heard a man shouting at a woman and insulting her.

After letting the Guardia Civil officers into the apartment, the woman told them that she wanted to lodge a formal complaint against her

partner, a 31-year-old French national who was immediately arrested.

When the woman first let them into the apartment, the officers had noticed a large portable wardrobe and closer inspection revealed that it contained 37 marihuana plants.

They were being cultivated in hazardous conditions, the officers said afterwards, with a precarious ventilation system rigged up to reduce the high temperatures produced by the heaters used to bring on the plants.

All these factors put the couple and their year-old daughter in grave danger, Guardia Civil sources said later.

The male was arrested and later released after being charged with growing and processing drugs as well as gender violence.

He was also issued with a restraining order that barred him from contact with his partner and gave him no visiting rights over the child.



Photo credit: Joambanjo

**LAS CORTES: Well worth the commute.**

## A long way from home

TWO regional MPs armed themselves with paperwork proving that they lived more than 100 kilometres from regional parliament building.

Anything over this distance entitled Ciudadanos MP Antonio Woodward and Rose de Falastin Mustafa (PSOE) who both live in Denia, to claim an extra €300 a month on travel expenses.

In 2016 each produced official certificates from Valencia's provincial council, the Ministry of Public works and Valencia City Hall confirming that Denia was exactly 111 kilometres distant from Las Cortes in Valencia City.

Previously this had not been calculated on the door-to-door distance but simply the official distance between an MP's hometown and the city.

The modification was worth their while, as MPs living between 10 and 100 kilometres from Las Cortes pick up €588.35 a month, but this rises to €882.52 if over 100 kilometres.

It was agreed that their travel expenses should be upped and parliament even agreed to backdate the increase, so that Woodward also received an extra €5,634.72 and Mustafa €5,382.55 on top of their regular travel perks of €882.52 a month.

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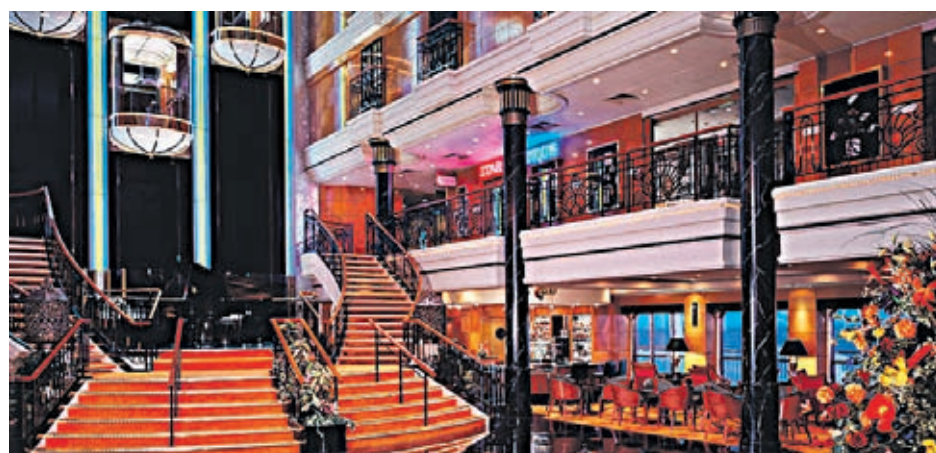
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# Big New Year projects

CALLOSA began 2018 with plans for a Polyfunctional Centre, the Aulario, Calle Plataner, Cami de la Casilla and street lighting.

Repairs have already begun on Cami de la Casilla, which subsided during the January 2017 storms and work will start on the remaining projects within a month, the town hall announced.

Alicante's provincial council, the Diputacion, will pay three-quarters of the €362,746 cost of the Polyfunctional Centre which is expected to take 10 months to build. It will be used for cultural and educational activities that have outgrown the available space at the Casa de Cultura and other municipal premises.

The Diputacion will also provide



Photo credit: Callosa town hall

three-quarters of the €350,652 needed for the Aulario, which will supplement the new centre and should be ready within 11 months.

Calle Plataner in the Santa Clara urbanisation, where the domestic water supply, lighting and road itself were affected by last winter's storms, is due for repairs costing €153,240 whose entire cost will be covered by the Diputacion.

Streetlamps in 40 Callosa streets will be substituted for energy-efficient models via a Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE) initiative assisted by the European Regional Development Fund and a non-repayable loan which should meet all of the €153,240 cost.

**REPAIRS:** Work starts on Cami de la Casilla.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Rain in Spain

THE 494.5 millimetres of rain recorded by La Nucia's weather station last year was 165 millimetres more than in 2016. Overall, 34 per cent more rain fell in the town than the previous year.

### School run

THE regional government announced work will recommence on the almost-completed Pere Maria Orts i Bosch high school in Benidorm, seven years after building was halted when the contractor ran out of money.

### Scenic route

A TOWN HALL team in Benitachell are planning an ecological corridor connecting the town's cliffs, the Montgo national park, the Garganta de Gata gorge and Sierra Bernia.

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## Lolly for finding lorry

A TRANSPORT firm in Xeresa, near Gandia, is offering €1,000 for information leading to the return of two refrigerator lorries. One disappeared at 3am and the second a day later at 2.30am.

The vehicles are each worth between €70,000 and €80,000 and although the thefts were reported to the Guardia Civi, driver Nico Kraklshvi, who is also the owner's son-in-law, decid-

ed to put out a call on the social media.

He posted photos of both lorries and their registration plates and announced that the transport company would pay a €500 reward for each.

He also asked drivers and the public to look carefully at the number plates first, as the company still has similar lorries making deliveries on roads in the Gandia area.



## Investment Choices – where should you begin?

By Tracy Storer, Senior Partner, Chorus Financial



The world of investing can be very complex and confusing. Making the right investment choices however is absolutely paramount to ensuring your long term financial goals can be met. Most people seek a professional Financial Adviser or a Discretionary fund manager to select and manage their investments, but it is always good (and sometimes interesting) to getting a better understanding of the main areas of investing.

Three main possibilities when investing are:

- making deposits;
- buying fixed interest securities; and
- buying equities.

Each must bear a relatively stable rate of return relationship to the other for the economy to function. Let's look at how they compare.

### Cash Deposits

Deposits generally yield less than fixed interest securities for a similar degree of risk, and rarely achieve much real growth over time once tax is taken into account, but funds can be accessed more easily.

### Fixed interest securities

Fixed interest securities generally yield lower overall returns than equity investments, but have higher returns than deposits; however, they will rarely beat inflation by a significant amount. They tend

to be lower risk than equities.

### Equities

Equity investments will generally achieve returns that are higher than both fixed interest securities and cash deposits over the longer term. The dividend yield on equities is, however, usually low compared to the yield on fixed interest securities, but both dividends and share prices have the potential to grow over time to compensate. There may be a higher level of risk.

There is, therefore, a fixed hierarchy of returns that is unlikely to be breached for any substantial period.

In assessing the choices that are available, the following points should also be considered:

Investors' money tends to move to those areas where it will achieve the best results, in relation to both the risk that is involved and how long investors are prepared to tie up their funds.

There are separate financial markets in each of the main types of investments (cash deposits, fixed interest securities and equities). However, a change in one market, such as an interest rate change, is almost certain to have repercussions in the others, i.e. a reduction in interest rates could encourage a rise in both fixed interest and equity values, but lower returns from deposits.

### Different Roles

- Equities are good for long-term real growth of capital and/or income, although the risk of loss is higher than for either fixed interest securities or cash deposits
- Deposits are good for the protection of capital, at least in nominal terms and over shorter periods, and are a safe haven when times are bad economically (when the value of others investments may fall)
- Fixed interest securities are good for secure levels of nominal income, with some scope for capital gains if interest rates fall. They are usually less volatile than equities.

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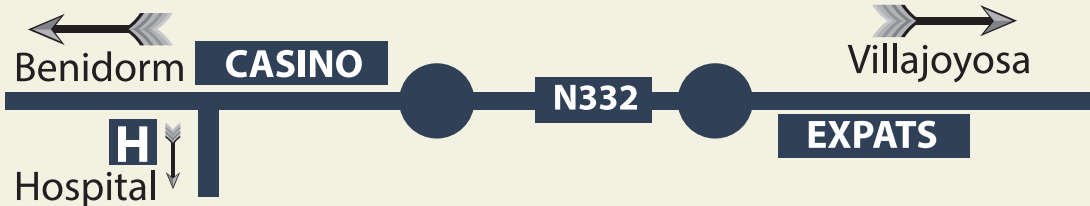


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## Another traffic free zone

CALLE GERONA, backbone of Benidorm's 'English' zone, is now a pedestrian area.

Work on the final section between Calle Esperanto and Calle Orts Llorca is nearing completion, freeing the road from all architectural barriers.

Pavements are level with the road following the €380,000 makeover, which includes a new storm drain system that will prevent the minor flooding that can occur in the area during periods of exceptionally heavy rain.

As well as the street furniture that has been provided,



Photo credit: Benidorm town hall

**PEDESTRIAN AREA:** Mayor and councillors in Calle Gerona.

together with young trees planted on either side of the road, fibre optic street lighting has now been installed, explained Public Works

councillor Arturo Cabrillo. This section of Calle Gerona will also have WiFi coverage and sockets for charging mobile phones.

## Eat, drink - and get fined

A BENIDORM pub and three bars face €100,000 fines for serving drinks and food in the street on Christmas Eve.

In the early evening before people headed home for the traditional Nochebuena dinner, thousands congregated in Calle La Palma and Calle Alt in the town centre, where several establishments had set up outdoor bars that served food and drink and provided live music.

None had licences and of the five bar-owners who were warned to clear the tables, chairs and improvised bars from the public right of way, only one complied.

The cases of the remaining four are now being scrutinised by the regional government which will decide whether or not to impose fines for flouting health and safety regulations.

## New wheels for police

BENIDORM'S Local Police force have three new motorcycles and a quad bike for beach and night patrols.

The 125cc Kymco motorbikes and the Arctic Cat quad have cost the town hall's Public Safety department roughly €30,000, said Public Safety councillor Juan Fuertes.

"This underlines our commitment towards improving the means at the disposal of the Local Police force," Fuertes said. All the vehicles are very versatile and will make it much easier to patrol in residential districts and along the seafront. "They would be particularly useful in the Poniente beach district, especially at night," Fuertes pointed out.

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# Return of the missing church bell

THE 1510 church bell stolen from the Barxell chapel near Alcoy in 2005 has been recovered 13 years later.

Francesc Llop, a retired anthropologist and an expert in bells, contacted the National Police's Historic Heritage unit in July 2017 after a friend noticed - and photographed - an antique bronze bell in a Valencia City flea market one Sunday morning.

The police traced the stallholder who claimed he found the bell in a rubbish container and sold to a buyer from Tarancon (Cuenca) for €125.

In Tarancon it was purchased by a Palencia dealer for €500 and later went to a buyer in France who paid



Photo by Alcoy city hall

**HOME AGAIN:** Alcoy's mayor and the team that recovered the bell.

€800 for it. According to Francesc Llop, the Barxell bell is worth at least €3,000.

The Historic Heritage officer traced the bell to a French antiques market where it was returned without argument.

The National Police, aware that the Barxell bell had been stolen, then contacted the chapel where it was immediately recognised. Alcoy City Hall hopes to restore the bell which at present is retained by the Valencia City court that is investigating three people involved in the bell's disappearance who face charges of receiving.

**47** People died in road traffic accidents in Spain over the Christmas and New Year holiday period according to the National Traffic Directorate, a 34 per cent increase from 2016.



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Photo credit: Finestrat town hall

**FINESTRAT POOL:** Juan Francisco Perez and Tomas Selles visit the site.

# Improvements go swimmingly

FINESTRAT'S municipal swimming pool, built more than 30 years ago, is being brought up to date.

The open-air pool in the Partida del Fondo district was practically obsolete, said Finestrat's mayor Juan Francisco Perez who visited the site with Public Works and Services councillor Tomas Selles

"We are spending € 180,000 on modernising the pool and bringing it into line with current regulations that will enable us to add to the activities we offer at present," Perez explained.

The depth will be reduced from 1.5 to 1.20 me-

tres at the pool's shallow end, and from 2.30 to 1.87 metres at the deep end. An overflow channel is to be added to the perimeter and all pool machinery will be renewed.

The cost will be met entirely by Finestrat Town Hall and work should be completed within five months in time for the start of the summer season, Perez said.

Improvements are also due to begin at the La Foia sports complex and include pumptrack circuits for mountain bikes, skating and skateboarding as well as a court for the Valencian ballgame, pilota.



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# Old health centre, new courthouse

THE process of turning Villajoyosa's disused health centre into a courthouse has begun.

The regional government's justice department has now put the €132,125 contract to convert the Calle Juan Tonda Aragones building out to tender.

Once Villajoyosa's Courthouse 1 and Courthouse 2 vacate their present building this can be used for social and cultural purposes, municipal sources revealed.

The existing building is small and outdated with no room for the extensions that are required and Villajoyosa's mayor Andreu Verdu said he was very satisfied with the way the scheme was progressing.

"This is an urgent and necessary project that will answer the area's judicial needs," Verdu said. "Above



Photo credit: Villajoyosa town hall

## TRANSFORMATION: Soon to become a courthouse.

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## NEWS EXTRA

### Mystery house blaze

AFTER fire started in an empty show house in La Nucia, firefighters from the Benidorm brigade doused the flames and used blower fans to clear smoke after verifying that the three-storey building was empty.

### Well fit

LA MARINA ALTA and Marina Baja have the Valencian Community's lowest flu rate with an average 35 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, although numbers are expected to peak at the end of January.

### Fire risk

ALTEA banned bonfires in areas less than 500 metres from woodland and vetoed burning stubble and vegetation. The restrictions were introduced as drought, mild temperatures and high winds have combined to pose a fire risk.

### Time trial

BENITACHELL expects 3,000 visitors when the time trial for the region's bicycle race, the Volta, is held in the town on February 2. Champion rider Alejandro Valverde confirmed that he would be taking part.

### Lucky ticket

A ONCE lottery prize paying out €2,000 a month for 10 years was won in Novelda on a day when the coupon design featured the Circulo Industrial, a business association in nearby Alcoy.

### Tax help

SOME 154 La Nucia families received €45 subsidies off their rubbish collection bill while another 53 received the newly-introduced grant for recycling at the Ecopark, reducing the yearly tax by an overall €98.10.

## A smoother ride

ISOLATION should soon end for residents in Campello's La Porxa residential zone.

More than three years ago the Coveta Fuma crossroads on the busy N-332 underwent a major reform that removed the most-used access road.

La Porxa's 20 houses are located on the far side of the AP-7 and residents formerly reached the N-332 via a tunnel under the motorway.

After the crossroads was remodelled it has been impossible to turn onto the main road.

Neither can they cross from Coveta but must continue further down the road before they can change direction.

La Porxa residents have complained ever since that their only alternative route is an unpaved road, but the town hall recently announced that this will be resurfaced.

The council is spending €400,000 on asphaltting a dozen of the municipality's roads, using last year's budget surplus.

# Makeover for Trenet

DENIA station is ready for Line 9 trains although none will arrive until well into 2019.

Maria Jose Salvador, who heads the Generalitat's Public Works department, recently visited the remodelled station, where tracks and platforms have been adapted to the dual diesel-electric trains that will be used once the entire Benidorm/Denia line is operative once more.

Regional rail operator FGV suspended trains between Calpe and Denia in July 2016 on safety grounds but work has gone ahead on this section of the line and is on schedule, said Salvador.

Trains will switch to tram mode 400 metres from the Denia terminal and the walled Line 9 Trenet tracks that separated the town from Montgo have been replaced with tramlines that are flush with the ground.

"Trains ought to connect but here they were a barrier," said Salvador who walked the new section accompanied by Denia's mayor Vicent Grimalt.

Continuing progress on Line 9 was a clear indication of the regional government's commitment to the project,



Generalitat Valenciana

**BARRIER REMOVED:** Maria Jose Salvador and Denia's mayor walk the line.

she continued: "Modernisation will turn the old Trenet into a modern, comfortable, economical and sustainable means of transport."

Despite economic problems owing

to the debts left by former regional governments, the Generalitat was demonstrating that it knew how to prioritise with the €110 million Line 9 investment," she added.

## NEWS EXTRA

### IBI picture

A RECENTLY-RESTORED unsigned picture in Ibi's Santa Mara Magdalena parish church was confirmed as the work of Gaston Castello, the renowned Alicante-born painter who died aged 83 in 1986.

### Big prize

FILMMAKER Adan Aliaga, originally from San Vicente, is in the running for a Goya, the Spanish Oscars, for his documentary *The Fourth Kingdom* filmed in New York.

### Going rate

NOVELDA IBI rates will be lowered by 6 per cent this year to compensate for the national government's increase in rateable values. The measure will be applicable to 13,394 properties.

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Photo credit: Tamorian

**CALPE REMAINS:** Once a Roman mansion.

# Cold water poured on Queen's Baths

CALPE Town Hall's solution for the Baños de la Reina (Queen's Baths) archaeological remains did not meet with success.

The site is on private property and now that the Supreme Court has recognised the owners' right to develop the land, the town hall needs a formula to protect the important second century Roman remains.

The owners have turned down urban planning specialist Gerardo Roger's solution of exchanging the Baños de la Reina site for land in Calpe's El Saladar zone. Height restrictions on new constructions there have been relaxed and the volume permitted on

each plot has been increased by 15 per cent.

Before the proposal was even put before the Baños de la Reina owners, the town hall spokesman for the Compromis party asked if the owner of several plots would be able to concentrate this allowance on one just one piece of land.

No definite answer was forthcoming, although Roger pointed out that the plan was only a preliminary draft and "open to modification."

In the event the lawyer representing the Baños de la Reina termed the suggestion "inadmissible" and announced that his clients would be presenting their own proposals within a matter of weeks.

# Crematorium appeal heats up

THE Alicante High Court reopened the case against the mayor and councillors who voted to close the San Juan crematorium.

The decision to shelve the case was 'hasty' the High Court ruled.

The vote went through in January 2015 but AVS, the company which owns the crematorium, maintained that the former mayor Manuel Aracil and 12 councillors were aware of corrective measures introduced to reduce health risks caused by air pollution.

ASV lodged an appeal, claiming that the decision to close the crematorium was outside the town hall's remit. The case was shelved in December 2015 after the judge assigned to the case found no indications that the council had broken the law.

In April 2016 after the High Court received a second appeal from AVC, the lower court was ordered to reopen the case.

Once again, this was shelved: "The plenary decision was not illegal," the judge decided but that it might be "questionable" from an administrative point of view.

ASV appealed to the High

Court for a third time, maintaining that the decision to drop the case was premature and had not waited for the results of pending investigations.

The company wants the courts to determine if relevant information was ignored and to determine who received documents that the Directorate of Environmental Quality sent to San Juan Town Hall.



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# On the run

A BRITISH conman suspected of cheating a woman out of her life savings worth nearly €1 million may be using a false name and Swiss passport to cover his tracks.

According to UK media sources, Mark Acklom may be on the run using the alias Marc Long. He is believed to have taken on the name while in Switzerland back in 2014, where he was able to obtain an official passport and Swiss residency permit.

Both the passport and residency permit are believed to be still valid.

Acklom, aged 44, is currently in hiding with his Spanish wife, Maria Yolanda Ros Rodriguez, aged 47, and their two daughters, aged six and eight.

He is accused of scamming Brit Carolyn Woods out of her life savings worth more than €953,000 after promising to marry her.

According to Ms Woods,



Rebecca Williams/twitter

**WANTED: Mark Acklom was accused of cheating a woman out of her life savings.**

Acklom told her he was an MI6 agent and Swiss banker and tricked her into lending him her life savings, before fleeing with the money.

It is also believed he is being investigated over other allegations, including failing to pay an architect more than €5,600 for work he had commissioned in Bath.

The conman is wanted under a European arrest warrant - which is not valid in Switzerland - and has also been arrested three times in Spain in separate charges.

Acklom was last seen in May sitting in a cafe in Geneva, Switzerland, talking to a fellow fugitive, Spaniard Jose Manuel Costas Estevez.

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DEAR Readers,  
 We would like to confirm to you that unfortunately the Spanish General Judicial Power Council (CGPJ) has approved a new Plan for 2018 regarding the individual consumers court claims for mortgage floor clauses, mortgage expenses re-claims, abusive delay interests, etc when these clauses are part of a mortgage loan.

This new plan is not any better for consumers and clients affected but these types of abusive general conditions are included by many Spanish Banks in their mortgage loan deeds (escrituras).

The CGPJ decided last year, that from July 1, 2017 a special plan would come into effect to deal with this kind of court claim, and a special court for each province in Spain was created to deal exclu-

sively with this kind of case. The aim of this decision was to make sure that the normal courts do not collapse or get too busy with the thousands of court claims they expected to start thus creating one special court for each province that will be expert and exclusive for this area of law.

Although the idea sounds sensible, due to the massive number of claims received, these special courts are also absolutely inundated with thousands and thousands of claims in each of them.

The CGPJ in this new plan which applies from January 1, 2018 has decreed that for at least the next six months, the special courts will continue to be the only ones that could deal with this kind of court case.

From July 2017 up to the end of the year, the claims already presented to the special courts in the whole of Spain now totals 156,862, and the CGPJ understands that if the specialisation is revoked and consumers can go to their local courts (as should be the

case) the ordinary courts will not be able to cope with this enormous number of claims.

The only good news for this latest plan, which is an extension of the previous one, is that it is anticipated that more new judges should be appointed work in these special courts as well as additional court legal secretaries, with the aim to speed the process and reduce the delay.

We understand that this is not good news for people affected by these abusive or unfair clauses, due to the delays in the Special courts as it could take years to get a court case resolved.

On other hand, there is also an additional negative consequence, because with the extension of this special exclusive competence, consumers who have a Spanish address which is in Alicante Province but not in Alicante City, will need to claim in the city of Alicante courts, in front of the special court number FIVE-BIS and not in their local courts such as Denia, Benidorm, Villajoya, etc which we understand may be against consumer rules and laws which require that the consumers have the right to claim in their local courts.

If you are in this situation, and you have a mortgage floor clause and have paid for the expenses of your mortgage loan, contact us and we will help you.

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

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# Passengers frustrated

New Ryanair hand luggage restrictions brought in



**HIGH PRICES:** Passengers who want their bags in the hold now have to pay.

THE new changes to Ryanair's hand luggage restrictions started from Monday and already have some passengers feeling frustrated.

Travellers will still be allowed two free bags, one large (55 x 40 x 20cm) weighing no more than 10kg and a smaller bag (no larger than 35 x 20 x 20cm). However, from now on, unless the passenger pays extra for priority boarding, which usually costs €5 per person, the bag will instantly be tagged at the departure gate and put in the hold.

The bag will then appear on the baggage carousel with the rest of the luggage once the plane has arrived at its destination.

The new policy was announced last summer, and was initially scheduled to be enforced on November 1, but was pushed back until mid-January,

Meanwhile, the airline has cut the cost of some checked-in bags and increased the weight limit to 20kg, up from the previous allowance of 15kg.

Although the budget airline says the changes will cost it around €50 million, some frequent flyers have complained that the new rules will cost them more money and cause them to waste time in the arrivals hall waiting for their bags.

Frances Whitmore said "I fly frequently, and it's a pain that I now have to pay either more money or waste at least 30 minutes waiting for the bag to arrive."

Other passengers have complained that these changes will apply to existing bookings without their permission, according to UK media sources.

# Dentist porn hack victim

BOSSES of a dental clinic in Valencia, Spain have been left red-faced after a video display in their clinic window was hacked to show porn.

The incident happened in Alacuas and images have since gone viral on YouTube and Twitter.

Owners of the clinic, located on Avenida de Ausias March, have apologised "for any offence caused by the video."

It is believed those responsible used an app on a mobile phone to control the content that appeared on the Smart TV screen.

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# ALFAZ DEL PI / ALBIR NEWS

VISITORS swarmed on Alfaz del Pi's historical attractions last year, proving that they are still a real asset for tourism in the area.

Recent figures revealed that more than 130,000 people trekked the path to the Albir lighthouse, but the number could in fact be much higher as there is no official system in place to record the number of visitors. They are only counted by the staff at the information point, which not everyone stops at along the way.

Nearly 43,000 people also visited the Faro de l'Albir Interpretation Centre, while another 11,000 looked around the Villa Romana Open Air Museum In 2017.

The Faro de l'Albir Interpretive Centre, which first opened in 2011, features



**HOT SPOT: Visitors at the Villa Romana Open Air Museum.**

numerous photography exhibitions that reflect what life was like for the old lighthouse keepers, back when people still lived there.

The attraction allegedly

received a higher number of visitors during bank holiday weekends and other holiday periods such as Easter, according to Mayte Garcia, the Culture and Heritage councillor

## History repeating

for Alfaz del Pi.

The Villa Romana Open Air Museum - the first Open Air Museum in the region of Valencia - offers visitors the possibility to view the thermal baths virtually using an app on an iPad that reveals how the archaeological remains originally looked and gives guided tours to explain the function of each room.

Garcia reiterated the council's commitment to restoring the town's historical attractions and mentioned they have applied for funding from the Valencia authorities in order to restore the old Moli de Manec windmill.

## Mind matters

A MINDFULNESS health workshop was held at the Casa de Cultura in Alfaz del Pi, especially designed for people suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis and fibromyalgia and their caregivers.

The workshop on Monday was taught by Daniel Mendialdua who collaborated with the council's health department to help provide people suffering from any of these diseases with a better quality of life.

Mindfulness has been shown to improve stress and anxiety and help people gain perspective. It could also help to relieve pain and other symptoms.

The workshop will continue to be held on Mondays from 10.30am to 12pm at the Casa de Cultura in Alfaz over the next three months. Those who are interested in attending can reserve a place by emailing: [eljardindeesther@gmail.com](mailto:eljardindeesther@gmail.com) or calling: 636 267 728.

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## Business is booming

THE Association of Business Owners and Traders in Alfaz del Pi (COEMPA) took the opportunity to honour local business during their annual Business Innovation Awards. It is known for being one of the few awards in the region that distinguish those local businesses that stand out; either for their success, their excellent work environment or for having established themselves well in the market and served as an example to other companies.

The event was held on Saturday at the Casa de Cultura and was attended by a selection of businessmen, entrepreneurs and representatives from the town council. Miguel Angel Fernan-



**SIMPLY THE BEST: Dolores Albero, Vicente Arques, Silvio Monroy, and Rosi Prez.**

dez hosted the awards yet again, with the entertainment provided by the Babalu Swing Band from Valencia, who sang songs by the likes of Cole Porter and Duke Ellington.

The businesses awarded at the ceremony this year were the Cortinas Confort fabric shop, the

El Depalero bakery and the Costa Blanca Booking real estate agency run by Norwegian Per-Ivar Stromsnes, who became the town's first foreign businessman to be recognised at the COEMPA Awards.

Before the awards, the president of COEMPA Silvio Monroy attended a meeting with the mayor of Alfaz del Pi, Vicente Arques, along with the councillor for Commerce, Dolores Albero.

"The COEMPA Awards ensures public recognition of how local businesses operate," Arques announced, while Albero praised the entrepreneurs for helping the town to grow economically as a result of their effort and dedication.

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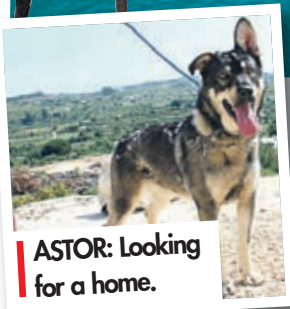
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# Teulada Moraira

**NEWS**



**ASTOR: Looking for a home.**

## AKIRA Dog Sanctuary

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## Ready for fibre-optic

TEULADA-MORAIRA will have fibre-optic communications by the second half of this year.

The necessary procedures have been completed said Raul Dalmau, councillor for Infrastructure, Modernisation and New Technologies. Using the most innovative materials available, practically all of the installation will be below ground. This is an "indispensable" requirement for reducing the installation's visual impact, the councillor said.

"Teulada-Moraira is not just another municipality. We're all for technology here, but also concerned about the town's image and its scenery," Dalmau said.

As well as Wi-Fi, Teulada-Moraira's fibre-optic installation will be used for CCTV cameras and to control traffic.

## Something to go for

THIS year Teulada-Moraira is again attending the Fitur tourism trade fair in Madrid, which began yesterday, Wednesday and ends this coming Sunday. The town is aiming at quality tourism and highlighting its benign climate, skin-diving opportunities, the quality of its beaches, local architecture and the area's gastronomy.

# Mayor opens new school facilities

A €15 MILLION investment at a school has been opened by local politicians.

Lady Elizabeth School, in El Poble Nou de Benitachell, now has the facilities to educate children from primary school through to secondary, according to reports.

The mayor of Poble Nou de Benitachell, Josep Femenia, and various other politicians attended the official opening ceremony with parents.

One of the new buildings is expanding primary facilities and will house year five and six children.

Another building will have 20 large

classrooms, 10 small classrooms, two support classrooms, four laboratories, one cooking room, one art classroom, four music classrooms, three computer rooms, one library, an auditorium for 640 people, a heated pool, football field and two basketball courts.

Sports facilities will be open to the public after negotiations between the school's leadership team and the local council.

Children registered in the area can currently enjoy a discount of 20 per cent on intensive English courses taught by local teachers.

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# JAVEA - XABIA

## NEWS

### A good start to the year

JAVEA annual fiestas in honour of San Sebastian start tomorrow, Friday, and continue until Sunday.

The three days will have a full programme of bull-running among other festivities.

There will be a mobile disco on Saturday and Sunday night and at 10am on Sunday, the traditional San Sebastian cycle race.

Fiestas councillor Toni



Javea town hall

**'SPECIAL' FIESTAS:** Councillor Toni Miragall (centre) with organisers.

Miragall thanked the Fiestas commission and the different associations involved for putting together a full programme to which everybody was invited.

"These celebrations are

very special to us, both for their time-honoured importance and because they enable us to start the year by strengthening the links with our friends and neighbours," Miragall said.

### Mugger was easily caught

GUARDIA CIVIL officers in Javea arrested a 36-year-old Spanish man who preyed on unaccompanied women at cash machines.

He confronted three women on the same night, intimidating them with a pistol that later turned out to be a toy.

The first hold-up when he threatened a Swedish woman of 51, occurred at 10.15pm at the ATM belonging to a bank near the Arenal beach.

With his face obscured by a muffler and sunglasses, he brandished the gun and demanded the €150 she had just withdrawn. When he told her to take out more, she began to scream and managed to escape after pushing him away.

The attacker struck a second time just before

midnight when he accosted a 50-year-old British woman, once again showing her the toy pistol and taking the €50 she had withdrawn.

Four hours later, the attacker intimidated a young British woman of 19, who was obliged to hand over €20. After receiving three different official complaints, officers from the Guardia Civil's Judicial Police criminal investigation unit soon located the attacker thanks to the description given by the three women.

A repeat offender with a police record, he readily confessed and admitted that he chose women who were alone, Guardia Civil sources revealed.

He has now been remanded on a judge's orders.

### Boys charged with brutal beating

THREE Javea residents have been released on provisional charges, after being accused of severely beating a man during a party, according to reports.

Three Moroccans, one with dual Spanish nationality, are alleged to have beaten the man so badly that they ruptured his left ulna and left him with numerous blows to the back, head, ribs and jaw.

The attackers, two aged 18

and one 17, reportedly left the man unconscious at one stage.

The victim had intervened to stop a fight on the night of November 7 at an event where he lives, in Gata de Gorgos.

He was threatened and insulted before the youngsters left the bar.

When they returned, the man warned them he was going to call the police, at which point the trio allegedly became more ag-

gressive, before eventually throwing him to the ground where he was kicked and beaten before onlookers intervened.

Once he regained consciousness he claims to have begun recording the events on his phone.

The 17-year-old allegedly grabbed the device and threw it to the ground, destroying it. He is also charged with criminal damage.



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### House proud

JAVEA residents are concerned about the upkeep of the local Guardia Civil post and its married quarters. They claimed that the building required maintenance which the Ministry of the Interior could easily provide, making it easier for the officers to carry out their work and improving the families' living conditions.

### Old record found

CULTURAL foundation Cirne recently acquired a 36-page parchment document from a Basque antique dealer. Its first entry was dated 1639 and for 20 years it listed in perfect copperplate handwriting, the names and origins of the keepers of the six lookout towers and fortifications that defended the Javea coast.

## No swimming required

AN employment agency for film and television extras is shooting a virtual reality video on Javea's Arenal beach this week.

The auditions for paid work, that includes Social Security cover, was open to all Alicante Province residents who had their own transport.

Until this coming Sunday, the agency, which has offices in Madrid and Barcelona, is auditioning men and women aged between 20 and 30 available for a day's shooting.

Hopefuls were required to wear bathing costumes as though it were summer, although Agencia Penelope stressed that they were not expected to swim.



Photo by Diego Delso

**GRANADELLA: A favourite with visitors.**

## Unsurprising poll result

JAVEA'S Granadella beach was ranked one of the best Valencian Community beaches in an online survey.

Participants in the poll on the Atrapalo travel and leisure website, voted Granadella joint favourite with l'Aiguadolç nudist beach at the end of Les Rotes in Denia.

According to Atrapalo, the Costa Blanca

occupies fourth place as a preferred tourist destination with its users and the two Marina Alta beaches are the most-visited.

The website also found that Marina Alta tourists stay an average of five nights and spend an average of €671.91 on each hotel or accommodation reservation, the third-highest in the survey.

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**GOOD EFFORT:** Mary McCarthy and Joanne Wilson Pears of the Asociacion Voluntariado Social de L'Alfas del Pi with members of the Finca Guila Bowls Club.

# Sparing a thought

THE Asociacion Voluntariado Social de L'Alfas del Pi received a donation of €235 from members of the Finca Guila Bowls Club.

The Voluntariados operate the Food Bank of Alfas del Pi and carry out other social welfare activities in the town. They also run a stall at the Friday market, selling second-hand clothes.

Shopping trolleys in some supermarkets collect non-perishable food from generous customers, but cash donations, and the money from the sale of the clothes, go towards buying fresh meat and vegetables that are distributed to those in need every Wednesday at the food bank.

For those with the time to spare,

volunteers are always needed to help at the Food Bank, and the market stall.

Finca Guila Bowling Club lies in the green belt area on the Benidorm/Alfaz del Pi border. The club welcomes bowlers of all standards. Coaching is available for beginners.

Check out Finca Guila Bowls on their Facebook page.

## U3A Vall del Pop: the benefits of reflexology

TO conclude the last U3A general meeting, Tobias Laube gave a talk on reflexology, what it is, and how it can be of benefit.

Reflexology goes back some 4,000 years, with wall paintings in the pyramids showing people being given foot reflexology. The modern practice of foot reflexology has been around for 50 years, and Tobias has been practising the skills for four years.

Foot Reflexology looks like a massage, but the treatment affects the interior of the body, and is focused on 'reflex points,' which connect to the body's nervous systems. The treatment is structured to increase the blood supply, and thus provide more oxygen, to the point of the pain/injury. After some initial years of scepticism, Tobias said the improved oxygen supply after Reflexology treatment has now been proven scientifically.

Foot Reflexology can show beneficial results in the treatment of heart attacks, migraine, multiple sclerosis, other aches and pains, and even showing benefits in recovering from jet-lag.

Tobias advised, that like all medical and manipulative treatments, the frequency of treatment was important to the overall recovery, and starting and stopping treatment does not usually achieve the optimal result.

For further information on U3A Vall del Pop, check out the website: <http://u3avallpop.com>.

The U3A is all about enjoyment and learning, and this is particularly evident in the U3A Vall del Pop, whose members hold their General Meeting on the first Thursday of each month at the Centre Polivalent in Murla, and have a diverse range of groups for the interest of the members.

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# Three Kings celebration at Per Ells

IN early January, most Spanish children look forward to the arrival of the Three Kings (or Tres Reyes) who are far more important than Father Christmas, as these are the gift bringers that the children most want to see. None look forward more eagerly than the children of the Per Ells day care centre in Turis.

Fortunately for them, this event has been sponsored by the local Freemason's White River Lodge for the past eight years. Each year three Masons dress up as Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar and make the journey to the day care centre to give the children a treat.

The centre currently caters for around 20 severely disabled children who are able to attend, usually on a daily basis, this allows them to meet with other children and also gives their parents a short respite from their constant care needs.

As is often the case, the centre receives almost no money from



**FESTIVE CHEER:** The children after receiving their gifts.

the local authorities and relies heavily on volunteers and charitable donations. Over the past eight years the Freemasons have done a great deal to make their lives a little easier both by donations and giving up their time to help whenever possible.

On Saturday, January 6, over 50 parents and guests arrived to join in the fun and the children

were very excited. They became even more excited as the Three Kings arrived and filed into the assembly hall ready to greet them. The three Kings took their places at the front and one by one the children came up to meet them to be given a gift, some sweets and often a big hug as well. It was both humbling and motivating to see how these

children reacted and it is obvious that they are very well looked after and loved by the carers at the centre, many of whom are the parents of the disabled children.

The centre was originally built and donated by a former owner of the Valencian Football Club and is now a much used feature in the town of Turis. The Masons of the White River Lodge have done a fantastic job in continuing that tradition and the children's lives are a little better for it. We were joined on our visit by Ms Jackie Moore who kindly acted as both liaison and translator and we are very grateful to her for giving up her time to help us.

If you wish to help Per Ells they are always grateful for any donation and you may feel free to approach them directly.

*If you would like more information regarding Freemasonry, please contact: prensa@glpvalencia.com.*

## PS Thanks

FROM all of us that work for La Protectora de Animales de El Campello we wish you a very happy and healthy 2018 and thank you for your professional advertising throughout the year. With very best wishes.

*Pamela (Secretary), La Protectora de Animales de El Campello, Costa Blanca*

We would sincerely like to thank you for giving us a FRONT page, we were all absolutely delighted.

Thank you so much and thank you for all your support over the years.

*Bobby Griffiths, Age Care Association, Costa del Sol*

Thank you so much. Great article! Health and Happiness for 2018.

*Lorraine, John and family plus all the team at El Oceano, Costa del Sol*

Well done to you all and really you have made such a difference. We wish you and yours a truly happy 2018.

*John and Gray, Benidorm, Costa Blanca*



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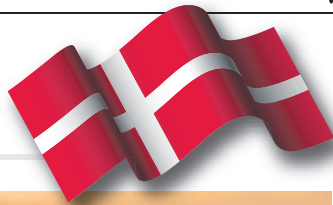
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## DENMARK



### Wind record

MORE than 43 per cent of Denmark's electricity in 2017 was produced by wind power, setting a new record, despite the fact there are roughly 20 per cent fewer wind turbines in the country than in 2001.



**GREEN POWER:** Wind turbines produced nearly half of Denmark's electricity in 2017.

### Ganged up

FOUR men have been found guilty of brutally assaulting a 20-year-old man, who later died of his injuries, in the northern seaside town of Skagen.

with a bomb disposal team and the fire service, after a suspicious package was found nearby which later proved to be harmless.

### Embassy scare

POLICE in Copenhagen temporarily cordoned off the Osterbro neighbourhood around the US embassy, along

### Country goals

DENMARK has been named one of the best governed countries in the world by the BBC - along with New

Zealand, Canada, Japan, Chile and Botswana - for its effective justice system, progressive social policies and minimal corruption.

## GERMANY



### High demand

MORE than 13,000 people have applied for prescription cannabis in Germany since it was legalised 10 months ago, with around two-thirds of the cases usually approved.

merath, western Germany, causing outrage among locals and environmentalists.

### Holy moly!

A HISTORIC church was demolished to clear the way for the expansion of a coal cast mine in Im-

### Tourist boom

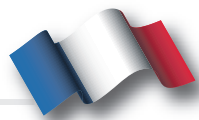
THE number of tourists holidaying to Germany has been forecast to increase for the eighth year in a row, according to the Federal Statistical Office; reaching a new record of

around 459 million in 2017.

### Time is money

TENS of thousands of workers protested in Germany's metal and electrical engineering industries to have the option of switching to a 28-hour week for a two-year period, with the option to return to full-time work afterwards.

## FRANCE



### Bike blunder

PARIS authorities have threatened to sanction the new operator of the city's bike hire system after weeks of disruption which has left just 64 docking stations operational out of a total of 1,460.

### Free pass

OVER-65s in Paris, with an income of less than €2,200 per month, will soon be able to travel around the region for free in order to encourage the city's retirees to use public transport.

### War of words

FRENCH feminists and female politicians have hit back at actress Catherine Deneuve's open letter defending sleazy men and denouncing the #Metoo campaign, that claimed it has resulted in 'a hatred of men and sexuality.'

### Slowing down

FRANCE has cut the speed limit from 90kmh to 80kmh on roads following a spike in deaths in 2016 - nearly 3,500 in total - with the number also estimated to have increased in 2017.

## BELGIUM



### Laid bare

A NEW exhibition in Brussels displays clothing worn by rape victims at the time they were attacked in order to try to dispel the myth that provocative outfits plays a part in sexual assault.

### Better together

FLEMISH Socialists have proposed a new law which means Belgians can be buried with their dead pets in cemeteries as long as they are both cremated.

### Found guilty

A 20-YEAR-OLD Irish mum has been charged with trying to mow down two Belgian police officers following a 30-minute high-speed chase across three towns with her two-year-old son inside the car.

### Flying high

BELGIAN airports received a record number of passengers in 2017 with a total of 33.3 million recorded passengers, up 10 per cent from last year.

## NETHERLANDS



### Clashing heads

THE new US ambassador to the Netherlands was grilled by Dutch reporters on his first day on the job over controversial comments he made two years ago claiming that the 'Islamic movement' was creating chaos in Europe.

### Booted out

AMSTERDAM has cut the maximum Airbnb rental period from 60 to 30 days in order to resolve problems caused by tourists in certain areas.

### Shook up

AN earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale was felt in the region of Groningen and was allegedly the biggest in the region since 2012 and the third strongest which has ever been recorded.

### On the up

THE University of Amsterdam's rector has expressed concerns about the rise in the number of foreign students at the university, which is allegedly putting pressure on student housing and reducing the number of places for Dutch students.

## SWEDEN



### Pet protection

THE Swedish government has proposed a new ban on pet abandonment which would mean citizens will face a harsher punishment if they leave domestic animals on the street.

### Cold case

FOUR members of the same family were found dead in Bjarred, near Lund, when police visited the home after one failed to turn up to work, but they do not believe an outsider was involved.

### Foul pay

SWEDEN has demanded €200,000 compensation after a qualification match for the women's World Cup was cancelled by the Danish Football Association due to a pay dispute, allegedly to cover costs related to tickets, advertising, food and board.

### Not so hot

A TOTAL of 25,666 people applied for asylum in Sweden in 2017, according to data from the Migration Agency, making it the lowest number of applications in eight years.

## NORWAY



### Oil toil

A 40 DEGREE temperature difference was recorded between the east and west regions in Norway due to strong winds with the coldest area recorded as -28.8 degrees, while the warmest was 10-11 degrees.

### Flying high

THE deputy leader of Norway's Labour party has resigned amid sexual harassment claims, stating he wanted 'to answer questions that are asked' and address what he thinks is inaccurate.

### Speed fail

A 39-YEAR-OLD taxi driver from Tromso - whose speedometer was allegedly faulty - was caught by a speed camera seven times in eight days and could be prevented from working in his chosen profession.

### On the up

A RECORD 33 million passengers flew with low-cost airline Norwegian last year, marking a 13 per cent increase from 2016 with 54 new flights added to the airline's network.



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**ROUND IN CIRCLES:** These cloud formations left locals stumped.

# Holy halo

LOCALS in Tver were left dumbfounded by circular cloud formations left in the sky after a visit by President Vladimir Putin to a local railcar factory earlier in the day. People claimed to have witnessed planes circling the skies following the visit, speculating they were carrying the president himself.

## Media silenced

RUSSIA has threatened to retaliate after two Russian state media journalists were expelled from Latvia for allegedly posing a threat to national security. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) later weighed in on the matter, writing a letter to the Latvian authorities to express concern.

## Out of luck

RUSSIAN filmmakers left the Golden Globes empty-handed when critically acclaimed film *Loveless* lost the top foreign language film award to German entry *In the Fade*. However, the film is still in the running for an Oscar, having recently been short-listed from 93 foreign films submitted.

## Prize vote

RUSSIAN voters will be offered the chance to win an iPhone for sending in selfies taken at polling stations to help improve voter turnout on the upcoming election day in March. Games, football skills tests and quizzes will also be found at the polls to create a 'holiday-like atmosphere.'

## Drone strike

A SWARM of 13 drones reportedly at-

tacked a Russian military base in Syria, with the government blaming Syrian rebels. Seven of the drones were allegedly shot down while the Russian defence ministry reposted images of three they took control of on their Facebook page.

## Mass murderer

MIKHAIL POPKOV, aged 53, who has been convicted of killing 22 women, has gone on trial for dozens of other murders which would make him 'most prolific serial killer in recent history if convicted. The former policeman confessed to killing 59 others between 1992 and 2010.



**WRECKED:** The supermarket window demolished by the tank.

## Shop tanked

A MAN drove a stolen tank into a supermarket in the town of Apatity before running in to steal a bottle of wine. On his escape, he then crushed a car parked nearby. The man was later arrested in possession of the stolen bottle.

## Trains on trial

TRIALS have been launched on what is claimed to be the first main line passenger train in Europe to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The project is a joint venture between train operator Renfe, Gas Natural Fenosa, and Enogas, and reflects the government's drive to develop vehicles with alternative energy (VEA).

The trials began in Asturias on January 8.

# London calling Spanish

A LEADING Spanish investment bank is looking to move its headquarters to London because it believes the capital will keep its place as the centre for European finance.

Madrid-based Alantra Partners SA oversees £3.3 billion (€3.7 billion) of assets and employs 350 staff across 21 countries.

Two insiders told Bloomberg that the company is considering how many employees to relocate to the UK if the move goes ahead.

However, any plans are unofficial at present and a spokeswoman for the

bank declined to comment.

A number of large banks have spoken of plans to leave London in the event of a no-deal Brexit, including Goldman Sachs Group Inc, Deutsche Bank AG and Bank of America Corp.

Last year Sam Woods, CEO of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority, warned up to 75,000 banking and insurance jobs could be lost if no agreement can be reached.

Alantra went public with its merger with Dinamia Capital in 2015, ignoring Brexit fears to take over London-based advisers Catalyst Corporate Fi-

nance last October.

Executive Chairman Santiago Eguidazu justified the move by labelling Britain the most important mergers and acquisitions market in Europe.

Currently financial institutions in the UK are granted 'passporting' rights which allow them to do business with any other firm in the European Economic Area without red tape.

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has previously insisted that British banks will no longer have those rights after Brexit.

## Economy on the upswing

PRIME MINISTER Mariano Rajoy has announced that the Spanish economy grew by 3.1 per cent in 2017.

He added that the political crisis in the autonomous region of Cataluña was "the only shadow looming over the economy."

Speaking at an investment forum in Madrid, Rajoy added that 611,000 jobs had been created in the country last year.

Government forecasts predict that up to 2020, the annual growth for the economy will be at 2.5 per cent.

### Quote of the Week

"SPAIN is growing in a strong, balanced and sustainable way, intensively generating employment, regaining competitiveness and showing good prospects for the future." Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.



ROBIN HOOD TAX: Sanchez's proposal has upset financiers.

## Socialist Party plans to rob banks

THE Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) has proposed a radical new measure to rescue Spain's faltering pensions system that it would fund via an 8 per cent corporation tax increase on banks.

Speaking in Madrid on Tuesday, PSOE leader Pedro Sanchez announced the €1 billion policy which was swiftly dismissed by the banking sector.

Mr Sanchez said he would also like to see a financial transaction tax order to collect another several hundred mil-

lion euros in revenue.

The PSOE's economy and jobs spokesman, Manuel Escudero, said that the proposals were not about "class revenge" but about "social justice."

However, banking professionals have told Spanish media that the "extraordinary" measure would be counter-productive.

Economy Minister Luis de Guindos dismissed the proposal and said that growth, not higher taxes, were the solution to the pensions problem.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Having a gas

SPANISH energy company Repsol is considering the sale of its 20 per cent stake in national utility Gas Natural to Luxembourg-based private equity firm CVC Capital, with the deal set to be worth around €4.1 billion should it go ahead.

## Capital gain

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) is to move its global hub to Spanish capital Madrid, with the expanded offices to handle the operations of 280 airlines and 50,000 travel agencies selling 315 million air tickets annually.

## Blast off

ROCKET company PLD Space - headquartered in Elche, Alicante - has received a €2 million grant from the European Commission for development of two launchers designed for small satellites, boosting the total raised to more than €9 million.

## E-money move for phone giant

TELEFONICA is to issue domestic bonds worth €200 million.

It comes as the Spanish broadband and telecommunications giant announced that part of the transaction will be handled using Blockchain technology, a 'digital wallet' used to process Bitcoin and other virtual currencies.

The operation, which will be performed by the

multinational's German subsidiary Telefonica Deutschland, has a maturity period of just over a year.

The company said in a statement that it would "demonstrate the capabilities of the Blockchain technology in combination with a traditional financing process and with a greater number of investors."

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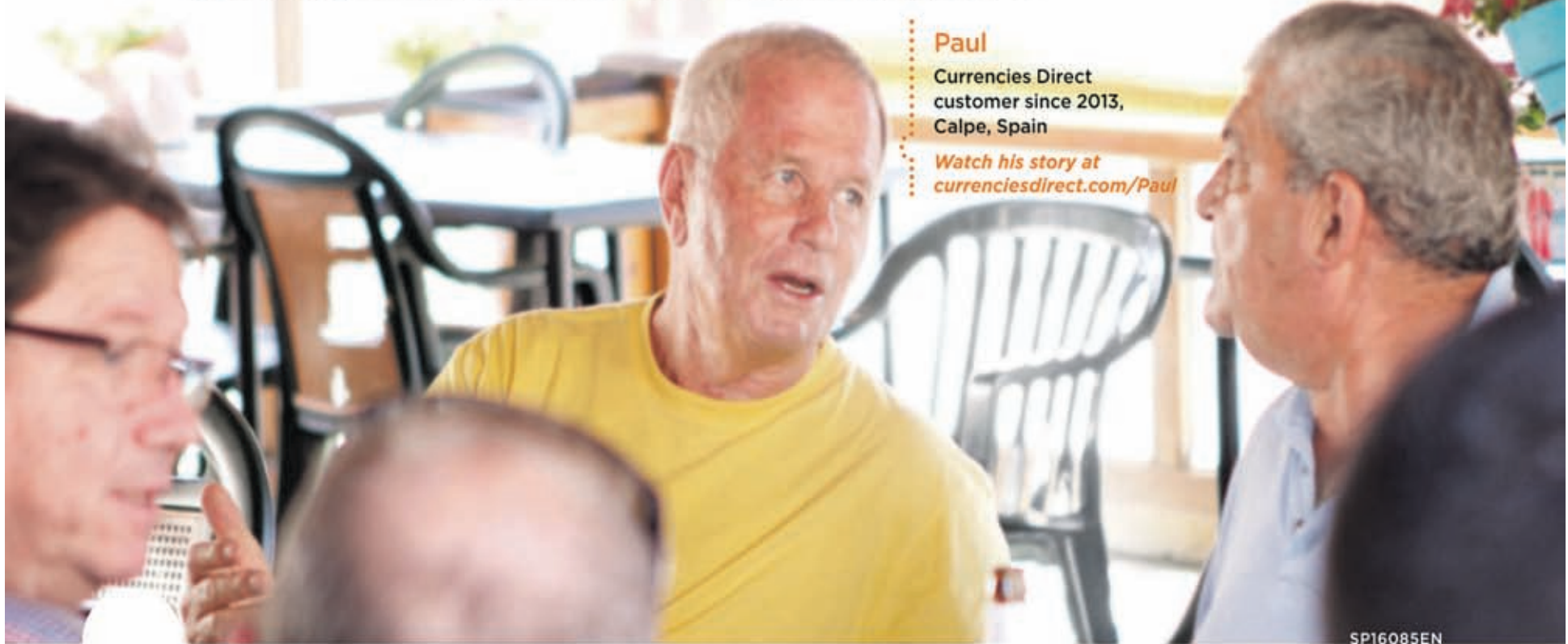
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# Clean air spotlight

## AUTO INDUSTRY GOING CLEAN AND GREEN

THE Spanish automotive industry has showcased the importance of technology to reduce CO2 emissions.

During a meeting in Brussels hosted by Pilar Ayuso MEP, several representatives from Spanish-based companies including Bosch, CIE Automotive and Valeo presented their ideas.

These included thermal management, engine efficiency and weight reduction of components.

Upcoming CO2 legislation for cars and vans was highlighted as an opportunity to take all technology options into account.

The European Parliament and Council of Member States are forming legislative plans to reduce car emissions in the 2020-2030 timeframe.

The reforms will have a significant impact on the European automotive industry, but Ayuso is optimistic about the future.

“Spain has a proud history as a prominent automotive country in Europe, with manufacturing plants rooted all across the country fostering innovation and providing high-skilled employment. It was very interesting to learn what technology can do, and how Europe can build on the strengths of its industry to tackle environmental issues.”

Sigrid de Vries, Secretary General of CLEPA (European Association of Automotive Suppliers) added: “CLEPA asks the legislator to maintain an open mind for all technology options and provide a policy framework that positively accelerates innovation in Europe. There is no ‘one-fits-all’ solution to achieve society’s energy-efficiency and CO2-emissions reduction targets: cars, vans, bikes, buses and trucks serve different mobility purposes, and customers must have the choice to pick the technology combination that fits their needs best.”

However, CLEPA does view the new CO2 proposals for cars as highly



**EXHAUSTING ALL OPTIONS:**  
Companies are brainstorming to reduce car emissions.

challenging and emphasises that focus should turn to how the targets should be met while minimising disruption to economy and society.

It was acknowledged that electrification, hybrid technology, eco-innovations and alternative and synthetic fuels all have a role to play in increasing energy efficiency.

An integrated policy approach encompassing market incentives, energy mix and infrastructure is also essential.

Spanish Automobile Suppliers contributes significantly to the Spanish economy due to its size and interaction with other sectors and exports.

The automobile industry in 2016 generated revenues in Spain of more than €34 billion, totalling 343,500 direct and indirect jobs.

Due to its strong technological base, it invests 4 per cent of its turnover to R&D and innovation.

## ONLINE FRESH FOOD SHOPPING LAUNCHED

# Supermarket shakedown

AMAZON is aggressively expanding its fresh food sales in Spain.

It comes after a pioneering trial in Madrid, where the online giant last year agreed a deal with the La Paz market to sell fresh produce via its Prime Now platform.

And the move proved such a success that plans are now afoot to launch the scheme in other Spanish cities.

The first beneficiaries are set to be residents of Barcelona and Valencia - the country’s second and third biggest cities by population where Prime Now is already operational - with the Catalan political crisis reportedly leading the e-commerce company to launch in the latter first.

An Amazon official confirmed that the retailer aims to forge ties with tens of partner markets, and that it has already received proposals from across the country, but that it intends to take ‘small steps’ and will first concentrate on major cities.

When launching the agreement with La Paz market in 2016 the firm said that it aims to “offer its customers ultra-



ONLINE ORDERS: La Paz market, Madrid.

fast delivery of fresh products from local stores.”

The Prime Now platform used to order the groceries offers customers thousands of food, beauty, electronics, sports, toys and home products to Amazon Prime customers, and pledges to deliver orders free of charge within two hours, or one hour for an extra payment of €5.90.

A Prime subscription costs €19.95 per year with the Now service currently

available from 8am-midnight in the Spanish capital and 10am-10pm in Barcelona.

Orders from La Paz market must be a minimum of €19.

Amazon has also linked up with Spanish supermarket brand Dia, with customers already able to order from its La Plaza chain of fresh food specialist stores in Madrid, and this arrangement is also set to be rolled out in other cities.

The company in June 2017 paid an estimated €11.1 billion to acquire up-market US food retailer Whole Foods - which employs 87,000 people in 465 stores - in an all-cash surprise deal.

And industry experts have predicted an all-out assault on traditional supermarkets, with the first Amazon Go cashier-less supermarket already operational in US city Seattle.

The shop scans customer’s mobile phones as they enter and uses specialised sensing technology to keep track on what they remove from shelves, before charging them as they leave.

## Baby milk outrage over food poisoning

A RECALL of baby milk products over a salmonella scare has been extended to 83 countries, including Spain.

Emmanuel Besnier, president of French dairy company Lactalis, said that more than 12 million boxes of infant milk will be recalled.

The order comes after salmonella was detected at the firm’s factory in Craon, northwest France, in December.

The firm’s brands include Picot and Milumel, and the crisis has seen angry parents launch legal action after dozens of children fell ill.

At least 35 cases have been reported in France with others in Spain and Germany.

Lactalis has annual sales of around €17 billion, with 246 sites in 47 countries producing well-known brands including President butter and Societe roquefort.

## Carillion collapses

THE liquidation of British construction and support group Carillion has left tens of thousands of jobs at risk.

It comes after the firm - which handles a number of major government projects - issued three profit warnings since last July.

Rumours at the time suggested that Spanish infrastructure giant Ferrovial could step in with a takeover bid, but an offer never came.

Carillion is involved in the HS2 high speed train line and is the second-biggest supplier of maintenance services to Network Rail, as well as managing schools and prisons.

It has 43,000 staff worldwide, thousands of whom have money in company pension funds, which have run up a debt of almost €674 million.

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**FUEL PRICES:** Rose slower than expected.

# Inflation hits record low

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THE cost of living may not rise as rapidly as previously thought after inflation decreased to 1.1 per cent last December.

The figure, which was the lowest it had been all 2017, was 10 per cent less than forecast, although experts believe inflation will rise to 1.6 per cent this year.

Prices of gasoline, diesel and electricity rose less than expected while holiday package price hikes also slowed. However, despite the good news, overall inflation resulted in

0.85 per cent loss in purchasing power for retirees.

Spain's unions have now criticised the government, claiming more needs to be done to help struggling workers.

The Union General de Trabajadores (UGT) explained wage increases agreed in December 2017 only reached 1.43 per cent, lower than the average inflation rate of 2 per cent. The UGT is calling on the government to raise salaries to cover the increased cost of living.

## Pensions income rises by 30%

WHILE Brexit may have done little to help the Pound against the Euro, there is some good news for retired expatriates.

According to a survey carried out by Prudential, those retiring this year expect to receive €2,027 (£1,800) more a year from their pensions, savings and investments than those finishing work last year.

That represents a 10 per cent rise in one year, and is a 30 per cent increase from five years ago.

Strong stock market performance and financial markets have contributed to the rise, according to Prudential, adding a new flat rate pension will see pay outs rise to €185.08 (£164.35) a month from April this year from a previous €179.67 (£159.55).

Average retirement incomes hit a low in 2013 at an average of €17,229 (£15,300) but are expected to rise to a 10-year high of €22,409 (£19,900) this year.

Vince Smith-Hughes, a retirement income expert at Prudential, explained, "the new record high for expected retirement incomes is good news for people planning to retire this year highlighting how saving for the future is paying off."

He added, "the 10 per cent rise from last year is more impressive given the economic and political uncertainty savers are having to cope with."

The expert revealed it was not all good news, explaining, "uncertainty is impacting the confidence of nearly half of the Class of 2018 who fear they aren't financially well equipped."

Indeed Prudential's survey revealed despite income growth, retirees were concerned about their futures with only 50 per cent believing they will have enough money to be comfortable.

Minister for pensions and financial inclusion, Guy Opperman, explained, "it's fantastic news that more and more people can look forward to a financially secure retirement," adding, "but there is still more to do to ensure that everyone is building up good private pension savings, which is why we are increasing automatic enrolment contributions in April 2018 and April 2019 and have just announced a package of measures to ensure even more people will benefit."

Financial experts say pension auto-enrolment schemes have also helped savers, with 0.8 per cent of pay automatically being diverted into a pension pot. This figure is set to rise to 2.4 per cent in April and to 4 per cent next year.

At the same time, employers will be asked to contribute more to their staff's pensions until the total minimum contribution between employer and employee reaches 5 per cent from April this year and 8 per cent from next April.

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# How many pockets have been lined?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



TO my mind, in theory, apart from his actual adjective use, last week's statements of Donald Trump were absolutely correct. I reiterate a previous example of mine.

If I manage to build a mansion in a town of cardboard houses, I don't invite all those that dwell in them up to my mansion. That would be tantamount to madness. What you in fact do, is try everything possible to assist those not so fortunate in building their own mansions.

Why should successful, functioning civilised societies be expected to take in large influxes of people from highly dysfunctional areas which are usually chaotic, often run by violent and uneducated despots and generally complete failures in democratic and economic affairs?

There is nothing racist about it. It's sheer common sense. In general, large numbers of immigrants from these places do nothing positive for the recipient country, they simply begin to demolish the mansion.

"Why can't we take in immigrants from places like Norway?" asked Mr Trump. Once again there is nothing racist in this remark. He



**BAD BUSINESS?:** The new American embassy and (inset) Donald Trump.

simply means that it is more beneficial and constructive for a country to import people from successful modern communities. Nothing wrong with that. The problem is that most people from these countries are quite happy where they are, so not much joy there. Unfortunately

Trump shouldn't have cited poor beleaguered Haiti, but then he often opens his mouth before he puts his brain in gear.

And so, to the American Embassy furore. One again Mr Trump is absolutely right. Despite the righteous indignation of Battersea's

local council and the reversed racism of Mayor Khan, the site of the new American embassy is not in the same prestigious area as its predecessor. A Grosvenor Square property in the middle of London's Mayfair is far more desirable and worth a great deal more bucks than a similar construction south of the Thames.

Whether the new Embassy building is safer or more easily accessible is a different matter altogether; from a business point of view the deal has been a bad one. Lord only knows how many pockets have been lined, or palms greased in the whole 'hand rubbing' billion dollar operation.

Trump is above all a business man and whatever one thinks of him, he is CEO of one of the world's largest corporations. Keeping his eye on the finances and business dealings of his 'firm' is both necessary, intelligent and indeed his duty. One thing that has certainly emerged from Trump's statement is that it has given thousands of 'talking heads' the opportunity to state quite categorically and publicly, what many of them have been babbling for years! - I know, I know; me too. Ah well.

*Keep the faith*

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Photo by Jon Cumow flickr

**SIGNATURE VILLAS:** Time for a change in Javea.

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 1:15pm Bargain Hunt  
 2:00pm BBC News at One  
 2:30pm BBC London News  
 2:45pm Doctors  
 3:15pm Father Brown  
 4:00pm Escape to the Country  
 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown  
 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip  
 6:15pm Pointless  
 7:00pm BBC News at Six  
 7:30pm BBC London News  
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 8:30pm EastEnders  
 9:00pm Big Cats  
 10:00pm Death in Paradise  
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 11:45pm Question Time  
 12:45am This Week

**BBC TWO**

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 7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown  
 8:15am Antiques Road Trip  
 9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals  
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire  
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live  
 1:00pm The Daily Politics  
 2:00pm Masters Snooker  
 5:45pm More Creatures Great and Small  
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 11:00pm The Mash Report  
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 12:15am Masters Snooker Highlights  
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8:00pm Beyond 100 Days  
 8:30pm The Sky at Night  
 9:00pm How We Got to Now with Steve Johnson  
 10:00pm Forces of Nature with Brian Cox  
 11:00pm Prehistoric Autopsy  
 12:00pm Lost Land of the Volcano  
 1:00am Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp  
 2:00am Top of the Pops: 1981  
 Tommy Vance introduces the pop programme  
 2:20am Top of the Pops: 1981  
 3:00am Forces of Nature with Brian Cox  
 4:00pm Peaky Blinders  
 Period crime drama set in Birmingham.  
 5:00am This is BBC Four  
*BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.*

**CHANNEL 4**

8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond  
 9:30am Frasier  
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen  
 12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses  
 1:00pm Channel 4 News  
 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me  
 2:05pm Posh Pawn  
 3:10pm Countdown  
 4:00pm Village of the Year  
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter 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 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
 10:00pm Hunted  
 11:00pm Derry Girls  
 11:35pm The Undateables  
 12:35am Working Class White Men

**CHANNEL 5**

9:20am Rusty Rivets  
 9:35am Shimmer and Shine  
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom  
 10:05am Mofy  
 10:15am The Wright Stuff  
 12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime  
 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector Returns  
 2:15pm Home and Away  
 2:45pm Neighbours  
 3:15pm NCIS  
 4:15pm Her Dark Past  
 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: More Kids Than Cash  
 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother  
 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter!  
 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side

**sky sports main event**

10:00am Melissa and Joey  
 11:00am Baby Daddy  
 11:30am Baby Daddy  
 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
 12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
 1:00pm The Goldbergs  
 1:30pm The Goldbergs  
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
 3:00pm Melissa and Joey  
 3:30pm Melissa and Joey  
 4:00pm Baby Daddy  
 4:30pm Baby Daddy  
 5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
 5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
 6:00pm The Goldbergs  
 6:30pm The Goldbergs  
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
 8:00pm Hollyoaks  
 8:30pm Coach Trip  
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
 10:00pm 2 Broke Girls  
 10:30pm 2 Broke Girls  
 11:00pm The Inbetweeners  
 11:30pm The Inbetweeners  
 12:05am The Big Bang Theory

**sky sports main event**

6:15am Live European Tour Golf  
 7:00am Live European Tour Golf  
 9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans  
 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans  
 11:00am Premier League Daily  
 12:00pm Live European Tour Golf  
 2:00pm SKY Sports News  
 3:00pm SKY Sports News  
 4:00pm Transfer Centre  
*Get a comprehensive round-up of the latest transfer news, with live analysis of all the major moves.*  
 4:30pm SKY Sports News  
 5:00pm Live PGA Tour  
 9:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf  
 1:00am Cricket  
*New Zealand face Pakistan in the fifth and final ODI in their series in Wellington.*

**itv**

7:00am Good Morning Britain  
 9:30am Lorraine  
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
 11:30am This Morning  
 1:30pm Loose Women  
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
 2:55pm ITV News London  
 3:00pm Judge Rinder  
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal  
 5:00pm Tipping Point  
 6:00pm The Chase  
 7:00pm ITV News London  
 7:30pm ITV Evening News  
 8:00pm Emmerdale  
 8:30pm 'Dr Google': Do DIY Diagnoses Work? Tonight  
 9:00pm Emmerdale  
 9:30pm The Cruise  
 10:00pm Transformation Street  
 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather  
 11:30pm ITV News London  
 11:45pm Great Art  
 12:45am Lethal Weapon  
 1:35am Jackpot247

**itv2**

7:55am Dress to Impress  
 8:45am Emmerdale  
 9:20am Coronation Street  
 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?  
 12:10pm Dress to Impress  
 1:10pm Emmerdale  
 1:45pm Coronation Street  
 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
 6:50pm Take Me Out  
 8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold  
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men  
 9:30pm Superstore  
 10:00pm Release the Hounds  
 11:00pm Celebrity Juice  
 11:50pm Family Guy  
 12:20pm Family Guy  
 12:45am American Dad! Animated series.

**itv3**

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

**itv4**

7:50am Pawn Stars  
 8:10am Pawn Stars  
 8:35am Ironside  
 9:35am Quincy, M.E.  
 10:40am Minder  
 11:45am The Sweeney  
 12:50pm The Professionals  
 1:55pm Ironside  
 2:55pm Quincy, M.E.  
 4:00pm Minder  
 5:00pm The Sweeney  
 6:00pm The Professionals  
 7:05pm The Car Chasers  
 7:35pm The Car Chasers  
 8:05pm Pawn Stars  
 8:35pm Pawn Stars  
 9:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special  
 10:00pm Goldfinger  
 11:05pm FYI Daily  
 Latest news from the world of entertainment.  
 11:10pm Goldfinger  
 12:20am The Adjustment Bureau  
 1:20am FYI Daily  
 Latest news from the world of entertainment.

**sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE**

10:10am Captain America: Civil War  
 12:40pm Batman Forever  
 2:45pm Spider-Man 2  
 4:55pm 300  
 6:55pm Batman Forever  
 9:00pm Spider-Man 2  
 11:10pm Captain America: Civil War  
 1:40am 300  
 3:40am Wanted

**sky CINEMA COMEDY**

7:40am Pitch Perfect 3: Special  
 8:10am Miss Congeniality  
 10:05am Calendar Girls  
 12:00pm Knocked Up  
 2:15pm Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates  
 4:00pm The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy  
 6:00pm This is Spinal Tap  
 7:30pm Borat: Cultural Mike and Dave Need  
 9:00pm You Don't Mess with the Zohan  
 10:45pm This is Spinal Tap  
 12:45am This is Spinal Tap

**sky CINEMA PREMIERE**

7:00am Pele: Birth of a Legend  
 8:55am Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions  
 11:10am Get Out  
 1:10pm The Transfiguration  
 3:00pm Being Charlie  
 4:50pm Pele: Birth of a Legend  
 6:50pm Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions  
 9:00pm Get Out  
 10:50pm The Transfiguration  
*Vampire-obsessed New York orphan Milo finds his disturbing fantasies blurring with reality.*  
 12:35am This is Your Death  
*Dark social satire about a twisted game show where contestants kill themselves live on air.*  
 2:30am Aloys  
*Psychological drama about a lonely private investigator contacted by a mysterious woman.*

**sky sports football**

9:00am Football's Greatest  
 10:00am Scottish Cup  
 10:30am La Liga Greatest Games  
 11:00am Football Countdowns  
 11:30am Football Years  
 12:00pm One2eleven  
 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games  
 1:00pm The Best La Liga Goals 2016/17  
 2:00pm La Liga Icons  
 3:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico  
 3:45pm La Liga Icons  
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams  
 5:00pm Scottish Cup  
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games  
 6:00pm Football Years  
 6:30pm Football Countdowns  
 7:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico  
 7:45pm La Liga Icons  
 8:00pm EFL Matters  
 8:30pm One2eleven  
 9:30pm EFL Matters  
 10:00pm Magical Messi  
 11:00pm La Liga Show  
 11:30pm EFL Matters  
 12:00am La Liga Icons

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



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**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

- and not entirely impartial reaction -  
to the Spanish political scene

THREE THOUSAND people were trapped in a blizzard for 18 hours on Spain's A-6 motorway between Segovia and Madrid.

That's nothing compared to the 13,000 recently snowed-in in Zermatt, although being benighted in a car in Spain bears no comparison to being stranded in comfy, fur-lined Switzerland.

But the near-disaster questioned the competence of Juan Ignacio Zoido, Interior minister, together with Gregorio Serrano, the expert in Financial and Taxation Law who heads the General Directorate of Traffic, and the A-6 concessionary Abertis. Predictably each blamed the other for the near-disaster.

Zoido - who tried to prevent the October 1 referendum in Cataluña by ordering police charges - was in Sevilla at the time. He was there to present medals to his former bodyguards, a vital aspect of his duties that overrode the lives and safety of 3,000 people.

Not to worry: to paraphrase Dick Cheney, "snow happens."

# Snow happens



Photo Credit: Pamydearie's Blog/Twitter

**SNOW JOKE: 3,000 people were trapped by blizzards in Segovia.**

## An independent air

IT'S a social media joke, of course. Tabarnia does not exist, but if it did this fictional area uniting part of Tarragona and Barcelona provinces would declare independence from an independent Cataluña.

The pro-independence parties - never a laugh a minute - failed to see the joke, and Ciudadanos leader Ines Arrimadas took the opportunity of pointing out that the secessionists had

to use unionist arguments to explain why Tabarnia is a no-no.

Brings Napoleon the Pig to mind because the Independentistas obviously believe that all UDIs are equal, but some are more equal than others.

## Getting priorities straight

A RECENT headline proclaimed that Mariano Rajoy will turn his undivided attention from Cataluña and occupy Spain's government with the concerns

of the country's 16 other autonomous regions. He has more than enough issues to deal with including agreements on pensions and education, but days later another headline proclaimed that Rajoy and the Partido Popular will concentrate on halting Ciudadanos' onward and upward trajectory as a priority.

No prizes for guessing which issue will take precedence because Rajoy's go-to solution of 'wait and see' won't work this time. If he waits too long, the PP won't see Ciudadanos for dust.

## In denial

BONNIE PRINCE CARLES, self-exiled in Brussels, headed JxC, the second most-voted party in the December elections and secured two more seats than the other pro-independence party, ERC.

Puigdemont, democratically installed as Catalan president in 2015, refuses to accept that he is now its ex-president. The job's still his, he reckons.

## On the ball

IN a world where consensus is more of a concept than a reality, it's generally accepted that Lionel Messi is one of the world's best footballers, if not the best.

He and his people were also sufficiently canny to consider Catalan independence when renewing his contract with Barça last November.

This included a clause stating that if Cataluña were separated from Spain and Barcelona FC left the La Liga, the player 'would automatically be free.'

It's incomprehensible that the constitutionalist parties didn't make more of this during the regional elections last month.

They would have got in with a landslide if they had.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com



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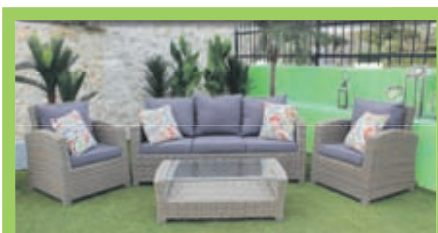
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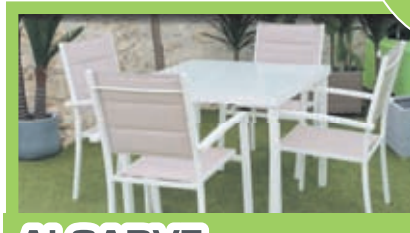
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**TV Couch Critic**

# Wedding Day Winners, I don't think so!

WHAT on earth are Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett doing accepting BBC1's offer to host *Wedding Day Winners* on Saturday evenings? If you haven't caught this weekend horror show, well done, I wish I hadn't stumbled upon it.

The concept, format and execution are truly terrible. Apparently, we all want Lorraine as our Boss, but even she looks alarmed at some of what she is asked to do and at other times she looked bemused by what Rob is doing.

The format pits couples and their families against each other to win (some pretty uninspired - a food mixer, really) presents and ultimately a wedding live on TV and a honeymoon. Thankfully the honeymoon isn't live on our screens.

The show is a cross between *It's a Knockout*, *The Generation Game* and *Take me Out*. The couples, bridesmaids and guests are made to humiliate themselves on primetime TV, with Rob and Lorraine constantly trying to convince everyone that they are all having a wonderful time. They might be, I didn't.

In a completely different space to *Wedding Day Winners*, I hope that you are following *Hard Sun* on BBC1. This is a thriller set against the backdrop of a solar storm set to destroy the world in five years' time and naturally the government wants to keep it all secret.

Agyness Deyn and Jim Sturgess star as DI



Photo by BBC

**'WEEKEND HORROR SHOW': Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett host *Wedding Day Winners*.**

Renko and DCI Hicks - just a thought, but couldn't Agyness have been the senior rank? This week our hero duo persuaded a journalist to publish the solar storm story and the government is forced to deny anything is wrong, turning the story into a joke.

Separately, Hicks tried to catch a multi killer. Given the amount of blood spilled I hope that this storyline doesn't continue much longer and given that the clock is ticking for everyone, fin-

gers crossed it doesn't. Don't take this one too seriously and it makes a solid round off to your Saturday night.

ITV1 are showing *Transformation Street* on Thursday evenings. Hats off to them for this one. The programme doesn't patronise or shock and is all the better for it.

There are some surgical scenes but these are correctly dealt with as day to day elements of individual Transformation Journeys. There is a

positive approach to sometimes painful stories, without any apology for the refreshing way this programme educates and shows us the highs and lows of a diverse range of journeys. I will continue to watch.

*EastEnders*, BBC1 weekdays, is leading the Soaps New Year Charge. Tamzin Outhwaite has returned to The Square, bringing Mel Owen back to the East End after an absence of 16 years. Mel's return was via a 'nice to be back' to Ben Mitchell, who probably had no idea who Mel was, 16 years is a long time to your average young man.

Mel looked shocked at just how much weight ex-husband Ian has accumulated, throw away anything with a horizontal stripe Ian, but Mel really only had eyes for the diamond necklace around Kathy's neck. Mel's return looks set to be slow burn rather than explosion, but it will build as the days slowly get longer I'm sure.

*Channel 4* and Penelope Keith are currently guiding us through the search for village of the year. The team gallop us through four villages each day and we get to know which will make the semi-finals from the Western Zone (where did Regions go I wonder...) on Friday January 19. Sadly we can't nominate Spanish villages, or I would be putting mine forward immediately.

*Critique - AWL, Casares, Costa del Sol*

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

BBC TWO

BBC FOUR

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 5

4

sky sports main event

8:30am Match of the Day
10:00am The Andrew Marr Show
11:00am The Big Questions
12:00pm Sunday Politics
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News
2:10pm Weather for the Week Ahead
2:15pm Money for Nothing
3:15pm Escape to the Country
4:15pm Lifeline
4:25pm Big Cats
5:25pm Songs of Praise
6:00pm Info not available
7:00pm BBC News
7:20pm Regional News
7:25pm Weather
7:30pm Countryfile
8:30pm Still Open All Hours
9:00pm Call the Midwife
10:00pm Mcmafia 11:00pm BBC News
11:20pm Regional News
11:25pm Weather
11:30pm Match of the Day 2

3:00am This is BBC Two
7:15am A to Z of TV Gardening
7:35am The Instant Gardener
8:20am Gardeners' World
8:50am Greatest Gardens
9:20am Monty Don's Paradise Gardens
10:20am Countryfile
11:15am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
12:45pm Food and Drink
1:15pm MOTD2 Extra
2:00pm Masters Snooker
6:15pm Ski Sunday
7:00pm Tennis
8:00pm Masters Snooker
12:00am The Mash Report
12:30am Insert Name Here
1:00am Drive
2:35am All Good Things
4:10am Question Time
5:10am Holby City

8:00pm Only Connec
8:30pm University Challenge
9:00pm The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
10:00pm Info not available
11:00pm Info not available
1:00am Info not available
2:00am Info not available
3:00am The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
10:00pm Info not available
11:00pm Info not available
1:00am Info not available
2:00am Info not available
3:00am The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve

6:55am Info not available
7:20am King of Queens
7:45am King of Queens
8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond
8:40am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:05am Frasier
9:30am Frasier
10:00am Frasier
10:30am Sunday Brunch
1:30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
2:30pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food
3:00pm The Simpsons
3:30pm The Simpsons
3:55pm Capture the Flag Aladdin
7:35pm Channel 4 News
8:00pm Posh Pawn
9:00pm The Biggest Little Railway in the World
10:00pm SAS: Who Dares Wins
11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11:55pm Season of the Witch
1:45am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

5:45am House Doctor
6:10am Wildlife SOS
6:35am Divine Designs
7:00am Milkshake!
10:55am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:30am Football on 5
12:30pm Blind Date
1:30pm Will and Grace
2:00pm Teen Wolf
3:40pm Pixels
5:30pm Mr. Deeds
7:10pm Bulletproof Monk
9:00pm Billionaire Kids
9:55pm 5 News
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm The Boy Next Door
12:40am One Night with My Ex
1:40am Lip Sync Battle UK
2:00am Super Casino
4:10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
5:00am Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink
5:45am House Doctor

5:55am Rude(ish) Tube
7:00am Hollyoaks Omnibus
9:30am Coach Trip
10:00am Coach Trip
10:30am Coach Trip
11:00am Coach Trip
11:30am Coach Trip
12:00pm Melissa and Joey
12:30pm Melissa and Joey
1:00pm Melissa and Joey
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2:00pm Melissa and Joey
2:30pm Info nor available
4:30pm The Big Bang Theory
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8:00pm The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm Info not available
11:40pm The Big Bang Theory
12:10am The Big Bang Theory
12:40am Gogglebox
1:40am Gogglebox
2:40am Rude Tube
3:40am First Dates
4:40am Hollyoaks Omnibus

6:00am SKY Sports News
7:00am SKY Sports News
8:00am Total Goals
9:00am Total Goals
9:30am Live European Tour Golf
12:30pm Football
3:00pm Football
5:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
7:30pm Sky Sports Tonight
8:00pm Live NFL: AFC Championship Game
12:00am Live NFL: Nfc Championship Game
4:00am Cricket
New Zealand take on Pakistan in the first T20 in their series at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.

itv

itv2

itv3

itv4

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

sky sports football

4:50am ITV Nightscreen
7:00am CITV
10:25am ITV News
10:30am River Monsters
11:00am Peston on Sunday
12:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
12:25pm The Voice UK
1:55pm ITV News and Weather
2:00pm Info not available
2:30pm Britain's Brightest Family
3:00pm The Cruise
3:30pm Kindergarten Cop
5:35pm Local News and Weather
5:45pm ITV News and Weather
6:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
7:00pm Dancing on Ice
9:10pm Vera
11:10pm ITV News and Weather
11:25pm Peston on Sunday
12:25am Next of Kin
1:20am Great Art
2:10am Jackpot247

3:55am Teleshopping
6:55am ITV2 Nightscreen
7:00am You've Been Framed! Gold
7:25am You've Been Framed! Gold
7:50am Emmerdale
10:35am Coronation Street Omnibus
1:25pm Take Me Out
2:45pm The Voice UK
4:20pm The Flintstones
5:20pm FYI Daily
5:25pm The Flintstones
6:05pm The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
7:05pm FYI Daily
7:10pm The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
10:00pm Ibiza Weekender
11:00pm Family Guy
11:30pm Family Guy
12:00am Family Guy
12:30am American Dad!
1:05am American Dad!
1:30am Zack and Miri Make a Porno

3:30am Teleshopping
7:00am Murder, She Wrote
7:50am Murder, She Wrote
8:50am Heartbeat
9:55am Heartbeat
10:55am Columbo
12:55pm Foyle's War
3:00pm Foyle's War
5:00pm Foyle's War
7:00pm Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
10:00pm Tonight at the London Palladium
11:00pm Birds of a Feather
11:35pm Birds of a Feather
12:00am The Sting
2:30am Blue Murder
3:50am Rosemary and Thyme
4:40am Road to Avonlea
5:35am Road to Avonlea

7:05am Minder
7:55am The Car Chasers
8:20am The Car Chasers
9:15am Pawn Stars
9:45am Pawn Stars
10:10am Pawn Stars
10:40am Pawn Stars
11:05am Pawn Stars
11:35am Pawn Stars
12:05pm Pawn Stars
12:30pm Pawn Stars
1:00pm Superman
2:15pm FYI Daily
2:20pm Superman
3:55pm Police Academy 3: Back in Training
4:55pm FYI Daily
5:00pm Police Academy 3: Back in Training
5:35pm Ferris Bueller's Day Off
6:35pm FYI Daily
6:40pm Ferris Bueller's Day Off
7:45pm Hornblower
10:00pm Unknown
11:05pm FYI Daily
11:10pm Unknown
12:20am Scarface
1:20am FYI Daily

11:20am Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
1:45pm Ghostbusters
3:45pm Ghostbusters II
5:45pm Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
8:00pm Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
10:00pm Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
12:15am Army of Darkness

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:40am Police Academy 7: Barbershop: The Next Cut
7:10am Barbershop: The Next Cut
9:10am The Waterboy
10:50am Year One
12:40pm Mean Girls
2:25pm Fist Fight
4:05pm Billy Madison
7:15pm Little Man
9:00pm Fist Fight
10:40pm This is Spinal Tap
12:10am Little Man
1:55am Hail, Caesar!
3:45am Who's Harry Crumb?

5:10am Aloys
7:00am In Dubious Battle
9:00am Being Charlie
10:45am Pele: Birth of a Legend
12:40pm First Kill
2:35pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge
4:55pm Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
7:10pm Get Out
9:00pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge
11:10pm First Kill
12:55am A Cure for Wellness
3:25am Get Out
5:10am Pele: Birth of a Legend

9:30am EFL Goals: Championship
10:00am EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
10:30am The Sunday Supplement
12:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
12:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
12:30pm Football
3:00pm Football
5:30pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:45pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
6:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
6:15pm Live La Liga 2017/18
8:20pm La Liga Icons
8:40pm Live La Liga 2017/18
10:45pm La Liga Icons
11:00pm EFL Goals: Championship
11:30pm EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
12:00am Magical Messi



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## LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Welcome to a new you?

**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.



**NO RISKS: Stay safe while exercising.**

AS the festive season comes to an end, many people feel the pinch around the waistline and decide to embark on a 'new you' in January, with a health kick to work off those extra added kilos.

Joining a gym, a support group, online diet plan all see boosts at this time of year, but so does an increase in the number of people taking to the streets in their own fitness routines, perhaps walking, running or cycling off that extra baggage.

Remember, if you are on foot, walking or running, you are a pedestrian. Always wear bright, high visible clothing, stop at pedestrian crossings, keep an eye for hidden junctions such as garage exits or side roads, and avoid distractions such as using headphones which may prevent you being aware of your surroundings.

If you have to use the road remember to

always face oncoming traffic.

If you take to two wheels, remember that you are a vehicle, governed by the same laws as other cars, vans, etc, and you must never wear headphones or use a mobile phone, always respect traffic lights, signs, signals and one-way streets, if using pedestrian crossings remember that you must dismount and walk, as with running always wear high visibility clothing.

At night and in times of poor visibility lights must be used on bikes (a bell is mandatory), and are advisable for running or walking. If you are running or walking in a group it is mandatory.

Vigilance and visibility is vital as a vulnerable road user. Be seen, be observant and be careful. If you are hoping to improve, good luck, but be careful.

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

## Are the water bills too high?

**Q.** Our building does not have individual water meters, only the central meter for the whole Community of Property Owners, so each apartment pays a fixed fee to the Community. However, in the past few years, the Administrator has begun to charge us for 'extra' water, with ridiculously high fees. She sends letters threatening action for non-payment. The President himself has admitted that there are many who do not pay at all, and I think the administration is trying to extract extra payment from the rest of us.

*P W (Costa del Sol)*

**A.** Well, the water bill has to be paid. We suggest that you put on the official Agenda for the next AGM a proposal that individual water meters must be installed. This involves some

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

extra expense in the beginning, but it will save money

and problems later. Only the non-payers will have their water cut off. The central metering system has caused many problems for communities and only a few buildings still use it.

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.

# Why is he still President?

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



ONCE again, Donald J Trump has managed to come out with some of the most outrageous racist comments I've ever heard from a POTUS.

He asked, "Why are we having all these people from s\*\*\*\*\*e countries coming here?"

The countries he was referring to are mostly populated by black and Latino people. Countries like El Salvador, Africa and Haiti. The White House hasn't denied he said it and some people that were there have, in fact, confirmed it.

So how does he get away with it? Well, I think the problem is that he doesn't care and he has a base of followers that don't care either about what he says or does because basically they agree with him. This to me is pretty unbelievable.

It means that there are an incredible amount of Americans that are so fed up with the alternative they would rather see this piece of scum run the most powerful nation in the world. He's always been racist from when he accused Obama of not being born in the USA to claiming Mexicans are rapists and murder-

ers. You know you are doing something wrong when the head of the Klu Klux Klan starts endorsing your tweets.

Sure there is fake news out there but surely this can't continue? Night after night I see most news stations, with the exception of Fox News, call him out over something and experts giving similar opinions. Are they all wrong and Fox News right?

The man claims to be a genius, but to me he is ignorant of practically everything. This week he cancelled a trip to the UK because of Obama not selling the American Embassy for enough and moving it. Well, firstly it wasn't Obama who decided to move it - it was Bush - and secondly, it's not theirs to sell. The property is owned by the Duke of Westminster!

I'm sorry he's not going because I'd love to see the people turn out and give him the reception he deserves. And yet another woman - this time an actress from the world of adult entertainment - has said she was paid \$130,000 to keep quiet about stuff that went on with Trump back in 2006.

I've lost count of his accusers but surely they can't all be liars. So why is he still President? The answer to that actually scares me and makes me sad and angry too and very, very grumpy!

[columnists@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:columnists@euroweeklynews.com)

Email: [mikesenker@gmail.com](mailto:mikesenker@gmail.com).



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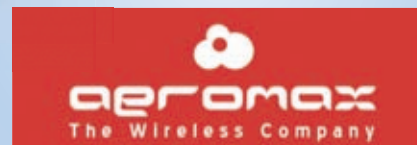
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BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5		4		sky sports main event	
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	4:10am	This is BBC Two	8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	6:35am	Divine Designs	9:00am	Charmed	7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under	7:00am	Flog It! Trade Secrets	8:30pm	Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank	9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond	7:00am	Milkshake!	10:00am	Melissa and Joey	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
12:45pm	A1: Britain's Longest Road	7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown	9:00pm	Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain <i>The fourth film in Andrew Marr's epic six-part series charting the events that shaped Britain.</i>	9:30am	Frasier	10:15am	The Wright Stuff	11:00am	Baby Daddy	11:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	8:15am	Antiques Road Trip	10:00pm	Art, Passion and Power: The Story of the Royal Collection	10:00am	Frasier	12:15pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:30am	Baby Daddy	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:00pm	BBC News	9:00am	Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	11:00pm	The Stuarts <i>Presented by Dr Clare Jackson of Cambridge University, this new three-part series argues that the Stuarts, more than any other, were Britain's defining royal family.</i>	10:30am	Frasier	1:10pm	5 News	12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm	Regional News	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire	12:00pm	Countdown <i>Presented by Dr Clare Jackson of Cambridge University, this new three-part series argues that the Stuarts, more than any other, were Britain's defining royal family.</i>	11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector	2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory	11:00am	Premier League Daily
2:45pm	Doctors	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live	1:00pm	Catching History's Criminals: The Forensics Story	12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	2:05pm	Access	2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory	12:00pm	Transfer Centre Sportswomen
3:15pm	Father Brown	1:00pm	The Daily Politics	2:00pm	Extreme	1:00pm	Channel 4 News	2:15pm	Home and Away	3:00pm	Melissa and Joey	12:30pm	Sportswomen SKY Sports News
4:00pm	Escape to the Country	2:00pm	Bowls	3:10pm	Cakemakers	1:05pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	2:45pm	Neighbours	3:30pm	Melissa and Joey	1:00pm	SKY Sports News
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown	2:30pm	Tennis	4:00pm	The Simpsons	2:05pm	Posh Pawn	3:15pm	NCIS	4:00pm	Baby Daddy	2:00pm	SKY Sports News
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	5:45pm	Flog It!	5:00pm	Hollyoaks	3:10pm	Countdown	4:15pm	Dance Night	4:30pm	Baby Daddy	3:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:15pm	Pointless	6:30pm	Eggheads	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	4:00pm	Village of the Year	6:00pm	5 News	5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	4:00pm	Transfer Centre SKY Sports News
7:00pm	BBC News	7:00pm	Great American	6:30pm	Extreme	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun <i>Series on holiday homes abroad.</i>	6:30pm	Neighbours	5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	4:30pm	SKY Sports News
7:30pm	Regional News	7:30pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	7:00pm	Cakemakers	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:00pm	The Goldbergs	5:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary	7:30pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Extreme	7:30pm	5 News	6:30pm	The Goldbergs	5:30pm	SKY Sports News
8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	House of Saud: A Family at War	8:00pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	The Simpsons	8:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory	6:00pm	SKY Sports News
9:00pm	Holby City	10:00pm	Inside No 9	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Diet Secrets and How to Lose Weight	7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory	7:00pm	SKY Sports News
10:00pm	Silent Witness	11:00pm	Newsnight	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother	8:00pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Transfer Centre Football
11:00pm	BBC News	11:30pm	Weather	10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	11:00pm	One Night with My Ex	8:30pm	Coach Trip	11:00pm	The Debate - Live Live ICC U19 WC <i>A match from the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.</i>
11:30pm	Regional News	12:10am	NFL			6:00pm	Four in a Bed	12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory		
11:40pm	Weather	12:15am	Bowls			6:30pm	Extreme			9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory		
11:45pm	Love and Hate Crime	1:05am	Bowls			7:00pm	The Simpsons			10:00pm	Tattoo Fixers		
12:45am	Stacey Dooley Investigates	2:10am	Surgeons: At the Edge of Life			7:30pm	Hollyoaks			10:30pm	8 Out of 10 Cats		
						8:00pm	Channel 4 News			11:00pm	The Big Bang Theory		
						9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo			11:50pm	8 Out of 10 Cats		
						10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E			12:20am	The Big Bang Theory		
										12:50am	Gogglebox		
										1:50am	Tattoo Fixers		
										2:50am	8 Out of 10 Cats		

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.

**TECH FOR THE TIMID**

# ET tweet home?

**Is 150 years of traditional telephone calling heading for disconnection, Terence Kennedy wonders**

APPARENTLY it's only those of us with a diminished shelf-life who still make actual telephone calls. Millennials in particular think calls are too intrusive, when a text will do nicely instead.

Today more than 35 per cent of our interactions are digital. Last year, for the first time, texting, tweeting and other social media, chat and other 'indirect' contacts overtook the traditional voice call.

Given what happens to us when calling, I'm not too surprised we're finally backing away from a technology which was, after all, invented in an era when an instant message was one which reached its destination by Morse code in less than a week.

Actually call a company and there are receptionists who tell you to hold, then go away forever. There's piped music which sounds as though it's being played through an electric razor and will put you off Vivaldi forever.

There are voicemail boxes because people don't want to take your call, and people pretending to be voicemail boxes because they don't want to take your call. Telephones did make enormous inroads into our traditional communications. One



**LORD OF THE RINGS: phone inventor Alexander Graham Bell**

prominent businessman I knew sat tall and proud behind a desk rampant with telephones, six in all, each in a different colour. The idea, I assumed, was to lend dignity and importance.

But the effect was instead comic whenever a phone rang, as he scrambled to pick up each one in turn to

discover which of the six it was.

A friend once dialled a wrong number and was told so by the voice at the other end of the line.

"Are you sure?" asked my friend.

Quick as a flash came the reply: "Have I ever lied to you before?"

Another example of wrong-num-

ber repartee had a lady asking the answering voice: "Has June arrived yet?"

A pause, and then the droll reply: "No lady. I don't know where you're phoning from, but here it's still May."

If this purported telephone dialogue is true I'll eat my non-existent directory:

"Hello, is that two-two-two-two?"

"No, this is double-two double-two."

"Oh ... sorry to have troubled you with a wrong number."

"That's okay, the phone was ringing anyway."

Ah yes, happy days, now heading for history. Today the telephone call is the new handwritten letter: an antediluvian remnant of a disappearing past as text becomes king, in whatever form.

And I love the contemporary cartoon of a helpful little lad taking the hand of an elderly lady on the street-corner as he says: "Would you like help texting while crossing the street?"

## Phonophobia

PHONING will soon be the one thing we don't actually do with our phones, if the statistics are correct.

One survey shows millennials check their phones 150 times a day. But there is a social downside: four in 10 admit they interact more with their smartphones than they do with their significant others, parents, friends, children or co-workers.

Most troubling of all is the enormous spike in loneliness among teenagers. Young people go out with their friends less than they did 10 years ago; they interact less face-to-face, and they get less sleep.

And when you really know things have changed? When you get an automatic call response like this one from my nephew: "You've reached [.....]. No one answers phone calls anymore, send me a text."

# Coffee guaranteed not to give you the hump in 2018

**Nora Johnson**  
*Breaking Views*

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

HEARD about the latest coffee trends for 2018? Lattes souped-up with everything from chia seeds to coconut oil, and 'bulletproof' coffee that replaces milk with butter and coconut oil, then blitzes the whole thing into a froth. This allegedly suppresses your hunger and makes you energetic. Phew!

But have you tried a camelccino? If not, dairy doubters, you're in luck because Asda's reportedly stocking camel's milk in selected stores. Though hard to come by in the West, camel-

cinos, topped with a swirl of date syrup instead of the usual chocolate sprinkling, are a fixture of cafe culture in the UAE, along with camelattes, camel milkshakes...

And not to be confused with iced coffee (in which espresso-based coffees are served over ice, usually with milk and syrup), we'll also have cold brew coffee which is simply... coffee brewed cold. Which sounds as sensible as a pint of hot real ale. I'll give it less than a year before it goes the way of so many other hipster fads (eg. This coffee tastes like mud! Well, sir, it was only ground this morning).

Your typical hipster? Someone who drinks his coffee with mountain dew from Tibet, the beans having been crushed between the thighs of



Photo Credit: balsemain / Instagram

a virgin on a certain slope in Guatemala, found by chance trekking through the country, to reawaken his chakras and reconnect with nature. And using a machine-like device purchased from an old lady in rural India that enables the perfect temperature to be reached in optimum time for the best coffee ever.

Speaking of coffee machines, I judge these not on the quality of coffee, but on the noise they make. And when I encountered one in a hotel recently I was frankly disappointed. It's not proper coffee unless it sounds like

Jason Bourne throttling an asset with a tea towel...

Finally, best avoid the coffee enemas promoted on Gwyneth Paltrow's website Goop - not just unnecessary but potentially dangerous. Keep the coffee out of your, err, rear and in your cup. It's only meant to access your colon from the top!

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

**PERK ME UP: What will be the year's most bizarre coffee trends?**

**BBC one**

1:50am BBC News  
7:00am Breakfast  
10:15am Rip Off Britain  
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer  
12:00pm Wanted Down Under  
12:45pm A1: Britain's Longest Road  
1:15pm Bargain Hunt  
2:00pm BBC News  
2:30pm Regional News  
2:45pm Doctors  
3:15pm Father Brown  
4:00pm Escape to the Country  
4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown  
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip  
6:15pm Pointless  
7:00pm BBC News  
7:30pm Regional News  
8:00pm The One Show  
9:00pm EastEnders  
9:30pm Would I Lie to You?  
10:00pm Miriam's Big  
11:00pm BBC News  
11:30pm Regional News  
11:40pm Weather  
11:45pm A Question of Sport  
12:15am And They're Off...For Sport Relief  
1:00am Weather for the Week Ahead

**BBC TWO**

5:50am This is BBC Two  
7:00am Flog it! Trade Secrets  
7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown  
8:15am Antiques Road Trip  
9:00am Fern Britton Meets...  
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire  
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live  
12:30pm The Daily Politics  
2:00pm Lifeline  
2:10pm Bowls  
5:45pm Tennis  
6:30pm Flog It!  
7:00pm Eggheads  
7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys  
8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby  
9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good  
9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor  
10:00pm Stealing Van Gogh  
11:00pm Mock the Week  
11:30pm Newsnight  
12:10am Weather  
12:15am Inside the Factory  
1:15am Bowls  
2:15am Michael Palin: A Life on Screen  
3:15am Six Robots and Us  
4:15am This is BBC Two

**BBC FOUR**

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days  
8:30pm Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank  
9:00pm Handmade: By Royal Appointment  
9:30pm A Stitch in Time  
10:00pm Six Wives with Lucy Worsley  
11:00pm Info not available  
12:00am Flights of Fancy: Pigeons and the British  
1:00am Info not available  
2:00am Top of the Pops: 1981  
2:35am Top of the Pops: 1981  
3:10am Six Wives with Lucy Worsley

**CHANNEL 4**

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

**CHANNEL 5**

5:45am House Doctor  
6:10am Wildlife SOS  
6:35am Divine Designs  
7:00am Milkshake!  
10:15am The Wright Stuff  
12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
1:10pm 5 News  
1:15pm The Hotel Inspector  
2:05pm Access  
2:15pm Home and Away  
2:45pm Neighbours  
3:15pm NCIS  
4:15pm Her Evil Twin  
6:00pm 5 News  
6:30pm Neighbours  
7:00pm Home and Away  
7:30pm 5 News  
8:00pm Police Interceptors  
9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother  
11:05pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side  
11:50pm Football on 5  
1:10am Traffic Cops  
2:05am Super Casino  
4:10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors  
5:00am Britain's Greatest Bridges

**4**

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

sky sports main event

6:00am SKY Sports News  
7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize  
7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews with the headline makers.  
8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans  
9:00am Cricket Day one of the third Test between South Africa and India at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.  
4:15pm My Icon  
4:30pm SKY Sports News  
5:00pm SKY Sports News  
6:00pm SKY Sports News  
7:00pm SKY Sports News  
8:00pm Transfer Centre  
8:30pm Football  
11:00pm The Debate - Live  
12:00am Live ICC U19 Wc

**itv**

6:05am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
7:00am Good Morning Britain  
9:30am Lorraine  
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
11:30am This Morning  
1:30pm Loose Women  
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
3:00pm Judge Rinder  
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal  
5:00pm Tipping Point  
6:00pm The Chase  
7:00pm Local News and Weather  
7:30pm ITV Evening News  
8:00pm Emmerdale  
8:30pm Coronation Street  
9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family  
9:30pm Coronation Street  
10:00pm Girlfriends  
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather  
11:45pm The Danish Girl  
2:00am Jackpot247  
4:00am Tenable  
4:50am ITV Nightscreen  
4:50am ITV Nightscreen  
6:05am The Jeremy Kyle Show

**itv2**

9:20am The Cube  
10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?  
12:10pm Dress to Impress  
1:10pm Emmerdale  
1:40pm You've Been Framed! Gold  
2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
5:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
6:50pm Take Me Out  
8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold  
8:30pm You've Been Framed! Gold  
9:00pm Two and a Half Men  
9:30pm Superstore  
10:00pm Fast and Furious  
11:05pm FYI Daily  
11:10pm Fast and Furious  
11:10pm Family Guy  
12:10am Family Guy  
1:10am American Dad!  
1:40am American Dad!  
2:10am Two and a Half Men  
2:35am Superstore

**itv3**

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

**itv4**

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

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Aeon Flux  
8:35am Conan the Barbarian  
10:45am The Incredibles  
12:45pm Independence Day  
3:20pm Aeon Flux  
5:00pm Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle  
7:00pm The Incredibles  
9:00pm Independence Day  
11:35pm Watchmen  
2:25am Rambo

sky CINEMA COMEDY

9:55am Barbershop: The Next Cut  
11:55am Shallow Hal  
1:55pm Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie  
3:35pm Paul  
5:25pm Airplane!  
7:00pm Shallow Hal  
9:00pm Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie  
10:40pm Paul  
12:30am Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

5:05am Pele: Birth of a Legend  
7:00am Being Charlie  
8:45am First Kill  
10:30am Kicks  
12:05pm Pirates of the First Kill  
2:15pm *Cat-and-mouse action thriller starring Hayden Christensen as a desperate father blackmailed into helping a criminal gang evade corrupt police chief Bruce Willis.*  
4:00pm Let Me Go  
The lives of three generations of women are turned upside down when terrible, long-held secrets tumble into the open.  
5:45pm The Transfiguration  
7:25pm Kicks  
9:00pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge  
11:15pm Gueros  
1:15am A Cure for Wellness  
4:00am Let Me Go

sky sports football

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

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## Nation's water crisis set to deepen unless action is taken

# The rain in Spain is proving a real pain

*As southern Spain faces a sandy future, David Noon delves deeper into the water crisis that is threatening to make certain areas inhospitable and asks what can be done to stem the depleting supplies.*

IT is hard to believe that just over 12 months ago, thousands of people were returning to their sodden homes and businesses to clean up the mess left behind by almost a month of relentless rainfall.

**600 leaks identified in Malaga over eight months**

Homes were flooded, roads were completely cut off and buildings were damaged beyond repair as vast swathes of southern Spain were left submerged beneath the worst flooding in 25 years.

Two lives were claimed in the storms during the final few weeks of 2016, as southern Spain was pelted by 300 litres of rain in

just 72 hours.

Chiringuitos were left strewn across the sands of Andalucia and cars were carelessly abandoned as roads were transformed into rivers in the blink of an eye.

But in reality it was just a snapshot downpour in what is becoming an increasingly drier country.

In fact, reservoir levels have hit such extreme lows that some 70 per cent of Spain is at risk of becoming desert land.

According to a government report, the whole of Andalucia is in danger of facing an unwanted sandy future with the average global temperature predicted to rise by 3.2 degrees over the next

90 years.

Reservoir levels are already at their lowest level since the 1990s - and this is in spite of recent rains - with yet another drought warning issued throughout the country, the second in the space of five years.

According to the latest available figures, the reservoirs are around 38 per cent of their total capacity, 10 per cent less than at the same time last year.

These levels don't look set to improve any time soon as Aemet, the State Meteorological Agency, does not predict a high amount of rainfall in the coming weeks and months.

The current drought comes quick on the heels of Spain's worst drought in

150 years, which took place in 2014.

That year saw less than 100 litres of rain per square-metre in Alicante (the average is 336), with more than 180,000 almond trees perishing under the staggering heat.

And barring the odd flash storm the nation's dreary often brown countryside hasn't had a good drink since.

Since 2014, production of olive oil, courgettes and avocados has been hit by back-to-back dry years.

In 2017 it is estimated that some 1.4 million hectares of crops were impacted by lack of rainfall, while 40 per cent of vineyards were affected by a barren 2017.

Last year also saw an increasing number of wildfires rip through the Spanish countryside.

In 2017, some 105,000 hectares of land were razed; making it the third most destructive year in Spanish history.

It came after Spain suffered one of the longest heatwaves, called Lucifer, in history with temperatures well into the 40s along the Costa del Sol, the Balearics and inland.

A total of 40 per cent of the fires took place in northwest Spain with 30 per cent ripping along the Mediterranean coast.

It is the same story every year, with thousands of gallons of water used to tackle the blazes.

**10 days, the average time to repair a leak**

## Spain told to get serious on Paris pledge

SPAIN has been told to buck its ideas up over its pledge to the Paris Agreement, created to tackle global warming. Director of the European Climate Foundation Laurence Tubiana insists there needs to be a joint debate about which carbon emissions scenario Europe wants to be in by the mid-century and has urged Spain to get on board.

Tubiana the French diplomat that led the Paris Agreement talks, said that Spain 'needs a plan in hand how to decarbonise the economy, like most other world powers have.'

Decarbonisation strategies for 2050 were a part of the Paris Agreement and the European Commission has asked the EU member states for the same by

2018, so that it can determine whether short and medium-term investments are in line with emission reduction targets.

The ECF director added that the Spanish government 'should clarify when it will make its decarbonisation strategy and open it up to wider debate than just a simple inter-ministerial discussion.' 'It is necessary because we are talking about a way forward that doesn't just encompass public investments, it's about private investment and collaboration with regional and local government', she explained.

'It is imperative that Spain promotes a joint national exercise with all the actors involved in decarbonisation, so what has been agreed will happen.'

| STERN WORDS: From Tubiana.



## Doñana disaster

THE situation at the Doñana National Park is nothing short of a tragedy.

Home to the largest nature reserve for migratory birds in Europe, the UNESCO world heritage site is under threat. The aquifer that feeds the park's marshes is drying up at an alarming rate.

It is so worrying that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that the aquifer would need between 30 and 60 years to recover. And the effects are clear to see.

The number of wintering ducks that rely on a healthy marsh - such as the endangered marbled teal - are in decline.

Temporary lagoons, one of the natural features that makes Doñana unique in Europe, are drying up and as a result, 40 per cent of the species of





**DRYING OUT:** Spain's countryside could soon be desert.

8% of total reservoir capacity is full

70% of Spain at risk of becoming desert



**TRAGEDY:** Doñana National Park.

dragonflies that lived in Doñana have been lost. And this is not a natural occurrence due to soaring temperatures.

The real tragedy is that Doñana is drying up is because of the current over-exploitation from illegal farming.

According to the WWF report more than 1,000 illegal wells drilled by farmers are accelerating the park's destruction. Eva Hernandez, a spokesperson for WWF, said:

"Doñana's biodiversity has eroded over the past 40 years and we are reaching a point of no return. We could do things to recover the park -

and some things are being done - but the pressures from private and public companies are becoming unbearable."

Spain must quickly decide whether it wants to protect its long term ecosystems or continue down its current path of ecological destruction in return for short-term gains.

105,000 hectares of land hit by wildfires in 2017

And with temperatures set to steadily soar for the foreseeable future, so too will sea levels leaving coastal cities including Malaga, Cadiz and Alicante at risk of flooding.

The Islands off Spain's mainland are also set to be hit by rising tides, with many of the largest cities such as Palma enjoying a close proximity to the coast.

But it is not just a warming climate and a lack of rainfall that is threatening the Spanish countryside.

More worryingly - and easier to fix - is the amount of water lost to burst pipes, poor water systems and a lack of foresight to save and store supplies for a not-so-rainy day.

In Malaga alone, 600 leaks in the city's water pipes were detected between April and December by smart meters.

That is around 75 leaks each month. The exact amount of water lost in the leaks has not been disclosed, but if each city in Spain is experiencing a similar amount of monthly leaks, then you can bet your mortgage that a fair few litres of water are literally going down the drain every single day.

Installed to reduce Malaguenos' water bills, the 41,663 meters should also go some way to saving the region's ever-depleting supply of water.

But that is just one measure taken in one city. A lot more must

IT is an inevitable sight witnessed year-on-year: firefighters by the dozen pointing their hoses at wildfires in the Spanish countryside as helicopters and fire planes dump thousands of gallons of water on the burning brush from above.

Drive along any motorway in Spain during the late summer for long enough and you will eventually come across a plume of ominous smoke rising from the shrub lands.

Last year alone, 105,000 hectares of land were hit by wildfires.

A large majority of it is rural countryside but a fair proportion is vineyards, courgette plantations and olive groves.

And yet, while the loss of vegetation is a tragedy, the amount

115 water measures drawn up in Andalusia

be done and the first thing must be introducing smart meters across all cities and towns in Spain.

In Malaga, the council explained most of the leaks identified were small and would have been hard to find if not for the meters.

Water supplier Emasa said most clients fixed their leaks within 10 days of being told about them, proving how quick and easy it can be to plug the cracks.

And the Junta de Andalusia is

# Fire, Fire!



**HEATING UP:** Firefighters tackle a wildfire.

of water used to tackle these blazes is another catastrophe.

In total, it is estimated that around 500 gallons of water needs to be poured on to a wildfire every minute for an average time of two hours to sufficiently tackle the blaze and stop it from spreading.

If it is particularly windy then this number can easily be doubled, as can the length of time it takes to extinguish.

Calculating exactly how much water is used to put out fires each year is almost impossible, but certainly millions of gallons.

taking more action to try to stem the flow of its leaky pipes.

In fact, the local authority has drawn up 115 measures to restore water to the region.

New water plans include recommencing plans for a pipeline from the Iznajar reservoir in Cordoba to the Antequera area, which was supposed to have been built two years ago.

Marbella's La Con-

ception reservoir will nearly triple in size and a pipeline running along the Costa del Sol to the Axarquia region will allow water to flow from the wetter western region to the drier east of Malaga.

Similar measures will need to be taken around the country to avoid a total wipe-out in the south of Spain.

If action is not taken quickly, then the sands in Spain will not be reserved for the beaches.

3.2 degree temperature rise by 2100

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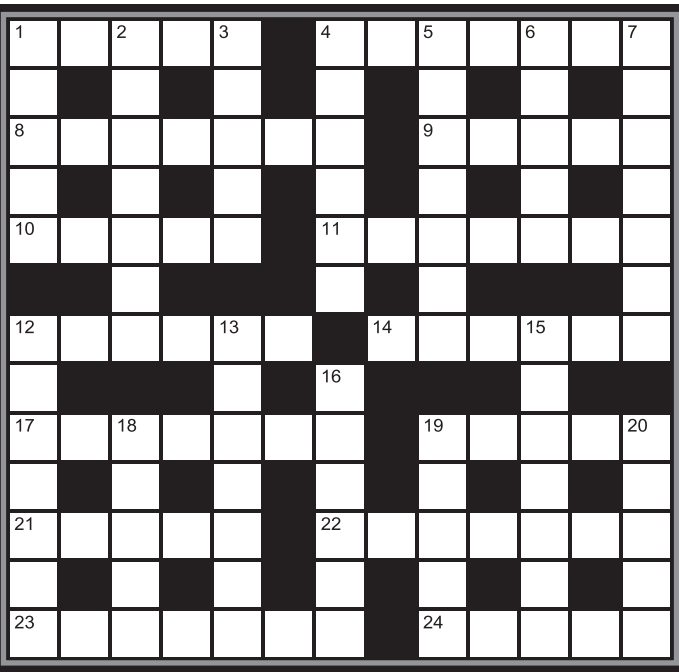
**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 Juicy fruit, penny apiece (5)
- 4 Our entering the animal enclosure requires nerve (7)
- 8 Charlton Heston and George Raft's imaginary nonsense started the embarrassment (7)
- 9 Draws back the turf (5)
- 10 Material needed by witness at inquest (5)
- 11 Nasty communist returned to wander about (7)
- 12 Lied terribly about direct debit cheat (6)
- 14 Insubstantial silver found in lake (6)
- 17 Reverse, but not on the road (7)
- 19 Loses one's temper when shown photographs (5)
- 21 Declare Namibia is hosting sports venue (5)
- 22 First I nail it by mistake (7)
- 23 Red brings Smee back and reclaims ownership (7)
- 24 Second vehicle learner abandoned, it's regretful (5)

**Down**

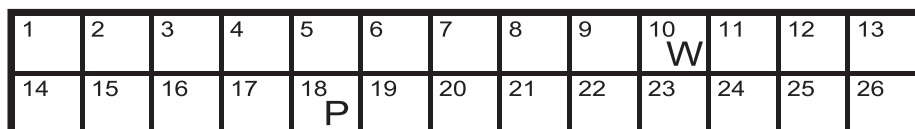
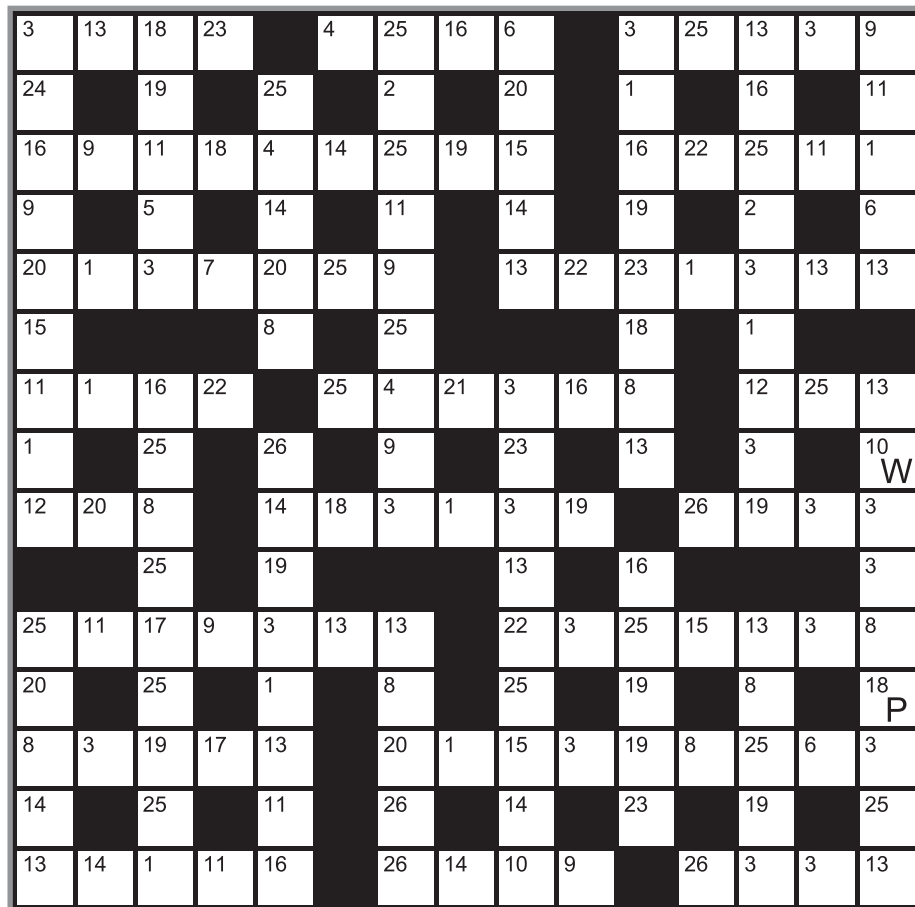
- 1 Chooses heavy tools (5)
- 2 Tape Dad modified (7)
- 3 Bird swimming in Rhone (5)
- 4 Entertainment that's a nice change with mother (6)
- 5 Steal the show from the back of the theatre (7)
- 6 A hospital room success symbol



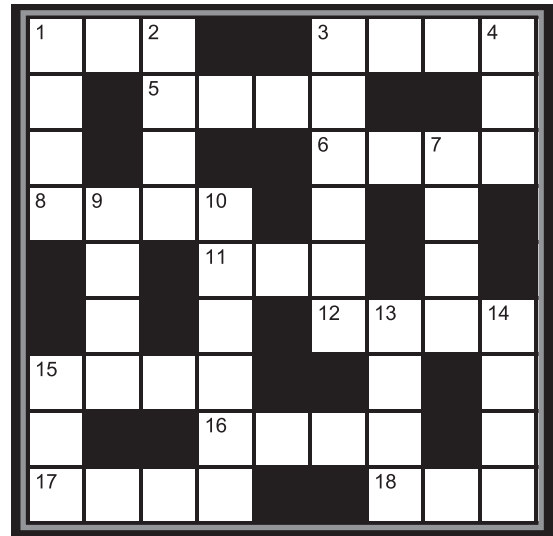
- (5)
- 7 Having red nose, turned back (7)
- 12 There's no hope of being praised, anyhow (7)
- 13 Water lost, lake restored over time (7)
- 15 Iced liquid? Could be great eclair (7)
- 16 Ask Einstein to include Hanks (6)
- 18 Starting tax returns every night, daft craze (5)
- 19 Mistakes made on the cricket field (5)
- 20 Spread out and point before drama (5)

**Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 10 represents W and 18 represents P, so fill in W every time the figure 10 appears and P every time the figure 18 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



**Quick**



**Across**

- 1/11 Solidified carbon dioxide (3,3)
- 3 Formal agreement (4)
- 5 Measure of land equivalent to 4,840 square yards (4)
- 6 Exchange (4)
- 8 Pompous or pretentious talk or writing (4)
- 11 See 1
- 12 Move fast (4)
- 15 Settee (4)
- 16 Pull, as against a resistance (4)
- 17 Voracious freshwater fish (4)
- 18 Take in solid food (3)

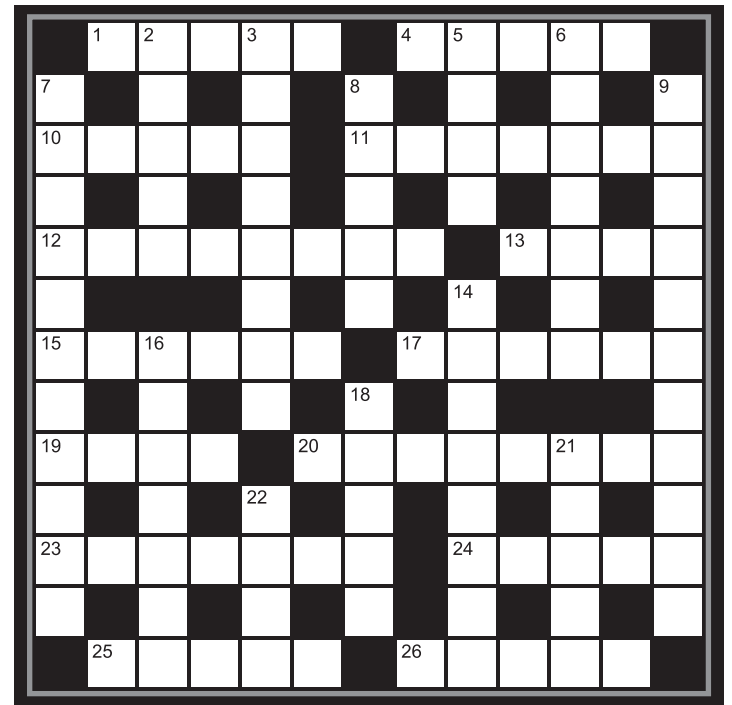
**Down**

- 1 Expensive (4)
- 2 Spun thread (4)
- 3 Annoy persistently (6)

- 4 Extreme end of something (3)
- 7 Totals (4)
- 9 Lowest female voice (4)
- 10 Speech of violent denunciation (6)
- 13 Strong restless desire (4)
- 14 Indirect suggestion (4)
- 15 Drink by taking small mouthfuls (3)

**English - Spanish**

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



**Across**

- 1 Hablar (5)
- 4 Seals (animal) (5)
- 10 Entrar (5)
- 11 Playa (7)
- 12 Younger (person, animal, wine, country) (3,5)
- 13 Húmedo (clima) (4)
- 15 Noventa (6)
- 17 Color (6)
- 19 Salvia (4)
- 20 Chemist's (shop) (8)
- 23 Recibir (7)
- 24 Nidos (5)
- 25 To cough (5)
- 26 Wall (interior) (5)

**Down**

- 2 Ducks (birds) (5)
- 3 Aeropuertos (8)
- 5 Buttonhole (4)
- 6 Godson (7)
- 7 Stepbrother (11)
- 8 Cenizas (5)
- 9 To wake up (11)
- 14 Storm (8)
- 16 Business (7)
- 18 Walk (stroll) (5)
- 21 Swan (5)
- 22 Sabio (acción, decisión) (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE



# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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## Prexit: Our pets may be affected by Brexit

WITH all of this talk backwards and forwards about Brexit, it seems to me that we are overlooking some of the more relevant questions that we should be asking.

Will quarantine for pets and animals in general, return to the UK after Brexit? If they will no longer permit the free passage of people and goods into the UK, presumably pets will not be allowed to travel with their owners either.

I personally couldn't care if my passport is lime green with pink polka dots but I do care to know if I can take my pets with me when I go on holiday.

*Lynn Hopkins, Fuengirola*

### Hello Leapy

AFTER meeting you for the first time recently in London and having my first Christmas in Spain, I picked up my first ever copy of *Euro Weekly News* in Marbella.

It was a wonderful surprise to come across your column and an unexpected delight to read it.

### Horrific accident

#### A defining moment?

A CAR leaving a remote mountain road to crash down the mountainside with potentially tragic consequences is sadly a well-known possibility, particularly when the weather is very bad and if there are no safety measures on the road.

However, one might be horrified to learn, the same event could happen on an urbanisation; but that is exactly what happened recently on the Urb Monte Pego, situated between Denia and Pego in the Alicante Province on October 18 last year.

The history of this urbanisation is key to the understanding of this event. Pego Town Hall gave permission in 1974 to a private com-



LUCKY ESCAPE: The next crash could be fatal.

pany to begin the project. It expanded into Rafol and Denia areas and over the years has grown now to some 1,300 dwellings.

But when the time came for the urbanisation to become public there began a legal dispute between the town halls involved and the developer over whether the urbanisation had been completed to the correct standard.

Accidents are just waiting to

happen. Residents have even documented the safety concerns and shared them with local and regional mayors, but nothing changes.

The driver miraculously escaped with minor injuries only. The suspicion amongst residents is that if history is a pointer nothing will change, lives will still be at risk and this will not be a defining moment.

*Mr Rae, Pro Monte Pego Association, Pego*

I remember how Christmas used to be in my youth. As you said the Sally Army on the streets and Carol singers knocking on your door. Making paper chains to decorate your home and silver tinsel strung over your Christmas tree, with lights that never worked very well...

Happy Days, we shall not see their like again.

*Reg Starkey, UK*

### Salvation Army

READING Leapy's comments re the Salvation Army in the UK was very sad to hear, BUT the good news is that here in Denia the 'Sally Army' is still going strong. If your readers look up Camp Saron in Denia on Google they will find info on services for all expats, be they Brits, Dutch, German, even American! Look us up; be glad to see you.

*Ray Ward, Alcalali*

### Flu outbreak

IT has become apparent that this year the outbreak of flu in Spain and the UK is particularly dangerous and has been identified as 'Aussie Flu' which is considered to be the most virulent outbreak in the past 50 years.

Those who suffer from breathing difficulties and the elderly are particularly at risk, so whether you are registered with a Spanish clinic or have to pay for your treatment, it is so important to consider being vaccinated, even now.

*Brian, Estepona*

### Crash witness

I WITNESSED the air crash last week at the aero club Alicante.

I was travelling on the AP7 towards Benidorm and saw the helicopter coming in low across the motorway and the red bi-plane was behind and above the helicopter travelling in the same direction towards the landing strip.

I can only assume the pilot of the bi-plane had not seen the helicopter due to a blind spot of the plane whilst looking down. As the helicopter was coming in to land the plane which was travelling faster suddenly dipped lower and flew into the helicopter's tail rotor thus breaking the wing off the plane.

In no way was the pilot of the helicopter to blame as it was the pilot of the plane who came in too close, as he obviously didn't see the helicopter!

*John Rook, UK*

### HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters by email or post should carry the writer's address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com).

# Plane skids off runway

You'd think they'd have plane proof crash barriers?  
*Susan Poole*

How did he manage to turn left instead of right?  
*Bill Newall*

Understatement of the year? Pegasus Airlines said the plane "had a Runway Excursion Incident during landing"  
*Euro Weekly News*

### Surprise tornadoes rip through Almeria

That is quite amazing.  
*Pauline Mitchell*

It also caused a lot of damage when it hit Fort Bravo near Tabernas.  
*Sheila Fearon*

### Three-year-old dies from meningitis

The main message is to act fast. Meningitis can kill in hours. If a child seems a little more poorly than you would expect for flu, get it checked immediately. Also if the pupils of their eyes are different sizes, rush them to hospital as the disease is already progressing.  
*Mary Bolger*

### Comments from EWN online

So glad they tell you on here that there isn't always a rash, and if there is it's the last thing to come up.  
*June and Maurice Johnson*

### Flight diverts due to 'drunk' passengers

Personal accountability is the way to go here, not banning and nanny-stating. What happens when someone causes problems after having drinks before they board the craft? Alcohol-free airports too? Breathalyser tests for anyone wishing to board? Would you ban hungover people from flying? Those who have had a small sherry after lunch etc etc?

Personally, I think that those who have caused problems with their fighting should be responsible for reimbursing all the other passengers for the delay. That would be a lesson they 'forget in a hurry.'  
*Jace T Adams*

Why divert flights for drunks! Chain them into their chairs until landing and hand them over to the police to be arrested and fined! (And a bloody big fine too!)  
*Julie Jones Peel*

Why do people feel it is necessary to get so drunk? They are selfish and put others at risk with their behaviour.  
*Christine Booth*

I blame the staff, why were they allowed to board the plane?  
*Mo E Dalton*

### Ryanair explain new cabin baggage policy

Still free, take literally five minutes to get your bag from the carousel. No mad panic trying to get on the plane first. When you get on just go straight to your seat. When you get off just get off. Best idea they ever had in my opinion.  
*Darren Briddon*

This isn't about making boarding quicker. It would be far more logical to board in row order instead of the current free-for-all, but there's no money in that.

And if it was about speeding up boarding, why not check in the bags at the desk instead of at the gate so that we could take toothpaste and other useful items? Because that would cost money.  
*Andy Funnell*

Advertising feature

# A special chiropractic clinic aims to help women in particular

THE Kiro Nilsson Clinic in Alfaz del Pi consists of chiropractic specialists who offer a very special service for women.

According to Dr Sharon Nilsson, one of the senior practitioners in the clinic, they use a specialised technique called McTimoney and are the only Chiropractors on the Costa Blanca trained in this technique, and one of only four chiropractors in the whole of Spain trained in McTimoney.

Chiropractic is excellent for backache, headache, neck ache and women are especially prone to stress related disorders, which affect the nervous system and lead to health

problems such as fibromyalgia, osteoporosis, digestive problems, menstrual disorders and other hormonal problems.

Dr Nilsson has worked with women and natural health since 1996 when she first qualified in naturopathy, and then later trained in traditional Chinese medicine, working with acupuncture, tui-na and herbal medicine.

In 2010 she graduated from the McTimoney College of Chiropractic with a BSc (Hons) degree in Chiropractic and is registered with the General Chiropractic Council of Great Britain and with the Ministry



**Dr Sharon Nilsson.**

**Dr Nilsson helps numerous women**

of Health and Welfare in Sweden, allowing her to practice in Scandinavia as well as the UK.

Chiropractors are trained to detect the bones (vertebrae)

that are out of place (subluxation) and adjust them into place with a series of techniques, without the use of drugs or surgery.

Chiropractic is a primary

healthcare profession, meaning you don't need to get a doctor's prescription to see a chiropractor, and if your specialist at the clinic thinks that you need other specialist help, they can refer you.

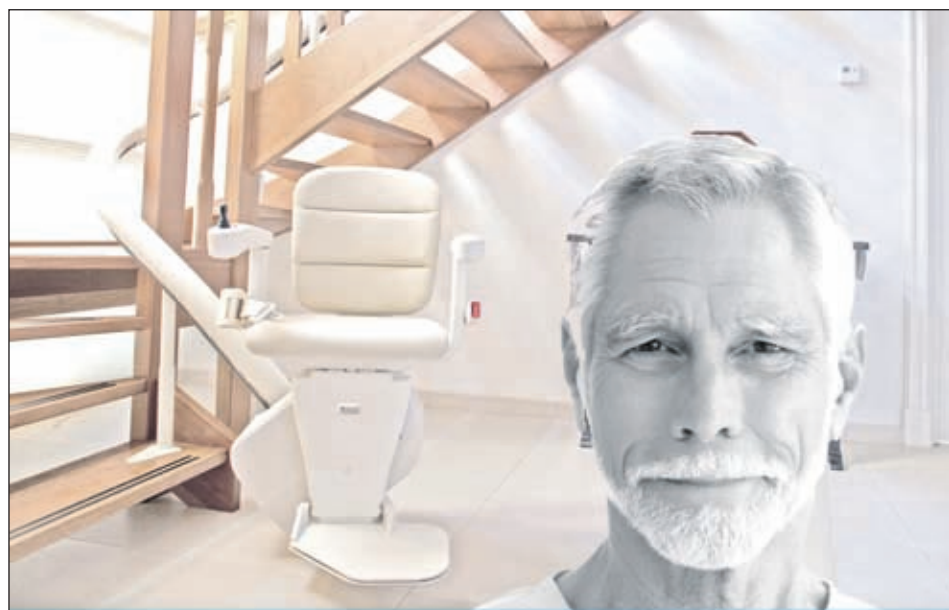
The entire clinic offers a range of different treatments in addition to chiropractic including acupuncture and homeopathic as well as Chinese medicine, with founder Johan Nilsson also having qualified in chiropractic in 1989.

Long established in the town, the Nilssons were delighted when Sharon won the first ever Association for the Development of Women Entrepreneurs of Marina Baixa

(MEMBA) award for Business Excellence in 2017.

To find out more about Kiro Nilsson clinic visit [www.centroquiropractionilsson.com](http://www.centroquiropractionilsson.com) or their Facebook page Kiro Nilsson, although potential patients are always welcome to make an appointment to visit the clinic and if you quote *EWN18* when booking you will receive a 50 per cent discount off your spinal examination on your first visit.

**The Kiro Nilsson Clinic at Plaza Balduino I de Bélgica s/n, Alfaz del Pi is open by appointment only from 9am to 2pm and 4pm to 7pm and to arrange call 965 889 303 or 692 611 475.**



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## Ask the Optician: Ski Eye Care

Jorge Martinez, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Benidorm

WE are so lucky to have two lovely ski resorts just an hour's drive from Valencia, making a day trip to the mountains a great thing to do over the winter. However, please don't forget that skiing is tough on your eyes! Here are some FAQs about skiing and the eyes to make sure you can enjoy the sun safely on the slopes this season.

■ **Why are my eyes more at risk when I'm skiing?** The atmosphere on the slopes is very clear and the reflection of sunlight on the slopes is very strong. These two factors combine to be potentially damaging to the eyes and could lead to long-term effects.

-12 hours to develop. Long-term exposure to UVB can cause cataracts and even ocular tumours.

■ **How does this affect my eyes?** Although people know how important it is to keep skin protected from the sun, few realise how damaging UV rays can be to the eyes. The UVB rays can irritate the surface of the eye, causing a painful form of sunburn of the eye (called photokeratitis). You may not even be aware whilst out in the snow, as the effects can take six

■ **How can I protect my eyes whilst out on the slopes?** All you need is good sunglasses, but make sure you choose the right ones. Always read the label carefully and choose the maximum protection factor available. Remember that eyes will be exposed to high levels of UV even if it's not sunny. Choosing sunglasses without the right protection, could damage the eye by causing the pupil to dilate, increasing the amount of UV light filtering into the eyes, so always keep this in mind when selecting your eyewear.

Specsavers Opticas is currently offering free eye tests. There are Specsavers Opticas stores in Calpe, Javea, Benidorm, Guardamar del Segura and Torrevieja on the Costa Blanca. Find your nearest store [www.specsavers.es](http://www.specsavers.es).

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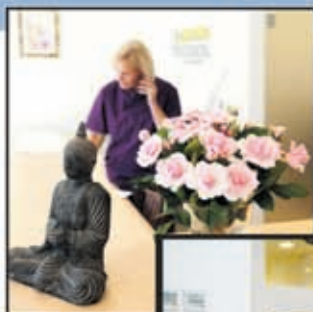
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**BREATH MINTS:** Could be doing us more harm than good.

## Not so minty fresh?

IF you find you are reaching for the toothbrush or chewing gum throughout the day, you might be surprised to know it could be mints that are to blame for bad breath.

Dentist James Buchanan has told one publication that far from solving breath issues, sugary mints could actually be causing the problem.

He explained, "mints are a popular way to expel bad breath," adding, "however, mouth bacteria turns the sugar in mints to acid, which

wears down teeth and causes bad breath. It is best to use a sugar-free gum."

The professional advises yoghurt, celery and apples are a more effective way to freshen breath.

Buchanan also recommends using a soft bristled toothbrush, rather than a hard one, as this can damage the enamel of our teeth. He explained, "while trapped food particles can contribute to bad breath, the most common cause is plaque build-up on teeth."

# Tired all th

LOW energy levels are becoming so much of an epidemic that British GPs have reduced the condition to the acronym TATT (tired all the time).

And according to one nutritional therapist, Jackie Lynch, there are several culprits to blame for our fatigue.

Ms Lynch spoke to publication Get the Gloss, listing the most common mistakes people make in trying to boost their energy.

The expert, who has written a book on energy levels says, while stimulants like caffeine may seem a good idea, they can actually be counter-productive, disrupting sleep and blood sugar levels and leaving us feeling "tired but wired."

She also claimed alcohol, which is good at getting us to sleep, then keeps us up during the night and sluggish next day. Ms Lynch also claimed lack of exercise can cause poor circulation, in turn manifesting in a lack of energy.

In her book VaVaVoom: the 10-Day Energy Diet, the nutritionist explains another common cause of fatigue is lack of protein, leading to sugar cravings, lack of muscle tone and brittle nails. She explained, "It simply is not enough to have a chicken breast or salmon steak in the evening," adding, "we need protein for lots of crucial functions in the body, but it is particularly important to fill you up, and to keep you going during a busy day."

She says, "Protein plays an essential role in maintaining blood sugar balance, because it helps to slow down the release of carbohydrates in the body, ensuring more sustained energy."

Finally, Ms Lynch explained dehydration can also affect our physical performance, with headaches, dry eyes and confusion being other symptoms. She says, "Your water intake should be enough to stop you feeling thirsty over long periods, and to ensure your urine is a pale straw colour."



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# ...ne time?

**FEELING TIRED:**  
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MEDCARE is the top aesthetics provider on the Costa Blanca. With clinics in both Benijofar and Alfaz del Pi, Medcare brings together the most up-to-date procedures and the best clinicians to offer safe and effective treatments.

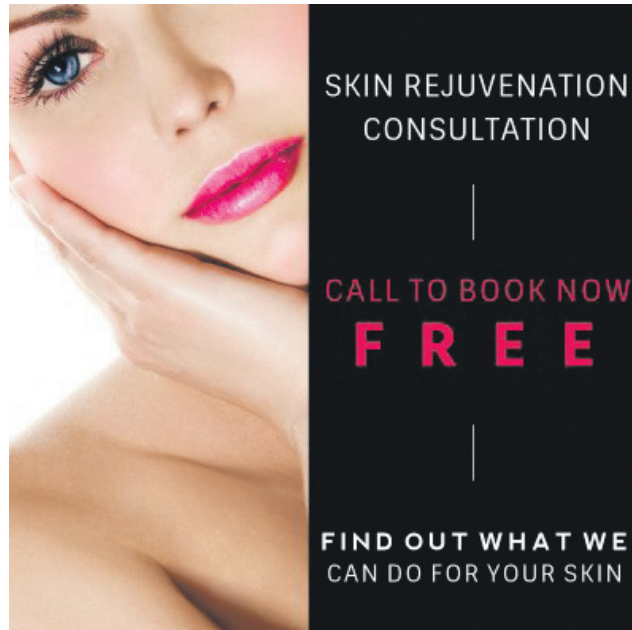
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Dr Najma Hussain oversees Medcare's aesthetic suites. Trained as a doctor at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London, qualifying in the mid-1990s, she



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went on to train as a GP, working in Reading, and gained further qualifications in Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

After her move to Spain, Dr Hussain's primary focus was aesthetics and providing a natural look using aesthetic and cosmetic treatments.

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skin consultation with Dr Hussain who can provide you with a roadmap of younger, fresher and plumped up skin for the future.

Plastic surgeon, Dr Bernabeu brings more than 20 years of cosmetic surgery experience to the Medcare team. Passionate about aftercare, Dr Bernabeu will put you at ease and fully explain procedures, giving the very best results. In addition to consulting at Medcare, Dr Bernabeu is consultant plastic surgeon at a leading

hospital in Alicante.

Her wealth of experience in the field includes teaching facial rejuvenation at Complutense University of Madrid, and working as a consultant plastic surgeon in the burns unit of Alicante Hospital. Dr Bernabeu also has experience in head and neck reconstruction, micro-surgery and correcting congenital malformations.

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

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY athletes from 15 clubs will take part in the 2018 Muay Thai Championship of the Valencian Community in La Nucia.

Sunday February 11 from 10am will see two rings set up in the Camilo Cano Municipal Pavilion with categories covering children, youth and seniors and tickets to see the competition will cost €10.

The funds raised will be put towards the cost of travel expenses for the Valencian National Team due to take part in the Spanish Muay Thai Championship in Malgrat del Mar (Barcelona).

Ten wrestlers from the Club Muay Thai La Nucia (headed by the trainer and five-time world champion Eva María Naranjo) will compete for the title of the Valencian Community, which will quali-

## Muay Thai Championship



**CALLING ALL CHAMPIONS:** Announcement of the championship tournament.

fy winners for the Spanish Championship to be held on March 10.

Muay Thai is a martial art or contact

sport, originally from Thailand and in 2017 representatives of the La Nucia club won seven gold medals.

## Instruments help music conservatory

THE Professional Conservatory of Music of Xabia (Javea) has received an important gift from a local family.

The instruments, a piano and a good quality organ, as well as a significant collection of scores and scripts were owned by Christiaan Wüst, an amateur pianist who recently died.

Despite the great sentimental value of the instruments his children wanted them to be in a place where they were useful and thought that the Conservatory of Xàbia was a good desti-

nation.

For this reason, David Wüst and his wife Samantha Hinneman contacted the heads of the municipal music training centre and offered to make the kind donation which was gratefully accepted by the Conservatory and the local council.

The piano and the organ are already on site and will be used for teaching and the piano will also be used for orchestral or chamber music concerts, whilst the organ will be used for chorus and accompaniment.



**TALENT:** The late Christiaan Wüst at his piano



**MUST SEE:** The Chemical Brothers in performance.

## Low Festival returns!

FOR those who enjoy three days of beach, sun and live music, the Low Festival 2018 will be held on July 27, 28 and 29 in Benidorm.

Unlike many British festivals which end up as mud baths, this annual event is aimed at being clean, comfortable and affordable where festival goers from across Spain and Europe can enjoy some of the best sounds around.

There is 30,000 square metres of ground and the main headliner attraction announced so far will be British band The Chemical Brothers, an electronic music duo who first got together in 1989 and have

been making records ever since.

Also announced are French Indie band Phoenix who have had success with a number of their albums and are Grammy Award winners for best alternative album.

Another headliner due to take part are Izal, a band from Madrid named after their singer and main writer Mikel Izal who will be promoting their fifth and latest album Autoterapia.

Tickets cost from €62 to €160 which gives access to a VIP Pool section and may be purchased online at <http://lowfestival.es>.

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## Classical pair perform piano duets

A PAIR of sisters, Christina and Michelle Naughton have taken the classical music world by storm and will be visiting the Auditori Teulada Moraira in March.

Born in New Jersey the 28-year-old pianists started taking lessons when aged just four and by the time they had reached 18 were so in tune with each other that it was suggested that they should perform professionally as a duo.

They have played all over the USA and Europe recording two albums in the



**GIRL POWER:** Piano duo Christina and Michelle Naughton.

process and perform regularly with some of the principal classical orchestras around the world.

The sisters' performance

will commence at 8pm on Thursday March 8 with tickets available from the theatre box office or the council offices.

christinaandmichellenoughton.com

## Comedy and chocolate

FOR those expatriates with an understanding of Spanish, there is a free event this coming Friday in La Nucia.

At 8pm at the Teatre Local el Sindicat the Choral Association of Benidorm will present their interpretation of the comedy Examination of Husbands by 17th century Spanish playwright Ruiz Alarcón to celebrate the second anniversary of l'Associació de Dones de La Nucia.

Entry for what promises to be an amusing night is free and tickets may be obtained by visiting the local Youth Centre.

The following day sees a further celebration with 'una chocolatada' which is a social event where the visitors get together to eat chocolate.

This will take place in the afternoon at the Social Hall El Cirer with admission €3 for members of the association and €5 for non-members.

## Under the Tuscan sun

### BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



**CLASSIC:** Chianti collage, Italy. |

THERE is more to Chianti than the now rarely used classic bottle in a straw basket - known as a 'fiasco' - that was made famous by Italian restaurants in the '70s.

An Italian red wine, Chianti derives its name from the Tuscany area known for its landscapes, art and food where different types of soil and micro-climates result from rolling hills with altitudes of 250 - 610 metres.

To retain its name it must be produced in the Chianti region and made from at least 80 per cent of Sangiovese grapes, with possible blends of Cabernet, Merlot or Syrah to soften the finished wine.

Following the Second World War, with an emphasis on quantity over quality, the reputation of Chianti plummeted. But over the last 30 years it has been revived with the introduction of modern and innovative wine-making techniques.

Today, most Chianti falls under two major designations: basic level and the Chianti Classico DOCG which produces the largest vol-

ume of DOCG wines in Italy.

Basic level Chianti has medium-high acidity and tannins with minimum alcohol level of 11.5 per cent and juicy fruit notes of cherry, plum and raspberry. This wine reaches peak drinking quality between three and five years after vintage.

Chianti Classico can age from six to 20 years with a predominant floral and cinnamon spicy bouquet and aromas of tobacco with minimum 12 per cent alcohol and seven months ageing in oak.

Other higher end versions are: Chianti Classico Gran Selezione, Riserva and Superiore.

Chianti's acidity makes it flexible with food pairing, particularly with Italian cuisine that features red sauces as well as beef, lamb and game.

It can range in price from €3 to upwards of €30 for high-end versions.

*Happy tasting.*

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Photo by Ayuntamiento de Denia

**IN FOR A TREAT:** Announcing the ninth Denia Classics cycle.

## Four months, four concerts

DENIA CLASSICS, a series of concerts organised under the artistic direction of Josep Vicent Giner, will be held at the auditorium of the Social Centre in Denia from January to April.

This is the ninth year that the Denia Council has supported the series of concerts which brings a whole selection of different music to the town, normally on a Friday to start the weekend well.

The cycle opens on Friday, January 26 with a performance from the Dixielanders Jazz Band, a group of musicians from Alicante and Elche who will perform classical jazz and traditional New Orleans Dixieland pre-1940.

Next on February 23, the town welcomes the Odessa String Quartet, accompanied by soprano Alina Mel-

nychuk, who offer a tour of Classicism (18th century) and Romanticism (19th century) with works by Mozart, Haydn and Borodin, amongst other composers.

Following this on March 30 will be the violinist Margherita Marseglia and the pianist Jesús M<sup>a</sup> Gómez, both professors of the Conservatory of Music of Alicante. Their performance will be dedicated to musical nationalism and includes sonatas, romances and lyrical pieces by Dvorák, an exponent of the nationalist school of the Bohemian region, and the Norwegian Edvard Grieg, the most qualified representative of Scandinavian nationalist music.

The ninth Denia Classics cycle will close on April 27 with an extraordinary and very novel concert present-

ing the Free Town duo, composed of percussionists Jesús Salvador 'Chapi' (vibraphone) and his nephew Carles Salvador (marimba). The musicians will stage their Klas-i-Kos project, a work of creation and improvisation on classical themes by Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven, Brahms and Albeniz.

Tickets for each of the concerts which start at 7pm will cost €15 or interested parties can buy a season ticket at the reduced rate of €45 (meaning they see one concert at no cost) and can be purchased from Pro Akustic (Calle Diana, 49) and at the Konzertfreunde Association (phone 965 788 840).

They will also be available on the day of each concert from the Social Centre box office after 6pm.

## Art to make you think

MUCH respected Denia artist Inma Mengual has brought her latest international exhibition to Vila Joiosa.

The work Erase una vez ... eranse dos (Once upon a time ... there were two) consists of a set of sculptures made from bones, metal mesh and stones and has been brought to Spain following a successful exhibition in Leipzig (Germany).

The work is divided into two parts, micro and macro with the micro half consisting of small mesh and fragile-looking bone

containers which store pieces from certain foods and which stand out for their immaculate whiteness.

In the second part, the artist resorts again to the metallic mesh but, on that occasion, she uses it to construct artefacts or sculptural spaces incorporating a shadow. The objective is to establish a relation of the content with the unconscious and the instincts, the dark side and the creative impulses.

The exhibition will be open at the Espai d'Art Contemporani until February 9.

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# Hotel Coffeefornia

## Grupo Cappuccino to open first hotel in Spain

PREMIUM restaurant and café chain Grupo Cappuccino is to open its first hotel this spring at the heart of Palma's historic quarter, Plaza De Cort.

Hotel Mama has been designed by renowned Parisian interior designer Jacques Grange, whose credits include the beautiful Palazzo Margarita in Italy and The Mark Hotel in New York. The 19th century building will be a palatial and elegant setting of five star luxury.

All of the furniture has Grange's stamp and the 32 exclusive rooms have five bespoke styles: Marella, Celadon, Garden, Oriental and Roman. The four-storey property will also contain a Cappuccino cinema, rooftop pool, gym, and restaurant, while a spa is scheduled to open later this year.

A formidable art collection will be displayed around the hotel, including works from David Rochline, Eva Jospin, Wendy Artin and Sean Scully - all favourites of Grupo Cappuccino owner Juan Picornell.

The hotel will also house a stunning Café Mama, offering a traditional brunch menu and classic cocktails.

The Japanese restaurant, Inu Japanese will serve popular dishes



Photo by Grupo Cappuccino

**MAMA MIA: The luxurious new hotel to be opened by Grupo Cappuccino.**

including Halibut and Saikyo Miso.

Grupo Cappuccino had previously made its name with a string of stellar restaurants and cafés in

exotic locations such as Mallorca, Madrid, Ibiza, Marbella and Jeddah. Room prices start from €219 per night and bookings are available from March.



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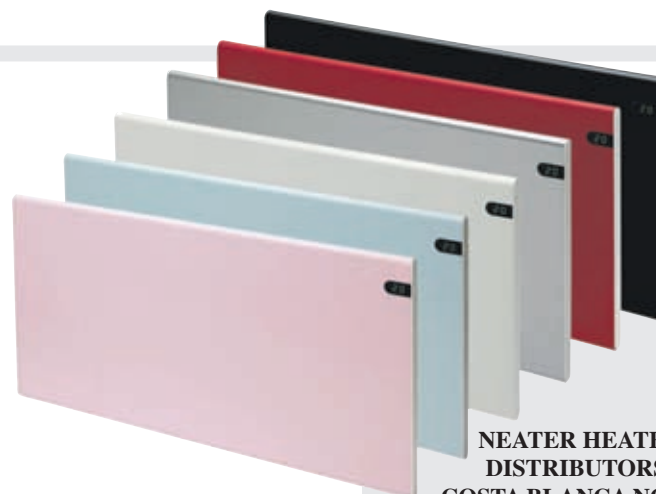
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# Neater Heater stops cold winters spoiling your dream



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NINE years ago two British expats, Richard and Tony, were looking for affordable heating when they stumbled, accidentally, on a brand of Norwegian convector heater that couldn't be bought in Spain. Not only were these wall-mounted heaters discreet and stylish, but they were also packed with 'Es': Efficient; effective; economical.

Recognising a huge gap in the market that these attractive affordable heaters would fill, Richard and Tony established Neater Heater and have been heating the casas and apartments of shivering expats ever since then.

"We all come out to Spain for the good weather and lifestyle," says Tony "yet everyone is caught out by the cold winter nights in their spectacularly non-insulated Spanish homes. We all come from the UK where we had radiators

and fires, and that is what most British expats still want.

"A decent oil or gas central heating system is going to set you back thousands of euros just to install it, so most people opt for unhealthy gas estufas, or electric heaters.

"The problem with most electric heaters, is that the cheap ones are always expensive to run, and ugly, whereas any decent ones always cost a fortune to install. We can have most homes up and running with affordable, stylish, economic Neater Heaters, for less than €1,000. The cost obviously depends on the size of house and the size of heaters. Or they can be bought individually according to your requirements"

Starting out in their home region of the Costa Blanca, Richard and Tony searched for, and found, businesses that were happy to become

agents for Neater Heater.

"We hope to cater for all types of customer," explains Richard "Some people are comfortable with computers, and are quite happy to buy from our online shop, with free delivery. But many want to shop in the traditional way, look at the heaters and talk to someone about their requirements.

"These customers can go to one of our numerous outlets from Moraira, Calpe, Altea to several around Torrevieja, Murcia, Antas and now, we are happy to say, our latest outlets in the Costa Del Sol, and in Portugal. If you live in certain parts of the Marina Alta, Torrevieja, or Murcia, we even have agents who can visit your home and offer advice, sales and an installation service.

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products, and the FAQ section (Frequently Asked Questions) will hopefully clear up some questions you may have. It has an online shop, and also tells you the location of the outlet, or agent, nearest to you."



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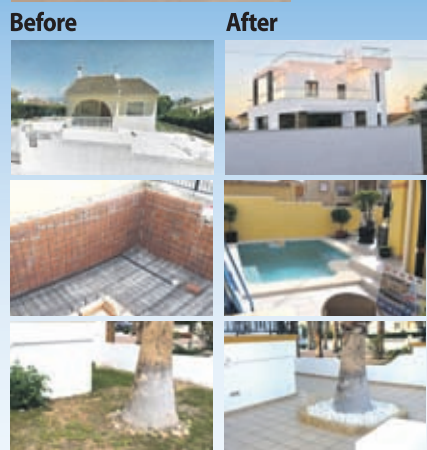


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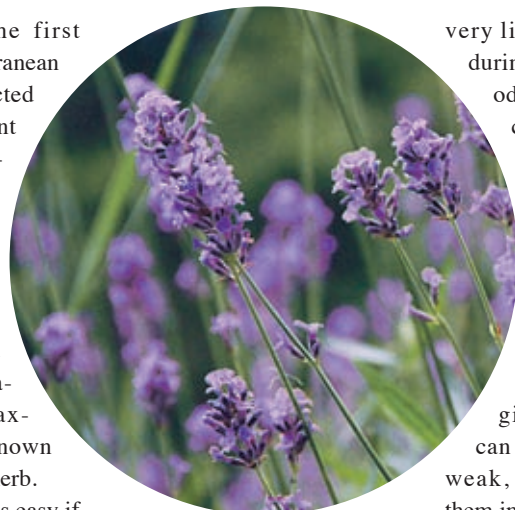
GRAEME TYRRELL

EVERYBODY knows the scent of lavender.

It was one of the first plants of the Mediterranean to have its oils extracted for perfume in ancient times and was exported as a valuable commodity to other regions of the world. Its qualities as a herb are culinary, medicinal and therapeutic. The fragrance induces relaxation and has been known as the love inducing herb.

Growing lavender is easy if you have the right soil type and climate so, being a native to the Mediterranean, it is ideal for the Spanish climate. If you have the characteristic stony native soil prevalent to the Mediterranean it is almost certain that they can thrive in your garden. It may just take a few amendments to ensure their success.

Usually gardens are made from disturbed soil that may be subsoils or have other additions that can affect the quality of the natural top soil.



**PURPLE POWER:** Lavender is a beautiful plant with a superb scent.

Too heavy a soil will not permit lavender to grow well. If you have tried and failed it may be that you need to add plenty of compost and sand to mix into the soil if the soil is very heavy.

The main failure of lavender is from wet feet or root rot due to lack of drainage and/or overwatering. Once established lavender needs

very little watering except during prolonged dry periods or when in pots and containers.

They tolerate full summer sun but can have partial shade so long as they have at least around six hours of sunlight. Planting lavender close to buildings that give prolonged shade can make them lanky and weak, so it is best to grow them in the open on their own or amongst other shrubs of a similar size, but not under trees that prohibit direct sunlight.

The traditional long time companion of lavender is rosemary. Rosemary has the same growing requirements and colour contrasts and complements wonderfully with lavender.

Autumn to early spring is the best time to plant so they can establish, without the need for too much care during their first summer. They live

for many years and the main maintenance they require once established is just some pruning after they finish flowering in autumn.

The flowers and stems for use as decoration or herbal uses can be taken all summer long, as the plant can rejuvenate from this light extraction. Pruning however means removing about a third of the growth and removing any damaged branches so that the plant can recover with a thicker form rather than become scraggly.

For hedges or groups the plants can be placed about 50cm apart, although dwarf varieties can be closer to 30cm apart and larger varieties about 60cm. There is a lot of different varieties so check with your local nursery and neighbours' gardens to find what is the best for your area.

Growing your own lavender will enable the fresh scent of lavender to grace your home simply by harvesting a

bunch of flowers and leaves, tying with a ribbon or string and hanging them upside down wherever you wish the fragrance to permeate and provide its relaxing properties.



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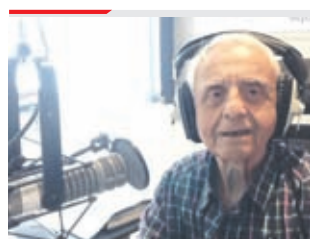
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# Over the weeks a few people have called to ask me a question



## David THE Dogman

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(Denia to Valencia) 95.3fm  
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columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

**STUART:- I have a female mongrel that can jump over any wall, is there a way to stop her?**

To stop a dog jumping any wall of any height build the wall a few feet higher but at 45 degrees at the top.

Take a look at any prison, police kennel, etc you will find from 45 degrees to 90 which means the dog must jump to the bend and then crawl upside down which they cannot do.

I met Stuart a few days ago he had a lovely nine year old

sweet, but very overweight - really would not be able to jump up on a chair!

**Leslie:- My dog likes to eat cat faeces and in fact most faeces, why does she do this?**

Faeces is not a dirty thing to a dog, they smell each other in the anal area to identify, however the subject of eating is quite simple.

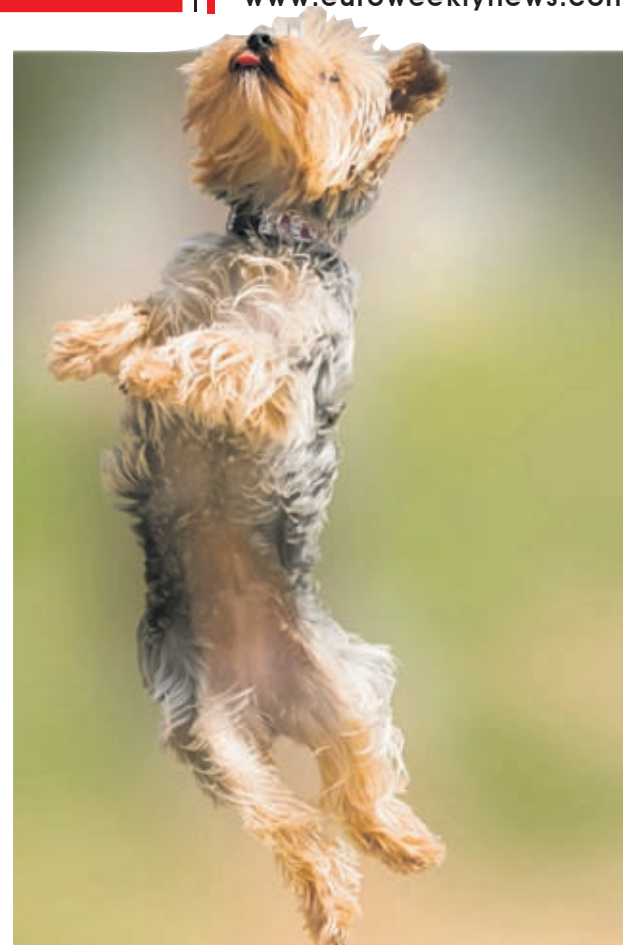
A dog is a scavenger, will eat any faeces they consider has not been digested, so in fact it is food to them and

very yummy! Sheep, cow, horse faeces... they will go after it to see if that has not been digested.

Here comes the problem: one does not know what an animal has eaten and not digested, so its food could also be contaminated and the result - you could have a sick dog.

Any questions send to me davidthedogman@gmx.co.uk and if the editor has space these will be answered.

Happy New Year!



**JUMPING BEAN: Build your wall high if your dog is prone to jumping.**

## Much ado about purring



Photo Credit: Unsplash

**PURRY FRIEND: Cats don't only purr when they're happy...**

If you've ever wondered why your cat purrs, you might be in for a surprise.

Research carried out by pet nutritionists Purina has revealed that cats purr when they're distressed or afraid, not just when they're happy.

While purring is a method of communication among

cats, especially needed by kittens to communicate with their mother and littermates because they are born blind and deaf, it's also shown to be a defence mechanism and a way to keep calm in stressful or painful situations.

A cat's purr has a low frequency which causes a series of vibrations inside the body; that can act as a form of pain relief and heal injuries, ease breathing and build muscle.

However, it is believed that humans could also benefit from these good vibrations, as studies have shown spending time with cats and hearing their purrs lowers blood pressure.

Therefore, those who own cats have a 40 per cent lower risk of having a heart attack.

The researchers also identified a new kind of purr called the 'solicitation purr,' which sounds more urgent - not dissimilar to a crying baby - so owners instinctively come to their aid.

So the next time you take your purring cat to the vet, it may be more stressed than you realised.

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## Find pet-sitters online for your holiday

Adorable dogs in Alicante needing a sitter in March - is that you?

### Find free pet-sitters for your pets

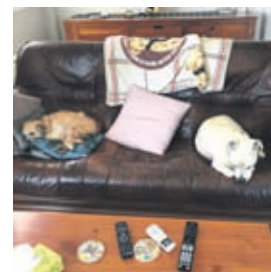
ONE way to find checked house-sitters and pet-sitters is by joining the HouseSitMatch network as a 'homeowner.'

It's easy to build a profile with details of your pets and what you need the sitter to do. You can post the dates of your holiday, general details of your property and pets to be cared for, we keep all your contacts securely hidden so your real identity is veiled.

House-sitters with experience will apply. They will be vetted with backgrounds checked so you can rest assured you are matched with suitable people.

### What do you need to do?

• If you have pets and need house-sitters - Register on our site as a 'homeowner' and provide photos and general information about your loca-



### Arrange pet-sitters.

tion and your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £75 per year we help you at every step.

• If you have experience with home and pet care and want to house-sit in Spain or abroad - Register as a 'house-sitter,' build a profile with photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners with pets. Choose a Premium plan for £75 per year you can build a large profile with more prominence online.

### Save

Hurry! Join now to secure

2017 prices being held through January 2018.

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

Most of the pet-sitters and house-sitters who join HouseSitMatch are looking to spend time in a new location and exchange their service for free accommodation. It's a working holiday with agreed requirements on both sides.

**Client testimonial - Diana, Pet owner in Granada, Spain**

*It was such a relief to know that I can tap into this ready-made network of pet-sitters, with experience. I have nine dogs, four cats, it isn't easy finding sitters. Thanks to HouseSit Match, I registered and was organised with a sitter and a back-up within a few weeks! (See more reviews in Trustpilot)*

*Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation!*

*Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.*

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### Clarkson Quote of the Week



On the Mercedes CLS55: "Braking in this car is so brutal, it would be less painful to actually hit the tree you were trying to miss."

Some might say...



KIA has revealed concept images of the brand's brand new Niro, a zero-emission SUV with futuristic technology.

The Niro EV concept is a battery-electric small SUV with a 150kW (201bhp) electric motor powered by a 64kWh lithium polymer battery pack.

One of the most eye-catching features of the Niro EV concept is its range.

It is predicted to have a 238-mile range, with the ability to charge up to 115 miles in just 30 minutes.

While no performance figures are currently available, it is expected to be close to the Chevy Bolt's 0-60 time of 6.5 seconds.

Another interesting feature is the concept's Active Pedestrian Warning System (APWS).

Due to the almost silent running of the car's engine, the APWS combines front view cameras, front speakers and object recognition technology to provide an alert to pedestrians or cyclists, crossing in front of the Niro, to the car's presence.

A futuristic interior has a digital display in front of the driver, and another in the central dash, which seems to wrap around both the driver and the passenger sides.

The brand new interface allows passengers to adjust audio and heating controls by touch or just gesturing at the screen, while

# Introducing the future



Credit: Twitter



the driver can also swipe parts of the steering wheel to make adjustments to the same settings.

The Korean car giants have also announced plans to launch a staggering 16 electric vehicles globally by 2025.

**FUTURISTIC:** Images of the Kia Niro EV Concept were released at Las Vegas' Consumer Electronics show.

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**ROAD TEST** by Nick Fletcher

THE Ford Ka+ is a slightly more spacious version of the earlier Ka, and is based on a Fiesta platform which gives it a practical edge over more cramped city-car rivals.

It can seat five occupants, has decent boot space, and with prices starting at € 11,056 (£9,795) it can compete with smaller city runabouts such as Peugeot 108, Citroen C1 and Toyota Aygo.

All Ka+ models get a 69 hp 1.2 litre petrol engine though an 83 hp unit is optional on Zetec versions, and both have five-speed manual transmission. The smaller engine has a 0-100 kph time of 15.3 seconds and a top speed of 159 kph (99 mph). Fuel economy is 20 kpl (56.5 mpg).

On the road, the Ka+ drives smoothly and while its 0-100 kph time of just over 15 seconds looks slow on paper, it really doesn't feel that slow in actual use, and has a nice easy feel to it which makes it a pleasure to drive, particularly on urban streets.

With improved springs and dampers and a stiffer front anti-roll bar, the Ka+ rides and handles well, and extra sound-proofing helps it seem more refined than main rivals.

Standard kit on the entry Studio model is rather limited, but does include electric front windows and mirrors, Bluetooth/USB and a device to enable mobile phone connectivity.

The Zetec test model, at € 12,184 (£10,795), is the likely choice of eight out of 10 buyers says Ford. It adds desirable features such as alloy wheels, air-conditioning, cruise control, DAB radio and enhanced connectivity.

The Ka+ cabin looks good, taking styling cues from the Fiesta, and trim materials look better qual-



**ROOMY:** The Ford Ka+ has more space than the earlier Ka.

# Ford Ka + Zetec

## Stats panel

- **Model:** Ford Ka+ Zetec
- **Engine:** 1.2 litre petrol
- **Transmission:** 5-speed manual
- **Performance:** 0-100 kph 15.3 seconds, top speed 159 kph (99 mph)
- **Economy:** 20 kpl (56.5 mpg)
- **Emissions:** 114 g/km

ity than in most city cars. A taller roof line ensures good headroom in the rear, and the boot space at 273 litres is among the biggest in the class, and it expands to 849 litres with the rear seats down.

There are also 21 differ-

ent storage places for small items, a bonus for family usage.

Overall, the Ka+ proves to be a pleasing small hatchback offering more interior space than most in its class and with smooth driving dynamics.

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1000cc, 70 hp  
Manual, Petrol  
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Manual, Diesel  
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Manual, Diesel  
91,000 km  
5,695€



**TOYOTA Aygo Auto 1.0**  
Year 2008  
1000cc, 70 hp  
Automatic, Petrol  
83,000 km  
5,995€



**OPEL Insignia 2.0 CDTI**  
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**VICTORIOUS:** Gold category winners.

## TMGS returns to an old favourite

FOR the first time in 18 months, The Member's Golf Society visited one of their old favourites, Villamartin.

The course itself was in good condition, especially the greens which were extremely fast and true. Playing at its full length, high scores were not expected and it proved to be so with no player breaking par, in fact the best score of the day went to the winner of the Gold category, Jim Imrie who returned an impressive 35 points playing from handicap 4.

### Competition Results:

NTPs

Hole 6 J Imrie, Hole 9 J Hillier, Hole 13 P

Skarnes, Hole 17 T Sormul. H Woerdemann and L Williamson share the €36 from the two's pot.

Best guest was Gordon Imrie 28 points H/Cap 3.

**Bronze category:** 3rd J Hillier 25 pts, 2nd M Mhyrvold 26 pts, 1st O. Haubner 31 pts.

**Silver category:** 3rd D Sullivan 31 pts, 2nd I Parkinson 33 pts, 1st P Skarnes 33 pts L/H.

**Gold category:** 3rd J Eyre 229 pts, 2nd P Bradley 32 pts, 1st J Imrie 35 pts.

Catch up on the latest info about the society by logging onto [www.tmgs.org](http://www.tmgs.org) or follow them of Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TMGSGOLF](http://www.facebook.com/TMGSGOLF).

## Javea Green Quartz team clash swords with El Cid



**WINNING WAYS:** The Quartz team won on all four rinks.

JAVEA GREEN Bowling Club's Northern league team Quartz met the El Cid Swords team on their home ground hoping to erase the memory of their last meeting when they suffered a defeat.

They did this in style, winning on all four rinks and gaining the overall shots to give them an impressive 10-0 win.

The result sees them sitting pretty in third spot in the Northern League table with a game in hand. Javea's Opal team also had a great result against BBC Jaguars winning 10-0.

The Winter league team continue to hold their own with a 6-6 home draw against a strong Vistabella side.

Disappointed to drop six points at home, their nearest rivals also dropped points so ensuring Javea's top of the league slot continues.



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REAL MADRID and Spain captain Sergio Ramos has been the subject of social media 'trolling' after posting an image of himself in a bright blue outfit to his Instagram page. The 31-year-old was watching Madrid lose to Villarreal in La Liga after missing out through injury.

**Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport**

Credit: @SergioRamos/Instagram

**TO READ MORE**

# Confidence in Newcastle - Benitez

NEWCASTLE UNITED travel to Premier League leaders Manchester City at the weekend with Magpies gaffer Rafa Benitez having confidence in his squad.

"The Premier League is very tough, quite difficult, but I still have a lot of confidence in the team," said Benitez.

Newcastle lost 1-0 against City in December and Benitez said: "We knew it was going to be a difficult game, but we were in it to the end."

City's win at St James' Park saw Blues boss Pep Guardiola criticise Benitez: "We deserved to win - by far - it's not easy when the opponent doesn't want to play," rapped Guardiol-



## UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

la.

Benitez expects only to be able to sign loan players in the January transfer window, in the wake of Newcastle takeover talks stalling.

"I don't know what our budget is exactly in the window. I will keep working to try and get our targets," said Benitez.

"I'm happy with the squad, but looking for more players. It is difficult to sign players, but remain realistic," said Benitez, linked with ex-Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez who joined West Ham from Bayer Leverkusen last summer.

Premier League fixtures: Saturday: Brighton v Chelsea;

WHU v Bournemouth; Everton v WBA; Burnley v Manchester United; Leicester City v Watford; Stoke City v Huddersfield; Arsenal v Crystal Palace; Manchester City v Newcastle. Sunday: Southampton v Spurs. Monday: Swansea v Liverpool.

**CONFIDENCE:** Benitez is confident in his side.



MANCHESTER City boss Pep Guardiola has been warned they're not yet in the Carabao Cup final as their second leg against Bristol City looms.

"It's not over," booted Bristol gaffer Lee Johnson, after losing the first leg 2-1 against City in a dramatic tie at the Etihad Stadium. "It's only half time, we're still in this tie," said Johnson, after City gained a win with Sergio Aguero's stoppage time winner.

Championship club Bristol have knocked out four Premier League clubs in Manchester United, Watford, Stoke and Crystal Palace on

## Guardiola gives Pep talk to underdogs

the road to the semi-finals.

"Pep Guardiola said we played better than the majority of the Premier League teams that come to Man City," said Johnson, ahead of the second leg on January 23.

Along with the Carabao Cup and the Pre-

mier League, City are eyeing other silverware: "Without spirit you can't win trophies - in any competition - including the Champions League," said Guardiola.

Arsenal and Chelsea meet in the second leg of the Carabao Cup semi-final on January 24 after a goalless first leg: "It was a good draw and we have to finish the job," said Gunners boss Arsene Wenger.

"Not to concede a goal at home could be very important for the second leg - to play at the Emirates Stadium is not easy - but we are ready," said Chelsea boss Antonio Conte.

## Swans in a flap

LIVERPOOL travel to relegation threatened Swan-sea in the Premier League with Swans' new boss Carlos Carvalhal hoping he can turn the tide.

"Nobody has many expectations of Swansea, but we can change things and improve the players," said Carvalhal, who replaced Paul Clement at the Liberty Stadium.

Ex-Sheffield Wednesday boss Carvalhal, who unexpectedly left The Owls on Christmas Eve, said: "I like difficult challenges.

"People say Swansea need a miracle to stay in the Premier League, but I don't agree."

Liverpool's new £75m signing Virgil van Dijk, and fit-again Adam Lallana are set to line-up against Swansea on Monday.

Anfield boss JurgenKlopp is linked with signing Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos, 21, in the transfer window.

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