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ISSUE No. 1698 || 18 - 24 January 2018 **COSTA BLANCA SOUTH** » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

Lions, tigers, no fairs

Circus gives up big cats to rescue centre

By Harrison Jones

Circo Paris has given three mistreated big cats to an Alicante rescue centre and pledged not to use wild animals in future performances, according to reports.

The group is reportedly the third circus in a year to voluntarily deliver big cats to the Villena centre, which is the largest of its kind for exotic animals in southern Europe.

Specialists from the recovery facility, who undertook the delivery in the Salinas de Villena mountain range - between Alicante, Albacete and Murcia - have expressed shock at the condition of two lions and a tiger.

According to a report, the head of big cats for the facility, Pablo Delgado, said that the "painful conditions in which animals are present, especially the two lions, are something sadly common in circus rescues."

The cats' claws had reportedly been removed - a relatively common practice in the industry - while their cage floors were so slippery they were unable to walk.

One lion's tail was also reportedly missing, and handlers are alleged to have not had the required qualifications to care



TIRED: The animals had not been properly cared for.

INTO THE WILD: The circus has promised not to use wild animals in future

for the animals.

The new facility, Primadomus, is the Spanish headquarters of the AAP Foundation. It opened its 24 big cat enclosures in May 2016.

On their website, the facility wrote: "due to its vast space and natural environment, the terrain is very suitable for permanent housing," noting that some ani-

mals are impossible to relocate.

Their move follows months of negotiations between officials from the circus - also known as Circo Francia - the authorities and animal welfare organisations.

Other animals previously with the circus - including a pony and bull - are reported to have been rehoused in other facilities.

Screwdriver attacker faces 9 years

A BASKETBALLER is due in court accused of attempted murder after allegedly stabbing a fellow player with a screwdriver, to turn a casual game into an ugly nightmare.

The incident - which is alleged to have happened in Elche eight years ago - has left the attacker facing calls

for a nine year stint in prison.

The prosecution say the victim suffered a pulmonary (lung) collapse following the September 2010 altercation, at a sports centre in Elche. Following a fight, the victim is alleged to have been stabbed in the side by the attacker.

According to a Spanish media report, they say the victim could have died if they had not received health care.

The attacker was due in the Provincial Court of Alicante, in Elche, earlier this week, at a trial expected to last two days.

Very few details are

known about the identity of the attacker or victim.



See page 8

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NEWS EXTRA

Patient work

A PSYCHIATRIC patient caused various violent incidents in central Murcia on Sunday, according to Local Police. Little is known about the man, who was transferred to a health centre by emergency services.

Fire binman

LOCAL POLICE in San Pedro Del Pinatar have arrested a man accused of two acts of arson early one morning last week, according to reports. A bin was burned in the incident.

Red handed

TWO children - thought to be serial offenders - were caught red handed stealing from a storage room by police in Alicante, according to reports. They were both reportedly under 15.

Chinese aid

A STUDY called the 'Free Trade Zone' project based in the port of Alicante is looking to attract funding from China. The project will be part of the International Road Investment and Cooperation 'Belt and Road' event in Shenzhen until January 20.

Four-year-old missing girl found safe and well

A HIGH COURT judge in the UK has said that four-year-old Elliana Shand who went missing with her mother, Jessica Richards, has been found safe and well by police in Spain.

In December the judge, Mr Justice Hayden, said there was evidence to suggest that Elliana and her mother were in Alicante on Spain's Costa Blanca.

He appealed for help from Britons living or spending the Christmas holiday in Spain to locate them and authorised the release of photographs of the little girl and has urged expats or tourists to raise the alarm if they thought they had any information.

At the time, speaking exclusively to the *Euro Weekly News*, Elliana's grandfather, estate agent Sean Doyle, 51, whose son Craig is Elliana's father made an appeal to our readers and Facebook followers.

"Please help us find her for Christmas. We believe she's in and around Alicante.

"We just want them both found safe and sound.

"We do miss our grand-



SAFE AND WELL: Four-year-old Elliana Shand.

daughter and we want her mum Jessica to get the help

she needs. They have been gone seven months and we just want them both in a safe environment."

At the hearing, the judge praised the work of British and Spanish police and Foreign Office staff and said plans were in place to return Elliana to England within the next few days.

He also praised Elliana's grandparents, Sean and Eileen Doyle, for the efforts they had made to trace

the girl.

After the hearing, Mrs Doyle said they were "over the moon."

Four-year-old Elliana has been at the centre of private family court litigation after her mother disappeared from their London home during the summer when social services staff at Barking and Dagenham Council raised concern about the youngster's welfare.

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Municipalities have been ordered to fall in line with austerity measures or lose their central government funding by the Spanish Tax Ministry.

Violent man jailed

AN Alicante court has sentenced a man to 21 months in prison for controlling his wife and causing her a mental disorder, according to reports.

The couple were married in 1997 and the husband had long been controlling, according to reports, but in May 2013 the situation escalated.

The man became violent and abusive at the communion of his youngest child when it transpired that one of the woman involved was divorced.

Soon after, the wife filed for divorce, which led to numerous incidents of verbal and physical violence.

He reportedly called her a "cursed, evil witch and mentally ill" during a harassment campaign in which he threatened to commit suicide.

One daughter, who confronted her father about his constant briefing against her mother, had to hide in her room to avoid a physical confrontation.

The man faces a year and nine months in prison and 57 days of community service. He also has to pay €6,000 in damages to his wife, and €3,000 to one child.

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TV GUIDE

Your weekly guide to the UK's best television

**P42****SPECIAL FEATURE**

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

**P58****LETTERS**

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

P56**MOTORING****P85**

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



Land regrab

A €1.8 MILLION project is being undertaken by Valencia's regional government to restore an area to its original state, before a landfill site was put there. The Sierra de Abanilla site is being restored by the environment ministry. The final stage will start next month.

Not taxing

MURCIANS pay less municipal taxes than the national average, according to an analysis by the Spanish treasury. Residents pay an estimated €581 each per year, while the typical Spaniard pays €624. The figures refer to local and national tax for 2015, the last available statistics.

Appkins diet

ALICANTE app makers are claiming to have produced a program that will stop weight watchers from needing to go on a diet. Specialists from Alicante, Elche, and Elda have reportedly developed a platform that allows nutritionists to run health coaching through an app.

Golf in class

COSTA BLANCA'S Association of Golf Courses was promoted at an event in Oslo, following its 'Best Golf Destination in Europe 2018' Award win. The Norwegian capital was hosting the first major international tourism fair of the year. Around 40,000 visitors descended on the prestigious three-day event.

Tourists back

COSTA BLANCA'S tourism industry grew by 6.2 per cent in 2017, according to a well-respected annual report from Exceltur. Alongside Murcia, the report says the region saw the biggest growth in the "sun and beach" tourism category. Six million tourists reportedly came to the two areas last year.

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 11,500m², 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.

Employment drive

LORCA Town Hall has announced an initiative to help 21 long-term unemployed residents. Two six-month long projects - that will be-

gin next March - are planned, called 'Advice and administrative support to municipal departments' and 'improvement of the urban scene and degraded zones of the municipal term of Lorca.'

173

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1697 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca South edition, including 58 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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Top 5 stories

1. **COSTA DEL SNOW:** Carvajal beach
 15,186 views
 In pictures: Spain's Costa del Snow

2. **5,005 views** Ryanair explain new cabin baggage policy

3. **4,891 views** Body of woman washed up on Costa del Sol beach

4. **2,635 views** Beat the January blues with new flights between UK and Spain

5. **2,424 views** Spain slides to a halt as snow grips country

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 Email: editorial@euroweeklynews.com



WRECKAGE: The car was left in a state after hitting a tree.

Drug chase

A 46-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested in Murcia suspected of drug trafficking offences after he crashed in to a tree while attempting to flee police.

The incident occurred when police in Benemerita were alerted by a vehicle that was driving 'abnormally.'

When officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver allegedly used evasive manoeuvres to evade police, moving to the other side of the road and caused serious risk to other road users.

The man reportedly continued to drive at serious speeds for 14 kilometres until he collided with

a traffic sign, causing serious damage to one of the car's tyres, leading to the driver losing control of the vehicle and careering into a tree.

After inspecting the vehicle, police reportedly seized 200 wraps of heroin, 50 of cocaine, a digital scale, two weapons and €6,088 in cash.

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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.



Photo credit Shutterstock/Twitter

WOWING THE CROWD: Lady Gaga.



Photo credit Edurne Garcia/Instagram

KNEE BOTHER: Edurne Garcia.

HOT MAMA: Jennifer Metcalfe.



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.

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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Ayuntamiento de Elche

SEIZED: Seventy marihuana plants were taken from the property in Elche.

House plants seized

POLICE in Alicante have discovered 70 marihuana plants at a property in Elche after inspecting a potential dangerous dog complaint.

Members of the Local Police's Operations Support Group (GAO) received the complaint about a dangerous dog at a property in Elche, with residents reportedly claiming that the dog was barking excessively and lacked hygiene.

While interviewing the owner and checking the dog's documentation, officers became alarmed by a pungent and recognisable smell of marihuana at the

property.

After questioning the owner, he allegedly pointed officers in the direction of a room, claiming that he had given the room to a friend to store some equipment.

When inspecting the room, officers reportedly found an estimated 70 marihuana plants, all at different stages of growth, and the room had been turned into a fully adapted greenhouse for ventilation and cultivation purposes.

The plants were subsequently seized by officers and they confirmed a possible crime of drug trafficking.

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STILL SEARCHING: Police have only found the man's car.

Hit and run on pregnant ex

NATIONAL POLICE are hunting for a middle-aged man who allegedly ran over his pregnant ex-girlfriend and her male friend in Murcia, according to reports.

The woman - who reportedly has a restraining order against the man - only sustained minor injuries to her legs.

Police found the car shortly after the incident, which they

are treating as domestic violence, on Saturday but were still searching for the man at the time of writing.

The vehicle was found in the La Fama neighbourhood - the same area where the event took place and where the victim and attacker are believed to live.

The woman, whose age is unknown reportedly confirmed to police that the attacker was

her 56-year-old ex-partner. She was taken to a health facility as a precaution.

She is said to be Eastern European, while her friend - whose condition is unknown but not thought to be serious - is reportedly South American.

The attacker is said to be of Romani ethnicity.

Police are continuing their investigation.

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A MAN accused of abusing his ex-wife from 2011-14 denied the charges, while his ex-wife said she did not report him because she loved him in the trial on Tuesday.

The man, who appeared in the Provincial Court in Alicante, is charged with

13 counts of abuse, three of rape and others relating

Man denies abusing ex-wife

to coercion and threats.

The woman, who appeared in court via video link, spoke through tears to accuse her ex-husband of systematically abusing her for three years. She claims the man hit her and would not let her speak to other men out of jealousy.

She added he then raped her after beating her but did not report him at the time because she loved him

“more than herself.”

“I did not want to have sex but I accepted it,” she said.

Prosecutors asked the court for a sentence of 52 years in prison and €36,600 in damages for the victim in the first part of the trial. A private prosecution has asked the victim’s compensation to be raised to over €50,000.

The trial continues.

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€15 billion

The amount the Spanish government will inject into the Social Security fund in order to pay people’s pensions in 2018.

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 27

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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To Elche and beyond

AN Elche company is reportedly pressing ahead with plans to develop a rocket, but still need some €8 million in private investment.

PLD Space are making a 'reusable suborbital launch vehicle' called Arion 1, according to a translated report in the Spanish press.

The European Union is reportedly backing the project, which will be a kerosene-fuelled, single-stage rocket, designed to use a combination of para-



Credit: Twitter@PLD_Space

ROCKET SCIENCE: An architect's interpretation of the project.

chute and propulsion to land.

The rocket is set to

launch this year.

"The news confirms that we are in the Champions League of emerging projects and with more possibilities in the markets of the future," business director Raul Verdu said.

"This year the workload will be very high, with the aim of completing the construction of the prototypes and their propulsion testing at Teruel airport.

"That's where we see the fruits of our labours be-

cause at the Elche Business Park we cannot test our engines for safety reasons. The airport in Teruel, which is about three hours from Elche, is the ideal location," Verdu added.

The company is planning on using their rocket as a commercial launcher and a pilot for Arion 2, which is set to follow in 2020.

The chief executive, Raül Torres, added: "We are much closer to developing a space rocket that allows

Spain to have its own scientific and commercial launching capacity into space.

"This is an opportunity that is possible to only 10 countries around the world."

The project also has the backing of a number of prominent figures in the industry, including Franco Malerba, the first Italian astronaut in space.

The company has already undertaken a series of tests on Arion 1 and any remaining worries about their future have reportedly been resolved by the backing of the EU.

The organisation plan to relocate from the Universidad Miguel Hernandez's Science Park to a plant in Elche, according to recent reports.

They also reportedly intend to use test beds at Teruel Airport.

NEWS EXTRA

Snow more

SNOW ploughs and chains were out in Murcia and other parts of the Costa Blanca again early this week, as the region was hit by more snow. Emergency services helped the snow clearing operation.

Lorry fire

A SPECTACULAR fire was eventually brought under control by firefighters on a bridge near Torrevieja. Nobody was injured in the incident - which the driver reported to police - but the lorry was severely damaged.

Double theft

NATIONAL POLICE have arrested a 40-year-old man in Elche who they suspect of stealing from a bar, after he stole a mobile from a physiotherapy centre in the same town, according to reports.

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NEWS EXTRA**Food fest**

THE Tourist Board of Costa Blanca will reportedly promote the gastronomy, culture and popular festivals of the province at Fitur 2018 next week. Focus is normally placed solely on beaches.

Talk is free

ARCHAEOLOGIST Santiago Garcia will give a free public talk today (Thursday) at 7pm, according to Cartagena's Tourism Board. Tickets for the youth centre event were still available at the time of writing.

Puppy rescue

FIREFIGHTERS from Lorca rescued two puppies, who found themselves in an irrigation channel last week, and put them in protective care. The adorable pair were pictured in the care of firemen and helpers.



CLEARING VEGETATION: On part of the River Segura.

Machinery hitting local environment

AN environmental group has hit out at the use of heavy machinery in the Contraparada area, according to reports.

The heavy duty machines being used for clearing are damaging riverbed flora and fauna in the River Segura, the group has claimed.

Experts from the Association of Naturalists of the Southeast (Anse) say that a couple of weeks ago they contacted the Confederación Hidrográfica del Segura (CHS) to express concerns about significant damage to the local ecosystem.

Speaking to La Opinión Murcia, group member Jorge Sanchez reportedly hit out at the use of a large, heavy duty rotating machine clearing vegetation from inside the channel - labelling it "a

practice that had already been abandoned for its high impact and that contrasts with the initiatives that are being developed in the area for conservation and recovery of the river banks."

His association claim the action is having a significant impact on eroding and compacting the shore, and on the local habitat.

Anse members have visited the site and hit out at the "crushing of vertebrate fauna, like the leprous pond turtle, damages to protected flora and riparian forest plantations," according to the report.

They have warned that the work could "mean the complete destruction of the aquatic communities of invertebrates and fish (among them the threatened eel)."

Murcia fair proposed

A FAIRGROUND is reportedly being proposed for Murcia, as a way for the tourist industry to capitalise on the forthcoming airport.

The city has already requested a grant for the potential development in Corvera, according to reports in the Spanish media.

Local authorities believe the pull of the new Corvera International Airport, which could reportedly open this year but has faced huge delays, could be a springboard for the fairground and surrounding area.

They have asked for a €50,000 subsidy - the maximum available - from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The fairground is intended to be a permanent, diverse offering for the local community. Food stores, commercial fairs and other entertainment/

leisure will be on offer across several different areas of the proposed ground.

There will also be a dedicated performing area.

The decision is due in nine months, according to the report.

Over the last few years, accommodation, artisan and food sectors have been collaborating to publicise the products and services offered around the Campo de Murcia.

This led to the creation of the Association of Businessmen of the Field of Murcia, an organisation which has helped organise a series of events benefiting the area.

It is hoped that any implementation of the fairground project would help the region's traditional festivals and encourage visitors from other regions to attend and enjoy local culture.



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Murcia flat lines as flu epidemic continues

THERE have been nearly 20,000 recorded cases of flu in Murcia this winter, according to a Ministry of Health report published this week.

The figures, published on Monday, say that 7,592 cases have been reported in the last week, exceeding the 7,316 cases required to register a 'very high' intensity level as

the country's flu epidemic continues.

Since the flu season began - on October 2 - 18,722 cases had been reported by Monday, January 15 in the Murcia region.

The latest data suggests a slight dip in daily rates of infection, from 1,909 cases on January 8 to 1,194 on January 12 - but health officials are reportedly suggesting not to read too much into the apparent drop.

The number of cases per 100,000 is still exceeding 500. Only 55 cases are required per 100,000 for an epidemic to be declared.

During the worst week last year, just 230 cases were reported per 100,000.

Two weeks ago, *Euro Week-*

ly News reported that the figures are expected to spike at the end of January.

Extra personnel have been drafted into hospitals to deal with the ongoing crisis, which the Director General of Health Assistance at Murcian Health Service, Roque Martinez, reportedly said had left the service "in a critical situation."

Emergency departments have been handling over 50 per cent more patients than they would on an average day at times this month, though the festive season may have strained the service and increased numbers.

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

NEWS EXTRA

Second home

HELP AT HOME Costa Blanca have moved into their second shop unit in Cabo Roig, according to reports. The Centro Commercial venue is reportedly bigger than the original Playa Flamenca establishment.

Fencing win

ORIHUELA Town Hall has restored a fence around a protected area on La Glea beach. The city councillor for the Environment said the renewal helps preserve a dune area needed for storm protection.

Duo delight

EXPERIENCED entertainment duo Jane Atkinson and Eric Berg will be in action on January 27 at the Orihuela Costa Resort Hotel in La Zenia. The 'Choral Spectacular' involves nearly 80 singers.

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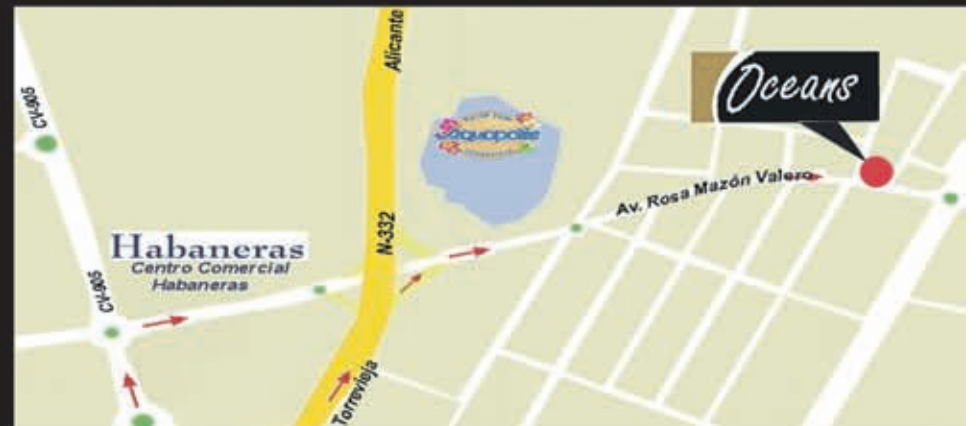
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TIPPING POINT: The Clio at a zebra crossing.

LOCAL POLICE in Elche came across a bizarre sight on Monday afternoon.

'Parked,' facing the wrong way at a zebra crossing junction, was a silver Renault Clio, perched precariously on two wheels and supported only by a road sign.

Very few details are known about the peculiar incident, but the car looks as if it would have tipped onto its roof with-

Mystery of bizarre accident

out the support of the zebra crossing sign.

Local Police tweeted a picture of the car but did not indicate whether anyone was hurt, how it happened, or any resolution to the incident.

The exact location of the accident - later attended by the Guardia Civil, according to Local Police - is also unknown.

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Mayor trouble

THE mayor of Algorfa, Manuel Ros, could face prison after reportedly being arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The PSOE representative was arrested after a test on Sunday morning suggested he was more than three times over the drink-drive limit, according to Spanish media.

Mr Ros has so far made no comment about the accusations.

Benijofar Local Police reportedly made a routine check on the CV-920 road - linking Rojales with Benijofar - at 5am on Sunday morning. Mr Ros allegedly tested positive with 0.84 milligrams of alcohol per litre in his bloodstream, a reading that is more than triple the 0.25mg limit.

The mayor could face three to six months in prison, a driving ban of six



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Algorfa

IN TROUBLE?: Mayor Ros was three times over the limit.

to 12 months, or 60-90 days of community service, coupled with the loss of his licence.

Fines and driving licence points are normally the sanctions for positive tests, but as the reading increases, so does the penalty.

Mr Ros is the son of a former socialist mayor of Algorfa.

He was unexpectedly

elected in 2015, after the PP's Antonio Lorenzo served a long period in office.

The municipality is one of the smallest of the Vega Baja, with a population of around 2,500.

The administration reportedly tends to focus on the construction of tourist accommodation, the La Finca golf course and agriculture.

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Farmer unhappy about green pursuits

FARMERS are attempting to block conservation legislation in an area near the Mar Menor.

That lagoon is the largest of its kind in Spain but experts warn it could face ecological collapse due to pollution, most of which is driven by farming.

Discussions of the law of Urgent Measures of Sustainability of the Mar Menor are intensifying, with opposition groups in the regional assembly reportedly set to submit amendments to the proposed laws on February 1.

PSOE, Podemos and Ciudadanos are backing regulations aimed at reducing pollution and increasing drainage, among other things, according to reports.

But some have argued that measures aimed at reducing environmental harm will hit the local economy.

According to a translated report, farmers claim that irreversible damage to the area's industry would cost the local economy around €600 million.



Credit: Elche Local Police.

SNORT IT OUT: Police caught the instructor.

Fail!

Driving instructor tests positive for coke

A DRIVING instructor has been caught teaching a lesson whilst high on cocaine, according to Local Police in Elche.

According to reports, officers undertook a routine check of documentation on Monday and became suspicious that the male instructor could be under the influence of drugs. The instructor then reportedly tested positive, in a preliminary reading, for cocaine. Further laboratory tests are due to be carried out.

No further details are known about the identity of the suspect or male learner during last Friday's incident.

Reports add that braking distance can be increased by as much as 16 per cent under the influence of cocaine, according to some studies.

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Topping the charts

THE Virgen de la Arrixaca Clinical Hospital had the most donors in Spain in 2017 for the third consecutive year.

A record total of 83 organs were donated at the hospital in 2017, while the region of Murcia has also achieved a record, receiving 97 multi-organ donations last year.

When speaking to Spanish media, Minister of Health, Manuel Villegas, thanked "all the families who, in the midst of the sorrow over the loss of a loved one, have had the tremendous generosity to donate the organs to give life and hope to other families."

He also went on to praise the "magnificent transplant team and all the health professionals involved in the different donation and transplant programmes of our region, for their enormous work, which has placed us in a privileged position at the national level."

The 97 multi-organ donations across Murcia enabled 437 organ and tissue transplants to be carried out in hospitals in the region, 64 more than the previous year.

Specifically, 122 bone marrow, 117 corneal, 93 kidney, 91 liver and 14 heart transplants were performed.



SALT BOOST: A Torrevieja salt lake.

Salt leaves sweet taste

TORREVIEJA'S economy has been one of only a few to enjoy a boost from the recent snowfall.

With the country shivering in the cold weather, vast quantities of salt were needed for use on the roads. And

with more chilly conditions on the way, Torrevieja can provide the goods.

According to reports, the town is set to see 5,000 tonnes of special salt moved to other parts of Spain this week, followed by the same

quantity next week.

That reportedly translates to around 50 large trucks every day.

But it is not just Spain that needs the saltworks' produce, with 60,000 tonnes reportedly being sent to Northern Europe, and particularly to Great Britain.

The town reportedly produces over 450,000 tonnes of salt every year.

20% The drop in international tourists travelling to Cataluña since the illegal referendum in October last year, according to figures from the World Tourism Organisation.

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NEWS EXTRA

I invoice

THE number of Murcian companies using electronic invoices has increased sevenfold since 2015, according to Spanish media. But only a third of companies and small medium enterprises in the region reportedly use such systems.

Plan growth

TORREVIEJA'S councillor for Town Planning has hailed the yearly growth in applications for planning permission. Fanny Serrano reportedly said there were **251 applications in 2017, up on 219 in 2016.**

New centre

AN agricultural visitor centre is to open in Orihuela, according to reports in the Spanish media. The €150,000 plan is reportedly aiming to see thousands visit the museum and garden attraction each year.

'Favourite son' mourned

ORIHUELA held two days of official mourning earlier this week following the death of its former mayor and 'favourite son', Pedro Cartagena Bueno. He was 85.

His funeral took place on Monday morning from 11am in the Cathedral del Salvador, according to reports, while the official mourning extended until Tuesday.

Cartagena Bueno was a popular figure in the city, and was given the title of 'Favourite Son of Orihuela' in 2012.

Flags in the city flew at half-mast in respect of the former mayor, who was in charge of the city between 1970 and 1979.

Announcing the days of mourning, the city's current mayor, Emilio Bascañana expressed "our condolences for the death of Pedro Cartagena Bueno, as well as our support to his family and friends who are going through much suffering".

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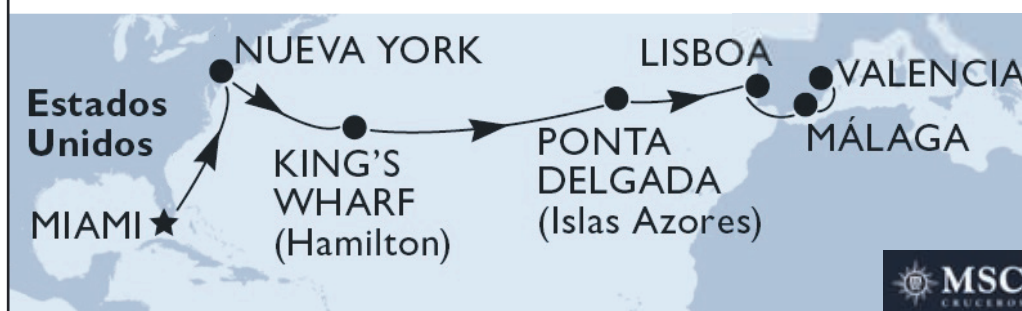


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20.03.2018	Ponta Delgada, Portugal	08:00	
21.03.2018	Ponta Delgada, Portugal		13:00
23.03.2018	Lisbon	09:00	23:59
24.03.2018	Lisbon	00:01	06:00
25.03.2018	Malaga	07:00	14:00
26.03.2018	Valencia	09:00	



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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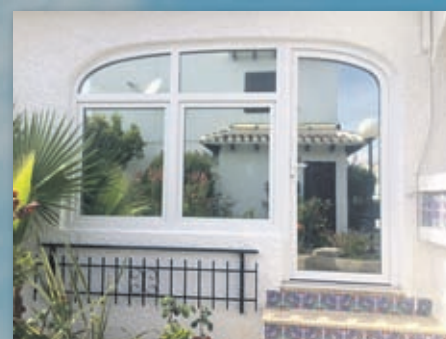
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AFTER

Driver finds dead passenger on bus

A DRIVER has found the lifeless body of a young passenger on his bus in Spain.

For reasons not yet known the 22-year-old died on the journey from his hometown of El Casar to the city of Guadalajara in Castilla-La Mancha.

The driver of the vehicle noticed that a young man remained inside the bus at the end of his journey and moved towards him to wake

him up, supposing that he had fallen asleep.

When he tried to wake him up, the young man did not react and the driver called the emergency services.

An intensive care ambulance attended but the health professionals were unable to revive the young man.

An investigation will be held to determine the cause of death.

Nightclub horror

EMERGENCY services in Madrid have confirmed at least 26 people were injured when the second-storey floor of a nightclub gave way on Saturday night.

At least 11 people were later taken to hospital to be



MADRID: At least 26 people were injured.

treated for their injuries following the incident in the city's Carabanchel neighbourhood.

Police have now opened an investigation to find out the details of the accident and find out what caused the floor to collapse.

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Brit seriously injured

A BRITISH man is believed to be seriously injured after falling around 20 feet while staying at an apartment complex in Gran Canaria.

The 21-year-old reportedly fell while staying at the La Villa Santa Ana holiday complex in Playa del Ingles, a popular resort among tourists.

Local media sources revealed that the emergency services were called in the early hours of last Saturday morning. The man was rushed to the hospital suffering from serious head injuries.



GRAN CANARIA: Man fell from apartment complex.

Police are reported to be investigating whether the man had been drinking at the time of the incident.

Portuguese earthquake felt in Spain

AN earthquake in Portugal has been felt in parts of Andalucia according to emergency services.

With a magnitude of 5.2 on the Richter scale, the quake - which hit the Evora region - was felt in Huelva, Sevilla and Cordoba ac-

ording to 112 emergency phone line, who received calls from distressed residents in those areas.

No injuries or damages were reported when the tremors were felt at around 12.50pm last Monday.



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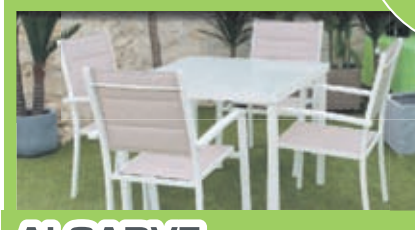
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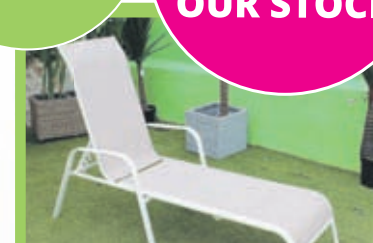
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Hotel death probe

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



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

family and those assisting them because of the passive attitude of the police and state prosecutors, who have not requested any tests or examinations 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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Tragedy strikes

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy has died from meningitis in the town of Archidona in the Malaga province of Andalusia, southern Spain.

Meningitis is an acute inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

The swelling from meningitis typically triggers symptoms such as a headache, fever and a stiff neck.

Early meningitis symptoms may mimic the flu and may develop over several hours or over a few days.

Possible signs and symptoms in anyone older than the age of two include:

- Sudden high fever
- Stiff neck
- Severe headache that seems different than normal
- Headache with nausea or vomiting
- Confusion or difficulty concentrating
- Seizures
- Sleepiness or difficulty waking
- Sensitivity to light
- No appetite or thirst
- Skin rash (sometimes, such as in meningococcal meningitis)
- Viral infections are the most common cause of meningitis, followed by bacterial infections.



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

Passengers frustrated

New Ryanair hand luggage restrictions brought in

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 fre-

quent 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.

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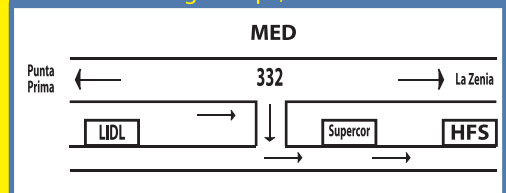
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47 People died in road traffic accidents in Spain over the Christmas and New Year holiday period according to the National Traffic Directorate, a 34 per cent increase from 2016.



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Activists demand probe Kill debate

ENVIRONMENTAL group Ecologistas en Accion and political party Izquierda Unida have called on authorities to investigate the massive slaughter of deer and wild boar in southern Spain.

The huge cull took part in an area affected by the wildfires last September in the municipalities of Zufre and La Granada de Riotinto in the Huelva province of Andalucía.

The blaze devastated more than 4,000 hectares of forest land.

The cull took place on December 30 and groups have expressed alarm at the scale of it and called on the Junta de Andalucía regional authority for an explanation



MASSIVE CULL: Some of the dead animals.

to 'justify this massive slaughter of animals.'

In addition, the IU has called for the suspension of another hunt that is scheduled for Saturday.

And they have said the Junta "must act with much more sensitivity than it has shown and transfer the wildlife to other locations where they can continue to

live."

The Junta has said that the hunt on December 30 was authorised and part of an integrated plan to restore the area faster by reducing the livestock grazing in the area.

They added that "wildlife control is never done with pleasure," but "it is the best and only solution."

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GOOD SPIRITS: Humanists of Murcia walkers on Boxing Day.

Walk this way

MORE than 20 Humanists of Murcia walkers set off near La Santa and were soon witnessing the chaos in the Rambla caused by the drought and pine tree disease. The party split after emerging into the clear air and the majority went up the steep track, while the sensible took to the road.

On reaching La Santa, some walkers refilled their bottles with holy water.

There was a pit stop at the bar at the top of the hill. Jon told of the history of St Eulalia. He got his dates wrong and only later research came up with a second saint with a similar story, but based in Barcelona in AD 304.

It was a quick descent and

into Restaurante La Cruz for lunch.

Winter Solstice celebration

IN celebration of the passing of the shortest day of the year, and the start of the journey back towards longer summer days, they held a 'Pot Luck Lunch' at Cortijo Raja, Morata. Luckily the weather was excellent and they were able to dine al fresco.

The group included members, family and friends, and the large selection of festive fare which they brought provided an ample lunch for all.

Ruma's general knowledge quiz provided some exercise for the brain after the meal.

Boxing Day walk

SEVERAL guilty people met at Oasis in Bolnuevo to walk off the extra pounds that they had consumed over the weekend. They followed the coast towards Percheles, negotiating the new barriers erected by the Agente Ambiente and arrived at the Roman Quay to discover the parking area planted with palm trees. The Agente have been busy.

The party split with everyone heading for the main track while three of them took to the beach and the cliffs. At the 'bullfighter's plot,' they separated again and while several ambled back along the coast, the rest set off up the valley.

They all ended up at Restaurante Las Redes on the Bolnuevo Paseo. They were joined by the President, the Hon Secretary and a well-known local gardener, painter and music aficionado. Great food, different from the norm for a menu del dia.

Please see their website: humanistsofmurcia.com for their programme of activities, and if you would like to arrange a non-religious funeral, wedding or naming ceremony, you can speak directly to their humanist celebrant on: 634 025 711.

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ROYAL FUN: Age Concern members celebrate in style.

Age Concern celebrates Three Kings

A THREE KINGS celebration party was held at the Age Concern centre in Calle Paganini, La Siesta.

This special afternoon was

for the benefit of 45 valued beneficiaries who certainly know how to party, and they did in style! A buffet tea was specially prepared by the staff

of The Vestry in Algorfa, and was enjoyed by all who attended. Entertainment was provided by Jerry, who got the dancers dancing and singers singing to songs from the 60's and 70's which created a fun atmosphere.

A raffle of a huge hamper of Christmas goodies, generously supplied by the Age Concern Charity shop in Torrevieja, was won by Margaret Dumbleton.

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Lots of cheer for Spangles chorus



SUCCESS: From left: Lyn, Veronica, two Los Hermanitos educators and Wendy with the new TV.

SPANGLES Ladies' Harmony Chorus love to get into the festive spirit in the lead up to Christmas and 2017 has seen another exceptional season for the ladies, who have been raising charity funds in several venues.

Spangles held their traditional Christmas Concert at Las Claras in Los Alcazares on December 8 and were invited to the C Breeze Cocktail Bar in Playa Flamenca to help raise funds for charity.

They raised €200 and nominated Los Hermanitos Children's Home in Altea and Los Infiernos Perra Supporters to receive €100 each. The children wanted a new TV and it was plain that

100€ would not be enough, so the chorus members rallied round and chipped in.

Wendy and Lyn went to Altea on January 6 to present them with their new TV, much to the delight of everyone. Spangles always welcomes new members and it's a great way to make new friends, so why not visit when they rehearse at Las Claras from January onwards? The group meets every Thursday from 10am to 1pm.

To find out how to join or to book Spangles for an event, please call Lyn on: 693 017 617 or Anthea on: 968 334 527 or visit: www.spangleschorus.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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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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

Holy moly!

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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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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Advertising feature

Know your rights in Spain

SOCIETY LAW AND TITLES have been helping their clients know their rights in Spain for more than 25 years on the Costa Blanca South. The group is now pleased to announce a new office in La Marina Urbanisation, San Fulgencio.

The company will be offering a range of services with their associates Right Move Insurance and Sunworld, two well-known companies operating in the southern Costa Blanca for many years.

This amalgamation is a perfect combination of services all under one roof, where you can get professional advice without any fuss, and in your own language whatever that may be. The new office is situated next to the post office in La Marina, Local Number 9, Calle Francisco de Quevedo, La Marina, 03177, Alicante.

You can call in Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm with any questions you may have about legal matters from residencies to court cases or just documentation you have received and just don't understand.

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The government is now offering some interesting tax and social security benefits to people who want to set up a company, so there has never been a better time to take your future in your own hands, so ask about becoming self-employed. Why not contact Society Law and Ti-



The Los Dolses and La Marina offices.

titles to find out what you might be entitled to?

Society Law and Titles offers everyday law for everyday people and deal with a range of issues and subjects. Their new La Marina office is open from 10am to 5pm, while their Los Dolses office on CC Los Dolses, Local 130, Villamartin is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. Call now on 965 021 651 for a free appointment, or email info@societylawandtitles.com so you can better understand your position in Spain. Their team will help with all manner of legal issues.



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7:00am Breakfast
10:15am Rip Off Britain
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm Wanted Down Under
12:45pm Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News at One
2:30pm BBC London News
2:45pm Doctors
3:15pm Father Brown
4:00pm 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
8:00pm The One Show
8:30pm EastEnders
9:00pm Big Cats
10:00pm Death in Paradise
11:00pm BBC News at Ten
11:30pm BBC London News
11:45pm Question Time
12:45am This Week

7:00am Flog It! Trade Secrets
7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am Antiques Road Trip
9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm The Daily Politics
2:00pm Masters Snooker
5:45pm More Creatures Great and Small
6:15pm Flog It!
7:00pm Eggheads
7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm Masters Snooker
9:00pm Hairy Bikers'
10:00pm A House Through Time
11:00pm The Mash Report
11:30pm Newsnight
12:15am Masters Snooker Highlights
1:05am Masters Snooker Extra

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
4:00am 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.

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

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
5:00pm 5 News at 5
6:00pm 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

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
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
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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

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 Featured Groups
9:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf Cricket
1:00am *New Zealand face Pakistan in the fifth and final ODI in their series in Wellington.*

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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

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
12:20am Family Guy
12:45am American Dad!
Animated series.

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
Nostalgic police drama series set in a 1960s Yorkshire village.
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

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
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.

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
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
9:00pm Mike and Dave Need You Don't Mess with the Zohan
10:45pm You Don't Mess with the Zohan
12:45am This is Spinal Tap

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.

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

Advertising feature

Euronics Gran Alacant offers the best products at great prices

JUST 12 years ago, a small Euronics branch was opened in Gran Alacant, but popularity has bred success and there are now three stores in the area.

The second branch was opened at La Marina Urbanisation and then 2017 saw the debut of the third store, this time in Ciudad Quesada with the original staff of four now increased to 14 knowledgeable and helpful members.

These three Euronics stores are special, because the management takes into account what the majority of their customers (predominantly from northern Europe) demand and that is first class and helpful service.

Rather than just try to sell a product and then move on to another customer, the salespeople take the time to discuss customer needs and expectations before advising them what they consider to be the most suitable option to meet their exact requirement.

Euronics Gran Alacant will deliver and install large appliances, taking the time and trouble to explain what each item does and how to operate it. Each shop stocks a wide range of prod-



Quality electrical goods from a quality supplier.

ucts for the home, all at sensible prices with great service and a willingness to explain how the product works and to back this up with assistance if there is a problem.

There is an electrical solution for everyone, air conditioning, fridges, heating solutions, ovens, televisions, washing machines and plenty of smaller appliances as well as electric barbecues for the summer.

There are special offers in each store which

can change on a regular basis and the company's website www.electrodomesticosgranalacant.com which is available in English and Spanish as well as its Facebook page www.facebook.com/electrodomesticosgranalacant/ show a regular list of special offers of named branded

goods designed to appeal to everyone.

Their mantra is Euronics Gran Alacant. We deliver, We install, We care.

Contact details and opening times are:

• C.C. Gran Alacant Avd. Finlandia, 23, blq. 3, L2 Tel. 966 695 365 granalacant@euronics.es with opening times Monday to Friday 9.15am to 2pm and 4.30pm to 8.30pm and Saturday morning.

• Ciudad Quesada CC Consum Avd. Salamanca, 11, L8 Tel. 966 731 211 quesada@euronics.es with opening times Monday to Friday 9.15am to 6pm and Saturday morning.

• Urb. La Marina Plz. Sierra Castilla, L10 Tel. 966 797 703 lamarina@euronics.es with opening times Monday to Friday 9.15am to 6pm and Saturday morning.



10 years close to you

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granalacant@euronics.es

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Plz. Sierra Castilla, L10
Tlf.: 96 679 77 03
lamarina@euronics.es

Ciudad Quesada
New C.C. Consum
Avd. Salamanca, 11, L8
Tlf.: 96 673 12 11
quesada@euronics.es

www.electrodomesticosgranalacant.com

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We install
We care*



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBCone	BBC TWO	BBCFOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	4	sky sports main event
7:00am Breakfast 10:15am Rip Off Britain 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer 12:00pm Wanted Down Under 12:45pm Close Calls: On Camera 1:15pm Bargain Hunt 2:00pm BBC News at One 2:30pm BBC London News 2:45pm Doctors 3:15pm Father Brown 4:00pm 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 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm Would I Lie to You? 10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show 12:25am Witless	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 6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Masters Snooker <i>The fourth quarter-final gets underway at Alexandra Palace.</i> 9:00pm Mastermind 9:30pm A Vicar's Life 10:00pm Monty Don's Paradise Gardens 11:00pm QI 11:30pm Newsnight 12:05am Masters Snooker Highlights 12:55am Masters Snooker Extra	8:00pm World News Today 8:30pm Top of the Pops <i>Peter Powell and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 17 January 1985.</i> 9:00pm The Good Old Days 10:00pm Hits, Hype and Hustle: An Insider's Guide to the Music Business 11:00pm Radio 2 in Concert 12:00am Wild Boys: The Story of Duran Duran <i>Documentary charting the rise and fall of the pop group synonymous with 1980s glamour.</i> 12:50am Top of the Pops <i>Peter Powell and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 17 January 1985.</i> 1:30am The Joy of the Single	7:20am 3rd Rock from the Sun 8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond 9:30am Frasier 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses 1:00pm Channel 4 News 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me 2:05pm Posh Pawn 3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm Village of the Year 5:00pm A Place in the Sun: 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 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast 10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats 11:00pm Gogglebox 12:20am First Dates Hotel 1:20am Spring Breakers	8:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective 8:35am Peppa Pig 8:50am Floogals 9:05am Digby Dragon 9:20am Rusty Rivets 9:35am Shimmer and Shine 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 10:05am Mofy 10:15am The Wright Stuff 12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector 2:15pm Home and Away 2:45pm Neighbours 3:15pm NCIS 4:15pm Shoot to Kill 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Wine Show 9:00pm Costa Del Celebrity 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Will and Grace 11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother 12:00am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	7:30am Hollyoaks 8:00am Coach Trip 8:30am Streetmate 9:00am Charmed 10:00am Melissa and Joey 10:30am Melissa and Joey 11:00am Baby Daddy 11:30am Baby Daddy 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1:00pm The Goldbergs 1:30pm The Goldbergs 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory 3:00pm Melissa and Joey 3:30pm Melissa and Joey 4:00pm Baby Daddy 5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6:00pm The Goldbergs 6:30pm The Goldbergs 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory 8:00pm Hollyoaks 8:30pm Coach Trip 9:00pm The Crystal Maze 10:00pm Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 12:10am The Big Bang Theory	7:00am Good Morning 7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Live European Tour Golf 2:00pm SKY Sports News 3:00pm SKY Sports News <i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond.</i> 4:00pm Transfer Centre 4:30pm SKY Sports News 5:00pm Live PGA Tour Featured Groups 8:00pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live SKY Sports News <i>Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews.</i> 12:00am SKY Sports News <i>Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews.</i> 1:00am SKY Sports News <i>Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews.</i> 2:00am Cricket
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE	sky CINEMA PREMIERE	sky sports football
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 Coronation Street 9:00pm River Monsters 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Lethal Weapon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London 11:45pm Through the Keyhole 12:45am Take Me Out 1:45am Jackpot247	7:55am Dress to Impress <i>Fashion-themed dating show.</i> 8:45am Emmerdale 9:50am You've Been Framed! Gold 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show 11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes? 12:10pm Dress to Impress 1:10pm Emmerdale 2:15pm You've Been Framed! Gold 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 6:50pm Take Me Out 8:00pm Totally You've Been Framed! Gold 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 9:30pm Superstore 10:00pm American Pie 12:00am Family Guy 12:30am Family Guy 1:00am American Dad! <i>Animated series about Stan Smith, a hapless CIA agent.</i>	7:00am 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 12:30pm The Darling Buds of May 1:35pm The Royal 2:40pm Heartbeat 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street 4:50pm On the Buses 5:20pm On the Buses 5:55pm Rising Damp 6:20pm George and Mildred 6:55pm Heartbeat 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote 9:00pm Rosemary and Thyme 10:00pm Rosemary and Thyme 11:00pm Foyle's War 1:10am Chicago	7:50am Pawn Stars 8:10am Pawn Stars 8:30am Ironside 9:30am Quincy, M.E. 10:35am Minder 11:35am The Sweeney 12:40pm The Professionals 1:40pm Ironside 2:40pm Quincy, M.E. 3:45pm Minder 4:50pm The Sweeney 5:55pm The Professionals 6:55pm The Car Chasers 7:25pm The Car Chasers 7:55pm Pawn Stars 8:25pm Pawn Stars 8:50pm Hornblower 11:00pm The Shawshank Redemption <i>Stirring drama starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, 1994.</i> 12:10am FYI Daily <i>Latest news from the world of entertainment.</i> 12:15am The Shawshank Redemption	7:10am Ultraviolet 8:40am The Dark Knight 11:15am Spider-Man 3 1:35pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 3:55pm Batman and Robin 6:00pm The Dark Knight 8:35pm Spider-Man 3 11:00pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 1:25am Superman Returns sky CINEMA COMEDY 7:30am The Monster Squad 9:00am Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous 11:00am Ordinary World 12:35pm The Money Pit 2:15pm Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping 3:50pm Table 19 5:25pm Shallow Hal 7:25pm Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping 9:00pm Table 19 10:35pm Shallow Hal 12:35am Superbad	7:00am Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions 9:15am Pele: Birth of a Legend 11:05am Get Out 12:55pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge <i>Swashbuckling high-seas adventure pitting Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow against undead pirate hunter Javier Bardem.</i> 3:15pm The Transfiguration 4:55pm Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions 7:10pm Pele: Birth of a Legend <i>Sports biopic charting the meteoric rise of Brazilian football great Pele.</i> 9:00pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge 11:10pm Get Out 1:00am The Transfiguration	8:00am Football Years 8:30am Football Countdowns 9:00am Football's Greatest 10:00am Scottish Cup Greatest Games 10:30am La Liga Greatest Games 11:00am La Liga Show 11:30am EFL Matters 12:00pm One2eleven 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games 1:00pm La Liga Show 1:30pm EFL Matters 2:00pm La Liga Icons 3:00pm La Liga Show. 3:30pm EFL Matters 4:00pm Football's Greatest 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games 6:00pm La Liga Preview 2017/18 7:00pm La Liga Icons 7:30pm EFL Matters 8:00pm Football 11:15pm EFL Greatest Games 11:45pm SPFL Greatest Games 12:00am La Liga Icons 12:15am La Liga Icons

OPEN 5 NIGHTS WED - SUN

Entertainment | Extensive Terrace | Fully Air Conditioned

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

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 All the latest local news.
11:25pm Weather The latest weather information
11:30pm Match of the Day 2

BBC TWO

3:00am This is BBC Two
7:15am A to Z of TV Gardening
7:35am The Instant Gardener Lifestyle series in which gardens in need of a makeover are visited by 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

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Only Connec A show in which connections must be made between seemingly unconnected things.
8:30pm University Challenge Cult student quiz show where two rival university teams battle it out to see who has the most superior intellects.
9:00pm The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve Documentary uncovering the stories behind the nation's favourite drink.
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 Documentary uncovering the stories behind the nation's favourite drink.

CHANNEL 4

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
5:50pm 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

CHANNEL 5

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 Home improvement series that works its magic on neglected homes.

4

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
1:30pm Melissa and Joey
2:00pm Melissa and Joey
2:30pm Info not available
4:30pm The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm 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

sky sports main event

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
The NFC Championship game from the NFL, as two sides look to book their place at Super Bowl LII.
4:00am Cricket New Zealand take on Pakistan in the first T20 in their series at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.

itv

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

itv2

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

itv3

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
9:30pm 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 Light-hearted drama series about a pair of gardening enthusiasts turned amateur sleuths.
4:40am Road to Avonlea
5:35am Road to Avonlea

itv4

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

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

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 The Waterboy
9:10am Year One
10:50am Mean Girls
12:40pm Fist Fight
2:25pm Billy Madison
4:05pm Little Man
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?

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

5:10am Aloys
7:00am In Dubious Battle
9:00am Being Charlie Forced into rehab by his parents, rebellious 18-year-old Charlie encounters another troubled youth, the beautiful Eva.
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

sky sports football

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

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

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

ET tweet home?

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



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

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-

cininos, 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?

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

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
 8:30pm Inside Out
 9:00pm EastEnders
 9:30pm Panorama
 10:00pm Silent Witness
 11:00pm BBC News
 11:30pm Regional News
 11:40pm Weather
 11:45pm Have I Got Old News for You
 12:15am New Tricks

BBC TWO

5:10am Holby City
 6:10am This is BBC Two
 7:00am Flog It! Trade Secrets
 7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown
 8:15am Antiques Road Trip
 9:00am Antiques Roadshow
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm 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 Only Connect
 9:30pm University Challenge
 10:00pm Surgeons: At the Edge of Life
 11:00pm Insert Name Here
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:10am Weather
 12:15am Millionaires' Ex-Wives Club
 1:15am Bowls
 2:15am Countryfile
 3:10am Big Cats

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
 8:30pm Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank
 9:00pm Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart *Documentary looking at the wildlife of the Scottish Highlands.*
 10:00pm The Mafia's Secret Bunkers
 11:00pm Info not available
 12:00am The Victorians
 1:00am Battle for the Himalayas: The Fight to Film Everest
 2:00pm Top of the Pops: 1981
 2:35am Top of the Pops: 1981
 3:10am Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart *Documentary looking at the wildlife of the Scottish Highlands.*

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
 10:35am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
 2:05pm Posh Pawn
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm Village of the Year
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Extreme Cakemakers
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well
 10:00pm The Undateables
 11:00pm First Dates Hotel
 12:05am Derry Girls

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 A Stranger with My Kids
 6:00pm 5 News
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News
 8:00pm Car Crash TV
 9:00pm Police Interceptors
 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
 11:00pm Secret Admirer
 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
 1:05am Celebrity Botched
 2:00am Up Bodies
 Super Casino

4

8:00am Coach Trip
 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 Info not available
 11:15pm Gogglebox
 12:15am The Big Bang Theory
 12:45am The Big Bang Theory
 1:15am Tattoo Fixers

sky sports main event

4:00am Cricket
 7:00am Cricket
 7:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017
 7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 11:00am Premier League Daily
 12:00pm Transfer Centre
 12:30pm Sky Sports Daily
 1:00pm SKY Sports News
 2:00pm SKY Sports News
 3:00pm SKY Sports News
 4:00pm Transfer Centre
 4:30pm SKY Sports News
 5:00pm SKY Sports News
 6:00pm SKY Sports News
 7:00pm SKY Sports News
 8:00pm Football
 12:00am Live ICC U19 Wc A match from the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.

itv

4:50am ITV Nightscreen
 6:05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 7:00am Good Morning Britain
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm Local News and Weather
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Coronation Street
 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
 9:30pm Coronation Street
 10:00pm Next of Kin
 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
 11:45pm Britain's Favourite Dogs: Top 100
 2:00am Jackpot247

itv2

9:50am Coronation Street
 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
 12:10pm Dress to Impress
 1:10pm Emmerdale
 1:45pm Coronation Street
 2:15pm Coronation Street
 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:35pm 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 Family Guy
 10:30pm Family Guy
 11:00pm American Dad!
 11:30pm American Dad!
 12:00am Family Guy

itv3

5:35am Road to Avonlea
 6:25am On the Buses
 6:55am ITV3 Nightscreen
 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
 6:25pm George and Mildred
 7:00pm Heartbeat
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Lewis
 11:00pm Foyle's War
 1:10am Inspector Morse
 3:10am ITV3 Nightscreen

itv4

4:00am Teleshopping
 7:00am The Chase
 7:50am Pawn Stars
 8:10am Pawn Stars
 8:30am Ironside
 9:30am Quincy, M.E.
 10:35am Minder
 11:35am The Sweeney
 12:40pm The Professionals
 1:45pm Ironside
 2:50pm Quincy, M.E.
 3:55pm Minder
 4:55pm The Sweeney
 6:00pm The Professionals
 7:00pm The Car Chasers
 7:35pm The Car Chasers
 8:00pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm River Monsters
 9:30pm River Monsters
 10:00pm River Monsters
 11:00pm The Bank Job
 12:05pm FYI Daily
 12:10am The Bank Job
 1:15am Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
 2:20am FYI Daily

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:25am Ghostbusters
 9:30am Logan
 11:50am Batman
 2:05pm Batman Returns
 4:20pm Superman Returns
 7:00pm Doctor Strange
 9:00pm Logan
 11:20pm Ghostbusters
 1:20am Last Action Hero
 3:35am Doctor Strange
 5:35am Superman IV: The Quest for Peace

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:40am Brewster's Millions
 7:25am Top Ten Show, the 2018
 7:45am Couples Retreat
 9:45am Rock the Kasbah
 11:40am How to be a Latin Lover
 1:40pm Table 19
 3:15pm The Bounty Hunter
 5:15pm The Banger Sisters
 7:00pm Nine to Five
 9:00pm Table 19
 10:35pm The Bounty Hunter
 12:35am High Anxiety

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
The stakes have never been higher and the rivalries never as fierce as Yugi Muto and rival Seto Kaiba return for another epic adventure.
 9:15am First Kill
 11:00am The Greatest Showman: Special
 11:30am Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge
 1:45pm In Dubious Battle
 3:45pm Kicks
 5:25pm Pele: Birth of a Legend
 7:15pm First Kill
 9:00pm Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge
 11:10pm Kicks
 12:45am A Cure for Wellness
 3:15am The Transfiguration
 5:00am Pele: Birth of a Legend

sky sports football

9:30am Football's Greatest Teams
 10:00am Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 10:30am La Liga Greatest Games
 11:00am La Liga 2017/18
 3:10pm La Liga Icons
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Ronaldo: A Sensational Season
 7:30pm La Liga Icons
 8:00pm Soccer A.M.
 8:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 8:55pm Live La Liga 2017/18
 11:00pm Soccer A.M.
 11:30pm Ronaldo: A Sensational Season
 12:00am La Liga Icons

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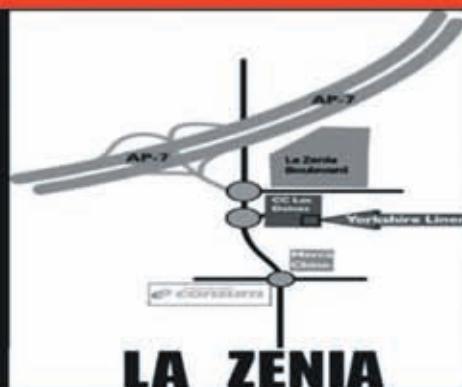
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Wedding Day Winners, I don't think so!

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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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 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, 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!

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Email: mikesenker@gmail.com.

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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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.

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

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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.

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

600 leaks identified in Malaga over eight months

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

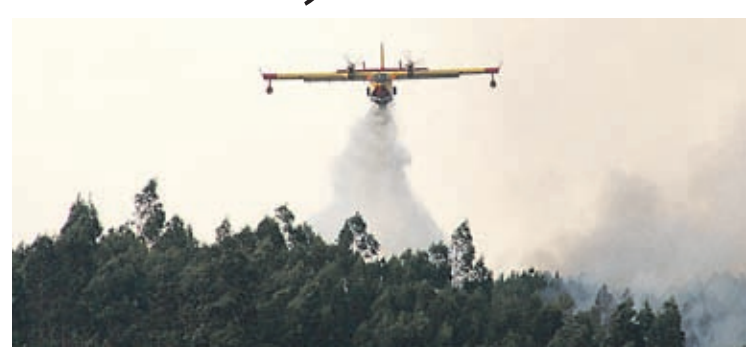
be done and the first thing must be introducing smart meters across all cities and towns in Spain.

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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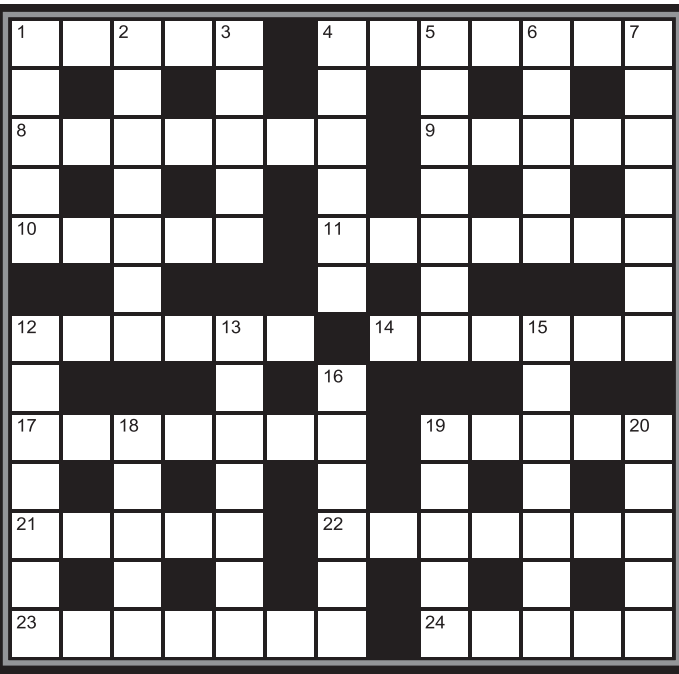
Cryptic

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

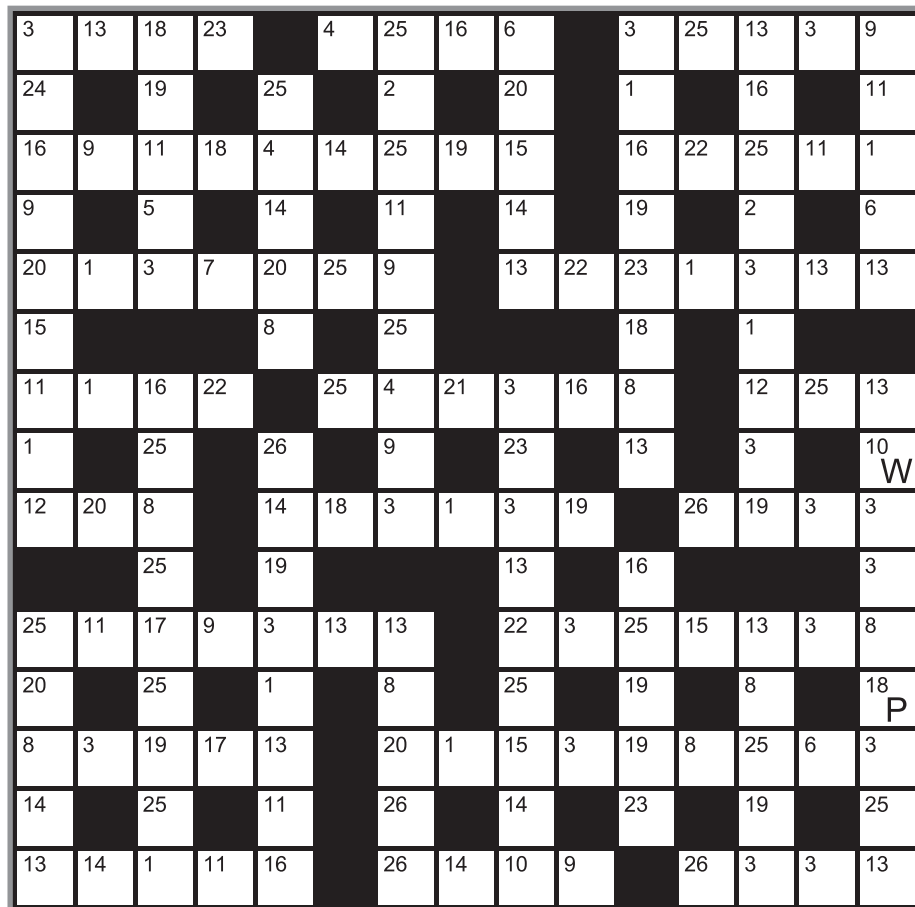
- 1 Chooses heavy tools (5)
- 2 Tape Dad modified (7)
- 3 Bird swimming in Rhone (5)
- 4 Entertainment that's a nice change with mother (6)
- 5 Steal the show from the back of the theatre (7)
- 6 A hospital room success symbol



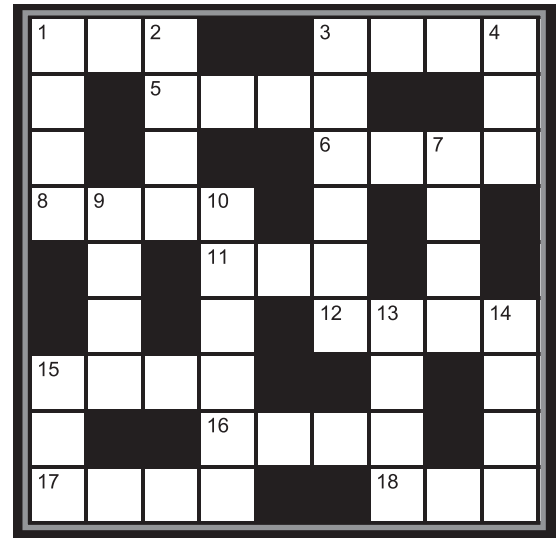
- (5)
- 7 Having red nose, turned back (7)
- 12 There's no hope of being praised, anyhow (7)
- 13 Water lost, lake restored over time (7)
- 15 Iced liquid? Could be great eclair (7)
- 16 Ask Einstein to include Hanks (6)
- 18 Starting tax returns every night, daft craze (5)
- 19 Mistakes made on the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

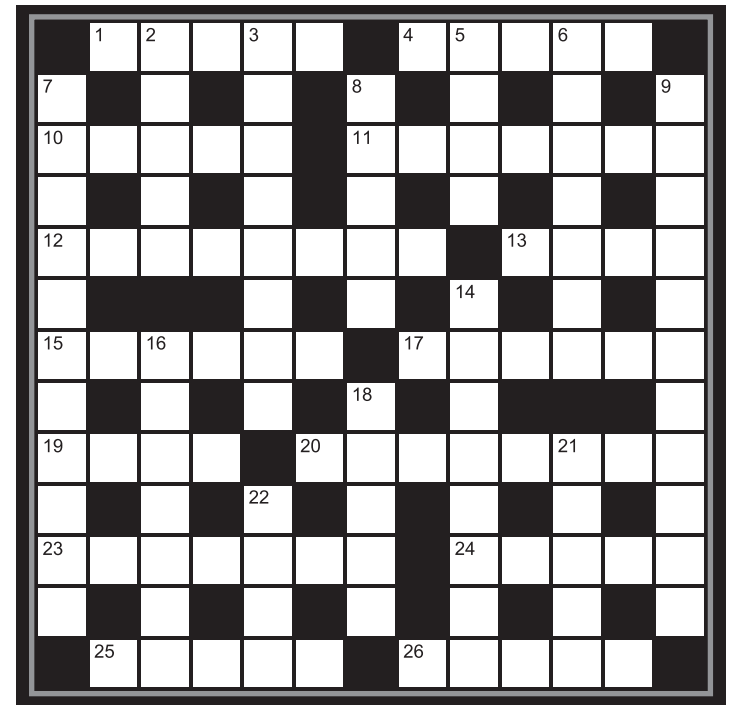
Down

- 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

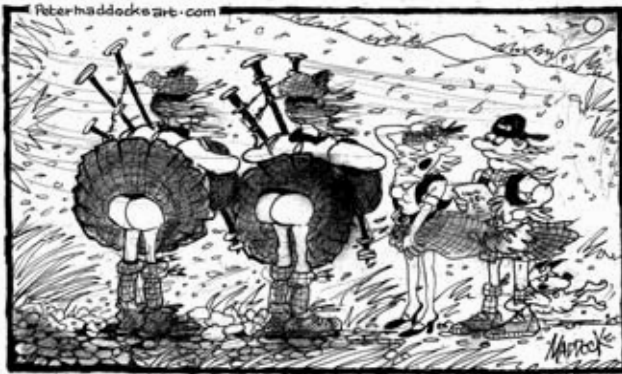
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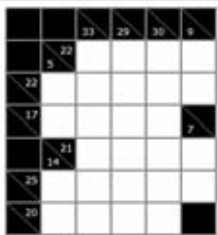
MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' IF THE WIND IS THIS BAD ON BURNS NIGHT, KEEP THE PIPERS INDOORS. '

Kakuro

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



Nonagram

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



TARGET:

- Average: 12
- Very good: 25
- Good: 17
- Excellent: 32

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

alar aria aril barn birr bran lair liar lira rail rain rani rial bairn brail brain briar naira LIBRARIAN

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 East, 3 Preacher, 9 Tecnico, 10 Carro, 11 Ahora, 12 Easier, 14 Clavos, 16 Statue, 19 Wallet, 21 Beers, 24 Arrow, 25 Enemygo, 26 Handsome, 27 Noon.

Down:

- 1 Entrance, 2 Sacro, 4 Reopen, 5 Arcos, 6 Harvest, 7 Roof, 8 Higado, 13 Teaspoon, 15 Azafran, 17 Tables, 18 Stream, 20 Lawns, 22 Erizo, 23 Bath.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Core, 3 Calypsos, 8 Message, 9 China, 10 Trite, 11 Descent, 12 Regret, 13 Waster, 16 Vestige, 18 Tyrol, 20 Rolls, 21 Inexact, 22 Elevated, 23 Beds.

Down:

- 1 Comet, 2 Risking, 4 Agenda, 5 Swine, 6 Scatter, 7 Daredevils, 9 Casualties, 12 Reverse, 14 Terrace, 15 Recite, 17 Solve, 19 Lotus.

QUICK

Across:

- 2/18 Rip off, 5 Dace, 6 Lead, 7 Ale, 8 Dell, 10 Asia, 13 Pail, 16 Aids, 19 Bars, 20 Apex, 21 Ear.

Down:

- 1 Bare, 2 Real, 3 Plea, 4 Sari, 8 Dip, 9 Lei, 11 Ski, 12 Ass, 14 Ajar, 15 Lose, 16 Afar, 17 Deep.

CODE BREAKER

1	N	Y	X	G	M	W	F	C	U	E	H	D	Q
14	P	O	J	S	R	V	B	Z	K	T	A	I	L

KAKURO



LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday January 13



IRISH LOTTO

Saturday January 13



EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday January 09



Friday January 12



EL MILLON: VZT29699

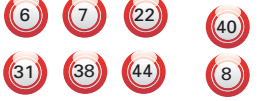
LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday January 11



JOKER: 4 807 239

Saturday January 13



JOKER: 5 053

Sunday January 14



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

A feeling that you should totally commit yourself to something or someone this week should be avoided. You will come up against a brick wall if a situation is forced. Time is all that is required to see things change for the better.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

A situation could become complicated if you do not plan ahead. With a little thought and planning, matters can be kept simple which is always desirable. Be choosy about the company you keep because a bad character could taint by association.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

There may not be enough time to do everything you want, so why can't you just reorganise your life so there is? Not as easy as it sounds, Pisces, unless you learn the magic word: no. Know your limits and stick to them.



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

A lost cause tries to demand your attention, but you must try to see the situation for what it is. Sentimentality should not come into business or be allowed to upset your home life. What is past should remain so, do not torture yourself. Bring your mind and spirits up by looking forward to summer holidays.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Extra pressures at work leave you feeling less than energetic. Check on your health and don't go overboard with the physical activities. Set out to become more active, socially, and maximise on relaxation. With an eye to the summer and holidays, start planning a getaway. Who will you take with you?



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Ruts are awful things to get into but even more difficult to get out of. Being cosy is one thing, but getting bogged down, mentally and physically, is another. All you need is to keep your optimism alive and use your imagination. Perhaps you are spending too much time with an older person or someone who has a dim outlook on life.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Social activities are likely to change at the last minute. If energy levels are not as high as normal, use this week for planning.

With holidays in mind, the summer seems far away but maybe a weekend trip will fill the gap. Spending time with an old friend reminds you of how things used to be.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Are you suffering from winter blues? Although it is a common feeling at this time of the year, keep optimistic. There is so much to look forward to, in fact, that you are spoiled for choice. Although your social life may be in a bit of a rut, some sparkling moves from you will get things moving. Bring people together for a little party with music and good wine.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Although health should be good, energy may be a little low. A bit of a mystery surrounds a close friend and your opinion may be sought.

Hold fire until all the facts are known and you are sure a person has been honest with you because someone may try to keep you in the dark to get the right answer.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Recent events have perhaps left a gap in your social life that is hard to fill. Patience is needed because it would be foolish to rush into something new if your heart is involved. Concentrating on work and other people will alleviate any loneliness.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

The temptation to run round like a headless chicken is strong this week. There seem to be so many demands on your time that things become confusing. Be sure you are getting enough rest because this time of the year can be fraught for you.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

A loss of patience with a situation shows this week but is not to your advantage. Whatever you feel, be subtle in your approach. Try to see your position clearly and the result will be that you realise you have more control than you thought. Seeking advice while being honest and telling the full story serves best.

QUIZ: ENDS IN X


- According to Greek mythology, what was the name of the river in Hades across which Charon carried dead souls?
- Also called varicella, which infectious disease is caused by the herpes zoster virus and mainly affects children?
- Are You Experienced (1967), Axis: Bold as Love (1967) and Electric Ladyland (1968) were all UK Top Five hit albums by which iconic American rock guitarist/ singer?
- Born on July 31, 1974, which English actress is best known for her role as Dr. Nikki Alexander on BBC crime drama Silent Witness?
- Derived from the French for 'sweet note', what two word name is often given to a personal letter to a loved one expressing affection?
- In humans and some other mammals, what is the name of the tube-shaped sac attached to and opening into the

- lower end of the large intestine?
- What is the trade name of the neurotoxin prepared from botulin that is used medically to treat certain muscular conditions and cosmetically to remove wrinkles by temporarily paralysing facial muscles?
- What was the name of the Belgian instrument maker who invented the saxophone in 1840?
- Which Dutch football team won the European Cup (Champions League) in 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1994-95?
- Which is the northernmost of the five boroughs of New York City?
Not a lot of people know that... Ceefax was the world's first teletext information service. It was started by the BBC in 1974 and ended on October 23, 2012, in line with the digital switchover being completed in Northern Ireland.

Answers:

- Answers:**
- STYX, 2. CHICKEN POX, 3. JIMI HENDRIX, 4. EMILIA FOX, 5. BILLET DOUX, 6. APPENDIX, 7. BOTOX, 8. ADOLPHE SAX, 9. AJAX (Amsterdamsche Football Club Ajax), 10. THE BRONX

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Dental implants: new low prices and a free consultation

IF you are interested in getting a dental implant but are put off by the price and fear of what's involved, then a free dental implant consultation at the Medicare Dental Implant Centre in Benijofar could be just the thing for you.

Run by experienced implant surgeon, Dr Daniel Oliveros Soria, Medicare Implant Centre offers quality implants at competitive prices.

Dental implants at Medicare currently start from just €995 for a single tooth implant, which includes the implant and high quality prosthetic tooth. The clinic has recently been able to reduce costs in order to lower the price, making implants more accessible than ever.

Senior dentist at Medicare, Timothy Holt, said: "Implants are very often the best option for patients needing tooth replacement. They look and perform just like the real tooth, help prevent gum erosion and do not damage adjacent teeth in the way that crowns and bridges do: "we are pleased to be able to offer patients a lower price to make it possible for more people to consider this option."



IMPLANTS: Can be the best option.

After price, the next biggest obstacle to getting a tooth implant is fear.

People perceive it to be a much bigger procedure than other dental treatments and worry about pain. However, when expertly performed and when pain is properly managed, the procedure should not be too uncomfortable.

One Medicare patient, Markus, described his implant surgery as "practically pain free" and, as Markus had all his teeth out to be replaced by implants that is quite an achievement. He added that the treatment was "without complications, and even pleasant considering the circumstances. My fears of pain were unnecessary. Daniel performed excellent treatment and was meticulously exact. The other dentistry staff were friendly, helpful and explained everything clearly."

Having an implant is not really much of an ordeal, but the fear and not knowing what to expect can make it seem worse than it is. That is why one of our Medicare's experienced British dental nurses will always be on hand to calm patient's fears and smooth the process.

Plus, as well as being in the safe and very experienced hands of surgeon Daniel, one of Medicare's other dentists will be there to reassure and explain things if needed.

Book a free consultation to learn more about dental implants at Medicare and find out if you

are a suitable candidate for the surgery. Call 966 860 258 or email: doctors@medcarespain.com.

Please note the price of €995 is for a basic implant, without complications. If you require extra treatment, such as bone grafting, the price will be higher. Individual needs can be investigated at a free consultation.

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Tired all the time?

FEELING TIRED:
 Could be down to a number of factors.

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.

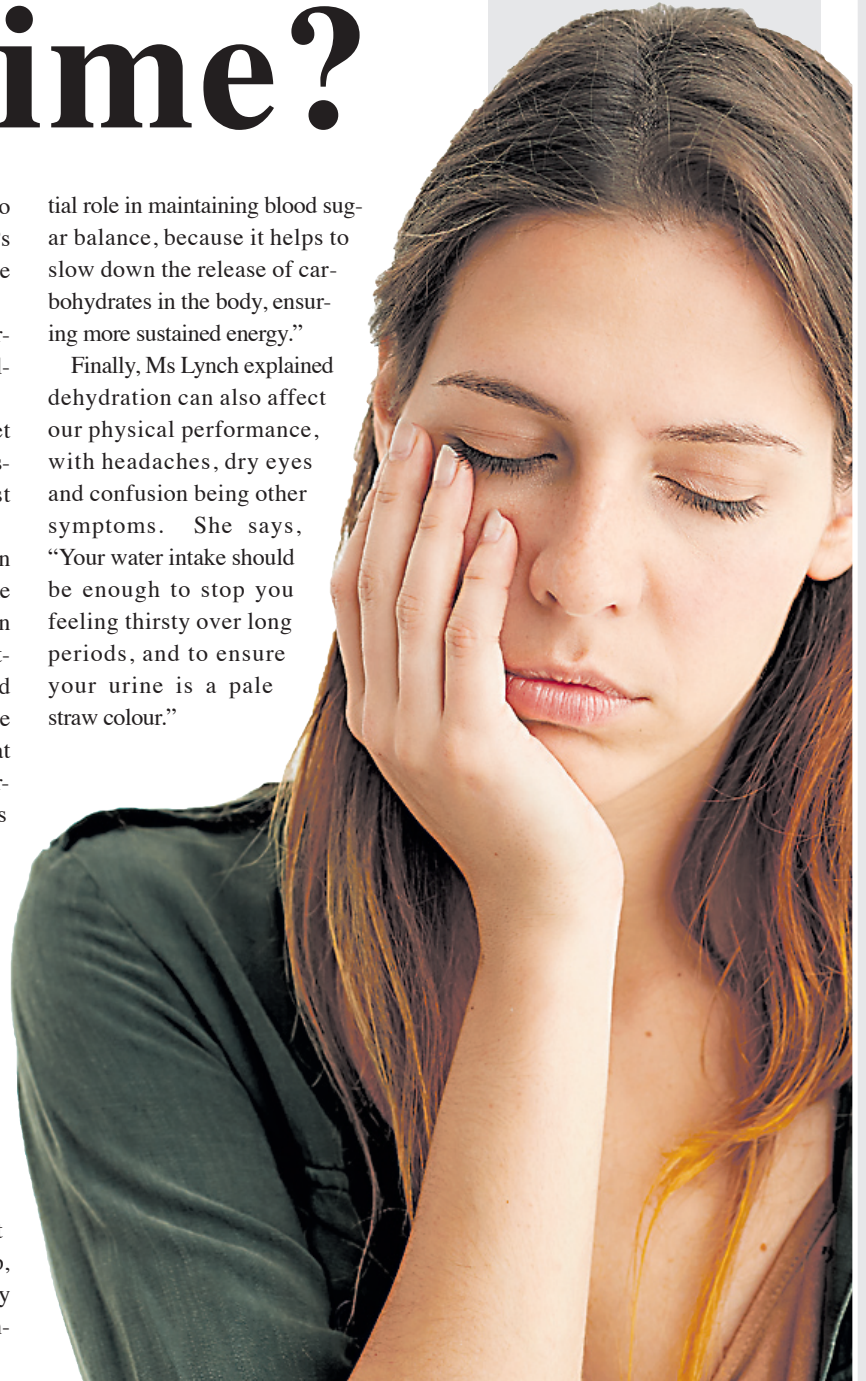
Ms Lynch spoke to publication Get the Gloss, listing the most common mistakes people make in trying to boost their energy.

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 essen-

tial 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."



Do you have 'stress belly'?

AFTER the holidays we can all end up with a few extra pounds around our middle. But if you always seem to have difficulty shedding excess weight around your middle, the cause could be stress.

A health expert, Jackie Wicks, has claimed the stress hormone cortisol could be to blame for a larger midsection, and says dieting alone may not be enough to solve the problem.

Speaking to Healthista, Wicks explained cortisol

can increase the levels of fat stored around the belly if stress levels are too high over an extended period.

She says this forms a particularly harmful type of fat 'visceral fat' to form around our major organs leading to increased risk of heart disease, cancer and stroke.

Research carried out by University College London back her claims, finding people with higher cortisol levels generally had a higher body mass index and larger waists than those

with lower levels.

Signs you are suffering from 'stress belly' include feeling hungry throughout the day, even when you have finished eating, feeling overwhelmed or unable to cope, and wanting to eat to excess after exercise.

The good news is that if your stomach fat is linked to a cortisol imbalance, it may be simpler to control than excessive calorie counting and strenuous exercise. Wicks says eating nutrient rich foods, plus some small amounts of

'naughty' foods like chocolate or bacon, can be more effective at reducing cortisol levels than dieting.

She recommends walking around 10,000 steps (or about half an hour) a day to boost levels of feel-good chemicals like serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine in the brain, reducing stress levels.

Finally, it is important to keep stress at bay with regular hot baths using aromatherapy oils, as well as trying to block out negative thoughts.



TURMERIC: May have surprising health benefits.

WE all know we should eat a balanced diet, but between work, children and other responsibilities we sometimes fall short.

And while some of us may turn to vitamin supplements to fill in the blanks, scientists are conflicted about whether they are doing much beyond giving us 'expensive pee.' One publication has spoken to several experts to get their opinion on which are really worth bothering with.

Simon Bishop, a lecturer in primary care and public health at the University of Bangor,

From a to z

Wales, thinks turmeric could provide impressive health benefits.

He said it is, "used as a traditional remedy in many parts of Asia, to reduce inflammation and help wounds heal." Now, mounting evidence suggests that curcumin, a substance in turmeric, may also help to protect against several diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular disease, dementia and some cancers."

Meanwhile, professor of physiology at Liverpool's John Moores University, Graeme Close, believes Vitamin D could be more important than previously thought and may be worth taking separately. He said, "We believe vitamin D deficiencies can result in a less efficient immune system, impaired muscle function and regeneration, and even depression. Vitamin D is one of the cheapest supplements available."



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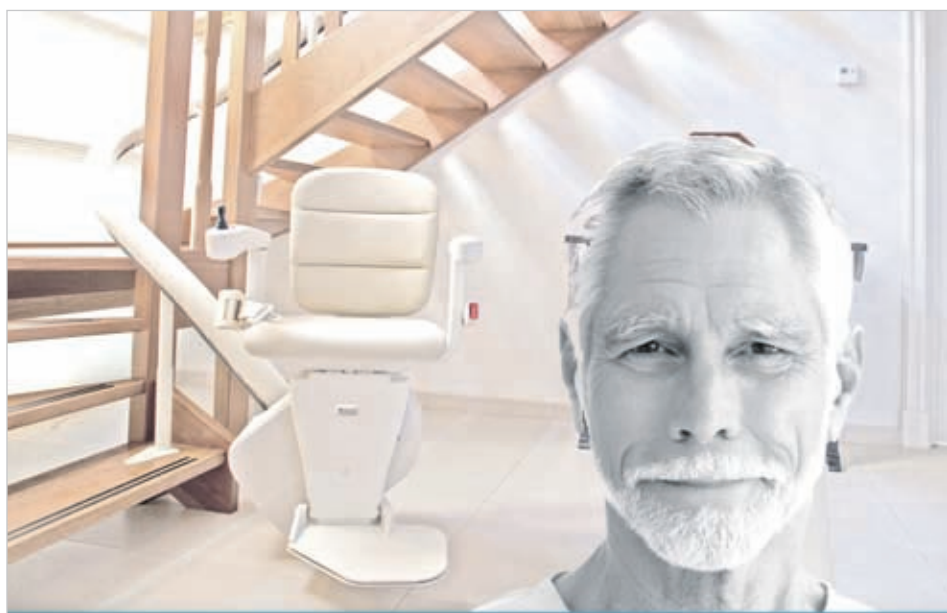












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Not so minty fresh?

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."



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

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

Broccoli yoghurt anyone?

IT seems that with each passing week there is another food labelled as either causing or curing cancer.

And this week researchers are claiming a superfood yoghurt could help prevent or treat colon cancer.

The team from Singapore found a yoghurt made from broccoli killed 75 per cent of tumours in mice. They claim the effect is caused by the combination of a chemical found in broccoli named Sulforane and probiotics found in yoghurt. The group explained the result is a "disease busting formula."

Professor Matthew Chang from the National University of Singapore said, "one exciting aspect of our strategy is that it just capitalises on our lifestyle, potentially transforming our normal diet into a sustainable, low-cost therapeutic regimen."

Professor Chang carried out the research alongside Dr Chun-Loong Ho using a form of E.coli naturally found in the gut and developed it into a probiotic. The result secretes an enzyme onto bowel cancer cells and converts Sulforane into a cancer-fighting chemical. In the study, not only did the combination kill three quarters of the tumours found in mice, it was found the remaining tumours were almost three times



SOME YOGHURTS: May help prevent cancer.

smaller than in those not fed the concoction. Dr Ho explained, "mothers are right after all, eating vegetables is important."

Colon cancer is the third most common cancer in the US and the second biggest killer behind cancer-related deaths. The Centres for Disease Control say red meat and alcohol consumption, obesity, smoking and sedentary lifestyles increase the risk of developing the disease.

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Ask the Optician: Ski Eye Care

Lisa James, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Guardamar

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.

■ **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

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

■ **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.

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

Award-winning singer Rozalen

SOCIAL activist and singer-songwriter Rozalen who has released three albums will be playing two gigs in Alicante.

She has recently returned from South America and is currently touring around Spain and will be at the Teatro Principal in Alicante on Thursday January 25 and the following Friday.

Having studied music at college, this talented award-winning singer and guitarist has collaborated with a num-

ber of popular Spanish artists and is particularly respected for her representation for charities involved in helping the sick or disadvantaged.

Alert to the need to be as inclusive as possible, she is generally accompanied by a specialist in sign language to interpret her songs for those who are deaf.

Tickets for the performances cost from €28 to €45 and can be obtained from the theatre box office.



Photo Credit: splash.rozalen.org

TALENTED: Rozalen trying to perform.



Photo Credit: http://iflinsk.ru

CLASSIC: The Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra.

Russian and Spanish musicians join forces

RUSSIA has become a major exporter of top class classical music and next Tuesday, the Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing in Murcia.

Formed at the height of the Cold War in 1956 this Siberian collective hails from the third most populous city in Russia as Novosibirsk has a population of almost 1.5 million.

Performing Ivan the Terrible which was originally composed by Sergei Prokofiev for the film of the same name directed by Sergei Eisenstein during the Second World War the orchestra will

be accompanied by the Bilbao Choral Society which was founded in 1886.

Different oratorios have been added to the music over the years since the film first appeared and this presentation promises to be an exciting collaboration between one of Russia's most accomplished philharmonic orchestras and an exceptional choir.

Starting at 8pm, tickets for the performance at Auditorio y Centro de Congresos Victor Villegas cost from €27.20 to €36.30 and can be purchased online at www.bacantix.com.

Free pork for visitors

IN honour of the feast day of San Anton, patron saint of animals, the town of La Mata will host its 18th International Day of the Pig on Sunday from noon.

There will be a number of barbecues set up in the Plaza de Encarnacion Puchol and last year, local residents handed out 1,500 kilos of cooked pork, 150 kilos of bread, 200 kilos of celery, 125 litres of wine and 10 barrels of beer.

All visitors are offered a tasty snack and drink free of charge until it runs out and last year more than 2,000 people attended the fiesta.

There will be a raffle where appropriately a number of Jamons (hams) are the prizes and the receipts from ticket sales will be held to be used to purchase food and drink for next year's fiesta.

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Advertising feature

Some major celebrations at the Punjabi Palace restaurants

THERE are three well-loved modern Punjabi Palace restaurants in La Murada, Los Montesinos and La Marquesa (Quesada) and they are getting ready for Valentine's Day.

There is always a rush for tables for two on February 14 (which this year falls on a Wednesday) so it is never too early to make a booking especially as the Punjabi Palace branches in Los Montesinos (966 720 383) and Quesada (966 714 963) are offering a superb set meal for two at the very reasonable price of €42.95 per couple with the meal served from 7pm to 11pm.

You will be greeted with welcome drinks, poppadoms and chutney, a special platter for two, any curry dish with rice or naan bread followed by coffee and ice cream. If that isn't enough each couple will receive a bottle of special red



Just some of the mouth-watering food on offer.

wine and can then enjoy dancing to a DJ and even join in with the karaoke.

There are some other special dates to keep in mind as Thursday March 15 sees the 10th birthday of the Los Montesinos restaurant and

the following month, Thursday April 12 sees the Quesada restaurant celebrate its fourth anniversary, so keep an eye out on the Facebook pages to see what special plans are being hatched and

whether the fabulous Bollywood dancers will make a welcome appearance.

Each restaurant is open seven days a week from noon to midnight (with a break after lunch) and reviews on TripAdvisor indicate how good these three restaurants really are.

There is a very reasonably priced menu del dia which is served between noon and 3pm and generally includes a lamb or chicken dish, rice, poppadom and naan bread plus a dessert or coffee and a complimentary drink.

All of the Punjabi Palace restaurants are family friendly and welcome younger diners who will have the chance to learn about the

very special spices and flavours that go into making the various curries on offer.

If the wide menu choice is a little daunting, the friendly, award-winning front of house staff are always on hand to advise and recommend dishes and prepare dishes to your taste and preference.

If you can't spare the time to sit and eat, there is of course also the option of ordering a takeaway meal and if you spend more than €20 you will be offered a free bottle of wine to complement your delicious and tasty curry selection.

*Punjabi Palace - Los Montesinos
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Visit Facebook Punjabi-palace*

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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Costa Blanca welcomes the 'King of Pop'

ONE of the most authentic of the Michael Jackson tribute shows, I Want U Back will be performed at the Auditorio y Centro de Congresos Victor Villegas in Murcia.

It is now eight years since the 'King of Pop' died and his music and songs continue to appeal to fans of all ages, perhaps because he was able to forge a bond between soul, R'n'b, pop and rock which attracted so many followers.

The show boasts an exceptional live band which easily masters all of the different styles that he was famous for and brings together the incredible voice of Dabeat (David Ortigosa) and the haunting MJ look alike SacMJJ with a number of great dancers to present this two hour spectacular.

The Spanish cast includes an exceptional band supported by dancers Robert González, Anna Coll, Tania Simon and Alex Manga. All of the greatest hits and dance routines will be performed at each of the shows with tickets available from the box office and www.bacantix.com.

Friday February 2 at 9pm costing €15, €20, €25 and €30



Photo Credit: I Want U Back/Facebook

TOP OF THE POPS: Some of the performers on stage.

Saturday February 3 at 6pm and 9pm costing, €20, €25, €30 and €35	€15, €19 and €25
Sunday February 4 at 5pm costing €20, €25, €30 and €35	Friday February 9 at 8.30pm costing €17, €23 and €27
Then, the show moves on to the Teatro Principal de Alicante running from February 8 to 11.	Saturday February 10 at 6pm and 9pm costing €17, €23 and €27
Thursday February 8 at 8.30pm costing	Sunday February 11 at 7.30pm costing €17, €23 and €27

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Full steam ahead

FOR the young and young at heart, the second Sunday of each month sees a model train event in Torrellano.

The Friends of the Railways Association arrange for a miniature steam train to travel around a small track and visitors are invited to enjoy a ride on the model train if they wish.

Entry to the railway museum which has a collection of train associated memorabilia is €1.50 and it's a further €1.50 to enjoy a ride.

Sunday opening during the winter months is 10.30am to 1.30pm and otherwise, the museum which is run by volunteers, is only open on Saturdays from 4pm to 8pm with no train rides.

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Nutcracker comes to Cartagena

BASED on a story entitled The Nutcracker and the Mouse King published in 1816, classical composer Tchaikovsky composed his famous ballet music in 1892.

Now this, one of his most famous ballets will be performed in Cartagena on Saturday January 27 at the Auditorio El Batel by the Russian Classical Ballet troupe.

Formed in Moscow in 2005, this touring company which has recruited some of the best dancers in Russia has the aim of 'Preserving the tradition of classical Russian Ballet.'

Principal dancers Eugeniya Bespalova and Oleg Saltcev have performed this fabulous ballet around the world and the troupe has toured much of Europe as well as Australia, China and New Zealand.

This ballet tells the story of



Photo Credit: Russian Classical Ballet Facebook

DANCING QUEEN: A scene from the Nutcracker.

a girl who dreams of a Prince - The Nutcracker. In a fierce battle against the King of the Mice, the Nutcracker is in grave danger and Clara, overcoming her own fears, enters this battle and throws her little shoe, annihilating the terrible creature and breaking the spell so that the Nutcracker transforms into a dazzling Prince.

The Nutcracker brings

Clara to his kingdom, the Kingdom of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy shares joy and treats with all children who, like Clara, still have the ability to dream.

With the performance starting at 9.30pm, tickets cost from €18 to €35 from the Auditorium box office with a limited number of discounted tickets available for qualifying residents.

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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: Patydearie'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.

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Travel

A city of variety

ELCHE - and its predecessor, La Alcudia, was settled by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Moors. So it is safe to say that the city has some history.

But the city offers far more than museums - in fact, part of its appeal is its variety.

The coastal location provides it the obligatory beach attraction but there are cultural options aplenty for those looking for a more sophisticated experience.

Perhaps the most notable is the Basilica of Santa Maria - an impressive, Arabic-looking structure well worth a visit. Another must for architecture is the Torre de la Calahorra.

If greenery is your thing then the Palm Grove of Elche should be right up your garden path, having been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.



PALM GROVE: A Unesco World Heritage Site.

Twinned with six towns - including Toulouse in France - Elche is within striking distance of Alicante, for those who want the allure of one of Spain's largest cities.

But Elche should be easily big enough for all travel needs and boasts a number of top restaurants and hotels.

The local football team, Elche CF, were in the top tier of Spanish football until last year, but could make a return to La Liga in the coming seasons - giving football fans the chance to see giants like Real Madrid or Barcelona in quaint surroundings.

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 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.

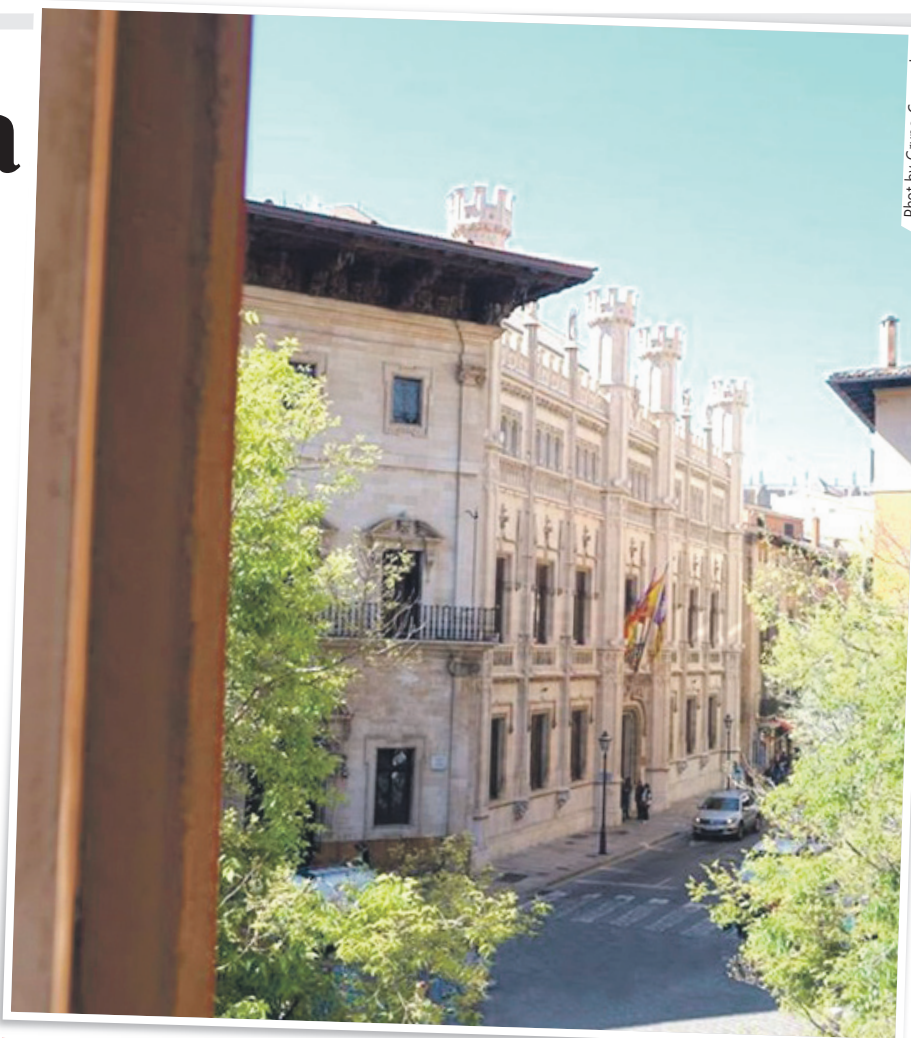


Photo by Grupo Cappuccino

MAMA MIA: The luxurious new hotel to be opened by Grupo Cappuccino.

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Swift work for Taylor

Taylor Wimpey hails strong business for 2017

LEADING housebuilder Taylor Wimpey has announced that 2017 has been an excellent year, and that the Spanish market is in robust health.

In their trading statement the company reported continued growth, with a total order book of 329 homes.

In fact December 2017 saw the sixth consecutive month of growth in sales, despite Brexit uncertainty.

Spain has been a favoured second home destination for international buyers for many years, and 32 nationalities bought with Taylor Wimpey Espana last year, with German buyers leading the way.



Photo by Taylor Wimpey

SITTING PRETTY: Taylor Wimpey is opening a new development in the Costa Blanca.

The housebuilder, which celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2018, has seen a 12 per cent increase in sales on 2016, with the operating profit significantly improved as a result.

“The order book increase shows that even in challenging environments, the right property in Spain is still very much in demand,” says Marc Pritchard, Sales and Managing Director.

“Spain really does offer everything that a second homeowner wishes for: sunshine, spacious properties in traditional Mediterranean styles, affordable flights, beautiful beaches - it’s all here. With record levels of

tourists coming to Spain last year, we expect even greater demand for our homes in 2018.”

The holiday hotspot of Costa Blanca has been a particular favourite, with reservations for houses in the area increasing by 50 per cent.

Indeed Taylor Wimpey is ready to provide a range of new homes across the ‘White Coast,’ beginning with new development Arenal Dream.

For more information contact Taylor Wimpey on 0800 012 1020 or visit www.taylorwimpeyspain.com. Residents outside of the UK will need to call +34 971 706 972.



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Phot by Pixabay

BIT OF ALRIGHT: Bitcoin is venturing into property.

Bitcoin hits home

Digital currency revolution enters Spain's property market

IN a sign of the times, for the first time ever a Spanish real estate property has been put on the market priced only in Bitcoins.

Bitcoin, a decentralised global cryptocurrency, is not financed by a central bank or individual administrator.

Despite this, the peer-to-peer electronic cash system has seen a huge increase in its value in a short space of time.

The residence has been put on the market by the Barcelona based real-estate company Mister Piso. Victor Monreal, its Executive Director, explains that Bitcoin enables “a much speedier and effective transaction than the traditional payment method.”

He believes that normal payment “is managed by banks engaged in financial intermediation and subject to excessive and unnecessary regulation,” reported EFE.

The apartment is located in Tarragona’s central Plaza Imperial, and it was its owner who decided that payment would be exclusively in Bitcoins.

The property has gone on the market for 40 Bitcoins, the equivalent of €487,775 according to Wednesday’s BTC virtual exchange rate.

If a potential buyer does not have Bitcoins, he/she will be directed to one of the many exchanges on the internet.

Bitcoin transactions take place between users directly, are verified by the use of cryptography, and are recorded in a publicly distributed ledger called a ‘Blockchain.’



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Advertising feature

Neater Heater stops cold winters spoiling your dream



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.

"Our website will let you know all about our 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."

NEATER HEATER DISTRIBUTORS: COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

BENIJOFAR: Vincent Real Estate. Tel. 966 712 440

BLUE LAGOON: The Electrical Shop (Euronics). Tel. 966 188 170

MURCIA PROVINCE: Nigel and Anne home inspections Tel. 660 893 861

SOUTH TORREVIEJA: For home inspections call Edmund. Tel. 693 594 270

Heaters also available for purchase at our online shop with free home delivery.
WWW.NEATERHEATER.ES or
Tel. 634 312 171

The scent of lavender

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 it is ideal for the Spanish climate.

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. 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 over-

watering. Once established lavender needs very little watering except during prolonged dry periods or when in pots.

They tolerate full summer sun but can have partial shape 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.



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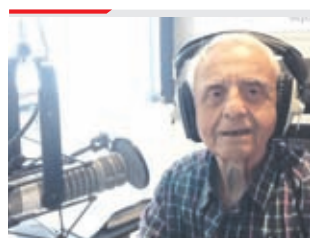
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Over the weeks a few people have called to ask me a question



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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.

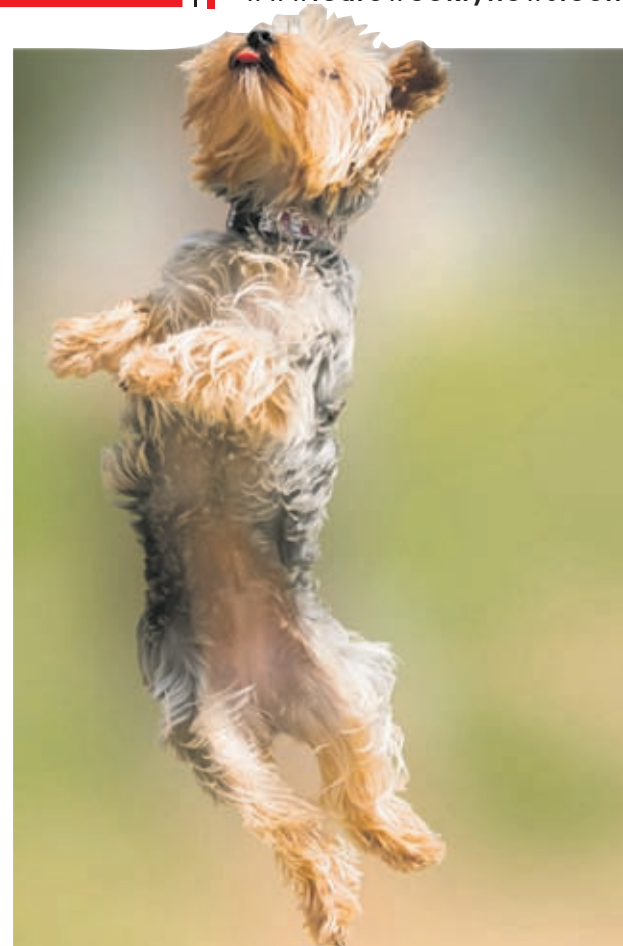
A dog is a scavenger, will eat any faeces they consider has not been digested, so in fact it is food to them and

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.

Fleur

Fleur is a very affectionate young lady, about 1 year old. She was found in Almoradi with her 3 sisters and mother and she is the only one left for adoption. Fleur is fine with other cats but would love a home where she can get lots of attention.

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600 84 54 20 www.k9club.es



Pets in Spain

Polly is a 13 week old kitten and would love to find a forever home before Christmas. She has been in a foster home since she was 5 weeks old, Polly is a confident kitten who loves cuddles and is very playful.

Call 645 469 253

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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

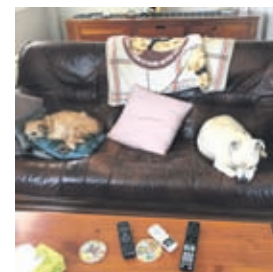
ONE way to find checked house-sitters and pet-sitters is by joining the HouseSitMatch network as a 'homeowner.'

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, TORREVIEJA Calle Urbano Arregui, 23, Torrevieja 03185, Alicante Evangelical non-denominational church. All nationalities welcome. Sunday service 11.00 a.m.; Sunday school; Prayer meetings; craft and computer clubs. Ladies Bible Study: Thursday 11.00 a.m. Church Bible Study: Thursday 1.30 p.m. House groups in Torrevieja, La Siesta, La Zenia - Contact 966 752 543 / 617 215 463. For other church matters Phone: 966 799 273 / 966 752 543 / 617 215 463 www.icatorrevieja.org (95476)

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

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association Branch #1359 Costa Blanca. The Branch meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the El Paraiso Restaurant located close to the Carrefour Supermarket in Torrevieja. The meeting starts at 1430 hrs. You do not have to be an ex-member of the RAF to join this friendly Association, which supports the welfare of the RAF family and provides a social hub for ex RAF members and their friends. For further information about the Association and its activities please contact the Chairman on 692 508 916 or the Welfare Officer on 615 048 892 or visit our website: www.rafa.org.uk/costa-blanca (238593)

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

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The successful sales candidate will have a proven track record and an outgoing personality, must speak and write excellent English and Spanish as you will be dealing with both British and Spanish owned property transactions. In addition, another language eg French, Dutch or Russian would be an advantage.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

ROOMY: The Ford Ka+ has more space than the earlier Ka.



Ford Ka + Zetec

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 quality 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 different 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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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 Guardiola.

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



UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

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

Guardiola gives Pep talk to underdogs

Crystal Palace on 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

Premier 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 Swansea 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 Jurgen Klopp is linked with signing Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos, 21, in the transfer window.

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson

JACK HARPER joined Malaga CF a year ago this month in a move from Brighton, missing out on the Seagulls promotion to the Premier League last season.

"I had a complicated injury when I joined Brighton and I wasn't sure how long I was going to be out at the time," said Harper.

Harper, 21, a former Scottish youth international who signed a two-year contract deal with Malaga CF, was promoted to the first-team ahead of the 2017-18 La Liga season.

Harper has been absent in under fire Michel's struggling first team squad, with La Liga relegation worries, after a poor campaign, being in Malaguista coach, Manel Ruan's reserves.

Harper made history last February - when becoming the first Scot to score a hat-trick in Spanish football for 107 years - in Atletico Malagueno's game against Alhaurin de la Torre.

Harper became the first Scot to net a hat-trick in Spanish football since Glaswegian George Pattullo netted 41 goals in 20 games for Barcelona in 1910.

Harper, a prodigy of Real Madrid's youth as a teenager, prior to their C team being disbanded,

Jack awaits Scottish dream



AMBITIONS: Harper in action for the Malaga academy.

said: "I grew up as a Spanish boy, and played at Fuengirola.

"Madrid then showed an interest. I was close to a move to Sevilla - Madrid intercepted - I couldn't say no."

Hit with injury during his spell at the Bernabeu, Harper's woes continued at Brighton, with injury keeping him on the sidelines.

Brighton play Chelsea at the weekend and Seagulls boss Chris Hughton said: "Jack arrived at Brighton with an injury - which initially didn't help - it took him a while to get over that."

Having returned to his hometown club Malaga CF last January, Harper starred in the Atletico Malagueno team with eye-catching displays in the Spanish fourth tier.

Harper's progress was kept on radar in Scotland, with the national side selecting him in Scotland's under-21 squad.

Scotland under 21 manager Scott Gemmill said: "Since going back to Malaga in January, he has been in such good form."

Malaga-born Harper, whose parents are Scottish, called up to the Scotland U21 squad in March, said: "Everyone was really kind to me at Brighton."

Harper was called up to the U21 squad 11 months ago having been left out in the cold after featuring in the qualifying stage for the U19 squad in Lithuania.

"It's great to represent Scotland - to be called up was a dream come true - it's still my dream to play for Scotland seniors," said Harper.

Valenciana Football League

CD MONTESINOS travel to Santa Pola CF on Sunday in the Valenciana 1st Regional Group 8 amid an outbreak of flu affecting the squad.

"Players did not train around the New Year period - many went down with the flu bug," CD Montesinos spokesperson Eddie Cagagio told the *EWN*.

Carlos Ventura played his last game for CD Montesinos against CF Intercity Sant Joan Alicante at the weekend after agreeing to join Hercules CF.

Ventura will join the Alicante-based club for the remainder of the season, prior to signing for Preferente Group 4 leaders Hercules B. Hercules first team play in 2B Division Group 3.

"We wish him well in his new venture and thank him for his efforts with our club," said Cagagio.

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

Celts Club host first Open of 2018

CELTS CLUB DE GOLF hosted their first Open tournament for 2018 on Saturday at the society's home course La Serena.

Weather conditions were ideal for golf if a little chilly when they started off. The golf course was presented to a very high standard with fast receptive greens

Captain Terry Fitzgerald was on hand to present the prizes as follows:

Crystal week 1:

1st Mary Wigley 40.

2nd Pauvla Serakova 39.

3rd John O'Brien 38.

Week 2: 1st Grant Meekins

37, 2nd Nuala McEnery 36, 3rd Myra Coull 35.

Category golf competitions:

Cat I: 1st Robert Smith 37, 2nd Alan Woods 37, 3rd Denis McCormack 35.

Cat II: 1st Mick O'Connell 38, 2nd Savi Nayager 35, 3rd Logan Nayager 33.

NTPs: Tony Head, Philip Mountford, Andy Currie, Denis McCormack, Alan Woods and Camillus Fitzpatrick. Visitors prize Tony Ryan 25.

Cat II: 1st Alan Perry 40, 2nd Ian McCormack 39, 3rd Chris Daw 38.

Cat I: Denis McCormack 35, 2nd Gareth Conroy 33, 3rd Pat Coyne 32.

Best gross went to Paula Serakova with 82, 2nd overall to Karl Dimascio 40.

The overall winner with 43 points John O'Brien

For information, e-mail: johnobrienalicante@gmail.com or call: 615 466 398.

San Miguel Golf Society travel to La Marquesa

THIRTY-SIX members eventually turned up to play at the well hidden La Marquesa Golf, at which the society had not played for many a year.

Although the course was not in its best condition, it was good to see that there were improvements to the course, with plenty of new trees being planted and a new tee being built on the eighth.

Scoring was low which meant that only three players bettered their handicaps, all winners in their respective categories.

The day's stableford competition results, by category and in reverse order, were the following:

Bronze Category:

4th Ken Flaherty (33), 3rd Keith Stevenson (34), 2nd Norman Padmore (35), and 1st Chris Hamblett with 38 points.

Silver Category:

4th Theo Boelhouwer (33), 3rd Phil de Lacy (34), 2nd Mike Kaylor (34 c/b), and 1st Russell Bailey with 39 points.



ALL SMILES: Winners of the silver category.

Gold Category:

4th Darren Hancock (32), 3rd Norman Cahill (34), 2nd Roger Cain (35), and 1st Tony Sims with 37 points.

Nearest the pins on the par 3's (open to all) went to Phil de Lacy (hole 5), Ivan Hanak (hole 11), Roger Cain (hole 15) and Brian Mulligan (hole 17).

The Abacus was won by Kyree Skarsmoen.

Next week, the society will be playing at La Serena.

Keep up to date with all SMGS matters by logging on to their website www.smgs.org or simply give Captain Tony Smale a call on 628 227 687 or Robin Eastman 672 900 510 to find out more about the society and its weekly golf get-togethers.

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