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Police prevent suicide

POLICE have talked a man out of throwing himself from a bridge in Velez-Malaga.

The 62-year-old man was taken to the Axarquia Regional Hospital after Local Police officers prevented him from jumping from the bridge near to the El Ingenio shopping centre.

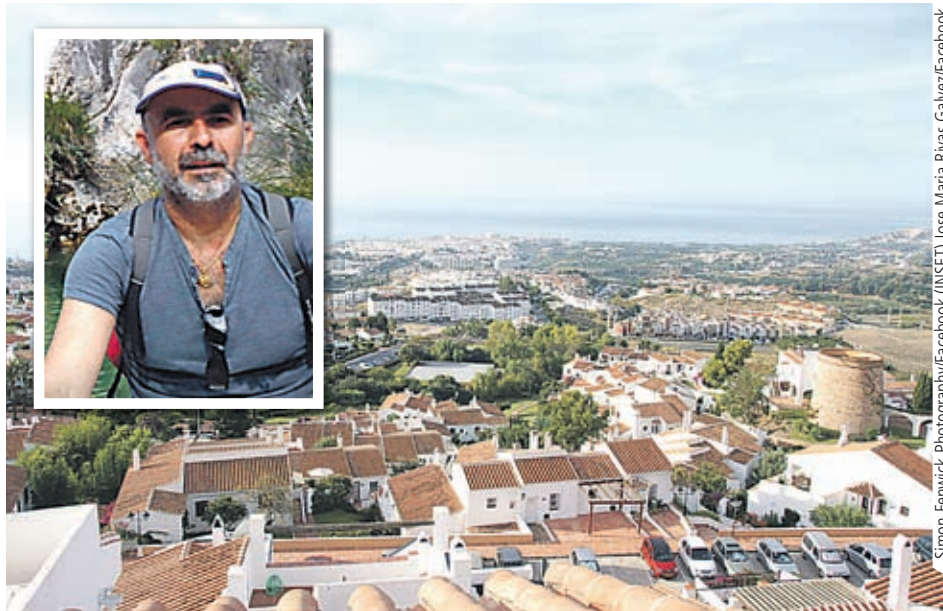
Officers intercepted the suicide attempt after receiving several calls from concerned residents before finding the man calm and prepared to jump, according to one publication. An ambulance transferred the man to hospital while the National Police have taken over the investigation.

Last October, a 43-year-old Belgian woman also had to be talked out of throwing herself from her balcony after allegedly suffering years of abuse from her husband.

The resident of Torre del Mar was found by police sitting on the railing of her balcony and threatening to jump before a man apparently persuaded her to come inside. Police then spoke to the woman who was said to be in "a state of great anxiety."

She allegedly told officers she had been physically and mentally abused by her husband for a year. Police apparently confirmed the woman had bruises on various parts of her body.

Her 48-year-old Belgian husband was arrested for domestic abuse.



Simon Fenwick Photography/Facebook (INSET) Jose Maria Rivas Galvez/Facebook

SAN JUAN DE CAPISTRANO: Will now have drinking water. (INSET) Nerja councillor Jose Maria Rivas welcomes the change.

Water wars

A company in Nerja is installing equipment to connect homes directly to the mains supply.

Aguas de Narixa is putting the technology into 4,000 homes, removing the need for metres and charging just a flat fee for water. The move will see homes removed from rival supplier network, Fuente del Baden which previously supplied around a quarter of the 18,000 homes in Nerja east.

The project comes after an ongoing conflict between Nerja Council, Fuente del Baden and Aguas de Narixa over water supply. It has now been agreed between Nerja Council and Aguas de Narixa 'they are the only ones with authorisation' to supply 'drinking' water and

Fuente del Baden 'is not authorised by the board since they only have a licence for irrigation.'

The works have been carried out mainly in the area of San Juan de Capistrano where a deposito (water tank) has been fitted with enough capacity to supply 2,000 homes with water 'with the appropriate flow and pressure.'

Jose Maria Rivas, councillor for Infrastructure welcomed the move and explained the council now met with drinking water regulations, "something which the previous PP (Partido Popular) government did not since they ignored requirements made by the board from 2011." He went on, "these are urbanisations

which had asked to improve the situation by connecting to Aguas de Narixa."

For its part, Fuente de Baden is planning to sue the council and Aguas de Narixa for allegedly using 'coercions and threats' to get consumers to switch suppliers.

The company alleges, "the problems have been caused by the council which is unusual given the service this body has provided for so many years to the municipality."

No drought progress

WORKS to connect the Chillar reservoir to Axarquia have still not begun.

The project, which is designed to supply water to La Viñuela now it has reached less than 25 per cent capacity, are still not underway despite promises by the Junta de Andalucia.

The commitment formed part of several measures designed to alleviate water supply concerns and the Rubite channel which supplies water to La Viñuela has now been opened.

The Chillar connection remains blocked, however, although the Junta had

committed to opening it before last summer.

Last week it was revealed a water company is sending drinking water to top up La Viñuela's dwindling supplies.

Emasa plans to continue transferring 100 litres per second to the reservoir which is only at around a quarter of its capacity - for as long as needed. If maintained at this rate, the move will contribute an extra three cubic hectometres a year to Viñuela.

Currently the La Viñuela reservoir's water is at its lowest level since 2008, at around only 23.7 per cent capacity.

Inequality costs job

A MAN has had his job offer withdrawn after it was found there were not enough women on the hiring panel.

Julio Santoyo had been appointed director of clinical management of general and digestive surgery at the Carlos Haya Regional Hospital and Clinico Universitario but a judge has now reversed the decision after it was found only one woman was among the six members of the hiring panel.

Following a complaint by another surgeon Cesar Pablo Ramirez Plaza, who had also applied for the role, a judge decided the panel was not balanced and therefore its decision was not binding.

Defence lawyers argued Dr Ramirez Plaza had not said anything until after he was told he had not been given the job, but the judge sided with the complainant.

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NEWS EXTRA

Road death

ONE person has died after a convertible flipped in Calahonda causing three kilometres of tail-backs on the A-7. Following the accident, five other cars collided.

Age protest

PENSIONERS have protested in Malaga, blocking traffic on Paseo del Parque for 20 minutes over low pensions. Police took names from some of the protesters.

Fish up

EXPORTS of Andalusian fish are up by 27 per cent. Sales of fish reached €284.7 million from January to October 2017 from the €223.4 million produced the year before.

Pest control

RESEARCHERS are trying to find solutions to control 'super pests.'

Scientists at La Mayora are working with others from seven European countries to find a way to control levels of red spiders and whitefly which are plaguing agricultural production.

The workers are looking for natural predators to the insects as a way of naturally decreasing numbers rather than using insecticides which bugs can become resistant to. The European Commission has now donated €2,991,525 to a consortium of researchers to assist the project.

The scheme will focus on four insects in total which are all harmful to various different crops and are difficult to control. La Mayora is a research centre made up by the University of Malaga and the Higher Council of Scientific Research.



Photo by Google maps

INFECTED: The Reñidero school in Vélez-Málaga was fumigated following flea bite complaints. (INSET) Researchers at La Mayora are trying to find new pest control solutions.

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Est: 1978

In Velez-Malaga, school-children have been complaining of persistent flea bites despite several attempts to eradicate the pests.

According to the Association of Mothers and Fathers of Students (AMPA), at least 12 children have received new flea bites since mid-November last year when thermal shock treatment was carried out to the plot next to the school's playground, where the fleas are believed to be from.

Car tests to toughen

FROM May cars will be subject to tighter scrutiny in the ITV tests.

The car safety test, which is similar to the British MOT, will soon include checks for faults in a car's computer switchboard following the controversy surrounding false diesel emission figures.

ITV garages in Malaga Province will be equipped with computers to check whether a car has hidden faults or has been tampered with, regardless of whether a fault light is showing or not. The tests will also start to inspect exhaust pipes, particle filters and valves more closely.

It is expected the new rules will particularly affect vehicles more than 10 years old or using diesel. Of the province's estimated one million cars, it is thought at least 30 per cent are more than a decade old.

Another innovation will see cars going for their ITV up to a month early not then having to take subsequent tests earlier. Cars which are scheduled for an ITV on May 14, for example, will now be able to take an ITV from April 15 but only have to take their subsequent ITV six months or a year (depending on the age and type of vehicle) after May 14.



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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Balance act

THE Malaga Bar Association has put together a project to improve the quality of life of its lawyers. The association's dean, Francisco Javier Lara said it was increasingly difficult for professionals to balance work and family, with 72 per cent of lawyers agreeing.

Fixed contract

THE number of people who are now employed on a fixed contract in Malaga Province has increased by 21 per cent. The province now has the highest rate of fixed contract employees in Andalucia, at 6.7 per cent of those registered to work in 2017.

€340,000 path

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA Council has committed to investing hundreds of thousands of Euros to improve a coastal path stretching from Arroyo de Santillan to Arroyo de Chilches. The council had initially promised €240,000 but later modified their plan to fund a new wooden walkway and beach access.

Good to give

SCHOOLS in Frigiliana and Nerja worked together to raise €724 for an association to help people with disabilities. The project involved the children putting together two markets before the Christmas holidays selling decorations they had made. The charity receiving the donation, Workshop of Friendship, thanked the children.

Port open

A PROJECT to improve part of the port at Caleta de Velez has finished. The €865,000 works consisted of removing the old enclosing wall and upgrading its surroundings. Maria del Carmen Navas, senior patron of the Fisherman's Association, asked the council to upgrade the rest of the port.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE n°47

There are many lazy stereotypes about Spain, but the siesta - and laziness itself - seems particularly unfair in one of Europe's most hardworking countries. Could the traditional nap really be dying out, asks Harrison Jones.

Time out for siestas?

SUN, sangria and paella: the clichés of Spanish life are numerous and often live up to the hype. Yet one particularly prominent stereotype seems especially tired, since it now barely registers in modern Spain.

The famous siesta is a period in the late afternoon when the country shuts down for hours - at least in theory.

But the idea that Spaniards are lazy is not supported by their working hours, which are far higher on average than other European nations.

And now, it seems their mid-afternoon break is being put to bed.

Traditionally, the business siesta would run between roughly 2pm and 5pm, with restaurants closing later. Spaniards would have a big, long lunch, often with alcohol, followed by a nap.

The original reason for the siesta was supposedly to avoid the mid-afternoon heat, particularly for manual labourers working in the sun, and to allow rest/travel time between morning and afternoon jobs.

But there are also suggestions that the practice has Roman origins, making it Italian - though it is far more widely associated with Spain.

In turn, the Spanish influenced other countries in colonial times to take up the practice.

Spaniards also stay up notoriously late and tend to sleep less than other nations, meaning an afternoon break helped maintain their late-night lifestyle.

But as modern, western culture and - crucially, air conditioning - ar-



DROPPING OFF: The siesta's popularity is declining.

rived, the humble siesta took a hit.

A 2017 poll found that 58 per cent of Spaniards do not take a daytime nap, with the share of those saying they sometimes indulge consistently dropping.

Office-based workers are highly unlikely to go home for lunch and sleep in a globalised, high-pressure country.

Meanwhile, calls to realign Spain with its geographical time zone could impact the practice. The fascist dictator Franco changed Spanish clocks to align with Germany, but there is increasing pressure to return - which would mean the sun goes down earlier and people could go to bed earlier, with less need for afternoon sleep.

Yet, there are some who value the

tradition, particularly the elderly and those living in rural areas. Some towns, including Ador, Valencia, have enshrined the practice into law.

There are other small signs of a modern resurgence.

The health benefits of 'power napping' are widely hailed by health experts. A roughly 25-minute nap boosts memory, alertness, nighttime sleep, heart condition and mental/physical well-being generally.

And in cities, 'siesta hotels' are a rising trend.

The overall outlook for the siesta, though, is ominous. And while it might not be put to bed completely, it is certainly dropping off - just don't expect the stereotype to fade with it.

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Lynx effect!



Photo credit: Richard Campey/Twitter



ON THE PROWL: An Iberian lynx in the Sierra de Andujar where wildlife lovers (bottom left) have been flocking to photograph the elusive cat, of which 31 lost their lives on Spanish roads last year (bottom right).

It is the most endangered wild cat in the world. And this stunning image, captured last month, shows the Iberian lynx in all its predatory beauty.

It comes as wildlife lovers and nature photographers descended on the Sierra de Andújar mountain range in Jaén Province, Andalucía, to catch a glimpse of the elusive feline.

Normally secretive during sunlight hours, sexually mature adults are active throughout the day in December and January as the females come into heat and males compete to breed with them.

And the vast Sierra de Andújar - part of the larger Sierra

Morena chain - is home to the largest and best-preserved population, with around 100 females each commanding a territory of 10-20 square kilometres.

Spanish authorities recently announced that wild numbers of the cat have risen to at least 547 from a historic low of 94 in 2002.

More than 400 inhabit Andalucía, with the remainder split between Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Portugal.

Andalucían environment councillor, José Fiscal and director of the European Commission-funded lynx conservation programme LIFE Iberlince, Miguel Ángel Simón revealed

the encouraging figures during a Sevilla press conference.

But it is not all good news, after 58 lynx were found dead in 2017, a record.

According to reports, 31 of the animals were killed by traffic, leading to widespread criticism from environmental groups, although the main issue continues to be a lack of rabbits, its principal prey.

Native to the Iberian Peninsula but introduced around the world, Spanish rabbits have been devastated by the myxomatosis virus and, more recently, a haemorrhagic disease known as RHDVb.

See Our View on page 8.

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**For week 15 - 22 January*

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Former mayor gets the vote

NERJA'S former mayor has been re-elected president of his local party. Jose Alberto Armijo, who was formerly mayor from 1995 to 2015, will now continue as leader of his party, Partido Popular (PP), after the vote took place at a party meeting.

Armijo has most recently garnered attention after being questioned by a Torrox court over his alleged role in Nerja's illegal dump. The former politician said he was "never" told by the Junta de Andalucía to close the site.

Several current and former politicians are among the 34 people being questioned by a court in Torrox for their part in allowing the site to remain open for 16 years. Earlier this month Nerja's current mayor also swore to a judge she knew nothing about the town's illegal landfill.

The site, which is located in the National Park of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, to the east of Nerja, was previously a working quarry owned by the council. The area was later used as a dumping ground for 16 years, between 2000 and September 2016.

The Public Prosecutor's Office has labelled the landfill 'a genuine environmental disaster.'

OUR VIEW

Are we losing touch with nature?

NEWS that the Iberian lynx population is increasing is cause for good cheer. It is an example of what can be achieved if wildlife conservation efforts are properly coordinated.

Having increased from 94 individuals to almost 550 in the last 15 years, the world's rarest wild cat has made a genuine comeback. And in doing so it has avoided the fate of being the first cat species to go extinct since the sabre-toothed tiger 10,000 years ago.

But how did it come to this?

In just three decades - from the 1960s to the 1990s - the Iberian lynx lost around 80 per cent of its former range, which extended across much of Spain and into southern France. It is a sad indictment of the rapid extension of human development over the last 50 years, and one that is mirrored across the globe.

This surging rate of urbanisation now sees more than 50 per cent of the world's population living in towns and cities, and the majority no longer come into regular contact with nature. As Sir David Attenborough puts it: "So over half is to some degree out of touch with the natural world and don't even see an animal from one day to the next unless it's a rat or a pigeon."

"That means that people are getting out of touch with the realities of the natural world, of which we are in fact a part." So have humans now changed the face of the planet to such an extent that many of us are only aware of what we have created, rather than the natural processes that made it all possible?

And as alcoholism, gambling and other self-destructive practices continue to rise, we must surely examine whether we are, as a species, losing our place in the world.

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Photo by Patricia Navarro/Twitter

SUCCESS: Jose Alberto Armijo will continue as leader of the local Partido Popular.



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Celeb focus

Photo by Millie Mackintosh/Instagram

Bare it like Beckham

HER career continues to go from strength to strength.

And ex-Geordie Shore star Vicky Pattison showed how high her aspirations run as she recreated Victoria Beckham's Vogue Spain cover on ITV show This Morning.

Slipping into a bright red dress before posing with one leg atop a table, the 30-year-old said of the shoot: "It got me thinking, she's Vicky B, I'm Vicky P why not give it a go?"

To laughs from hosts Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby she added: I've got a little bit more cushion for the pushing than Vicky B, but..."

It comes after her idol, 43, wowed Spain after appearing on the front of Vogue before stepping out in Madrid to attend a dinner hosted by the fashion magazine.

The former Spice Girl sizzled in her own scarlet gown before being snapped leaving her hotel the next morning in a navy roll neck jumper and flowing burgundy-and-white skirt.

NEWLY SINGLE: Bambi Northwood Blyth and (right) her Glamour Spain cover.

Photo by Twitter/YouTube



LADIES IN RED: Victoria Pattison (right) apes her idol's Vogue Spain cover.



Photo by Stacey Solomon/Instagram

CORK BLIMEY: Stacey and Joe knock back the sangria.

Pair jet to Barça for birthday bash

TV presenter Stacey Solomon has been pictured in Barcelona with boyfriend Joe Swash. The Loose Women star and former X Factor finalist, 28, posted a series of snaps to social media as the loved-up pair - who have been dating since January 2016 - took in the delights of the Catalan capital.

And she added a personal message to her 36-year-old ex-Eastenders squeeze as she wrote: "Happy birthday baby... a jug of sangria was not a good idea. Hahahaha I'm

a lyrical genius."

The couple later snapped themselves enjoying a giant paella before posing outside the famous Sagrada Familia church.

A final shot of the lovers on the beach was captioned: "Bye bye Barcelona!! Had the best weekend with my man... can't wait to get back and see my babies!!!"

Stacey is mother to boys Zacahary, nine, and Leighton, five, from a previous relationship, while Joe has a son Harry, 10.

She's got front!

SHE recently split from her fashion designer husband.

But Australian supermodel Bambi Northwood Blyth, 27, showed she is getting over her break with Ksubi jeans founder Dan Single, 37, in style after appearing braless on the cover of Glamour Spain.

She was reportedly left 'mortified' after her spouse of four years set up a Go Fund Me page in the wake of a 2017 hotel fall in Paris.



Photo by Bambi Northwood Blyth/Instagram/Twitter

Beach ready

SHE'S the former Made In Chelsea star whose great-grandfather invented Quality Street.

And Millie Mackintosh, 28, certainly appeared to be in sweet heaven after slipping into a skimpy grey bikini and posting a racy snap to social media.

It comes after the fashion entrepreneur jetted to the Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife for a winter break with a group of girlfriends.



SIZZLING: Millie Mackintosh.

Off the record

RUMOURS that hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton is to quit her oft-criticised five-year residency at Ibiza mega-club Amnesia have been scotched.

Having recently become engaged to actor Chris Zylka, the 36-year-old blonde beauty released a statement announcing her departure, but a source later told UK media that it was false.

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NEWS EXTRA**Tram jam**

A POLITICAL party in Velez-Malaga has requested a special council meeting to restart the town's tram project. The Partido Popular has said it would also like a feasibility study.

Tourism up

MALAGA Province is attracting more investment from China following the constitutional crisis in Cataluña. Political instability has seen Chinese investors move away from Barcelona to Malaga and Madrid, according to one consultancy.

Barred out

MALAGA City Council is considering measures to limit the amount of bars open in its centre. The body will now look into preventing any more opening after complaints from residents over the growing sector.

Hail Mary

A GROUP of residents in Velez-Malaga is demanding Unicaja fund works to rehabilitate the town's Las Claras convent. The platform says the bank owns the site and should therefore carry out reform works.

No exhibit

VELEZ-MALAGA Council must return a €168,000 grant after failing to put together an exhibition in the former Nuestra Señora del Carmen factory in Torre del Mar which it had originally committed to in 2016.

No meds

A MAN in Malaga has managed to convince the Andalusian Health Board (SAS) to agree to fund treatment for his grandson and other people with spinal cord atrophy after collecting 125,000 signatures.

€2m fruit-ful investment

A MALAGA company is investing millions of Euros in Axarquía's fruit trade.

Sigfrido Fruit has spent €2 million on a new headquarters at the Axarquía Tecnolimentario Park in Velez-Malaga and will open its doors next month.

The 4,357 sqm site was created to assist in the production of some of Axarquía's most popular exports including avocados, herbs and mangoes.

Last year Sigfrido Molina's business, which only began in

May 2013, grew 30 per cent with a turnover of €10.5 million and it is hoped their new headquarters will increase trade.

In October the Junta de Andalucía offered €240 million

in aid to help businesses in Velez-Malaga, including those planning on settling in the Tecnolimentario Park.

Velez-Malaga Mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer said two types of grants would be giv-

en, one for research, development and innovation and the other for digital transformation and job creation.

The funds will be managed by the Andalucía Agency for Innovation and Development and will be accessed until 2020.

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NEWS EXTRA**Name change**

THE square located in front of the entrance of the Marques de Beniel Palace in Velez-Málaga will be renamed the Antonio Garrido Moraga Square to honour the former director of the Maria Zambrano Foundation.

Bright future

MORE than 90 young people under the age of 30 from Velez-Málaga have received training in catering and hospitality skills as part of the CHEV project to help improve the employability of young people.

Pay gap

FEMALE lawyers earn around €450 a month less than their male counterparts. It was revealed lawyers in Málaga earn around €2,250 in the case of men and €1,800 for women.



MAKING WAVES: The new machine could save lives.

Hospital goes 3D

A NEW ultrasound machine at a Málaga hospital will detect heart disease in children.

The 3D machine at Málaga's Materno Infantil Hospital will offer real time studies of the heart and its valves, allowing doctors to diagnose heart disease in babies and children at an earlier stage and potentially saving lives.

The equipment, which is positioned in the infant cardiology unit, "allows the detection of

both congenital and acquired heart diseases from the mother's womb and even in adults," according to head of the unit, Juan Ignacio Zabala.

The €100,000 machine can also produce two views of the heart at the same time, replacing previous equipment and allowing diagnosis with more safety than before. According to Dr Zabala, "its high quality decreases the exploration time in complex heart diseases and in patients

with bad prognoses, the exploratory time can be reduced."

Last November it was revealed the Junta de Andalucía was considering the impact of building a new 800-bed hospital on the land behind the Materno Infantil.

Under the proposals the current Carlos Haya Hospital would become a 400 or 500-bed hospital for patients with chronic conditions. In turn, the Hospital Civico would become a research and training hospital.

Fine fury

EIGHTY-EIGHT per cent of dog owners are risking fines for failing to comply with local laws.

Dog-lovers in Rincon de la Victoria could be fined up to €2,000 for not registering their dogs' DNA after it emerged only 12 per cent of owners had complied with the law.

Local Police are now preparing to begin denouncing non-compliant owners after it was revealed only 1,143 of the municipality's 10,040 dogs, have had their DNA sample taken. The original deadline of September 24 last year was pushed back to January 1 this year after it emerged so few owners had complied with the new regulation and registered despite the deadline for doing so having passed.

Animal-lovers in Rincon de la Victoria had until September 24 to register their animal on a DNA database, however only 500 of the 9,700 dogs in the area have been so far.

The scheme was designed to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets as well as to prevent dog abandonment and dognapping. Just 5 per cent of the municipality's owners have now signed up to the initiative, which costs €35 per animal.



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Sewage plant in murky waters

SPAIN'S central government may withdraw funding for Nerja's ill-fated sewage plant.

The Ministry of the Environment, which had committed €23.24 million to the project in 2013, has begun proceedings to terminate the funding contract after works to the plant remain on standstill after nine months.

The news comes just days after the firm given the works contract, Isolux-Corsan-Corviam, announced it would resume work after it halted last year when it declared bankruptcy. A day later, however, the company clarified it could not resume works as it was still awaiting a decision from a court in Madrid.

While Nerja's sewage plant remains unfinished, residents have raised concerns over possible contamination.



Photo by Publicaxarquía/Twitter

ILL-FATED: Will Nerja's sewage plant ever be completed?

Last week it was revealed the Guardia Civil is investigating a possible sewage spill on a Nerja beach. Following a complaint from a resident, Seprona, the Guardia Civil's nature protection service, will visit Burriana Beach to investigate whether raw sewage is leaking onto the sand.

Jorge Navaez, a local businessman and former councillor,

contacted the authorities after seeing children playing in the 'water,' which he believes may contain human waste.

He told one newspaper, "this cannot be allowed in a municipality that lives on tourism, that we give this image."

Jose Maria Rivas, Nerja's councillor for Infrastructure, said the council would investigate Navaez's claims.

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Lux Mundi see the sights

RECENTLY a group of friends of Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar, embarked on a three-day excursion to Granada to see the Christmas lights and sights of the city.

They first took a trip to Sierra Nevada, where it had snowed heavily the previous day and the roads had been closed. When the coach arrived there was time to walk around, have a coffee and watch the skiers on the slopes. Some people took a lift up to the top to take in the view.

After a couple of hours the coach then took the group to the Hotel Carmen in the centre of Granada where they stayed for two nights. Some people took the opportunity to visit the Alhambra Palace, others took the tourist train, jumping on and off at different points of interest, includ-

ing the Cathedral, San Nicolas view point, the basilica of San Juan de Dios and Sacramento and some went shopping in the Sierra Nevada shopping centre.

On the Thursday afternoon the group returned back to Torre del Mar and all agreed that it had been a really enjoyable trip having been blessed with excellent weather, a great hotel and wonderful company.

Lux Mundi would like to thank all who supported this excursion, which enables them to continue with their charitable work and hope to see you all at future events in the centre and excursions.

For more information on any of the trips or events call: 952 543 334, email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org or catch them on the web at: www.lux-mundi.org.

St Valentine's Dinner n' Dance

THE Phoenix Club are celebrating St Valentine's Day with a Dinner 'n' Dance at the Nerja Caves Restaurant in Maro. Included in the price of €32pp are welcome drinks and canapes, a three-course delicious meal with wine, so get those dancing shoes ship shape and dance the night away to Gasoline from Nerja.

Date: Saturday February 17
Time: 7 for 7.30pm
Price: €32pp and transport €5pp extra with pick-ups along the coast from Chilches through to Torrox Costa. Bring 10 friends and you can come for free!

Dress code: Smart casual for the fellas but the ladies can glam up!

Trip to Gibraltar
The Phoenix Club are off on

their next shopping trip to Gibraltar on Friday February 2. They have pick-ups at the A1 Garden Centre, Torre del Mar bus station and finally at Algarrobo Lidl at 8.30am. The bus is parked in Morrisons car park and they leave Gibraltar at 4.30pm.

Due to visa restrictions on entering Gibraltar, please advise if you are a non-EU citizen when you book. Also it is important to remember to bring with you your EHIC card, just in case, and passports are essential. On the way to Gibraltar they stop to spend a penny and for coffee. They would greatly appreciate if payment was made before the journey.

Price: €12pp includes a €1 gratuity for the driver.

For more information on any of their trips or events call Gail on: 951 067 723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or catch them on the web at www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

The Phoenix club is a registered charitable association raising funds for three local charities and SSAFA in the UK. They meet every Tuesday between 12pm and 2pm at Bar La Vega in Torre del Mar and you can book or pay from 12.15pm onwards.

The bar is just behind the Repsol garage on the way out of Torre towards Benajafe.

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DENMARK



Aiming high

NORWAY is aiming to make all short-haul flights electric by 2040, according to the chief executive of state-owned Avinor airline Dag Falk-Petersen who believes that 1.5 hour flights can be flown by entirely electric planes.



Credit: Chatupong Lertsichirada/Facebook

Fur away

THE Norwegian government has promised to close all fox and mink fur farms by 2025, becoming the 14th European country to phase out fur farming.

Snow fun

A 21-YEAR-OLD man in Bergen

was sentenced to 30 days in prison for throwing snowballs at police after they were called to close down an unruly house party.

Chief suspect

POLICE in Norway have arrested the husband of a woman, who is a mother-of-two, and has been

GREEN FLIERS: Norway has high ambitions for electric flights.

missing from her home since December 29, on suspicion of her murder.

GERMANY



Snail mail

COMPLAINTS against the German postal service increased by 50 per cent in 2017 as over 6,000 complaints were registered according to German media sources, with half of these related to the processing and delivery of letters.

a falling tree at a camping site in Mors during a storm that battered western Germany and left 100,000 people in the region without electricity.

around €500 on the cheapest annual ticket.

Red-carded

MPs have excluded a far-right lawmaker from a parliamentary football team because he was convicted for hooligan violence, with the man in question claiming he had been ostracised by mainstream parties.

Sneaky savers

ADIDAS have released 500 pairs of limited edition that double as Berlin public transport passes, and at just €180 will save their lucky owners

Tree tragedy

A 59-YEAR-OLD man was killed by

FRANCE



Top spot

FRANCE has managed to retain its title as the most visited country in the world after 89 million tourists took a trip there last year, an increase of 8 per cent from 2016.

Cyber charity

CHURCHGOERS in an upmarket Parisian neighbourhood don't have to worry about carrying any loose change any more as the priest at the Saint-Francois de Molitor church has installed contactless bank card terminals for donations.

Grounded

A NEW project to build an airport near the city of Nantes has been scrapped after it was opposed by several environmental groups, although local politicians declared it would have bad consequences for the economy.

Milk scare

A GOVERNMENT report revealed food safety inspectors failed to detect an outbreak of salmonella at a French factory run by dairy group Lactalis, causing 12 million boxes of powdered baby milk to be recalled.

BELGIUM



Gas blast

A BLAST believed to be caused by a gas explosion which caused a residential building in Antwerp to collapse has left at least two people dead, with 14 people being injured, one critically.

Helping hand

BELGIUM has donated nearly €19 million to a United Nations agency that provides aid to Palestinian refugees after the US slashed their aid to the country as a form of blackmail.

Student ordeal

A 19-YEAR-OLD student who claims she was abducted and repeatedly raped by five men in Brussels was found after she located herself using Google Maps and sent the address to her brother.

Dire straits

AROUND one in five Belgians revealed they struggled to make ends meet last year, according to a survey by the Belgian statistics office Statbel, with 5 per cent saying they were severely deprived of material possessions.

NETHERLANDS



Storm scare

FLIGHTS to and from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport and train services were delayed while winds with speeds of up to 120kph were recorded across the country, causing the weather bureau to issue a code red weather warning.

On a roll

DUTCH bike maker Gazelle has produced its 15 millionth bike since it began operations 125 years ago, and 19 years since it rolled out the 10-millionth bike in 1999.

About abuse

A NEW survey has revealed that nearly one in three Dutch people consider domestic violence to be justifiable in some circumstances, with young people more likely to accept it than the over 55s.

Taking credit

THE use of credit cards in the Netherlands grew by 10.3 per cent in 2017, and the number of contactless payments rose by 49 per cent, but still only 55 per cent of Dutch consumers actually own a credit card.

SWEDEN



Snowed under

POLICE have confirmed a Swedish skier was killed when an avalanche ravaged an Indian ski resort in the Himalayas, but rescuers managed to find his companion alive in the snow.

Speaking up

THE number of reported rapes in Sweden increased by 10 per cent in 2017, according to figures from the National Council on Crime Prevention, reaching a total of 7,230.

Revenge blast

POLICE have blamed an explosion that happened outside a Rosengard police station - which damaged the building and officers' private cars, though no one was injured - on the pressure authorities are putting on criminals.

War scare

SWEDEN is preparing to send out 4.7 million leaflets that urge citizens to prepare for 'crisis and catastrophes in peacetime' to households across the country due to fears of an impending Russian act of war.

NORWAY



What a find

A CORNUCOPIA of 5,000-year-old 'sun' stones was dug up by archaeologists during an excavation on the island of Bornholm, which could allegedly give new insight into life in the Stone Age.

On the move

THE Danish government has announced several of its agencies will be moved out of Copenhagen to other parts of the country - a relocation of up to 1,800 jobs - in an effort to boost local economies.

Crack down

DANISH police have charged more than 1,000 teenagers with distribution of child pornography after they shared a video on Facebook messenger which showed two 15-year-olds having sex.

Caught on film

COPENHAGEN plans to install 100 new security cameras in around 50 new locations which regularly see episodes of violence in an effort to combat gang crime.

Green energy boost

MADRID-BASED renewable energy provider Acciona Energy has signed a deal to supply Unilever with electricity.

The contract covers all the British-Dutch consumer goods firm's facilities in Spain.

Acciona Green Energy director Santiago Gómez Ramos said: "We are very pleased that such an important company as Unilever has entrusted its electricity supply to Acciona, and we are delighted to work with them to reduce their carbon footprint."

Fizzing with pleasure

By Matt Ford

SPANISH soft drinks consumers are on red alert.

It comes after soft drinks brand Coca Cola announced it has chosen Spain as the first European country to feature its new packaging.

The new look features more red and clearer nutritional information on the can, and continues a rebranding process which started in 2015.

A new, smaller 250 millilitre can has also been introduced to the range.

Carolina Aransay, head of marketing in Spain, said that the company

is "constantly searching for innovations that respond to the needs of customers.

"As part of our business strategy, we have innovated in the design of our packaging by offering simple and clear information so that consumers can make informed and responsible decisions," she added.

"Coca Cola is 131 years old but has remained young and fresh thanks to its adaptation to change, and one of the keys to its 2015 success was a

unique brand strategy in which we chose to reinforce iconic elements such as red.

"We are pioneers, since we will be the first country in Europe and globally to feature this new packaging, and this revamp looks set to be permanent in Spain," she concluded.

Senior brand manager of Coca Cola Iberica, Cesar Ruiz, confirmed that he expects 3.2 billion cans with the updated branding to be sold by the end of the year, with all production lines to make the switch by February.

Firm just doing it

A SPANISH electric utility firm is boosting links with sportswear behemoth Nike.

Avangrid, a subsidiary of Iberdrola, has signed a contract with the United States brand to supply electricity generated by wind power. It is the second such deal agreed between the pair and set to be worth around €100 million, according to reports.

Long-term supply contracts are swiftly becoming Iberdrola's main commercial asset stateside, after the company last year signed a €200 million agreement with Google.

Quote of the Week

"Pensioners' loss of purchasing power is practically irrelevant." Spain's Social Security chief, Tomas Burgos, responds to criticism as pensions are to rise by 0.25 per cent in 2018 while inflation remains above 1 per cent.



MOVISTAR BILLS: Customers forced to fork out.

Mobile giant hikes prices

SPANISH mobile phone operator Movistar has announced its latest price hike.

All of the company's Fusion packages will be affected by the increase, and the new rates will be applied to both new and existing contracts.

Although the rise is enforced, customers will however benefit from more internet data on their existing deals.

The updated tariffs are as follows:

Rate #2 - Up from €15 for

two gigabytes (GB) to €17 for three GB.

Rate #6 - Up from €27 for six GB to €30 for eight GB. The 200-minute bonus remains.

Rate #10 - Up from €37 for 10 GB to €40 for 15 GB plus unlimited calls.

Rate #20 - Up from €47 for 20 GB to €50 for 25 GB with unlimited calls.

Movistar is also pushing up the cost of deals which offer an additional line for half price, with similar increases in internet data.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Popping the cork

CAVA producer Freixenet has revealed that it will pay €5.87 million-worth of dividends to shareholders after a two-year lull. The sparkling wine firm made €8.4 million net profit in 2017, quadrupling its 2016 figures.

Tokyo drift

NISSAN is to pull the plug on production of two unpopular models in Spain. Sales of the compact Pulsar and Evalia van have been so poor that they will no longer be built at the Japanese carmaker's Barcelona plant from midyear.

Room gloom

MELIA HOTELS INTERNATIONAL - based in Mallorca - has lost €3 million due to the Catalan independence crisis, its CEO Gabriel Escarrer has claimed, going on to describe October as "poisonous and disastrous" for the chain.

Toll roads set for privatisation

THE Spanish Ministry of Development will ask the central bank for €420 million to rescue bankrupt toll roads.

In February it plans to bail out the R-4 Madrid-Ocaña motorway, followed by the R-2, R-3, and R-5 (all Madrid), and the M-12 which connects the capital to Barajas Airport, plus stretches connecting Ocaña-La Roda,

Cartagena-Vera and the Alicante ring road.

The AP-41 between Madrid and Toledo is also set for a cash boost later in the year.

Once the debt has been cleared, the government aims to put management of them out to tender in a privatisation process it claims will rake in between €700 million and €1 billion.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Anglo American | 1,772.10 | 16.10 | 0.92 | 24,732.43 |
| Associated British Foods | 2,764.50 | 14.50 | 0.53 | 21,810.62 |
| Admiral Group | 1,872.75 | -5.25 | -0.28 | 5,386.70 |
| Ashtead Group | 2,127.00 | -9.00 | -0.42 | 10,622.96 |
| Antofagasta | 997.20 | 3.40 | 0.34 | 9,842.79 |
| Aviva | 533.90 | -0.90 | -0.17 | 21,355.46 |
| AstraZeneca | 5,055.00 | 12.00 | 0.24 | 63,064.17 |
| BAE Systems | 585.90 | -1.70 | -0.29 | 18,677.55 |
| Barclays | 203.90 | 3.40 | 1.70 | 34,001.37 |
| British American Tobacco | 5,070.50 | 8.50 | 0.17 | 113,534.83 |
| Barratt Developments | 611.60 | -3.60 | -0.59 | 6,206.59 |
| Berkeley Group Holdings | 4,192.00 | -29.00 | -0.69 | 5,618.38 |
| British Land Co | 679.80 | -0.20 | -0.03 | 6,767.48 |
| BHP Billiton | 1,609.40 | -4.40 | -0.27 | 33,704.44 |
| Bunzl | 2,015.50 | -12.50 | -0.62 | 6,809.33 |
| BP | 514.40 | 4.50 | 0.88 | 102,566.67 |
| Burberry Group | 1,603.75 | 7.25 | 0.45 | 6,723.78 |
| BT Group | 266.08 | 1.98 | 0.75 | 26,491.28 |
| Coca-Cola HBC | 2,432.00 | 8.00 | 0.33 | 8,859.71 |
| Carnival | 4,913.00 | -62.00 | -1.25 | 10,345.76 |
| Centrica | 139.20 | 0.15 | 0.11 | 7,896.40 |
| Compass Group | 1,535.25 | 8.25 | 0.54 | 23,900.49 |
| Croda International | 4,513.00 | -21.00 | -0.46 | 5,846.98 |
| CRH | 2,696.50 | 13.50 | 0.50 | 22,012.86 |
| DCC | 7,542.50 | -2.50 | -0.03 | 6,810.49 |
| Diageo | 2,616.75 | -4.75 | -0.18 | 65,073.38 |
| Direct Line Insurance Group | 374.40 | 1.00 | 0.27 | 5,132.88 |
| Evrax | 393.35 | 0.55 | 0.14 | 5,562.10 |
| Experian | 1,666.50 | -1.50 | -0.09 | 15,135.38 |
| easyJet | 1,574.50 | -10.00 | -0.63 | 6,009.76 |
| Ferguson | 5,604.00 | -20.00 | -0.36 | 13,990.02 |
| Fresnillo | 1,398.50 | -5.00 | -0.36 | 10,132.29 |
| G4S | 290.70 | -0.60 | -0.21 | 4,468.59 |
| GKN | 434.95 | -4.45 | -1.01 | 7,642.78 |
| Glencore | 406.28 | -0.87 | -0.21 | 58,622.58 |
| GlaxoSmithKline | 1,356.00 | -2.00 | -0.15 | 67,090.95 |
| Hargreaves Lansdown | 1,920.00 | -8.00 | -0.41 | 9,104.55 |
| Halma | 1,328.50 | -1.50 | -0.11 | 4,992.28 |
| Hammerson | 498.25 | -0.75 | -0.15 | 3,975.90 |
| HSBC Holdings | 783.85 | -4.55 | -0.58 | 157,624.08 |
| Int Consolidated Airlines | 652.60 | -5.80 | -0.88 | 13,267.26 |
| InterContinental Hotels Gr | 4,912.00 | -16.00 | -0.32 | 9,127.13 |
| 3i Group | 926.80 | -7.20 | -0.77 | 9,158.66 |
| Imperial Brands | 3,016.50 | 0.50 | 0.02 | 28,779.01 |
| Informa | 703.00 | 1.20 | 0.17 | 5,855.38 |
| Intertek Group | 5,261.00 | -13.00 | -0.25 | 8,431.04 |
| ITV | 165.45 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 6,658.03 |
| Just Eat | 794.90 | -6.90 | -0.86 | 5,405.64 |
| Johnson Matthey | 3,223.00 | -29.00 | -0.89 | 6,299.51 |
| Kingfisher | 337.40 | 1.30 | 0.39 | 7,435.96 |

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Land Securities Group | 994.35 | 4.15 | 0.42 | 7,362.60 |
| Legal & General Group | 275.70 | -0.50 | -0.18 | 16,528.71 |
| Lloyds Banking Group ORD | 71.50 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 51,050.41 |
| London Stock Exchange Gr | 3,734.00 | -17.00 | -0.45 | 12,811.92 |
| Micro Focus International | 2,130.00 | -24.00 | -1.11 | 9,397.79 |
| Mediclinic International | 604.00 | -3.00 | -0.49 | 4,469.17 |
| Marks & Spencer Group | 306.10 | 2.10 | 0.69 | 4,974.96 |
| Mondi | 1,955.25 | -16.25 | -0.82 | 9,414.89 |
| Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets | 229.10 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 5,389.87 |
| National Grid | 836.00 | 5.50 | 0.66 | 28,058.17 |
| NMC Health | 3,371.00 | 91.00 | 2.77 | 6,537.48 |
| Next | 4,902.50 | 4.50 | 0.09 | 7,250.62 |
| Old Mutual Group | 237.25 | -0.25 | -0.11 | 11,665.87 |
| Paddy Power Betfair | 8,327.50 | -122.50 | -1.45 | 7,112.70 |
| Prudential | 1,973.00 | -8.00 | -0.40 | 51,213.14 |
| Persimmon | 2,637.00 | 3.00 | 0.11 | 8,095.13 |
| Pearson | 690.50 | 2.50 | 0.36 | 5,424.79 |
| Reckitt Benckiser Group | 6,928.00 | 15.00 | 0.22 | 47,809.45 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Gr (The) | 295.10 | -2.20 | -0.74 | 35,570.65 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,529.75 | 12.75 | 0.51 | 115,847.83 |
| RELX | 1,606.25 | -40.25 | -2.44 | 17,247.98 |
| Rio Tinto | 4,010.50 | -6.00 | -0.15 | 54,123.79 |
| Rolls-Royce Group | 883.60 | -9.20 | -1.03 | 16,344.78 |
| Randgold Resources | 7,142.00 | -30.00 | -0.42 | 6,656.86 |
| RSA Insurance Gr | 624.40 | -1.80 | -0.29 | 6,384.54 |
| Rentokil Initial | 312.60 | -3.50 | -1.11 | 5,673.68 |
| Sainsbury (J) | 257.85 | -0.15 | -0.06 | 5,644.20 |
| Schroders | 3,691.00 | -32.00 | -0.86 | 8,374.13 |
| Sage Group (The) | 817.30 | -1.30 | -0.16 | 8,754.55 |
| Segro | 578.60 | -0.60 | -0.10 | 5,776.86 |
| Shire | 3,562.25 | 101.25 | 2.93 | 31,410.25 |
| Smurfit Kappa Group | 2,590.00 | -10.00 | -0.38 | 6,077.59 |
| Sky | 1,003.75 | 1.75 | 0.17 | 17,190.17 |
| Standard Life Aberdeen | 437.20 | -0.50 | -0.11 | 13,053.70 |
| Smith (DS) | 510.00 | -0.60 | -0.12 | 5,495.43 |
| Smiths Group | 1,669.75 | -3.75 | -0.22 | 6,610.79 |
| Scottish Mortgage Inv Trst | 470.60 | 0.40 | 0.09 | 6,545.76 |
| Smith & Nephew | 1,244.25 | -0.75 | -0.06 | 10,769.57 |
| SSE | 1,297.25 | 6.25 | 0.48 | 13,187.93 |
| Standard Chartered | 818.10 | -0.90 | -0.11 | 27,000.03 |
| St James's Place | 1,263.25 | -7.25 | -0.57 | 6,647.86 |
| Severn Trent | 2,028.50 | 4.50 | 0.22 | 4,774.98 |
| Tesco | 207.55 | -0.25 | -0.12 | 17,177.81 |
| TUI AG | 1,645.50 | 14.00 | 0.86 | 9,415.81 |
| Taylor Wimpey | 198.05 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 6,441.11 |
| Unilever | 4,088.00 | -20.00 | -0.49 | 49,517.04 |
| United Utilities Group | 768.50 | 0.30 | 0.04 | 5,258.72 |
| Vodafone Group | 225.85 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 60,283.99 |
| WPP Group | 1,386.50 | 3.00 | 0.22 | 17,436.18 |
| Whitbread | 3,975.00 | -30.00 | -0.75 | 7,315.07 |

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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

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CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE% | CHANGE | VOLUME(M) |
|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------------|
| 3M | 248,18 | 0,92% | 2,27 | 147.430,87 |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS | 98,03 | -1,83% | -1,83 | 84.699,07 |
| APPLE | 178,46 | -0,45% | -0,8 | 907.327,31 |
| BOEING CO | 337,73 | -0,71% | -2,43 | 201.281,72 |
| CATERPILLAR | 170,41 | 0,94% | 1,58 | 101.132,76 |
| CHEVRON | 131,3 | -0,22% | -0,29 | 248.628,05 |
| CISCO SYSTEMS | 41,29 | -0,02% | -0,01 | 203.751,38 |
| COCA-COLA | 47,16 | 0,60% | 0,28 | 200.911,77 |
| DOWDUPONT | 76,01 | -0,03% | -0,02 | 177.956,26 |
| EXXON MOBIL | 87,15 | -0,32% | -0,28 | 368.289,26 |
| GENERAL ELECTRIC | 16,26 | -3,04% | -0,51 | 141.181,54 |
| GOLDMAN SACHS | 256,12 | 2,05% | 5,15 | 96.171,29 |
| HOME DEPOT | 201,33 | 1,51% | 3 | 234.501,44 |
| IBM | 162,37 | -3,99% | -6,75 | 150.413,33 |
| INTEL CORP | 44,82 | 0,76% | 0,34 | 208.749,06 |
| J.P.MORGAN CHASE | 113,01 | -0,22% | -0,25 | 386.527,98 |
| JOHNSON & JOHNSON | 147,36 | 0,30% | 0,44 | 394.166,22 |
| MC DONALD'S CORP | 176,12 | 0,89% | 1,55 | 140.392,35 |
| MERCK AND CO. NEW | 61,28 | 0,25% | 0,15 | 166.027,18 |
| MICROSOFT | 90 | -0,11% | -0,1 | 693.001,62 |
| NIKE | 67,21 | 4,84% | 3,1 | 87.054,83 |
| PFIZER | 36,94 | -0,14% | -0,05 | 218.698,35 |
| PROCTER AND GAMBLE | 91,07 | 0,99% | 0,89 | 230.660,23 |
| TRAVELERS CIES | 137,85 | 0,37% | 0,51 | 37.608,55 |
| UNITED TECHNOLOGIE | 135,9 | 0,96% | 1,29 | 108.078,45 |
| UNITEDHEALTH GROUP | 243,35 | 0,08% | 0,19 | 235.153,91 |
| VERIZON COMMS | 51,91 | 0,70% | 0,36 | 210.150,35 |
| VISA | 122,7 | -0,33% | -0,41 | 222.010,57 |
| WAL-MART STORES | 104,59 | 0,28% | 0,29 | 309.420,74 |
| WALT DISNEY CO | 110,59 | 0,15% | 0,17 | 166.148,02 |

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE NET / % |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Most Advanced | | |
| NuCan plc | \$ 20.51 | 6.02 ▲ 41.55% |
| Xcel Brands, Inc | \$ 2.80 | 0.40 ▲ 16.67% |
| Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc. | \$ 23.38 | 3.17 ▲ 15.69% |
| Sientra, Inc. | \$ 11.66 | 1.33 ▲ 12.88% |
| Ocular Therapeutix, Inc. | \$ 6.23 | 0.69 ▲ 12.45% |
| Jounce Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 21.76 | 2.29 ▲ 11.76% |
| lovance Biotherapeutics, Inc. | \$ 10.70 | 1.075 ▲ 11.17% |
| Fossil Group, Inc. | \$ 10.03 | 0.92 ▲ 10.10% |
| Tocagen Inc. | \$ 14.12 | 1.29 ▲ 10.05% |
| Mitcham Industries, Inc. | \$ 3.96 | 0.36 ▲ 10% |
| Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | \$ 6.29 | 0.57 ▲ 9.97% |
| Most Declined | | |
| Obalon Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 5.24 | 0.90 ▼ 14.66% |
| TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | \$ 2.80 | 0.25 ▼ 8.20% |
| Compugen Ltd. | \$ 3 | 0.25 ▼ 7.69% |
| Coherus BioSciences, Inc. | \$ 10.75 | 0.65 ▼ 5.70% |
| Tintri, Inc. | \$ 6.45 | 0.39 ▼ 5.70% |
| Lumentum Holdings Inc. | \$ 48.85 | 2.85 ▼ 5.51% |
| Surgery Partners, Inc. | \$ 14.90 | 0.80 ▼ 5.10% |
| Medallion Financial Corp. | \$ 5.08 | 0.27 ▼ 5.05% |
| Juno Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 67.81 | 3.56 ▼ 4.99% |
| Zealand Pharma A/S | \$ 15.05 | 0.78 ▼ 4.93% |
| Bel Fuse Inc. | \$ 22.90 | 1.10 ▼ 4.58% |

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Multi Asset Growth B EUR

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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£1.0832

-£0.0020

£1.3470

-£0.0039

£1.2377

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Urb. Puebla Lucia, Edificio Leo, Local 1
Fuengirola, 29640
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- costadelsol@currenciesdirect.com

Nerja

- C/ Antonio Ferrandis, Chanquete 1,
Local 1A,
Nerja, Málaga, 29780
- +34 952 906 581
- nerja@currenciesdirect.com

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Fashion forges ahead

SPANISH BRAND ECLIPSES TRADITIONAL LEADER

CLOTHING retailer Zara has outstripped telecommunications giant Movistar to become the best-performing Spanish brand.

The bombshell comes after global consultancy Interbrand published its latest report.

It is the first time that Movistar has failed to top the national ranking in a decade, after the company lost 12 per cent of its brand value as it plummeted to €19.65 billion.

And the clothing manufacturer, owned by tycoon Amancio Ortega, is now estimated to be worth €15.45 billion, up 45 per cent from 2015.

Bosco Torres, technical director of the report, claims that the drop can be attributed to 'financial analysts' forecasts, which project a flatter growth, with revenues set to grow by just 1 per cent due to increased prices driving a potential loss of customers, plus competition from the new wave of platforms including HBO and Netflix."

Banking group Santander - valued at €5.6 billion - was placed third, having grown by 20 per cent in the last two years, thanks to a stable business model with predictable results, since it is working in mature economies including the UK and Germany and in growth regions in Central and South America.

Basque country-based bank BBVA and clothing brand Bershka, also owned by Ortega, make up the top five.

Supermarket chain Mercadona, in eighth place, is the second-fastest growing brand after Zara, after its value increased by 31 per cent in the last two years, while fashion chain Mango is the biggest loser, with its value having plunged by 39 per cent.

New entries in the top 20 include beer brewer Estrella Galicia and private medical firm Sanitas, while British-owned telecommunications com-



ON THE UP: The rise and rise of Zara has put Movistar (inset) under the magnifying glass.

pany Jazztel, and banking group Banco Popular drop out, the latter in the wake of its takeover by Santander.

Spain's two biggest football clubs, Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, appear in positions 17 and 20, with respective values of €530 million and €470 million.

By sectors, banking is the most-represented with eight entries on the list, whereas fashion is the most valuable despite only appearing five times, with the worth of Zara, Bershka, Massimo Dutti, Mango and Desigual estimated at €18.8 billion, 35 per cent of the overall total.

Debt grows but leaders count on 2018 boost

PUBLIC debt in Spain has broken all records.

After rising by more than €9 million in November, the total of €1.14 billion is the highest ever registered, according to the Bank of Spain.

The figure is equivalent to more than 98.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), well above the country's European Union target of 98.1 per cent by the close of 2017.

But the Spanish government said it expects the figure to fall to 96.8 per cent this year.

The increase is being blamed on higher indebtedness registered by the State, which increased by €11.1 million to an unparalleled €987.2 million.

Spain's public debt before the global financial crisis hit in 2007 was €384 million, or 35 per cent of GDP.

DEFENCE BUDGET SET TO GROW

Bottom line of fire

SPAIN'S annual military spending has risen to €835 million.

The figure represents an 8.2 per cent increase on the €771.1 million splashed out in 2016, after the Ministry of Defence took part in 17 missions during 2017.

According to official figures, the most expensive operation was conducted in Lebanon, after 618 Spanish soldiers were deployed on a peace-keeping mission, at a cost of €138 million.

The forces joined a campaign, started 12 years ago, by the United Nations (UN) in the wake of a violent confrontation between Israel and militants from the Shia Islamist political party.

This was followed by a €123.1 million operation in Iraq as 541 troops, including 71 from the Army Engineer Corps, joined the international coalition fighting Muslim fundamentalist group Daesh in the war-torn country.

And €84.3 million was spent on the European Union (EU) Operation Sophia, combatting human trafficking and illegal migration in the Mediterranean Sea, an ongoing campaign based mostly in Libyan waters.



EXPENDITURE UP: Defence Minister María Dolores de Cospedal poses with troops during a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Spain currently deploys 2,469 soldiers on five continents, and national Defence Minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, is due to appear in the Congress of Deputies, the lower house of Spain's legislative branch, to request an increase in spending for 2018.

In particular, the official wants to send an additional 152 troops to Mali, with Spanish General Enrique Millán set to assume command of the EU mission based there.

Spain's military spending in 2017

1. Lebanon (UN): €138 million
2. Iraq (Global Coalition Against Daesh): €123.1 million
3. Mediterranean - Operation Sophia (EU): €84.3 million
4. Atlantic and Mediterranean naval groups (NATO): €84.1 million
5. Indian Ocean - Operation Atalanta (EU): €74.2 million
6. Mali - Training mission (EU): €72.9 million
7. Latvia - Enhanced Forward Presence (NATO): €63.4 million
8. Estonia - Baltic Air Policing (NATO): €48.7 million
9. Turkey - Patriot Missile Battery Support (NATO): €38.3 million
10. Senegal - Air detachment (France support): €36.4 million
11. Mediterranean - Sea Guardian (NATO): €27.1 million
12. Gabon - Air detachment (France support): €22.1 million
13. Central African Republic (EU): €8.3 million
14. Afghanistan - Resolute Support (NATO): €6.7 million
15. Colombia - Observation mission (UN): €3.5 million
16. Somalia - Training mission (EU): €3.4 million
17. Bosnia Herzegovina (UE): €0.4 million

UK losing out in space race

INFRASTRUCTURE for the Galileo satellite system will be moved from the UK to Spain over Brexit fears.

It comes after a committee of representatives from European Union member states voted in favour of the move from London to Madrid.

The back-up security centre for Galileo - an advanced version of GPS - is not yet fully operational in London, but was expected to employ 30 people.

It was originally awarded to London in 2010, and controls access to the system with 24-hour monitoring when the main security headquarters near Paris is offline.

It is the latest Brexit blow to the UK's space industry, and follows a November announcement by aerospace companies and the Royal Aeronautical Society, in which they claimed they were being overlooked for contracts.



GOVERNMENT DEFENDS COST OF EXTRA POLICE €87m Cataluña spend

THE Catalan independence crisis cost the Spanish state €87 million in police spending.

Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido was forced to defend the eye-popping figure, after thousands of Guardia Civil and National Police officers were deployed to the troubled region last autumn.

They were tasked with preventing an illegal independence referendum on October 1, and many remained in place until after the snap election, called by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, eventually withdrawing on December 30.

Clashes between police and pro-independence supporters, during the referendum saw hundreds injured, as the Spanish forces closed 113 polling stations and stopped a further 100 from opening.

Images of the violence - including footage of armed police



Photo credit: Juan Ignacio Zoido/Witter/You Tube

CONTROVERSIAL: Police beat pro-independence protesters and (inset) Minister Zoido, left, appears before the Senate of Spain.

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beating elderly people, women and peaceful protesters - were condemned across the globe.

But Mr Zoido, who was appearing before the Spanish Senate voluntarily, strongly defended the offensive, which he said took place against "the absolute passivity and minimal collaboration" of the Mossos d'Esquadra

Catalan police.

"The operation was legitimate, professional, and proportional," he said. "I regret as much as anyone that people were hurt, but those responsible generated a climate of disobedience with their reckless and illegal behaviour."

He went on to justify the cost of the exercise, with the money used for accommodation, food, travel and day-to-day living.

"It is a high price that all Spaniards have to pay due to the irresponsibility and stubbornness of the pro-independence government," he said.

The official also pointed out that damages to police stations and vehicles cost €135,000.

An average of 4,500 officers were based in Cataluña throughout the crisis, with 6,000 in place on the day of the referendum.

Opposition groups criticised Mr Zoido, with Xavier Castel-

ana, of the pro-independence Esquerra Republicana party, accusing the government of "applying the political will of Franco to maintain the unity of Spain."

Others quizzed the minister over the use of rubber bullets and pepper spray.

Following the referendum, the regional government declared independence, prompting the Spanish government to dissolve Catalan parliament and call snap elections.

A number of pro-independence politicians were subsequently arrested, and some - including ousted leader Carles Puigdemont - had warrants issued for their arrest. Puigdemont has since fled to Belgium.

December's snap election failed to provide a decisive result, with separatists retaining a slim majority, but not taking over 50 per cent of the vote.

Chinese seek to sell hotels

A CHINESE conglomerate is seeking to sell its stake in a Spanish hotel chain.

HNA Group, which has investments across the globe and ranked number 179 on the Fortune Global 500 list, is reportedly trying to offload its majority stake in the NH Hotel Group.

The move comes days after NH - headquartered in Madrid - turned down a takeover bid from Mallorca-based rival Barceló Group.

HNA revealed it has hired banking firms JP Morgan and Benedetto, Gartland and Company to find a buyer for its 29.5 per cent stake in NH, valued at around €632 million.

Spain's hotel industry is booming, as the country last year became the second-most visited country in the world after France, having outstripped the United States.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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I have nothing against immigration

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



WASN'T too sure how to scribble this week; light or heavy?

Do I attract the 'slings and arrows' or go for a few laughs? The hell with it, I'm opting for heavy (surprise, surprise)!

The main reason is, that I am utterly sick of people reminding me that I am 'also an immigrant.'

They sneeringly remark 'Has the irony escaped you?' after I have written some depreciating piece or commented on Europe and its immigrant problems. Well of course it hasn't. I'm not a moron. I am an immigrant, and one with no regrets whatsoever. All those years ago, disillusioned and broke, with a career in ruins and a young family to support, in 1975 I left my beloved UK and made tracks for Saudi Arabia.

There I worked my proverbials off for some eight years. When I had saved what I considered enough, and with nothing to attract me back to the UK, I looked around and with some encouragement from a good friend, decided to settle in Spain.

I brought in some 40K (no small sum in '83!) became a resident and invested in a (failed!) busi-



BORDERS: Must be made secure.

ness. I've had four children here and all have been educated in the Spanish system. I speak the language (could be better!), have always paid my dues, and have integrated pretty well into the Spanish community.

What I did not do, was to enter the country ille-

gally, expect to be housed and paid benefits for doing nothing, insist that their schools fly the British flag or change their menu to suit my taste. I did not, create 'no go' areas, consider myself to be above local laws, mow down or slaughter innocent civilians while screaming 'Jesus is great'

or scream racism when decisions didn't go my way.

I have nothing whatsoever against immigration. I truly believe diversity to be both healthy and progressive. I do not however condone millions of ungrateful layabouts and fanatics, hell bent on screwing as much as they can from their host countries and trying to overthrow and change the culture by sheer weight of numbers and social upheaval.

I do of course realise that many immigrants are not of this ilk and do contribute invaluable input to the societies they have adopted. But far too many do not. Until we cap the numbers of those wanting to enter the more successful democracies of Europe, vet them all far more carefully, strengthen our borders and insist on much higher standards, I'm afraid Europe is doomed to a future beset with conflict and problems that will result in chaos, misery and ultimate capitulation.

Unfortunately I feel it is already far too late.

Sorry to select 'heavy' again this week. Promise a measure of light next, ok? Thanks for all the mail and encouraging comments 'on the street.'

Sorry also, that I can't reply to most missives, but I do read 'em all - promise.

Keep the faith.

Love Leapy leapylee@gmail.com

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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

TECH FOR THE TIMID



Wham spam thank you ma'am

BEYONCÉ is said to have dozens and to change them every week. I have four and haven't changed them for years.

We're talking e-mail addresses, which some people change the way others change their socks. Or should. Not mentioning any names.

It's a surprising half-century since e-mail first emerged, and now we send 50 billion a day, many aimed at augmenting the male anatomy or congratulating you on winning a lottery you didn't enter.

E-mail has decimated the world's traditional postal services, and has reached even the middle of the middle of nowhere. Experts say it's under threat from social media and texts, yet today the world has nearly five billion e-mail addresses, at 2.1 per online user.

But if you're over 50 and typical, you've got just one. Which is a really, really bad idea.

Far from simplifying your life, having just one actually complicates it. Let me give you a for instance.

If the internet really is 90 per cent porn and spam, Terence Kennedy reveals one way of staying sane online.



E-MAIL ACCOUNTS: The more the merrier.

Buy just about anything these days, from a left-handed screwdriver, to a pack of Meccano-set furniture, and the vendor wants your e-mail address. Officially, for his sales records. Unofficially, so he can swamp you the way Amazon pioneered: 'If you liked this item, you may like these other sev-

en hundred...'

Buying online is even worse. Even e-mail providers want an e-mail address to be able to give you an e-mail address.

What it all means is the tedious daily click and zap, deleting the average eight spam messages sent a day for every person on the planet.

So here's this week's priceless tip. Sign-up for at least one extra, free e-mail address. Dish it out happily to everyone who asks, and keep your 'real' address for just friends, family and work.

The biggest advantage is not actually having to download all the junk mail which hits this backup account. That's because you're not going to access it with your normal

e-mail 'client' (programs like Microsoft's Outlook or Mail, Thunderbird, Apple Mail etc).

Instead, go to its website. Under your name will be a list, still without downloading anything. You can simply go tick, tick, tick against all the junk in the list, skipping any you might actually want to read, and then hit the delete button just once.

Voila - they are consigned to e-mail oblivion. Nothing is downloaded, including viruses. There is no futile, irritating beeping coming from your smartphone. No waiting for spam to creep in at its petty pace, before you can get to that vitally important family or work message.

Mailing it

FREE e-mail accounts certainly cost less than the proverbial 'dime-a-dozen', letting you use the service in return for showing you some advertising or harvesting your personal data.

Most providers will indeed let you have more than one address, so in principle if you want multiple Gmail or Yahoo mailboxes, yes you can. Or how about the freebie addresses from your Internet Service Provider, which most of us don't actually use because we already had an established and portable one?

For an account with an address entirely different to your 'real' one, there are plenty of other providers who dish them out like sweets: Yandex, Zoho, Proton, Mail.com....

Sadly, there is some bad news (for me at least) and that is that the best address has already been claimed: hotmale@hotmail.com.

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Nick Horne - writer of *The Rich Pick* - travelled widely with his expat parents in his youth but has based himself in London - limpet like - for most of the last four decades despite working in global media. For the past 20 years with a high end quarterly magazine read by the commercial and political elite of the Middle East. Travelling extensively and learning who is supplying the exclusive needs and exquisite wants of a minute fraction of planet Earth's population.

A Picasso portrait, an E1 Million watch and a high-tech chair. 'The Rich Pick' of Nick Horne in a new weekly column.

THE impulse for the unique or to personalise is irresistible, the cost can be great, rather than just own a Rolls Royce it must be bespoke, a unique expression of their taste. Such a person and family will frequently travel; often in their own aircraft, which naturally has a shower en suite to the bedrooms.

Three near unique objects; a Picasso portrait, a chair and a watch, irresistible objects to a person with the wealth to buy anything.

Consider a chair that is near perfect, and improve it. David Hugh Limited launched its latest creation the Elysium-R chair at Rolls Royce Motor Cars London. Displaying it in the dealer's window next to the latest Phantom

Million Euro wristwatch!



Credit: Sotheby's

PABLO PICASSO: Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter), December 1937.

model. One of just 18 on offer worldwide.

The Elysium-R neutralises grav-

ity 'by implementing flotation theory' to take comfort to a whole new level. Presented in near black



ELYSIUM-R: The near perfect chair.

pure aniline leather made from Swedish cattle with a black chrome plated stainless steel base and an almond gold frame. Black anodised aluminium arm rests, gel filled, are swept back to follow the chair's contours and

motion. David Wicket co-founder of David Hugh observed, "this is without question the most elegant version of Elysium we have ever made." Price £38,000 (€39,378).

For the serious watch collector; very serious wealth is an obligation. The RM 50-03 Tourbillon McLaren F1 a Richard Mille at £964,000 (€1.08m) makes a statement on

the wrist, though only to those who recognise the wristwatch for what it is. A rare wristwatch one of a kind or created to order.

Finally; a unique portrait painted by Picasso in 1937 has emerged from a distinguished private collection and depicts his golden muse Marie-Thérèse Walter. Painted just months after his masterpieces Guernica and Weeping Women. Picasso at the very peak of his creative energy.

Described as 'One of the greatest portraits by Picasso to appear on the market in recent years' by Thomas Bompard; Head of Sotheby's London Impressionist & Modern Art 'Of all the artist's styles and decades this is the one that most epitomises the legacy of Picasso as a portraitist of women.'

Soon to be offered at auction in London. If you ask, you possibly cannot afford it though Sotheby's will share an estimate auction bid upon a serious enquiry. Those with the ability will be there among the bidders or sending their agent.

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A birthday party at 11am?

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WHEN I came back from the UK at Christmas I got the flu. Not my normal, sniffy, man cold stuff. I got THE FLU.

I don't know whether it's my age but I was out for the count for five days. I couldn't get out of bed. Mrs S went to the pharmacy and got me all the medications but nothing worked. So I got to thinking - has anyone had the flu jab? If so, does it work?

I finally felt well enough to venture out and in fact I had booked to go back to England for my mate's 70th birthday party. We have been friends since we were five years old so there was no way I was going to miss it.

I'd booked my flights and hotel and car and they were all paid for or so I thought. A few days before I went I got an email from Ryanair telling me that if I wanted to take hand luggage, with wheels, into the cabin I'd have to pay extra.

Now when I booked I thought it was included so I went on to their live chat and told them it was a liberty. Of course, they were not interested and I paid the extra but

lots of people didn't and it was fun watching people trying to smuggle hand luggage on to the plane. The staff were not having any of it.

I have a favourite deli I go to when I'm in the UK and I decided to go there for a late breakfast on Saturday before I left for the airport to come home. As I was on my own I couldn't sit in one of the lovely booths that I like by the window and I was given a seat round the other side where I was the only one sitting for five minutes. Then it happened.

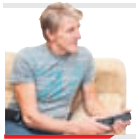
The door opened and I realised that the reason I was the only one round there was that the 20-odd five-year-olds hadn't arrived yet, but they had now! Who has a birthday party at 11am for five-year-olds in a deli? And who sits a grumpy old man on his own next to them?

There has to be some sort of rule about that. The noise was horrendous, but they did seem to be enjoying themselves. But come on people, use yer loaf - at least warn me and let me decide whether to stay or go.

Sorry to hear the man who invented predictive text died this week. His funfair will be next monkey.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email: mikesenker@gmail.com



**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

THOUGHT I would give *Vera* a try on Sunday *ITV*. Sorry to say it doesn't work for me. Brenda Blethyn dressed as a cast-off from the old lady in the long gone *Heartbeat* series in a dodgy hat, blue scarf and coat that's seen better days.

Her P reg Land Rover tops it off. It's an easy watch but I just didn't feel it somehow. Just one last thing, do they address people as 'love' in Northumberland?

Sometimes having a zap round the channels away from the mainstream brings up some watchable or repeated TV, and *Dave on Demand's American Pickers* is always worth a half hour of your time. Two clued-up buyers scour the country searching for antiques or collectables to buy and sell. These guys don't settle just for small items, they will buy anything that looks like there's a profit in it.

In one programme set in upstate New York they met up with First Officer John Skiles, famed for manning the aeroplane that landed in the Hudson River, who had barns full of flying memorabilia.

They went away from there laden with an aeroplane engine, rare air show posters and magazines, and wheels, allowing them to make a sizeable profit. Take a look, no thinking required.

Hard Sun, a BBC six-part drama for Saturday

Vera plods, Mellor triumphs and repeats appeal

nights kicked off last week and went straight in to the action. Agyness Deyn the ex-model turned actress, made an unusual but creditable cop who can verbally and physically mix it with her peers. There's skulduggery everywhere you turn in this pre-apocalyptic thriller, which starts after a computer document saying the world has five years to doomsday is leaked.

The intelligence services are on her trail and they have all her hangout covered. Looks like a hit from the Beeb, but it's still early days.

Homes Under the Hammer (BBC 1) should be axed immediately as this tired old format has reached its end point. Buy cheap, renovate cheap, make money, and move on. As if two presenters aren't enough they have now roped in a third! Come on Beeb, don't waste licence payers' money any longer, put us out of our misery, get shut, it's had its day.

Girlfriends (ITV) is another Kay Mellor hit (she can do no wrong in my book) that focuses on three lifelong friends played by Miranda Richardson, Zoe Wanamaker and Phyllis Logan. All have some form of crisis and they together solve them as only girlfriends do. The storyline



HIT: From left, Zoë Wanamaker, Phyllis Logan and Miranda Richardson in *Girlfriends*.

MISS: Brenda Blethyn in *Vera*.

is quite simple as most of Mellor's tales are, but the script is crisp, understandable and most of all plausible.

Still going strong on Sundays is *Dragons' Den (BBC 2)*. The series has gone through its fair share of multi-millionaires over the years but it's still a really good watch. There's something more than a bit satisfying watching suc-

cessful candidates sealing a deal with these astute business giants.

Death in Paradise (BBC1) has finally bagged the man for the part at the third time of asking as British cop Jack Mooney is now played by Ardal O'Hanlon. He has the right amount of clumsiness mixed with a thorough detective's brain to nail the villain.

Critique: P M San Fulgencio, Costa Blanca

Advertising Feature



Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL
christina@globelink.co.uk

Why winter is the best time to buy annual travel insurance

CHRISTMAS and New Year celebrations seem a lifetime ago, so how better to shake off winter blues than planning your next break? Kick start your journey with our travel savvy tips on why now is the best time to buy your essential annual travel insurance cover.

If you love travelling more than twice a year, and don't want the hassle of buying travel insurance each time you go, or worse still, the risk of forgetting to buy it, then Annual Multi Trip insurance is your best option.

Buying now means you can sit back and book as many holidays as you like, with the peace of mind that your travel insurance is sorted for the entire calendar year. As a regular traveller you'll save a fortune by avoiding shelling out on single trip insurance each time you go gallivanting.

January and February, are traditionally the busiest months for advanced holiday bookings as we get

lured by the blitz of holiday promotions. Buying your Annual policy now and opting for an immediate 'start date' means you are covered straightaway for holidays you book, or have already booked.

Buying now ensures that any winter sun or winter sports breaks are covered under one policy. But check before you buy, as most annual policies won't offer Cruise, or Winter Sports as standard. Globelink include cruise cover on all policies and Winter Sports on our Annual Multi Trip policies with a 45+ trip duration.

Don't leave purchasing your travel insurance to the last minute, and don't opt for a future 'start date' on your Annual policy under the misapprehension that you're not travelling for a while. Otherwise you won't benefit from your policy pre-departure elements.

For example, if the policy in-



PEACE OF MIND: Put your feet up and think of travel insurance.

cludes Cancellation, this protection kicks-in instantly as long as you opt for an immediate start date. Did you know that holiday Cancellation is one of the most common reasons for making a travel insurance claim? So do yourself a favour and start your policy immediately.

A good Annual Multi Trip policy lets you take as many trips as you like abroad, under the one policy. However, some companies place limits, so look out for restrictions on trips, and the 'individual trip duration.' Be sure to buy a policy that covers the longest trip you'll take.

Look out for special deals such as children go free, or couples discounts. This could save you a packet. Beware however, the cheapest policy may not provide the cover you need; and the most expensive may not be the best! Read the small print and choose based on your circumstances.

Take account of your holiday costs; value of luggage; and always declare pre-existing medical conditions. Sidestep this at your peril, as it could invalidate your policy and cost you dearly in both cash and anguish.

Wherever you travel, visit the Foreign & Commonwealth (FCO) Travel Aware website for travel safety and security advice and happy holidays!

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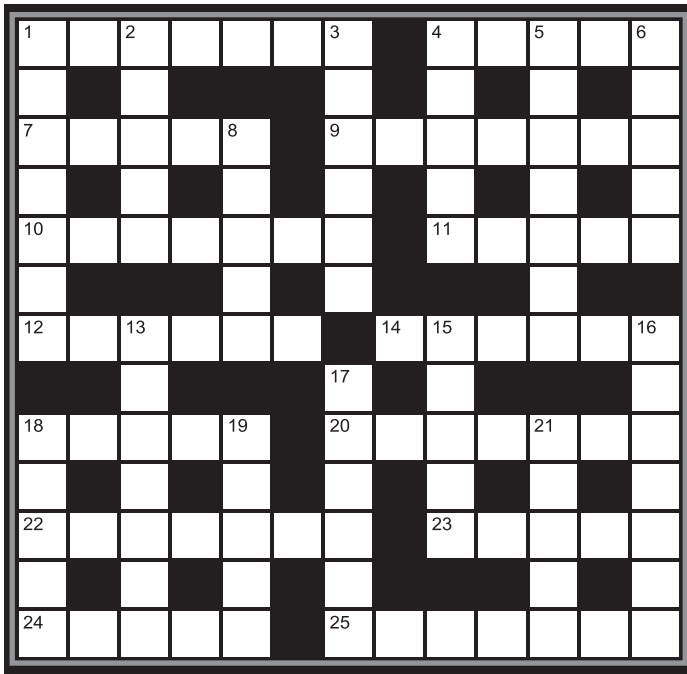
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Aspired, in a way, to helplessness (7)
- 4 Slogs away to get shine (5)
- 7 Only about five find the answer (5)
- 9 Strongly criticising the roof work (7)
- 10 Encourage another to breathe? (7)
- 11 Minor part in Oedipus Rex tragedy (5)
- 12 Stone alien missile (6)
- 14 Hit and miss or damn silly (6)
- 18 A drink for the American conscripts (5)
- 20 Leave, if there's a group performing (7)
- 22 Roman officer broke turbine (7)
- 23 Some of his language was jargon (5)
- 24 Fruit for specific days of the month (5)
- 25 Rushes to publish within seconds (7)

Down

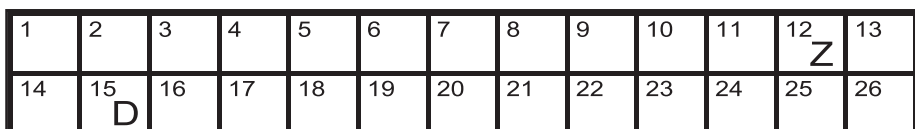
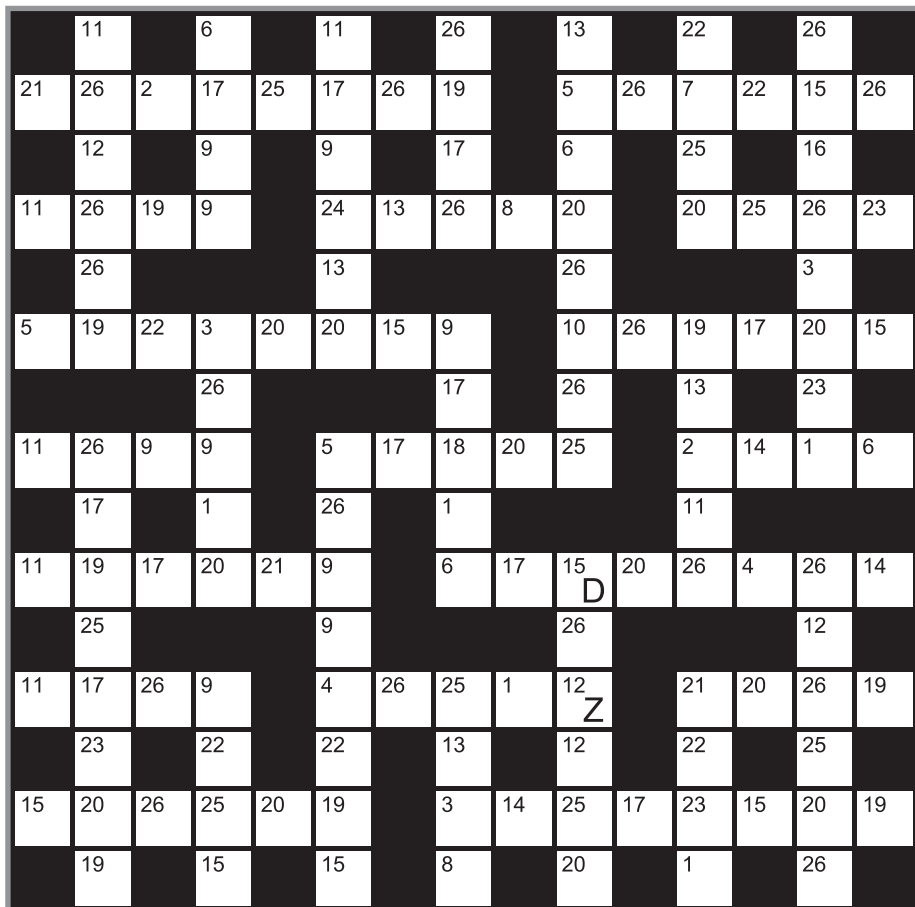
- 1 Tramp, one in collection of papers (7)
- 2 Auctions off prison rooms, we hear (5)
- 3 More hasty to produce a slice of bacon (6)
- 4 Elegance of old cricketer (5)
- 5 Left out by mistake, I met Dot (7)
- 6 Greek letter begins, 'Sir, I give



- my assurance' (5)
- 8 Some hotel items for the select few (5)
- 13 Disturbance after tea in old vehicle (7)
- 15 Gather a large amount (5)
- 16 Chap gets older, but copes
- 17 Menservants drink during TV's broadcast (6)
- 18 Went out with old hat (5)
- 19 Roy leaves mixed yoghurts for hooligans (5)
- 21 Empty shower after last showered (5)

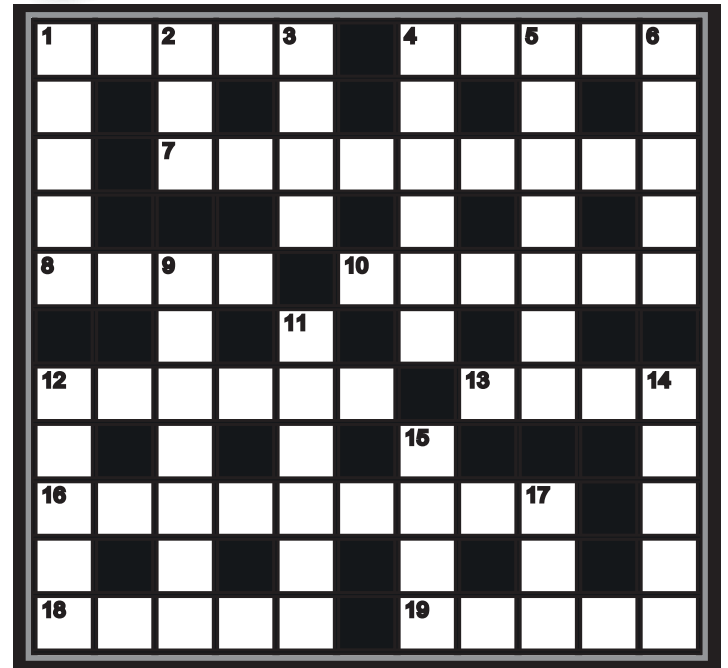
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents Z and 15 represents D, so fill in Z every time the figure 12 appears and D every time the figure 15 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.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

- 1 Clearly defined (5)
- 4 Clean with hard rubbing (5)
- 7 Large, hairy spider (9)
- 8 Chore (4)
- 10 Unusual mental ability (6)
- 12 Musical instrument (6)
- 13 Asks for alms (4)
- 16 Too soon or too hasty (9)
- 18 Thick, closely-spaced, compact (5)
- 19 Lacking self-confidence (5)

Down

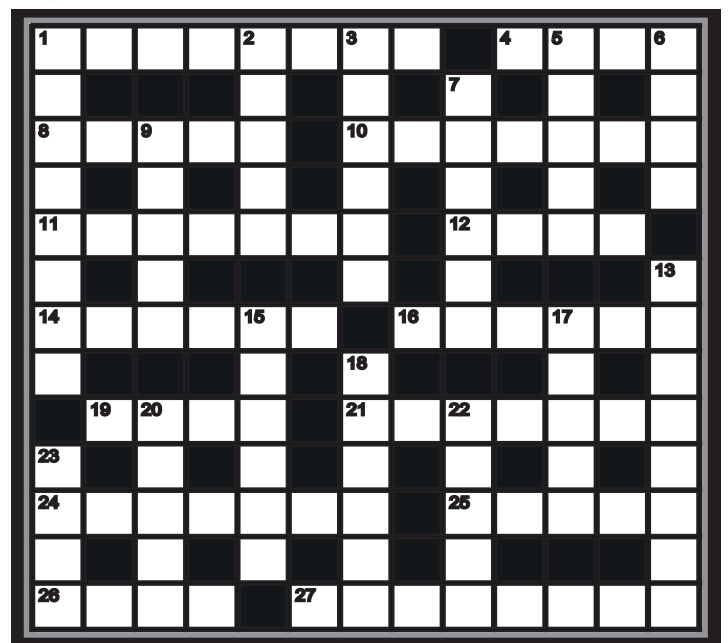
- 1 Woman's garment hanging from the waist (5)

Across

- 2 Social insect living in organised colonies (3)
- 3 Meat from a domestic pig (4)
- 4 Vocalist (6)
- 5 Everyday procedure (9)
- 6 Alloy of copper and zinc (5)
- 9 Person who treats injuries or diseases by manual operations (7)
- 11 Argument (6)
- 12 Roman god of love (5)
- 14 Small group of soldiers assigned to a particular activity (5)
- 15 Fair and impartial (4)
- 17 Tall, deciduous tree (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Shower (of rain) (8)
- 4 Pelota (4)
- 8 Guante (5)
- 10 Poppy (7)
- 11 Stadium (7)
- 12 Grosero (maleducado) (4)
- 14 To turn off (light, television) (6)
- 16 Pajitas (6)
- 19 Tin can (4)
- 21 Rescue (7)
- 24 Disculpa (7)
- 25 Mareas (5)
- 26 Plomo (4)
- 27 Prisionero (8)

Down

- 1 Storks (8)
- 2 Delante (5)
- 3 Nails (metal) (6)
- 5 Evitar (5)
- 6 Loyal (4)
- 7 Zanahoria (6)
- 9 Oyster (5)
- 13 Lift (elevator) (8)
- 15 Spit (roast) (6)
- 17 Coffin (5)
- 18 Oración (religión) (6)
- 20 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
- 22 Mushrooms (flat-topped) (5)
- 23 Caída (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' WE WERE GOING ELECTRIC - BUT THE THREAT OF DROUGHTS AND DESERTS...! '

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: 11
- Very good: 22
- Good: 15
- Excellent: 29

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

berk berm bier boor bore bort brim brio brit emir kerb mire moor more mort oreo rime riot rite robe rook room root rote term tier tiro tore tori trek trim trio biker biter broke brook broom merit metro miter mitre moire motor ombre orbit remit robot timer tribe trike booker boomer obiter reboot retook rookie roomie timber timbre **MOTORBIKE**

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

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Speak, 4 Focas, 10 Enter, 11 Seaside, 12 Mas joven, 13 Damp, 15 Ninety, 17 Colour, 19 Sage, 20 Farmacia, 23 Receive, 24 Nests, 25 Toser, 26 Pared.

Down:

- 2 Patos, 3 Airports, 5 Ojal, 6 Ahijado, 7 Hermanastro, 8 Ashes, 9 Despertarse, 14 Tormenta, 16 Negocio, 18 Paseo, 21 Cisne, 22 Wise.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Peach, 4 Courage, 8 Chagrin, 9 Sward, 10 Satin, 11 Meander, 12 Diddle, 14 Meagre, 17 Setback, 19 Snaps, 21 Arena, 22 Initial, 23 Redeems, 24 Sorry.

Down:

- 1 Picks, 2 Adapted, 3 Heron, 4 Cinema, 5 Upstage, 6 Award, 7 Endorse, 12 Despair, 13 Leakage, 15 Glacier, 16 Skeins, 18 Trend, 19 Slips, 20 Splay.

QUICK

Across:

- 1/11 Dry ice, 3 Pact, 5 Acre, 6 Swap, 8 Rant, 12 Rush, 15 Sofa, 16 Drag, 17 Pike, 18 Eat.

Down:

- 1 Dear, 2 Yarn, 3 Pester, 4 Tip, 7 Adds, 9 Alto, 10 Tirade, 13 Urge, 14 Hint, 15 Sip.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday January 20



IRISH LOTTO

Saturday January 20



EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday January 16



Friday January 19



EL MILLON: WCN20873

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday January 18



JOKER: 3 973 025

Saturday January 20



JOKER: 3 031 690

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 21



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

You realise this week how liberating it is to share your thoughts and feelings with someone close. It is not always easy to do this, until you realise everyone has them. Some hopes and dreams are more attainable than others, of course, and someone has to find out which are which.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Reading the small print or being sure what is offered in a personal encounter is most important this week. Leave nothing to chance or you could be out of pocket.



VRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Being over-generous with cash midweek could see you making a poor move.

Perhaps someone needs to be more hardworking or perhaps less of a spendthrift. Propping up a bad habit would be doing them no favours.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Time is precious this week because you are in demand. A chance lost in the past presents itself again but won't be too easy. Holding back just a little makes you more desirable. A want to travel could be cramped by financial considerations. If making extra money is too difficult, consider sharing something of value with someone else.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

A suggestion made by you recently did not seem to be taken seriously.

This week, however, negotiations could be opened.

Circumstances change and it may seem someone gave up too early. Bide your time and even hold your tongue when someone in a strong position spouts rubbish.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

After a relaxed weekend, it might prove difficult to take up the reins of work again.

However, midweek sees you trotting along happily and minding your own business when someone stops you in your tracks. When a challenge is issued, your natural stubbornness comes to the fore.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Confidence in a close relationship should be maintained.

Possibly someone who envies your position would like to see discord. A matter of spiritual or religious faith is questioned, but the answer comes more clearly and sharply than you would have thought.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

With a mind as sharp as a needle, you spin through the week, weaving your own charming spell. A bit of extra confidence works wonders for your mood. Something that you read sets you thinking about doing some writing or creating something artistic, perhaps even a musical.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

An emotional cut-off from the past is not as bad as anticipated. Indeed, it confirms in your mind who you are and what your place in the world is. Inherited traits knit easily with your present life and bring contentment.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Although energy is not high, there is the need to have some kind of challenge. With the brain active, it is an ideal time to plot and plan your next moves. Maybe something that has been delayed might now be advanced. You find it hard to choose between opportunities.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

An investment made recently is built upon and brings peace of mind.

Finances do need consideration but more in the long than the short-term. Much is happening in the background that does not require your attention but, all the same, be aware.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

The imagination stirs and the heart races at a suggestion this week. Your strong intuition tells you it is the right thing to do.

QUIZ: DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

- Seven Tears was a UK number one hit single in 1982 for which dance band?
- The Latin-American ballroom dance the rumba originated on which Caribbean island?
- The mazurka is a lively folk dance in triple time principally associated with which country?
- What is the name of the American-born dancer/choreographer who became internationally known for his Irish dance shows Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, Feet of Flames and Celtic Tiger?
- Which actor starred, directed and produced the epic 1990 American Western film Dances with Wolves?
- Which American actress and former teen model starred as the 18-year-old welder Alex Owens in the 1983 American romantic drama film Flashdance?

- Which French impressionist artist is noted for his many paintings of dance scenes, including The Dance Class, Dancers at the Barre and Dancers in Pink?
- Which group topped the UK singles chart in 1962 with Dance On?
- Which Lerner and Loewe musical features the song I Could Have Danced All Night?
- Which newsreader and television presenter was the first ever series winner of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing in 2004?

Not a lot of people know that... the earliest known evidence of dancing comes from 9,000 year-old cave paintings in India.

Answers:

- GOOMBAY DANCE BAND,
- CUBA, 3. POLAND,
- MICHAEL FLATLEY, 5. KEVIN COSTNER, 6. JENNIFER BEALS,
- EDGAR DEGAS, 8. THE SHADOWS, 9. MY FAIR LADY, 10. NATASHA KAPLINSKY (dancing with Brendan Cole)

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THURSDAY - 25 JANUARY

BBC one **BBC TWO** **BBC FOUR** **CHANNEL 4** **CHANNEL 5**

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 7:00am Breakfast | 7:00am Flog it! Trade Secrets | 8:00pm Beyond 100 Days | 7:00am Countdown | 9:20am Rusty Rivets |
| 10:15am Rip Off Britain | 7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown | 8:30pm Top of the Pops | 7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun | 9:35am Shimmer and Shine |
| 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer | 8:15am Antiques Road Trip | 9:00pm How We Got to Now with Steve Johnson | 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond | 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom |
| 12:00pm Wanted Down Under | 9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals | 10:00pm Forces of Nature with Brian Cox | 9:30am Frasier | 10:05am Mofy |
| 12:45pm A1: Britain's Longest Road | 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire | 11:00pm Prehistoric Autopsy | 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA | 10:15am The Wright Stuff |
| 1:15pm Bargain Hunt | 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live | 12:00am Lost Land of the Volcano | 12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses | 12:15pm Cowboy Builders |
| 2:00pm BBC News at One | 1:00pm The Daily Politics | 1:00pm Channel 4 News | 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me | 1:10pm 5 News |
| 2:30pm BBC London News | 2:00pm Bowls | 2:05pm Posh Pawn | 3:10pm Countdown | 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector |
| 2:45pm Doctors | 6:00pm Tennis | 3:10pm Village of the Year | 4:00pm The Simpsons | 2:15pm Home and Away |
| 3:15pm Father Brown | 7:00pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 2:45pm Neighbours |
| 4:00pm Escape to the Country | 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 3:15pm NCIS |
| 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown | 9:00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure | 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers | 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces | 4:15pm Driven |
| 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 10:00pm A House Through Time | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 10:00pm Hunted | 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip |
| 6:15pm Pointless | 11:00pm The Mash Report | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 11:00pm Derry Girls | 6:15pm Pointless |
| 7:00pm BBC News at Six | 11:30pm Newsnight | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 11:30pm The Undateables | 7:00pm BBC News at Six |
| 7:30pm BBC London News | 12:15am Stealing Van Gogh | 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces | 12:30am The Super Orgasm | 7:30pm BBC London News |
| 8:00pm The One Show | 1:15am Bowls | 10:00pm BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more. | 1:30am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners | 8:00pm The One Show |
| 8:30pm EastEnders | | | | 8:30pm Match of the Day Live |
| 9:00pm Big Cats | | | | 9:00pm Mastermind |
| 10:00pm Death in Paradise | | | | 9:00pm John Humphrys presents another heat of the classic quiz. |
| 11:00pm BBC News at Ten | | | | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother |
| 11:30pm BBC London News | | | | 10:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies |
| 11:45pm Question Time | | | | 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter |
| 12:45am This Week | | | | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side |

itv **itv2** **itv3** **itv4** **sky sports main event**

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 9:30am Lorraine | 7:25am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records | 7:00am Classic Coronation Street | 7:00am The Chase | 7:00am Live European Tour Golf |
| 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show | 7:55am Dress to Impress | 7:55am Heartbeat | 7:50am Pawn Stars | 7:50am Pawn Stars |
| 11:30am This Morning | 8:45am Emmerdale | 8:55am The Royal Coronation Street | 8:10am Pawn Stars | 8:10am Pawn Stars |
| 1:30pm Loose Women | 9:20am The Ellen DeGeneres Show | 10:00am Judge Judy | 8:30am Ironside | 8:30am Ironside |
| 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News | 10:25am Who's Doing the Dishes? | 10:25am Judge Judy | 9:30am Quincy, M.E. | 9:30am Quincy, M.E. |
| 2:55pm ITV News London | 11:10am Dress to Impress | 10:50am Judge Judy | 10:35am Minder | 10:35am Minder |
| 3:00pm Judge Rinder | 1:10pm Emmerdale | 11:20am The Darling Buds of May | 11:45am The Sweeney | 11:45am The Sweeney |
| 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal | 1:45pm Coronation Street | 12:25pm The Darling Buds of May | 12:50pm The Professionals | 12:50pm The Professionals |
| 5:00pm Tipping Point | 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show | 1:35pm The Royal Coronation Street | 1:50pm Ironside | 1:50pm Ironside |
| 6:00pm The Chase | 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show | 2:40pm Heartbeat | 2:50pm Quincy, M.E. | 2:50pm Quincy, M.E. |
| 7:00pm ITV News London | 6:50pm Take Me Out | 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street | 3:55pm Minder | 3:55pm Minder |
| 7:30pm ITV Evening News | 8:00pm You've Been Framed! | 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street | 5:00pm The Sweeney | 5:00pm The Sweeney |
| 8:00pm Emmerdale | 8:30pm You've Been Framed! | 4:50pm On the Buses | 5:05pm The Professionals | 5:05pm The Professionals |
| 8:30pm Bargain Holidays: What's the Truth? Tonight | 9:00pm Two and a Half Men | 5:20pm On the Buses | 7:05pm The Car Chasers | 7:05pm The Car Chasers |
| 9:00pm Emmerdale | 9:30pm Superstore | 5:55pm Rising Damp | 7:35pm The Car Chasers | 7:35pm The Car Chasers |
| 9:30pm The Cruise | 10:00pm Release the Hounds | 6:25pm George and Mildred | 8:05pm Pawn Stars | 8:05pm Pawn Stars |
| 10:00pm Transformation Street | 11:00pm Celebrity Juice | 7:00pm Heartbeat | 8:35pm Pawn Stars | 8:35pm Pawn Stars |
| 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 11:50pm Family Guy | 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote | 9:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special | 9:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special |
| 11:30pm ITV News London | 12:20am Family Guy | 9:00pm Agatha Christie's Marple | 10:00pm The Shawshank Redemption | 10:00pm The Shawshank Redemption |
| 11:45pm Great Art | | 9:00pm Foyle's War | 11:15pm FYI Daily | 11:15pm FYI Daily |
| 12:45am Joanna Lumley's Postcards | | 1:05am Inspector Morse | 12:55am Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber | 12:55am Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber |

FRIDAY - 26 JANUARY

BBC one **BBC TWO** **BBC FOUR** **CHANNEL 4** **CHANNEL 5**

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 10:15am Rip Off Britain | 7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown | 4:30am This is BBC Four | 7:00am Countdown | 9:05am Digby Dragon |
| 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer | 8:15am Antiques Road Trip | 8:00pm World News Today | 7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun | 9:20am Rusty Rivets |
| 12:00pm Wanted Down Under | 9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals | <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i> | 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond | 9:35am Shimmer and Shine |
| 12:45pm A1: Britain's Longest Road | 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire | 9:10pm The Good Old Days | 9:30am Frasier | 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom |
| 1:15pm Bargain Hunt | 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live | <i>Leonard Sachs presents the old-time music hall programme, first broadcast on 2 July 1981</i> | 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA | 10:05am Mofy |
| 2:00pm BBC News at One | 1:00pm Bowls | 1:00pm Dine with Me | 12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses | 10:15am The Wright Stuff |
| 2:30pm BBC London News | 2:00pm Tennis | 2:05pm Posh Pawn | 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me | 12:15pm Cowboy Builders |
| 2:45pm Doctors | 7:00pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 3:10pm Village of the Year | 3:10pm Countdown | 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector |
| 3:15pm Father Brown | 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby | 4:15pm Driven | 4:00pm Village of the Year | 2:15pm Home and Away |
| 4:00pm Escape to the Country | 9:00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure | 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun | 2:45pm Neighbours |
| 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown | 10:00pm A House Through Time | 6:15pm Pointless | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 3:15pm NCIS |
| 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 11:00pm The Mash Report | 7:00pm BBC News at Six | 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers | 4:15pm Driven |
| 6:15pm Pointless | 11:30pm Newsnight | 7:30pm BBC London News | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip |
| 7:00pm BBC News at Six | 12:15am Stealing Van Gogh | 8:00pm The One Show | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 6:15pm Pointless |
| 7:30pm BBC London News | | 8:30pm Match of the Day Live | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 7:00pm BBC News at Six |
| 8:00pm The One Show | | 9:00pm Mastermind | 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces | 7:30pm BBC London News |
| 8:30pm EastEnders | | <i>John Humphrys presents another heat of the classic quiz.</i> | 10:00pm Hunted | 8:00pm The One Show |
| 9:00pm Big Cats | | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | 11:00pm Derry Girls | 9:00pm Mastermind |
| 10:00pm Death in Paradise | | 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter | 11:30pm The Undateables | 10:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies |
| 11:00pm BBC News at Ten | | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | 12:30am The Super Orgasm | 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter |
| 11:30pm BBC London News | | | 1:30am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners | 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show |
| 11:45pm Question Time | | | | 12:25am Witless |
| 12:45am This Week | | | | 12:50am Hailmakers |

itv **itv2** **itv3** **itv4** **sky sports main event**

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 7:00am Good Morning Britain | 7:00am Totally Bonkers | 7:00am Classic Coronation Street | 7:00am The Protectors | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 9:30am Lorraine | 7:25am Totally Bonkers | 7:55am Heartbeat | 7:25am Pawn Stars | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show | 7:55am Dress to Impress | 8:15am The Royal Coronation Street | 7:50am Pawn Stars | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 11:30am This Morning | 8:45am Emmerdale | 8:55am Judge Judy | 8:15am Ironside | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 1:30pm Loose Women | 9:20am The Ellen DeGeneres Show | 10:00am The Darling Buds of May Part 2 | 8:55am The Royal Coronation Street | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News | 10:25am Who's Doing the Dishes? | 11:20am The Darling Buds of May | 10:00am Judge Judy | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 2:55pm ITV News London | 1:10pm Emmerdale | 12:25pm The Darling Buds of May | 11:20am The Darling Buds of May | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 3:00pm Judge Rinder | 1:45pm Coronation Street | 1:35pm The Royal Coronation Street | 12:30pm The Professionals | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal | 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show | 2:40pm Heartbeat | 1:35pm Ironside | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 5:00pm Tipping Point | 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show | 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street | 2:40pm Minder | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 6:00pm The Chase | 6:50pm Take Me Out | 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street | 4:50pm The Sweeney | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 7:00pm ITV News London | 8:00pm You've Been Framed! | 4:50pm On the Buses | 5:55pm The Professionals | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 7:30pm ITV Evening News | 8:30pm You've Been Framed! | 5:20pm On the Buses | 6:55pm The Car Chasers | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 8:00pm Emmerdale | 9:00pm Two and a Half Men | 5:55pm Rising Damp | 7:30pm The Car Chasers | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 8:30pm Coronation Street | 9:30pm Superstore | 6:20pm George and Mildred | 8:00pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 9:00pm River Monsters | 10:00pm Release the Hounds | 8:00pm Heartbeat | 8:00pm The Blues Brothers | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 9:30pm Coronation Street | 11:00pm Celebrity Juice | 8:25pm Rosemary and Thyme | 12:00am The Blues Brothers | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 10:00pm Lethal Weapon | 11:50pm Family Guy | 9:25pm Rosemary and Thyme | 1:05am FYI Daily | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 12:20am Family Guy | 11:00pm Foyle's War | 1:05am Latest news from the world of entertainment. | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 11:30pm ITV News London | | 12:05am Inspector Morse | 1:10am The Blues Brothers | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 11:45pm Through the Keyhole | | 1:05am Detective drama series. | 5:00pm SKY Sports News | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |
| 12:45am Take Me Out | | | 6:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf | 6:15am Best of Sky Cricket 2017 |

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SATURDAY - 27 JANUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--|---------|--|---------|----------------------------|---------|---|
| 11:00am | Saturday Kitchen Live | 8:30am | Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch | 4:40am | This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i> | 7:15am | 3rd Rock from the Sun | 6:10am | Wildlife SOS |
| 12:30pm | Mary Berry Everyday | 9:00am | The Dengineers | 8:00pm | Children of the Holocaust | 7:40am | 3rd Rock from the Sun | 6:35am | Divine Designs |
| 1:00pm | Football Focus | 9:30am | Deadly Top 10 | 9:00pm | Holocaust: Freddie Knoller's War | 8:05am | King of Queens | 7:00am | Milkshake! <i>Programming aimed at children aged two to seven years old.</i> |
| 2:00pm | BBC News | 10:00am | Robot Wars | 10:00pm | Spiral | 8:35am | King of Queens | 9:00am | Everybody Loves Raymond |
| 2:10pm | Weather <i>The latest weather information.</i> | 12:00pm | Snow Wolf | 11:00pm | Spiral <i>Crime drama following criminal investigations in Paris from all the different points of view.</i> | 9:00am | Everybody Loves Raymond | 9:25am | Everybody Loves Raymond |
| 2:15pm | Tennis | 1:00pm | Hairy Bikers | 11:55pm | Top of the Pops <i>Richard Skinner and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme.</i> | 9:55am | Frasier | 11:10am | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles |
| 3:30pm | Bowls | 2:00pm | A Vicar's Life | 12:25am | Top of the Pops <i>Richard Skinner and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme.</i> | 10:30am | Frasier | 11:45am | Fail Army |
| 5:30pm | Final Score | 2:30pm | Diary of Anne Frank | 1:05am | The Easybeats to AC/DC: The Sound of Aussie Rock | 11:00am | Frasier | 12:10pm | Police |
| 6:20pm | BBC News <i>The latest national and international news stories, followed by Weather.</i> | 5:15pm | Italy's Invisible Cities | 2:05am | New York Rock at the BBC | 11:30am | The Big Bang Theory | 2:10pm | Interceptors |
| 6:30pm | Regional News | 6:15pm | Trust Me, I'm a Doctor | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 12:55pm | The Simpsons | 4:05pm | Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords |
| 6:35pm | Weather | 6:45pm | Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 2:25pm | Come Dine with Me | 5:05pm | Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords |
| 6:40pm | And They're Off...For Sport Relief | 7:15pm | Hugh's Wild West | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 3:25pm | Coast v Country | 7:05pm | The Wonderful World of Puppies |
| 7:25pm | Pointless | 8:15pm | A House Through Time | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 4:25pm | A Place in the Sun | 8:00pm | Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups |
| 8:15pm | All Together Now | 9:15pm | Dad's Army | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 5:30pm | A Place in the Sun | 9:00pm | Village of the Year |
| 9:20pm | Casualty | 9:45pm | Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 6:30pm | The Secret Life of the Zoo | 9:00pm | Blind Date |
| 10:10pm | BBC News | 10:15pm | QI XL | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 7:30pm | Channel 4 News | 9:55pm | 5 News |
| 10:25pm | Weather | 11:00pm | Darcey Bussell: Dance Beyond Boundaries | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 8:00pm | Great Canal Journeys | 10:00pm | Football on 5 |
| 10:30pm | Hard Sun | 11:30pm | Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 9:00pm | Village of the Year | 11:00pm | Celebrity Big Brother |
| 11:30pm | Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights | 1:20am | Bowls Coverage of the latest bowls | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 10:00pm | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The X Files |
| 12:50am | The NFL Show | 1:20am | Bowls Coverage of the latest bowls | 3:05am | Joy of the Guitar Riff | 11:00pm | The Monuments Men | 12:00am | Will and Grace |

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------|---|---------|---|---------|--|--------|--------------------------|
| 7:00am | CITV | 7:00am | Emmerdale | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 7:00am | World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina | 6:30am | Cricket's Greatest |
| 10:25am | ITV News | 7:00am | Emmerdale | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 7:00am | World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina | 6:30am | Cricket's Greatest |
| 10:30am | Saturday Morning with James Martin | 7:00am | Emmerdale | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 7:00am | World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina | 6:30am | Cricket's Greatest |
| 12:25pm | The Hungry Sailors | 9:35am | Coronation Street Omnibus | 8:40am | Lewis | 7:20am | The Professionals | 7:00am | SKY Sports News |
| 1:25pm | Countrywise | 12:30pm | Take Me Out | 10:40am | Foyle's War | 8:20am | The Professionals | 8:00am | Live Women's Rugby 7s |
| 1:55pm | ITV News and Weather | 1:45pm | You've Been Framed! | 2:50pm | Rosemary and Thyme | 9:25am | The Professionals | 9:30am | Live European Tour Golf |
| 2:00pm | Dancing on Ice | 2:10pm | St. Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold | 3:15pm | The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King | 3:55pm | Columbo | 2:00pm | Cricket |
| 4:15pm | Catchphrase | 3:10pm | FYI Daily | 6:10pm | The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King | 5:55pm | Midsomer Murders | 4:15pm | Gillette Soccer Saturday |
| 5:00pm | Tipping Point | 4:25pm | The Flintstones | 7:15pm | FYI Daily | 8:00pm | Midsomer Murders | 6:15pm | Gillette Soccer Saturday |
| 6:00pm | The Chase | 5:25pm | The Flintstones | 7:20pm | The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King | 8:00pm | Midsomer Murders | 6:30pm | Football |
| 7:00pm | Local News and Weather | 5:30pm | The Flintstones | 8:00pm | Midsomer Murders | 12:00am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 7:00am | Cricket |
| 7:05pm | ITV News and Weather | 6:10pm | The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King | 10:00pm | Fast Five | 1:05am | FYI Daily | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 7:20pm | You've Been Framed! | 10:00pm | Fast Five | 11:00pm | FYI Daily | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 7:45pm | Take Me Out | 11:00pm | FYI Daily | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 9:00pm | The Voice UK | 12:35am | Family Guy | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 10:30pm | Through the Keyhole | 1:00am | Fast Five | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 11:30pm | ITV News and Weather | 1:05pm | Fast Five | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 11:45pm | Jaws 4: The Revenge | 12:35am | Family Guy | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 1:15am | Jackpot247 | 12:35am | Family Guy | 12:00am | Foyle's War | 1:10am | Assault on Precinct 13 | 8:30pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |

SUNDAY - 28 JANUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---|---------|---|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 3:00am | BBC News | 7:20am | The Instant Gardener | 8:00pm | Only Connect <i>A show in which connections must be made between seemingly unconnected things.</i> | 8:10am | Everybody Loves Raymond | 5:45am | House Doctor |
| 7:00am | Breakfast | 8:05am | Gardeners' World | 8:30pm | University Challenge <i>Cult student quiz show where two rival university teams battle it out to see who has the most superior intellects.</i> | 8:35am | Everybody Loves Raymond | 5:45am | House Doctor |
| 8:40am | Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights | 8:35am | Monty Don's Paradise Gardens | 9:00pm | The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve | 9:00am | Frasier | 6:10am | Wildlife SOS |
| 10:00am | The Andrew Marr Show | 9:35am | Countryfile | 10:00pm | The Men Who Built the Liners | 9:30am | Frasier | 6:35am | HouseBusters |
| 11:00am | The Big Questions | 10:30am | Saturday Kitchen | 11:00pm | Machines | 10:00am | Frasier | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 12:00pm | Sunday Politics Bargain Hunt | 12:00pm | Best Bites | 11:30pm | BBC Proms 2017 | 10:00pm | Sunday Brunch | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 1:15pm | BBC News | 12:30pm | Food and Drink | 12:05am | BBC Proms 2017 | 10:00pm | Jamie and Jimmy's Friday | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 2:00pm | BBC News | 1:00pm | Homes Under the Hammer | 1:35am | Classic Soul at the BBC | 10:00pm | Jamie's Quick and Easy Food | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 2:10pm | Weather for the Week Ahead | 2:00pm | Nature's Perfect Partners: Natural World | 2:35am | Art, Passion and Power: The Story of the Royal Collection | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 2:15pm | Money for Nothing | 3:30pm | Bowls | 3:35am | Shutter Island | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 3:00pm | Songs of Praise | 6:15pm | Ski Sunday | 3:55pm | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 3:35pm | Big Cats | 7:00pm | Britain's Cycling Price of Success? | 4:25pm | The Supervet | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 4:35pm | Match of the Day Live | 8:00pm | Yellowstone | 5:55pm | How to Train Your Dragon | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 7:05pm | BBC News | 9:00pm | Dragons' Den | 12:00am | Shutter Island | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 7:20pm | Regional News | 10:00pm | Chris Packham: In Search of the Lost Girl | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 7:25pm | Weather | 11:00pm | The Mash Report | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 7:30pm | Countryfile | 11:30pm | Insert Name Here | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 8:30pm | Still Open All Hours | 12:00am | Cleverman | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 9:00pm | Call the Midwife | 12:55am | Norfolk | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 10:00pm | McMafia | 2:15am | Question Time | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 11:00pm | BBC News | 3:15am | Holby City | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 11:20pm | Regional News | 3:35am | The Women's Football Show | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 11:25pm | Weather | 3:35am | The Women's Football Show | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 11:30pm | Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights | 3:35am | The Women's Football Show | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 12:30am | The Women's Football Show | 3:35am | The Women's Football Show | 12:00am | Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 11:00pm | The Simpsons | 7:00am | Milkshake! |

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|--|---------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 4:50am | ITV Nightscreen | 7:00am | Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 4:00am | Teleshopping | 4:25am | Live Rugby 7s: Sydney |
| 7:00am | CITV | 7:00am | Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 4:00am | Teleshopping | 4:25am | Live Rugby 7s: Sydney |
| 10:25am | ITV News | 7:00am | Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records | 7:00am | Murder, She Wrote | 4:00am | Teleshopping | 4:25am | Live Rugby 7s: Sydney |
| 10:30am | River Monsters | 7:10am | Emmerdale | 8:50am | Heartbeat | 7:00am | Goals of the 90's | 9:30am | Live European Tour Golf |
| 11:00am | Peston on Sunday | 9:45am | Coronation Street Omnibus | 9:50am | Heartbeat | 7:10am | The Sweeney | 2:00pm | Info not available |
| 12:00pm | The Martin Lewis | 12:35pm | Take Me Out | 10:55am | Columbo | 8:05am | The Sweeney | 2:00pm | Info not available |
| 12:30pm | Money Show | 1:55pm | The Voice UK | 12:55pm | Lewis | 9:05am | The Sweeney | 2:15pm | Info not available |
| 12:30pm | The Voice UK | 3:20pm | Yogi Bear | 2:55pm | Foyle's War | 10:10am | The Car Chasers | 2:30pm | Football |
| 1:55pm | TV News and Weather | 4:20pm | FYI Daily | 4:55pm | Foyle's War | 10:45am | The Car Chasers | 3:30pm | Sports Sunday |
| 2:10pm | Britain's Brightest Family | 4:25pm | Yogi Bear | 7:00pm | Agatha Christie's Marple | 11:50am | The Car Chasers | 6:30pm | Football |
| 2:40pm | The Cruise | 4:55pm | Looney Tunes: Back in Action | 9:00pm | Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs | 12:15pm | The Car Chasers | 8:30pm | La Liga |
| 3:10pm | You've Got Mail | 6:05pm | FYI Daily | 9:30pm | Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs | 1:15pm | The Car Chasers | 8:40pm | Football |
| 5:30pm | Local News and Weather | 6:10pm | Looney Tunes: Back in Action | 10:00pm | Tonight at the London Palladium | 1:45pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 5:40pm | ITV News and Weather | 7:45pm | The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey | 11:00pm | Birds of a Feather | 6:00pm | Storage Wars | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 6:00pm | The Chase | 7:50pm | The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey | 11:30pm | Harry Brown | 6:30pm | Storage Wars | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 7:00pm | Dancing on Ice | 10:00pm | Tonight at the London Palladium | 12:30am | FYI Daily | 7:00pm | Pawn Stars | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 9:00pm | ITV News and Weather | 12:05am | Evil Under the Sun | 12:35am | Harry Brown | 7:30pm | Pawn Stars | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 11:00pm | ITV News and Weather | 2:20am | Blue Murder | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 11:15pm | Peston on Sunday | 3:40am | Rosemary and Thyme | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 12:10am | Next of Kin | 11:00pm | Family Guy | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 1:05am | Great Art | 12:00am | Family Guy | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 2:00am | Jackpot247 | 12:25am | American Dad! | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 4:00am | Sunday Night at the Palladium | 12:55am | American Dad! | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 4:50am | ITV Nightscreen | 1:25am | The Cleveland Show | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| 4:50am | ITV Nightscreen | 1:50am | The Cleveland Show | 1:35am | Minder | 8:00pm | Darts: The Masters | 10:45pm | Live PGA Tour Golf |

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Geography lesson for the less experienced

MIKE SENKER refers to 'countries like El Salvador, Africa and Haiti.'

In order that your less experienced readers are not misinformed, Africa is not in fact a country - either Central American or Caribbean.

It is a continent comprising approximately 54 countries. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain transferred three million Africans from their homeland to a life of slavery on the Caribbean islands. The indigenous Caribbeans were not African - nor were those of Central America.

David R Worboys, Nerja

Bang free

THE festivities in Canillas de Albaida to 'celebrate' the San Antonio animal holiday happened last weekend (January 13/14) and are most definitely not animal friendly. As is customary at any festival in Spain, there was the constant noise of bangs going off all day and evening and many dogs, including mine, were so frightened inside that they certainly wouldn't dare venture going outside for a walk. So I think that it would be nice just for once to have a

La Cala should retain charm

A defining moment?

HAVING lived in La Cala de Mijas for more than a decade, I am one of an increasing number of people who identify how the Costa del Sol village has improved in recent years.

Though ongoing expansion with new builds slightly inland concern many, a coastal boardwalk, more quality shops and restaurants and other improvements go some way to balancing some of the possible negatives of its growth from its once small fishing village identity.

However, in recent days I note that extensive infrastructure improvements in Calle Antequera (new footpaths, road resurfacing,



Photo Credit: Jyk Wikimedia

ICONIC DONKEY: Outside the picturesque town hall.

lighting and drainage) has resulted in a shaded public seating area and two old trees - a much-loved characteristic of the residential street locally referred to as Coronation Street by many - in being removed.

This is sad, for although all-important extra public street parking has been provided by the infrastructure project, La Cala should also retain characteristics of its local charm.

JS, name and address supplied

bang free festival that would be not only pet friendly but people friendly too.

Delphine Penfold, Competa

Boaring news

TO all the people in Benidorm, Calpe and Pego suffering from wild boar problems. You must remember the recipe created by a famous Spanish chef for a succulent pork roast which begins 'First remove wild boar from your radiator.'

Ian Royle, Calpe

Postal delays

REGARDING problems in Orihuela with non-delivery of post over the Christmas period. We in Nucia Park have also suffered in a similar way with post taking days to arrive or the postman having to make his delivery at 8.30pm. Complaints to our post office fall on deaf ears. They blame the Benidorm office or suggest the problem is with the UK (even when the letters are from the local bank). Several times we have had bills arrive to be paid on the day of delivery.

My question is, is there somewhere to make an official complaint or is this common for all parts of Spain and we have to put up with it?

Dennis Jackson, La Nucia

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.

Spain set for winter sun

As much as I love this weather we do need some rain desperately.

Joanne Booth

Perhaps cleaning the municipal bins with sea water instead of drinking water may help with the shortages!

Katrina Barratt

Spanish hotels fear Tunisian competition

Tunisia after the shootings - wide berth, no matter if it's free, same with Turkey and Egypt - they don't have what I'd say a safe haven as yet.

Marie Ross Main

Tunisia is the only holiday I ever went on that I did not like and felt threatened and I have been on over 30 foreign holidays all over the world.

Gill Reynolds

The Spanish government needs to invest more in tourism if they want to keep tourism moving forward. Due to the climate it's ideally suited to theme parks like Disney, Universal Studios and MGM aimed at families. These can be located out of towns.

The Spanish economy needs more all year round jobs, not just seasonal work. This would also benefit local business and jobs in general. It's been needed for a long time in the south.

Pps, Estepona

Comments from EWN online

Ryanair still top despite turbulence

Jet 2 are doing extremely well, better planes and flight.

Jim Fennessey

Yes Jim but they don't necessarily go to where I want to go! Ryanair go Alicante-Newquay, no choice.

Jenny Dodd

Much of Ryanair's problems were towards the end of last year. It will be interesting to see if that has affected their customer loyalty this year.

Geoff Kerr

Brit faces jail over starting forest fire

Absolutely fair! He would have been well aware of the risks and must be held accountable.

Stephen Richards

This is spot on fair, risks taken by anyone means accountability must be taken too.

Debbie Harrison

I hope he gets traditional Spanish hospitality amongst the inmates.

Rodolfo Losada

'Drunk' passenger forces flight diversion

Why allow on flight if drunk?? I wouldn't want anyone sitting with or near me if they are drunk!!!!!!

Mandy Garside Chatwood

Bloody disgrace, well done crew, poor passengers... She mustn't be allowed to fly again!

Sian Foster

OMG what an idiot, well done Ryanair, hope the woman got prosecuted!!!!

Sandra Dunn Bratton

Dangerous driver caught on video

He wasn't thinking, they rarely do, especially on the roads.

Carl Glover

This happens too often, time to remove the offending driver's privileges of driving licence.

David George Mitchell

The driver has been caught, according to N332. Hope the courts nail this one.

Russell Bushby

Nerja nasty whilst Torrox keeps clean

NEW YEAR, same old optimistic nonsense from the town hall. I own up to actually living in Torrox and honestly don't know what they do with our sewage, but there never seems to be anything nasty floating off our beaches.

Nerja promotes itself as a world beater resort but surely pumping raw sewage into the sea should disqualify any town. One of your fellow English language papers had an interesting article about blockages caused by wet wipes etc yet Nerja's answer, when/if it is completed, is to pump waste three kilometres distance and 50 metres or so uphill to the new facility.

How long before it blocks up and overflows? I will give you your headline for that week - Crapistrano!

Oh dear, there goes my cheerful, positive start to 2018. Glad to see Mr Lee hasn't made any resolutions and is keeping up his Britain First membership for another year. When in doubt blame the immigrants but remember you are one as well!

Peter Thompson, Torrox

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



MONDAY - 29 JANUARY

| BBC one | BBC TWO | BBC FOUR | CHANNEL 4 | CHANNEL 5 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 3:15pm Father Brown | 3:00pm Sahara with Michael Palin | 8:00pm Beyond 100 Days | 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA | 2:05pm Access |
| 4:00pm Escape to the Country | 4:00pm A Place to Call Home | 8:30pm Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank | 1:00pm Channel 4 News | 2:15pm Home and Away |
| 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown | 4:50pm This Wild Life | 9:00pm Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart | 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me | 2:45pm Neighbours |
| 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 5:20pm The Hunt | 9:00pm Documentaries: <i>looking at the wildlife of the Scottish Highlands</i> | 2:05pm Posh Pawn | 3:20pm NCIS |
| 6:15pm Pointless | 6:20pm Flog It! | 10:00pm Trophy - Storyville | 3:10pm Countdown | 4:20pm Fatal Fiancé |
| 7:00pm BBC News | 7:00pm Eggheads | 11:30pm Hidden Killers of the Edwardian Home | 4:00pm Village of the Year | 6:00pm 5 News |
| 7:30pm Regional News | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 12:30am The Victorians | 5:00pm A Place in the Sun | 6:30pm Neighbours |
| 8:00pm The One Show | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 7:00pm Home and Away |
| 8:30pm Inside Out | 9:00pm Only Connect | | 6:30pm Extreme | 8:00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights |
| 9:00pm EastEnders | 9:30pm University Challenge | | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 9:00pm Police Interceptors |
| 9:30pm Panorama | 10:00pm Winterwatch | | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 10:00pm Brother |
| 10:00pm Silent Witness | 11:00pm Two Doors Down | | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 11:00pm Extraordinary People |
| 11:00pm BBC News | 11:30pm Newsnight | | 9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side |
| 11:30pm Regional News | 12:10am Weather | | 10:00pm The Undateables | |
| 11:40pm Weather | 12:15am Odyssey | | 11:00pm First Dates Hotel | |
| | | | 12:05am Derry Girls | |

TUESDAY - 30 JANUARY

| BBC one | BBC TWO | BBC FOUR | CHANNEL 4 | CHANNEL 5 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 3:15pm Father Brown | 3:00pm Sahara with Michael Palin | 8:00pm Beyond 100 Days | 1:00pm Channel 4 News | 2:05pm Access |
| 4:00pm Escape to the Country | 4:00pm A Place to Call Home | 8:30pm Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank | 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me | 2:15pm Home and Away |
| 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown | 4:50pm This Wild Life | 9:00pm Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain | 2:05pm Posh Pawn | 2:45pm Neighbours |
| 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 5:15pm The Hunt | 10:00pm Art, Passion and Power: The Story of the Royal Collection | 3:10pm Countdown | 3:15pm NCIS |
| 6:15pm Pointless | 6:15pm Flog It! | 11:00pm The Stuarts | 4:00pm A Place in the Sun | 4:15pm A Sister's Nightmare |
| 7:00pm BBC News | 7:00pm Eggheads | 12:00am Info not available | 4:00pm Four in a Bed | 6:00pm 5 News |
| 7:30pm Regional News | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 1:00am Info not available | 6:00pm Extreme | 6:30pm Neighbours |
| 8:00pm The One Show | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | 2:00am Top of the Pops: 1981 | 6:30pm Cakemakers | 7:00pm Home and Away |
| 8:30pm EastEnders | 9:00pm Winterwatch | 3:20am Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 7:30pm 5 News |
| 9:00pm Holby City | 10:00pm Murdered for Love? Samia Shahid | | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 8:00pm FIA World Rally |
| 10:00pm Silent Witness | 11:00pm Inside No 9 | | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 8:00pm Caught in the Act |
| 11:00pm BBC News | 11:30pm Newsnight | | 9:00pm Secret Life of the Zoo | 9:00pm Celebrity Big Brother |
| 11:30pm Regional News | 12:10am Weather | | 10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E | 10:00pm Brother |
| 11:40pm Weather | | | 11:00pm Make Me a Better Brain | 11:00pm One Night with My Ex |
| 11:45pm Love and Hate Crime | | | 12:00am Before We Die | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side |

WEDNESDAY - 31 JANUARY

| BBC one | BBC TWO | BBC FOUR | CHANNEL 4 | CHANNEL 5 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 12:00pm Wanted Down Under | 9:30am Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs | 8:00pm Beyond 100 Days | 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond | 5:45am House Doctor |
| 12:45pm A1: Britain's Longest Road | 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire | 8:30pm Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank | 9:30am Frasier | 6:10am The Great Artists |
| 1:15pm Bargain Hunt | 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live | 9:00pm Handmade: By Royal | 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen | 6:35am HouseBusters |
| 2:00pm BBC News | 12:30pm The Daily Politics | 9:30pm Appointment | 12:00pm Nightmares USA | 7:00am Milkshake! |
| 2:30pm Regional News | 2:00pm Michael Palin's New Europe | 9:30pm A Stitch in Time | 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA | 10:15am The Wright Stuff |
| 2:45pm Doctors | 3:00pm Sahara with Michael Palin | 10:00pm Six Wives with Lucy Worsley | 1:00pm Channel 4 News | 12:15pm Cowboy Builders |
| 3:15pm Father Brown | 4:00pm A Place to Call Home | 11:00pm Do We Really Need the Moon? | 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me | 1:10pm 5 News |
| 4:00pm Escape to the Country | 4:45pm This Wild Life | 12:00am The Brecon Beacons with Iolo Williams | 2:05pm Posh Pawn | 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector |
| 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown | 5:15pm The Hunt | 1:00am Info not available | 3:10pm Countdown | 2:05pm Access |
| 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip | 6:15pm Flog It! | 2:00am Top of the Pops: 1981 | 4:00pm Village of the Year | 2:15pm Home and Away |
| 6:15pm Pointless | 7:00pm Eggheads | 2:40am Top of the Pops: 1981 | 5:00pm A Place in the Sun | 2:45pm Neighbours |
| 7:00pm BBC News | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 3:20am Six Wives with Lucy Worsley | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 3:15pm NCIS |
| 7:30pm Regional News | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | | 6:30pm Extreme | 3:15pm The Wrong Nanny |
| 8:00pm The One Show | 9:00pm Winterwatch | | 7:00pm Cakemakers | 4:15pm 5 News |
| 9:00pm The Truth About Getting Fit | 10:00pm The New-Builds are Coming: Battle in the Countryside | | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 6:00pm Neighbours |
| 10:00pm Wonders of the Moon | 11:00pm Mock the Week | | 8:00pm Hollyoaks | 6:30pm Neighbours |
| 11:00pm BBC News | 11:30pm Newsnight | | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 7:00pm Home and Away |
| 11:30pm Regional News | 12:10am Weather | | 9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it Kiri | 7:30pm 5 News |
| 11:40pm Weather | 12:15am House of Saud: A Family at War | | 10:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency? | 8:00pm Police Interceptors |
| 11:45pm Match of the Day | | | 12:00am 24 Hours in A and E | 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors |
| | | | 1:05am Pokerstars | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother |
| | | | | 11:00pm When Kim Met Kayne |
| | | | | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side |

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No more sneezing

IF you suffer from a runny nose and itchy eyes just by looking at a plant you may be relieved to hear a hay fever vaccination is in the works.

The jab, which could be available in three years, has been shown to reduce medication use for hay fever symptoms by 25 per cent. Scientists say three rounds of injections a year could leave sufferers symptom-free.

Dr Rudolf Valenta, the study's lead scientist, explained, "My expectation is that the vaccine will lead to an almost complete relief of symptoms two or three years after injections."

He added, "People will be able to defend themselves from grass pollen using

their own immune system, without having to take expensive anti-inflammatory drugs which may weaken their immune system and make them tired during the day," concluding, "they may still have hay fever but they will feel no different to someone who is hay fever-free."

The study's lead author at the Medical University of Vienna's Ear, Nose and Throat Department, Verena Niederberger-Leppin, explained the effects would differ from person to person, saying, "The more severely the allergy sufferer is affected by grass pollen, the greater the beneficial effect following vaccination."

The news has been welcomed by other



BLESS YOU: Hay fever may soon be a thing of the past.

health organisations, with head of clinical services at Allergy UK, Amena Warner, explaining, "Traditional immunotherapy has been used for many years, although it comes with a high level of risk, such as anaphylaxis. That is because it uses natural allergen ex-

tracts such as grass or tree pollens."

She added, "So this is an exciting development if subsequent trials show success because recombinant technology, such as this, uses synthetic allergens and therefore potentially reduces the risk of severe side effects."

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WE all know humans are now more sedentary than we used to be.

With the rise of office-based jobs, working from home and television and social-media use, we are constantly being told by the news how we exercise and move less than previous generations.

And now a new study has

It's good to walk

confirmed the problem could be worse than previously feared as we are walking 20 per cent less than we even did 10 years ago. Researchers found the

amount we use our feet rather than other transport to get around has decreased dramatically with the average person making 4.7 trips on foot a week in 2005 compared to only 3.8 in 2015.

The news released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in collaboration with the Department for Transport (DfT), revealed, "personal business, business, shopping, and leisure walking trips have declined more than other types over the last 10 years."

Experts are also blaming the

increase in takeaway delivery services and ready meals for the decline with people now less likely to pop out to the supermarket to buy food for their dinner.

The study also revealed the average person made 243 walking trips in 216, walking for a total of 198 miles and spending an average of 16 minutes - or 0.7 miles - per trip. It was revealed this amounted to around 66 hours a year spent walking, about 75 minutes a week, and represented around 25 per cent of all trips made in a year.

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Photo by Unsplash

WALK THIS WAY: People are walking 20 per cent less now than 10 years ago.

Weekend Beach Festival

NOW in its fifth year, the Weekend Beach Festival in Torre del Mar which runs from July 4 to 7 keeps adding new attractions.

The latest star names booked to appear are French DJ, songwriter and record producer, David Guetta who promises to bring his style of music to what has become a very busy annual event.

Also announced alongside diverse major acts such as the Offspring, Macaco and Jimmy Cliff is Irish electronics wizard Matador.

The success of the festival is such that it receives great support from the local council as the event not only provides work for a number of local people but generates several million euros for the economy.

Various tickets are available, including camping and glamping (VIP camping) and full details of availability and the artists appearing can be seen at <http://www.weekendbeach.es>.

Jazz in Nerja

THERE will be an evening of jazz in Nerja on Friday February 9 at the Hotel Plaza Cavana.

Put together in Basle by Spanish saxophonist Enrique Oliver, the trio is made up by Oliver alongside Australian, Victor Rosse on double bass and the Swiss, Marius Rivier on drums.

Starting at 8.30pm the evening will consist of a number of jazz standards with influences from Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane, Lee Konitz and Joe Henderson.

Tickets cost €12 and €15 to include a welcome glass of cava.

This is one of a regular series of jazz presentations promoted by the non-profit organisation Ventana Abierta which also promotes classical concerts and theatre performances locally.

Tribute to Andres Segovia

THE annual Andres Segovia classical guitar competition is now underway for the 33rd time in La Herradura with the final taking place this Saturday

The competition is held in the auditorium of the civic centre as the large number of competitors were whittled down for the semi-finals which take place today and tomorrow with the final starting at 7pm on Saturday.

Each year the work of a famous composer is chosen as one of the main parts of each guitarist's repertoire and this year they were required to include the piece Capriccio Diabolico (homage to Paganini), Op. 85a (1935), by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco on this the 50th anniversary of



Photo Credit: Stephen Hill

STEPHEN HILL: Making one of his guitars in La Herradura.

his death.

Apart from the prestige of being involved in the competition which is a homage to a classical great, the winner will receive €10,000 as well as a guitar valued at €5,200 and an invitation to perform at an International

festival of music and dance in Ubeda.

Second prize is €4,000 and a guitar worth €3,250, made by La Herradura craftsman, Stephen Hill.

Third prize is €2,000 and a chance to perform at a concert in Jaen.

Innovation in tradition

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



CAVA CODORNIU: World's second-oldest producer.

CODORNIU is the world's oldest and second-largest producer of bottle-fermented sparkling wine - cava - made by the méthode traditionnelle (same as Champagne).

Founded in Cataluña in 1551 by Jaume Codorniu, just over 100 years later Codorniu heiress Anna married Miguel Raventós merging two families with a long wine tradition.

Cava was first made in 1872 by José Raventós who established a new industry with Codorniu cellars established at Sant Sadurní d'Anoia between 1895 and 1915.

They were designed by renowned Catalán architect Josep Puig i Cadafach.

Tragically in 1930 the Phylloxera plague infested the vineyards, but the family fought back with innovative viticultural techniques and ensured survival, with Codorniu producing more than 100,000 bottles of cava annually by the end of the 20th century.

Nowadays, Codorniu with modern instal-

lations and the latest equipment continues to control the production process of its cavas from vineyard planting to finished product.

Wines produced with different blends of Chardonnay, Macabeo, Xarel.lo, Parellada, Pinot Noir and reserve wines are: Anna de Codorniu Brut, Codorniu 1551 Brut Natural, Codorniu Mediterranea Brut Natural, Cuvée Raventós Brut Natural, Codorniu Rosé Brut, Cuvée Reina Maria Cristina Brut, Delapierre 'D' Brut, Delapierre Glacé Prestige Brut, Gran Codorniu Brut, Jaume de Codorniu Brut and Non Plus Ultra Reserva Vintage Brut.

Codorniu has been one of the innovators of Wine Tourism in Spain, providing the infrastructure necessary for an interesting visit to their cellars at Sant Sadurní d'Anoia which in 1976 were declared a National Monument of Historical and Artistic Interest by King Juan Carlos.

Happy tasting.

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Fit for the stars

New film reveals designer's dream home



Credit: Twitter



HALLS OF FAME: Bookings are possible at a price.

THE extravagant mansion where Gianni Versace lived features in the new film *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*, which premiered this week.

Viewers will get a look inside the luxurious estate where the designer was tragically murdered by Andrew Cunanan in 1997.

Today, the house is known as the Villa Casa Casuarina, a 19,000 square-foot exclusive boutique hotel.

It features 10 custom guest suites with marble bathrooms, separate living areas, and balconies.

Other amenities include a pool, a spa, two private lounges and a rooftop bar.

Those thinking of treating themselves to a

stay at the mansion will have to brace themselves for some serious pricing.

Suites start at \$899 (€734) and \$1,199 (€979) on weekends, but the excitement from the film could drive those rates up quickly.

Casa Casuarina was originally built in 1930 by Alden Freeman, heir to an oil fortune. In 1992, Versace was on a walk with his family and was drawn to the grand Spanish Architecture and the 'Kneeling Aphrodite' statue outside.

The designer splashed out €32 million to completely reconstruct the building, adding a new wing, tiled pool and thousands of 24-karat gold mosaics.



Photo credit: FC Barcelona/Twitter

NEW TEAM, NEW HOME: Coutinho and his mansion.

A Philipping nice house

EX-LIVERPOOL forward Philippe Coutinho has moved into a stunning Barcelona mansion previously owned by Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

The Brazilian star will be living in Bellmar, Casteldefells, and will count on Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez as neighbours.

And Suarez was so keen for Coutinho to complete

his move that he actually bought the house before the deal between the two clubs was confirmed.

Builders are currently working on the property before Coutinho and his young family move in.

The mansion, which features a swimming pool in the spacious back garden, has also been the home of new team-mates

Thomas Vermaelen and Andre Gomes.

It is part of a 750-metre square plot that boasts a gym and lift amongst its perks.

Coutinho's €160 million transfer is the second most expensive of all-time following fellow Brazilian Neymar's €222 million move from Barcelona to Paris St Germain.

Government to monitor rental sites

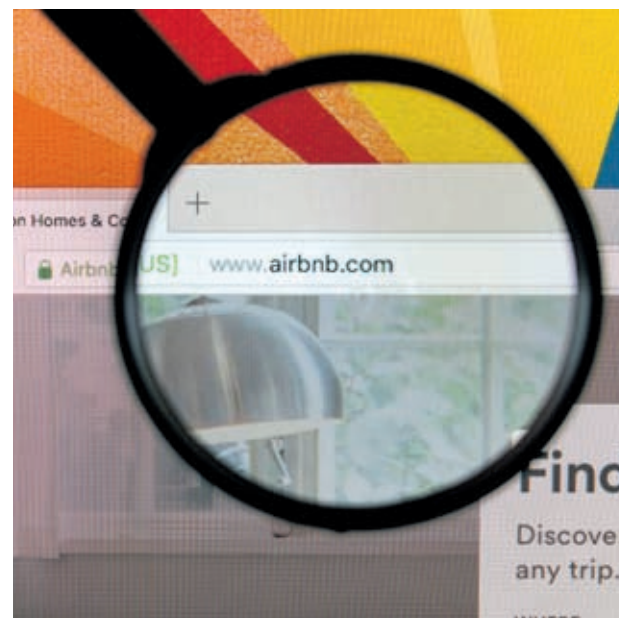
THE Spanish government has announced plans to monitor accommodation sites much more closely.

The move comes in the wake of the Cataluña terrorist attack last August.

The Interior Ministry has revealed new measures in the fight against jihadist cells, as part of the Antiterrorism Pact.

Records will be kept of people's bookings on hotel and short-term rental sites across Spain such as Airbnb and Booking.com.

The same action will be taken on vehicle rental companies and websites, given that the Catalan



NIPPING THE PROBLEM IN THE BED: Airbnb will receive increased surveillance.

terrorist attack involved three hired vans to kill 16 and injure 152.

The Interior Ministry also plans to tighten loopholes relating to immigration, where extremists and expensive court cases are involved.

"The measures will be put in action throughout the next year and most of them are already prepared or in the final stages of completion," said Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido.

Airbnb bought background check start-up Trooly Inc last June in an attempt to protect users and restore its reputation.



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IF you like to grow your own plants to save cost, add interest from the huge range of plants available from seed, or just want to grow your plants in the way you like, now is the time to start planting.

Seeds are relatively cheap for many garden varieties in comparison to buying seedlings. A packet can provide seed for a series of plantings, to allow a continuous harvest of vegetables or a sequence of flowers over spring and summer.

I use special trays to grow a batch of seedlings, and when they are ready to plant out into the garden, I plant another batch from the same packet. It works well with vegetables like lettuce or flowers, including petunia, that have a long growing season, which permits planting through all of spring and summer.

There is a huge range of different plants that can be grown from seed, that cannot usually be found as seedlings or small plants in the nurseries. This makes it much more interesting

Time to start planting seeds for spring



SOWING SEEDS: A fun job.

to garden with many unusual and exotic plants. This year I am growing a variety of passion fruit, sent over from Australia, that is not generally available here in Spain.

Growing your own can also be a great way to coordinate with other gardeners and neighbours, to have something to exchange if you grow more than you need. Probably half my gar-

den is planted with varieties obtained in this way.

This also allows you to enjoy watching the seeds emerge with your care and flourish into a full grown plant, whether it is a vegetable to eat, a flower to decorate, or a tree to stand as a long term memory of your work to grow it.

A visiting friend showed me pictures of a table she had made

from an oak tree planted by her grandparents, that had been struck by lightning and fallen.

If you are concerned about the way plants are grown, and want to be sure that the soil is of good quality and without chemicals, to gain the maximum benefit from what you eat, as well as caring for the environment you live in, it also makes seedlings a good option to ensure you have the very best.

Any small container can be used to grow seeds, as long as it holds the soil and has drainage holes to allow excess water to escape. You can recycle yoghurt containers, egg cartons, shallow cardboard boxes and many other items that may normally just be disposed of.

The soil mix needs to be finer than general potting mix, but you can use a coarse sieve to remove the larger pieces of a general mix to obtain a finer material, or do the same with your compost if you have some.

As a rule of thumb, seeds are

planted about double the depth of the size of the seed. Fine seed is best just placed on the surface, with a little more soil mix sprinkled on top.

Keep the soil moist, but not wet, and you will soon have new plants emerging to enhance your garden and share with friends.



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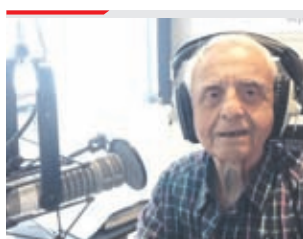
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Unwanted sexual behaviour



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OVER the years, hundreds of you have informed me that your male and female dogs like to mount you sexually by rubbing on your leg, a cushion or a toy. This is called masturbation which should not be encouraged.

Some owners stand their rights and say the dog has been spayed/neutered and it cannot do any harm. Dogs that are spayed are able to have sex, but



OVER-EXCITED: Don't allow your dog to mount you.

are unable to breed. Quite often, behaviourists and vets decide to spay the animal since testosterone is running high, which causes excitement and makes the animal high.

To say the least, it is unhealthy to allow a dog - male or female - to mount you.

In fact I have known large breeds that love it so much they will not let go, and often it takes two or three people to remove the dog. This is very confusing for the dog and it can turn aggressive. The other danger is that this can happen to a child or elderly person.

Many owners are unaware that dogs will leave sperm on the leg, and often on its body, which leaves a smell. Some dogs like cushions; these should be removed.

When a dog is mounting a leg he/she is very comfortable so how do we make this uncomfortable? Simply flick them off your body like you would a fly or just get up and walk away with a 'no' then say 'good dog' but keep walking.

If you have a dog that likes to do this it is advisable to speak to your vet.

Keeping pets happy at home while you're on holiday

MOST of us like to go away on holiday at least once a year, and January seems to be the time to plan our seasonal escapes. But what to do with the pets? If like me you worry about intelligent pets becoming bored, stressed or agitated if left at home for long periods, or even in unfamiliar surroundings while you are away then think about finding housesitters to stay in your home and care for your pets.

Many people are finding that house-sitters are a good solution - they stay in your home to care for your pets, to play with them and make sure they are comfortable and safe in their own environment.

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Client testimonial
Peter, Pet owner in Spain
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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.

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**Clarkson Quote
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On the BMW Z3: And if you are clinically insane, by which I mean you wake up in the morning and think you are an onion, here's your car."

Some might say...



X-Class glamping!

MERCEDES' brand new X Class pickup has a camper van conversion option.

The German car giants turned a few heads when they announced their first ever pickup late last year, announcing the X220d and the upscale X250d.

Prices are thought to begin at approximately €30,932 for the X220d while the X250d range starts at €34,148.

And now brand new images have been released of the X-Class to show it can be more than just the average pick-up.

In the new images, the X-Class has been given a makeover by specialist firm Tischer, turning it into a car perfect for camping.

The firm have added a cabin, which can be taken on and off, that sits directly on the load bed of the truck, with plenty of room inside for the perfect getaway.

Inside the cabin, there is a sleeping compartment, fitted kitchen, with a gas stove, and a seating area that can be converted into a second bedroom.

It even has a bathroom that has a foldaway sink, toilet and there is room for a shower.

The cabin is expected to cost around €28,310.

Unbe-leaf-able

Nissan's newest LEAF selling fast

JUST three months after the new Nissan LEAF was announced, the car giants have revealed that they have sold more than 12,000 of the cars already; before even hitting showrooms.

Three hundred thousand customers have purchased the original Nissan Leaf since it went on sale in 2010 and the car giants have revealed the staggering numbers of people to already purchase the new model.

The New 2018 LEAF made its European bow at the Nissan Futures 3.0 event in October and on the company's newest release, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Nissan Europe, Philippe Sailard, said: "The new Nissan LEAF is the most advanced and accessible 100 per cent electric vehicle.

"It is also the icon of Nissan Intelligent Mobility, our blueprint for a future in redefining the way customers drive and how vehicles are powered and integrated into society.

"This is a car that is more enjoyable, more connected and more exciting to drive than any other mainstream electric vehicle in history. It is simply amazing."

When it comes to specifications, the new LEAF will have overhauled the old model and will now have improved acceleration, capable of reaching 0-100kmh in just 7.9 seconds.

Its electrical range will allow drivers to travel 415km on a single charge, while charging time from



SELLING FAST: Nissan's brand new LEAF.

alert to 80 per cent takes just 40 to 60 minutes.

A completely redesigned interior focuses on the driver and combines space with functionality, while a number of new futuristic features have also been added.

The Leaf is packed with Intelligent Mobility innovative technologies, including ProPILOT Park, which is an automatic parking function capable of both parallel and bay parking after the driver selects

a spot proposed by the system.

Another innovative feature is the car's e-pedal. By releasing the accelerator, the car will decelerate and eventually come to a complete stop, without the need to press the brake.

This allegedly helps reduce fatigue and stress in city driving.

The new Leaf will officially hit European showrooms at the beginning of next month.

Going to Ibiza

SEAT's all-new Ibiza has been awarded the Best Supermini title at the UK Car of the Year Awards 2018.

The fifth-generation of the Spanish giant's iconic model beat off competition from several big names, to win the prize at the coveted awards.

It was put through a number of thorough road-test programmes before a panel of judges, who expressed nothing but admiration for the car's advancements.

Several features were noted that put the Ibiza 'a cut above,' but the new MQB A0 platform played a significant role in the Ibiza's triumph, earning praise from a number of judges.

The all-new Ibiza will now be considered for the overall Car of the Year title, which is expected to be announced in a few weeks time.

Richard Harrison, SEAT UK Director, told British media: "The new generation Ibiza marks a watershed in the car's history of achievement, as our most successful model.

"We're hugely grateful to the UK Car of the Year judges for this initial title and hope that the Ibiza's qualities can take it through to the ultimate award."

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Classic Car Club of Andalucía

CCCA races into 2018!



Motoring correspondent Ian Giles reports on the latest news from the Andalucía Classic Car Club, the most

successful such society in the area and probably in Spain with over 600 members.

WHILST many are resting and nursing new year hangovers The Classic Car Club of Andalucía has already dived into 2018 with plenty of things going on through January.

The month started with the Club's regular dinner and Club night at 'Treetops' restaurant at El Chaparral. A great night was enjoyed by all with a very good turnout and excellent food served.

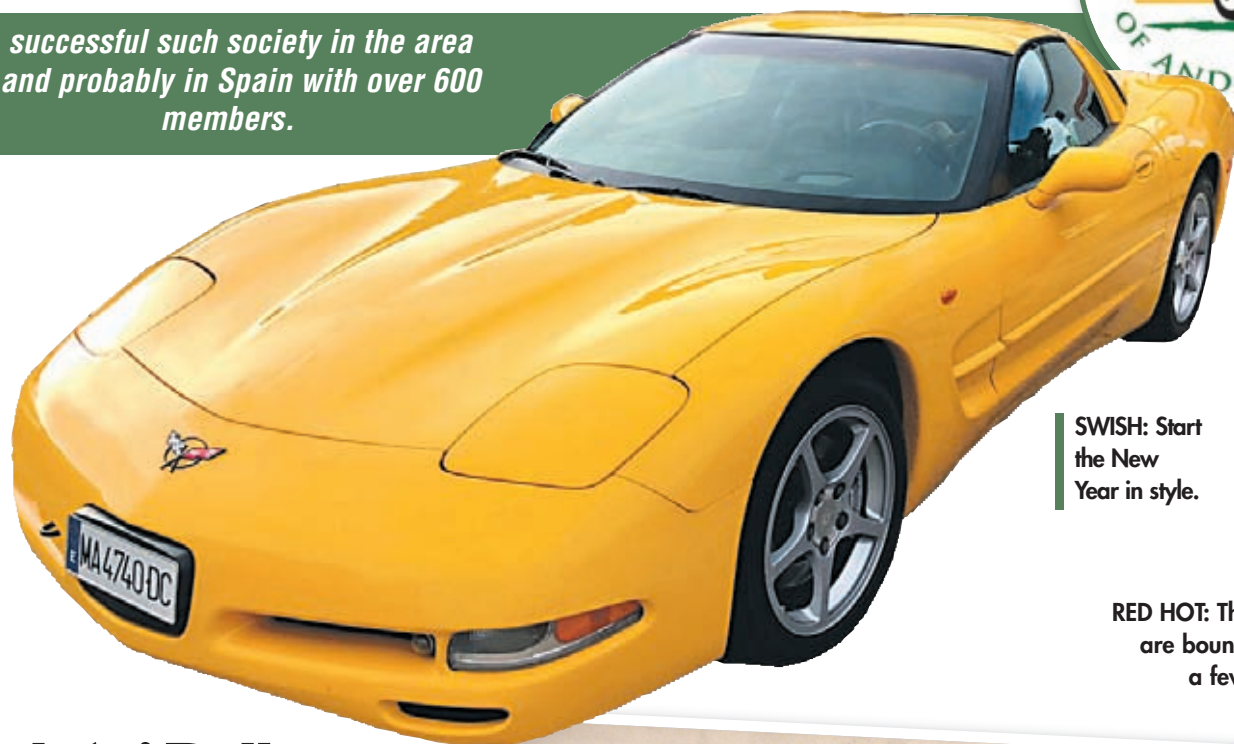
The following Saturday saw the first classic car run of 2018 organised by club members Richard and Nicky Masters.

A healthy turnout of around 30 classic and 'modern classic' cars assembled at Laguna Beach to enjoy coffee or breakfast and a chance for the 60 plus participants to swap tales of Christmas and New Year celebration experiences.

At 11am the first cars departed and set off to by-pass Estepona and head up towards Casares where the roads have recently been resurfaced which was a welcome treat! Having passed Casares the route went on up to Gaucin, crews enjoying great, smooth roads and some spectacular views. After Gaucin the route headed out on the fast top road towards Ronda where a welcome coffee and tapas stop was enjoyed at Venta Solera.

Coffee over and the intrepid crews set off towards Alpendeire and Juzcar enjoying some marvellous roads before rejoining the Ronda - San Pedro descent. Around half way down and the organisers had arranged a surprise stop to enjoy a warming whisky mac, much appreciated as the weather was by now turning cold and breezy. Not at all what we are used to here!

A first class lunch was then enjoyed at restaurante Nuevo Reino in San Pedro, the first time that the club has used this particular venue and a great success it was too.



SWISH: Start the New Year in style.

RED HOT: These cars are bound to turn a few heads.

Rock 'n' Roll Weekend

SOME of the best rock 'n' roll entertainers on the coast will be performing over the coming weekend at Sunset Beach Club in Benalmadena. Organised by star performer, Ricky Lavazza, it's always a fun weekend with concerts on both Saturday and Sunday nights. The Classic Car Club of Andalucía usually supports the event by providing a display of classic cars for the poolside BBQ which takes place at lunchtime on the Sunday. Many of the cars will actually be parked around the pool starting around 1pm. The BBQ is usually very good and this is a good place for members and friends to get together and relax without driving off anywhere which, for this Club, will be quite a novelty! Non-members are, of course, very welcome to come along.

Retro Malaga Show

RUNNING over the same weekend but starting tomorrow (Friday) is the annual Malaga Retro classic car show and Auto-jumble. This excellent event is held at the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos on the outskirts of Malaga. Always a good show, this year they will be celebrating, amongst other things, 70 years of the Porsche 356, 70 years of the Citroen 2CV and 50 years of the Seat / Fiat 124. There are numerous trade and specialist stands, car club stands and plenty of displays of classic cars to enjoy. It is getting to be something of a mecca for enthusiasts of all nationalities and as such is a great place to meet others of a similar disposition, as well as fellow CCCA members who usually put in an appearance at some time over the weekend.

Tomorrow (Friday), the show opens at 4pm and closes at 9pm. On Saturday there is a full day from 10am until 9pm and Sunday is from 10am until 8pm.

If enthusiasts bring along a classic car that is over 25 years old they get free parking inside the exhibition centre itself. There are refreshments, food and a bar available too which helps!

MOTORING

2018 Tour Sherry Triangle

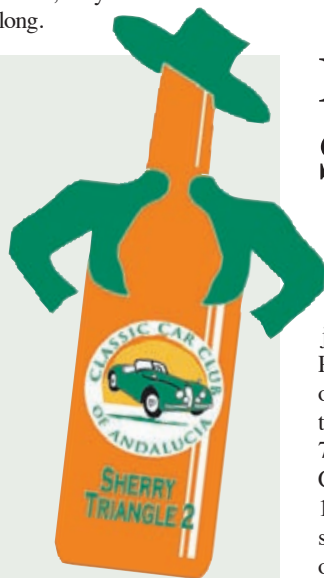
AS can be seen, the Club has already got January off to a flying start and February is busy too. On Thursday, February 1, the Club organises its first longer Tour of the year.

The 2018 Tour Sherry Triangle will start from Venta Los Almendros, on the Ronda road near San Pedro, that morning and will run over four days visiting Jerez, Puerto de Santa Maria, Cadiz and

Tarifa before finishing with a good lunch, as always, near Algeciras.

Any non-members that would like to go along to the start and see the cars or share breakfast will be most welcome. Cars will depart the start around 11am with coffee, breakfasts and signing-on etc taking place beforehand.

We should be reporting on this special event in the next issue.



SHERRY TRIANGLE: Will take place over four days.

Further information on Classic Car Club of Andalucía events can be found on the Club's website www.cccandalucia.com. Membership of this vibrant club is open to anyone owning a genuine classic car here in Spain. Saca tu coche clásico del garaje y diviértete con él.

Ron gone

Former Barcelona star Ronaldinho retires

FORMER Barcelona forward Ronaldinho has retired from professional football at the age of 37 according to his agent Roberto Assis.

The superstar, who is considered one of the best players to ever play the game, has been without a club since he left Brazilian side Fluminense in 2015.

Assis wrote in a column for Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*, "He has stopped, it is ended.

"Let's do something pretty big and nice after the Russia World Cup, probably in August. We will do various events in Brazil, Europe and Asia and, of course, we are arranging something with the Brazilian team as well."

The Brazilian enjoyed an illustrious career in which he won the World Cup in 2002, the Champions League in 2006 and the Ballon d'Or in 2005.

He began his career in Brazil with Gremio, before joining PSG in 2001 where he impressed ahead of a move to the Nou Camp in 2003.

Many would say that it was there where he defined his career, winning two La Liga titles, a Champions League trophy and the 2005 Ballon d'Or during his five-year stay with the Catalan club.

Ronaldinho then formed part of the 2010/11 Serie A winning side alongside the likes of David Beckham, Andrea Pirlo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic before a return to Brazil with Atletico Mineiro in 2011, followed by spells with Mexican side Queretaro and finally Fluminense.



| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | 1997 – 2000 | Gremio (Brazil) | 121 Matches • 58 Goals |
| | 2001 – 2003 | PSG (France) | 77 Matches • 25 Goals |
| | 2003 – 2008 | FC Barcelona (Spain) | 207 Matches • 94 Goals |
| | 2008 – 2011 | A C Milan (Italy) | 95 Matches • 26 Goals |
| | 2011 – 2012 | Flamengo (Brazil) | 72 Matches • 28 Goals |
| | 2012 – 2014 | Atl. Mineiro (Brazil) | 85 Matches • 27 Goals |
| | 2014 – 2015 | Queretaro (México) | 29 Matches • 8 Goals |
| | 2015 | Fluminense (Brazil) | 9 Matches • 0 Goals |

THE BEST EVER?: The Brazilian enjoyed a fantastic spell at Barcelona before moving to AC Milan in 2008.

Ex-Brazil striker Ronaldo reveals plans to buy lower league club 'in Spain or England'

FORMER Brazil striker Ronaldo has announced that he is thinking about buying a lower league football club in either Spain or England.

The ex-striker, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers to ever grace the game, hung up his boots in 2011 after a career stretching 18 years.

The 41-year-old's name has been regularly talked about as the future Brazilian Football Federation's President.

But, for the time being, the two-time World Cup winner has ruled himself out of the running for the presidency, but has revealed that he would be interested in owning a club in either the Spanish or English second division.

"It would be a great honour, but before that I want to experience running a big club," he told *Folha de S Paulo*.

"I'm thinking about buying a club in the second division in Spain or England.

"I want to do something innovative. I think



SPAIN ON HIS MIND: Ronaldo has said he is thinking about buying a club in either Spain or England.

"I'm prepared for the challenge."

Former Real Madrid, Barcelona, AC Milan and Inter Milan striker Ronaldo scored 300 goals across his career and won many of the top trophies all over the world.

Nine Saudi players move to Spain as part of Saudi-La Liga partnership

NINE separate loan deals for Saudi Arabian players across Spain's top two divisions occurred this weekend as part of a deal between the General Sports Authority (GSA) of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) and La Liga.

The deal has been done which will see all the players, who currently play in the Saudi first division, join La Liga sides ahead of Saudi Arabia's return to the World Cup later this year, their first tournament since 2006.

Three players who were instrumental in helping the national team to World Cup qualification will join La Liga first teams, while the others will join Segunda division sides and youth academies respectively.

Players joining La Liga sides include Yahya Al-Shehri who has signed for Leganes, Fahad Al-Muwallad joins Levante and Salem Al Sawsari has signed for Villarreal.



PLAYERS: Have joined on an initial six month loan deal.

Elsewhere, Jaber Issa joins Villarreal B while Nooh Al Mousa moves to Real Valladolid, Abdulmajeed Al Sulayhi signs for Rayo Vallecano, Ali Al Namer joins Numancia and Abdullah Al Hamdan has sealed a switch to Sporting Gijon.

In a statement, La Liga said: 'LaLiga Santander and LaLiga 1 | 2 | 3, the first and second division of Spain's professional football competition, respectively, announced that they will take nine players from Saudi Arabia on loan.

'The incorporation of

players from Saudi Arabia in the Spanish clubs follows a rigorous scouting programme that spanned multiple months to identify the best talent.'

The statement continued: 'For the Spanish clubs, adding players from Saudi Arabia not only expands their squads, it also means added exposure in the Arab world.

'As part of the agreement with La Liga, SAFF is also working to create local football academies in Saudi Arabia under the brand, technical supervision, and expertise of La Liga.'

REAL MADRID are currently as close to the relegation zone as they are to current La Liga leaders Barcelona. Last year's Champions currently sit on 35 points, 19 points behind Barcelona and 19 points ahead of 18th placed Deportivo La Coruña.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Carlos Sainz wins Dakar rally Age just a number

FIFTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Carlos Sainz has won the Dakar rally for the second time in his career.

The Spaniard held an hour and 45 seconds lead going into Saturday's final stretch in Cordoba and finished 43 minutes ahead of Toyota's Nasser Al-Attiyah in second-place.

He finished in 49 hours, 16 minutes and 18 seconds overall and celebrated by climbing on top of his car at the end of the South American rally.

Following the celebrations, the rally driver thanked fans

and his team for support on social media.

He said: "Finally we win the Dakar thanks for the incredible support during these days!! Fantastic job from Lucas Cruz (co-driver) and Peugeot Sport."

Sainz's second Dakar trophy comes eight years after his first in 2010, when he drove for Volkswagen in the second edition of the famous rally.

He finished ninth in Saturday's finale, but was under less pressure after 13-time winner and closest rival Stephane Pe-

terhansel, known as 'Mr Dakar,' crashed on Friday.

His son, F1 Driver Carlos Sainz Jr, was one of many to congratulate the 55-year-old in the aftermath of the victory.

Accompanying a photo of the pair when Sainz Jr was a child, the 23-year-old wrote on Twitter: "Today I am probably the proudest son of his father in the whole world. Winner of the toughest Dakar ever done at 55 years of age and he did it in his own way. Congrats matador! Congrats Lucas Cruz!"

King of Singapore Garcia wins first tournament of the year

SERGIO GARCIA has started 2018 where he left off last year as he won the Singapore Open by five shots.

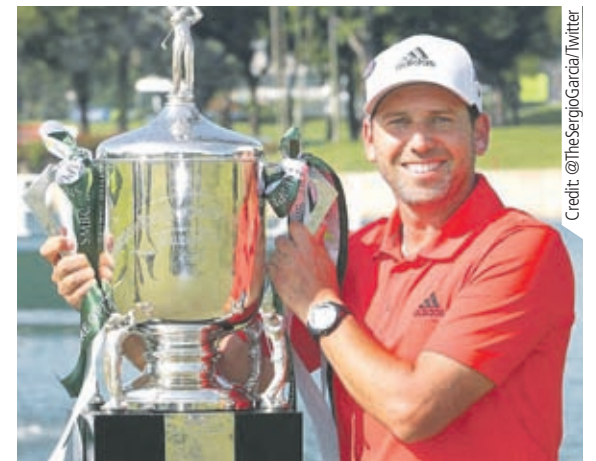
The Spaniard carded a three-under par 68 in the final-round to finish the tournament at 14-under, 270.

The 38-year-old recorded just three bogeys across 72 holes and the victory gives Garcia the 33rd title of his professional career.

Garcia was forced to return to the course at dawn on the final day as play was suspended on Saturday due to lightning strikes.

The 38-year-old flew through his last nine holes of his penultimate round in 4-under for a round of 66 to take a one-shot lead into the final round.

He returned to the course not long after and wrapped up the title in stunning fashion, recording a 68 after recording 10 straight pars to win the tournament that he finished 11th in this time last year.



Credit: @TheSergioGarcia/Twitter

HITTING NEW HEIGHTS: Garcia won his 33rd title with a victory in Singapore.

Garcia enjoyed an excellent season last year as he won three times on the Tour, including the Andalucia Valderrama Masters which he hosted, as well as the Masters at Augusta National for the first time.

His season was topped off at the end of the year by being named the Hilton European Tour Golfer of the Year for the first time.

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