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True colours

Ex-mayor sparks homophobia row

EXCLUSIVE

by Matt Ford

A Conservative politician has been slammed after he hit out at LGBTQ+ tourism on the Costa del Sol. The controversy comes after the opposition Popular Party (PP) in Torremolinos referred to the sector as 'cheap and nasty' in a press release, slamming the 'low rent gay tourism that scares away families and repulses serious and formal gays.'

And the comments sparked outrage after the statement - attributed to ex-mayor Pedro Fer-

nandez Montes - was posted on social media.

Speaking exclusively to the *Euro Weekly News*, President of the Arco Iris (Rainbow) foundation Gonzalo Serrano said: "I am glad this man is no longer mayor."

"We are gutted because we know there are open-minded people in his party, but he continues as the public face."

Mr Montes took to Facebook to respond to the critics, pointing out that "in 2015 I had three gay councillors," before launching in to a fresh attack.

"At the recent FITUR [tourism] fair in Madrid gay tourism was the only thing the council bothered promoting... we should promote all kinds of tourism and always aim for the middle or higher classes," he wrote, triggering a second wave of fury.

But Mr Serrano responded: "That is ridiculous, we are all the

same no matter how much money we have... I seriously hope he leaves office soon"

It is not the first time that the PP has been accused of homophobia, with a Montes-led council having railed against the Pride event for years. In 2014, the council banned use of the central Plaza de la Nogalera for LGBTQ+ events due to a nearby children's playground, stating that the square "has no association with any particular sexual option."

Having ruled with an absolute majority for a decade, the PP lost the 2015 local election to the socialist PSOE party, which immediately announced the town to be 'gay friendly.'

The move has seen Torremolinos establish itself as one of the country's top LGBTQ+ resorts, with thousands of revellers flocking to an annual series of themed events including Gay Pride and Mad Bear Beach.



Photo by Torremolinos de Puede/Facebook/Twitter

CHASING RAINBOWS: Revellers at the 2017 Torremolinos Pride, Pedro Fernandez Montes (inset top) and Gonzalo Serrano (inset bottom).

€ 10m tax scam

INVESTIGATORS have held a dozen people over a €10 million tax fraud on the Costa del Sol. Working with experts from the Tax Agency, National Police detectives tracked down the leader of the crime gang to Fuengirola, from where he controlled 13 companies with his three children, a nephew and some trusted friends.

Formerly involved in drugs trafficking, they started dealing in hydrocarbons two years ago and managed to avoid paying VAT on sales, funnelling profits through fake real estate firms.

During a series of raids police seized 60 properties worth €12 million - including a hotel - 20 luxury cars, and more than 100,000 litres of fuel.

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NEWS EXTRA

Fugitive snared

A 22-YEAR-OLD man from Jaen with 'several' arrest warrants in his name has been held after he was identified as a passenger in a car 'reeking of marihuana' at a police drugs and alcohol checkpoint in Alhaurin de la Torre.

Body riddle

POLICE are probing the deaths of a 55-year-old woman whose body was found by a walker on the beach in front of Calaburras lighthouse in Mijas and a man who appeared in the middle of the A-7 motorway at Casares.

Ruff justice

SEVEN Costa del Sol animal associations have joined forces to slam the Junta de Andalucia regional government for allowing hunters to shoot feral dogs in the countryside near Churriana.

Street death puzzle

Son of dead Brit and friends freed

POLICE continue to probe the death of a 60-year-old British expatriate on the Costa del Sol.

Victim Paul Murphy's son, 30, his Spanish girlfriend, 20, and a second British man, 37, are free after being quizzed by investigators.

But they must present themselves to a Spanish court twice per month until the case is resolved.

The woman has had her passport rescinded and is banned from leaving the country after it emerged that she was at the wheel of the black Range Rover which killed her boyfriend's father.

The incident occurred on the luxury La Alzambra housing estate near Puerto Banus, Marbella.

A neighbour came across the victim's body on the street a few metres from his home.

He was carrying a passport and driving licence, but the



TRAGEDY: The vehicle involved in the incident.

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names did not match, and he was found to have a criminal record.

According to initial reports, all four were in the car before the deceased got out.

In their statements, the three held said that he must then have fallen in front of the vehicle, and that they failed to stop and help him because they did not notice the impact.

The woman was reportedly driving because the others had been drinking alcohol.

No sex please

A COSTA DEL SOL town has revealed a proposed new law to forbid sexist advertising.

In a statement, Benalmadena Town Hall said that the ban would cover 'all ads that present women in a degrading or discriminatory way, either by exposing their body parts or using them as a mere object with no link to the product being promoted.'

The placement or distribution of material that 'promotes prostitution, sexual exploitation or a sexist image of women or any other groups as objects for sexual consumption will also be prohibited.'

Mob justice beating rap

SIX have a go heroes could face three years behind bars.

It comes after an unnamed man was sentenced to 12-and-a-half years in prison for stabbing the owner of a house during a night-time robbery in Alhaurin el Grande.

He and two others had entered the property in the El Bajoncillo neighbourhood wearing ski masks, but a struggle broke out when a man living there re-

fused to hand over his valuables.

The thief then stabbed him between the ribs with a 20-centimetre knife before fleeing.

But several neighbours had been alerted by the victim's screams, leading half-a-dozen of them to chase the raider.

Having caught him they proceeded to administer a heavy beating, breaking several of his teeth and they were charged with grievous bodily harm.

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Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

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MOTORING

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Killer mum behind bars

A MOTHER has been sentenced to five years in jail after trying to kill her 11-year-old son while he was in a Malaga hospital, disconnecting his cardiac monitor and attempting to suffocate him. It follows the mysterious death of her first child in 2012, the judge in charge of the trial said.

Sex pest held

A 62-YEAR-OLD Spanish man has been held on suspicion of 'capturing' at least 15 children.

The victims were allegedly plied with drugs, mobile phones and other gifts in his Benalmadena caravan before he sexually abused them, with a probe launched after a 14-year-old girl's mother reported her missing.

Virtual tennis

THE Davis Cup tennis tie between Great Britain and Spain - which takes place in Marbella this weekend - will be the first in the history of the competition to be broadcast in 360° virtual reality. The high-tech coverage will be streamed on Spanish TV channel RTVE's website and the Championship's YouTube channel.

Costa del Gulf

QATAR AIRWAYS has announced that Malaga will be among 19 new routes for the state-owned carrier this year. Scheduled to begin in May, the direct flights from Doha - capital of the gulf state - will be the Costa del Sol's first direct connection with the Middle East.

War on drugs

NATIONAL POLICE investigators on the Costa del Sol have arrested 48 people, impounded 26 luxury vehicles and seized €67,975 in cash, 4,700 kilos of hashish, 69 kilos of marihuana and more than two kilos of cocaine since the beginning of the year.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE n°48

Of all the cultural traditions in Spain, bullfighting is perhaps the most controversial and undoubtedly the most brutal, writes Harrison Jones.

Cut the bull

THE treatment of bulls during Spanish bullfights is horrifying.

Two days prior to the performance, the animals have been known to have wet newspaper put in their ears, a sticky substance rubbed into their eyes, cotton into their nostrils, a burning irritant applied to their legs, a needle in their private parts and be heavily drugged, welfare groups say.

In Spain, three acts then see the bull tired out in a dark but artistic ritual. Picadors, on horseback, exhaust the bull by twisting thick knives into its neck. Then, the assistant matadors plunge up to six harpoon-like weapons into its body.

Immaculately dressed matadors coax the bulls with red clothes, dodging them as they charge. The final kill can be drawn out and see bulls vomit their own blood. The ears and tail are cut off, often when the animal is still conscious, before it is dragged around the venue by horses, to the tune of baying crowds and traditional music.



DARK ART: An immaculately dressed matador.

CONTROVERSIAL: The practice has caused protests.



TRADITION: Ronda's bullring is Spain's oldest.

Grabbing tradition by its horns

SPAIN is facing louder calls to ban the practice, but so far international condemnation has not told. Protests have hit the country's festivals and turnout is down, but the events - defined as cultural - show no signs of being outlawed imminently.

There has been a steady decline in the number of bullfights, but in 2014-15, nearly 10 per cent of Spaniards bought a ticket, according to Culture Trip. In 2010, a newspaper poll found that only 42 per cent of Spaniards wanted it banned.

That year, the Catalan parliament

attempted to outlaw the tradition, but the regional ban was overturned by the Supreme Court.

Much like fox hunting in Britain, the main defence of the practice is tradition. It certainly has a long history - Ronda, near Malaga, boasts one of the world's oldest bullrings, from the late 1700s.

Another side to the gore - which sees stadiums reminiscent of Roman gladiators filled with crowds - is the injuries to matadors. Deaths are now very rare, though the last was only in

summer 2017. Over 500 matadors have reportedly been killed in the past three centuries.

Bully for EU

IT is not just in Spain where bullfighting is practised. There are variations in many other countries, most notably in Latin America, France and Portugal.

'Bull wrestling,' meanwhile, reportedly takes place in Japan, the Balkans, Turkey and Southeast Asia.

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Up the isle



Photo credit: Wikimedia



BORDER CONTROL: View from the Spanish side of the river, a satellite image (bottom left) and the meeting on the island between Louis XVI of France and Spain's Felipe IV as depicted by French artist Jacques Laumosnier (bottom right).

SPAIN is about to reclaim 5,000 square metres of territory from France. But in the summer it will voluntarily hand it back.

In a rare agreement that has lasted for more than 350 years, the two countries hold joint sovereignty over Pheasant Island (Spanish: Isla de los Faisanes), an uninhabited tract of land in the Bidasoa River.

The island is among the oldest and smallest condominiums - political territories where two or more countries agree to share ownership and exercise rights jointly - in existence.

Controlled by Spain from February 1 to July 31 each year, it returns to France for the re-

maining six months, with the first handover of 2018 set to take place today (Thursday).

It lies in the middle of the Bidasoa, which forms a natural border between the Spanish town of Irun and its French counterpart Hendaye, and cannot be visited except on the occasional heritage open day.

Measuring just 215 metres long and 38 metres wide, it is thought to be the only condominium in the world which alternates sovereignty during the course of the year.

An old monument on the island holds the key to the island's bizarre status, since it pays tribute to the Treaty of the

Pyrenees, signed in 1659.

It came in the wake of a decade of violence and political interference after the Thirty Years War between France and Spain ended in 1648.

The two governments chose to negotiate on the island because it was considered neutral territory, and after three months of talks the peace agreement was signed.

Territories were swapped and new borders settled, while Maria Teresa of Austria, daughter of Spanish King Felipe IV, married French ruler Louis XIV. And the final part of the deal involved the island being shared by the two countries.

POLL OF THE WEEK

With the latest string of drink driving accidents occurring across Spain, is enough being done to tackle the problem?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Do you text more often than call on your mobile phone?

Yes 56% **No 44%**

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TOP 5 stories



ON SCREEN: Film crews visit the Rojales rescue centre and (inset) some of the cast.

- 6,758 views** Channel 5's Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun hits Costa Blanca this week
- 5,718 views** British woman takes 14 hours to go to police after son, 3, goes missing
- 4,663 views** Met office warns of rain in Spain and massive 'cold drop'
- 2,906 views** Cyclist suffers serious head injury as storms batter Costa del Sol
- 2,721 views** Three dead and one seriously injured in AP-7 crash

**For week 22 - 29 January*

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Back on the road

ROCK megastars U2 have announced a second concert date in Madrid.

It comes after tickets for the Irish band's first gig in the Spanish capital for 13 years sold out in just 10 minutes. The two live shows - scheduled for September 20 and 21 - will take place at the WiZink Centre venue.

Kicking off in the United States in May, the European leg of the supergroup's eXPERIENCE + iNNOCENCE world tour begins on August 31 and will see Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen Jr take to the stage in Germany (Cologne and Hamburg), France (Paris), Portugal (Lisbon), Italy (Milan), Denmark (Copenhagen), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), the UK (Manchester and London) and Ireland in addition to Spain.

Tickets cost from €35-95 and go on sale tomorrow (Friday), with a maximum of four per person.

They are available from the websites livenation.es, www.doctormusic.com and ticketmaster.es.



SOLD OUT: U2's Bono.

HOT MAMA: Pilar Rubio and (right) her decorated bump.

Photo by You Tube



Photo by Pilar Rubio/Instagram



Work of art!

SHE is expecting her third child with Real Madrid and Spain footballer Sergio Ramos.

And TV presenter Pilar Rubio, 39, showed she is game for a laugh after cheekily painting her bump to resemble politically incorrect South Park character Eric Cartman.

The beauty captioned the shot: "Today we came up with a few ideas so that pregnant women can disguise themselves at carnivals. This is my favourite!"

Who's the daddy?



BIG AND LITTLE MAC: Conor and his young son.

Conor McGregor/Instagram

HE'S the Ultimate Fighting champion who last year made his boxing debut. And having taken a break in the wake of his defeat to Floyd Mayweather, Conor McGregor, 29, showed he is enjoying his down time as he flew to Spain with his son Conor Jr.

Taking to Instagram the hardman wrote: "We are having lunch on the jet on our way to Ibiza."

Star responds to abuse allegations



HAPPIER TIMES: Nick and Jessica.

DIY SOS star Nick Knowles' estranged wife has accused the presenter of failing to keep promises made 'when he walked out of our lives to have a string of girlfriends after abandoning us in Spain.'

The explosive social media outburst by Jessica Rose Moor, 30, follows earlier claims that the 55-year-old has pulled funding for their son Eddie's private school education and subjected her to years of 'emotional cruelty and physical abuse.' But

friends speaking to UK media on Nick's behalf strongly denied the allegations.

"These allegations are not true but Nick will not be responding publicly in an attempt to minimise the negative impact on his son." And an insider added: "It's just not true. Nick is one of the most generous men I know and has made substantial financial provision for Jess and Eddie as he does for other members of his family and his children."

Polar plea

HE'S the Spanish Oscar-winning actor who's married to Penelope Cruz.

But Javier Bardem, 48, showed he still has his feet on the ground after travelling to the Antarctic with environmental organisation Greenpeace.

He wrote on Instagram: "We've joined this adventure to ask that the largest protected area in the world is created in the Antarctic. Join us!"

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NEWS EXTRA

Swede dreams

SWEDISH airline Scandinavian Airlines System has revealed it intends to establish a new base of operations at Malaga Airport, joining rival Norwegian, which has six aircraft stationed on the Costa del Sol during summer.

Gang war

TWO of the five men arrested over a fatal gypsy knife fight in Coin which saw two brothers killed and three other men hurt have been remanded in custody, while the other three have been banned from entering the town.

Sad tail

A DOLPHIN washed onto La Araña beach in Malaga City could not be saved, with biologists revealing that it was old and infested with parasites in the wake of a post mortem examination.



WET AND WILD: The wind provoked more than 300 incidents.

Total blowout!

Cold snap to come after wind batters Costa

THE Costa del Sol is braced for a new cold front after being battered by the worst wind storm in 10 years.

Winds of up to 95 kilometres per hour were recorded as national weather office AEMET issued orange alerts for dangerous weather - the second-highest level

- across Malaga Province.

Trees were uprooted, lampposts and road signs blown to pieces, and ferries to North Africa cancelled as the coast was pummelled by waves measuring up to six metres high.

Emergency services attended to more than 300 incidents, with two people hurt in Fuengirola when a

water tank lid flew off, and a female cyclist seriously injured after being blown into a lamp post in Malaga City.

And the mercury is set to plummet again from today (Thursday) as cold weather sweeps in from the north, with some rain also expected.

Missing in action

MORE than 16,000 unregistered people - including thousands of Britons - are living on the Costa del Sol.

And town councils have warned that budgets could be slashed if residents fail to enrol on their local civil register (Spanish: padron).

The alert comes after the National Institute of Statistics published its year-on-year figures for 2017.

Since 2010 the population of Malaga Province has grown by 80,000, but only 20,000 new civil register entries have been recorded.

British expatriates are thought to be one of the groups least likely to register amid uncertainty over Brexit, "but they are still living here among us" an official said.

Towns with the largest number of foreign residents are the worst-affected despite a number running campaigns promoting the benefits of registration.

Among them is Mijas, home to at least 10,000 Britons, but the foreigner residents' office said that it fears "that the 'bleeding' of residents who choose to unsubscribe from the padron will remain the same in 2018."



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OUR VIEW

Is it time to end drunken tourism?

WILL 2018 be the year that Spain seriously cracks down on party mad holidaymakers' boozy antics?

With the country outstripping the United States to become the second-most visited country in the world after France in 2017, a string of traditional hotspots have announced plans to control what Spanish media has dubbed 'drunken tourism.'

In the Balearics, many bars and clubs will be forced to close their doors hours earlier this summer, with noise pollution laws set to be strictly enforced.

And new reports suggest that hotels in Benidorm on the Costa Blanca are turning down bookings from hen and stag parties.

It comes after groups of incensed locals last year staged anti-tourist protests in Barcelona, Mallorca, and San Sebastian.

The backlash continued on the Costa del Sol, Marbella tourism chiefs referring to 'cheap' British tourists as 'savages' before unveiling new rules with fines for nudity and rowdy behaviour.

Notorious party resort Magaluf in Mallorca issued 64 new laws to clamp down on unruly holidaymakers, with bar owners warned not to serve alcohol to visibly-drunk revellers, while in Palma happy hours and two-for-one drinks offers are set to be axed. With almost a quarter of the 82 million people visiting Spain last year coming from the UK, the country must clearly be careful not to alienate its largest tourist market.

But since tens of millions - including many Britons - flock to Spain each year with no intention of spending their two weeks in the sun knocking back cheap drinks and sleeping off hangovers, perhaps it is time the country shifts away from this kind of tourism altogether?

Now we want to hear your views.
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Costa del Sol says:

What is the meaning of life!?

This week, we asked 12 of you the biggest question of all. Family, 'this' and 'no' were popular answers...

MAUREEN and Terence Mallen, both 80, on holiday from London.

"Oh my goodness!

"... Family. That's the main reason for life."

Margaret and Terry Craven, 76 and 79, on holiday from Wolverhampton.

"Living it to the full.

"Well, we're retired and we haven't got years in front of us, so what we need to do is make the most of it. If we can come away on holidays - Spain, wherever - that's our future.

And we



THOUGHTFUL TRIO: Sun, sea and happiness are high on Kay, Julie and Susan's agenda.

hope we can get many more years.

"Not only Spain other countries as well. Holidays are important to us.

"We've got two children, both married, my son's got no children, my daughter's got one. He's 13. We're both healthy."

Anonymous, 75, on holiday.

"No. Can't be bothered with that one! Not one for me!"

John Horner, 46, on holiday from Northern Ireland.

"The meaning of life? This. This here is the meaning of life (gestures to the beach), aye."

Anonymous, on holiday.

"What's the meaning of life!?" (Sighs). "Family. Spending time with family, that's what it's all about."

Kay Dawson, 66, Julie Hunter, 63, and Susan Cummins, 63, all on holiday and from England.

"This! Sun, sea and happiness. How's that!?"

"You could say the meaning of happiness is different to different people. So, to me, as a mother, the meaning of happiness is when my boy is happy. If my boy is happy, I'm happy. I could be down here but if he's not happy then I can't be happy.

"(It means) different things to different people.

"Travelling - because we live in a motorhome. But this, to me, is happiness."

Anonymous pair

"Oh my lord. No!"

TO THE FULL: Birthday boy Terry and wife Margaret said 'making the most of it' was key.

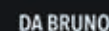
Credit: Harrison Jones

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Flying Spur W12 fuel consumption - EU Drive Cycle in l/100 km: Urban 23,4; Extra-Urban 10,1; Combined 15,0; CO2 Emissions 342g/km.
Bentayga V8 Diesel fuel consumption - EU Drive Cycle in l/100 km: Urban 9,4; Extra-Urban 7,2; Combined 8,0; CO2 Emissions 210 g/km.

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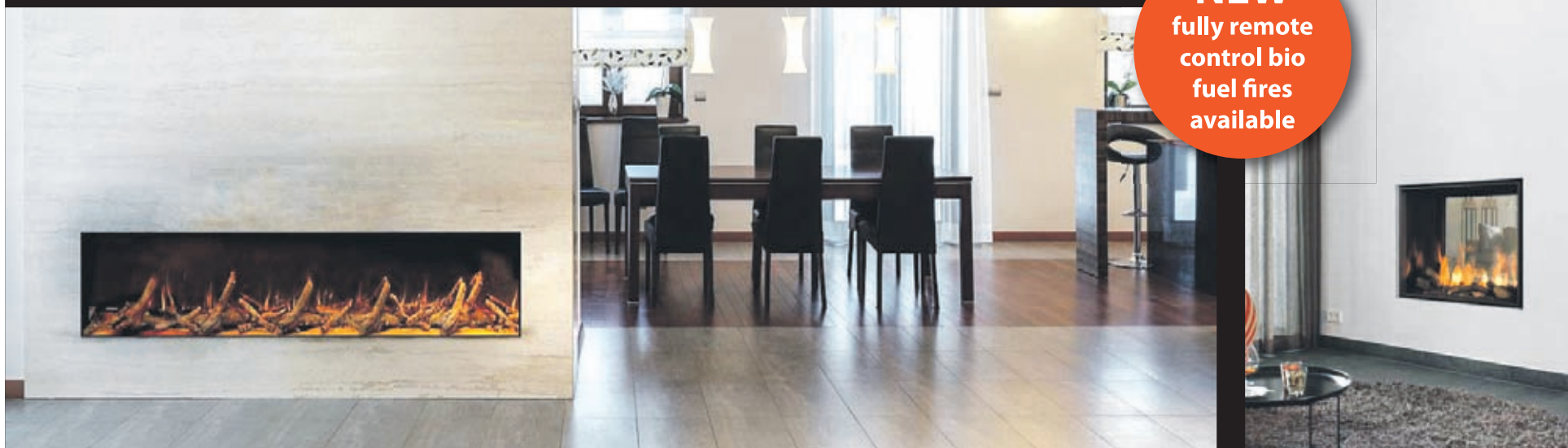
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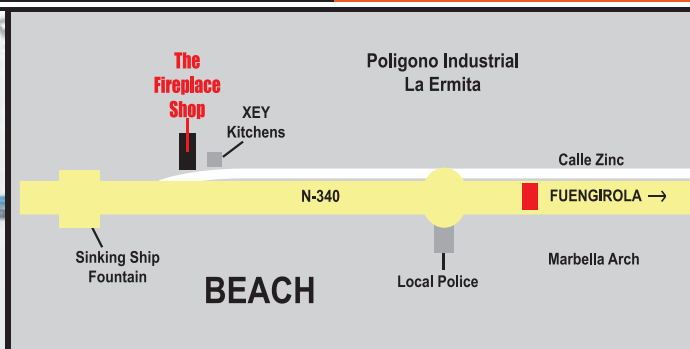
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MC Boulevard News

Marbella winter evenings in Nobu Restaurant

NOBU RESTAURANT, located in Puente Romano Marbella, is the place to be in the wintery Marbella.

It's centric position allows you to overlook the hottest and happening square 'La Plaza' on the coast, which attracts outgoing guests throughout the year.

Nobu Marbella menu includes all the mouthwatering signature dishes as Black Cod Miso, Yellowtail Sashimi with Jalapeño and Tiradito, aside plates inspired by Marbella itself.

In addition, Executive Chef Eleni Manouosu has created a special winter Omakase Menu; in translation from Japanese "I'll leave it up to you" and refers to chef's selection.

"I have chosen dishes that go well with these slight temperature changes we experience here by the Mediterranean. Salmon Karashi served next to oysters New Style are simple, but delicious with a citrusy dressing, Beef Tenderloin is superb for those cosy Nobu evenings, mixing citrus - based ponzu with spicy wasabi salsa. In addition Black Cod Miso, signature flavour that works for me every time," comments Eleni.

Nobu Restaurant, the first Nobu opened in Spain, includes also a trendy lounge from where to enjoy Nobu's signature cocktails, crafted by master Mixologists and sample its extensive sake menu.

Nobu Marbella serves dinner every day from 7.30pm - 1am. Nobu Lounge is open from 7.30pm and during weekends stays open till the late hours...

For reservations please call 952 778 686



NEWS EXTRA

Pan rage attack

A SENEGALESE man, 45, has been remanded in custody and charged with attempted murder after attacking his landlady and ex-partner, 65, with a saucepan, leaving her with serious head injuries.

Trash talk

ALHAURIN DE LA TORRE Council has opted not to renew the contract of a private company tasked with running the town's rubbish recycling centre, with a 22,000 square-metre extension upgrade planned.

Port of call

MARBELLA Council has applied to take control of Cabopino Port, which has been managed by the Junta de Andalucía regional government for the last two years, since a 40-year contract for a private firm to manage the marina expired.

Cris and make up

Star treats squeeze amid texting storm

HE recently fathered his first child before picking up his fifth Ballon D'Or award.

But Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, 32, appeared in a sombre mood as he treated girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez to a slap-up Costa del Sol trip for her 24th birthday.

The loved-up pair were snapped eating lunch at the upmarket Trocadero Club in Sotogrande before sharing a cuddle as they got into their high-end BMW.

They later dined at the glam Nobu restaurant in the Puente Romano Resort before retiring to a luxurious villa at the Marbella Club Hotel.

The jaunt came after the Portuguese goal machine became embroiled in accusations that he bombarded an engaged former page 3 girl with late night text messages.

Glamour model Rhian Sugden, 31, was reportedly forced to fend off the former Manchester United striker after he repeatedly asked her to call him on the Facebook Messenger app.

Her fiancé and ex-Coronation Street actor Oliver Mellor, 36, allegedly stepped in with a polite warning, after which the footballer backed off.

Georgina gave birth to the couple's first



Photo credit: You Tube/Rhian Sugden/Instagram

TEXT APPEAL: Ronaldo and Georgina looking glum in Marbella and (inset) model Rhian Sugden.

child Alana Martin in November, with Ronaldo's three other children - baby twins Eva and Mateo and seven-year-old Cristiano Jr - thought to have been born to surrogate mothers.



Animal abuser verdict

AN ex-employee of a Costa del Sol pet shelter is to be jailed for animal cruelty.

Identified only as 'FB,' he has been ordered to serve a one-year sentence after helping to slaughter thousands of cats and dogs.

The decision by a Malaga judge comes after Carmen Marin - the disgraced former president of Torremolinos municipal animal sanctuary - in November began a three years and nine month sentence after a series of failed appeals.

Marin was found guilty of systematically euthanising cats and dogs under her care from 2008-2010 despite preaching a zero sacrifice policy, receiving cash from the town council each time she took in a new arrival.

She reportedly used the profits to fund a lavish lifestyle, including a €104,000 shopping trip, plastic surgery, luxury holidays to several countries, high-end cars and expensive meals.

And her one-time colleague will now serve time after aiding and abetting her.

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NEWS EXTRA

Crypto cash coffee break

A CAFE in Malaga City has become the first on the Costa del Sol to accept payment in cryptocurrency Bitcoin after the idea was suggested by a client.

Sex claim

DETECTIVES are probing an alleged sexual assault in the village of Alozaina after an expatriate woman of unconfirmed nationality reported that she had been attacked by three men, all also foreign, at a private party.

Water boob

MALAGA Provincial Council has come under fire after plans to build a €225,000 drinking water tank in Casabermeja were not submitted in time, meaning the village may lose the money.

Park plan

THE initial report concerning the proposal for the Sierra de las Nieves to be granted National Park status has been handed to the Junta de Andalucía regional government for approval.

You talkin' to me?

De Niro to open new luxury resort



Photo by Nobu Hotels

HOLLYWOOD TO HOTELS: Robert de Niro and (inset) the new Marbella venture.

HOLLYWOOD actor Robert de Niro and professional chef Nobu Matsuhisa are expanding their hotel empire with a new adults-only resort in Marbella.

The Nobu Hotel Marbella - part of the Puente Romano

Beach Resort and Spa - boasts direct access to a picture-perfect beach while there will be plenty of bars and restaurants to choose from around the vibrant Plaza.

All of the rooms and suites boast their own private ter-

race and ensuite marble bathrooms with rainfall showers.

Spa aficionados are sure to love the soothing and tranquil space of the Six Senses Spa that 'combines the very essence of their philosophy with local Spanish charm and influence.'

The hotel will also offer its guests private VIP access to club La Suite, which has its own private outdoor terrace.

Nobu Hotels attract a sophisticated clientele and are a magnet for A-listers, including models, celebrities, musicians, politicians and business leaders.

The chain was launched in 2009 with De Niro, chef Nobu Matsuhisa, and Hollywood producer Meir Teper as co-owners.



Photo by @LucintheTwitter

BLAZE: Flames and thick, black smoke rise from the shop front.

Up in flames

POLICE are quizzing a 15-year-old boy for allegedly starting a fire that gutted the frontage of a Carrefour supermarket.

A 13-year-old boy was also questioned about the blaze at the Alameda shopping centre in Malaga City, but he is too young to be charged.

It is claimed the pair filmed their antics and shared videos on social media before immediately deleting them.

But investigators obtained footage shot with a mobile phone, showing one of the pair with a lighter in his hand in the area near the trolley shelter, where the flames broke out.

The fire affected the main façade of the building and a gym located near the entrance to the shop.

Parents continue to fight

THE Lucia Vivar case has reached the Spanish government.

The tragic toddler's parents, Almudena Hidalgo and Antonio Vivar, travelled to Madrid for a meeting with Secretary of State Jose Antonio Nieto and Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido.

Presenting the officials with a 30-page dossier compiled by their lawyer, the couple asked that the Guardia Civil's Central Operation Unit be tasked with investigating their daughter's death.

The three-year-old vanished last July while having dinner with her family near the rail line in Pizarra - around 30

minutes inland from Malaga - with her body found by a train driver more than four kilometres away the next morning.

Police concluded she had been struck by the morning's first train, but her parents remain convinced that she would not have walked such a distance alone in the dark, while forensic reports com-

missioned by the family suggest that she may have died from a blow to the head received before the train passed through.

Mr Zoido reportedly guaranteed that the case would be reviewed, telling Almudena and Antonio that "now they will not only have to convince you, but me as well."

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NEWS EXTRA

Hospital
backchat

A WOMAN must pay €300 to a Benalmadena medic after screaming abuse reportedly including 'you are a sh*t doctor,' and 'I sh*t on your ancestors' at him before adding 'you will leave here in a pine coffin.'

Local say

CASARES residents have until Tuesday to decide how to spend €350,000 via the website www.casaresparticipa.es, of which €100,000 must be used for creating employment and the remainder for public works and infrastructure.

Bumps up

MALAGA Province has been placed fifth behind Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Sevilla in the national ranking for the most minor traffic accidents in 2017, with 82,062 representing a 5.4 per cent increase on 2016.

Train in vain

High speed rail link ruled out

THE Spanish government has moved to confirm that the AVE high speed train is unlikely to ever reach the Costa del Sol.

Speaking in Marbella alongside Mayor Angeles Muñoz, national Public Works Minister, Iñigo de la Serna, confirmed that if a connection is built, it would not be designed for the AVE and would probably include just a single line.

Marbella is the only Spanish city with more than 100,000 residents that lacks a rail connection, and the project has been discussed for two decades. The national government in 2013 assumed responsibility for the scheme after losing faith with the Junta, and the official presented a part-finished study which looks at two possible options, one following the layout of the A-7 dual carriageway, and the other 'mixed' but still running alongside some stretches of the coast road.

In both cases, most of the route



Ayuntamiento de Marbella/ Shutterstock

RAIL REVAMP: The connection is likely to extend the current Malaga-Fuengirola line, and (inset) Iñigo de la Serna and Angeles Muñoz talk trains.

would be underground.

The Junta de Andalucía regional government last week published a draft Territorial Ordinance Plan in which it instead recommends diverting motorway traffic along the existing AP-7 toll road - which would become free to use - and converting the A-7 into a coastal 'boulevard' with a light railway or tram.

But this scheme has been widely panned, with Antonio Sanz, the gov-

ernment's Andalucía delegate, saying that the Junta "is not in a position to give lessons, since the government had to come to the rescue of an infrastructure project that never happened."

The official added: "It is easy to propose ideas when you don't need to pay for them.

"They haven't even included a proper railway in their plans and even suggest removing a road toll!"

Ten month tan session

BEACHGOERS may be about to receive a welcome boost.

Marbella Council has revealed that it has applied for permission to extend its annual 'beaches plan' - which includes lifeguards and other public services - from seven to nine months.

Currently running from March 15 to October 15, the town hall wants to draw the plan out until December as a 'weapon against seasonal tourism.'

A raft of improvements are also included in the revised plan, which has been sent to the Junta de Andalucía regional government for approval.

These include a larger number of parking spaces, installation of inflatable aquatic 'parks,' and closer, more demanding management of beachfront hammocks, sun beds, kiosks, beach bars and official massage areas.

Lane gain campaign

THE Spanish Ministry of Development is to splash out €17.8 million on a notorious Costa del Sol road.

The cash will be used to 'improve traffic conditions' on the A-7 dual carriageway between

Puerto Banus and San Pedro de Alcantara.

The stretch is woefully ill-equipped to deal with an average of 90,000 cars per day, with 51 accidents recorded from 2005-2015.

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NEWS EXTRA

Reward of the rings

THE EUROPEAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE will this year hold its General Assembly in Marbella, with the annual event set to see around 350 sporting leaders from 52 Olympic Associations descend on the city in November.

Winging it

BUDGET airline Ryanair has announced an increased number of flights connecting Malaga and Manchester in summer 2018.

On the buses

BENALMADENA is to introduce new laws regulating public bus access for reduced mobility passengers, with type A scooters and electric wheelchairs measuring up to 1.3 metres in length permitted.

Alleged mafia boss released on bail
'Crime lord' freed

THE Russian owner of a Costa del Sol football club may soon be released from prison.

It comes after businessman Arnold Arnoldovich Spivalovsky, also known as Arnold Tamm, was freed by a provincial court judge.

He had been remanded in custody over suspected ties with the Russian mafia since September, with Marbella FC chief and multi-billionaire Alexander Grimberg among 10 others also jailed in raids involving more than 100 Guardia Civil officers.

The club was among three local businesses - including Aguas Sierra de Mijas and Dame de Noche golf club - implicated in a €30 million money laundering plot involving two rival gangs.

Spivalovsky has now been released having paid €750,000 bail, although he is banned from leaving Spain after having his passport confiscated, and must ap-



Photo credit Guardia Civil/RV Marbella/Twitter

BAIL APPEAL: Police swooped on Marbella FC and (inset) Alexander Grimberg.



Flashback
Our story in September

brass of the Solntsevskaya mafia clan and allegedly has close links to the kingpin Semion Mogilevich, one of the world's most wanted men.

And Grimberg is reportedly set to be turned loose after paying his own bail fee, with trial dates yet to be confirmed.

Sex club arrests

TWO strip club barmen have been held for overcharging customers on the Costa del Sol.

The men, aged 40 and 41, are suspected of conning at least nine revellers out of €15,000.

They targeted foreign tourists who paid by bank card, either by charging them several times or for a vastly inflated amount.

One client who drank four beers - which should have cost €16 - unwittingly paid €1,600.

Three clubs were raided during the probe, with seven card machines, two safes and more than €4,000 in cash, plus small amounts of cocaine and viagra seized.

€45m green fee

THE Costa del Sol's golf courses are to take a step towards sustainability.

Public water company Acosol has announced a €45 million investment into 45 of the area's courses, allowing them to be irrigated with recycled water.

The news comes ahead of the Junta de Andalucía regional government's official declaration of drought, expected later this month.

An official said: "Given the lack of rain it is important that aquifers are preserved, so we are committed to making the system sustainable, and that golf courses use recycled water."

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Splashing the sterling

Raheem to snap up €5m Marbella villa

by Harrison Jones

ENGLAND footballer Raheem Sterling is reportedly set to buy a stunning new Spanish villa.

The Manchester City star is believed to be paying around €5.45 million for the luxury Marbella pad, which comes complete with six bedrooms, a cinema room, pool and wine cellar.

Located close to the beach at Puerto Banus, the area is a haunt for millionaires - and the 23-year-old is keen to add to his property portfolio there, according to reports.

The villa's description says: 'It offers open plan living that flows effortlessly between beautifully designed interior and exterior spaces, each filled with bespoke furniture, commissioned exclusively for the property, giving it a modern and highly unique look.'

'The ground floor entrance leads onto a light, open plan living and dining space, complete with a state-of-the-art custom kitchen.'

'Sliding glass windows give access to the garden with its covered terrace and bespoke zero edge swimming pool area.'

Sterling already lives in a £3 million, five-acre mansion in Cheshire with girlfriend Paige Milian and their one-year-old son, Thiago.

He signed for City for £49 million from Liverpool and earns roughly £200,000 a week.

The attacking midfielder, 23, has been in superb form this season, netting 14 times in the Premier League to make him the division's fourth top scorer.



Photo Credit: Shutterstock/Twitter

GET IN: Raheem's new villa (inset) is in glam Puerto Banus.

He also has four assists.

But now he wants a holiday home, and has visited the area twice already, according to British media.

The description continues: 'This incredible space has purposefully been left partially finished, and can be designed for bedroom and bathroom accommodation, as well

as multi-entertainment space, cinema room, wine cellar or gym offering a unique turnkey opportunity.

'Exquisitely finished throughout with a painstaking attention to detail, the villa has exceptional fixtures, fittings and facilities, giving you the opportunity to experience modern Marbella living at its very best.'

NEWS EXTRA

Game of drones

THE Junta de Andalucía regional government is to use flying drones to monitor rare fauna including birds of prey and mammals, with testing to take place ahead of a full roll out in 2020.

Death probe

A 28-YEAR-OLD motorist has been held after he ran over and killed a 60-year-old pedestrian near the Carlos Haya Hospital in Malaga City before testing positive for cocaine and five other drugs, police said in a statement.

Home blaze

A SWEDISH expatriate mother and her daughter have been treated for smoke inhalation after a fire broke out at their detached home in Churianna, near Torre-molinos.

Fake cops

POLICE are probing two robberies during which three hooded men carrying guns and claiming to be Guardia Civil officers forced their way into properties in Mijas before making off with a selection of valuables.

Lie in ruins

AN 18-year-old girl has been held in Malaga City after pretending that she was raped in a nightclub to cover up the fact that she had been cheating on her boyfriend, police said in a statement.

Mean street

A MAN has been sentenced to 22 months in prison for stealing a mobile phone and €5 from a pedestrian on Calle Angustias in Malaga City after first threatening his victim with a knife.

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In front of Burger King



Photo credit: Google Maps

SMOKED OUT: Area where the gang was holed up and (inset) a boat carrying many kilos of hashish.

€6m drugs swoop

DETECTIVES are quizzing eight people held during a giant drugs bust in southern Spain.

It comes after anti-drugs police swooped on three huge shipments of hashish as they arrived to the beaches of Barbate, Cadiz, seizing more than 4,500 kilos with a street value exceeding €6 million.

The probe began when investigators became aware of a trafficking network led by a young man known as 'El Bareque,' who had links to a gang arrested in 2017.

He is thought to have assumed control of operations after his former bosses were jailed, police said in a statement.

Informants in Algeciras, the

Spanish enclave Ceuta and Morocco were used to identify members of the new organisation from suppliers in North Africa to those handling the drugs once they arrived in Spain.

Two boats loaded with 1,140 and 2,430 kilos of hashish, respectively, were intercepted as they landed, with two people held and three stolen cars impounded.

A third haul of 960 kilos was allowed to come ashore, with gang members followed to a property near Vejer de la Frontera.

Armed officers stormed the building and arrested six men - including the suspected gang leader - before seizing various items.

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NEWS EXTRA

Digital display

THE Costa del Sol was seen by an estimated 22 million people during the recent FITUR travel fair in Madrid, after the area appeared on 122 video screens dotted around the Spanish capital.

On the road

THE MA-8301 road, which connects the Serrania de Ronda village of Jubrique with the Costa del Sol, has been given a facelift including a new surface and road signs via a €332,000 windfall from Malaga Provincial Council.

Game's app

AN 18-year-old studying at a Malaga City vocational college has been held for allegedly dealing hashish to classmates, after police received a tipoff from the Alertcops mobile phone application.



DETENTION: The scene at the prison where children were being held.

Migrant shock

Children were in prison, says government

by Harrison Jones

THE Spanish government has admitted that they did lock up 11 migrant children in an 'unopened' prison - two and a half months after doing it.

Juan Ignacio Zoido, the Minister of the Interior, finally acknowledged on Wednesday that the youngsters were initially held in Archidona prison.

He added that a further 89 were released - 63 for asylum reasons, 11 for humanitarian issues, three for precautionary

reasons and one who was not believed to be Algerian.

The treatment of the nearly 600 migrants put in the prison was widely and angrily condemned by rights groups, opposition parties, charities, and the United Nations.

Mr Zoido said the 11 children were put in the care of the Andalusian authorities.

He claimed that Mohamed Bouderbala, who died in the prison, was "encouraging" the riot that occurred in the days before his death, reports say.

He also condemned "conspiracy theories" about the death, according to Spanish press.

The provisional findings of an official report into the death pointed towards the authorities' account of suicide. Police say he was found hanging in his cell.

However, video footage appears to show a man lying face down outside of a cell. The Algerian government is investigating the death, following claims from inmates he died after being beaten by police.

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Eels on a plane

Slippery smugglers held at airport

AN illegal shipment of live eels has been seized at Malaga airport.

Guardia Civil investigators swooped on four suspicious suitcases after they had been checked in for a flight to Hong Kong via Zurich in Switzerland.

And after tracking down the Chinese owners of the luggage, officers found 22 bags containing 20 kilos of young eels, or elver, inside.

The passengers were unable to provide

documentation permitting the export of the fish, a protected species in Europe after stocks declined by 90 per cent in the last 40 years.

Young eels are a highly valued delicacy in the Asian market, with prices reaching €1,500 per kilo.

They have been transferred to a specialised centre in San Fernando, Cadiz, while the would-be smugglers have been charged with unlawful transport of an endangered species.

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Drowning horror

AN 80-year-old British pensioner died after suffering a heart attack while swimming at a beach popular with holidaymakers in the Canary Islands. The unnamed man was pulled from the sea at Playa

Flamingo beach in the south of Lanzarote.

The 112 Canarias emergency service confirmed that two ambulances were dispatched to the beach but medics were unable to revive the victim, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

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Photo credit Facebook

'SHOCKING': Kirsty's husband Adam says police have acted 'recklessly.'

Benidorm balcony death

Spain accused of 'not respecting' Kirsty Maxwell

THE grieving family of Kirsty Maxwell has criticised the police in Spain for the way they have handled the investigation.

Kirsty plunged to her death from the 10th floor of an apartment complex in Benidorm on the Costa Blanca in April last year.

The family have repeatedly asked the Spanish authorities what happened to the pink t-shirt and denim skirt the 27-year-old was wearing on the night of her death.

Today, at a press conference in Scotland, husband Adam revealed the clothes had been 'thrown out' without proper DNA testing that could have provided clues.

He said, "On Friday, we received this shocking news.

"It's very sad and shocking and another let down by the Spanish police.

"We cannot accept the way they have treated Kirsty's death. If Kirsty was to die in the UK, would this be different? The answer is 'yes.'

"The clothing was a massive line of inquiry and the news is very upsetting and disappointing.

"They have not respected Kirsty."

Ex-policeman and private investigator David Swindle, also speaking at the press conference, added, "The clothing worn by Kirsty was not tested

for DNA and was destroyed by the Spanish forensic pathology department.

"How many more processes have not been done?"

"It's shocking there has been irretrievable loss of evidence.

"But it is more shocking the lack of empathy towards Kirsty and her family.

"It's a reckless act."

Last week Spanish police ordered to find witnesses from the fatal night said "none could be found."

The holiday apartment in Benidorm was occupied by five British bodybuilders from Nottingham who are all back in the UK as investigations into Kirsty's death continue.

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Emergencias Sevilla

FRUIT FAIL: Oranges spill out of the thieves' car.

Feeling the squeeze

LOCAL POLICE officers in Sevilla had a fruitful day when they stopped vehicles carrying more than 4,000 kilos of oranges which the occupants claimed were for their personal consumption.

Suspicious were raised after three vehicles in close convoy were spotted being driven suspiciously and a chase followed down a dirt track.

Five people were found squeezed into the car and a van that were finally intercepted.

A couple was travelling with their adult son in the van along with two brothers.

They claimed they had picked the oranges 'from the ground' and were for 'their own consumption.'

After a search of the area, the police later found the third vehicle that was also full of fruit.

It is alleged that the juicy haul had been stolen from a ship in Carmona that had reported the theft a few hours earlier.

Sunbed reservations introduced No more towel wars?

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading to some Spanish resorts this summer will be able to reserve their sunbeds in advance thanks to a new service from Thomas Cook.

It could mean the end of the mad early-morning rush to reserve loungers in guests' favourite spots.

UK managing director Chris Motterhead said, "We're excited about Choose Your Favourite Sunbed, particularly for families that want to secure a number of beds together in a specific spot."

The company will now reserve your sunbathing spot for £22 (€25) for the duration of your stay.

The scheme is being trialled in three hotels from the end of February and will be available in 30 establishments this summer. Two Spanish resorts in the Canary Islands will be amongst the first offering the new service.

The Sunprime Atlantic View Suites & Spa in Playa Del Ingles on Gran Canaria and the SENTIDO Aequora Lanzarote will be taking part.

Only a proportion of a hotel's sunbeds will be bookable to ensure there are still some available for those who do not want



Photo credit: Sentido Hotels

CHOOSE YOUR LOUNGER: The SENTIDO Aequora Lanzarote.

to pay the premium.

Thomas Cook say that if you're staying at a hotel where Choose Your Favourite Sunbed is available, and you're eligible to use the service, they will send an email six days before you travel with instructions on how to book.

They tell guests to 'simply follow the link in the email to see a map and pool plan of your hotel. It'll show all the available sunbeds and their prices. Then all you have to do is decide where you'd like to

be. Maybe you want a nice cool corner in the shade? Or perhaps you want to be close to the children's pool? The choice is yours.

'Head off on your holiday knowing that when you arrive at your hotel, you'll already have your chosen sunbed reserved; perfect for your needs. And what's more? It'll be yours for the duration of your holiday, meaning it'll still be there when you come back from your lunch. So relax and enjoy!'

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JUAN CARLOS MORAGUES (centre) congratulates investigators and (inset) an officer inspects some of the haul.

Drugs bus raid

TWO British men have been held for allegedly transporting millions of Euros worth of drugs on a luxury coach. It comes after 17 kilos of cocaine and 715 kilos of hashish were seized by police during a swoop in Sagunto, Valencia.

The two men, aged 39 and 59, have been accused of drug trafficking.

It is claimed the narcotics were hidden in secret compartments on the British-plated coach, which was on its way from Malaga to the UK and has

been used by a series of unnamed music groups during their European tours.

The vehicle was stopped on the AP-7 toll road by Guardia Civil officers from Puçol in the Valencia region.

An international arrest warrant has been issued for the owner of the company that owns the bus.

Juan Carlos Moragues, the Spanish government's delegate in the Valencian Community, visited investigators to congratulate them.

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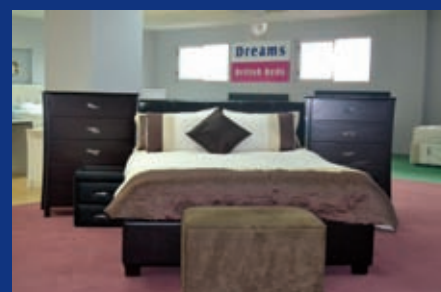
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Belle of the ball



CROWNING GLORY: Princess Leonor receives the order and (inset) the Royal Family eat at home as Sofia cheekily raises her glass.

KING FELIPE VI of Spain has turned 50.

And as the monarch reached his half century, he presented 12-year-old daughter Crown Princess Leonor - who is first in line to the throne - with the Order of the Golden Fleece at The Royal Palace of Madrid.

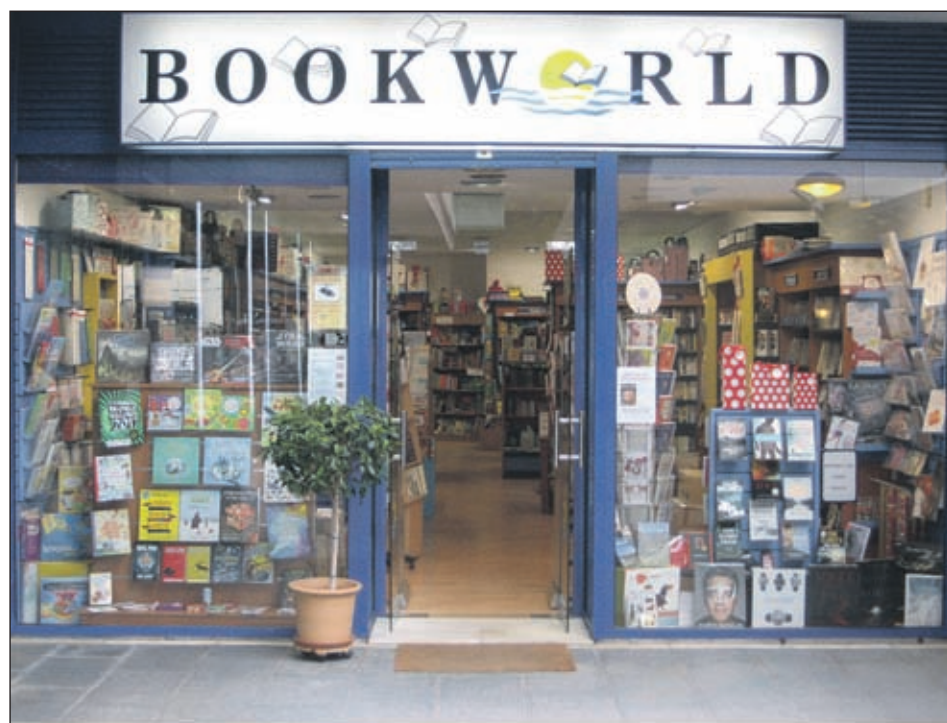
Among the group of dignitaries watching the ceremony

was Leonor's mother Queen Letizia, 45, who stunned in a bright red suit with deep scarlet blouse and her younger sister Sofia, 10.

The Order of the Golden Fleece dates back to 1430, when Duke of Burgundy Philip the Good founded it to commemorate his marriage to Princess Isabella of Portugal.

It has since become one of the most prestigious Roman Catholic knighthoods in Europe, and for Leonor represents a 'symbolic step in her preparation and future.'

The ceremony on Tuesday came after the King and his family posted a series of candid photos and videos showing them relaxing at home to mark his birthday.



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World's oldest man dies

THE oldest man in the world, Francisco Nuñez, from Spain has died aged 113-years-old.

Francisco, known as a supercentenarian, and who was recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, passed away on Monday.

Daughter, Antonia, announced the death of her father who passed away at around 10.30pm.

The town mayor, Antonio Carmona, said the entire town was grieving.

A resident of Badajoz he was born, December 13, 1904, in Extremadura and

joined the army at the age of 19 to fight in the Rif War.

He had his kidney removed when he was 90 and a cataract operation aged 98, and was a veteran of the Spanish Civil War.

Francisco was nicknamed 'Marchena' after his resemblance to Andalusian flamenco singer-songwriter and actor Pepe Marchena.

The oldest man ever whose age has been verified was Jiroemon Kimura (1897-2013) of Japan who died at the age of 116 years, 54 days.

UK passport price hike

GOVERNMENT plans for an increase in the price of British passports are designed to encourage more people to submit their applications online.

Home Office minister Caroline Nokes has said pro-

cessing postal applications was more expensive and the applicants, rather than taxpayers, should bear the brunt of the costs.

The proposed price of applications by post will jump from £72.50 to £85 for adults

- a 17 per cent increase.

And for children, the price would leap from £46 to £58.50 - up a massive 27 per cent.

But passports requested online will only rise by £3 - the rate of inflation.

The proposed price increases will have to be approved by MPs in Parliament before coming into effect.

36,000

People were rescued by Spain's Coast Guard in 2017, according to government figures.

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It's all go

AGE CONCERN ESTEPONA AND MANILVA has started 2018 with a bang.

A concert organised by Clarice Williams will see her choir The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions take to the stage.

Taking place on Tuesday March 6 at Huber Plataforma de Arte, Calle San Antonio, Estepona, the gig starts at 7.30pm with refreshments and a raffle.

Tickets cost €10 and go on sale shortly, with proceeds going direct to the charity.

Contact Tony on 654 179 279 or leave your details on 951 318 234 to reserve your seats.

The group's next coffee morning is on Tuesday February 6 at Rick's Gin and Tonic, Estepona Port from 11am.

And the Age Concern shop on Calle Zaragoza remains open Monday to Friday from 10am to 1.30pm.

On the road

LUX MUNDI, Fuengirola invites you to join them on upcoming trips in February and March:

Wednesday February 7: Arcos De La Frontera

Arcos de la Frontera, located in the Cadiz Province, is one of Andalucia's most dramatically positioned white villages sitting atop a rocky limestone ridge with plunging vertical cliffs down to the river valley below.

Included in the ticket price of €36 is a guided tour and lunch in a local restaurant. Departure for the homeward journey will be at 4pm. Tickets are available from the centre and the departure points from Fuengirola are: Feria Ground, 7.55am or the Bullring, 8am.

Tuesday March 13-16: Murcia and surrounding area

A fantastic opportunity to see the sights of the city of Murcia and some of the stunning places in the sur-



DRAMATIC: Arcos de la Frontera.

rounding area.

Accommodation will be at the Hotel Occidental Murcia Siete Coronas 4*.

Double/twin room: half board €320 per person

Single room: half board €395 per person

Also included in the price are insurance, guided visits of Lorca and Murcia, entrance to the Cathedral, Episcopal Palace, Cehegin, wine tasting and entrance to the museums in Bullas and

Cartagena.

Departure points from Fuengirola are: Feria Ground 6.55am, or Bullring, 7am.

For further information and bookings please contact the Fuengirola centre on 952 474 840, email luxmundif@gmail.com or visit www.luxmundi.org.

Please note you are unable to make bookings through the website and cards are not accepted.

School's out!

Application process to begin

COSTA DEL SOL parents are gearing up for next year's school applications.

From March 1-31 children of three to five years can be registered to study for the 2018/19 academic year, with schools to post their respective numbers of vacancies on bulletin boards.

Each school has a particular 'area of influence,' with preference given to families living within its boundaries.

In addition to the home and parents' work addresses, other factors to be taken into account include any siblings studying at the same school, the family's income, whether the child is disabled, or if he or she comes from a large or single-parent family.

The institutions must publish the list of potential students who have requested a place by April 12, and if there are more applications than places, scores based on the above criteria must also be made public.

After a month of hearings, a public draw in the case of any tied scores is scheduled for May 14, with the final admission results published on May 15.

Students who failed to get a place at their preferred school will be offered an alternative by May 22, with parents able to appeal decision from May 23.

Are you in on the *secret?*

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Meeting time

THE Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Club of Estepona will be held on Thursday March 8.

Entry strictly by top floor

door only. First call 10am, second call 10.30am.

All members have the right to participate in the AGM and to vote on all resolutions put forward.

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Triple A Dog of the Week

AXIA is a female Labrador who has had a difficult life.

She went missing from her former owner for a year-and-a-half before being found begging for food by a lady in Monda.

Police brought her to Triple A in 2015 after her original owner did not want her back.



'GENTLE SWEETHEART':
Axia needs a home.

She is a gentle sweetheart, who would love to spend her last few years in a real, warm home, instead of a rough field and kennels. She deserves a break. Could you give it to her?

Call Lesley on 642 731 068 or see www.tripleamarbel la.org for more information.

In good voice

TIMS (The International Music Society) Choir took part in a special service at Malaga.

Organised by Lux Mundi, Fuengirola the event formed part of a week of special services for Christian unity and featured readings by leaders from many local Christian churches.

The Cathedral was well attended and the

choir - led by Musical Director Margaret Williams accompanied by Dawn Boardman - in good voice.

TIMS is always looking to welcome new members, male or female. See the website www.timschoir.org or call President Gilly on 654 891 790 for more information.

Rehearsals take place at 7pm every Wednesday in St Andrew's Church Hall in Los Boliches.

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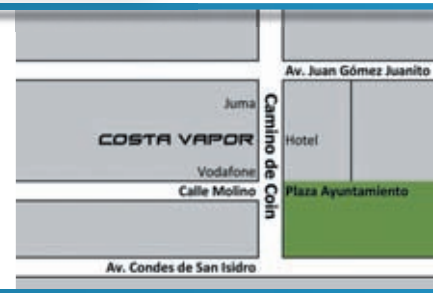


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ON GUARD: Lions volunteers attend presentation of a cheque to the fencing club.

La Cala de Mijas Lions helps local Fencing Club

by Anita Humphries

THE President of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, Julie Barry, recently presented a cheque for €1,000 to Luis Hernanz, Technical coach for the Fencing Club in La Cala de Mijas.

The money will be used to purchase material, licences and grants and was very much appreciated.

The members' ages range from eight to 58 and at the moment they are all training for the Championships in May, which are being held in La Cala. At the recent Andalucian Championship, Sofia Hernanz won a gold medal in the under 14 category and a silver was won by Christian Cuevos.

The Club was started 12 years ago and has gone from

strength to strength, playing a vital role in the community.

The funds are raised through many Lions events and the 50 volunteers in the shop on 12 c/ Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas. The shop is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 2pm, and volunteers and donations are always warmly welcomed. Telephone 677 059 061 for more information.



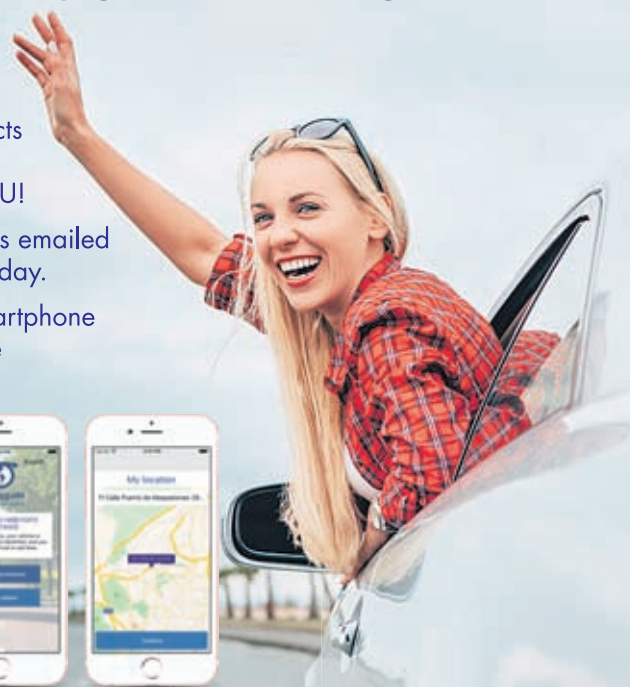
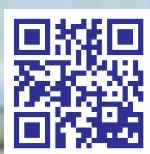
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NEWS EXTRA

Consul for questions

THE U3A is holding an invitation-only meeting with Charmaine Arbouin, British Consul for Andalucia, the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla at the Lux Mundi centre in Fuengirola from 2.30-5.30pm tomorrow (Friday).

Say cheese

THE SHUTTERBUGS photography group has been out and about with a visit to the Nativity Museum in Mollina. See the website www.shutterbugs-spain.org for information on how to join this group of keen snappers.

Art attack

HEAD to the Gran Hotel Benahavis on Sunday from 12 noon for the Art in Action event, with a range of artwork on display, plus workshops, virtual reality, live music and new Writers' Corner.

Good start

THE Royal British Legion Mollina Branch has already raised more than €1,000 for the 2018 Poppy Appeal after the annual Christmas draw was moved to January, with 41 prizes donated in total.

Lesson tips

AROUND 200 English language teachers and professionals are set to descend on the Hotel Sercotel Malaga for the fourth ACEIA Malaga Annual English Language Teaching Conference tomorrow (Friday). See www.aceia.es for more information.

€500 boost

LA CALA DE MIJAS LIONS presented a €500 cheque to Maria Dolores Espinosa and Fatima Gonzalez Fernandez from the Ciudad de Los Niños in Malaga City to help fund the orphanage and school.



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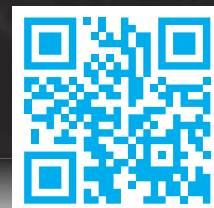
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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.

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NORWAY

Breaking the ice

MORE than 2,000 historical artefacts - including primitive shoes and skis - have been exposed by melting ice on the country's highest mountains, with some items thought to date back more than 6,000 years.

Peace keepers

THE government spent 1.59 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defence last year, despite NATO rules that European countries must fork out at least 2 per cent of GDP on their respective militaries by 2024.

Name game

SOFIE and Jakob were the two most popular baby names for girls and boys last year, with 2016 favourites William and Nora dropping down the rankings, according to Statistics Norway.

'Soft Brexit'

PRIME MINISTER Erna Solberg has said that the UK should aim for a "soft Brexit" and said that her country would not fight against a "bespoke deal" with the European Union, as she addressed international media World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.



DEFROSTED HISTORY: A researcher unearths an ancient ski complete with binding.

GERMANY

Horror crash

A SMALL plane collided with a rescue helicopter which was on a training flight near the south-western town of Philippsburg, killing four people, police said in a statement.

Brought to book

THE caretaker government is threatening to restrict how Facebook mines data from its millions of users after a 2017

probe concluded that the social media giant is abusing its position of dominance in the market.

Moonlight mile

MORE than 40 politicians are under fire after an independent website revealed that they earn a second income on top of their parliamentary pay, with one raking in an extra €250,000 per

year from his private education business.

School stabbing

A 14-YEAR-OLD pupil at a secondary school near Dortmund was stabbed to death by a 15-year-old classmate, with police now probing the incident after earlier pledging to tackle youth violence in North Rhine-Westphalia state.

FRANCE

Pot luck

EMMANUEL MACRON'S government has indicated it may be willing to consider a softening of the country's cannabis laws, with smokers to be hit with €150-200 spot fines instead of being charged and potentially jailed.

Head to head

THE government has revealed that it aims to increase military cooperation with Japan as the two countries move to minimise Chinese activity in the Indo-Pacific region, with naval troops set to take part in a series of joint exercises.

Sexist sanctions

MEN could face €90 fines for making lewd comments about women in public after a government report advised sanctions for behaviour that impacts 'the freedom of movement of women in public spaces and undermines self-esteem and the right to security.'

Chewing the fat

A DRIVER in the western town of Laval has been fined €750 for tucking into a plate of foie gras on toast and watching a movie on his tablet while at the wheel.

BELGIUM

Truck off

A LORRY carrying 33,500 litres of a chemical derived from palm oil was stolen from the town of Zedelgem, although an official said that the product 'cannot be used as an explosive material.'

Crying wolf

A WOLF named Naya has become the first to be recorded in the country for more than a century, according to biologists tracking the female's journey after she left her family pack in Germany last October.

Deacon of death

A CATHOLIC deacon suspected of killing at 10 people - including his own mother and several other relatives - by injecting air into their bloodstreams, has gone on trial in Bruges.

No terror link

INTERIOR MINISTER Jan Jambon confirmed that a knife-wielding man shot by police at a train station in Ghent was an Afghan refugee with mental issues and had no link to terrorism.

NETHERLANDS

Devil's work

A DUTCH-MOROCCAN woman has been charged with child abuse in the southern city of Roermond after placing her nine-year-old son's hands in a hot oven and stuffing his ears with cotton wool in an attempt to drive out an evil spirit.

Business boom

MORE than 350 foreign companies invested €1.67 billion in the country last year, generating around 12,500 jobs, according to a new report from the ministry of economic affairs.

Having a gas

THE Dutch government has told 200 companies to stop sourcing natural gas from the Groningen field by 2022 in the wake of a series of increasingly strong earthquakes in the area.

Sunny outlook

THE number of solar panels for electricity generation increased by 40 per cent during 2017, according to a report published by *Solar Magazine*, with the rise far outstripping the 13 per cent jump in 2016.

SWEDEN

Snow bomb

SKI resort Kittelfjäll in Lapland Province registered the deepest snow cover yet this winter after more than 1.5 metres accumulated, according to national weather office SMHI.

Look, no hands

THE country's first driverless buses have hit the streets in the business district of Kista - north of Stockholm - with the six month experimental project led by bus firm Nobina in partnership with Ericsson and Stockholm City, among others.

Shelter plea

TWO members of Russian protest punk rock group Pussy Riot have applied to Swedish authorities for asylum after moving into a home in Lindesberg with their son, blaming persecution after fleeing their home country.

Kidnap claim

THE European Union has thrown its weight behind a campaign to release Swedish citizen and Hong-Kong based book publisher Gui Minhai, who was recently taken from a train by Chinese police in front of his own country's diplomats.

DENMARK

Feeling hot

WEDNESDAY January 24 was the hottest January day in Denmark since records began in 1874, as the mercury soared to 12.7°C, beating the previous record - set in 2005 - by 0.3°C.

Mum-believable

A GROUP of angry parents hired private security guards to join them in an attempt to force the headmaster of the Den Islamisk Arabiske Friskole school in Nørrebro, Copenhagen, to resign following a series of pupil expulsions.

Coining it

SCANDINAVIA'S largest bank, Nordea, announced it will ban employees from owning Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies by the end of February, sparking outrage in the financial sector and among human rights groups.

Bold as brass

A SPANISH Supreme Court judge has accused former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont of trying to 'provoke his own arrest' by travelling to Denmark, after Catalan parliamentary speaker Roger Torrent nominated him to head the new regional government.



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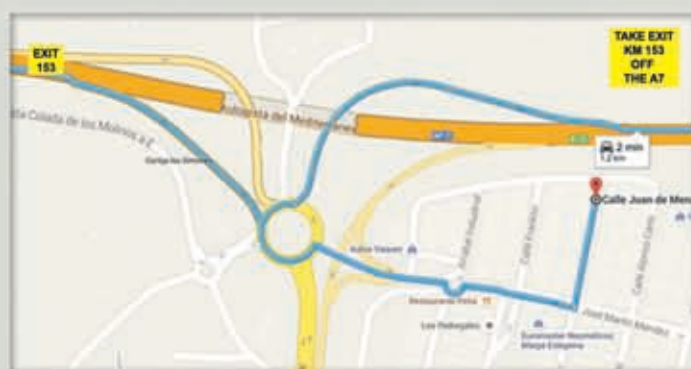
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€2.9b stock market bid

SPANISH property company Metrovacesa is planning a €2.95 billion flotation.

Formerly the largest publicly traded real estate developer in the Eurozone, the firm was taken over by creditors when the country's property bubble burst in 2009, citing losses of €738 million the previous year.

Its current main shareholders, the banks Santander and BBVA, said the flotation - which is pencilled in for February - is designed to widen its base of shareholders to ease access to capital markets and financing.

Jobless stats boost

UNEMPLOYMENT in Spain is falling.

The number of jobless people in Spain plummeted in 2017 thanks largely to a record year for tourism, according to a year-on-year report by the National Statistics Institute.

Industry, agriculture and construction sectors also showed strong growth, with 471,000 fewer people out of work at the end of the year than in 2016.

The country's unemployment rate was 16.5 per cent as 2017 ended, compared with 18.6 per cent at the

By Matt Ford

end of 2016.

But Spain still has the second-highest rate of unemployment in the European Union behind Greece, with the average among the 28 member states just 8.7 per cent.

And while the service sector last year created 290,000 additional jobs, many of these only offer temporary contracts, which increased by 4.4 per cent.

"Unemployment is dropping, but the quality of jobs available contin-

ues to be below the minimum," said Pepe Alvarez, leader of Spain's UGT union. "Jobs are increasingly temporary and in December just four out of every 100 contracts signed were long-term and full-time."

Unemployment in Spain peaked at 27 per cent in 2013, when around six million people were out of work, but it has been recovering since as it continues to emerge from the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008.

The latest figures suggest that 3.76 million remain without a job.

Toll road mega deal

A DEAL that will see motorway operator Atlantia buy out Spanish counterpart Abertis has been approved by the government.

The Italian company will now compete with Hochtief, the German subsidiary of Spanish construction firm ACS, which in October launched a €17.1 billion bid to take over the toll road specialist.

If successful Atlantia - controlled by the Benetton family - would become the world's biggest toll road operator with a market value exceeding €40 billion.

Quote of the Week

"Let's not get into that." Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy appears to rule out forcing private firms to pay men and women equal salaries during an interview on national radio station Onda Cero.



MOVING RON: The Pestana CR7 hotel in Lisbon.

Real deal for star's hotels

REAL MADRID footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is expanding into Africa.

And after teaming up with top Portuguese hotel chain Pestana, an ongoing joint venture between the pair will next year see a new hotel opened in Marrakech, Morocco.

It will be the fifth hotel to carry the Pestana CR7 branding.

Ronaldo follows other sports stars who have invested in hotels - including Andy Murray,

Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs - although his project has loftier ambitions.

"It is a brand that will grow... In the next three to five years we will quickly double the number of hotels," said Pestana CEO, Jose Roquette, citing Ibiza and Milan among potential new locations.

In December Roquette said that the partnership will help open new markets in Asia and the Middle East, where Ronaldo is a hero to millions.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Bumper pay day

BANKIA - Spain's fourth largest bank - has announced the release of dividends worth €340 million to its shareholders on the back of its 2017 profits, with state-run bank bailout fund FROB to receive €207 million.

Top tech

SOUTH KOREAN conglomerate Samsung has revealed that Spanish consumers have spent more than €100 million via its mobile payment and digital wallet service, Samsung Pay, since the service was rolled out in 2016.

Mall the way

UNITED STATES investment management firm Barings has completed the €105 million purchase of the 34,000 square-metre Berceo shopping centre in Logroño, northern Spain from previous owner CBRE Global Investors Retail Property Fund Iberica.

Console sales switch on

SALES of Nintendo's new Switch games console have exceeded expectations in Spain.

There are already more Switch systems than Microsoft X Box Ones in the country, according to a report by online network Gamereactor.

It means that Nintendo has sold more units in 10 months than Microsoft has managed in

just over four years.

Although no official figures were given, at least 300,000 of the hybrid consoles are rumoured to have been snapped up.

It comes on the back of a successful Christmas campaign, with gamers attracted by titles including Super Mario Odyssey and The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild.

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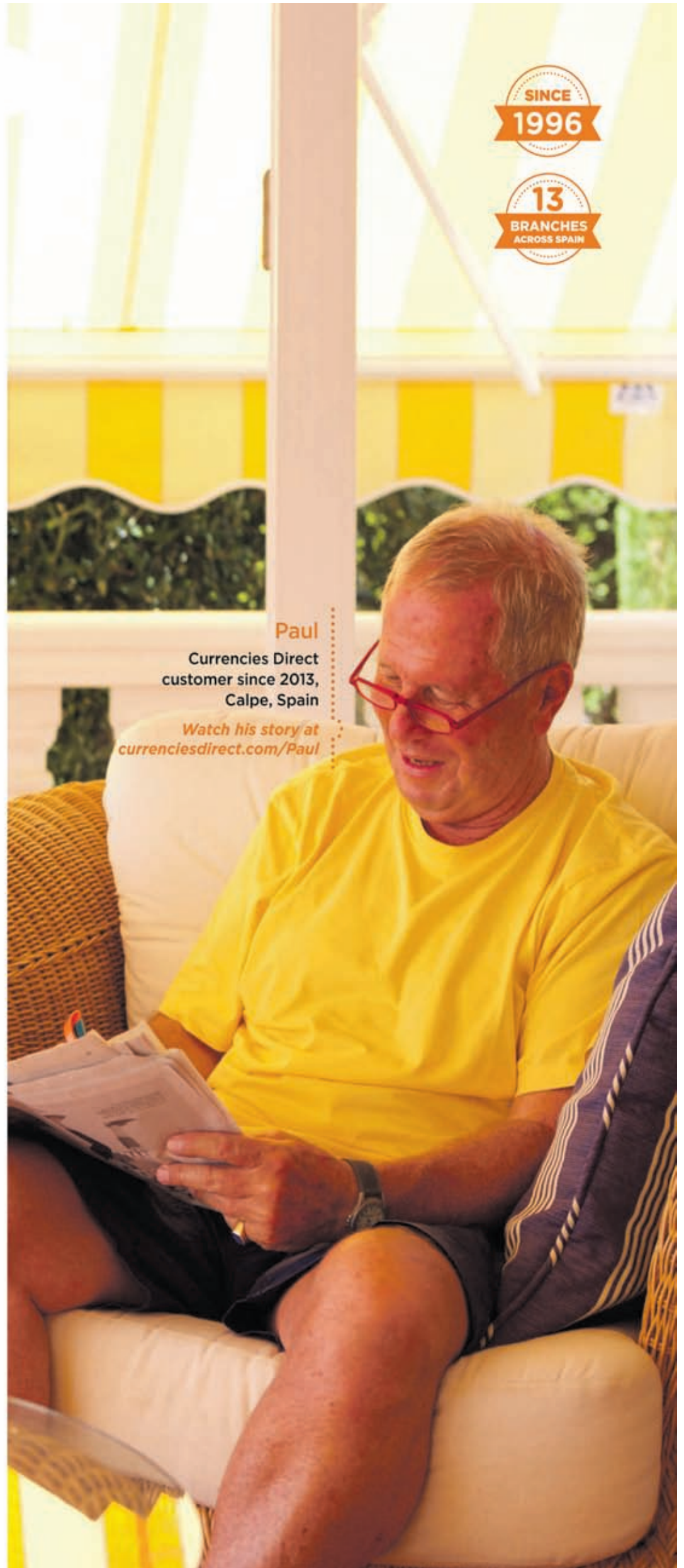
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GBP/EUR rallies on Brexit speculation

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



Currencies Direct

Contact me at euroweekly@currenciesdirect.com

THE GBP/EUR exchange rate got off to a slow start to the year, but Brexit speculation has helped the pairing approach €1.1400, and further gains could be on the horizon.

The pound has been striking its best levels against the US dollar since the EU referendum thanks to broad-based US dollar weakness.

The softness in the US currency has also resulted in EUR/USD hitting the dizzy highs of €1.23.

What's been happening?

Over the last couple of weeks the pound has steadily strengthened on a mixture of upbeat commentary from a Bank of England (BoE) policymaker and hopes that the UK will be able to secure a softer Brexit.

Sterling received a shot in the arm as the BoE's Michael Saunders asserted that he expected UK wage growth to accelerate this year. As wage growth has been one of the main



THE POUND: Has steadily strengthened in the hope that the UK will secure a soft Brexit.

things preventing the central bank from increasing interest rates, Saunders' confidence lifted BoE rate hike expectations and boosted the pound.

Further GBP support came as Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, observed that the UK could always rejoin the EU once Brexit was completed by using Ar-

ticle 49 of the Lisbon Treaty.

French President Emmanuel Macron pressed home the idea of a Brexit reversal on Thursday, when an aide speaking on his behalf told reporters in Paris that France would look 'with kindness' upon the UK changing its mind over its decision to leave the EU.

At the same time, Lord Jim O'Neill, the for-

mer Conservative Treasury minister, was upbeat on the subject of the UK's future growth prospects.

The euro, meanwhile, came under pressure as a result of speculation surrounding the ongoing German coalition talks.

Bets that the European Central Bank (ECB) would maintain a dovish attitude on the subject of tightening monetary policy when it delivered its first interest rate announcement of 2018 also limited EUR demand.

What do you need to look out for?

Brexit developments will remain a key driver of GBP/EUR exchange rate movement over the next few weeks.

Investors will also be looking ahead to the BoE's first policy meeting tomorrow (Friday).

If policymakers are at all encouraging about borrowing costs being adjusted in 2018, Sterling could soar.

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Telefonica unveils 5G tech cities vision Next generation try-out

TWO Spanish cities are to take a leap into the future.

It comes as multinational broadband and telecommunications provider Telefonica unveiled its 5G (fifth generation) 'technological cities' scheme.

The project will lay the foundations for a full rollout of 5G technology across the country on an unspecified future date.

Telefonica is collaborating with European counterparts Nokia and Ericsson in the cities of Segovia, Castilla y Leon, and Talavera de la Reina, Castilla-La Mancha, respectively.

They will both be converted into 'living 5G laboratories' over the next three years, deploying the new technology simultaneously before performing a series of user trials including services, products, user experiences and business models.

"With the 5G technological cities project, Telefónica is turning the technology of the future into reality



TECHS APPEAL: Segovia is set to benefit from the trial and (inset) Luis Miguel Gilperez and Jose Antonio Lopez discuss the scheme.

and providing a constant service for people. This is why we will perform the technological deployment and use cases in parallel, so that we will serve people with the new technologies, one of Telefónica's clear objectives," said Luis Miguel Gilperez, CEO of Telefonica Spain.

Ericsson believes that a fifth of the world's population will be using 5G by 2023, and Jose Antonio Lopez,

chairman of Ericsson Spain, said: "5G technology will have an enormous impact on the user experience and the digital transformation of our cities and industries. Ericsson is already working with more than 35 partners throughout the world to develop use cases to prepare the connected cities of the future.

"The most important ones in Spain are related to tourism, which we have worked on with FITUR and which we are currently demonstrating.

"One of the key aims of this project, in which we are pleased to cooperate with Telefonica and the city council of Talavera de la Reina, will be to promote tourism, demonstrating 5G's contribution to economic growth and the benefits Spaniards will enjoy as a result," he added.

The 5G technology is designed to provide a higher capacity than the current 4G standard, allowing more people to use mobile broadband efficiently and improved device-to-device connectivity.

On Royal business

KING FELIPE OF SPAIN is patching up his country's brand.

The monarch swooped into the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, holding meetings with top brass from a number of multinationals before delivering a speech in front of hundreds of businessmen.

His schedule - described as 'frantic' by Spanish media - included appointments with the presidents of e-commerce platform Alibaba, technology firm Microsoft, Canadian investment fund CPPIB, and Temasek, the government of Singapore's national wealth fund. On his first visit to Davos, the ruler also met with Spanish business leaders from companies including El Corte Ingles and Santander.

The head of state's visit aimed to present Spain as an economically strong, institutionally stable nation in the wake of the Catalan independence crisis, according to reports.





NOT COMPETITIVE: Opel Corsas (inset) at the PSA plant in Figueruelas.

Union standoff could spark cuts

CAR manufacturer Opel has threatened to cut production of its Corsa compact model in Spain.

The warning comes amid tensions over wages and working conditions between workers' unions and the company, which was bought by Groupe PSA - owner of Peugeot and Citroën - from United States-based General Motors in 2016.

The French firm says that its 35-year-old plant in Figueruelas, near Zaragoza, Aragon, is less profitable than its other two Spanish factories due to wages, a lack of flexibility

and staff working fewer hours.

It has produced the Corsa for decades, employs around 5,300 people and ran at an average 80 per cent capacity in 2017, with 382,250 vehicles rolling off the production line.

But an Opel official said: "There will only be investment if a plant is profitable, and the Opel plant in Spain is at a disadvantage to other PSA factories in Spain."

Aragon's regional government said it has called for an urgent meeting to discuss the issue with PSA bosses.

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Election campaigns were paid for with 'dirty money'

SPAIN'S ruling Popular Party (PP) is embroiled in another corruption scandal.

It comes after the conservative government was forced into an embarrassing climb down after a former official told a Spanish court that the party accepted 'dirty money' for election campaigns in the Valencian Community.

Ex-PP leader for the region, Ricardo Costa, was giving evidence in the ongoing 'Gurtel' cash-for-favours case, which is probing claims that campaigns were financed with cash paid in bribes over the award of public works contracts.

"It's true that the PP financed itself with dirty money in election campaign acts in 2007," he said, blaming ex-regional president Francisco Camps.

He added that Camps and former president of

the legislative Corts Valencianes body, Juan Cotin, in 2007 and 2008 ordered that regional and local election campaigns be financed by asking businessmen to pay money to a company in order to bypass a mandatory cap on electoral spending.

Costa went on to explain how he had been shown "envelopes with cash inside them and I was told it was money that businessmen had given and it had been at the request of Camps."

The trial is the latest in a lengthy series of corruption scandals to hit the PP, but when questioned by Spanish media, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said he knew "nothing" about it.

The party's spokesman, Rafael Hernando, tweeted: "I'm ashamed and I apologise for the bad conduct of some people, to those Spaniards who in good faith voted for the Popular Party (PP)."

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Revenge is the sweetest thing

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



NOT being a particularly vengeful person, this so called 'sweet' act of retribution is not particularly high on my 'to do' list. However, there are exceptions, and one example I heard recently certainly fits the bill. Our hero, in this intrepid Irish tale, was on the verge of getting married. He was a nurse by profession and most of his friends worked with him at the local hospital.

Just before the wedding, his colleagues organised a boozy stag do. The night was a rip-roaring success and the future groom, utterly inebriated, was taken home and passed out on his own sofa.

And this is when our devilish plot begins to thicken. In a pre-determined plan one of his 'friends' had raided hospital supplies and brought along all the paraphernalia needed to plaster up broken bones. With our hero duly out for the count, the party goers began their devious work. Careful not to disturb him, they plastered up one of his arms. And what a job they did of it.

Not only did they cover his whole arm, but they fitted one of those wire affairs that keeps the arm bent at the elbow and away from the body. They then all left, leaving him still out for the count and snoring peacefully. Early the next day



PLASTER DISASTER:
What happens when a stag party goes too far?



bride on one arm and the other still uncomfortably stuck out in front of him! And still not one of the instigators said a word. Almost unbelievably, they actually let him, still blissfully unaware, have his reception and leave on his honeymoon. It wasn't 'til he returned that they finally let the cat out of the bag.

Naturally our beleaguered bridegroom went totally ape. Well you would wouldn't you? For some weeks he didn't even talk. As time went by, he appeared to put it behind him. They all began to look forward to the next big event. The marriage of his closest friend. The one who had been the ringleader of the stag night plastering 'joke'!

And on that juicy note, we'll have to leave it all till next week. Don't forget to tune in. The sweetest of revenge awaits.

Keep the faith.

Love Leapy leapylee@gmail.com

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

his closest friend received a hysterical phone call. It was our (naturally) panic stricken hero, pleading to know what had occurred the night before.

After calming him down, the 'friend' then managed to convince him that toward the end of the evening, when he was blind drunk, he had fallen over and broken his arm. They had visited the local hospital, had him X-rayed and subsequently plastered up. He was to go back in six weeks to

have it removed. With their victim, hardly able to remember anything at all, he finally accepted the story. Having no other choice, he then proceeded to carry on with the plans for his wedding the following day. Thinking it was all still a great joke, the stag party jesters still didn't let on.

On the morning of the wedding, still no one owned up. Subsequently they were then treated to our hero, walking up the aisle with his blushing

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

TECH FOR THE TIMID



LAST week I emailed a helpful Spanish colleague and called him a horse.

Well, not intentionally. He had been a true gentleman with his assistance, and I wanted to say so: 'un verdadero caballero.' I should have checked with Google Translate before I wrote instead 'un verdadero caballo.'

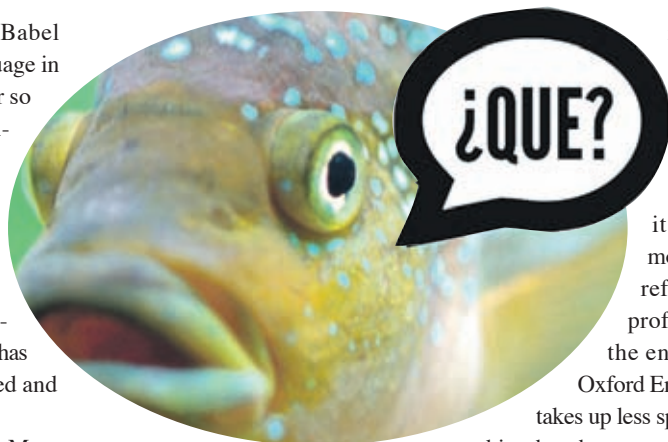
Douglas Adams' famous 'Babel fish' translator for every language in the universe (and the 5,000 or so here on Earth) is part of a hallowed sci-fi tradition, promising instant cross-culture communication. We're actually not that far off, with Google's new Pixel Buds which can translate between 40 languages - though one prominent reviewer has just called them 'overpromised and undelivered,' but it's early days.

It all calls to mind that classic Monty Python sketch where a lost tourist brandishing a Serbo-Croat phrasebook tells a London bobby: "I want to fondle your buttock!"

Today we have better and buttock-free digital phrasebooks. There are truly amazing tech aids ranging from Google Translate, to the much-lauded

Welcum We Spik English

Machine translation is still not good to go, Terence Kennedy regrets.



BABEL FISH: The universal translator.

new contender, DeepL Translator (<https://www.deepl.com/translator>).

When not rhapsodising about the latest techno-toys, I (mis-)translate for a living (no, not Spanish obviously, given the horse incident). That used to

involve shelves of weighty reference tomes, and expensive calls to native speakers. Now it's the click of a mouse, with digital reference works in profusion, and even the entire 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary takes up less space on my hard-drive than the average cat video.

Google Translate does of course have its limits, as I discovered when printing out its rendition of my illness symptoms for my non-English doctor. My few minutes of medical fame were the funniest thing she had read in ages and cabaret for her colleagues.

On a recent holiday in the Czech

Republic I broke the language barrier, with my smartphone as an interpreter, passed back and forth as we each spoke phrases in one language and the phone read them back with reasonable clarity in the other.

However rudimentary machine translation still is at this early stage, it can never be as bad as that fabled 'worst phrasebook ever' written by the legendary Portuguese author Pedro Carolina back in 1883.

Untroubled by not being able to speak any English, he turned classic proverbs into wonderful gibberish:

Nothing some money, nothing of Swiss. He eat to coaches. A take is better than two you shall have. The stone as roll not heap up not foam. The dog that bark not bite.

And my favourite, whatever it may mean: to craunch a marmoset.

Keep calm and translate

THE smartphone world is full of apps to help you across the linguistic divide, from the classic and free Google Translate which even has the hit-and-miss ability to translate a photo of foreign text.

There are more straightforward digital dictionaries than you could shake a Babel fish at. The free ones, like Reverso, are often every bit as good as their paid counterparts.

For entire chunks of translation, DeepL, mentioned earlier, is the new kid on the block. It in turn is based on a standby of word-and-phrase translation, Linguee in many main languages (try <https://www.linguee.com/english-spanish>).

As the inimitable Pedro Carolina insisted: "It may be worth the acceptance of the studious persons, of which we dedicate him particularly."

Couldn't have put it better myself.

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More than just porridge on these criminally tasty menus

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

LAST week I wrote about a restaurant that was briefly rated number one on TripAdvisor - this week about another three that are similarly top rated by TripAdvisor. So what's the difference?

Well, the first one, the Shed, was a total fake, whereas these three are genuine restaurants, set up in jails and run by prisoners, its inmates becoming top chefs from doing 'porridge'!

The Clink restaurant, a charity rehabilitating prisoners by training them in food preparation, operates at four secure prisons.

According to TripAdvisor, three of the four restaurants (HMP Styal, in Wilmslow, Cheshire; HMP Cardiff, in Wales and HMP High Down, Surrey) are top rated in their area, while HMP Brixton is London's third-best restaurant, beating Restaurant Gordon Ramsay (No 51) and Michel Roux's Le Gavroche (No 60).

Great news! Helping prisoners turn their lives around while they're in prison.

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GOING GOURMET:
Prison porridge beats Gordon Ramsay's fare.



How soon, I wonder, can they start getting them into NVQ healthcare assistant training etc etc?

Great news, that is, until the latest inspectors' report, that diners at The Clink, Brixton, have been smuggling drugs and mobiles to inmates working in the kitchen. I mean, who'd have thought inmates would have dreamed up a wheeze like that?

It's enough to drive us all crazy! Which reminds me of an old joke.

This guy goes to see a highly recommended psychiatrist. The doctor shows the man an inkblot and asks, "What does this remind you of?" The guy replies, "A naked

woman." Then the shrink shows the man another inkblot and asks him the same question. The guy responds, "A naked woman on a bed." This goes on and on, inkblot after inkblot. The psychiatrist said to him, "You're a sick pervert." The guy replies, "I'm not the pervert here. You're the one who keeps showing me all these dirty pictures."

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

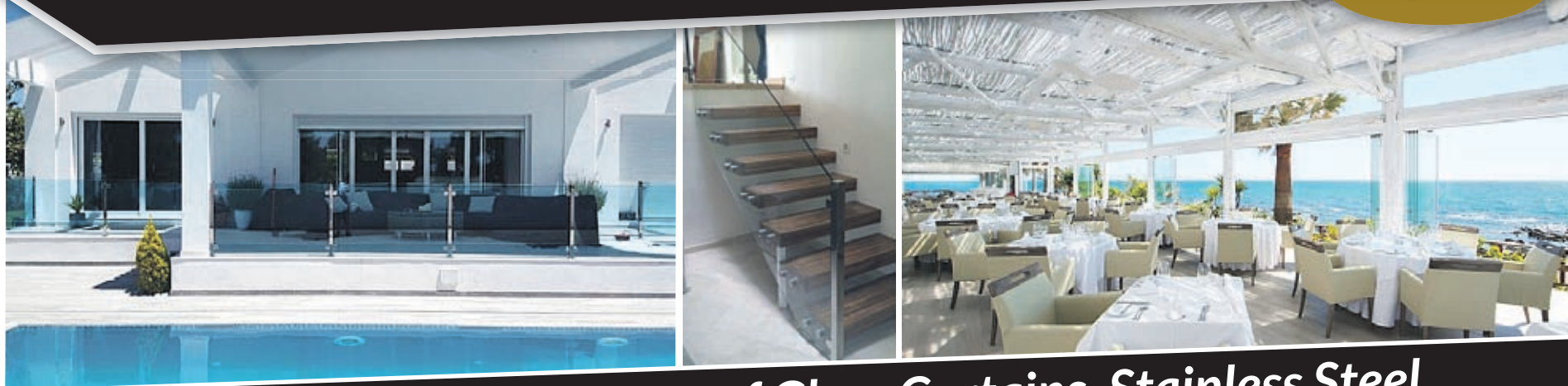
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BBC one

2:10am BBC News
 7:00am Breakfast
 10:15am Food: Truth or Scare
 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
 12:00pm Wanted Down Under
 12:45pm A1: Britain's Longest Road
 1:15pm Bargain Hunt
 2:00pm BBC News at One
 2:30pm BBC London News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm Father Brown
 4:00pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown
 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News at Six
 7:30pm BBC London News
 8:00pm The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm Animals with Cameras
 10:00pm Death in Paradise
 11:00pm BBC News at Ten
 11:30pm BBC London News
 11:45pm Question Time
 12:45am This Week
 1:30am Weather for the Week Ahead
 1:35am BBC News

BBC TWO

7:30am Wanted Down Under
 8:15am Food: Truth or Scare
 9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm Monty Halls' Great Escape
 3:00pm Sahara with Michael Palin
 4:00pm A Place to Call Home
 4:45pm This Wild Life
 5:15pm The Hunt
 6:15pm Flog It!
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm Great American
 8:00pm Big Dreams Small Spaces
 9:00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
 10:00pm Winterwatch 2018
 11:00pm The Mash Report
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:15am Dragons' Den
 1:15am A House Through Time
 2:15am Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
 3:15am This is BBC Two

BBC FOUR

8:30pm Top of the Pops
Simon Bates and Janice Long present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 14 February 1985.
 9:00pm How We Got to Now with Steve Johnson
For at least 100,000 years, humans have known how to make fire.
 10:00pm Forces of Nature with Brian Cox
 11:00pm Prehistoric Autopsy
 12:00am Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life
 1:00am Top of the Pops
Simon Bates and Janice Long present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 14 February 1985
 1:35am Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity
 2:35am How We Got to Now with Steve Johnson
 3:35am Forces of Nature with Brian Cox
 4:35am This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:30am Frasier
 10:00am Frasier
 10:35am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
 2:05pm Posh Pawn
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm Village of the Year with Penelope Keith
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
 10:00pm Hunted
 11:00pm Derry Girls
 11:35pm The Undateables
 12:35am Katie Piper's Face to Face

CHANNEL 5

8:35am Peppa Pig
 8:45am Peppa Pig
 8:55am Floogals
 9:05am Digby Dragon
 9:20am Rusty Rivets
 9:35am Shimmer and Shine
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:05am Mofy
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:15pm The Hotel Inspector
 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
 1:15pm Cowboy Builders
 2:15pm Home and Away
 2:45pm Neighbours
 3:15pm NCIS: Deadly Assassins
 4:15pm Escaping Dad
 6:00pm 5 News at 5
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
 11:00pm Special Needs
 Employment Agency
 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
 1:00am Super Casino

4

10:00am Melissa and Joey
 10:30am Melissa and Joey
 11:00am How I Met Your Mother
 11:30am How I Met Your Mother
 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 1:00pm The Goldbergs
 1:30pm The Goldbergs
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:00pm Melissa and Joey
 3:30pm Melissa and Joey
 4:00pm Baby Daddy
 4:30pm Baby Daddy
 5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 6:00pm The Goldbergs
 6:30pm The Goldbergs
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm Coach Trip
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 10:00pm 2 Broke Girls
 10:30pm 2 Broke Girls
 11:00pm The Inbetweeners
 11:30pm The Inbetweeners
 12:05am The Big Bang Theory
 12:35am The Big Bang Theory
 1:00am Gogglebox

sky sports main event

2:00am Live ICC U19 Wc
 6:15am Best of Sky Sports Cricket 2017
A look at some of the best moments from the world of cricket.
 6:30am Cricket's Greatest
 7:00am Total Goals/Total Transfers
All the goals from a busy night in the Premier League and SPL Premiership.
 7:30am Total Goals/Total Transfers
 8:00am Total Goals/Total Transfers
 8:30am Live European Tour Golf
 11:30am Premier League Daily
 12:00pm Cricket
 7:30pm Super League 2018 Preview
 8:30pm Live Super League
 11:00pm The Debate - Live: Neville and Carra
 12:00am Sky Sports News
 1:00am Sky Sports News
 2:00am Sky Sports News
 3:00am Sky Sports News
 4:00am Sky Sports News
 5:00am Sky Sports News

itv

9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 2:55pm ITV News London
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm ITV News London
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm NHS Winter Crisis: What's the Truth?
 9:00pm Emmerdale
 9:30pm The Cruise
 10:00pm Death Row 2018 with Trevor McDonald
 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
 11:30pm ITV News London
 11:45pm The Late Debate
 12:10am Great Art
 1:15am Lethal Weapon
 2:00am Jackpot247

itv2

7:55am Dress to Impress
 8:45am Emmerdale
 9:20am Coronation Street
 9:50am Coronation Street
 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
 12:10pm Dress to Impress
 1:10pm Emmerdale
 1:45pm Coronation Street
 2:15pm Coronation Street
 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 5:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 6:50pm Take Me Out
 8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold
 8:30pm You've Been Framed! Gold
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Superstore
 10:00pm Release the Hounds
 11:00pm Celebrity Juice
 11:50pm Family Guy
 12:20am Family Guy
 12:45am American Dad!
 1:15am American Dad!

itv3

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

itv4

4:00am Teleshopping
 7:00am The Chase
 7:50am Pawn Stars
 8:10am Pawn Stars
 8:30am Ironside
 9:30am Quincy, M.E.
 10:30am Minder
 11:35am The Sweeney
 12:40pm The Professionals
 1:40pm Ironside
 2:45pm Quincy, M.E.
 3:50pm Minder
 4:55pm The Sweeney
 6:00pm The Professionals
 7:05pm The Car Chasers
 7:35pm The Car Chasers
 8:00pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm The Chase
 10:00pm Thunderball
 11:05pm FYI Daily
 11:10pm Thunderball
 12:40am Assault on Precinct 13
 1:40am FYI Daily
 1:45am Assault on Precinct 13
 2:55am The Sweeney
 3:50am ITV4 Nightscreen
 4:00am Teleshopping
Shopping from home.

sky CINEMA HEROES

5:10am Superman 2
 7:20am Aeon Flux
 9:00am Braveheart
 12:00pm Deadpool
 2:00pm Ghostbusters
 4:00pm 300
 6:00pm Braveheart
 9:00pm Deadpool
 11:00pm Superman Returns
 1:35am Ghostbusters
 3:25am Aeon Flux
 5:05am Rocky II

sky CINEMA COMEDY

4:50am Brüno
 6:20am Fred Claus
 8:20am Non-Transferable
 9:50am Top Ten Show, the 2018
 10:10am Me, Myself and Irene
 12:10pm Liar Liar
 1:45pm Stuck on You
 3:50pm Sausage Party
 5:30pm Liar Liar
 7:05pm Calendar Girls
 9:00pm Stuck on You
 11:00pm Sausage Party
 12:40am Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
 2:45am The Joshua Tree

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

4:55am Cardboard Boxer
A gentle soul living rough on the streets of Los Angeles is lured into fighting other homeless men for money.
 6:30am The Greatest Showman: Special
 7:00am Let Me Go
The lives of three generations of women are turned upside down when terrible, long-held secrets tumble into the open.
 8:55am Wakefield
 11:00am Ghost in the Shell
 1:05pm One More Time
 2:55pm Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
 3:25pm Viceroy's House
 5:30pm Fear Inc
 7:15pm Cardboard Boxer
 9:00pm Ghost in the Shell
 10:50pm One More Time
 12:35am Fear Inc
 2:15am Wakefield
 4:10am The King's Choice

sky sports football

10:00am Scottish Cup
 Greatest Games
 10:30am La Liga Greatest Games
 11:00am Revista de la Liga
 11:30am La Liga World
 12:00pm One2eleven
 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games
 1:00pm Revista de la Liga
 1:30pm La Liga World
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm Magical Messi
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup
 Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm EFL Rivalries
 8:00pm EFL Matters
 8:30pm Championship Season Review
 9:30pm EFL Rivalries
 10:00pm EFL Matters
 10:30pm EFL Rivalries
 11:00pm La Liga Show
 11:30pm EFL Matters
 12:00am La Liga Icons
 12:15am La Liga Icons

All together on Saturday night, let's hope so



Photo credit BBC

SPOT THE SPICE GIRL: All Together Now.



TV COUCH CRITIC

SATURDAY nights can be tricky things. I really don't want to light the fire and curl up to watch TV every week, but the coldish snap last week made me do just that and I started my viewing with *All Together Now* BBC1 Saturday.

The format here is relatively simple; you and 99 friends go to your local bar, set up a karaoke machine and ask random people to belt out a tune. If you like the singing you turn a light on and get up to sing along. If you don't like it you try to sit still and look grumpy.

The BBC have thrown in a former Spice Girl and assorted people from the music industry - you won't know most of them and host Rob Beckett, fresh from the Wedding Day Winners nightmare show with dazzling Lorraine Kelly, gives Ginger Spice the most air time. To be fair so would I. The prize is a chance to win £50,000 in the grand final.

Two performances stand out from week one. Michael Rice blasted out a brilliant version of Proud Mary by Tina Turner and got all of the 100 up singing along. He will go far in this competition. The other stand out for me was Alex who clearly isn't going very far, achieving a score of 11. The problem was the song choice. Alex can sing, has stage presence and if he ditched the comedy moustache was capable of going further. But he sang Your Song by Sir Elton. This is Saturday night, the panellists are people who have more faith in their own talent than is safe and Alex sang Your Song. What a shame. I loved the social media references

to the Muppet Show following the first episode.

Two Doors Down, BBC2 Monday nights has thankfully returned for a third series. You might remember that I am a fan of this Scottish comedy and not just because I am married to a Glaswegian and recognise some of my in-laws in the characters. The delivery is always on point and Doon MacKichan should get some sort of award from First Minister Sturgeon for her performance as Cathy. She is doing more to get people to visit the glens than Tourism Scotland.

I need to give a plug to *Next of Kin*, Monday Night ITV. A brilliant concept, intelligent writing, two wonderful headliners in Archie Panjabi and Jack Davenport and yet ratings are sliding and critics being unkind, but I'm sticking with it.

Michael Portillo continued his *Great American Railroad Journey*, (BBC2, weekdays) with a trip through Canada's Quebec province - yes Canada, Great American Railroad, I'm just going with it. We need someone to get Michael to El Corte Ingles to do something about his blazers and pairing red trousers with a green shirt (is that part of the appeal?) but this is a smashing show, with wonderful scenery and informative pieces. Who doesn't want to learn more about maple syrup and Canada's Parliament?

Finally this week, I'm still confused by *A House Through Time*, (BBC2 Saturday); 62 Falkner Street in Liverpool is a nice Georgian terraced house, in a wonderful city but I just don't get the point of it all. There are much better history telling formats out there and would someone please get David Olusoga a different job, preferably off our screens!

Critique: Adam Whalley-Lewis, Casares, Costa del Sol

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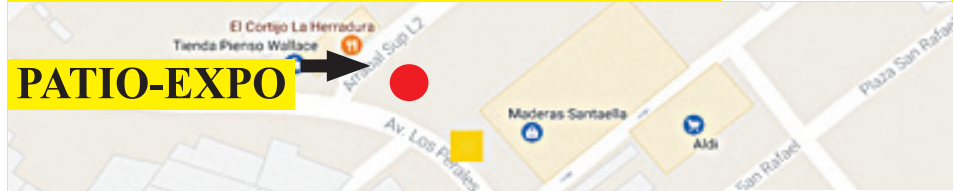


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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live
James Martin presents another menu of mouth-watering recipes, great chefs and celebrity guests.
12:30pm Mary Berry Everyday
1:00pm Football Focus
2:00pm BBC News
2:10pm Weather
2:15pm Six Nations Preview
2:45pm Six Nations Rugby Union
8:00pm BBC News
8:10pm Regional News
8:13pm Weather
8:15pm All Together Now
9:20pm Casualty
10:10pm BBC News
10:25pm Weather
10:30pm Hard Sun
11:30pm Match of the Day
12:50am The NFL Show
Highlights from the fourth week of the NFL season.
1:20am Ill Manors

BBC TWO

8:10am The Pets Factor
8:30am Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch
9:00am The Dengineers
9:30am Deadly Top 10
10:00am Robot Wars
12:00pm Homes Under the Hammer
1:00pm Hairy Bikers Mediterranean Adventure
2:00pm Tennis: Davis Cup Spain v GB
4:30pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Lebanon
5:30pm Final Score
6:15pm Flog It!
7:00pm Hugh's Wild West
8:00pm A House Through Time
9:00pm Dad's Army
9:30pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
10:00pm Live at the Apollo
10:45pm QI XL
11:30pm The Talented Mr. Ripley
1:40am Albatross
3:05am This is BBC Two

BBC FOUR

4:30am This is BBC Four
BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.
8:00pm Sicily: The Wonder of the Mediterranean
9:00pm Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World
10:00pm Spiral
Crime drama following criminal investigations in Paris from all the different points of view.
11:00pm Spiral
12:05am Top of the Pops
Richard Skinner and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme.
12:40am Top of the Pops
1:10am Elvis: That's Alright
Mama 60 Years on
2:10am Sicily: The Wonder of the Mediterranean

CHANNEL 4

6:00am Location, Location, Location
6:55am Kirstie's Handmade Treasures
7:15am 3rd Rock from the Sun
8:10am King of Queens
Doug has a day off and decides to hang out with Richie, who is feeling bad about his divorce.
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:55am Frasier
11:25am The Big Bang Theory
12:55pm The Simpsons
2:25pm Come Dine with Me
3:25pm Coast v Country
4:25pm A Place in the Sun
6:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
7:30pm Channel 4 News
8:00pm Great Canal Journeys
9:00pm Village of the Year with Penelope Keith
10:00pm Suffragette
12:05am About Time
2:20am The Last Leg

CHANNEL 5

7:00am Milkshake!
11:05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:40am Fail Army
Comedy series taking a look at when things go wrong in the worst possible way.
12:05pm Police Interceptors
2:00pm The A-Team
4:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
6:00pm Rich House, Poor House
7:00pm 5 News
7:05pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
8:00pm Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups
9:00pm Blind Date
10:00pm Football on 5 The Championship.
11:00pm Football on 5 Goal Rush.
11:30pm The X Files
1:15am Super Casino

4

8:30am Don't Tell the Bride
9:30am Toy Story of Terror
10:00am Melissa and Joey
10:30am Melissa and Joey
11:00am Melissa and Joey
11:30am Melissa and Joey
12:00pm Melissa and Joey
12:30pm The Goldbergs
1:00pm The Goldbergs
1:30pm The Goldbergs
2:00pm The Goldbergs
2:30pm The Goldbergs
3:00pm The Big Bang Theory
3:30pm The Big Bang Theory
4:00pm The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm Transformers: Dark of the Moon
11:55pm Gogglebox
1:00am Gogglebox
2:05am Naked Attraction
3:10am Rude Tube
4:05am Gogglebox

sky sports main event

7:00am Live ICC U19 Wc
The final of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.
9:45am My Icon
10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am Info not available
12:00pm Info not available
12:30pm Football
Burnley meet Manchester City at Turf Moor in the Premier League.
4:15pm Info not available
6:15pm Football
Wolves face Sheffield United at Molineux Stadium in the Sky Bet Championship.
8:40pm Live Fight Night
12:30am Live Rugby 7s: Hamilton
Day two of the Hamilton stage of the 2017-18 HSBC World Rugby Sevens series.

itv

7:50am Super 4
8:00am Share a Story
8:05am Ultimate Spider-Man v the Sinister Six
8:30am Scrambled!
8:35am The Tom and Jerry Show
8:55am Fangbone
9:10am The Powerpuff Girls
9:30am The Haunted Hathaways
10:05am Wishfart
10:25am ITV News
10:30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
12:20pm Dancing on Ice
2:20pm ITV Lunchtime News
2:30pm Britain's Favourite Walks: Top 100
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm ITV News London
7:05pm ITV News
7:15pm You've Been Framed!
7:40pm Take Me Out
9:00pm The Voice UK
10:30pm Through the Keyhole
11:30pm ITV News
11:45pm Lethal Weapon
1:40am Jackpot247

itv2

7:00am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:25am Emmerdale Omnibus
Rhona tries to move on. Moira is in turmoil but an ultimatum is given.
10:05am Coronation Street Omnibus
1:00pm Take Me Out
2:15pm You've Been Framed! Gold
3:20pm Yogi Bear
4:20pm FYI Daily
4:25pm Yogi Bear
5:00pm Mr Bean's Holiday
6:00pm FYI Daily
6:05pm Mr Bean's Holiday
6:45pm The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
7:50pm FYI Daily
7:55pm The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
10:00pm Hercules
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm Hercules
12:00am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Murder, She Wrote
7:50am Murder, She Wrote
Second part of the murder mystery episode.
8:50am Murder, She Wrote
9:50am Lewis
11:55am Foyle's War
3:55pm Columbo: Dagger of the Mind
5:55pm Midsomer Murders
7:55pm Midsomer Murders
10:00pm Midsomer Murders
12:00am Foyle's War
Foyle takes on the might of the US army as racial prejudice erupts.
2:00am On the Buses
Classic sitcom. Stan's attempts to woo the inspector's niece at a dinner party end in disaster.
2:25am On the Buses
Sitcom about a bus company.
2:55am ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am The Protectors
7:25am The Professionals
10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show
Magazine show to complement coverage of the horse racing.
11:30am Barcelona's European Glory
A short film looking at Barcelona's triumphs in Europe.
11:40am Pawn Stars
Reality series.
2:30pm ITV Racing: Live from Sandown
5:00pm Smokey and the Bandit
6:05pm FYI Daily
6:10pm Smokey and the Bandit
6:50pm Storage Wars
7:45pm World Boxing Super
12:30am Pale Rider
1:30am FYI Daily
Latest news from the world of entertainment.

sky CINEMA HEROES

10:20am Tarzan
12:20pm Captain America: Civil War
2:50pm Ghostbusters
4:50pm Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
7:00pm Tarzan
9:00pm Captain America: Civil War
11:30pm Ghostbusters
1:30am Troy

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:45am Dragnet
7:40am Top Ten Show, the 2018
8:00am Sadie's Last Days on Earth
9:40am Bridesmaids
11:50am Dumb and Dumber
1:45pm Get Him to the Greek
3:45pm Table 19
5:25pm Police Academy
7:10pm Zoolander 2
9:00pm Get Him to the Greek
11:00pm Table 19
12:35am Airplane!

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

4:30am The King's Choice
7:00am One More Time
8:45am Cardboard Boxer
10:30am Ghost in the Shell
12:20pm King Arthur
2:30pm Chips
4:15pm Wakefield
6:10pm Ghost in the Shell
Live-action reimagining of the classic animation about a cyborg government agent on the trail of a mysterious hacker.
8:00pm King Arthur
Rip-roaring reworking of the classic tale about a roguish swordsman who discovers his birthright and takes on his evil uncle.
10:15pm Chips
12:00am One More Time
1:55am Fear, Inc
3:45am Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri: Special
4:05am Viceroy's House

sky sports football

7:00am Football
10:15am Scottish Cup
Greatest Games
10:30am SPFL Matters
11:00am Soccer A.M.
12:30pm SPFL Matters
12:55pm Football
3:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
6:15pm Football
10:45pm EFL Goals: Championship
Magical Messi Enjoy some of the best moments from the career of Argentinian football icon Lionel Messi.
12:15am EFL Goals: Championship
A round-up of all the goals and action from the weekend's games in the Sky Bet Championship.
12:45am EFL Greatest Games
1:00am La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid



Photo by RTV Marbella

| Nicole with Javier Mérida.

Javier Mérida

Leading by example

Marbella Moments

by Nicole King



MARBELLA Sports councillor, Javier Merida, leads by example, and what an example!!!

His achievements include being Spanish triathlon champion, European triathlon champion and duathlon world runner.

Javier has devoted his whole working-life to sports. After finishing high school he obtained the title of National Paddle Monitor and began his professional career as an instructor and organiser of matches and other events related to paddle tennis, first in the Puente Romano, and then in Nueva Alcantara, in San Pedro de Alcantara. He also practised other sports in his spare time, including alpine skiing, motorcycling and football.

However in 2007 Javier was involved in an accident and lost a leg.

Once again he turned to sport and began to set himself new, greater challenges. He became the first Spaniard with a physical disability to swim the English Channel. He also swam around the island of Manhattan which then qualified him to aspire to the Triple Crown title - the most prestigious international title in open waters, only an option for those individuals who have already completed these other two gruelling swims successfully.

He was the first amputee to ever achieve this. Last year his goal was to swim what is considered another 'extreme' challenge, the

Beagle Channel, between Chile and Argentina, which of course he did. He has also completed three Oceans Seven channels.

You'd never know any of this by meeting him; he couldn't be more humble and his intentions more pure. He wants to show people that with determination and effort you can do whatever you want. As he says, he's living proof!

Marbella couldn't have found a better Sport Councillor and Ambassador for our city and our values; plus he knows Marbella inside out. He was born here and currently lives in San Pedro de Alcantara. He is married and has three children who go to school here, as did he; so he understands the requirements on a local and international level.

Javier's involvement with the community doesn't stop there; he has also founded a completely free padel school for children with disabilities. (As this foundation relies on donations you might like to contribute: @fundacion.padeladaptado).

Javier may compete alone but he shows us on a daily basis that he is certainly a team player who has not only stood up to the challenges of life, but also that of organising a sports programme for 2018 that ensures Marbella is well ahead of the sports tourism game.

Quote: 'I try to plant the seed of motivation in my friends and those around me by showing them with proof that where there's a will, there is a way... It's hard to beat someone who never gives up!' - Javier Mérida.

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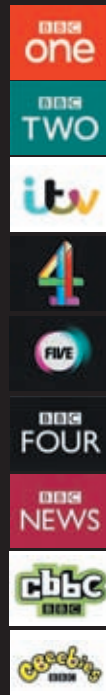


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BBC one

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Countryfile Winter Diaries, Homes Under the Hammer, Wanted Down, A1: Britain's Longest Road, Bargain Hunt, BBC News, Regional News, Doctors, Moving On, Escape to the Country, The Farmers' Country Showdown, Antiques Road Trip, Pointless, BBC News, Regional News, The One Show, Inside Out, EastEnders, Panorama, Silent Witness, BBC News, Regional News, Weather.

BBC TWO

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes This is BBC Two, My Life in Books, Wanted Down, Food: Truth or Scare, Antiques Roadshow, Victoria Derbyshire, BBC Newsroom Live, The Daily Politics, Women's Six Nations Highlights, Coast, Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape, A Place to Call Home, This Wild Life, The Hunt, Flog It!, Eggheads, Great American Railroad Journeys, Big Dreams, Small Spaces, Only Connect, University Challenge, Horizon, Two Doors Down, Newsnight, Weather, NFL.

BBC FOUR

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Beyond 100 Days Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo, Wild Ireland, Hull Headscarf Heroes, Last Days of the Liners, Horizon, Rule Britannia! Music, Mischief and Morals in the 18th Century, Top of the Pops: 1981, Hull Headscarf Heroes.

CHANNEL 4

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Everybody Loves Raymond, Frasier, Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA, Undercover Boss USA, Channel 4 News, Couples Come Dine with Me, Posh Pawn, Countdown, Village of the Year with Penelope Keith, A Place in the Sun, Four in a Bed, Extreme Cake Makers, The Simpsons, Hollyoaks, Channel 4 News, Supershoppers, Savers Special, The Bulger Murder: 25 Years on, First Dates Hotel, Derry Girls, Hunted, SAS: Who Dares Wins.

CHANNEL 5

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes House Doctor, Milkshake!, The Wright Stuff, The Hotel Inspector, 5 News, Cowboy Builders, Access, Home and Away, Neighbours, Killer Assistant, NCIS, 5 News, Neighbours, Home and Away, 5 News, Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights, Police Interceptors, The X Files, The Silence of the Lambs, Traffic Cops, Super Casino, Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords, Documentary series about the victims and villains of the buy-to-let boom, Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink.

4

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Baby Daddy, Melissa and Joey, How I Met Your Mother, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Goldbergs, The Big Bang Theory, Melissa and Joey, Baby Daddy, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Goldbergs, The Big Bang Theory, The Big Bang Theory, Hollyoaks, Coach Trip, The Big Bang Theory, Celebs Go Dating, Naked Attraction, The Big Bang Theory.

sky sports main event

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Sky Sports News, Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize, Good Morning Sports Fans, Good Morning Sports Fans, Premier League Daily, Sky Sports Daily, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Sky Sports News, Live WWE Late Night Raw, My Icon, My Icon, My Icon.

itv

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Good Morning Britain, Lorraine, The Jeremy Kyle Show, This Morning, Loose Women, ITV Lunchtime News, ITV News London, Judge Rinder, Dickinson's Real Deal, Tipping Point, The Chase, ITV News London, ITV Evening News, Emmerdale, Coronation Street, The Martin Lewis Money Show, Coronation Street, Next of Kin, ITV News at Ten and Weather, ITV News London, Death Row 2018 with Trevor McDonald, Killer Women with Piers Morgan.

itv2

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Coronation Street, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Who's Doing the Dishes?, Dress to Impress, Emmerdale, Coronation Street, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, The Jeremy Kyle Show, The Jeremy Kyle Show, The Jeremy Kyle Show, Take Me Out, You've Been Framed! Gold, You've Been Framed! Gold, Two and a Half Men, Superstore, Family Guy, American Dad!, American Dad!, Family Guy.

itv3

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Road to Avonlea, ITV3 Nightscreen, Classic Coronation Street, Classic Coronation Street, Heartbeat, The Royal, Judge Judy, Judge Judy, The Darling Buds of May, Love Your Garden, The Royal, Heartbeat, Classic Coronation Street, Classic Coronation Street, On the Buses, On the Buses, Rising Damp, George and Mildred, Heartbeat, Murder, She Wrote, Lewis, Foyle's War, Inspector Morse, ITV3 Nightscreen.

itv4

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Teleshopping, The Chase, Pawn Stars, Ironside, Quincy, M.E., Minder, The Sweeney, The Professionals, Ironside, Quincy, M.E., Minder, The Sweeney, The Professionals, The Car Chasers, Pawn Stars, River Monsters, River Monsters, Green Zone, FYI Daily, Green Zone, Car Crash Global, Fifth Gear, River Monsters, ITV4 Nightscreen, Teleshopping.

sky CINEMA HEROES

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Superman IV - The Quest for Peace, The Desert Rats, Armageddon, Beverly Hills Cop, Beverly Hills Cop II, Beverly Hills Cop III, Beverly Hills Cop, Beverly Hills Cop II, Beverly Hills Cop III, Rocky II.

sky CINEMA COMEDY

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Three Amigos!, Drillbit Taylor, Ordinary World, Year One, This is Spinal Tap, The Boss, Hot Tub Time Machine, Meet the Parents, This is Spinal Tap, The Boss, Hot Tub Time Machine, Meet the Parents.

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Top Ten Show, the 2018, Viceroy's House, End-of-Empire, drama about Lord Mountbatten, the viceroy appointed to oversee Britain's peaceful withdrawal from India in 1947, Cardboard Boxer, My All American, True-life sports drama about Freddie Steinmark, an underdog American footballer who overcame his small stature to become a University of Texas legend, King Arthur, One More Time, My All American, Chips, King Arthur, Frank and Lola, Chips, Fear Inc, One More Time.

sky sports football

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Football's Greatest Teams, La Liga Highlights: Barcelona, La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid, La Liga Greatest Games, La Liga Greatest Games, Football, La Liga Icons, La Liga Greatest Games, La Liga Highlights: Barcelona, La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid, Football Countdowns, La Liga Files, La Liga Icons, Soccer A.M., La Liga Icons, La Liga Greatest Games, Football, SPFL Round Up 2017/18, SPFL Greatest Games, Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits.

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

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Can I put a flag on my car?

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

PATRIOTISM may give us a warm feeling of belonging, and the notion that members of a country may stick together as one is something which has stood the test of time, but displaying that patriotism on a vehicle can lead to a whole range of problems, resulting in a situation becoming a danger to other road users, unless it is done correctly.

Whether it is of a country, a football team or just a group to which you belong, carrying a flag to show your support is something that many people may consider, but it can also lead to fines from the traffic police if your flag does not comply with the regulations, not because the flag may show support for another country, but because they can lead to danger.

Article 14 of the Reglamento Circulacion deals with the distribution of loads, under the heading 'Disposición de la carga.'

Although a flag may not be considered to be a load, because it is an element which is additional to the normal fixtures of the vehicle, then it qualifies as such.

As such, in the interests of safety, anything carried on a vehicle must not drag fully or partially, fall or move dangerously, interfere with vehicle stability, produce noise, dust or other problems that can be avoided and must

not hide the lighting and signals, number plates or anything else which could interfere with manual warnings of the drivers.

Quite clearly, if a flag is of a large enough size, it will produce considerable drag.

It may well interfere with the view of lights, number plates and other fixtures, and could blow or fall into the path of other road users, and is a risk in terms of becoming loose or entangles in either the vehicle carrying it, or others.

Therefore, quite clearly, large flags are not allowed. However, there are smaller, purpose built flags which are permitted. These are often seen attached to the windows of vehicles, or sometimes as part of the main structure.

Similarly, there are other accessories available which can be fitted to a vehicle safely, such as covers for the wing mirrors, so long as the active view of the mirror is not obscured.

A flag draped or tied across the bonnet or roof, or any part of the vehicle, would not be permitted, nor would covers to the sun visors, which could interfere with the visibility of the driver.



FLYING WITH PRIDE: But is it legal?

For more news and articles visit www.n332.es or search N332 on Facebook.

Can they cut off his water?

Q. Can a community cut off the water supply of a debtor?

I am the President of an urbanisation of over 250 properties. We receive water from the macro-urbanisation, which is monitored through a master meter. We then supply water to all the houses in our community through indi-

vidual meters. The community then charges each owner for the water consumed.

As we have some debtors who are well in arrears with both community and water charges, can we cut off their water to stop them receiving what they are not paying for?

A. No, you cannot. If you cut off their water, they can bring a case against the community for denying them an essential service to community members even if they are behind

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



in their payments. Your only recourse is to claim the

unpaid community fees and water bills through the courts and I suggest you begin this process as soon as possible. Do not forget to claim court costs from them as well.

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

What a disaster!

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

WELL what a week! I didn't know whether to touch on this subject or not but decided to be honest, it's making me a bit grumpy. Sexual harassment is wrong. That's it. No ifs, buts or whatever, it's wrong, period.

There was a men only charity do in London hosted by the Presidents Club. They, in turn, hired hostesses who were told what to wear including the colour of their underwear. Anyone spot the obvious problem that could occur here? Oh and the hostesses were told they could drink booze whilst working.

This all came to light after one of the hostesses, who was an undercover reporter for the *Financial Times*, attended the function and then did an article about a load of drunk, rich old men sexually harassing a bunch of scantily dressed, possibly tipsy, young women who were trying to extract as much money as they could for charity. A disaster waiting to happen.

The money being raised was for Great Ormond Street Hospital and was close to a million pounds. That has now been returned so the biggest losers are sick children which is

terrible. People have been fired and others resigned. What a disaster, all because a bunch of idiots don't know it's 2018 not the 60's, 70's or 80's or the beginning of time as that's how long this behaviour has been going on. The further fall out was several companies, charities and organisations have said they will not be using hostesses any more. One of the darts organisations will not have the walk on girls accompany the players on stage any more.

I remember going to the Motor Show in the UK and nearly every stand had young, pretty girls, some in bikinis, trying to get you to look at their cars. Will boxing get rid of the girls that parade in the ring with the round number?

You have to remember there are a lot of young ladies who earn a very lucrative living being hostesses and promotion girls or models which is their choice. In fact, I have a friend who did this work for many years and she told me unfortunately a few idiots spoil it for the rest. She loved her work and is retired now.

She was not assaulted on every job but there were a few where she had to put the punters very sharply in their place. It's just a terrible pity that because of a few morons, and I'm sure it wasn't every man there, GOSH and many other good causes will have to find money from other sources to continue their wonderful work.

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BBC one

Table of BBC one TV schedule from 7:00am to 12:25am, including programs like Breakfast, Countryfile Winter Diaries, and Moving On.

BBC TWO

Table of BBC TWO TV schedule from 7:30am to 2:40am, including programs like Wanted Down Under, Countryfile Winter Diaries, and Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape.

BBC FOUR

Table of BBC FOUR TV schedule from 8:00pm to 2:35am, including programs like Beyond 100 Days, Railways of the Great War, and Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain.

CHANNEL 4

Table of CHANNEL 4 TV schedule from 9:00am to 1:20am, including programs like Everybody Loves Raymond, Frasier, and The Simpsons.

CHANNEL 5

Table of CHANNEL 5 TV schedule from 6:35am to 5:00am, including programs like HouseBusters, Milkshake!, and The Wright Stuff.

4

Table of Channel 4 TV schedule from 7:00am to 2:00am, including programs like Hollyoaks, Coach Trip, and The Big Bang Theory.

sky sports main event

Table of Sky Sports main event TV schedule from 6:00am to 5:00am, including Sky Sports News, Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize, and Premier League Daily.

itv

Table of ITV TV schedule from 10:25am to 9:25pm, including programs like The Oddbods Show, Super 4, and Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.

itv2

Table of ITV2 TV schedule from 9:20am to 1:00am, including programs like Coronation Street, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and The Jeremy Kyle Show.

itv3

Table of ITV3 TV schedule from 3:30am to 3:30am, including Teleshopping, Classic Coronation Street, and Heartbeat.

itv4

Table of ITV4 TV schedule from 4:00am to 4:00am, including Teleshopping, The Chase, and Pawn Stars.

sky CINEMA HEROES

Table of Sky Cinema Heroes TV schedule from 10:00am to 2:00am, including Central Intelligence, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2, and Captain America: Civil War.

sky CINEMA COMEDY

Table of Sky Cinema Comedy TV schedule from 8:05am to 2:45am, including Rock the Kasbah, Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging, and You Don't Mess with the Zohan.

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

Table of Sky Cinema Premiere TV schedule from 4:15am to 4:20am, including One More Time, Amber Heard stars as the struggling, thirtysomething daughter of an over-the-hill crooner, and Top Ten Show, the 2018.

sky sports football

Table of Sky Sports football TV schedule from 1:00pm to 10:00pm, including SPFL Round Up 2017/18, SPFL Greatest Games, and Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits.

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YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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Snuck off, we don't want American slang here

DEAR Leapy,

I am a great fan of yours but in your article, dated January 4, you used that awful US word SNUCK. We English don't SNUCK, we SNEAK!

Much of what we remember of England has sadly now gone, but at least the beautiful English language which we gave to the world, still remains.

That's all for now, please, excuse my scrawl, I have a disabled hand.

Keep up the good work, I will now SNEAK away!

John Frensham, Quesada, Rosales

Plane stupid

THE budget airlines expect their customers to print their own boarding passes, but unhelpfully prevent it happening earlier than a month before each flight.

Anyone visiting Spain for more than a month can therefore find it difficult to get a boarding pass for the return journey. If locutorios, cyber cafes or tourist offices are willing to help, they could display notices offering to

Supermarket Sweep a constant problem

ON the last three occasions I have shopped at a Spanish supermarket in the Aguilas Plaza I have encountered exactly the same problem.

The store is festooned with special offers such as 'buy one get the other one at half price.' When I have selected these and presented them for payment at the checkout, the computer tills have in many cases not been programmed to reflect the offers and the full price is charged.

When I try to explain to the checkout girl what the problem is she doesn't really understand, she just scans the items and does



SPECIAL OFFERS: Often not programmed at the tills.

what the computer tells her. I then have to go back to the displays and physically remove the special offer labels and bring them to the checkout, where the assistant has to then manually override the computer to input

the correct prices.

This is very frustrating for both myself and the checkout girl and very irritating for other customers waiting in the queue whilst all this is taking place.

Don Mather, Aguilas

print boarding passes and stating their price for this valuable service.

Derek Eyles, Alicante

Confused Cartagena

CAN anyone really tell us what is happening with San Javier airport? Corvera is supposed to be opening this year, but we have heard that before, and when that opens San Javier is supposed to close.

However during the last week, AE-NA have given a four-year contract to ADELTE, a company specialising in airport boarding, for better assistance to passengers with reduced mobility or mobility issues.

Does this perhaps mean that San Javier won't close and they will keep both open, which would be nice, especially as we and lots of other passengers will have double the journey time to Corvera?

Richard Prowse, Cartagena

Different strokes

THE difference between sensible print and dross was highlighted in last week's Euro Weekly.

In the sensible corner we had Mike Senker highlighting Donald Trump's total lack of diplomacy, his racism and his tweet endorsements from that bastion of peace the KKK.

Then in the opposite corner we had good old Leapy, bleating on as if Trump was some sort of latter day saint. Mr Lee, get your facts right, Mr Obama was not responsible for the embassy move.

I sometimes worry, Leapy about your feelings towards Trump. It's plain to see what sort of President he is. Why don't you read Mike Senker's column first, nail and head come to mind.

Philip, San Fulgencio

Kitchen sink

MUCH was made of a recent police crackdown on older cars, with motorists being stopped and having their vehicles checked for safety.

That is very laudable but why don't the authorities seem to do anything about the constant parade of foreign cars totally overlaid en route to and from ports connecting with Morocco? The police seem to ignore these really dangerous vehicles, perhaps because they don't want the hassle of dealing with potentially non-Spanish speakers.

Brian Jones, Manilva

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.

Nothing against immigration (Leapy Lee)

WELL, for once Leapy you've tried (but failed) to write a balanced opinion. You ignore that you migrated of your own free will. Maybe your self-inflicted prison sentence influenced your decision, but Britain was not a war zone. Your home was not bombed to rubble. You had electricity, water, food and free medical care if you needed it. You had choice. Ninety-nine per cent of the migrants you are so opposed to have NO CHOICE! They are faced with appalling conditions you would not tolerate for one moment! They are enduring years of proxy wars inflicted on them by OUR OWN disastrous policies in the Middle East. IF they stay, they face starvation and death! You would be fleeing with them! I don't buy your bleating. As Shakespeare's Hamlet might say, the Leapy doth protest too much.

Brian Eagleson

How can Brian Eagleson possibly know that 90 per cent of immigrants are fleeing starvation and death. Has he counted them? Anyway, Leapy is not talking about them. He is talking about the ones that come to take advantage of our better way of life with their Nike trainers and iPhones. The ones who leave their womenfolk and children behind. The ones who hate us and want to change our way of life.

As usual an inciteful and well written piece Leapy.
Erica P

Comments from EWN online

Three dead in AP-7 crash

How awful we were on that road going the other way about that time! There was snow for about one mile !

Jean and John Rowlands

So sad RIP to all who lost their lives.

Donna Connors Hughes

Robert De Niro opening new resort in Spain

I'm waiting for my invitation!

Barbara Stallwood

Hope he's polished up his Spanish? Last I heard he was talking Italian...

Terence Sheehan

Plans to remove toll road charges

I just read between the lines and I just wish they would stop overdeveloping the coast, it will soon end up as a conglomerate of urbanisations, the only bit left is Duquesa to La Linea.

It's such a shame. All those apartments will have cars belonging to them that further clog up the towns when you want to park and do your jobs. And all the extra tourists on the roads, nightmare. I'll be off if it gets much busier down here, I left Barcelona and that coast for the same reason.

Leigh Hobson

Best idea they have had in a long time.

Trisha Rodgers

Five detained over 4,000 kilo orange theft

Did the 'peel-ers' apprehend the jaffa stealers?

Tim McMahon

I think they should appeal.

Stewart Kingsley

65 years as a cartoonist and painter

by John Smith

AS he heads towards his 90th birthday, cartoonist and Costa del Sol resident, Peter Maddocks took the time to reminisce with *Euro Weekly News*.

We are delighted that Peter supplies a weekly cartoon on an exclusive basis to the paper, as he has retired from commercial illustration and only paints for fun and the excitement of creating a new artistic work.

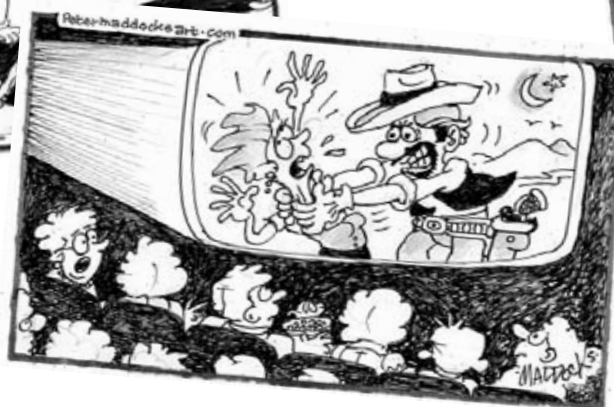
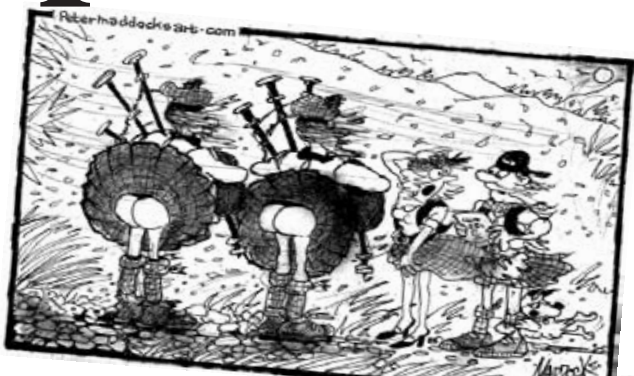
Having joined the Merchant Navy at the age of 15 in 1943, he not only braved the dangers of war, but says that he actually had a great time travelling the world and discovering new experiences and adventures.

This was quite a change for a young man from Birmingham, who had first started drawing at the age of six, before winning a scholarship at the age of 11 to attend the Moseley School of Art.

With a wicked glint in his eye and a smile on his face, Peter said "My tutor was Norman Pett, who drew the risqué Jane cartoon strip for the *Daily Mirror*, which saw the heroine out of her clothes as often as she was in them. There I was drawing daffodils whilst he was drawing naked women in the classroom!"

After swapping the sea for a land based job, Peter set up his own advertising agency and started designing cinema posters, as well as writing Kit Carson stories.

When he was very young, his teacher told him that whilst his art was good, his lettering needed improvement. Having studied fonts, he was determined to be involved in letter-



ing the cowboy stories as well.

Whilst he had a love of painting, when he was invited to draw a sample cartoon for the *Daily Sketch*, his was delighted to be accepted as one of their main contributors and as this was in 1953, he is now celebrating 65 years as a cartoonist.

"I preferred to paint, but with cartoons I could take a thought, transfer it to paper quickly with a pithy comment and get paid almost immediately" he said, explaining why he had never become a commercial artist.

He quickly became much sought after by all of the major newspapers of the time including the *Mail*, *Telegraph*, *Express*, *Mirror*, as well as *Mayfair* and *Private Eye*. He eventually became Cartoon Editor for *Express Newspapers* and regularly produced a satirical look at events in 10 Downing Street.

During that time, he helped

to found the British Cartoonists' Association and travelled back to the UK in 2016 to help celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

With two of his three sons (there is also a daughter) he decided to set up an animation studio and attracted interest from the BBC for three cartoon series. *The Family-Ness*, which centred on the life of the Loch Ness Monsters, *Jimbo and the Jet Set* and *Penny Crayon* featuring the voice of Su Pollard.

He also worked with legendary animators Halas and Batchelor and spent a number of years working for them in Berlin, but admits that this wasn't the best time of his life.

Eventually, after writing a number of self-help books on



PETER
MADDOCKS:
In his own
eyes.



year-old.

Peter is a pleasure to chat with and confided that he stopped riding his motor scooter just two years ago. He is still driving his car on a daily basis, although he had been a little surprised with the ice that had formed on his vehicle the other day.

Although he has been living by himself in Spain for all of these years, he admits that he struggles with the Spanish language.

But he has developed a perfect arrangement with local shopkeepers saying "If I can't make myself understood, I whip out my drawing pad and produce a picture of what I want to buy. It seems to work pretty well and the people in the shops seem happy to keep the sketches."

Many people living by themselves could be lonely, but not Peter Maddocks as he simply loves to paint. As long as he manages to be creative at least once a day, then he considers himself a happy man.

He has the gift of being able to follow the news, think up a few funny lines, produce an accompanying image and then invariably change the words to make the cartoon even funnier. Readers enjoy seeing Peter's work each week in the Time Out section of the six *Euro Weekly News* editions.

And we, at the newspaper, want to thank him for his continued decision to prepare a new and amusing cartoon exclusively for us, week in, week out and congratulate him for his 65 years of professional work.

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'IT MUST BE AN ENGLISH BURNS NIGHT - THAT DUMMY LOOKS LIKE NICOLA STURGEON!'

Trivia from around the world

*** About €3,000 in change is thrown into the Trevi fountain in Rome, Italy every day.
*** China used more cement in three years between 2011 and 2013 than the US used in the entire 20th century.
*** A rhinoceros from the Sao Paulo zoo in Brazil was turned down as a candidate for the city's council elections in 1958. Cacareco still won 100,000 votes.
*** Nearly half of all the gold ever mined was dug up in the Witwatersrand Basin in South Africa. Around 50,000 tonnes were dug up in the basin in more than 100 years.
*** Around 1,000 letters ad-

IN MINUTES:
Human history would make up just one minute 17 seconds if the earth was 24 hours old.

ressed to God arrive in Jerusalem every year.
*** Shark Bay in Victoria, Australia changed its name to Safety Beach in order to attract more visitors.



Picture credit Pixabay.

DID YOU KNOW?

If the history of the earth is condensed into 24 hours then the dinosaurs would have become extinct at 11.41pm and human history would have begun at 11.58.43pm.

Women's wit

'We as women, we have to understand that we know more, just even instinctively than we think we do.'

Michelle Obama, former US First Lady



Famous quote

'If you can talk brilliant about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered.'

Stanley Kubrick, filmmaker

World of English

'Zaitech - An investment by a company in financial markets in order to boost profits.'

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

Being at the forefront of a learning experience is pleasurable this week. An unexpected offer seems small but could have a big effect. A friend in need may go over the top and annoy you. It may be necessary to distance yourself and give help through others.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Mutual plans are exciting but make sure that others know your needs exactly. As a Leo, you will never willingly accept second best but how can others know your standards? Your needs and desires are close to your heart but are sometimes held so close that others cannot see and respond to them.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Even as you prepare to go on a trip or start something new this week, the future beckons. In small things there are clues to the way forward. A chance encounter brings humour and opens your eyes to a friendship lately neglected.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Putting your thoughts and feelings on a par with someone else will help you to understand their point of view. As painful as it seems, there will need to be some compromise if everyone is to be happy.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Emotional and monetary wealth go hand in hand at the beginning of this energetic week. Someone is likely to make demands that you find unacceptable and you will need all your tact to avoid unpleasantness, but any resistance by you will, in the longer term, only gain you respect.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Sometimes, you retreat into your shell and your normally gregarious personality takes a back seat. Although you may not have received the expected response to a question recently, it is no reason to brood. Show yourself in your true colours this week.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

You may feel a bit like Sherlock Holmes when you solve a tricky dilemma. With your intellect soaring, it is little surprise that others come to you with their problems. A natural agony aunt because of your interest in others, this suits you well enough.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

The way to bring energy levels up this week is to spend time with energetic people. You may feel a little on the fringes initially but, at the end of the day, your spirit will be lifted. Fresh air and group activities bring the most satisfaction, although a one-to-one task proves particularly fruitful.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Someone with a romantic interest in you starts buzzing around. This is all very well if you are willing, but if not keep your distance. As thoughts turn to summer, it is not surprising that a holiday is on your mind. There is, however, a question mark over with whom you want to go.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Look ahead to see how exactly you can make this spring extra special. Making your plans clear to others means a smooth journey as opposed to unnecessary delays. A particular place brings back memories of a love long past. However, this love is not truly lost because it will always be a part of who you are.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

Small matters start to clog up the emotional works. You would rather be somewhere else, but grit your teeth and deal with necessary matters. Finances certainly must be watched most carefully. Get your glad rags on at the weekend and really let your hair down. Of course, there are more serious matters to be considered but not all the time.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

There is an incredibly romantic week ahead if you only enter into the spirit of it. Let your feelings be seen and felt, showing appreciation for loved ones. You do not need the excuse of a birthday or anniversary to give a gift, just a heart full of love. Contentment surfaces several times this week and is down to your own past efforts.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday January 27	Saturday January 27	Tuesday January 23	Friday January 26	Thursday January 25	Saturday January 27	Sunday January 28
(29) (33)	(2) (12)	(5) (8)	(6) (15)	(3) (6)	(7) (8)	(3) (5)
(43) (45)	(22) (24)	(9) (23)	(24) (28)	(25) (31)	(10) (14)	(11) (41)
(49) (56)	(33) (41)	(24)	(48)	(32) (40)	(27) (48)	(45) (41)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(16)	(10)	(7) (8)	(4) (9)	(24) (0)	(42) (7)	(2)
		EL MILLON: WLG90341		JOKER: 8 889 779	JOKER: 3 129 415	

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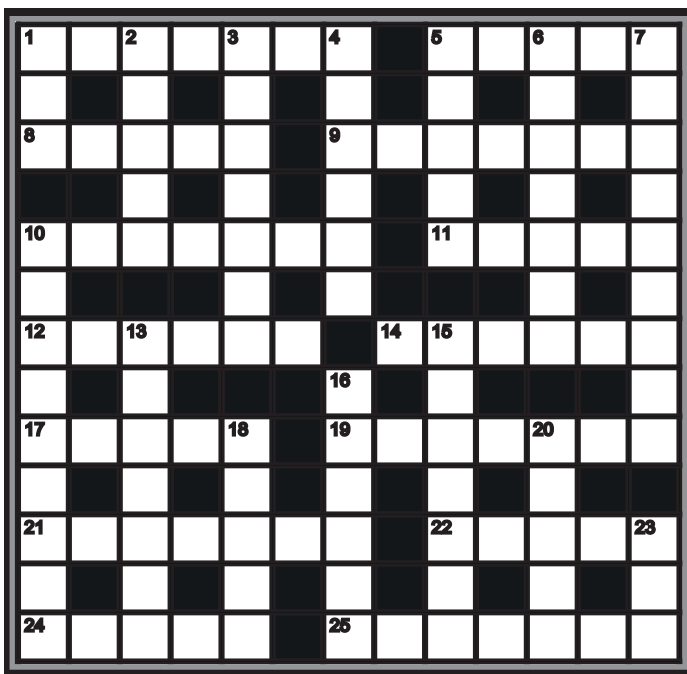
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Tried to work out in Michigan (7)
- 5 Silent diplomacy includes Italy (5)
- 8 Super sort of money bag (5)
- 9 Renault changing gear? (7)
- 10 Refrain from voting for sailor Mark (7)
- 11 Money returned by skinhead for implements (5)
- 12 From Americans we rely on solution (6)
- 14 Return if a self-starter company is a disaster (6)
- 17 Units deployed in an African capital (5)
- 19 Sit and read novel with legs apart (7)
- 21 In descent win, expect wind (7)
- 22 The answer is about The Strand (5)
- 24 Clipped trees replaced (5)
- 25 Ulster's builders are the consequences (7)

Down

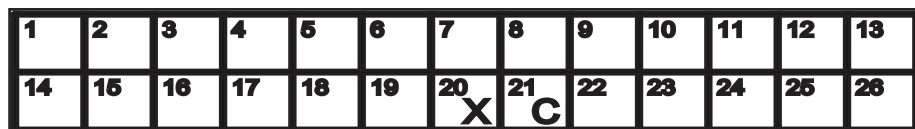
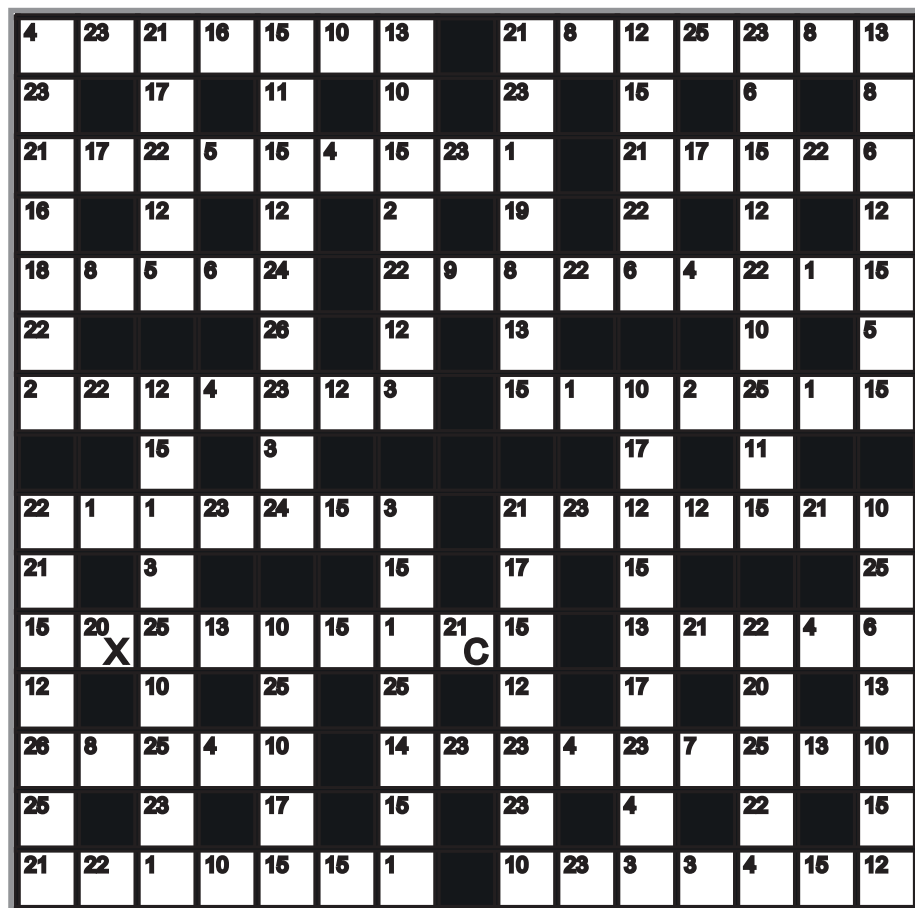
- 1 Princess and prince will name pickpocket (3)
- 2 Calls the conditions (5)
- 3 Make a speech about gym function (7)
- 4 Occupier of temporary shelter around centre of Canada (6)
- 5 Tease the first relative (5)
- 6 Odd trinkets containing uranium (7)



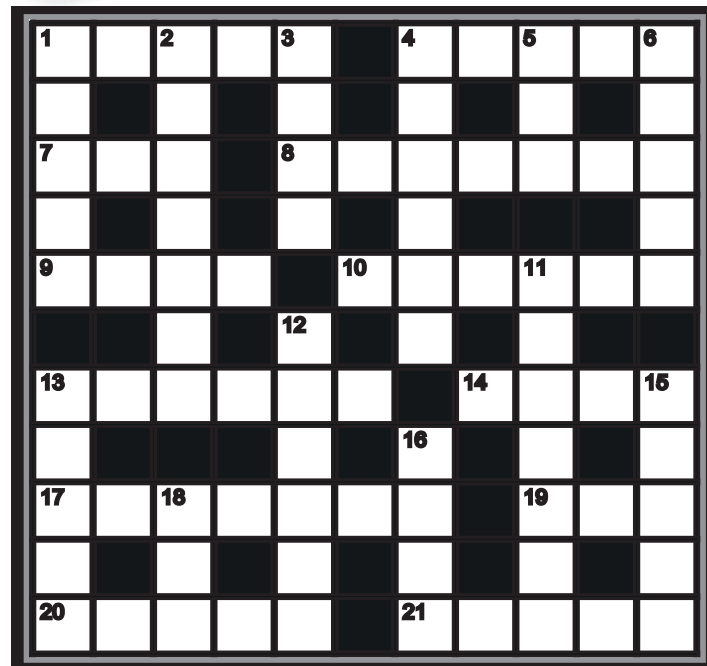
- 7 Note the French range of optical equipment (9)
- 10 Broke? Rent Tampa flat (9)
- 13 Legislator's form of treason (7)
- 15 Hospital doctors bury bridge partners (7)
- 16 Rush into a profession (6)
- 18 It's in the back or middle of the book (5)
- 20 Force the Spanish after the little devil (5)
- 23 Some lucky escapes, of course (3)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 20 represents X and 21 represents C, so fill in X every time the figure 20 appears and C every time the figure 21 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



Quick



Across

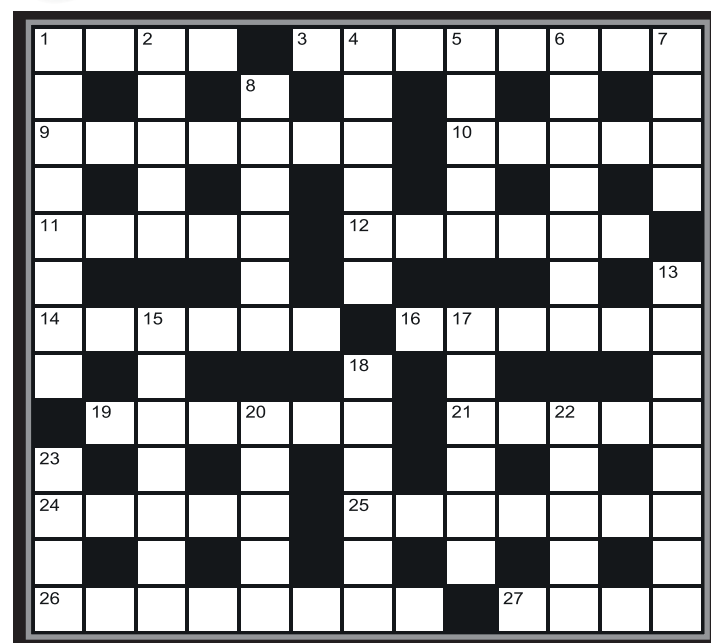
- 1 Arranges (5)
- 4 Small mouse like mammal with a long snout (5)
- 7 Select as an alternative over another (3)
- 8 Rubbers (7)
- 9 Snare (4)
- 10 Popular music originating in the West Indies (6)
- 13 Scandinavian country (6)
- 14 Prison (4)
- 17 Travellers' luggage (7)
- 19 Male child (3)
- 20 Wash off soap or remaining dirt (5)
- 21 Fertile spot or tract in a sandy desert (5)

Down

- 1 Brief (5)
- 2 Continual round of hectic and futile activity (3,4)
- 3 Look for (4)
- 4 Divides up (6)
- 5 Eggs of female fish (3)
- 6 Spend thoughtlessly (5)
- 11 Spectacles (7)
- 12 Mar or spoil the appearance of (6)
- 13 No drunk (5)
- 15 Connections (5)
- 16 Nothing (4)
- 18 Firearm (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Arch (4)
- 3 Transfer (move) (8)
- 9 Ruso (7)
- 10 Stage (phase) (5)
- 11 Swan (5)
- 12 Actress (6)
- 14 Tatuaje (6)
- 16 Broom (brush) (6)
- 19 Last night (6)
- 21 Spot (location) (5)
- 24 Platform (railway) (5)
- 25 Saffron (7)
- 26 Please (3,5)
- 27 Jefe (4)

Down

- 1 Albaricoques (8)
- 2 Things (5)
- 4 Pista de aterrizaje (6)
- 5 Dulce (5)
- 6 Fan (hand held) (7)
- 7 Buttonhole (of garment) (4)
- 8 Money (6)
- 13 Thieves (8)
- 15 Fork (cutlery) (7)
- 17 Chairs (6)
- 18 Summer (6)
- 20 Tape (5)
- 22 Fat (person) (5)
- 23 Húmedo (clima) (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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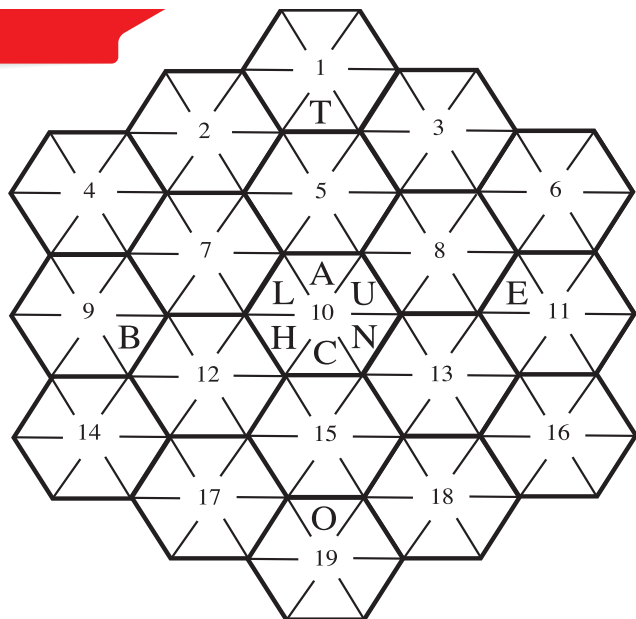
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Hexagram

- BATEAU
- BEHIND
- BEREFT
- DECODE
- DETENT
- EFFETE
- ETHANE
- FILLET
- GENTRY
- HUDDLE
- LAUNCH (10)
- LOADED
- NOTICE
- REGENT
- RELIEF
- SPREAD
- THRALL
- THROES
- TURTLE



The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells **MUST BE THE SAME**.

The letters in the words must be written **CLOCKWISE**. The word in cell 10 (**LAUNCH**) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

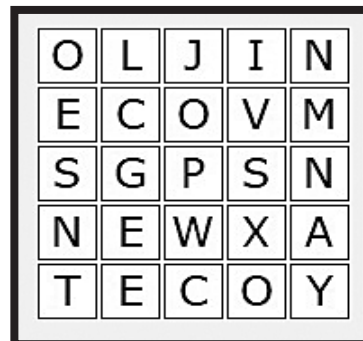
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Figure 2 Double 3 Ragout 4 Murder
- 5 Droopy 6 Queasy 7 Oyster 8 Stooze
- 9 Defray 10 Sponge 11 Survey
- 12 Soften 13 County 14 Rotate
- 15 Fungus 16 Quince 17 Sunset
- 18 Poison 19 Infirm

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 28
- Good: 39
- Very good: 55
- Excellent: 72

SCORING:

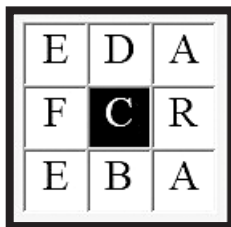
- 4 letters: 1 point
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 6 letters: 3 points
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

coops copse copter copes robot roost ropes rotates oboes opera boors boost swoop story stoop stern strap straps peats paste pates pares panes spoor spear sperm spate spare stare sateen saner taper tarts teapot tease tenet tenets worst torso teats treat eaten erase apter aspen meows meats repast reset reaps rapes napes

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 C)** and there must be **AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD**. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

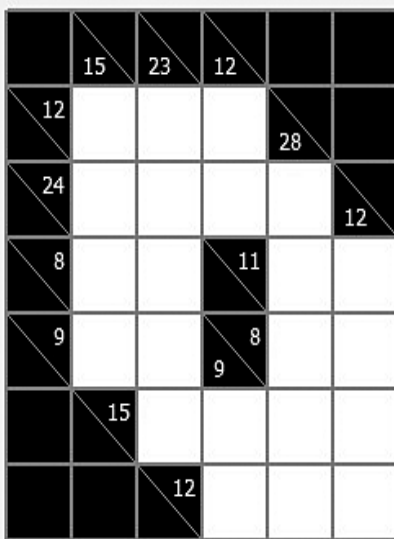
- Average: 7
- Good: 10
- Very good: 14
- Excellent: 18

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

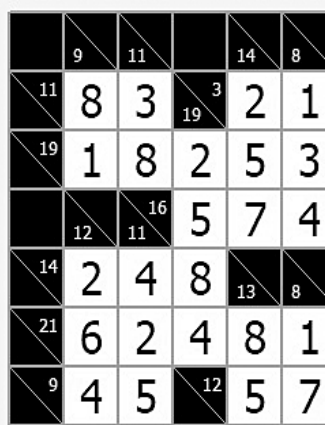
cert cord core corm cred doer door dorm ford fore form fort fret from moor more mort odor oreo redo reft retf rode rood roof room root rote term torc tore tref trod coder comer cored credo croft decor doter fetor force forte metro motor recto rodeo deform doctor doofer footer forced formed moored roofed roomed rooted comfort motored COMFORTED

Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

- Across:** 1 Sharp, 4 Scrub, 7 Tarantula, 8 Task, 10 Genius, 12 Cornet, 13 Begg, 16 Premature, 18 Dense, 19 Timid.
- Down:** 1 Skirt, 2 Ant, 3 Pork, 4 Singer, 5 Routine, 6 Brass, 9 Surgeon, 11 Debate, 12 Cupid, 14 Squad, 15 Just, 17 Elm.

CODE BREAKER

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

CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Despair, 4 Gloss, 7 Solve, 9 Slating, 10 Inspire, 11 Extra, 12 Rocket, 14 Random, 18 Draft, 20 Abandon, 22 Tribune, 23 Slang, 24 Dates, 25 Sprints.
- Down:** 1 Dossier, 2 Sells, 3 Rasher, 4 Grace, 5 Omitted, 6 Sigma, 8 Elite, 13 Chariot, 15 Amass, 16 Manages, 17 Valets, 18 Dated, 19 Thugs, 21 Drain.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Chubasco, 4 Ball, 8 Glove, 10 Amapola, 11 Estadio, 12 Rude, 14 Apagar, 16 Straws, 19 Lata, 21 Rescate, 22 Apology, 25 Tides, 26 Lead, 27 Prisoner.
- Down:** 1 Cigüefías, 2 Ahead, 3 Clavos, 5 Avoid, 6 Leal, 7 Carrot, 9 Ostra, 13 Ascensor, 15 Asador, 17 Ataud, 18 Prayer, 20 Ahora, 22 Setas, 23 Fall.

App of the week



Tapt 2

A musical memory game which tests players' ability to remember their favourite songs. The new edition of this app features better sounds, two-part harmonies and a new user

QUIZ: TAKING A GAMBLE

1. Gamblers Anonymous (GA), the 12-step programme for people who have a gambling problem, was established in Los Angeles in which decade?
2. Hotel magnate Sol Kerzner created which golf and gambling resort in the so-called 'homeland' of Bophuthatswana in South Africa in 1979?
3. In gambling slang, what is the value of a monkey?
4. In poker, what is the highest ranked hand?
5. In the UK what name is given to a bet placed on a series of races (or other events), the winnings and stake from each being placed on the next?
6. 'My daddy was a gambling man way down in New Orleans' is a famous line from which traditional folk song that was a UK number one hit single for The Animals in 1964?

7. When gambling on horse-racing, what term is used for a bet on four selections and consisting of 11 separate bets?
8. Which famous American folk hero was shot and killed by gambler 'Black' Jack McCall at Nuttal and Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory on August 2, 1876?
9. Which item of footwear shares its name with the box from which cards are dealt in casinos at baccarat or some other card games?
10. Which singer, along with his Skiffle Group, topped the UK singles charts in 1957 with 'Gamblin' Man'?

Not a lot of people know that... the Venetian Macau (Macau, China) is the world's largest casino complex, covering 546,000 square feet with 4,200 slot and table games and 53 bars and restaurants.

Answers:

- 1. 1950s (September 13, 1957).
- 2. SUN CITY, 3. £500, 4. ROYAL FLUSH (ace, king, queen, jack and 10, all the same suit).
- 5. ACCUMULATOR (also known as a PARLAY).
- 6. THE HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN.
- 7. YANKEE, 8. WILD BILL (James Butler) HICKOK.
- 9. SHOE, 10. LONNIE DONEGAN

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BOOKS



Road of regret

RUSSELL GAINES has spent 11 years in the Parchman Penitentiary in the Mississippi Delta waiting for the end of his sentence.

His release sees him head for home where he discovers his debt is far from paid and that revenge is all around him.

Maben and her daughter spend their last dollars on a room for the night the same day Russell is released. The night ends with Maben running with pistol in hand and a dead police officer lying by his car.

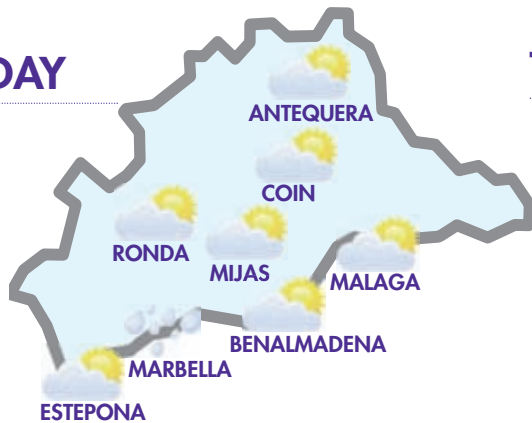
Russell is forced to choose between his own life and Maben's in Michael Farris-Smith's story of shared destiny in a land filled with secrets and regret.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa del Sol

weather

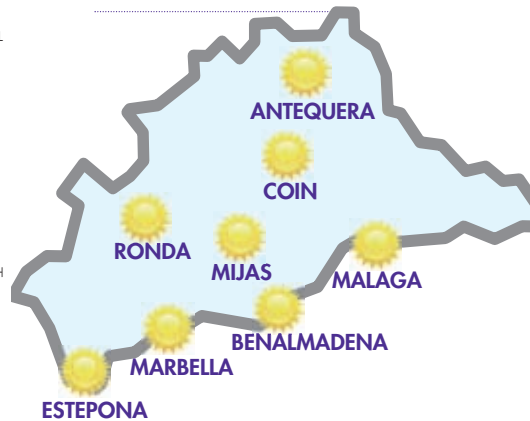
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



Malaga Today: Max 18, Min 9 - Cl Fri - 16 8 - Cl Sat - 17 9 - S Sun - 20 8 - S Mon - 15 7 - Sh Tues - 14 6 - C Wed - 15 6 - C	Almeria Today: Max 17, Min 10-S Fri - 16 8 - S Sat - 17 10 - S Sun - 17 9 - S Mon - 14 7 - Sh Tues - 13 7 - Sh Wed - 14 7 - S	Bilbao Today: Max 9, Min 6 - Sh Fri - 12 8 - C Sat - 15 8 - C Sun - 11 6 - Sh Mon - 8 5 - Sh Tues - 7 4 - Sh Wed - 8 4 - Sh	Madrid Today: Max 13, Min -1 Cl Fri - 12 0 - Cl Sat - 15 1 - S Sun - 13 1 - S Mon - 10 -1 - C Tues - 9 -1 - C Wed - 9 -2 - C
Alicante Today: Max 19, Min 8 - S Fri - 16 7 - S Sat - 17 9 - S Sun - 18 7 - S Mon - 15 6 - S Tues - 15 6 - Cl Wed - 14 6 - S	Benidorm Today: Max 19, Min 8 - Sh Fri - 15 7 - S Sat - 17 10 - S Sun - 17 9 - S Mon - 14 7 - Sh Tues - 14 8 - Sh Wed - 14 8 - Sh	Mallorca Today: Max 15, Min 5 - Sh Fri - 13 8 - C Sat - 15 8 - S Sun - 15 8 - S Mon - 12 7 - Sh Tues - 12 7 - Sh Wed - 12 6 - C	Barcelona Today: Max 11, Min 4 - Sh Fri - 14 5 - C Sat - 15 7 - S Sun - 14 6 - Sh Mon - 12 5 - C Tues - 12 4 - C Wed - 11 4 - S

S: Sun ☀ Cl: Clear ☁ C: Cloudy ☁ Sh: Showers ☁ Th: Thunder ⚡ Sn: Snow ❄

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

BIRTHDAYS

• **Cristiano Ronaldo, Footballer; February 5, 33**
The footballer became captain of the Portuguese national team in 2008. He was bought by Real Madrid from Manchester Utd in 2009 for around £80 million.



• **David Jason, Actor; February 2, 78**
The Only Fool and Horses star originally trained as an electrician before pursuing an acting career. Jason starred as Del Boy in John O'Sullivan's comedy series. He also featured alongside Ronnie Barker in Open All Hours and played Detective Jack Frost in A Touch of Frost.

as WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She married actor George Clooney in September 2014 and the couple have two children.

• **Alice Cooper, Rock Singer; February 4, 70**
Cooper rocked the 1970's and 1980's with hits such as *Poison*, *Schools' Out* and *Eighteen*. Born in Detroit in the US, he was raised by a preacher and turned down a college acceptance to pursue a career in music. He also appeared in the 1992 film *Wayne's World*.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT



Partly cloudy skies forecast for today (Thursday) with highs of two degrees. Temperatures will drop over the weekend however with lows of up to -10 in the mornings and will not go above freezing throughout the day. No snow is expected to fall over the course of the week.

1488 - Mossel Bay landing
Bartolomeu Dias from Portugal lands at Mossel Bay after rounding the Cape of Good Hope. He became the first known European to travel that far south after making the journey.

1555 - John Rogers martyred
John Rogers becomes the first English Protestant martyr after being burned at the stake during the Catholic Queen Mary I's reign.

1789 - Washington elected
George Washington is unanimously elected as President by the US Electoral College in the country's first presidential election after it gained independence from Britain.

1830 - Greek Independence
The London Protocol establishes Greece as an independent country following its victory in its War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire.

1861 - First Civil War Union victory
The Union Army wins its first victory in the American Civil War. Ulysses S Grant and Andrew H Foot lead their force to capture Fort Henry in Tennessee in the Battle of Fort Henry.

1909 - Synthetic plastic invented
Leo Baekeland, a Belgian chemist, announces the creation of the world's first synthetic plastic Bakelite.

1990 - Communists lose power in USSR

The Central Committee of the Soviet Union's Communist Party agrees to give up its monopoly on power in the country. The move marks the end of Communist rule which began following the 1917 revolution.

The Shard opens
The Shard in London opens to the public. It is the tallest building in the European Union, at 310 metres.

This week in history

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.

Word Ladder

WHIP

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

TORN

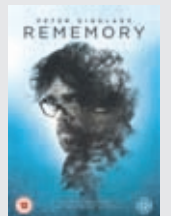
TORN
CORN
COIN
CHIN
CHIP
DIHW
Solution

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

DVD
Extracting the past



GORDON DUNN is a scientist who has spent months creating a machine to extract peoples' memories so they can be watched.

When he dies mysteriously Sam Bloom (Peter Dinklage) sets out to solve the case with the help of the new memory device.

Bloom soon uncovers a web of intrigue surrounding the death of Dunn and the machine he has created. 'Rememory' is a science fiction thriller which explores the character's connection to their past and each other.

The colour purple

ULTRA VIOLET:
Blueberries are packed with antioxidants.

IT'S safe to say the colour purple is having a moment, in fashion, beauty and interior design.

However, it's the purple-food trend that is perhaps becoming the most popular. Many naturally purple foods are closely associated with healthy eating, as they are known to have a high nutritional content and be packed with antioxidants.

Fruit such as blackberries, blueberries and blackcurrants contain the antioxidant 'anthocyanin' which has been linked to a whole range of health benefits, such as lower insulin levels and less risk of inflammation. It can also be found in cranberries, cherries, aubergines and cabbage.

Purple cabbage is also a great source of essential nutrients such as manganese, potassium, magnesium and calcium. It also contains vitamin K, vitamin C, vitamin B1 and vitamin B6. The anthocyanins found in red or purple cabbage are also believed to protect the heart and red blood cells from wear and tear.

Antioxidants found in purple and blue fruits

could also be the key to young and healthy-looking skin as they help prevent damage caused by free radicals in the body.

Other purple foods such as aubergine and purple onions reportedly help to reduce the risk of cancer as they contain flavonoids which have been proven to boost immunity to certain cancers and help keep blood pressure under control.

Purple sweet potatoes are packed with fibre, as well as iron, potassium and vitamin B6, so are great for improving digestion. Studies have shown them to help improve blood sugar levels and they also have antibacterial properties, so protect against contracting certain diseases.

Beetroot, perhaps the most famous purple vegetable of them all, is jam packed with essential nutrients such as iron, potassium, B vitamins, magnesium and manganese. It is also a great detox food as it contains compounds called glutathiones which help to cleanse heavy metals, toxins and waste from the system.

They have also been proven to help your

muscles recover following a workout as they are full of nitrates which release oxygen into the bloodstream and boosts circulation to the places that need it. This can also help to lower blood pressure.



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Chronic Pain – Part 2

LAST week in Part 1 (on our website if you missed it!) I started to explain why chronic pain is different and needs different treatment. I talked about the science behind pain.

Now let's start talk about how chronic pain affects you and how it makes you feel.

One critical difference is 'central sensitisation.' This happens when your entire nervous system becomes super sensitive to the tiniest possible pain signal - you quite literally feel more pain.

So what is central sensitisation?

Two Lions Walk into a Bar...

Imagine you are watching television minding your own business when a big African lion walks into the room. What happens to your body?

- Adrenaline pumps through the bloodstream, increasing heart rate, breath-



By Estelle Mitchell

www.thebodyworksclinic.com

ing, alertness, etc.

- Big strong muscles turn on; smaller muscles turn off.

- Your voice becomes louder and your speech becomes short and sharp.

- Shallow, fast breathing.

- Digestion slows.

- Memory fogs.

- Reproductive systems stop (unless you dig lions!)

- Etc

When the lion leaves the room, the body returns to normal.

But if your system has become sensitised it is like that lion follows you all the time.

So what do I do?

One of the key goals of treating a chronic pain pa-

tient is not only to find the original source of the pain and help resolve that, but also to tame that lion.

So how do these points translate to treating my patients?

- I believe them. When someone says 'doing this hurts,' I believe that it hurts them. Pain is personal. And each of my patients has their own personal pain level.

- I examine the whole body - if pain messages are long term they get confused, so where the patient feels pain might not be the original cause.

- I support and treat the nervous system.

- I talk to my patients and support them using the latest pain research - if you understand what is happening and its significance it can help enormously and make that lie on a lot less scary.

For more information on nerve pain and problems in the spine as well as accurate diagnosis please check out our blog - www.TheBodyworksClinic.com or call us on 952 883 151.

Keeping motivated throughout winter

IT'S easy to put off venturing outside for a bit of exercise when the temperature starts to drop and the days grow darker. However, it's important to keep up your routine throughout winter, otherwise your body may be in for a bit of a shock when spring rolls back around and you decide to pick things up again.

You don't have to punish yourself by embarking on a 10-mile run in cold and wet weather though. There are plenty of ways to workout indoors that will also keep your body strong during winter. Yoga, pilates and zumba are all great ways of raising your heart rate and keeping your body supple when your muscles start to stiffen as a result of the cold weather.

Another great way to keep yourself motivated is by making the prospect of exercising exciting again. Invest in some new workout clothes, especially some warmer items if you still plan on venturing out in the cold, and maybe even a new pair of trainers if the old ones are starting to look battered. You could also try out a new class or sport to help mix things up a bit.

It's also more difficult to put off getting out of bed in the morning when you have a friend waiting for you at the door so get a workout buddy. Set weekly goals with a friend or your better half and try to stick to them. You're much less likely to blow off that class if it means letting someone else down.



JUST DO IT: There are plenty of ways to make workouts exciting.

Photo by unsplash

Detoxing: decoded

THE phrase 'detoxing' is never more overused than it is at this time of year, when people decide it's time to cleanse their bodies of all the bad stuff consumed

over the holiday period. After all, new year, new you right?

However, not many people know what 'detoxing' really means and it has be-

come something of a fad phrase in recent years, used to describe everything from staying away from alcohol for a month to doing a full-on juice cleanse.

Detoxing is basically the body's way of getting rid of toxins and pollutants, which it does naturally anyway.

The body's organs are constantly working to neutralise and remove harmful substances, with the liver filtering one and a half litres of blood every minute alone.

Harmful substances encompass much more than booze and junk food; they are in everything and are impossible to avoid.

Pesticides, pollution and pharmaceutical drugs are just some of the things the body works hard to purge.

A good detox plan involves consuming more good stuff, not just cutting out the really bad stuff.

Adding more anti-inflammatory foods, such as fresh fruit and veg, to your diet and drinking more water will help your body to flush out the toxins and you could start noticing the difference almost immediately.



GOOD STUFF: Don't rely on juice to cleanse your system.

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Scottish showers

THERE'S something about plunging yourself head first into freezing cold water first thing in the morning that really gets you going in the morning.

As off-putting as it sounds, a cold shower - often referred to as a 'Scottish Shower' or even the 'James Bond Shower' - can do wonders for getting your morning off to a good start, especially if you're one of those people who take several hours to fully wake up.

Research suggests that plunging yourself into freezing water may also be good for your physical and mental health. An article published in *The North American Journal of Medical Sciences* revealed that cold water can provide relief from pain and inflammation, as well as aiding and abetting al-

most all of your body's systems. A Dutch study also revealed that taking cold showers increases alertness and productivity and reduces sick days.

This is believed to be due to the fact the shock causes us to breathe deeply, increasing our oxygen intake to help us keep warm. Therefore our heart rate also increases, sending a rush of blood through the entire body and providing a natural energy boost.

They have also been shown to help relieve symptoms of anxiety, as a study from Virginia Commonwealth University revealed that cold showers send electrical nerve impulses to the brain, providing an uplifting effect.

So the next time your boiler breaks down don't panic, just brace yourself and embrace the cold.



Photo by unsplash

FEELING FRESH: Cold showers do more than just wake you up in the morning.

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

Advertising Feature

FOR those who are still thinking about where to spend St Valentine's Day, De Bruno restaurant in Mijas has prepared a perfect menu for you.

Luxuriate in the cosy atmosphere of a top quality restaurant that is perfect for a romantic dinner and also offers discreet live music.

It would be difficult to find a better set menu for €37.50 (tax included) per person and mouths will water at the exceptional choice on offer.

As each happy couple sits down, they will be greeted by the true taste of Italy, a glass of Rosé Prosecco followed by an amuse bouche entitled the First Kiss consisting of tempura prawns in a spicy sweet and sour sauce.

Next there is a choice of either Sighs, beef carpaccio with truffle oil or Promises of Love, a tartar of superb red tuna with orange and guacamole.

Moving on to the main course there are three choices, Passion of Desire, turbot in Champagne sauce with couscous and fresh vegetables, Cupid's arrows, consisting of lamb chops with fine herbs, reduction of red wine, vegetables, mashed potato with mustard and sage.

The third option is the exotic sounding Eternal flame of love, tasty prawns in panko crumbs and mango chutney.

Love is in the air at De Bruno Mijas



DA BRUNO MIJAS: The ideal destination for St Valentine's Day.

If all of this hasn't set your heart on fire, the final course, the dessert is Burning Heart, a fantas-

tic strawberry tiramisu. This is going to prove a popular venue for St Valentine's Day and therefore

bookings need to be made at Da Bruno Mijas, so call 952 460 724 or 673 016 181, email mijascosta@dabruno.com or

reserve through their website, www.dabrunomijas.es/reservar.

Situated in the Centro Idea on the Fuengirola to Mijas road, this is a fantastic example of a family eatery offering exceptional Italian food of all types with regular special seasonal menus and a pride in serving great food at sensible prices.

The restaurant is open from noon to midnight, seven days a week but also goes that extra step to offer a takeaway option or free delivery between Fuengirola and Mijas Pueblo provided the order costs €15 or more.

There are regular special offers and there is also the Da Bruno VIP card which not only gives you the chance to accumulate points at the Da Bruno restaurants, but also offers you great discounts from a range of associated companies.

Membership is free and all you need to do is to complete a simple form next time you visit Da Bruno Mijas.

Da Bruno Mijas is situated at Ctra. Mijas km. 3.6 CC Centro Idea 29651 Mijas Costa.

Fusion Kitchen: Asian, Thai & Chinese

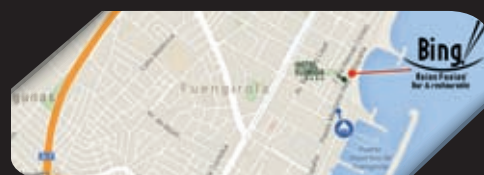


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Rugby 6 Nations

AS Rugby Union gains in popularity, so more people want to share the excitement of watching great matches on big screens in the company of other supporters.

The NatWest Rugby 6 Nations competition pits England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy against each other in a league competition starting this Saturday and running over five rounds culminating in Super Saturday on March 17.

One fantastic setting to mix with fellow fans and enjoy the matches is La Sala Banus where there are some great offers including buy two get one free on all draught beer during match times and a special - enjoy a bucket of eight Heineken



Photo Credit: Bientro flickr

TWICKENHAM: The home of English Rugby Union.

for €30 plus tax.

Complete your Rugby 6 Nations loyalty card by purchasing just six pints to be in with a chance of winning dinner for four at the exclusive Oak Garden & Grill.

Why not give it a try and then stay for a snack or dinner?

To find out more about what is on or to make a reservation visit www.La SalaBanus.com.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



WINES in Spain are classified into 69 major regions or Designation of Origin (DO) with their own set of laws and quality standards.

The best known national regions are Rioja, Ribera del Duero, Penedés, Navarra, Rueda, Cava, Rias Baixas, Jeréz, and La Mancha.

Grape names are not often used, with restaurants and shops classifying wines according to their origin, therefore it is quite common to confuse the grape name with the region.

A clear example is that Rioja refers to the DO as there is no such grape; though Albariño refers to the grape variety from the Rias Baixas region.

Here are the most common Spanish red grape varieties.

Tempranillo: The best known red also known as Tinto Fino, Cencibel and Ull de Llebre producing fruity young wines that age well in oak.

Garnacha (Grenache): Though of Spanish origin and produced in La Rioja, Navarra, Aragón and Cataluña is also found in several wine countries. It is normally blended with Tem-



RED OR WHITE: What's your tippie?

Grapes and regions

pranillo to produce fruity wines, with raspberry aromas.

Bobal: Cultivated mainly in Valencia it produces full bodied wines.

Monastrell: The typical grape of Murcia producing powerful wines with structure and strength.

Cabernet Sauvignon: Not a Spanish grape varietal but grows well here and is often blended with other grapes to produce more complex wines. Cabernet is found in La Mancha, Catalonia and Navarra.

Merlot: Another French grape variety and again found in many regions.

Syrah: Relatively popular in La Mancha and in the Mediterranean areas, it produces full bodied wines high in alcohol.

Tinta de Toro: Of the Tempranillo grape family and most typically grown in Zamora.

Cariñena: Widespread in Spain and in other wine-producing countries around the world. Other red wine grape varieties

include Manto Negro from the Balearic Islands, Negramoll and Listán Negro from the Canary Islands, Prieto Picudo from León, Brancellao and Cañío from Galicia, and Garnacha Tintorera found in Galicia, Alicante, and Albacete.

The most common Spanish white grape varieties.

Verdejo: Typical from Rueda-producing wines that are aromatic with a tropical character.

Albariño: Produced in Rias Baixas, Galicia; aromatic and crispy with a distinctive aroma and silky texture.

Godello: From Northwest Spain producing aromatic wines.

Palomino: Mainly used for Fino production in Andalucía.

Xareló, Parellada and Macabeo (or Viura): Grapes traditionally used to produce Cava.

Airen: The world's third most planted grape and traditionally used to produce the alcohol served as the base for brandy.

Happy tasting.



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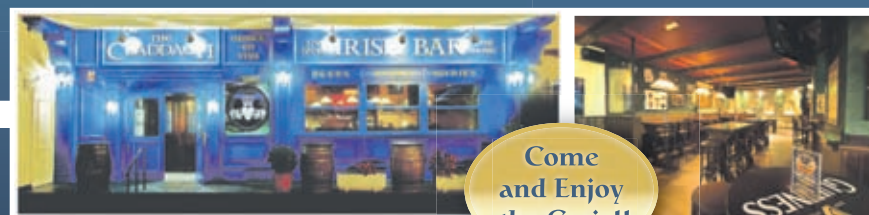
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The experience that is Cirque du Soleil

IN the early 1980's a troupe of performers decided that they wanted to do something different and set their minds on revolutionising the circus.

They started in a relatively small way, juggling, dancing, fire breathing and playing music to an ever increasing audience in a small town near to Quebec City in Canada.

The 450th anniversary of the discovery of Canada inspired the group led by Guy Laliberté to undertake a tour of that country incorporating circus arts (without animals) and a mixture of spectacular dance, lighting and music.

It was called Cirque du Soleil as 'the sun symbolises youth energy and strength' according to Laliberté.

The success of the tour inspired the team to try their luck in America in 1987 and never scared to think big, their 'We Reinvent the Circus' show was an instant success in Las Vegas and other parts of the southern USA.

From there, the next stop was Europe and a constant stream of tours incorporating some of the most gifted athletes and performers in the world with a whole range of different shows playing to packed crowds for months at a time.



Photo Credit: Cirque du Soleil

AMAZING: Five exotic unicyclists perform wonders.

The Cirque de Soleil brings their brand new TOTEM show which is described as a journey into the evolution of mankind to Malaga City for the whole of the month of June in the arena at the Cortijo de Torres Fairground.

The show follows the human

species from original amphibian state to the ultimate desire to fly. The characters evolve on a stage, evoking a giant turtle, the symbol of origin for many ancient civilisations. TOTEM explores the ties that bind Man to other species, his dreams and his infi-

nite potential.

The six interlinking parts of the performance include a pair of high flyers on trapeze, followed by an amazing Amerind dance performance by a supreme acrobat and then a pair of roller skaters also performing as Na-

tive Americans.

The slightly more esoteric part of the performance called the Sparks of Life sees members of the cast appear in exotic amphibian and fish like costumes who cross the arena by bouncing on trampolines.

Two male acrobats compete with each other on rings to a Bollywood backbeat, until a single female athlete arrives to show them how it's done!

Wearing colourful costumes inspired by the lost civilisations of South America, a team of acrobats will stun the audience by leaping across the arena on bars in an attempt to escape earth's gravity.

Then five unicyclists will amaze as they toss metal bowls with their feet and catch them on their heads as they travel around the arena, metres above the ground.

Tickets for this incredible month of circus with a complete difference start at €28 and range in price depending upon the position of the seats and whether VIP treatment is required.

Full details of pricing and availability at www.cirquedusoleil.com/spain/malaga/totem/buy-tickets.

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The West End comes

FOR those who love musical theatre, there will be a repeat visit of the Stars of the West End to the Costa del Sol this March.

Performing together will be Mike Sterling who has had starred in Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera, High Society and Oliver.

Lucy Van Gasse has appeared in Wicked and Sound of Music as well as being part of the classical band Amici Forever.

Kate Galston played the role of Diva in Priscilla Queen of the Desert after being a successful session singer for several years.

The talented trio will appear at the Felipe VI Auditorium in Estepona on Wednesday March 14, the Moonlight Bar in Benalmadena on Friday March 16, the Avanto Restaurant in La Cala de Mijas on Sunday March 18 and La Sala Banus on Monday March 19.

Fighting cancer through art



Photo Credit: Quirónsalud Hospital

ART EXHIBIT: Preparing a piece for display.

IN support of World Cancer Day which occurs this coming Sunday, the Quirónsalud Hospital in Malaga is arranging for an art exhibition to be on display from Friday until March 2.

The actual display has been organised by Dr José Antonio Ortega of the Oncology Service and will be offered for sale throughout the month with all proceeds being donated to a range of organisations involved in fighting cancer.

A number of the donated artworks have been produced by those whose lives have been hit by cancer and details of how the artists have been affected, either as patients or family members will be supplied with the paintings themselves.

All of the pieces of artwork will be mounted or framed and displayed on the walls of the hospital floors of the hospital.

Art in Action 2018

THIS Sunday The Arts Society Benahavis (formerly known as BDFAS) will stage their annual exhibition at the Gran Hotel Benahavis.

Visitors will be able to see a huge range of different artwork from digital photography to handmade lampshades and from ceramics to bronze sculpture produced by no less than 30 exhibiting artists.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to try their hand at painting, throwing a pot, or writing a riveting opening for a novel with the most compelling first paragraph winning a prize.

This year the emphasis is on celebrating the talents of young people.

There will be a schools' painting competition, to be judged on the day, an artist-led workshop for local youngsters, plus entertainment from the San Pedro Junior Rock Band which is currently receiving a great deal of praise for their performances.

For the more daring, virtual reality pods will enable them to enjoy an interactive adventure.

Doors open at noon with judging of the competitions at 4.30pm and visitors will be able to take advantage of buying refreshments as they peruse the art and join in the action.

For info visit www.theartssocietybenahavis.com.

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What's on!

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Thursday Feb 1

- Age Concern meet every Thursday from 11.00-13.00 at the Pensionista building in Los Boliches. They are located above the indoor market and just around the corner from Los Boliches station. Full social calendar throughout the year. They look forward to seeing you. Lifeline 652 537 615.
- Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in Las Lagunas. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.
- Los Jueves al Casco: Every week from 8am-12 noon enjoy special discounts, live music, free tastings and more in Marbella Old Town.
- Rio Verde Villa Romana Ruins: free guided tour from 11am to 1pm. Calle del Mar, Marbella.
- Rotary Club: meets every week at 2pm during lunch at Cortijo de Ramiro, Calle 11, Urb Guadalmina Baja, San Pedro de Alcantara. Please contact lizzie@marriageweddingserVICES.com to book a place.
- San Pedro street market: Every week from 9am-2pm, Calle Jorge Guillen.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.
- Walking Football: every week from 10.30am at the Estadio Santa Maria in Elviria. Walking Football is for men and women over 50 to play football without running or tackling and is a great way to meet new friends. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.
- 1st Fuengirola scout group meets at St Anthony's College Fuengirola on Thursday 5pm to 7pm for all young people between six and 18 years. Contact Robert Troost: 610 755 995 or Robert.troost@britishscoutinGOVERNSEAS.org.uk.

Friday Feb 2

- Age Concern meet every Friday from 11.30-13.00 at Bar Conrissa in the centre of La Cala de Mijas. They are located behind Supersol and there is plenty of free parking. They offer ad-

DO NOT MISS...

Mijas Carnaval, La Cala de Mijas, Sunday February 4

CARNAVAL season is officially upon us and there's no better place to celebrate on the Costa del Sol than Mijas.

The festivities will kick off with a colourful parade and a fancy dress competition in La Cala de Mijas, starting from 11.30am.

The parade will leave from Bulevar de la Cala and tour through the whole town, finally arriving at Parque

de la Butibamba where there will be music performances and the prizes for the best costumes during the parades will be handed out.

There is guaranteed to be something for all the family, with bouncy castles and fun activities for the little ones. The number of categories in the costume contest has also been increased to include a baby category for the first time.



PARTY TIME: Carnival dancers from previous festivities.

Further events will be held in Las Lagunas on February 17 and Mijas Pueblo on February 18.

- vice, support, help and friendship. They look forward to seeing you. Lifeline 652 537 615.
- Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at the Hogar del Jubilado in Los Boliches, Fuengirola. For more information contact 635 407 255.
- 1st Fuengirola scout group meets at St Anthony's College Fuengirola on Fridays 7pm to 9pm for all young people between six and 18 years. Contact Robert Troost: 610 755 995 or Robert.troost@britishscoutinGOVERNSEAS.org.uk.
- Christian Basilica of San Pedro de Alcantara: From 11am-1pm, free guided tour of one of the oldest Christian churches on the Iberian Peninsula. Calle Vega del Mar, San Pedro de Alcantara.
- Royal British Legion: Benjarafe branch meets every Friday from 12.30-2.30pm at Restaurante Puerta Niza, Carretera Nacional 340A Km 263.7 offering emotional and financial help to those who have served in the Armed Forces.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.
- University of the Third Age Costa del Sol: play Mah Jong every week from 10am-1pm at the PYR Hotel in Fuengirola. For more information contact +34 633 552 238 or visit www.u3afuengirolacostadelSol.com.

Saturday Feb 3

- Flamenco show: free every Wednesday and Saturday from

- 12-1pm in Plaza Virgen de la Peña, Mijas Pueblo.
- Organic market: Every week from 10am-1pm at Guadalhorce - Las Chapas.
- Puerto Banus street market: Every week from 9am-2pm near the bull ring in Nueva Andalucia.
- Triple A: Every week volunteer dog walkers required between 10am and 3pm at Calle Carril de la Mina 33 in Marbella. For more information contact 952 771 586.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.

Sunday Feb 4

- Benahavis second-hand market: Every week from 9am to 2pm, located 1km before the village on the right hand side of the road.
- University of the Third Age: Every week coffee morning from 11.30am to 1pm at the Primavera Bar, Paseo Maritimo, Los Boliches. For more information contact: 679 516 654 or visit www.u3afuengirolaCOStadelsol.com.
- Sunday market La Trocha Coin. Every week. Over 200 stalls. All welcome. For more info call 618 826 852.

Monday Feb 5

- Royal Air Forces Association Costa del Sol Branch afternoon social on the third Monday of the month at Bar El Jardin, Avenida Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmadena. Everyone is welcome, members or other-

- wise. Quiz with prize and raffle with all proceeds going to the Association to help with welfare work. For more information: www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk.
- Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at La Iglesia Bar in Benalmadena. For more information contact 635 407 255.
- RAF Association Costa del Sol: social meeting, first Monday of the month, at 12pm in Restaurante Los Morenos, Alhaurin el Grande. For more information contact secretary@rafacostadelsol.co.uk.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.
- Walking Football: every week from 7.30pm at the El Retamar pitch by the Butterfly Park in Benalmadena. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.
- 'Are you affected by someone's drinking?' Al-anon Family Groups hold a meeting at 8.30pm in the Divina Pastora church rooms (Calle Juan Breva 2), Marbella. Confidential helpline: 602 553 470.

Tuesday Feb 6

- Royal Air Forces Association Costa del Sol Branch Coffee Morning social at Restaurante Venta los Morenos, Alhaurin el Grande on every first Tuesday in the month starting at 12pm. Everyone is welcome, members or otherwise. Quiz with prize and raffle with all proceeds going to the Association to help with welfare work. For more information: www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk.

- Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 1pm at the International Baptist Church in Calahonda. Drop in for a chat and to share experiences. For more information contact 635 407 255.
- Arroyo Social and Welfare Club meets every Tuesday at Agata Apartments, Arroyo de la Miel 11.30am for 12 noon start. There is a raffle, quiz, and a game such as Play Your Cards Right, plus extras! For more information call Anthia on 634 157 042.
- Costa Women Business Group: meets every second Tuesday at 9.30am until 11.30am for business networking in La Cala. For more information contact Ali 677 251 058.
- Fuengirola Ukulele Singalong Group: meets every Tuesday 8pm at Cabaret Club in Fuengirola (next to Bioparc Zoo).
- Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in Mijas village. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.
- The Good Companions Club meets every Tuesday in Manila Bar, Paseo Maritimo, Los Boliches 12-1.30pm. For more information contact Tony White on 952 494 730.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.
- Walking Football: every week from 8pm on the 5-a-side pitches at the Estadio de San Pedro in San Pedro de Alcantara. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.

- The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions runs Tuesday nights at 7.30pm at Huber Plataforma De Arte, Calle San Antonio, Estepona. €100 prepaid concession, €15 casually. Go to 'Find Your Voice Vocal Studio' on Facebook for details.

Wednesday Feb 7

- The Royal British Legion: Torremolinos Branch meets every Wednesday in the Vanilla Bar in Plaza la Nogalera, Torremolinos (opp the railway station) from 12.30pm.
- Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at the Salon Varietes Theatre in Fuengirola. Drop in for a chat and to share experiences. For more information contact 635 407 255.
- Flamenco show: free every Wednesday and Saturday from 12-1pm in Plaza Virgen de la Peña, Mijas Pueblo.
- Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in La Cala. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.

- Malaga Picasso Museum: guided tours in English every Wednesday at 11.30am. Entry €8, children under 18 go free.
- Parent and baby coffee mornings: every week from 11am-1pm at Mundo Mania, Cancelada. Entry €5 and includes coffee and two hours of play in the baby and toddler play frame.
- TIMS (The International Music Society) Choir: rehearsals every week from 7-9.30pm in St Andrews Church, Los Boliches. A very friendly group of different nationalities. For more information contact 654 891 790.
- American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.acestepona.org.
- Sing Sing Sing! runs Wednesday mornings at 11.30am at Huber Plataforma De Arte, Calle San Antonio, Estepona. €80 prepaid concession, €12 casually. Go to 'Find Your Voice Vocal Studio' on Facebook for details.

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DICK HANDSCOMBE



Your garden in February

The value of trees

THE importance of trees within, and surrounding, villages and towns is now taken seriously worldwide. February marks the start of the season of 'Days of the Tree' (Dias del Arbol), leading up to the United Nations Day of the Tree on Wednesday March 21.

On such days, local residents of all ages join forces to support the local environmental protection (Medio Ambiente) teams. They plant up new trees, to replace those lost by fires or the drying out of mountainsides or valleys, review and improve the quality and density of tree plantings in village and town streets and squares and at home in their private gardens.

A much-needed day in our village, La Drova, has been organised by the local Residents Association for Sunday March 11. In other locations it has been gardening clubs and local councils that have taken the initiative.

In each case the main objectives are, to improve the range of trees useful for creating interesting views, improve the balance between shaded and sunny areas, protect and stimulate the growth of wildlife populations, create local supplies of medium and long-term commercial supplies of wooden fencing posts and construction beams, lop or remove dangerous trees, establish local sources of leaves and fruits for healthy infusions and to enhance personal privacy and security.



TREE-MENDOUS: Trees perform a number of useful functions in both private and public gardens.

Selections of useful native and imported trees are provided in my books 'Your garden in Spain' and 'How to use less water in your garden - a practical guide to waterwise Mediterranean style gardening worldwide.'

What is planted and when it is planted needs to

match local seasonal climates, soil depths and qualities, eventual heights and widths, and, in some cases, historical customs. Two of the longest existing tree planting days in Spain are those of the villages Alameda de los Remedios, started in 1594 and Villanueva de la Sierra, started in 1805.

It is obvious that these plantings were taken seriously, as the results are apparently still to be seen. However, in our village for instance, many plantings die within a few years due to poor planting practices, poor provision of protection from hungry animals and playful dogs, and irregular watering and weeding of young trees.

Fortunately, surviving ancient trees are now given official protection in many areas of Spain, but in others they are felled within private gardens by new owners, to reduce the need to rake or vacuum up fallen leaves and dead flowers.

SWEET POTATOES are a perfect vegetable to grow in Spain, as they thrive in sunny conditions.

However, they're not picky about where they're planted and also grow well in other parts of the garden. They also work well on a trellis or a patio planter, as they produce beautiful tubers in the autumn

that add to the lovely foliage and flowers.

In order to create the perfect environment for them to grow, build several, wide, 25cm-high ridges, spaced

about a metre apart. A row that is three metres long will produce about 4kg of potatoes. Make sure you add lots of organic compost, but avoid nitrogen-rich fertilisers

which can stunt growth.

To get the best results, plant root sprouts - or 'slips' - which can be bought from nurseries or you can save a few roots from a previous crop. Plant the slips

15 centimetres deep and about 30 centimetres apart, so they have space to spread out, then press the soil down firmly, and water well.

The potatoes usually ma-

ture in 90 to 170 days but are very frost sensitive, so make sure you plant them three to four weeks after the last frost if you live in a particularly cold area.

If it is dry, provide a few centimetres of water each week until two weeks before they're due to be harvested, then allow the soil to dry out.



PERFECT POTATOES: Don't overwater sweet potatoes or they may rot.

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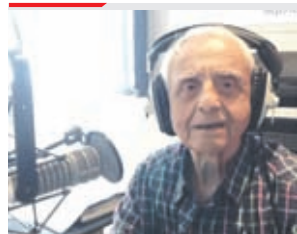
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SPONSORED BYwww.euroweeklynews.com**GOOD BOY:** Negativity can be disastrous if used on its own.**David THE Dogman**

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AS the name suggests, negativity is never good. Used with people or animals it can have a disastrous effect.

When teaching and exercis-

Negative reinforcement

ing 'sit', you pull up on the check chain, hand on your dog's rump and tell him to 'sit'. No reward is given. Is that good for the dog? Yes, he will automatically sit in time when you stop walking. He has learnt the exercise with the repetition of the action being used.

This goes for all exercises you train him in, but something is lacking. He's learnt of course, but where is the joy and the outgoing exuberance. Remember you do have to train to the stage where just a quick 'good dog' is sufficient. He needs to work every time,

not just sometimes.

Punishment of a dog should never be used. However correction of a dog should be done when it is necessary. I am not talking about if it makes a mistake in training. That's usually your fault. You may not have taught it properly.

You only have about four seconds to make any correction. Usually a growl can be sufficient. Sometimes, if the reason for the correction is sufficient, you may need to physically grab the dog either side of the neck, and even lift it off the ground using a firm grip and an even firmer voice.

You would use something like this if the dog snarls at you, goes to bite you or some other action which is more than a misdemeanour. Again, remember you only have about four seconds after the event to make the corrections. After that you are too late. Think about two dogs mixing it up. They don't hesitate to retaliate if challenged. They are instant creatures.

What is important here is that afterwards you have to correct the dog, whether it just be with 'ah.. ah' or you have to handle the dog. You must give it a command it can achieve quickly like 'sit' and then reward it immediately.

You have corrected (not punished) for the misdemeanour, and you are immediately rewarding for the command of sit, which it has done well. It's now all over. Never hit your dog or use your feet on it. All corrections must be followed by praise. Never finish on a negative, always on a positive and happy note.

Need a cat-sitter? Ensure your cat stays stress free while you're on holiday

HOLIDAYS planned? But what about the pets?

Most of us like to go away on holiday at least once a year, it's a great way to revitalise our energies. But what do we do with our pets?

There are only so many times relatives want to visit from England to look after the furry tribe.

Some pets get especially stressed or agitated if left at home for long periods, or even in unfamiliar surroundings. Some people are finding a great, and inexpensive solution, is to find house-sitters to stay in your home and care for your pets. What's more, they don't charge you any fees.

They do it as an exchange of services, offering their experience and care for your home and animals, in exchange for free accommodation.

What do you need to do?

- If you have pets and need house-sitters - Register on our site as a 'homeowner' and provide photos and general information about your location and your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £75 per year we help you at every step.

- If you have experience with home and pet-care and want to house-sit in Spain or



FURRY FRIENDS: Some pets need the security of their own surroundings.

abroad - Register as a 'house-sitter', build a profile with photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners with pets. Choose a Premium plan for £75 per year and you can build a large profile with more prominence online.

Save

Most of the pet-sitters and house-sitters who join HouseSitMatch are looking to spend time in a new location and exchange their services for free accommodation. It's a working holiday with agreed requirements on both sides.

*Client testimonial -
Teresa, pet owner in Orihuela, Spain.*

Very positive feedback the three times I have had house-sitters, all very good. Looked after pets and house. No complaints. Need to get to grips with the website though but owners of the site very helpful. (See more reviews in Trustpilot)

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HouseSitMatch.com call Lamia on 00 44 (0) 777 214 2742 or email admin@housesitmatch.com

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What's ahead this month

Welcome to your February 2018 forecast. Every month I write about how the Astrology, Numerology, and Tarot for the month ahead affect you. Below is your forecast for February 2018:

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.



ASTROLOGY: What's your vision?

Sun in Aquarius: The airy influence of this sign throughout most of February helps you to develop a vision for the year ahead. What do you desire?

Consider your passions, talents and natural abilities to help you become clearer about your goals this month. Talk about your dreams with friends and ask for help. This is not the time to go it alone. Offer support and ask for guidance where you need it.

On February 18 the sun moves into the sign of Pisces. This sensitive and intuitive sign will help you to know in each moment what is right for you, so stay present and tuned into your feelings. Now would be the perfect time to develop a daily meditation practice to

help you stay centred and calm.

Get in tune with the moon:

The new moon on February 16 is helping you to make new connections. Aspire to oneness with all humanity. Give thanks for your more challenging relationships which are helping you to grow.

Surround yourself with those who uplift and inspire you. Be the change you want to see in others. Keep your thoughts positive, as this air sign influences the way we think, and perceive the world. See the good in everyone and everything.

Numerology: Find balance

Number 2: This number is helping you to bring more balance to your life, creating a balance between work and play, rest and action. When we find balance between our mind, body and spirit, our energy flows. Consider perhaps which areas of your life you need to bring more balance to.

The High Priestess: Trust your vibes

The High Priestess in the Tarot Deck is



| FEBRUARY: A time to consider your goals.

depicted as a spiritual woman, with her foot on the new moon, and a black and white pillar either side of her. She uses her insight to make choices from a place of stillness. She reminds us to have faith and that this is a powerful quality which moves mountains.

Trust yourself and the universe when making choices. Then act as if your desire has already manifested. Becoming more accepting of yourself will help you to develop more faith. When you truly accept every aspect of yourself you will feel centred and confident.

Your 2018 forecast

Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot are ancient tools of divination which aid self-awareness.

By looking at the unique numbers and planets in your date of birth, I can guide you to become clearer, calmer and more confident about your direction for the year ahead. Contact me at sally.trotman@btinternet.com.

www.sallytrotman.com

The original wristwatch - updated!

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England

EACH year watch manufacturers reveal something of what their designers are developing in their research and development workshops. A new year is the opportunity for designers of extremely small engines to amaze, charm and seduce the fine watch collector.

Cartier - French and founded 171 years ago, a byword for luxury and the luxurious. Creators of unique watches and fabulous jewellery, reveals the updated Santos de Cartier. First created in 1904, through a collaboration between the Brazilian aviation pioneer Alberto Santos-Dumont and Louis Cartier.

The updated Santos de Cartier wristwatch is designed to be a perfect fit on the wrist. The design studios updated the wristwatch, focusing on comfort, wear and respecting the original aesthetic, from the square shape to the eight bezel screws. Sleeker lines unify the innovative strap system and the watch case. The strap system ensures all straps are interchangeable with a 'QuickSwitch' system which dispenses with the need for a tool.

MB&F - Maximilian Busser conceived of

Wait for one new wristwatch and hundreds turn up at once. Four distinctive pieces, revealed by four distinctive watch manufacturers, Cartier, MB&F, Officine Panerai and Richard Mille at the SIHH 2018, the annual fine watch exhibition held in the Swiss city of Geneva.



| EXCLUSIVE: The Moonmachine 2.

a brand and manufacture dedicated to developing radical horological concepts, working in small hyper-creative groups.

Following a career working for important manufacturers - Jaeger LeCoultre and Harry Winston - in 2005 Busser realised his dream and launched MB&F. The Moonmachine 2, is offered in three editions, each limited to 12

ITALIAN PASSION: The Astonomo.

examples, one in full titanium, with white gold moons and a light-blue sky, one in blackened titanium, with white gold moons and a dark-blue sky, and one in red-gold and titanium with red-gold moons and an anthracite sky.

Officine Panerai - Italian design and Swiss craftsmanship. Rooted in Florence,

founded 160 years ago, its maritime heritage, established by Officine Panerai's connection to intrepid Italian submariners during the Second World War, for whom highly specialised time pieces were developed.

L'Astronomo Luminor 1950 Tourbillon Moon Phase Equation of time GMT - 50mm. Updated and enhanced, an example of Officine Panerai's technical mastery. Like its predecessor, the new L'Astronomo is made to order, and the skeletonised movement, the P.2005/GLS (standing for Galileo Luna Scheletrato) is personalised to operate in accordance with the geographical place chosen by the wearer.

Richard Mille - the eponymous Swiss luxury brand was founded in 1999. Its first creation the RM-001 went on sale in 2001. The RM 53-01 is claimed to be the result of an encounter between Richard Mille and the polo player Pablo MacDonough. This watch reveals a suspended tourbillon calibre, visible through the laminated sapphire glass of its Carbon TPT® case, a complex armour of an entirely new kind for this high-risk sport and limited to 30 pieces in Carbon TPT.

These exclusive time pieces may be acquired through select networks of dealers and boutiques. Search them out. They deserve to be seen, held and worn.

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New Jaguar roars into Marbella

ALL SMILES: Alejandro Terroba, Paloma Marchiandi, Gabriel Ruiz and Daniel Merino with the new Jaguar E-Pace.



Benjamin Park/EWN Media Group

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C DE SALAMANCA Marbella has presented the brand new compact Jaguar E-Pace SUV at an exclusive event at the Dani Carcis Atelier.

The new Jaguar E-Pace was unveiled by Marbella CDS Manager Gabriel Ruiz, Dealer Marketing Delegate, Paloma Marchiandi, Daniel Merino, Sales

Manager at CDS Jaguar Land Rover and Alejandro Terroba, Director of Marketing at the lavish event.

Jaguar's brand new E-Pace is described as an extremely spacious five-seater SUV, with the design and performance of a sports car but with four-wheel drive.

The sporty exterior de-

sign is inspired by the F-Type and is characterised by the distinctive Jaguar grille, while the DNA of the Jaguar sports cars is also evident in the silhouette of the roof line and in the emblematic design of the side windows.

One of the E-Pace's most impressive features is its

digital connectivity.

A next-generation touchscreen system allows drivers to use their favourite apps through Jaguar Land Rover's InControl, while four 12-volt charging points and five USB ports can be included, as well as a 4G Wi-Fi hotspot for up to eight devices.

It is also the first Jaguar that only incorporates both Ingenium gasoline and diesel engines.

The four-cylinder Ingenium 2.0 diesel engine is available with 150 hp, 180 hp and 240 hp, while the gasoline version four-cylinder Ingenium turbo 2.0 is offered with 249 hp and 300 hp.

The 300 horsepower engine means that the E-PACE is capable of doing 0-100 km/h in just 6.4 seconds

Alan Volckaerts, Vehicle Line Director of the Jaguar E-Pace, said: "The E-Pace has the best of both worlds: the dynamism of the Jaguar sports cars and the functionality of the compact SUVs."

"The latest addition to the Jaguar Pace family provides comfort, interior space and intelligent storage solutions, along with attractive manoeuvrability as well as the new Ingenium, gasoline and diesel engines from Jaguar."

Orders are now being taken for the E-Pace at C de Salamanca, with prices starting at €37,450.

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Advertising Feature

Forest Hills Tennis Club, a place to play and enjoy

NESTLED in the hills above Estepona is a tennis club that used to be for members only, but has now been opened to the public by its new owner Fernando Gil.

Everyone who comes to the club for the first time is amazed by the beauty of the setting and the excellent facilities offered to both tennis and padel players alike.

The club has a restaurant, a bar and a games room if you fancy a game of pool or darts before or after your tennis.

But there is plenty more on offer.

There are 10 tennis courts, five clay, five hard, and six padel courts. They have three Spanish and one English coach, to cater for different nationalities. In fact, a variety of nationalities is a great aspect of this club, that one becomes aware of on a first visit.

The club has a social mix three days a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12pm to 2pm when, for €10 each, a player gets a drink of their choice and a



ANYONE FOR TENNIS: Some of the playing facilities at the club.

tapa, as well as some fun tennis.

For more serious tennis players a good range of levels can be found at the club. Their English coach and recent ITF winner, Tony Davison, organises the social mix, as well as matches for the more serious tennis players, making sure that everyone is enjoying tennis at their own level.

Last month Forest Hills Tennis Club hosted a Veterans ITF Tour-

namment for the second year running, which is one of a number of tournaments held annually along the Costa del Sol.

Tony, and his wife Kathy, also organise tennis groups from the UK. Using their past experience they are able to provide different tennis packages to suit everyone.

No club is complete without junior players coming up the ranks, and private lessons, as well as



group sessions, for different age groups are available.

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INJURED: Nedovic suffered a nasty ankle sprain during the side's victory over San Pablo Burgos.



Photo by Unicaja

Serbian star out for 2-3 weeks

UNICAJA will be without key point guard Nemanja Nedovic for between two to three weeks after he suffered a sprained ankle.

The Serbian suffered the injury after landing awkwardly following throwing a three in Unicaja's 85-78 victory against San Pablo Burgos at the weekend. He was forced to withdraw from the match and subsequent tests at the Hospital

Quiron Salud Malaga revealed a grade II sprain in his right ankle.

If he progresses well, he may return in time for the Copa del Rey, which begins on February 15.

Jeff Brooks is also expected to spend a spell on the sidelines after he suffered a similar ankle sprain towards the end of Unicaja's game Euroleague game against Baskonia.

Brooks' injury is not believed to be as serious however, and he may recover in time for the team's match tomorrow (Friday).

Unicaja return to Euroleague action tomorrow (Friday) as they travel to Moscow for their match against Khimki, while they face UCAM Murcia in the Liga Endesa on Sunday at 6pm.

Top three finish for golf wonderkid

by Jay Emery

GOLFING ace, Oliver Strang, continues to impress with another top three finish in an international tournament, this time in the US Kids Australian Junior Open.

The eight-year-old, based in Caceres, flew to Sydney before making his way to Riverside Oaks Golf Course to compete on one of the top 100 golf courses in Australia. Speaking to the *Euro Weekly News*, Oliver's father Christopher said despite "battling jet lag", he managed to finish third on the first day with a +1. The 44 degree weather and heat exhaustion "had a massive effect on all the players walking," he added.

The second day started off well, with Oliver making birdies and an eagle, but in a difficult section of the course, he hit the



GOLFING ACE: Oliver Strang in competition and (inset) claiming his medal.

ball into the water and, as he went to take his drop in shot, slipped and hit into the water again.

He kept his composure and managed to three-putt the hole, finishing the day with an eight.

Overall he finished with a total of +6, originally placing him joint fifth, but after scoring discrepancies were found he ended joint third out of 26 of the best golfers of his age.

"He stood tall and accepted that golf is golf and things are sent to challenge us, he was a true warrior and picked himself up and congratulated the winners," his father said.

Having returned from Australia, Oliver is now waiting to hear if he has qualified for the World Championships in the USA in August.



CHAMPIONS: Spain won their 1st European Handball Championship.

Spain are European Handball Champions

SPAIN has been crowned European Handball Champions for the first time after a 29-23 win over former World Champions Sweden in the final. In what turned out to be a thrilling match, the Swedes raced into a three goal lead early in the first half and dominated the remainder, deservedly taking a 14-12 lead into the half-time interval.

Spain's Alex Dujshabaev, who was named in the team of the tournament, told media after the match: "After four losses in finals of the European championships, we knew we had to give everything in our power and play the best we can."

"In the first half, they were the ones that outplayed us, they were better, but we talked in the break and told ourselves we are about to play the last 30 minutes of the tournament."

Their talk during the break clearly worked as Spain soon put on an 8:1 goal spree to turn the match on its head.

Ferran Cole and David Balaguer scored five goals each, while backs Raul Enterrios and Alex Duishabaev pitched in with four apiece.

Spain were also indebted to their stand-in goalkeeper, 38-year-old Arpad Sterbik, who pulled off some crucial saves in the second half.

Cabopino Golf Marbella

CostaLessGolf
Weekly News
with
Ron Garrood



CABOPINO GOLF is located on the border between Marbella and Mijas Costa, opposite the charming little Cabopino Port.

The course was designed by Mr Juan Lignes Creus, whose layout presents spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding pine forest.

The course with 5.170 metres; and par 71, has three par 3's, two par 5's and the rest par 4's amongst the many spectacular holes, the par 4, third hole would be the one to mention.

The tee box, perched on the side of the cliff, presents you with a tee shot that has a drop of nearly 80 metres to the fairway, and then you face an elevated green protected by a large bunker. Holes 13 and 15 are also attractive, with streams and lakes. The 10th tee provides a magnificent view of the back nine and the Mediterranean Sea.

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CABOPINO GOLF: Great sea views.

facilities of the Golf Academy and Driving Range.

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BARCELONA star Lionel Messi has hit the post an incredible 13 times already this season. The Argentinian hit the post again during his side's win against Alaves at the weekend, surpassing the 12 times he hit the woodwork in the 2014/15 season.

The Costa Del Sol's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

by Benjamin Park

LIONEL MESSI scored a late free-kick to secure all three points for Barcelona after a second-half fight back saw them win 2-1 against struggling Alaves. The runaway leaders fell behind to a shock first-half opener through former Manchester City and Celtic striker John Gudetti's strike and the 17th placed side held the lead for most of the match before Luis Suarez broke their resolve in the 72nd minute.

Alaves seemed to be heading for a memorable draw against the runaway leaders, but that man Messi stepped up to score a trademark free-kick, albeit not his best, to break Alaves hearts.

The result leaves Alaves sitting dangerously just two points above the relegation zone, while Barcelona retained their 11 point lead at the top of La Liga after Atletico had cruised past Las Palmas earlier in the day.

Second half strikes from Antoine Griezmann, Fernando Torres and Thomas Partey were enough to see the 2013/14 Champions past Las Palmas at the Wanda Metropolitano and keep some pressure on Barca.

Elsewhere, Real Madrid moved to within two points of third placed Valencia as they brushed the Valencians aside 4-1 to ease pressure on boss Zinedine Zidane.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored two first half penalties before Santi Mina replied for the hosts, but two late strikes from Marcelo and Toni Kroos saw the current champions move to within two points of third place with a game in hand.

Last year's Champions remain just a point ahead of Villarreal though, as they continued their good form to beat

While Villarreal pushed on, Sevilla stumbled as their quest for Europa League qualification hit a snag with a 1-1 draw against Getafe.

Sevilla seemed on course for victory after Lucas Muriel's 72nd minute strike opened the scoring, but Angel replied for the away side with a 93rd minute equaliser to secure a point as Getafe moved into the top 10.

Following their historic Copa del Rey quarter-final victory over Real Madrid, Leganes continued their red hot form as they beat Espanyol 3-2 on Sunday.

Espanyol's Mario Hermoso scored possibly

La Liga roundup

Messi magic spares Barcelona's blushes



MAGIC: Messi saved the day for Barcelona with a late free-kick.

one of the strangest hat-tricks in history as he managed to score two own goals, before getting one back for the side in the final minutes.

Ten-man Deportivo La Coruña let a 2-0 lead slip in the final 10 minutes as Ivan Ivi scored a quickfire double for Levante who staged a dramatic late comeback to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Deportivo looked set to leapfrog their opponents out of the relegation zone after Adrian Lopez and Florin Andone put the hosts firmly in control, despite playing with a man less from the 34th minute after Celso Borges saw red.

But they let the lead slip in the final 10 minutes as Ivi made the most of some slack defending to ensure that Deportivo remain in deep trouble.

In the weekend's other fixtures, bottom side Malaga managed to grab another point as they

drew 0-0 with Girona, while Athletic Bilbao drew 1-1 with Eibar, and in the Monday night game, Celta Vigo overcame Real Betis 3-2 thanks to an Iago Aspas double.

Results		
Friday, January 26		
Athletic Bilbao	1-1	Eibar
Saturday, January 27		
Villarreal	4-2	Real Sociedad
Malaga	0-0	Girona
Valencia	1-4	Real Madrid
Deportivo La Coruña	2-2	Levante
Sunday, January 28		
Leganes	3-2	Espanyol
Atletico Madrid	3-0	Las Palmas
Sevilla	1-1	Getafe
Barcelona	2-1	Alaves

Monday, January 29		
Celta Vigo	3-2	Real Betis
Fixtures		
Friday, February 2		
Real Sociedad	vs	Deportivo La Coruña
Saturday February 3		
Eibar	vs	Sevilla
Real Betis	vs	Villarreal
Alaves	vs	Celta Vigo
Levante	vs	Real Madrid
Sunday February 4		
Getafe	vs	Leganes
Espanyol	vs	Barcelona
Girona	vs	Athletic Bilbao
Atletico Madrid	vs	Valencia
Monday February 5		
Las Palmas	vs	Malaga

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