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ISSUE No. 1702 | 15 - 21 February 2018 **AXARQUÍA - COSTA TROPICAL » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM



DEVASTATED: A minute of silence is held for Maria Adela Fortes Molina (INSET) who was found dead at her home (INSET).

Three held for arson

THREE boys have been arrested for starting a spate of fires in Rincon de la Victoria.

The children, aged 12, 15 and 16, have been handed over to the Office for Prosecution of Minors after they were identified by a police officer in a playground.

The boys allegedly started a series of fires in the municipality between January and February 2. The last of the blazes took place at a municipal materials depot at around 1.30pm when the children were seen running away from the building before it burst into flames.

Before that, on January 31 another fire was started at the same warehouse near the Arroyo del Benagalbon.

After the second blaze, police caught the boys as they were in a nearby playground before informing their relatives of their alleged crimes.

The council will now clear the sites over the coming weeks although the material damage caused to the sites has not yet been ascertained.

Rincon de la Victoria's mayor, Francisco Salado, praised, "The speed with which the officers identified the alleged perpetrators with the aim of holding the culprits responsible for the latest fires which have caused different property damage."

He added, "Citizen security is a priority for this council, and we are working to take new measures to increase it."

Shock stabbing shakes town

by Sally Underwood

A man who allegedly stabbed his partner almost 30 times in La Viñuela has been remanded without bail.

Jose Manuel Olea was arrested by police in Marbella under suspicion of carrying out the brutal attack and charged with murder.

The victim, 44-year-old Maria Adela Fortes Molina, was found dead at her home on Monday after Guardia Civil officers were called to an address in the Los Romanes neighbourhood shortly before midnight.

Ms Fortes Molina's son told police he had seen the accused leave his mother's building at around 6pm, leaving a trail of blood between her home and his car.

After discovering the woman's body, police learned the alleged perpetrator had made off by car before they arrived.

Officers began searching for Mr Olea before tracking him down in Marbella on Tuesday. He was allegedly discovered in bloody clothes, claiming that he was drunk and didn't re-

member what had happened. However, when police carried out a breathalyser test on the suspect, the results came back negative.

A court in Velez-Malaga ordered him to be sent to prison without bail yesterday (Wednesday), where he will await trial. The accused reportedly did not contest the decision.

A police spokesperson explained the victim and her alleged attacker, both Spanish,

had been in a relationship for a few months. Neighbours told Spanish media that the couple met online after Maria became widowed four years ago, and the man had lied to her about being a policeman.

It was also revealed that Maria lost a 17-year-old son to multiple sclerosis just two months ago. Jose Juan Jimenez, the mayor of La Viñuela, said the "family has suffered a lot."

A minute of silence for the

victim was held at 12pm across Malaga Province yesterday (Wednesday), including Malaga City, which was attended by President of Andalucia Susana Diaz, as well as the town of La Viñuela where the stabbing occurred.

The 'terrible stabbing murder' was also condemned by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Twitter.

For the gender violence helpline call 900 200 999 or 016.

Sex abuser detained

A 24-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting his friend.

The Spaniard now faces prosecution after his alleged victim told police he abused her after she passed out drunk at a house party in Almachar.

Officers say the man offered to help the girl after she felt ill after drinking alcohol. The accused allegedly escorted his victim to a room in the rural house where, "she was sexually assaulted by her friend, who took advantage of her state of unconsciousness due to the effects of alcohol."

According to the victim, the man later admitted the facts to her during a mobile messaging chat.

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NEWS EXTRA**Mayor off scot-free**

A FORMER mayor has avoided prison after his conviction was overturned. Jose Manuel Martin Alba, who formerly governed Alcaucin, had been sentenced to eight and a half years for granting construction licences on undeveloped land.

Lorry smash

A 35-YEAR-OLD driver has been injured after he hit a lorry on the A-7 in Velez-Málaga. The man is not thought to have been seriously hurt.

Drugs bust

THE GUARDIA CIVIL has brought down five drug dealers in Nerja. Six men aged between 30 and 40 have been arrested in the drugs bust for selling hashish and cocaine.



SWEET HAUL: Police officers discover cocaine hidden inside pineapples.

Hash for cash

AN Italian fugitive has been detained in Malaga City.

The 53-year-old man now faces conviction at a Spanish court after he fled a 20-year sentence in his home country for drug trafficking.

The Italian, who was wanted on an international arrest warrant, was arrested for promoting, organising and financing a gang responsible for smuggling drugs between Italy and Spain. Police say his organisation tried to import 30 kilos of hashish into Italy.

The man was identified after he was found in a judicial building in Malaga City before being arrested and taken

to a police station.

The arrest is one of several involving drug traffickers in

Malaga Province in recent months. Last December, North Africa's largest cocaine smuggler was detained following an investigation by the National Police and the Tax Agency.

Officers say the man's family used real estate and financial institutions as a smokescreen for their operation. Officers also uncovered one ton of the narcotic hidden inside pineapples as it was shipped from South America.

Police were forced to search thousands of fruits after finding 33 kilograms of cocaine hidden in cylinders coated in yellow wax inside pineapples in one shipment from Costa Rica.

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Train in vain

WAR has broken out among politicians over a train line along the Costa del Sol.

Francisco de la Torre, a member of the left-leaning PSOE party, has now demanded a study into the impact of a high-speed train after his political opponents condemned the plans.

Members of the Partido Popular (PP) and Ciudadanos parties instead want to extend the current suburban train network, while Izquierda Unida (IU) supports plans for a faster connection along the coast.

The project could see a Malaga to Nerja line built, allowing thousands of holidaymakers and residents faster access to the Costa del Sol's largest airport.

Last week it was revealed Miguel Angel Heredia, deputy leader of PSOE in the Junta de Andalucía, explained, "14 years ago they began to talk about the project of a railway corridor connecting Nerja with Estepona, there was even talk of figures, but the crisis came and many of these projects had to be parked."

He added, "like any railway investment that is not a metro or tram, is the exclusive responsibility of the central government," explaining, "when the crisis began to emerge, the time should have come for the Ministry of Public Works to promote projects of this nature and connect the eastern coast of Malaga on a railroad."

He concluded it was important to have a connection with Malaga, "whose epicentre is the airport," condemning the fact "there is no type of railway connection with the eastern coast of the Axarquía."



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TACKLING ABUSE: DAVID NOON EXPLORES THE GENDER VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC THAT CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE THROUGHOUT SPAIN

LETTERS

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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Avocado thefts go on

FOURTEEN people have been arrested for stealing around 2,000 kilos of avocados in Axarquía. Members of the Guardia Civil brought down a group stealing the crops from farms in Rincon de la Victoria, Benamargosa, Algarrobo and Benajárfar and intending to sell them wholesale.

Health crisis

MEMBERS of the Ciudadanos party have called on Nerja Council and the Junta de Andalucía to finally open the town's long-awaited health centre. The project, which began in 2003, has not yet been given a location.

Convent plea

A GROUP defending the Las Claras convent in Velez-Málaga has met to demand funding for reform works. The building, which has been declared of Cultural Interest (BIC), dates back to 1555 and has been deteriorating since its closure in 2009.

€480,000 estate

THE Provincial Council has put aside almost half a million Euros to finish an industrial estate in Riogordo. The site, which measures more than 30,000 square metres, will include 43 plots for various companies, and is expected to be completed this year.

Water wars

POLITICIANS are at loggerheads over plans to raise the price of drinking water. Members of the PSOE party believe company Aguas de la Axarquía should raise prices to dig itself out its €5 million deficit. Members of the Partido Popular (PP) voted against the increase.

Year of the Dog

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 1



DOG DAYS: Celebrations - typically an explosion of sound and light - will take place in major Spanish cities including Madrid and Barcelona.

Spain to mark Chinese New Year

THE countdown to one of the world's most colourful celebrations is almost over.

Ushering in the Year of the Dog - symbolising luck - Chinese New Year 2018 starts tomorrow (Friday). Around a sixth of the world's population is gearing up for the event, including tens of thousands in Spain.

Following the lunar calendar and

taking place on a different day between January and February each year, festivities continue for around two weeks.

Normally starting by sweeping their homes, Chinese people also celebrate by decorating with red posters and lanterns, setting off fireworks, eating traditional food and attending dragon puppet parades, while children often

receive 'luck money' in red envelopes or increasingly via a special app.

Each year is given a name from the Chinese zodiac, with each of the 12 sections represented by an animal.

Famous dogs include Dame Judi Dench, Sophia Loren, Alan Rickman, Steven Spielberg, both Prince William and Kate Middleton, Justin Bieber, and Madonna.

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Something's goat to give



Photo by Coixet/Instagram

BILLY GOAT: A young single man from Bielsa dressed as a 'Tranga.'

THIS is a 'Tranga,' in other words one of the young single men from the village of Bielsa in the Pyrenees who dresses in the skin and horns of a male goat and scares the children during the annual carnival. The Bielsa Carnival is the town's most important festival of the year. It has been celebrated unchanged allegedly since the beginning of the village's origins, retaining the essence of the tradition and the characters involved.

In the past, the celebrations used to go on until Shrove Tuesday, but now have been confined to the last weekend before Lent. Neither the Spanish Civil War nor the ensuing dictatorship put a halt to the festivities.

The Trangas dress up as goats, wearing a skirt, sandals and bells hanging around their waist. Their faces are painted black with soot and oil

and they carry a large stick, also called a 'Tranga' hence their name. The Trangas symbolise fertility, and are charged with 'picking up' the single women at the door of their houses during the carnival. The young women are called the 'Madamas,' they dress in regional costume which usually consists of silk dresses, white stockings and shoes and coloured ribbons. They adorn themselves with earrings and necklaces and are considered a symbol of purity

The carnival begins with the making of 'Cornelio Zorrilla' - a doll made from old clothes stuffed with straw - on Thursday night that is hung in the window of the town hall throughout the carnival. The party then ends on Sunday evening, when Cornelio Zorrilla is judged for his misdeeds, sentenced to death and burned at the stake.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you agree with Formula 1's decision to replace grid girls with grid kids?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Would you prefer to see La Liga or Premier League coverage in the Sports section of the Euro Weekly print edition?
 Both **54%** Yes **35%** No **11%**

EWN online this week
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TOP 5 stories



SCAM: Some of the money seized.

- 4,592** views Expat couple 'ran €700,000 online scam' in southern Spain
- 3,882** views 'Heart breaking' death leaves dog rescue centre in crisis
- 3,126** views Snow in Spain: Planes, trains and automobiles affected
- 3,104** views In pictures: Traffic freezes as Spain is covered in snow
- 2,795** views Weather experts warn of freezing temperatures as low as -12° Celsius in Spain

**For week 5 - 12 February*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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Something fishy

REVELLERS at Nerja's carnival have made a political statement over the town's delayed sewage treatment plant.

Organisers decided not to roast a chanquete fish this year 'until it can swim in a sea without sewage.'

More than 700 people participated in the demonstration, wearing black and ceremonially burying the fish in protest over the works which stalled almost a year ago.

The furore comes after an unfinished treatment plant has seen raw sewage piped directly into the sea. Nerja's mayor, Rosa Arrabal, praised the demonstration saying, "We need the works to be resumed and completed by the Ministry of Environment once and for all. This is not a political issue but an environmental and tourist one."

The project, which was meant to have been completed in June 2016, came to a standstill in April when its constructors, Isolux-Cosan-Corviam, went bust, leaving the plant 95 per cent complete.

Nerja is the only large resort in Malaga to still pour untreated sewage into the sea, using underwater pipes on both Burriana and Torrecilla beaches.

The underwater plant is now around 30 years old and said to be in bad condition with one of its pipes bursting last March, causing waste to pump out 400 metres off Burriana Beach.

BACK IN BLACK: Protestors at Nerja's carnival.



Photo credit: Ayuntamiento de Nerja

OUR VIEW

Don't look back in anger

It has become clear that the majority of expatriates living in Europe are opposed to Brexit and would prefer to maintain the status quo.

Looking back, it would appear that David Cameron could not have been more mistaken in his belief that the British electorate would vote to remain in the European Union and had he not been so gung ho, he could still be in power.

The concept of expatriate rights to vote has been something of a moveable feast with no obvious rhyme nor reason to the current 15-year limit which has also been 20 years and seven years at different times.

One of the election promises given by the conservatives prior to the 2015 general election was that expatriates who had been registered to vote or had been born in the UK would have the right to vote, granting the franchise back to those who had lost it.

That was three years ago and finally, the government is getting its act together in order to return the vote but arguably for Cameron and the country, it's too little, too late!

Having found the time to force through the referendum bill, it was ironic that the government couldn't actually grant the promised rights to the disenfranchised who were probably more interested in voting on their immediate future than voting in a second general election (which they missed anyway).

Had Mr Cameron actually given expatriates the right to vote in the Referendum it is possible that Brexit would be a broken dream for the likes of Nigel Farage, David Davis and Jacob Rees Mogg.

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Ex-partner strikes out

THE ex-girlfriend of Stoke's Spanish footballer Jese Rodriguez has spoken out about their acrimonious split.

In an interview with *Look* magazine Aurah Ruiz, 28, said: "I found out that Jese broke up with me via Twitter."

She went on to slap down claims that the striker - currently on loan at the Premier League club - makes regular checks on baby son Nyan, who was born prematurely last June and has remained in hospital since.

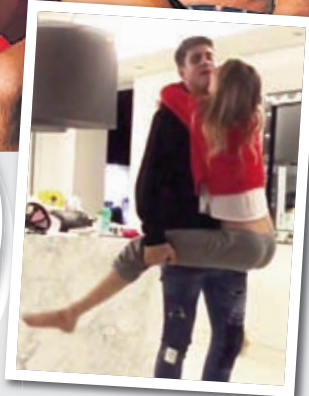
It comes after Rodriguez recently announced his separation on social media, as he wrote: "I want to ask respect for her [Aurah], my children, relatives and my person, since we have had very difficult and delicate moments for our son Nyan."

Aurah responded: "Do not ask them to respect me and your son when you were the first to have disrespected us."

"You failed us at the worst moment of our lives."

'INJURED': Alicia Campello, Álvaro Morata and (inset) the offending dance move.

Photo by Aurah Ruiz/Twitter



Alicia Campello/Instagram

Chelsea star faces WAG backlash

CHELSEA'S €65 million Spanish striker Alvaro Morata has set tongues wagging on social media. It comes after manager Antonio Conte said that the forward might not play again this season due to a niggling back injury.

But the 25-year-old ex-Real Madrid hitman's wife shared a video in which the couple are seen dancing before he lifts her into the air.

Currently pregnant with twins, Italian model Alice Campello, 22, captioned the video: 'I love youuu my heart's friend.' And Chelsea fans were not impressed, as one wrote: 'He's supposed to have a bad back!!!!' Another added: 'He should play instead of dancing.'

The attacker has struggled to settle in London following his summer transfer, despite bagging 10 goals in 20 Premier League games. He recently told Spanish media that "Madrid is Madrid" amid rumours that French club Paris St Germain are set to target him this summer.

Totally syked!

SHE'S the former Boddington's girl who recently admitted that she prefers a toyboy lover.

And it has emerged that Melanie Sykes, 47, has been secretly dating German pro golfer Martin Kaymer, 33, for three years.

A comparison of their social media photos revealed that they are often in the same place at the same time, and have visited Spain 'together' on several occasions.



BY 'ECK: Melanie Sykes.



Photo by Elsa Pataky/Instagram

STOKED: Chris and Elsa.

Land of Oz

THEY'RE the movie star couple who enjoy chilling out at their Byron Bay home.

But Thor actor Chris Hemsworth, 34, has revealed that it wasn't easy to convince Spanish wife Elsa

Pataky, 41, to move Down Under.

"I just needed to show it to her. I just needed to bring her here and then it was hard to get her to leave," he said in a magazine interview.

Booze warning

ONE of the stars of hit TV sitcom Benidorm has hit out at the drinking culture on the show.

Sherrie Hewson, 67, told UK media: "We are drinking ourselves to death."

"When I first started Benidorm... I was out every night, it nearly killed me. It had to stop."

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Sports neglect

POLITICIANS are complaining La Herradura's sports facilities remain neglected.

Members of the PSOE party are criticising the council after works to the polideportivo on La Herradura beach began in November last year, but were halted almost immediately.

The delay has seen a war of words brewing on Facebook after the councillor responsible for La Herradura, Juan Jose Ruiz Joya, last year promised the building would be renovated. He later took back his commitment, however, claiming the facilities were illegal as they are located on a beach.

Councillor Ruiz Joya then claimed he had tried to get the Junta de Andalucía to take over the site and put in place legal sports facilities which provided better safety.

A spokesman for PSOE criticised the move, claiming the councillor had been dishonest and suggesting no request had been sent to the Junta. Councillor Ruiz Joya countered by posting a letter addressed to the Junta dated January 31 on Facebook corroborating his story.

This was not enough to assuage the concerns of PSOE, however, which took to the social media site to say the request had been sent to the wrong body and should instead have been delivered to the General Directorate of Sustainability which is governed by Spain's central government.



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Almuñecar

THE TOUR: Took in some of Almuñecar's most important monuments.

Dig for knowledge

MORE than 50 people took part in a tour of Almuñecar's archaeological sites.

The event, which was organised by the town's Department of Culture, was directed by municipal archaeologist, Elena Navas.

The tour began in the Plaza del Acueducto, near La Carrera and then moved to Castillo de San Miguel where participants received information about some of the area's most important

monuments.

The tours, which are held one Sunday every month, are designed to raise awareness of Almuñecar's archaeological heritage which dates back almost 3,000 years.

Among those is the Factoria de Salazones (salt factory) located in Parque El Majuelo. The archaeological complex dates back to the end of the fifth century BC, or the beginning of the fourth century BC, and is a reminder Almuñecar

founded a large part its economy on the salt industry.

The area later achieved widespread fame as evidenced by quotes from various contemporary books praising the area's salt.

Other of the area's archaeological features include three recently discovered necropolis and the Roman Villa of Salar, which was excavated by Doctor Julio Roman Punzon, as well as the Roman theatre at Guadix.

No place like home

ALMUNECAR Council has hired an employee in order to uncover anyone who does not yet have their 'empadronamiento.'

The council launched the campaign after finding there are around 2,452 people who have not yet officially declared the area their home.

The project, which has been launched in various languages, will see a council worker knocking on doors and asking people to confirm whether they live in the area.

There are no penalties for not having declared earlier, but the council is eager to increase the number of people on its lists as this affects the amount of funding it receives from Spain's central government.

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NEWS EXTRA

Beach bar boost

NERJA Council is allowing all current beach bars to keep their licence for a ninth year after it claimed it did not have time to put the sites out to tender.

All aboard

WORK to restore Velez-Malaga's old train station has resumed after a termite problem was resolved. The building dates from the early 20th century and will be restored in a €222,205 project.

Off sick

THE mayor of Velez-Malaga will be temporarily replaced after it emerged he will be in hospital for surgery for around 10 days. Mayor Antonio Moreno Ferrer will be replaced by his deputy, Marcelino Mendez-Trelles.



Credit: Guardia Civil

THE LANDFILL: Is at the centre of a court case.

Landfill €240,000 cover-up

NERJA Council has been accused of 'hiding' a fine over the town's illegal landfill.

Opposition party Partido Popular (PP) has asked Nerja's tripartite council team to give them access to documents they believe prove the council covered up the fine.

The PP claim the €240,401 sanction was handed down to the council between 2013 and July 2017 over Nerja's Rio de

la Miel landfill. The town's mayor, Rosa Arrabal, in turn claimed the fine was 'a continuation' of four filed against the previous PP-led council between 2001 and 2008.

An ongoing court case into the illegal dump has seen several high profile figures summoned for questioning, including Mayor Rosa Arrabal, and former mayor, Jose Alberto Armijo. Last December Mayor

Arrabal swore to a judge she had no knowledge of the site until August 31, 2016, 16 days before it closed after running for 18 years.

Nerja's councillor for the Environment, Jorge Bravo, also denied receiving any complaints about the landfill, telling the court he had not been passed them by the council's lawyer, Sergio Ramos.

The site, which is located in

the National Park of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, to the east of Nerja, was previously a working quarry owned by the council.

The area was later used as a dumping ground for 16 years, between 2000 and September 2016.

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

€2,000 taxi theft

A CAB DRIVER has been arrested for stealing from passengers. The 33-year-old man faces prosecution after it was alleged he stole documents and €2,000 cash from travellers at Malaga Airport.

Police say the man took the possessions from the baggage trolley of travellers who had just arrived from Paris. Officers claim the accused took advantage of the group's lack of attention as they were loading bags into a taxi.

The travellers left the airport without noticing the loss before the driver allegedly returned the trolley and bags to the scene.

After discovering their possessions missing, the group reported the theft to the police who identified the alleged culprit as one of the taxi drivers. Officers recovered the bag, with their documents inside. After identifying the alleged thief, €500 in cash was also recovered.

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New fire station now open

NERJA'S newly opened fire station will serve 40,000 people. The 3,600 square metre plot currently houses three firefighters but is expected a fourth

will be hired 'soon.' The building, which finally opened last week after more than a year-long delay, may be called upon to protect up to three

times this number of people when the population triples in summer.

The station will now provide fire assistance for Torrox and Frigiliana as well as Nerja after the Provincial Council finally handed the property over to the construction company responsible for the works.

Before that the project had stood for almost a year after a dispute over billing brewed between Nerja Council and the Provincial Council.

The town's Councillor for Civil Protection and Firemen, Oscar Jimenez, explained the delay was caused by a bill for modifications to the building's original design. He added a conflict had broken out between Nerja's City Council and the government in Malaga, who are sharing the costs, over who should pick up the additional €90,000 bill.

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LENNY KRAVITZ

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Advance purchase tickets 16€ (20€ on the night) - Tickets can be purchased at Lux Mundi Centre, Torre del Mar

Economy to soar in 2018

THE European Union (EU) has handed Spain a financial boost.

In a new report, the bloc has raised the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2018 from 2.5 to 2.6 per cent.

The move suggests that the EU does not feel that the Catalan independence crisis has adversely affected the Spanish economy.

Spain's output is currently growing at a much faster pace than the EU average, but is likely to fall to 2.1 per cent by 2019.

Store wars check out

By Matt Ford

SPANISH supermarket chain Mercadona has strengthened its position as national market leader.

The company last year accounted for 24.1 per cent of supermarket sales in Spain - a year-on-year rise of 1.2 per cent - according to an annual report by consumer consultancy Kantar Worldpanel.

Nine out of 10 Spanish families bought at least one product from a Mercadona store during 2017, and the Valencian firm was responsible for 20 per cent of all fresh product

sales across the country.

French rival Carrefour placed second in the national ranking with an 8.7 per cent market share, 0.2 per cent up on 2016 after it launched a series of takeover bids for hypermarkets formerly belonging to Basque chain Eroski.

Madrid-based brand Dia completed the top three as it scooped 8.2 per cent of the market, falling 0.3 per cent, while the Eroski Group also lost 0.3 per cent to finish the year with a 5.6 per cent share.

German chain Lidl continues its steady growth in Spain, with sales increasing by 0.2 per cent to take a 4.3 per cent portion of the market.

"Mercadona is revamping its stores and has become fashionable again," said Kantar Worldpanel's retail director, Florencio Garcia, adding that the company is also leading the pack in online sales.

Spanish households spent an average of €4,190 on groceries during 2017, with Catalans (€4,599) splashing out the most and Valencians (€3,932) the least.

€656m offload to spark buyout

THE battle for Spanish toll operator Abertis goes on. It comes after the company agreed to sell its majority stake in satellite company Hispasat to national grid operator Red Electrica for around €656 million.

And the move could speed up the battle between Hochtief - the German offshoot of Spanish constructor ACS - and Italian motorway operator Atlantia, with both companies having launched bids to buy Abertis. Spain's stock market regulator rubber-stamped Atlantis' bid in October but has not yet endorsed Hochtief's offer.

Quote of the Week

"The prime minister and I have gathered support and believe there exists a clear possibility the Spanish candidacy will win." Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos on his bid to clinch the European Central Bank vice presidency this year.



Photo by Twitter

COMING CLEAN: Celebrities and 'attractive' people can no longer be used in ads.

Number's up for online gambling

THE Spanish government is launching a crackdown on gambling publicity.

Radio and television adverts for online betting firms will be banned in 'childrens' hours,' which are to run from 8-9am and 5-8pm.

It is the second time that the Treasury has tried to restrict the placement of gambling promotion in the face of rising addiction among youngsters, but a

raft of new rules were nipped in the bud in the wake of strong criticism from the sector and a lack of agreement with other political groups.

The new laws also prevent betting companies from using celebrities or fictional characters 'attractive or striking to children' in adverts, and extends to promotion of the football pools and all forms of lottery.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Yacht a disaster

LUXURY boat builder Oyster Yachts - which has a boatyard in Mallorca - has collapsed with 400 employees set to lose their jobs despite the firm receiving orders worth more than €90 million-worth in 2017.

Winding up

ITALIAN multinational Enel has struck a deal for its Spanish subsidiary Endesa's renewable energy firm Enel Green Power España to buy five wind farms from Madrid-based Elawan Energy and Genera Avante for €178 million.

X Factory

SPAIN'S industrial output last December grew faster than at any point since May 2000, official data has revealed, with a year-on-year increase of 6.1 per cent far outstripping the forecasted 3.9 per cent rise.

Hotel outlay shoots up

INVESTMENT in Spanish hotels has broken all records.

A jaw-dropping €3.9 billion was spent last year, smashing the previous high of €2.6 billion set in 2015.

More than 180 hotels changed hands, compared with 147 in 2016, while the average revenue generated by a room over the course of the year rose to

€119,000, a 30 per cent year-on-year increase.

As 82 million foreign tourists flocked to the country, entrepreneurs splashed €478 million on converting existing properties into hotels and buying new plots.

Revenue from the resort sector shot up by 69 per cent, outperforming its urban counterpart which grew by 31 per cent.



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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 12

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,600.00	-4.40	-0.27	22,389.57
Associated British Foods	2,550.00	-47.00	-1.81	20,567.70
Admiral Group	1,875.00	22.50	1.21	5,225.86
Ashtead Group	1,945.00	-17.50	-0.89	9,703.95
Antofagasta	889.50	12.70	1.45	8,643.99
Aviva	499.00	5.60	1.13	19,800.65
AstraZeneca	4,815.00	-30.00	-0.62	61,356.88
BAE Systems	566.00	-2.00	-0.35	18,099.35
Barclays	193.00	-1.10	-0.57	33,120.77
British American Tobacco	4,550.00	137.50	3.12	103,156.42
Barratt Developments	561.00	12.80	2.33	5,550.74
Berkeley Group Holdings	4,035.00	275.00	7.31	5,044.22
British Land Co	632.50	-0.90	-0.14	6,260.06
BHP Billiton	1,471.00	-4.00	-0.27	31,153.06
Bunzl	2,050.00	27.00	1.33	6,913.51
BP	477.75	7.70	1.64	95,910.84
Burberry Group	1,540.00	42.00	2.80	6,458.70
BT Group	235.00	-0.50	-0.21	23,366.08
Coca-Cola HBC	2,249.50	17.50	0.78	8,198.83
Carnival	4,807.50	20.50	0.43	10,084.16
Centrica	124.50	-0.30	-0.24	7,073.20
Compass Group	1,467.50	-39.00	-2.59	23,965.71
Croda International	4,274.00	0.00	0.00	5,680.11
CRH	2,513.50	117.50	4.90	20,100.44
DCC	6,717.50	25.40	0.38	6,012.14
Diageo	2,457.50	20.00	0.82	60,590.05
Direct Line Insurance Group	380.50	2.00	0.53	5,066.88
Evrax	366.00	29.20	8.67	4,823.16
Experian	1,571.00	54.00	3.56	14,104.30
easyJet	1,625.00	39.00	2.46	6,387.11
Ferguson	5,165.00	31.00	0.60	12,858.03
Fresnillo	1,303.00	65.00	5.25	9,078.53
G4S	267.00	7.90	3.05	4,020.18
GKN	404.00	4.50	1.13	6,964.90
Glencore	366.00	5.00	1.39	52,736.85
GlaxoSmithKline	1,290.00	-1.00	-0.08	64,644.95
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,670.50	-6.50	-0.39	8,141.68
Halma	1,160.00	4.00	0.34	4,460.79
Hammerson	477.00	14.00	3.02	3,677.27
HSBC Holdings	732.00	-1.60	-0.22	146,689.51
International Consolidated Airlines Group	622.50	25.90	4.34	12,277.96
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,580.00	76.00	1.69	8,616.06
3i Group	915.00	2.00	0.22	8,882.45
Imperial Brands	2,636.50	-47.50	-1.77	25,598.30
Informa	698.30	38.70	5.87	5,489.52
Intertek Group	4,805.00	31.00	0.65	7,738.68
ITV	163.50	3.50	2.19	6,641.93
Just Eat	783.00	-23.80	-2.95	5,464.18
Johnson Matthey	3,515.00	264.00	8.12	6,291.77
Kingfisher	353.50	3.80	1.09	7,573.46

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	967.50	30.60	3.27	6,943.75
Legal & General Group	236.50	-18.20	-7.15	15,176.48
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	68.80	1.20	1.78	48,719.46
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,955.00	92.00	2.38	13,585.15
Micro Focus International	2,294.00	288.00	14.36	8,933.42
Mediclinic International	583.50	16.50	2.91	4,206.71
Marks & Spencer Group	300.00	13.90	4.86	4,706.89
Mondi	1,847.50	81.50	4.61	8,783.67
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	216.65	0.29	0.14	5,109.76
National Grid	778.10	17.50	2.30	25,693.53
NMC Health	3,225.00	-97.86	-3.05	6,675.44
Next	4,795.00	73.00	1.55	6,997.20
Old Mutual Group	228.50	1.90	0.84	11,330.45
Paddy Power Betfair	7,717.50	-432.50	-5.31	6,788.67
Prudential	1,779.00	9.00	0.51	46,337.53
Persimmon	2,565.50	156.50	6.50	7,395.01
Pearson	670.50	-10.50	-1.54	5,386.37
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,500.00	190.00	3.01	45,043.67
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	281.00	6.50	2.37	33,935.16
Royal Dutch Shell	2,255.00	12.50	0.56	104,791.72
Royal Dutch Shell	2,270.00	-26.00	-1.13	85,996.38
RELX	1,490.00	16.00	1.09	15,637.85
Rio Tinto	3,805.00	48.00	1.28	50,656.64
Rolls-Royce Group	822.50	8.50	1.04	15,264.26
Randgold Resources	6,520.00	452.00	7.45	5,708.57
RSA Insurance Group	632.90	36.90	6.19	6,147.40
Rentokil Initial	290.50	11.00	3.94	5,144.53
Sainsbury (J)	224.50	-20.40	-8.33	5,392.49
Schroders	3,465.00	115.00	3.43	7,736.75
Sage Group (The)	722.10	40.10	5.88	7,388.73
Segro	580.90	29.10	5.27	5,570.26
Shire	3,085.00	10.00	0.33	28,152.09
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,514.00	74.00	3.03	5,779.33
Sky	1,049.50	1.50	0.14	18,015.30
Standard Life Aberdeen	412.40	27.00	7.01	11,660.06
Smith (DS)	471.85	3.15	0.67	5,078.95
Smiths Group	1,584.50	84.50	5.63	5,959.98
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	445.00	17.00	3.97	6,070.33
Smith & Nephew	1,257.50	30.50	2.49	10,748.07
SSE	1,192.50	-13.00	-1.08	12,229.73
Standard Chartered	797.00	-0.50	-0.06	26,291.84
St James's Place	1,132.75	4.75	0.42	5,968.03
Severn Trent	1,553.00	-295.00	-15.96	4,366.27
Tesco	195.50	-3.80	-1.91	16,580.01
TUI AG	1,629.50	43.50	2.74	9,298.34
Taylor Wimpey	184.45	2.50	1.37	5,960.95
Unilever	3,790.00	-30.50	-0.80	47,059.66
United Utilities Group	701.50	8.10	1.17	4,850.95
Vodafone Group	205.55	3.75	1.86	54,323.06
WPP Group	1,293.00	12.00	0.94	16,521.82
Whitbread	3,785.00	24.00	0.64	6,907.93

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3M	225,210	+1.04%	2,320	132,141,64
AMERICAN EXPRESS	91,7200	+3.83%	3,3800	77,413,08
APPLE	156,410	+0.81%	1,260	785,051,29
BOEING CO	332,830	+0.96%	3,170	194,643,11
CATERPILLAR	149,210	+2.21%	3,220	87,764,60
CHEVRON	113,50	+1.07%	1,20	213,261,70
CISCO SYSTEMS	39,530	+1.96%	0,760	193,814,70
COCA-COLA	43,13	+0.07%	0,03	181,717,46
DOWDUPONT	69,48	+1.86%	1,27	159,961,73
EXXON MOBIL	75,78	-0.38%	-0,29	317,458,71
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,9400	+3.39%	0,4900	127,523,01
GOLDMAN SACHS	249,30	+1.20%	2,95	92,685,95
HOME DEPOT	184,1200	+1.60%	2,9000	211,385,86
IBM	149,51	+1.30%	1,92	136,341,30
INTEL CORP	43,9500	+2.81%	1,2000	202,971,60
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	110,0400	+2.00%	2,1600	373,734,48
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	129,5300	+2.51%	3,1700	343,310,40
MC DONALD'S CORP	160,8000	+1.15%	1,8300	126,601,04
MERCK AND CO. NEW	54,87	+0.26%	0,14	147,609,99
MICROSOFT	88,180	+3.73%	3,170	670,629,31
NIKE	65,49	+4.80%	3,00	84,063,36
PFIZER	34,1600	+1.58%	0,5300	201,054,66
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	79,920	-0.37%	-0,300	199,134,08
TRAVELERS CIES	137,08	+1.53%	2,07	37,044,74
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	125,03	-1.92%	-2,45	97,960,57
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	220,96	+2.08%	4,50	211,721,86
VERIZON COMMS	49,88	+1.71%	0,84	200,626,90
VISA	116,32	+2.16%	2,46	206,418,54
WAL-MART STORES	99,3700	-0.65%	-0,6500	292,475,92
WALT DISNEY CO	103,0900	+1.72%	1,7400	153,329,79

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NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 12

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
MobileIron, Inc.	\$ 4.80	0.80 ▲ 20%
MCBC Holdings, Inc.	\$ 26.35	4.10 ▲ 18.43%
Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 3.50	0.50 ▲ 16.67%
Aquinox Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 15.30	1.90 ▲ 14.18%
Fluidigm Corporation	\$ 6.59	0.81 ▲ 14.01%
Atara Biotherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 41.80	5.10 ▲ 13.90%
Innoviva, Inc.	\$ 15.49	1.69 ▲ 12.25%
Imperva, Inc.	\$ 46.90	4.85 ▲ 11.53%
Malibu Boats, Inc.	\$ 33.46	3.46 ▲ 11.53%
Spartan Motors, Inc.	\$ 15.70	1.60 ▲ 11.35%
Ever-Glory International Group, Inc.	\$ 3	0.30 ▲ 11.11%
Most Declined		
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 2.33	0.59 ▼ 20.21%
Web.com Group, Inc.	\$ 17.70	3.90 ▼ 18.06%
Expedia, Inc.	\$ 103.69	19.34 ▼ 15.72%
Liberty Expedia Holdings, Inc.	\$ 37.93	6.98 ▼ 15.54%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 11.52	1.98 ▼ 14.67%
Arcturus Therapeutics Ltd.	\$ 5.10	0.8256 ▼ 13.93%
iClick Interactive Asia Group Limited	\$ 5.21	0.84 ▼ 13.88%
Woodward, Inc.	\$ 71.80	11.13 ▼ 13.42%
Sierra Wireless, Inc.	\$ 15.875	2.425 ▼ 13.25%
Arotech Corporation	\$ 3.075	0.425 ▼ 12.14%
Presidio, Inc.	\$ 15	2.05 ▼ 12.02%

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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£1.0621

£1.3098

£1.2021

£1.4604

£1.3473

PRICE MOVEMENT

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-£0.0114

-£0.0253

-£0.0233

-£0.0400

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Roadmap for the future

CONNECTED CAR PARTNERSHIP REVEALED

SPANISH car maker Seat has joined forces with French telecommunications behemoth Orange.

The partnership will see the companies work together to turn the private car into the occupants' 'second digital home.'

In addition to the so-called connected car, the agreement will lay the groundwork for creating new entertainment options to improve driver and passenger experience, including bringing the digital home or office experience to car users.

The firms will also launch a loyalty scheme offering benefits to those who buy into new 'connectivity and mobility options' as they are released.

Speaking in the wake of contracts being signed, Seat's head of business development, Arantxa Alonso said that "we feel privileged to have strategic arrangements with partners such as Orange that give a major boost to our development of car connectivity.

"This partnership opens up a large collaborative space for both companies that are pursuing a common goal - promote the use of the connected car and make the car user's experience easier and more efficient."

Luis Santos, Orange Spain's director of innovation and new digital services, added: "This strategic agreement with Seat is a great step for Orange in its strategy of connected objects and Big Data and opens the door to innovations and new developments surrounding cars of the future, which will contribute to helping us achieve our goal of connecting our customers with what truly matters most to them."

Initial projects will reportedly focus on developing new audio, visual and educational apps focused on ensuring maximum safety while optimising functionality.

The loyalty scheme will involve a cross-company series of offers



ONLINE EXPERIENCE: A Seat demonstration and (inset) Luis Santos and Arantxa Alonso announce the deal.

based on frequency of use, with purchase discounts, rewards and gifts all set to feature in an attempt to ensure customers do not defect to other brands.

The car manufacturer will also take advantage of Orange's Big Data technology to glean insights into user preferences and develop products that most closely match their needs.

It comes after Seat recently confirmed agreements with other multinationals, including Amazon - with plans to integrate the smart voice Alexa assistant in the company's cars - and Google for its Waze navigation system.

Google to help fend off e-shop expansion

INTERNET giant Google is fighting back against online retailers.

The firm's general director in Spain and Portugal, Fuencisla Clemares, said that the company aims to be a key ally of high street shops in the battle against Amazon and other virtual rivals.

"We are working closely with companies including El Corte Ingles, Carrefour and Mediamarkt to understand how we can help them be more successful retailers using our technological strength," she said.

Speaking at the New Economy forum in the Spanish capital Madrid, Ms Clemares added that online commerce is growing fast in Spain, and that traditional brands must find ways of competing which capitalise on their assets, particularly the in-store experience.

Her comments come days after El Corte Ingles president, Dimas Gimeno, told Spanish media that his company "is seeking partnerships to resist Amazon."

DEAL SEES COUNTRIES INCREASE TIES

Investment Sheikhdown

SPAIN is cementing its business ties with Saudi Arabia.

The level of investment between the two nations is set to skyrocket after officials met during the second session of the Saudi-Spanish Joint Committee in the Arabic country. Co-chaired by Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Marisa Ponce Garcia, and Saudi Minister of Commerce and Investment, Majid Al-Qasabi, a wide range of topics were reportedly discussed during the talks.

Spanish Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Alvaro Iranzo, told local media: "The joint committee held the second session in [Saudi capital] Riyadh and the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and issues and common interests, in accordance with the joint cooperation agreement that was signed by the two countries in Madrid on February 22, 2007."

He added that meetings are to be held in Madrid and Riyadh on an alternating basis, with the first having taken place in the Spanish capital in 2014.

Mr Iranzo described the talks as "very successful" and revealed that the



BIG BUSINESS: The Saudi and Spanish delegations sign new agreements.

committee discussed bilateral trade relations, the promotion of trade and economic relations, plus mutually-beneficial investment opportunities in commerce, investment, economy, energy, industry, mining, science, technology, water, agriculture, finance, housing and tourism.

"Many aspects of bilateral relations were discussed with both sides keen to further enhance economic and technical cooperation in line with Vision

2030," the envoy said.

Building new collaborations in the private sector was also a hot topic, with exchange visits between delegates set to help identify import, export and investment opportunities, share expertise in the small and medium-sized business sectors, and enrich the experience of entrepreneurs.

"Companies from the kingdom doing business in Spain, and Spanish companies working in Saudi Arabia, will be encouraged to help further enhance bilateral cooperation," Mr Iranzo confirmed.

Saudi firms SABIC and Alfanar have already made significant investments in Spain, building large factories, and the official revealed that trade between the countries "stands at €5.5 billion ... and we have scope to further increase the volume.

"Saudi Arabia is passing through an exciting time with Vision 2030, and Spain is willing to be a partner in development for a positive change and for national transformation."

Question marks over €3.6bn deal

BRITISH private equity firm CVC Capital Partners is ramping up attempts to buy a stake in Spanish utilities firm Gas Natural.

The investment group aims to purchase a 20 per cent share from energy company Repsol, and is reportedly negotiating a deal to secure external financing to cover around a third of the cost, with the overall package set to be worth €3.6 billion.

But the price has come into question after €3 billion was wiped off the company's stock market value, after the Spanish government announced a series of potential cuts to electricity and gas company subsidies.



DONE DEAL: Spain's Mediapro has seen off its Italian rivals.

Football deal sparks fury

SPANISH multimedia company Mediapro has signed a €3.15 billion deal to broadcast Italian football.

The announcement comes after bosses from Italy's Serie A pulled out of talks with Sky Italia after the latter refused to pay the sum, set by the league's adviser Infront Sports & Media.

Former Italian prime minister and AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi's Mediaset were also in the running.

But the deal - which covers the next three seasons and must be rati-

fied by the Italian antitrust authority - has sparked outrage, with Sky suggesting it could take legal action.

Under Italian regulations, Serie A rights cannot be held by a single company, but Mediapro has snapped up all packages available to independent intermediaries due to a lack of alternative bids, although they only cover the Italian domestic market.

The sale of international rights will be handled by New York-based sports firm IMG, with the three-year deal reportedly worth €371 million per season.

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Spain holiday sales slip as Turkey gains ground

HOLIDAY giant Thomas Cook says that Turkey and Tunisia are hot destinations for UK holiday-makers in 2018, with Spain viewed as expensive.

Chief executive Peter Fankhauser revealed that the brand is shifting capacity east this summer, with Turkey the standout market so far.

"From all that we see so far, customers' appetite for a summer holiday abroad shows no sign of slowing down. We've taken early action to meet strong demand for destinations in the eastern Mediterranean.

"This has enabled us to shift capacity out of the Spanish islands where we have seen a continuation of the margin pressures we experienced last summer, particularly for the UK market."

Around 30 per cent of the company's holiday

sales are traditionally to Spanish destinations, but last year the figure approached 40 per cent.

Mr Fankhauser added: "The very strong demand for Spain is returning to slightly more normal levels. Spain is getting more expensive compared to the good value-for-money proposition we are seeing in the eastern Mediterranean."

Greece is also selling strongly, and the travel agent is about to relaunch in Tunisia, after a three-year absence in the wake of the deadly Sousse beach attack during which 30 British holidaymakers were killed.

The group's revenue rose by 7 per cent to just under €2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017, as it benefited from the collapse of airlines Monarch and Air Berlin.

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Back to the 'norm' this week!

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



ONE thing I am heartily sick of are the increasing issues in today's society that appear to somehow, cause 'offence.' Whinging snowflakes, the luvvy PC brigade and female libbers, who constantly inveigle us, seem to exhume more of this self-righteous, attention seeking pathetic claptrap every day.

Well, this week I've lined up a few of my own 'dissents.' And I have plenty!

Beginning with the recent TV commercial, which shows in full close up, two girls sticking their tongues down each other's throats. Aware as I am of the voyeuristic attraction of this, and by no means against this depiction in the context of a story line, I object most strongly to this being presented as an advertising 'norm' in front of young, impressionable children in my front room. What about the media onslaught of sneering ungrateful foreigners telling us how the British should run the country?

The building of mosque after mosque, instigated by people from countries who don't even accept the teaching of other religions, let alone the erection of buildings to worship them in.

Normal heterosexuals being forced to accept extreme gender issues, often nastily.

The cruel bleeding to death of animals for

**THE GLORIOUS
POLITICALLY
CORRECT
MASTER RACE**



Photo credit Twitter

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS: Have we gone too far?

Halal meat.

Being told how to discipline your children, usually by those who have none of their own.

Minorities being given undemocratic precedence over majorities, simply because they are minorities. Moves to change our time honoured, much loved fairy tales, because they are deemed sexist or encouragers of sexual abuse.

Children, who are already shy and confused,

being forced to use 'gender free' toilets at schools.

The removal of centuries old important works of art, merely because they are considered offensive to a very small minority.

Unidentifiable people being allowed to walk among us masked and shrouded from head to foot. Being told by immigrants we should change our culture to accommodate theirs.

Benefit scroungers who consider their bone

idle existence a 'right.'

Authorities who, citing human rights, kowtow to the criminal perpetrators, while denying the rights of their victims.

Women who would like us to re-establish Victorian attitudes, which presumably would include the placing of skirts on the legs of grand pianos.

The term 'Happy Holidays' replacing the titles of our religious celebrations.

The ongoing, paedophile abuse cover ups of politicians and celebrities.

Being considered racist for uttering some incongruous trivial remark.

Objected to by individuals, who, by their extreme reactions, reveal themselves as the biggest racists of all.

Our appeasing, beleaguered police, afraid to react to the insults and disorder of ethnic minorities in case they get 'upset' or run riot.

The growth of 'no go' areas and Sharia courts.

And the biggest affront of all? Women who constantly gripe about men who never put the seat down! There you are. That should 'offend' just about everyone.

*Keep the faith
Love Leapy*

columbists@euoweeklynews.com

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

**TECH FOR
THE TIMID**



All I have to do is stream

LP or not LP, that is the question, says Terence Kennedy

IF you're still listening to music on your own CDs, MP3s or even (gasp) cassettes, the bad news is that you're officially a dinosaur. Guilty as charged m'lud.

The reality of our techno-age is that we're spoilt for choice in how we 'consume' our music these days. Great for us, tough luck on the performers who apparently earn less than 0.005 euro cents every time their song is 'streamed' on Spotify or other music sites.

Remember when we might have paid €10 for a CD? Now if I played the same track every day for a year on Spotify (definitely grounds for divorce), the artist might get €2. It's little wonder that performers make their real money these days from concerts and merchandising.

Not that we're much more moral now when it comes to pirating music. Napster unleashed a frenzy of MP3 music sharing nearly two decades ago. Streaming was supposed to put an end to piracy, but in fact 40 per cent of users currently 'stream-rip' music (rising to 53 per



MUSIC STREAMING: Half a cent a track.

cent among the young), with YouTube as the absolutely leakiest source.

Those of us who want to do the right thing with music have a cornucopia of ways to access music these days.

The most popular music sites right now are Spotify, Deezer,

Tidal, Amazon Prime Music and Apple Music.

Through your phone, tablet, computer or, increasingly, digital assistants like Amazon's Echo series or Google Home, you pay a small fee each month, or even get the music for free if you can put up with advertising, and you get ac-

cess to huge music libraries to listen to whenever and wherever you fancy.

Pay around €10 a month (what we used to shell out for a single CD), and in some cases you can actually download the music to listen to offline, AND you lose the ads.

Amid this onslaught of music for the millions, it's perhaps surprising that good old-fashioned vinyl LPs are on the up, with 40 million sold last year.

Who would have thought that the snap, crackle and pop of needles on plastic would break through the niche nostalgia barrier, normally reserved for anorak steam enthusiasts, philatelists and people who thought life was better when we all lived in cardboard boxes and walked 30 miles to school. Barefoot.

What certainly isn't coming back is the late and largely unlamented cassette, a triumph of convenience over quality. Even if the amazing ability to compile your own mixtape back in the 70's and 80's meant cassetting there was half the fun.

Play it again Sam

DIGITAL assistants are well on their way to being the fastest-growing techno-toy of the era, with nearly 60 million due to be sold in 2018.

Using one like Amazon's market-leading Echo can be a truly spooky experience. Simply say 'Alexa, play...' plus the genre, artiste or actual track of your choice and away it goes in high quality, either on its own or through your home stereo if you've hooked it up by cable or Bluetooth.

Sadly, trying out the sniggeringly popular command, 'Alexa, play baby-making music' shows that Amazon's engineers really need to get out more.

I can't speak for anyone else, but the cheesiness of its 'elevator muzak' choice had my partner and I in gales of laughter. 'Baby-making' romantic that certainly ain't.

Spain ramps up fight against domestic violence

Taking on gender violence

While love has been in the air to mark Valentine's in recent days, gender violence continues to be a major concern across the country. David Noon looks at what measures Spain has already put in place and asks what more can be done?

VALENTINE'S DAY is a time to celebrate, to unashamedly kiss in the streets without fear of being judged and to shower your other half in heart-shaped gifts.

And while the presence of lovebirds frolicking gaily through the streets may turn the stomachs of singletons, it can be an especially traumatic time for the women, and men, who are trapped in an abusive relationship.

For while a lot has been done - and is being done - to tackle

24 per cent of domestic abuse cases relate to married couples



domestic violence, it is still an ugly stain on the nation and the world as a whole.

In 2017 alone, some 47 women had died at the hands of their partners in Spain.

Thousands more domestic violence cases are reported each year, and more worryingly still is the number that go unreported.

There were 28,281 officially registered female victims of gender-related violence in Spain in 2016, a 2.4 per cent rise from the previous year, according to the country's National Statistics Institute (INE).

The rate of abuse is highest in people aged 25-29, with three out of every 1,000 requiring some form of official protection.

In terms of teens, there were 569 victims of domestic violence recorded in 2016, a slight decrease

compared to the previous year.

At the other end of the scale, complaints by women aged 75 and older increased by nearly 15 per cent, while offences against those aged between 40 and 44 increased by 8.5 per cent.

Across all age ranges 24 per cent of domestic abuse cases relate to married couples.

And there were few signs of change at the start of 2017.

The year had in fact started off with some of the worst figures for gender-related murders in Spain, with 16 women killed by partners or ex-partners as early as March 2.

The backlash from these shocking figures saw seven women from the Asociación Vel-la Luz, a Galicia-based organisation working with domestic violence survivors, go on a 25-day hunger strike in Madrid's Puerta del Sol.



TOO LATE: Arrest of Jose Parejo after he killed his ex-wife.

TRAGIC: Ana Orantes on TV appearance.



Horror story that started a movement

AFTER suffering at the hands of an abusive husband for four decades, Ana Orantes bravely went on television to retell her traumatic ordeal.

Joined by her youngest daughter Raquel, Ana retold horrific tales of how her recently divorced husband had submitted her to continuous beatings, forced her to drink, to have sex against her will and constantly insulted her over a 40-year period.

Her aim was to raise awareness of a situation that many women suffered in Spain behind closed doors but did not dare to mention in public.

Some 13 days after the interview, Jose Parejo beat his ex-wife until she was unconscious, tied her to a chair and then burned her alive in front of 14-year-old Raquel.

Parejo died in prison after being handed a 17-year jail term.

But more poignantly, hundreds of people lined the streets of Granada to

pay their respects to Ana on the day of her funeral.

Spain stood united in agreement that something had to be done to stop gender violence.

And yet, some 20 years after Ana's death, women are still dying at the hands of their husbands and Ana's daughter Raquel is demanding more to be done.

In an open letter broadcast on Cadena SER in December, Raquel lamented that 'almost nothing' has been done to prevent cases such as her mother's from happening again.

"I would love to tell you everything has changed, that there is political will and that all the people who work to eradicate violence against women have managed to move forward, but that is not the case, the victims are still the same and continue to kill with impunity. Unfortunately, we are still second class citizens," she said.



PROTESTS: Thousands take to the streets in Madrid.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS:
24 per cent of domestic abuse cases relate to married couples.

Latest reforms

AS part of a wider reform of Spain's gender violence and domestic abuse laws, the government has introduced 200 reforms to legislation. Among the reforms are the following:

- The status of victim will be extended to women who have not yet filed a criminal complaint, to allow them to access safeguards and assistance
- Mechanisms for identifying victims of gender-based violence will be established in hospital emergency rooms and primary care
- Children orphaned by gender-based violence will have priority access to state benefits including educational support. Their guardians (excluding the abuser) will receive tax benefits and priority access to housing
- Tougher sanctions for gender-based crimes committed on the internet
- School curriculums to include lessons to tackle sexism and raise awareness of the feminist movement

ing figure in the ruling Popular Party and while some activists argue that it doesn't go far enough, it is most definitely an encouraging step in the right direction.

The long road to this point was started in 1997 when 60-year-old Ana Orantes was beaten, thrown over a balcony and then burned to death by her ex-husband after repeatedly complaining to authorities about his violent behaviour (see Horror story that started a movement).

Ana was the 59th woman to die at the hands of her partner that year and her death was the final straw for many.

It led to seven years of protests, parliamentary debates and finally legal battles.

At the end of it, in 2004, the government introduced a law designed to reduce the number of domestic violence cases.

A network of courts was set up to specialise in the matter and funds were ploughed into programmes aimed at supporting surviving victims of abuse.

It came after 71 domestic murders were recorded in 2003, leading to reinvigorated protests for change.

Yet, while the reforms were initially seen as a sign of progress it didn't take long for cracks to begin to appear with activists readily pointing out where the law fell short.

Before the latest reforms many campaigners demanded legislation that properly tackles the issue once and for all.

"We need legislation that really addresses femicide, that really gives it the importance it needs," said Isabel Muntane, director of the Master's Programme on Gender and Communication at the Autonomous

University of Barcelona.

"Women are being murdered for being women, and it seems that society is immune to these murders. We always say that if it were football players being murdered, there would be a social revolution."

In fact, in the 14 years since the dedicated courts were created, official statistics record some 796 women have died as the result of domestic abuse.

However, according to the activist-run site *Feminicio.net*, which compiles an unofficial count of femicide murders not exclusive to romantic partnerships, the number of women killed since 2004 as a result of gender violence is closer to 1,500.

"The official femicide count doesn't include the murders of minors, sex workers, murders done by family members, trans-phobic murders," said Muntane. "If we're not aware of the reality of all femicides, we're not aware of the magnitude of the problem."

Following the economic crisis in 2008, the government also slashed funding to many previous-supported programmes set up to tackle gender violence.

In total, government funds allocated to dealing with gender violence have been cut by some 29 per cent over the last decade.

Although you could be forgiven for looking at the latest measures with a pinch of cynicism, the introduction of new reforms should hopefully start moving that figure in the other direction once more.

One thing is for sure: a lot more still needs to be done to stamp this unnecessary evil out once and for all.

28,281
officially registered
female victims of
gender-related
violence in
Spain in
2016



Shocking study

AN EU-wide study carried out in 2014 found that gender violence and domestic abuse is an issue that transcends borders. In fact, the statistics in the study show that there is need for greater reforms and tougher laws across the continent in order to tackle the problem head on.

Here are some of the key findings from the study:

- One in 10 women have experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 15, while one in 20 has been raped

- One in five women have experienced some form of stalking since the age of 15, with 5 per cent having experienced it in the 12 months preceding the survey

- However, three out of four stalking cases reported in the survey never come to the attention of the police

- One in 10 women have been stalked by a previ-

ous partner

- Of women in the survey who indicate they have been raped by their current partner, about one third (31 per cent) say they have experienced six or more incidents of rape by their partner

- Just over one in 10 women experienced some form of sexual violence by an adult before they were 15

- Most violence is carried out by a current or former partner, with 22 per cent of women in relationships reporting partner abuse

They were joined by millions more women - and men - on International Women's Day who marched in the Capital as well as cities across the country demanding an end to gender violence.

And the Spanish government took note.

In fact, Spain should be applauded for recent measures it has introduced (regardless of whether or not you believe they should have come into force before now).

Set out in July and brought into force at the turn of the year, some 200 new measures have been put in place in relation to domestic abuse and gender violence (see Latest reforms).

These range from providing greater education about gender violence at schools, to enforcing greater sanctions to those prosecuted and offering better protection for those who report violent partners.

It was hailed as an 'unprecedented event' by Javier Maroto, a lead-

569 teenage
victims of
domestic
violence
recorded in
2016



796 women
officially killed
in act of
domestic
violence since
2004



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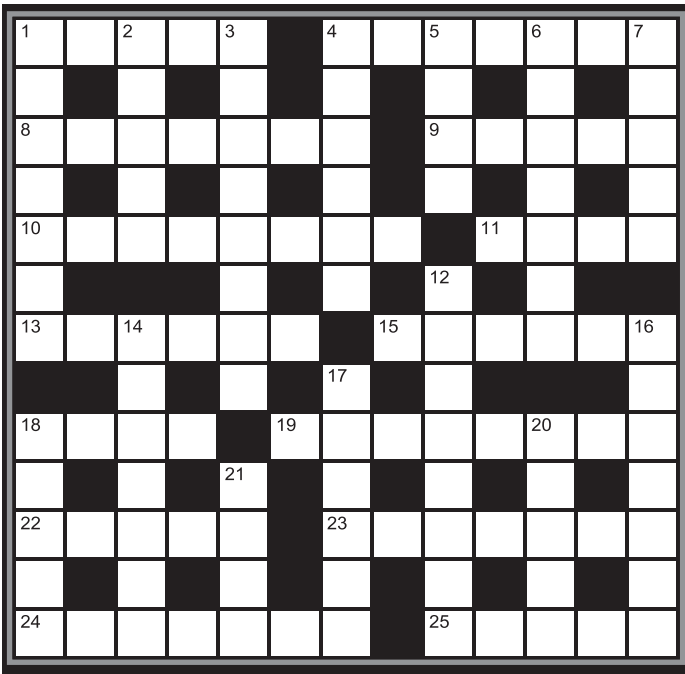
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Places one vessel inside another (5)
- 4 Rattles baffled young film actress (7)
- 8 Name of bloke to steal cattle, it's said (7)
- 9 Dance in a state of uncertainty (5)
- 10 Stick with musical animals (8)
- 11 We must accept silver as payment (4)
- 13 Scottish beginners wrap an ancient manuscript (6)
- 15 Bird of prey, a sort of parrot (6)
- 18 Abit of apathy is a way of life (4)
- 19 Use girl outside fairground ride (8)
- 22 Anointed muddled oldie (5)
- 23 Rearranging set with needle is unproductive (7)
- 24 Priests drunk some spirits (7)
- 25 Paper money produced by musician (5)

Down

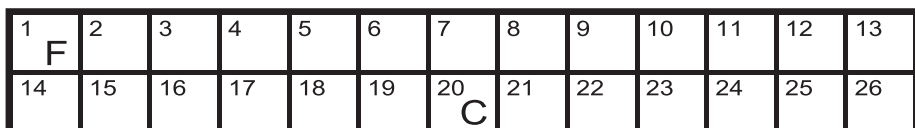
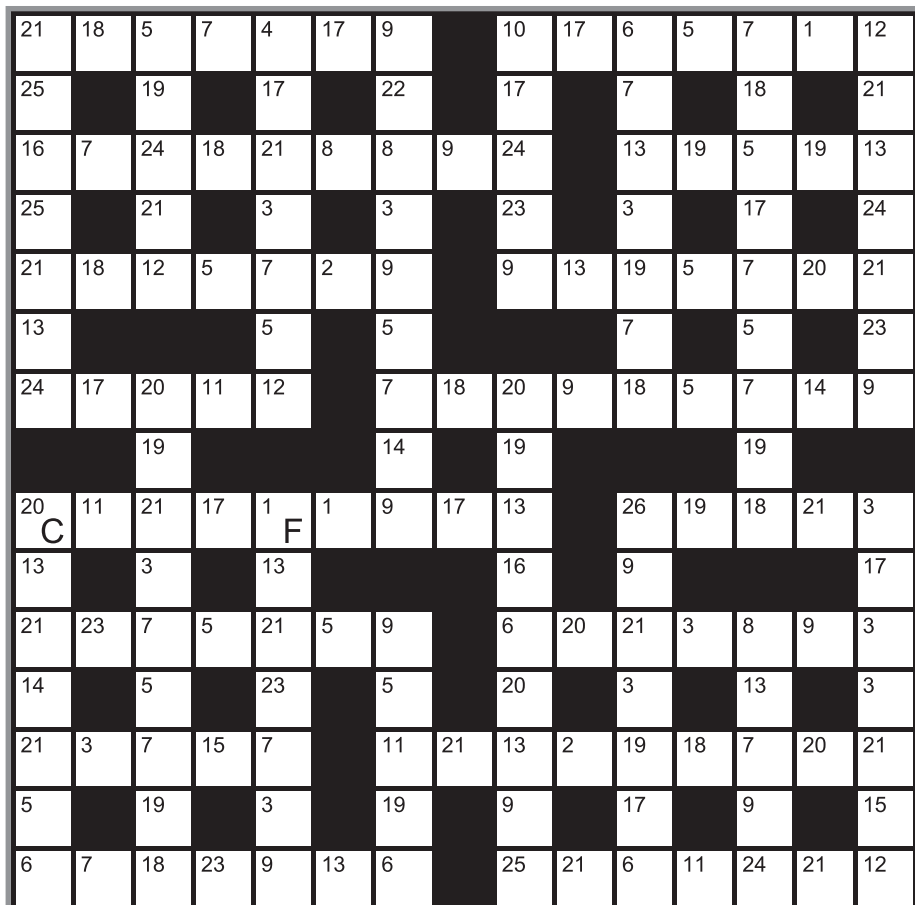
- 1 Bands' trip to England in a ship (7)
- 2 Headless rodent left by bird (5)
- 3 Outlines for small, confused clients (8)
- 4 Recognise a South American stringed instrument (6)
- 5 Actually has one on your side (4)
- 6 Criticise bats, male bats (7)



- 7 Time rove to wander about to find treasure (5)
- 12 Emperor turning pale? No, no! (8)
- 14 Rear back around that dry, little snake (7)
- 16 They help make curls and waves (7)
- 17 Prepared sauces for the campaigns (6)
- 18 Phosphorus is put on many bits of land (5)
- 20 A good person isn't a revolutionary (5)
- 21 Correct some submitted items (4)

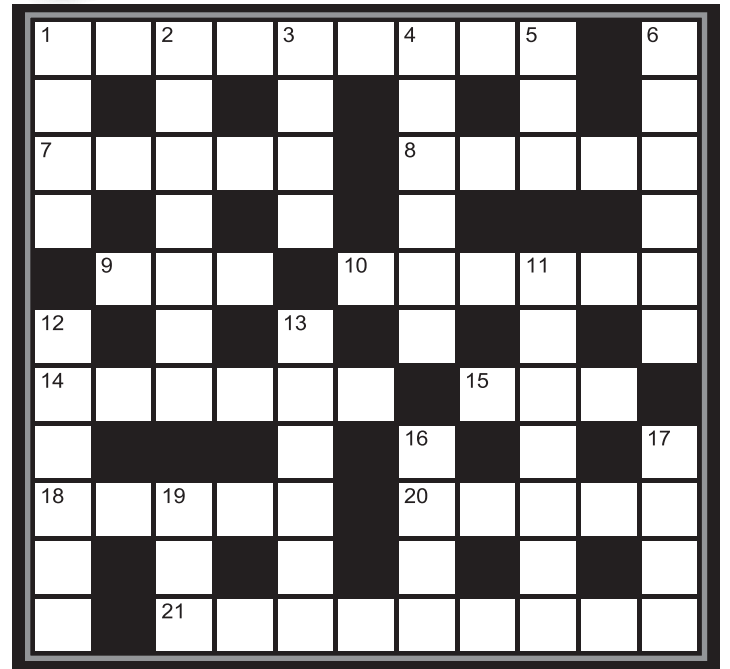
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents F and 20 represents C, so fill in F every time the figure 1 appears and C every time the figure 20 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

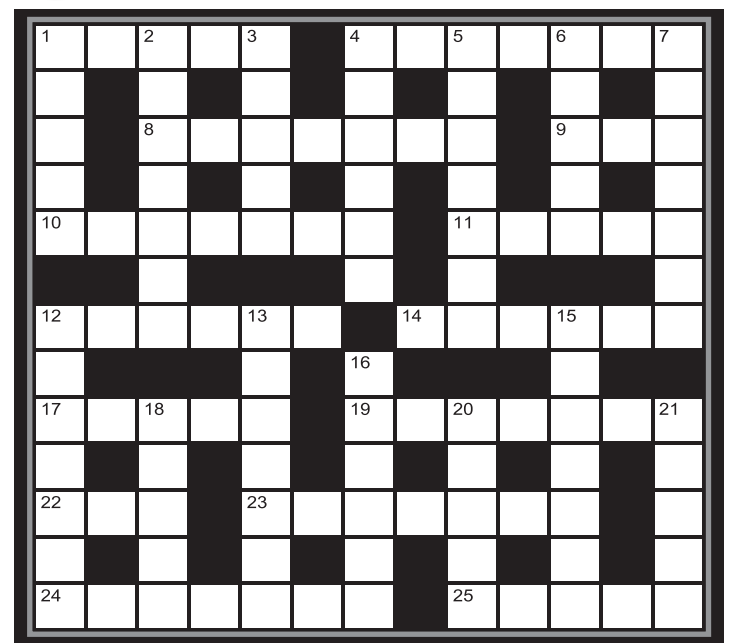
- 1 Of or relating to very low temperatures (9)
- 7 Agreement's conditions (5)
- 8 Synthetic silk like fabric (5)
- 9/5 Rallying shout (3,3)
- 10 Large edible fish (6)
- 14 Edible nut (6)
- 15 See 19 Down
- 18 South American mountain range (5)
- 20 Cognisant (5)
- 21 Mobsters (9)

Down

- 1 Make reference to (4)
- 2 Nautical-spar part (7)
- 3 Breathe noisily, as when one is exhausted (4)
- 4 Being usual, typical or standard (6)
- 5 See 9 Across
- 6 Sunshade (6)
- 11 Ordinary, banal (7)
- 12 Yellow fruit (6)
- 13 Occurring together or simultaneously (6)
- 16 Forbids (4)
- 17 Charges for services (4)
- 19/15 Cigarette butt (3,3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Estrellas (5)
- 4 Snail (7)
- 8 En contra de (7)
- 9 Hielo (3)
- 10 Alga (7)
- 11 Down (physical movement) (5)
- 12 Escobas (6)
- 14 Finally (6)
- 17 To fear (be afraid) (5)
- 19 Barriles (7)
- 22 Caliente (3)
- 23 Example (7)
- 24 Respect (7)
- 25 Afeitador (5)

Down

- 1 Tiendas (5)
- 2 Device (technical) (7)
- 3 Soft (pleasant to the touch) (5)
- 4 Sister-in-law (6)
- 5 Delay (hold-up) (7)
- 6 Fall (physical action) (5)
- 7 Acostarse (3,4)
- 12 Carnicero (7)
- 13 Label (tag) (7)
- 15 Mop (for floor) (7)
- 16 Worker (agriculture, industry) (6)
- 18 Motorbikes (5)
- 20 Cuerdas (gruesas) (5)
- 21 Salsa (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'MRS MAY AND HER BREXIT BRIT HAVE JUST ARRIVED SIR.'

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday February 10

3 12 15 **BONUS BALL**
29 51 58 13

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday February 10

4 6 16 **BONUS BALL**
18 27 39 45

EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday February 6

8 17 28 **BONUS BALL**
34 38 12

Friday February 2 **BONUS BALL**

22 31 36 **BONUS BALL**
38 44 11

EL MILLON: XBF99540

LA PRIMITIVA
Thursday February 8

12 18 19 **BONUS BALL**
24 32 42 7

JOKER: 7 355 415
Thursday February 10

7 10 12 **BONUS BALL**
19 22 45 3

JOKER: 9 104 800
Sunday February 11

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday February 11

1 3 6 **BONUS BALL**
29 40 2

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

An area in which you have experience means that you are able to help someone close this week. Keep the advice free from personal opinions wherever possible. Some upsets on a day-to-day basis are all minor and will pass. Your sensitivity this week is certain to cause frustration and even mayhem. Being in a calm situation will help. So will realising where the source of the aggravation comes from.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

What will really be appreciated this week is if you will give your time to others. I realise that your life is busy but the emotional rewards from helping someone will be more than worth it. To see yourself in a truly positive light, imagine being in the positions of those round you.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Surprising and happy news about the 28th really puts some bounce into you. Having been so busy recently, you may not have noticed that someone has a special interest in you. Another surprise then, but how will you react?

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Family members bring a sparkle to your eyes and a spring to your step. When there is so much going on it is easy to forget how much we are part of a whole. If you have neglected keeping in contact of late, this serves to remind you to try to do better.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

A trip to the cinema or theatre makes you take notice and may even shock. There are many things in life that normally do not touch us but, once we are aware, there seems to be a need for action.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

Expecting others to automatically know what you want is unrealistic. Even dropping heavy hints can go well astray of the mark. Although it is unpalatable to your sensitivity, plain talking is needed. Stop wanting everyone to like you and your personality will grow in leaps and bounds.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Oh, gosh, this is a really sensitive time for Leos. Although it is easy to upset you, it is equally easy to fire your enthusiasm. Anyone considering not keeping a promise or appointment with you should beware because they will be whipped into shape.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

This is a week of deep thinking and meaningful conversations. Someone's opinion of you reaches your ears and pleases you greatly. Work that has been progressing at home faces hold-ups and tact is needed to avoid a row. Some compromise is required at work, perhaps related to a planned holiday.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Take extra care where finances concern your home. A legal matter should be considered carefully. When planning home improve-ments, get plenty of good advice and do not trust your heart. A new activity means new friends.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Being protective of those close does not mean worrying all the time. With their co-operation, the burden, welcome though it may be, can be lightened. There is the opportunity to have fun with some young friends, which may not come again for some time.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Be determined to make a budget and stick to it. Even if you are arranging a holiday, resist the urge to splash out. Because this is such a busy week, it may not seem that there is time to read the small print. However, that would be a mistake, causing problems later.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

With a big event coming up, you need someone to give plenty of love and support. Starting a new interest could lead you into their path. Going for looks alone will do you no favours. Be as broad-minded as possible when it comes to making friends.

Kakuro

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



Nonagram

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



TARGET:

- Average: 7
- Very good: 14
- Good: 9
- Excellent: 18

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

chat echt etch hate heat mate math meet mete meth tach tack take tame teak team tech teem thee them catch cheat ketch match teach theme cachet machete CHECKMATE

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Cotton, 3 Molido, 8 Iglesia, 10 Aisle, 11 Trozo, 12 Propina, 13 Gales, 15 Ashes, 20 Acrobat, 22 Nests, 24 Libra, 25 Castaño, 26 Rarest, 27 Abuela.

Down:

- 1 Chiste, 2 Toldo, 4 Opaco, 5 Inspire, 6 Ovejas, 7 Happy, 9 Snore, 14 Aprobar, 16 Songs, 17 Bailar, 18 Stick, 19 Escoba, 21 Brass, 23 Stare.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Imbided, 5 Moist, 8 Milan, 9 Deadpan, 10 Travail, 11 Trove, 12 Upset, 14 Paper, 19 Arras, 21 Sort out, 23 Ingrate, 24 Scorn, 25 Gangs, 26 Possess.

Down:

- 1 Inmate, 2 Bella, 3 Bondage, 4 Doodle, 5 Meant, 6 Implore, 7 Tinder, 13 Paragon, 15 Arrests, 16 Ealing, 17 Asleep, 18 Stints, 20 Slaps, 22 Ozone.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Crab, 3 Tuba, 7 Anonymous, 12 Expectant, 17 Yeti, 18 Cars.

Down:

- 1 Cava, 2 Alto, 4 Undo, 5 Ales, 6/14 Pay cut, 8 Nix, 9 Née, 10 Met, 11 Urn, 12 Envy, 13 Pact, 15 Aria, 16 Taps.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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

QUIZ: EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS

- In the Australian television soap opera Neighbours, what was the name of the character played by Kylie Minogue?
- 'I have just returned from a visit to my landlord - the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with' is the first line from which novel by Emily Brontë, first published in 1847?
- In which decade was the politically incorrect British sitcom Love Thy Neighbour initially broadcast?
- Released in September 1991, Waking Up the Neighbours was the sixth studio album by which Canadian singer-songwriter?
- The character Dill Harris in To Kill a Mockingbird is believed to be based on which famous author, a childhood friend and neighbour of its author Harper Lee? His best known works include the novella Breakfast at Tiffany's (1958) and the true crime novel In Cold Blood (1966).
- Voiced by Harry Shearer, what is the name of the good-natured, cheery next-door neighbour to the Simpson family, who is generally loathed by Homer Simpson?

- What is the title of the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock film that starred James Stewart as a wheelchair bound photographer who, during a powerful heat wave, watches his neighbours, who keep their windows open to stay cool?
 - Which rather grumpy television character had neighbours called Patrick and Pippa Tench, played by Angus Deayton and Janine Duvtiski?
 - Whose (television) neighbours were Fred and Ethel Mertz played by Vivienne Vance and William Frawley?
 - Which song-writing husband and wife team composed the theme tune to the Australian soap opera Neighbours?
- Not a lot of people know that... not only do Ant and Dec work together, they also live next door to each other, on the same street in Chiswick, West London. They said they didn't care people think this is "bizarre" because they'd spend a "fortune in cab fares" if they lived further apart. And that's not all - the pair even purchased two villas side by side in a luxury Portuguese golf resort on the Algarve so they can holiday together too.*

Answers:

- CHARLENE ROBINSON (MITCHELL), 2. WUTHERING HEIGHTS, 3. 1970s (from April 1972 to January 1976), 4. BRYAN ADAMS, 5. TRUMAN CAPOTE, 6. NED (Neward) FLANDERS Junior, 7. REAR WINDOW, 8. VICTOR MILDREW (One Foot in the Grave), 9. LUCILLE BALL/ARNAZ (I Love Lucy), 10. TONY HATCH (music) and JACKIE TRENT (lyrics)

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY - 15 FEBRUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

5:30am Winter Olympics	6:00am Weather for the Week Ahead	4:15am This is BBC Four	7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:35am Rusty Rivets
7:00am Breakfast	6:05am BBC News	8:00pm Beyond 100	8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:15am Winter Olympics	7:00am Winter Olympics		8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	10:05am Mofy
2:00pm BBC News at One	10:15am Animal Park		9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:30pm BBC London News	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer		9:30am Frasier	12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
	12:00pm Wanted Down Under		10:00am Frasier	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
2:45pm Doctors	12:45pm Heir Hunters	8:30pm The Sky at Night	10:35am Frasier	1:15pm Cowboy Builders
3:15pm The Coroner	1:15pm Bargain Hunt	9:00pm Winter Olympics Extra	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	2:15pm Home and Away
4:00pm Escape to the Country	2:00pm Winter Olympics	10:00pm From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	2:45pm Neighbours
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys	11:00pm Wild Weather with Richard Hammond	1:00pm Channel 4 News	3:15pm NCIS: Conspiracy to Murder
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm Winter Olympics	12:00am Storm Troupers: The Fight to Forecast the Weather	1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me	4:15pm A Husband's Confession
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Sea Cities - Sunderland	1:00am How We Got to Now with Steve Johnson	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers Countdown	6:00pm 5 News at 5
7:00pm BBC News at Six	10:00pm Generation Gifted	2:00am Top of the Pops	3:10pm A Place in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours
7:30pm BBC London News	11:00pm The Mash Report	2:30am Top of the Pops	4:00pm A New Life in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away
8:00pm The One Show	11:30pm Newsnight	3:10am From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:30pm EastEnders	12:15am Dragons' Den	4:10am This is BBC Four	6:00pm Four in a Bed	8:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
9:00pm Animals with Cameras	1:15am Chris Packham: In Search of the Lost Girl		6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	9:00pm Bargain Loving
10:00pm Death in Paradise	2:15am Food: Truth or Scare		7:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	3:00am MasterChef		7:30pm Hollyoaks	11:00pm Extraordinary People
11:30pm BBC London News	4:00am Weather for the Week Ahead		8:00pm Channel 4 News	12:00am First Dates Hotel
11:45pm Question Time	4:05am BBC News		8:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	1:00am Elizabeth: Our Queen
12:45am Drugs Map of Britain			9:00pm Married at First Sight	
1:10am Winter Olympics			10:00pm The Job Interview	
			11:00pm The Job Interview	
			12:00am First Dates Hotel	
			1:00am One Born Every Minute	
			12:05am Elizabeth: Our Queen	

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

7:00am Good Morning Britain	8:10am Dress to Impress	7:00am Classic Coronation Street	7:00am Snooker v Darts	6:00am Sky Sports News
9:30am Lorraine	8:55am Emmerdale	7:55am Heartbeat	7:05am The Chase	All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show	9:20am Coronation Street	8:55am The Royal Heartbeat	7:55am Pawn Stars	
11:30am This Morning	9:50am Coronation Street	10:00am Judge Judy	8:15am Pawn Stars	
1:30pm Loose Women	10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show	11:25am Bargain Round	8:40am Ironside	
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News	11:10am Totally Bonkers	11:55am Bargain Round	9:45am Quincy, M.E.	
2:55pm ITV News London	11:20am Planet 51	12:20pm FYI Daily	10:45am Minder	
3:00pm James Martin's Adventure	12:20pm Planet 51	12:25pm Love Your Garden	11:45am The Sweeney	
4:00pm Tenable	1:10pm Emmerdale	1:30pm The Royal Heartbeat		
5:00pm Tipping Point	1:45pm Coronation Street	2:35pm Classic		
6:00pm The Chase	2:15pm Coronation Street	3:40pm Coronation Street		
7:00pm ITV News London	2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	4:50pm On the Buses		
7:30pm ITV Evening News	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	5:50pm You're Only Young Twice		
8:00pm Emmerdale	6:50pm Take Me Out	6:25pm George and Mildred		
8:30pm Plastic: Can You Live Without it?	8:00pm You've Been Framed!	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote		
9:00pm Emmerdale	8:30pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Midsomer Murders		
9:30pm The Cruise	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	11:00pm Joe Maddison's War		
10:00pm Children Who Kill	9:30pm Superstore	11:00pm Joe Maddison's War		
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm Survival of the Fittest	12:50am Morecambe and Wise Forever		
11:30pm ITV News London	11:00pm Celebability	1:55am Morecambe and Wise Forever		
11:45pm UEFA Europa League	11:50pm Family Guy			
12:45am Lethal Weapon	12:45am American Dad!			
1:30am Jackpot247	1:45am Two and a Half Men			

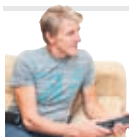
FRIDAY - 16 FEBRUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

10:15am Winter Olympics	7:00am Winter Olympics	8:00pm Beyond 100	7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:20am Digby Dragon
2:00pm BBC News at One	10:15am Animal Park	8:30pm The Sky at Night	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:35am Rusty Rivets
	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	9:00pm Winter Olympics Extra	9:30am Frasier	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
	12:00pm From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	10:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	10:05am Mofy
	12:45pm Heir Hunters	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	10:15am The Wright Stuff
	1:15pm Bargain Hunt	1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me	12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
	2:00pm Winter Olympics	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers Countdown	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers Countdown	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
	7:00pm Eggheads	3:10pm Four in a Bed	3:10pm A Place in the Sun	1:15pm Cowboy Builders
	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys	6:00pm Extreme Cake Makers	4:00pm A New Life in the Sun	2:15pm Home and Away
	8:00pm Winter Olympics	6:30pm Neighbours	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	2:45pm Neighbours
	Clare Balding presents highlights of the day's action at the 2018 Winter Olympics.	7:00pm Home and Away	6:00pm Four in a Bed	3:15pm NCIS: Conspiracy to Murder
	Sea Cities - Sunderland	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	4:15pm A Husband's Confession
	Series meeting the people who live and work around Britain's port cities.	8:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:00pm 5 News at 5
	10:00pm Generation Gifted	9:00pm Bargain Loving	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:30pm Neighbours
	The Mash Report	10:00pm Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:00pm Home and Away
	Newsnight	11:00pm Extraordinary People	9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
	Dragons' Den	12:00am First Dates Hotel	10:00pm Married at First Sight	8:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
	Chris Packham: In Search of the Lost Girl	1:00am Elizabeth: Our Queen	11:00pm The Job Interview	9:00pm Bargain Loving
			12:00am First Dates Hotel	10:00pm Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive
			1:00am One Born Every Minute	11:00pm Extraordinary People
			12:05am Elizabeth: Our Queen	12:05am Elizabeth: Our Queen

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

9:30am Lorraine	7:20am Totally Bonkers	10:00am Judge Judy	4:00am Teleshopping	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show	Guinness World Records	10:30am Judge Judy	7:00am Snooker v Darts	7:00am Sports Fans
11:30am This Morning	8:10am Dress to Impress	10:55am Judge Judy	7:05am The Chase	7:30am Live European Tour Golf
1:30pm Loose Women	8:55am Emmerdale	11:25am Bargain Round	7:55am Pawn Stars	9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News	9:20am Coronation Street	11:55am Bargain Round	8:15am Pawn Stars	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
2:55pm ITV News London	10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show	12:25pm Love Your Garden	8:40am Ironside	11:00am Live European Tour Golf
3:00pm James Martin's Adventure	11:10am Totally Bonkers	1:30pm The Royal Heartbeat	9:45am Quincy, M.E.	11:00am Live ATP 500: Rotterdam
4:00pm Tenable	11:20am Planet 51	2:35pm Classic	10:45am Minder	2:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf Featured Groups
5:00pm Tipping Point	12:20pm FYI Daily	3:40pm Coronation Street	11:45am The Sweeney	5:00pm Live Premier League Darts
6:00pm The Chase	12:25pm Planet 51	4:15pm Classic Coronation Street	12:55pm The Professionals	8:00pm Live Premier League Darts
7:00pm ITV News London	1:10pm Emmerdale	4:50pm On the Buses	1:55pm Ironside	11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten
7:30pm ITV Evening News	1:45pm Coronation Street	5:20pm On the Buses	3:00pm Quincy, M.E.	12:00am Sky Sports News
8:00pm Emmerdale	2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	5:50pm You're Only Young Twice	4:00pm Minder	All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
8:30pm Plastic: Can You Live Without it?	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	6:25pm George and Mildred	5:00pm The Sweeney	
9:00pm Emmerdale	6:50pm Take Me Out	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	6:05pm The Professionals	
9:30pm The Cruise	8:00pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Midsomer Murders	7:05pm Counting Cars	
10:00pm Children Who Kill	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	11:00pm Joe Maddison's War	7:35pm Counting Cars	
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:30pm Superstore	11:00pm Joe Maddison's War	8:00pm Pawn Stars	
11:30pm ITV News London	10:00pm Survival of the Fittest	12:50am Morecambe and Wise Forever	8:30pm Pawn Stars	
11:45pm UEFA Europa League	11:00pm Celebability	1:55am Morecambe and Wise Forever	9:00pm Casino Royale	
12:45am Lethal Weapon	11:50pm Family Guy		10:00pm FYI Daily	
1:30am Jackpot247	12:45am American Dad!		11:00pm Joe Maddison's War	
	1:45am Two and a Half Men		12:00pm First Dates Hotel	
			1:00am One Born Every Minute	
			12:05am Elizabeth: Our Queen	



TV COUCH CRITIC

I THOUGHT this week I would stick to mainstream channels and delve into the world of some of the most watched shows in the UK - what could possibly go wrong?

Let's start with *Hunted* (Channel 4, Thursdays). There is a £100,000 prize at stake, and if the hunted can evade capture by Chief Bleksely and his team, then the money is yours.

The hunters have CCTV, social media tracing, sniffer dogs, drones, number plate recognition and helicopters at their disposal, and yet not one of the hunted simply decamps to the cupboard under the stairs of a long lost Aunt and waits for the next set of instructions.

Surely we all know by now that using a mobile phone will give you away, don't we? This is a simple show, evade capture and the money is yours. The answer is just as simple. Hide under Auntie's stairs and you are halfway there.

My favourite Aunt wouldn't enjoy hanging out with Rylan Clark-Neal as he guides minor celebrities on a *Celebrity Ghost Hunt* (Channel 5 - 5Star, Tuesdays). Let's start with Rylan. If he's going to look for ghosts the lad needs to eat something and gain a few pounds. His current frame is in danger of being blown over by a draught from an open window, never mind a paranormal happening. He should hold back on the fake tan too. Nobody other than my lovely

Celebrity Ghost Hunting in the First Dates Hotel - maybe not?



HUNTED: 'Somehow draws you in.'

CELEBRITY GHOST HUNT: 'Hold back on the fake tan.'

friend Lindsay looks good covered with that amount of tan in a tube and Rylan, Linds is in Puerto Banus not Hever Castle in deepest Kent.

The celebrities include James 'just call me Arg' Argent of TOWIE fame (I use the word fame lightly), Georgia Harrison from Love Island and Sam Thompson - I'm struggling to remember why Sam is a celebrity; maybe it's the



handsome good looks, upper class accent and a certain show made in a posh London Borough? Made in South Shields doesn't have the same ring, but Shields folk are just as nice as their Chelsea counterparts.

The ghosts are asked to reveal themselves by self-designated psychic Alex Gibbs. Alex is a

close friend of Rylan. Alex is in no danger of being blown over by a gust of wind and has terrible dress sense. Rylan is adamant that nothing is staged and if that is true, our celebrity spook hunters do have something approaching a close encounter in each episode.

Rylan is reported to have been so frightened in one of the episodes he ran out of a room and straight into a wall. It was nothing to do with ghosts, he was running from the lunch buffet.

Despite an impromptu ghost hunt, there were no sightings at the *First Dates Hotel* which concluded its run on Channel 4 this week. Series two is on CH4 catch up. The real stars here are not the people looking for love but Fred and the other staff. That said, I was rooting for Nick and Lewis in the final show - two people who deserve each other.

Maitre d' Fred Sirieix and the team deliver advice on romance and the occasional broken heart in a wonderful setting somewhere in southern Italy. The format is a little predictable but if you like the original First Dates make up, you will love this one... Happy viewing.

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

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SATURDAY - 17 FEBRUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

4:00am Winter Olympics	5:20am BBC News	4:20am This is BBC Four	9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:35am Make You Laugh Out Loud
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Winter Olympics	8:00pm The Dark: Nature's	10:00am Frasier	12:05pm Police Interceptors
11:00am Winter Olympics	11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live	Nighttime World	10:30am Frasier	1:00pm Police Interceptors
1:00pm Football Focus	12:30pm The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	Documentary travelling to Central and South America to film animals at night.	11:00am Frasier	2:00pm The A-Team Can't Pay?
2:00pm BBC News The latest national and international news stories, followed by Weather.	1:00pm Winter Olympics	9:00pm Winter Olympics Extra.	11:30am The Big Bang Theory	3:00pm The A-Team Can't Pay?
2:15pm Winter Olympics	2:15pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	10:00pm Modus	12:00pm The Big Bang Theory	4:00pm We'll Take it Away!
5:30pm Final Score	2:45pm The Third Man	10:45pm Modus	12:30pm The Big Bang Theory	5:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
6:25pm BBC News	4:30pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Turkey	11:35pm Top of the Pops	1:00pm The Simpsons	6:00pm Rich House, Poor House
6:35pm Regional News	5:30pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good	Richard Skinner and Gary Davies present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 7 February 1985	1:30pm The Simpsons	7:00pm The Wonderful of Puppies
6:40pm Weather	6:00pm Dragons' Den	12:10am Joy of the Bee Gees	2:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
6:45pm And They're Off...For Sport Relief	7:00pm Hugh's Wild West	1:10am Southern Rock at the BBC	2:30pm Come Dine with Me	9:00pm World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship
7:25pm Pointless	8:00pm Winter Olympics	2:10am Sings Neil Diamond	3:30pm Coast v Country	9:55pm The latest news coverage.
8:15pm All Together Now	9:00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	2:40am Joy of the Bee Gees	4:35pm A Place in the Sun	10:00pm Football on 5
9:20pm Casualty	9:30pm Dad's Army	3:40am From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	5:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	10:00pm The Championship.
10:10pm Troy	10:00pm QI XL	3:50am BBC News	6:35pm The Supernet	1:55am The Last Leg
11:10pm BBC News	10:45pm Imagine... Young	3:50am BBC News	7:30pm Channel 4 News	2:50am Hollyoaks
11:25pm Weather	12:00am Frankenstein	3:50am BBC News	8:00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages	4:55am Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights All the action from the latest FA Cup games.	1:40am The Producers	3:50am BBC News	9:00pm Britain at Low Tide	5:50am Location, Location, Location
12:35am Live at the Apollo	3:45am Weather for the Week Ahead	3:50am BBC News	10:00pm Ted 2	
1:20am Winter Olympics	3:50am BBC News	3:50am BBC News	12:15am Dracula Untold	
4:00am Winter Olympics	3:50am BBC News	3:50am BBC News	1:55am The Last Leg	

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

5:00am Teleshopping	9:50am Coronation Street	5:55am George and Mildred	7:00am The Protectors	6:00am Sky Sports News
7:00am CITV	12:45pm Take Me Out	6:20am Judge Judy	7:25am The Professionals	7:00am Super League Highlights
10:25am ITV News	1:55pm Mr. Bean	6:20am Judge Judy is a show about family court cases, marital dissensions and small claims disputes.	8:20am The Professionals	7:15am World Club Challenge Highlights
10:30am Saturday Morning with James Martin	2:30pm The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas	6:40am ITV3 Nightscreen	9:30am The Professionals	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
12:25pm The Hungry Sailors	3:35pm FYI Daily	7:00am Judge Judy	10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
1:25pm ITV News and Weather	3:40pm The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas	7:00am Judge Judy	11:30am Sporting Funnies	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
1:30pm Dancing on Ice	4:15pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams	7:20am Murder, She Wrote	11:40am Pawn Stars	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
3:30pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	5:15pm FYI Daily	8:15am Murder, She Wrote	12:05pm Pawn Stars	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
4:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase	5:20pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams	9:15am Murder, She Wrote	12:30pm Pawn Stars	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
5:00pm Tipping Point	6:05pm Despicable Me 2	10:15am A Touch of Frost	1:00pm Pawn Stars	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
6:00pm The Chase	7:10pm FYI Daily	12:15pm Tommy Cooper	2:00pm Pawn Stars	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
7:00pm ITV News and Weather	7:15pm Despicable Me 2	1:20pm Tommy Cooper	2:30pm ITV Racing: Live From Ascot	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
7:20pm Local News and Weather	8:00pm Jurassic World	2:20pm Columbo	5:00pm The Way West	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
7:30pm Take Me Out	9:10pm FYI Daily	3:55pm Lewis	6:05pm FYI Daily	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
9:00pm The Voice UK	9:15pm Jurassic World	5:55pm Midsomer Murders	6:10pm The Way West	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
10:30pm Through the Keyhole	10:30pm Survival of the Fittest	7:55pm The Durrells	7:25pm Casino Royale	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
11:30pm ITV News and Weather	11:35pm Family Guy	9:00pm The Durrells	8:25pm FYI Daily	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
11:45pm Lethal Weapon 3	12:05am Family Guy	10:00pm Midsomer Murders	8:30pm Casino Royale	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
1:45am Jackpot247	1:05am American Dad!	12:00am Lewis	10:00pm Executive Decision	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
4:00am Babushka	1:30am The Cleveland Show	2:05am The Good Karma Hospital	11:30pm FYI Daily	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne
4:50am ITV Nightscreen	2:00am Zack and Miri Make a Porno	2:55am ITV3 Nightscreen	11:35pm Executive Decision	7:30am Melbourne Storm take on Leeds Rhinos at the AAMI Park in Melbourne

SUNDAY - 18 FEBRUARY

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

4:00am Winter Olympics	3:50am BBC News	8:00pm Only Connect	7:40am King of Queens	6:35am Wildlife SOS
7:00am Breakfast	The latest national and international news stories, followed by Weather.	Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far.	8:05am Everybody Loves Raymond	7:00am Milkshake!
8:55am Match of the Day	7:00am Winter Olympics	University Challenge	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10:00am The Andrew Marr Show	10:00am Winter Olympics	Cult student quiz show where two rival university teams battle it out to see who has the most superior intellects.	9:00am Frasier	11:35am Football on 5
11:00am The Big Questions	1:15pm Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	8:30pm University Challenge	9:30am Frasier	The Championship.
12:00pm Homes Under the Hammer	2:45pm A Vicar's Life	9:00pm University Challenge	10:00am Frasier	12:25pm Football on 5 Goal Rush.
1:00pm BBC News	3:15pm The Crane Gang	10:00pm Akala's Odyssey	10:30am Sunday Brunch	1:00pm Make You Laugh Out Loud
1:10pm Weather for the Week Ahead	4:16pm South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness	11:00pm In Order of Disappearance	1:30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	1:30pm Justin and the Knights of Valour
1:15pm Winter Olympics	5:15pm Lifeline	12:50am From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	2:30pm The Simpsons	3:15pm P.S. I Love You
4:35pm Match of the Day Live	6:00pm Back in Time for Tea	1:50am The Secret Life of Books	3:00pm The Simpsons	5:45pm Something's Gotta Give
7:05pm BBC News	7:00pm New York: America's Busiest City	2:50am Modus	3:25pm The Simpsons	8:05pm 5 News
7:20pm Regional News	8:00pm Winter Olympics Today at the Games.	3:35am Modus	3:55pm Spongebob Movie: The Sponge Out of Water	8:10pm Greatest Celebrity
7:25pm Weather	9:00pm Dragons' Den	4:20am Modus	5:45pm Rio 2	9:00pm Caught in the Act
7:30pm Countryfile	10:00pm Life and Death Row	4:20am Modus	7:35pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong
8:30pm Hold the Sunset	11:00pm The Mash Report	4:20am Modus	8:00pm Posh Pawn	1:00am Bette Midler
9:00pm Call the Midwife	11:30pm Live at the Apollo	4:20am Modus	9:00pm The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man	2:00am Super Casino
10:00pm British Academy Film Awards 2018	12:15am Cleverman	4:20am Modus	10:00pm Homeland	4:10am Cowboy Builders
12:00am BBC News	1:05am Guess Who's Coming to Dinner	4:20am Modus	11:15pm Our Kind of Traitor	5:00am The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant
12:20am Regional News	2:50am Question Time	4:20am Modus	1:20am The Supernet	5:45am House Doctor
12:25am Weather	3:50am Holby City	4:20am Modus	2:15am The World's Most Expensive Food	
12:30am Julius Caesar Revealed	4:50am Weather for the Week Ahead	4:20am Modus	3:05am Obsessive Compulsive Country House Rescue	
1:30am Winter Olympics				
4:00am Winter Olympics				

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

4:50am ITV Nightscreen	3:55am Teleshopping	3:30am Teleshopping	4:00am Teleshopping	6:00am Cricket
7:00am CITV	6:55am ITV2	7:00am Murder, She Wrote	7:00am Football's Greatest	6:15am Cricket
10:25am ITV News	Nightscreen	7:50am Heartbeat	7:20am The Protectors	6:30am Cricket
10:30am Love Your Garden	7:00am Emmerdale	8:50am Heartbeat	7:45am The Sweeney	7:00am Cricket
11:00am Peston on Sunday	9:20am Coronation Street	9:55am Colombo	8:40am Minder	10:30am Live European Tour Golf
12:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show	12:20pm Take Me Out	11:35am The Nun's Story	9:50am Minder	12:30pm Football
12:25pm The Voice UK	1:55pm The Voice UK	2:35pm Les Dawson Forever	10:55am Counting Cars	3:00pm Football
1:55pm ITV News and Weather	3:20pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams	3:40pm Les Dawson Forever	11:20am Counting Cars	Hamilton
2:00pm The Harbour	4:20pm FYI Daily	5:00pm The Durrells	11:50am Counting Cars	Academical take on Rangers at New Douglas Park in the SPFL Ladbrokes Premiership.
2:30pm The Cruise	4:25pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams	6:00pm The Durrells	1:05pm Counting Cars	
3:00pm Your Kid Do?	5:20pm Nanny McPhee	6:50pm Midsomer Murders	1:35pm Pawn Stars	
4:00pm Britain's Brightest Family	6:20pm FYI Daily	9:00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	2:05pm Pawn Stars	5:15pm Football
4:30pm Tipping Point	7:20pm The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies	9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	3:25pm Hornblower	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
5:30pm ITV News and Weather	8:20pm FYI Daily	10:00pm Tonight at the London Palladium	5:40pm The Way West	8:30pm La Liga
5:45pm Local News and Weather	8:25pm The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies	11:00pm Elizabeth: The Golden Age	6:45pm FYI Daily	Greatest Games
6:00pm The Chase	9:00pm Ibiza Weekender	11:00pm The Security Men	6:50pm The Way West	8:40pm Football
7:00pm Dancing on Ice	11:00pm Survival of the Fittest	2:15am Blue Murder	8:05pm The Train Robbers	10:45pm Live PGA Tour Golf
9:00pm Endeavour	12:00am Family Guy	3:35am Judge Judy	9:10pm FYI Daily	12:30am Sky Sports News
11:00pm ITV News and Weather	12:30am Family Guy	4:00am George and Mildred	10:00pm High Plains Drifter	1:00am Sky Sports News
11:15pm Peston on Sunday	1:00am Family Guy	4:25am George and Mildred	11:05pm FYI Daily	2:00am Sky Sports News
12:15am Caught on Camera		4:50am George and Mildred	11:10pm High Plains Drifter	3:00am Sky Sports News
1:10am Car Wars UK			12:10am Memphis Belle	4:00am Sky Sports News
2:05am Jackpot247			1:10am FYI Daily	

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.

Advertising Feature

How to drive safely in winter

THERE are many winter lovers who like visiting cities during cold periods or participating in snow sports. One must admit that it is not the same visiting, for instance, Sierra Nevada covered by snow, adding an extra attraction to these magical mountains, than without it. But if you go driving this can be harrowing, especially where blizzard and icy conditions crop up seemingly out of nowhere.

If, after all, you decide to drive, there are some recommendations to take into account:

• **Check the weather before you go**

If the weather is freezing, warm up the car before you drive it. If the forecast looks unpredictable, wait out the storm if possible. But if you must travel, make sure you share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.

If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Place reflective triangles in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or

any other object.

• **Prepare Your Car for Winter**

Besides checking the weather, it's important to have a mechanic check the condition of the following vehicle systems before heading out on the road: ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts, spark plugs, air, fuel and emissions filters, distributor, battery, tyre wear and air pressure and check the antifreeze level.

• **Know What to Do to Avoid a Crash**

Sometimes water or ice on the road can surprise drivers, even with little to no precipitation. So, if you don't want to be surprised and end up in a crash, here are some tips:

- Never mix radial tyres with other types of tyres
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather
- Do not use cruise control in wintery conditions
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase your distance to the car ahead



WINTER DRIVING: Know how to keep safe.

- If possible, don't stop when going uphill
- Keep your gas tank at least half-full
- Don't Leave Home Without These

In an emergency situation, there are a few things that you should have with you at all times such as, a properly inflated spare tyre, wheel wrench and tripod jack, shovel, jump leads, tyre chains, tool kit, flashlight and extra batteries, reflective triangles, first aid kit, ice scraper, non-perishable high energy foods, blankets and gloves.

Also do not forget to have your Roadside Assistance number at hand. Liberty Seguros Roadside Assistance is at your disposal 24/7 through a Free Phone Number, 900 101 369, where you

will be assisted by an English-speaking operator.

Winter road trips - even short ones - are a great way to celebrate with family and friends. As well as providing you with insurance to cover you for any unexpected accident or loss, Liberty Seguros would encourage you to be fully prepared when driving in adverse conditions. Being prepared can ensure a safe and happy time is had by all.

To find out more or to receive a no obligation quote, visit www.libertyexpatriates.es or to find out the location of your nearest broker, simply call 913 422 549.

What price a good night's sleep?

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



IN an average lifetime we spend upwards of 26 years sleeping, a third of our lives.

We are advised that we should replace our beds at least every eight years. At John Lewis & Partners, my local department store, an unscientific survey online and in-store offered mattresses costing from €284 for a basic mattress and divan up to a heroic €20,500 at the top end for the mattress alone.

The most expensive mattress boasted fillings and ingredients of hemp, linen, horse hair, Egyptian cotton, British fleece wool, Yorkshire wool, goat angora, silk, cashmere, tree silk, Alpaca and Pashmina with 44,500 springs, while towards the budget end of the offer lay a bed whose list of ingredients were merely polyester, recycled cotton and wool, and a humble 288 springs.

Scientific research and surveys among them the National Sleep Survey showed that 50 per cent of the UK's population have sleep issues. And 80 per cent confirm that their sleep is disturbed regularly. The negative impact of sleep deprivation extends into all aspects of our waking lives. You are more likely to be overweight if you sleep poorly. Science has even demon-



DECADENT: A Savoir bed in the Savoy Hotel, London.

strated that poor sleep patterns lead to a shorter life span than would otherwise be the case.

How much would you pay to live longer, healthier, slimmer and be even more productive?

Sir Richard D'Oyly Carte opened the Savoy Hotel, London in 1889 and decided that no bed then on the market reached the standards of the world famous hotel, commissioning James Edwards Ltd to create the Savoir Bed. To maintain its exclusivity the Hotel subsequently bought the bed factory during the 1930s. The factory did not change hands again till 1997.

Savoir Beds of London still manufactures the original Savoy Bed, branded as the Savoir No2 with the trademark Trellis ticking designed by Lady D'Oyly Carte in 1905.

Frank Sinatra would only sleep on a Savoir Bed when he was in London, and stipulated that condition in his contracts. Reputedly Liza Minelli actress and singer decided to purchase one after just one night.

The Savoy Hotel was last totally refurbished in 2010, with €234 million invested, and a Savoir Bed is found in all its best rooms, with the sumptuous No1 installed in the Royal Suite.



PRICEY: A Hastens Vividus will set you back more than €113,500.

A family-owned manufacturer, Hastens Sanger has been making beds for more than a century. It's top of the line 'Vividus' bed costs more than €113,500. Where is the quintessence of beds the 'Vividus' to be found? In the Swedish city of Koping, lying to the west of Stockholm is the factory.

Your investment buys the skill, experience and commitment of 140 craftsmen, and each bed takes more than 320 man hours to make with 200 kilos of natural materials, from slow growing pine timbers to fabric.

At this level what is the difference between one bed factory and another? History. Heritage. Materials. Design. The craftsmen. Each bed is a work of art, built to specifications following personal consultations. Probably a combination of factors will influence your ultimate choice. Whatever your personal choice is, sleep tight!

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



MONDAY - 19 FEBRUARY

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
10:15am Winter Olympics	10:15am Animal Park	5:05am This is BBC Four	12:00pm Undercover Boss	2:10pm Access
2:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Summer Special	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	USA	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:30pm The Taff: The River That Made Wales	1:00pm Channel 4 News	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	12:00pm Bargain Hunt	9:00pm Winter Olympics	1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me	3:15pm NcIS: Conspiracy to Murder
3:15pm The Coroner	1:00pm The Daily Politics	Extra	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	4:15pm Final Recourse
4:00pm Escape to the Country	2:00pm Winter Olympics	10:00pm The Art of Japanese Life	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	7:00pm Eggheads	11:00pm Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	12:00am How the Celts Saved Britain	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Winter Olympics	1:00am Treasures of Heaven	6:00pm Four in a Bed	8:00pm Aviva Premiership
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Today at the Games	2:00am Top of the Pops	6:30pm Extreme Cakemakers	8:00pm Rugby Highlights
7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm Only Connect	2:40am Top of the Pops	7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm The Nightmare
8:00pm The One Show	9:30pm University Challenge	3:20am Modus	7:30pm Hollyoaks	Neighbour Next Door
8:30pm Match of the Day Live	11:00pm Two Doors Down	4:05am Modus	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm The X Files
11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Newsnight		9:00pm Dispatches	11:00pm When Gameshows Go Horribly Wrong
11:30pm Regional News			9:30pm Food Unwrapped	2:00am Super Casino
11:40pm Weather			10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	

TUESDAY - 20 FEBRUARY

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
3:15pm The Coroner	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	3:15pm NcIS: Conspiracy to Murder
4:00pm Escape to the Country	12:00pm Bargain Hunt	8:30pm The River Taff with Will Millard	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm Deadly Departure
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	1:00pm The Daily Politics	9:00pm Winter Olympics Extra	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News at 5
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	2:00pm Winter Olympics	10:00pm PQ 17: An Arctic Convoy Disaster	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	11:00pm Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	12:00am Dreaming the Impossible: Unbuilt Britain	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
7:30pm Regional News	8:00pm Winter Olympics	1:00am Stories From the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm World Rally Championship 2018
8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Back in Time for Tea	2:00am Top of the Pops	Includes sport and weather	9:00pm The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies
8:30pm EastEnders	10:00pm Flatpack Empire	2:40am Top of the Pops	9:00pm Joe Wicks: The Body Coach	10:00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen
9:00pm Holby City	11:00pm Mum	3:15am Modus	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild
10:00pm Shetland	11:25pm The Archiveologists		11:00pm Working for Weinstein	12:05am Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys
11:00pm BBC News	11:30pm Newsnight		12:05am Before We Die	
11:30pm Regional News	12:10am Weather		1:20am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	
11:40pm Weather	12:15am Generation Gifted			
11:45pm Plastic Surgery Capital of the World				

WEDNESDAY - 21 FEBRUARY

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
5:00am Winter Olympics	12:00pm Bargain Hunt	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	12:00pm Undercover Boss	12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
7:00am Breakfast	12:30pm The Daily Politics	8:30pm The River Taff with Will Millard	USA	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
10:15am Winter Olympics	2:00pm Winter Olympics	9:00pm Winter Olympics Extra	1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:15pm Cowboy Builders
2:00pm BBC News	7:00pm Eggheads	10:00pm Queen Victoria's Children	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	11:00pm Wellington: The Iron Duke Unmasked	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	8:00pm Winter Olympics	12:00am The Genius of Turner: Painting the Industrial Revolution	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NcIS: Conspiracy to Murder
3:15pm The Coroner	8:00pm Today at the Games	1:00am Forest, Field and Sky: Art out of Nature	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm A Housekeeper's Revenge
4:00pm Escape to the Country	9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good	2:00am Top of the Pops	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News at 5
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	3:10am Queen Victoria's Children	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	10:00pm Murdered for Love? Samia Shahid	4:10am Modus	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	11:00pm Mock the Week		7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
7:00pm BBC News	11:30pm Newsnight		7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm The Nightmare
7:30pm Regional News	12:10am Weather		8:00pm Channel 4 News	Neighbour Next Door
8:00pm The One Show	12:15am Lifestyl		Includes sport and weather	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9:00pm EastEnders	12:25am Flatpack Empire		9:00pm Supershoppers	10:00pm Peyton and Polizzi's Restaurant Rescue
9:30pm Panorama	1:25am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities		8 Out of 10 Cats	11:00pm Undercover: Nailing the Fraudsters
10:00pm Earth's Natural Wonders	1:55am Flatpack Empire		Does Countdown	12:05am When Kids Kill
11:00pm BBC News	2:55am Hairy Bikers Mediterranean Adventure		24 Hours in A and E	1:05am The Killer Next Door: Countdown to Murder
11:30pm Regional News				
11:40pm Weather				
11:45pm A Question of Sport				
12:15am And They're Off...For Sport Relief				

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.

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to yoursay@euroweeklynews.com or make your comments on our website: www.euroweeklynews.com

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Praising the bravery of Father Schiller to tell the truth

MAY I offer my admiration and respect to Father Miguel Ángel Schiller, parish priest at Alfaz del Pi, who recently had the courage to speak out publicly against the ongoing scandal of child-molesting priests in the Catholic Church.

Like so many I am dismayed at these events, that historically have left hundreds, if not thousands of vulnerable children worldwide, traumatised and powerless to defend themselves against a person, held in high esteem in their community, who have shamelessly, sinfully, taken advantage of them.

Even as a lapsed Catholic it shames me - more so the Church itself - that it should protect those that sin and not those sinned against.

God bless you Father Miguel and let us trust that he is not, himself, victimised for saying what so many people think and believe. The Church must be seen to be addressing this problem.

Sheila Skinner, Parcent

Response to Our View issue 1700

YOU mention you want Benidorm to be like 'Ibiza' closed down for six months of the year. What will happen to all the people who work here with young families to support? If shops, restaurants, hotels, supermarkets and bars are closed, do you think the council will be happy to support all the out of work people?

You mention the Stag and Hen parties, the revenue these bring into Benidorm keeps bars, hotels and restaurants open, all employing many staff. It's a small minority that spoil it. The people who are making these complaints do not have business in Benidorm that is obvious.

What does need dealing with is the 'Pea-men,' the thieving and heartache



BENIDORM: Is a fun place to be.

they cause. There is not a mayor or the police who have managed to stop these people.

We think there should be more live bands and more music through the day and night to accommodate 'party-people.' Benidorm is a beautiful place, beautiful safe beaches, the beaches are cleaned every night, the promenade is washed from top to bottom. The newspaper quoted... 'Benidorm is the second most visited

place in the WORLD.'

It's got that way by being a safe (no bombs, no terrorists (the police do a good job there) PARTY TOWN!

Wendy, Benidorm

Editor's note:

Wendy thank you for your letter. To be fair, Our View didn't say that Benidorm should close for six months it just observed that Hen and Stag parties are being discouraged by local business and that it wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

Sexual harassment

TALKING to a friend, she told me that one of her bosses 'touched her up' and she just slapped him across the face.

She was a hairdresser, did not leave her job then, but founded her own beauty salon.

The same thing happened to me and knowing my worth, I just told him where to go.

Don't be embarrassed, denounce on the spot.

Many of the cases going public these days are dubious... I should think some of the 'victims' of long ago wanted the job - at any cost - and put up with it - why was the abuse not declared at the time?

Ena Amengual, Mallorca

Happy to be Gay

Dear Nora, I LOVED your article about names, they have always had a fascination for me, especially as I have to keep telling Spanish people that my surname means HAPPY.

The end bit of your article about the policeman reminded me of the two police officers who often went to the local schools to talk about road safety. I think that they were partly chosen for their names as the children (my own included) thought it was hilarious that they were PC Copp and PC Peacey.

My Mum had a friend Rose whose married name was Bush and I have a friend Mrs Rolls who called her daughter Louise (Lou) and another Mrs Peacock whose son Andrew became known as Drew at senior school... think about it!!

Look forward to your next article.
Margot Gay

Cry baby

HE cries if he loses; he cries if he wins. How many more times do we have to witness the unsightly spectacle of Federer dissolving in tears in public.

His achievements undeniably place him among the greats, but the natural joyful reaction of Wozniacki was much easier on the eye.

Likewise, other all-time greats such as Graf, Laver and Nadal were able to handle victory and defeat in a more seemly manner.

David R Worboys, Nerja

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.

Police ski four hours to deliver medicine

WOOW... wonderful always going that extra mile for the public. *Marje Turner*

Great respect for Spanish police they are the best! *John William Roberts*

Great job well done all of you around the country. *Stuart Ridgley*

Woman loses both legs in car accident

It's about time people here learnt how to approach and exit roundabouts. I passed my test here in 1972 and have respect for most of the driving and parking abilities, but roundabouts... disgraceful. Not logical. *Sandra Russell*

OMG that poor woman.. what is happening here. Too many careless drivers. *Linda Cooper*

That roundabout is lethal, too many lanes to choose from. Unfortunately nobody ever seems to know which lane to be in. *Terri Prodage*

How the devil can a roundabout be lethal, aw-

Comments from EWN online

ful or anything else along those lines? Yes it can be pretty, plain or dull, it can even vary in size or design. People say similar things about junctions, traffic lights etc, but in reality the only time that there is an incident at any of these points there is a driver or rider involved. Funny that! *Ted Milsom*

Expatriate voting rights proposal approved

Why would anyone want to have a vote on what another country does, if you don't live there, it really doesn't affect you! *June Waterhouse*

But they are still affected. They may still have property in the UK, family in the UK and a pension they have contributed to for a working lifetime. Health care also currently paid for

by the UK. *Pauline Parker*

You are lucky, you British expats. An expat from Denmark, lose their voting rights, from the first day, in a foreign country, even within EU! *Carsten Thorvald*

Bit too late now, don't want to know, my home is here in Spain for 32yrs, two children, five Spanish grandchildren. *Elaine Mawer*

Costa Blanca is tops for UK airport

Leeds Bradford airport is still operating like it is still back in Dick's days, walking 500 yards outside to board a plane. Millions supposedly spent on passenger comfort, but where. No rail link, poor highway links, scandalous taxi charges, the best transport service to this airport is the bus from Leeds, number 757, about every 30 minutes, the drivers are very courteous, and pleasant. *George R Carman*

Use Leeds Bradford airport often but I do wish they'd sort the walk from the plane through the 'bike sheds' out! It's so depressing after leaving Alicante airport. *Christine Simpson*

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TO READ MORE

Drugged up

AROUND a quarter of young people between the age of 13 and 18 are thought to experience anxiety on a regular basis, according to a recent report, with approximately 5 per cent of all children in Europe estimated to suffer from ADHD.

The situation has prompted the Duchess of Cambridge to launch a website that aims to help improve mental well-being of children in primary school and the support they receive if they suffer from any difficulties. The website claims that 'one in 10 children experience a mental health difficulty by age 11.'

However, Matt Hudson, a leading behavioural change expert and founder of Motivational Change and the Hudson Mind Theory, is warning parents of the dangers of confusing common emotions such as sadness, fear and grief which are commonly experienced by children with some symptoms

of actual medical conditions.

He revealed: "We are constantly hearing that mental illness among children is on the rise; more anxious, stressed and depressed than ever before. Confused and insecure children are likely to be diagnosed as depressed or traumatised. Energetic or disruptive youngsters are said to be suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Children who give their teachers a hard time or argue with adults might even find themselves labelled victims of 'oppositional defiant disorder.'"

Hudson advises parents to seek other tools to help their children cope with their feelings, as "The authorities now have the power to issue drugs like Ritalin for ADHD, which is as powerful as cocaine, directly to children - and the parents have no say in the decision.

"The prescription is based on a chemical imbalance theory, a theory that has never been



MIND MATTERS: Mental health difficulties among children are thought to be increasing.

proven to this day."

If you have any doubts or concerns about the well-being of your children, it is wise to seek

out advice from numerous mental health professionals and always seek out a second opinion if your doctor prescribes drugs

for your child's condition.

For more information visit: www.mentalhealth.org/ and www.mind.org.uk

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How to cope with post-workout soreness

IT'S normal to feel a bit sore after an intense workout, but what should you do when the pain is

worse than usual and is interfering with your daily life?

The scientific term for post-workout aches and pains is DOMS - 'delayed-onset muscle soreness.' It usually peaks around two to three days following exercise as your body starts to go to town on repairing any muscle fibres that may have been torn during the workout.

Occasionally, you may experience 'extreme soreness,' which is more likely to happen after you've done an intense activity that your muscles aren't accustomed to.

Just because you're more sore, it doesn't always mean you're getting better workout results and can cause you more damage in the long term so don't make a habit of ex-

ercising regularly on a high level of soreness.

However, there are several simple things you can do to ease the pain.

First of all, make sure you stay hydrated as research has shown a correlation between dehydration and DOMS. Water helps to purge waste products and toxins that are associated with muscle soreness.

Also make sure you eat lots of protein which is vital for rebuilding muscle tissue.

You could also try switching between heat and cold therapy as ice helps to reduce the swelling that is sometimes the result of extreme soreness while heat can minimise pain and tension.

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Robin George

LOOK around the corner in Periana and you might just see Robin George and partner Fiona looking after the Periana pussycats.

What neighbours may not realise is that Robin is a pretty nimble singer and guitarist who has played with some of the best names in rock music.

He recorded his first single in 1980 and went on to work with such diverse talents as David Byron of Uriah Heep fame, Noddy Holder and Roger Plant as well as touring with Roy Wood and Wizzard.

Now he is on the verge of releasing his next solo album *Rogue Angels* and has shared a glimpse at what may be the album cover (although it is subject to change) with his friends at *Euro Weekly News*.

He may be back playing a few gigs in Axarquía.

Music the food of love

AS part of the Noches de Burriana, the group Ventana Abierta is presenting an evening of opera entitled *Myths and Legends* of Monteverdi to Mozart.

The evening will consist of a welcome drink upon arrival and a performance by Ruth Garcia a mezzo soprano and Lucia Millan a soprano accompanied by Felix Rodriguez on Piano

Tickets, which are strictly limited, cost €48 and in addition to the recital which starts at 7.30pm on Friday February 23 include a full dinner buffet plus drinks.

The evening will once again be enjoyed in an intimate setting on a winter night, ideal for a song recital and fine dining at Playa & Sol Restaurant on Burriana Beach in Nerja.

Reservations may be made at <http://www.ventana-abierta.es>, with a 15 per cent discount for members.

The pure voices of children

THE First Choral Festival for Voces Blancas will be held on a weekly basis in Almuñecar starting on Saturday February 24 in the Parish Church of the Incarnation

The term Voces Blancas refers to the voices of youngsters who have not yet reached puberty and who are therefore able to hit high notes that adults can no longer reach.

The first performance will see the arrival of Choir of the Royal Monastery of El Escorial (Madrid), under the direction of Jose Maria Abad, and will perform pieces from the Renaissance to the present day.

The second performance will be on Sunday March 4 and will feature the Schola Pueri Cantores of the Cather-



Photo Credit: Ayuntamiento de Almuñecar

CHORAL FESTIVAL: Announcing the event.

dral of Granada, under the direction of Hector Eliel Marquez.

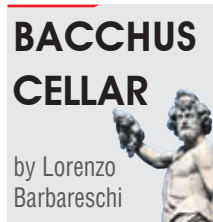
Saturday March 10, welcomes the Escolania de Lluc and the Chamber Orchestra of the Escolania de Lluc from Mallorca under the direction of Ricard Terrades.

The festival will close on Saturday March 17 with the

Los Arcos Children's Choir from the host town of Almuñecar and the Ciudad de Atarfe Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jose Antonio Guerrero and they will present their interpret of Faure's Requiem.

All of the concerts will start at 8pm and admission will be free of charge until full capacity is reached.

Excellence of Aragon



by Lorenzo Barbareschi



CARIÑENA: Old school wine.

CARIÑENA is a Spanish Denominación de Origen (DO) created in 1932 for wines produced on the Campo de Cariñena plateau near the centre of Aragón, the acknowledged source of the Carignan grape or Mazuelo. This is also grown in Italy and new world regions.

The vineyards lie between 400-800m above sea level with temperature extremes over 12 months as well as daytime and night which contribute to the characteristic intensity of Cariñena wines.

The local population had been producing mead since 300 BC; during the Middle Ages wine-making prospered under the protection of monasteries and by the 16th century vineyards covered 50 per cent of the territory of Zaragoza Province.

Since 1995 Cariñena exports have quadrupled thanks to changes aimed at attracting more overseas buyers through fruitier, lighter and well balanced wines while the traditional robust, high alcohol content wines are retained

mainly for local consumption.

The most planted variety is Garnacha tinta (55 per cent) for reds and rosés, followed by Viura (20 per cent), Mazuelo and Tempranillo (15 per cent), while Moscatel Romano is used for the production of sweet Moscatels and a rare red grape called Vidadillo.

Tempranillo is blended with Garnacha to make the Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva.

The whites are made with Viura and the rosés use Garnacha along with other white and red varieties and are macerated for colour.

Both the fresh young whites, which represent 20 per cent of total production, and rosés, are best consumed within the year of production.

Reds have the characteristic style of Garnacha wines produced in hot climates and, in the case of oak-aged Crianzas, have the taste and strength provided by 5 per cent of Cariñena grapes which pair well with red meats and game. *Happy tasting.*

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High-tech homes are a smart move

By Tom Woods

UP to 39 per cent of Spaniards would be interested in living in a smart home in the next five years, according to the Smart Home Survey.

The report, produced by the consultancy firm Context, appears to confirm that smart homes are in fashion as people look to maximise their creature comforts.

Saving on electricity bills, contributing to the environment and improving home security are some of the reasons for the popularity of technology.

Companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Apple are already making advances into this emerging market.

State of the art possibilities for domestic bliss include arriving home to find the house at the perfect temperature, controlling the lighting of the house from a mobile phone, and remote burglar alarm activation.

Of course having a reliable internet connection is crucial in having a properly functioning smart home. It allows bluetooth, infrared and other systems to communicate with each other or with the provider.

Many users rely on cloud software so that



FORWARD THINKING: The rise in smart home demand seems unstoppable.

important data is not lost in the event of a computer system failure, and your passwords should be periodically changed for security.

Given the range of different technological

devices likely to be in a smart home, it is advisable to link them to a central hub.

Examples of this would be a smart TV, computer, tablet, or mobile phone, from which to

control and manage all products.

According to the Gartner consultancy, 67 per cent of the smart devices sold will be connected in private homes by 2020.

Taylor Wimpey España celebrates its 60th anniversary in Spain

THIS is a significant year for housebuilder Taylor Wimpey, as it celebrates its 60th year in Spain. In 1958 Taylor Wimpey was already an established developer in the United Kingdom

when Frank Taylor, the company's founder, spent his honeymoon in Mallorca.

He and his wife, Christine, fell in love with the island and decided that Taylor Wimpey

should also operate in Spain.

With the support of friend and partner, Jaime Ballester, they set up the subsidiary, Taylor Wimpey España, and built their first properties in Canyamel, in the east of Mallorca. Over the years they extended their presence to other coastal areas and the company is now present on Mallorca, Ibiza, Costa Blanca North and South and the Costa del Sol.

Over six decades Taylor Wimpey has become a leading specialist in residential tourism.

It selects exclusive enclaves on the Mediterranean coastline to build attractive developments, characterised by their quality, careful design and respect for the environment. Further to this, the biggest overseas property show in Europe - A Place in the Sun - will take place from March 16 to 18 for savvy buyers thinking of making a move in 2018.

Taylor Wimpey España will be on hand to help potential investors find their dream home.

Franco's grandchildren in inheritance battle

THE seven grandchildren of General Francisco Franco, Spain's former fascist dictator, are mired in a feud about the family fortune.

Media and public attention has inevitably followed the siblings throughout their lives, with their divorces, marriages, and extravagant parties featuring heavily in glossy magazines.

Now they are back in the spotlight as questions are raised about their right to inherit a property empire left by their mother, Maria del Carmen Franco y Polo.

Carmen, Franco's only daughter, died just after Christmas and historians claim that some of the assets in her £438 million (€494 million) will include treasure plundered by her father during the 1936-39 civil war and his subsequent reign.

Emilio Silva, who runs an association dedicated to the repossession of historically valuable items, said:

"A large amount of the family fortune was acquired illegally and it's shameful that the state has never investigated."

The Franco family fortune includes apartment buildings in Madrid and underground car parks.

Silva wants more exposure of Franco's 'war crimes' and the closure of a foundation

dedicated to him.

"In Germany you'd never find a Hitler foundation," he complained.

Carmen was known as the 'Lady of the Necklaces' for her love of high-end jewellery, but her funeral attracted a crowd of 1,200 and was carried out by two cardinals.

While she preferred to stay out of the limelight, her children have long been scattered across the society pages.

Last week Francisco, the eldest, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for deliberately crashing into a police car following a high speed chase in 2012.

His younger brother Jaime was given a one-year suspended sentence in 2009 for beating his girlfriend in a hotel.

Leftist politicians in the northern Galicia region where Franco was born are demanding that a 19th century castle there should be handed back to the provincial authority.

Last year the castle was briefly occupied by militants who unfurled a banner saying 'Give back what was robbed.'

British historian Paul Preston has said: "It always used to be said that Franco didn't steal anything because he thought everything belonged to him anyway."



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HAVING your own garden is a privilege. The convenience and cost saving of living in an apartment though often makes a garden that can provide fresh herbs, fruits, flowers and veg-

gies just a dream.

It is possible however through linking in with local community gardens to participate in the healthy and productive activities while enjoying the companionship available in neighbourhood gardens.

There are many community gardening projects available that provide garden plots for people without a garden. Local governments often set aside a place where you can reserve a space to grow your own plants and there are also organisations that have land available for people to share in gardening activities.

If you love gardening but do not have your own space there are plenty of opportunities available, even if you just want to do it for a while. Many projects are undertaken to plant trees and create gardens on a project basis for only a limited time. Mostly the projects are on a voluntary basis with the benefit going to the neighbourhood where the project is undertaken.

You can check at your local town hall or search through social media to find a community group that suits the type of gardening activity that you may be interested in.

Many community garden plots have waiting lists due to the demand for this type of activity being so popular, but the more interest that is shown to

Community gardens for growing a garden when you don't have your own



Photo by Alósnyis

An aerial view of a community garden.

have places available, the more that will be created.

The municipality of Inca in Mallorca recently raffled 24 urban garden plots at the Serral de les Monges Park to bring the

number of garden plots available for use to 36 places after people had been waiting up to three years for a space.

Community gardens are a great way to meet new people

with similar interests and to share gardening ideas and methods. It also gives a good reason to get out into the fresh air and undertake a project that can provide many benefits.

Many non-government organisations provide training to improve your gardening skills as well as projects to participate in to benefit the community such as tree planting and sustainable gardens.

One of the most widely known group of organisations is Permaculture.

Permaculture is a worldwide movement that researches ways to provide sustainable methods of gardening and other lifestyle activities to bring harmony into our lives.

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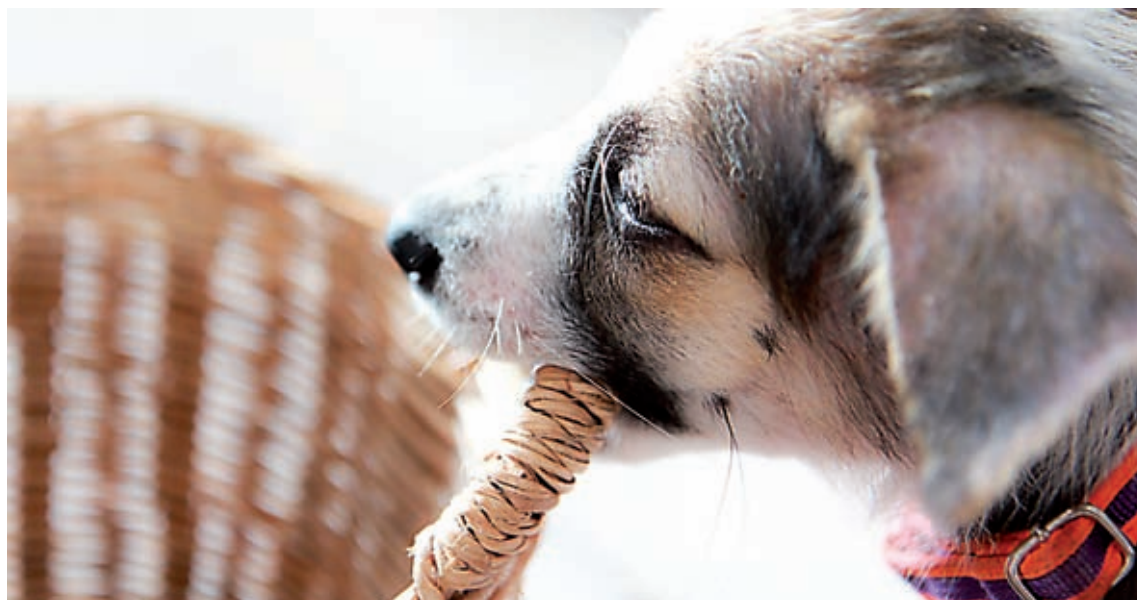
Words of wisdom..

I HAVE recently retired from radio work so after some 30 years I am free to sleep in on a Saturday!

Radio work keeps the brain active, one must be up-to-date as this is such a vast subject.

I was lucky to work with Nazli, a top vet and owner of Pointer Clinic Estepona for many years and Celia Haddon PhD, a small animal expert who for the show mainly spoke about felines. Now publicly I thank both these wonderful professional people for their participation and support.

Most people are not aware when they say the word 'dogs' this is a vast subject that involves first aid, vets, rescue, dog shows, charity work, trainers, behaviourists, specialists in scenting, tracking, flyball, agility, dancing, police-style arrest work, and preparing a young dog for the visits to the vet. Not forgetting it is a good idea to have pet



BAD DOG: Firmness is important when disciplining your canine.

insurance. I used to use Protecta Pet.

In my opinion the most important classes are for puppies, which most

good vets arrange on your first visit with a puppy. If they do not, then you have in my opinion the wrong vet.

The right trainer is vitally important since this is early learning, get it wrong then you will have the wrong type of behaviours. Expect to

“ The right trainer is vitally important since this is early training. ”

start as soon as possible from eight weeks. Usually the area for puppy training is safe for unvaccinated dogs but of course ask the vet.

Your chosen vet is going to be your pet's best friend and anything odd in behaviour such as not eating, swelling, fatigue, and sudden aggression could well be a veterinary problem. Do not go to a pharmacy and do not ask people what they think, you must go to a known professional vet.

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Un-D-lievable

Jag reveal new €1.1 mill D-Type

JAGUAR has announced that they will be creating a limited amount of brand new D-Types, the most successful race car ever.

Only 25 'new' D-Types will be made at the Jaguar Classic Works factory later this year, the first time in 62 years that Jaguar has produced the car.

The limited production versions will be built to the exact 'period-correct' spec of the originals and will complete a project first started in 1955.

Jaguar planned to build 100 D-Types when production first began, but only 75 were ever made so the final 25 to be created this year will officially bring down the curtain on the D-Type story.

Prices of the new versions of the iconic 1950's three-time Le Mans winner are yet to be announced, but are expected to cost in excess of €1.1 million (£1 million) each.

Tim Hannig, Jaguar Land Rover Classic director, told British media: "The Jaguar D-Type is one of the most iconic and beautiful competition cars of all time, with an outstanding record in the world's toughest motor races. And it's just as spectacular today."

"The opportunity to continue the D-type's success story, by completing its planned production run in Coventry, is one of those once-in-a-lifetime projects that our world-class experts at Jaguar Land Rover Classic are proud to fulfil."

Original versions of the cars are currently selling for fortunes.

In 2016, the 1956 Le Mans winning D-Type became the second most expensive car of all time when it sold for just under €19 million (£16.6 million).

And just last year, a 1954 model, signed by Sir Stirling Moss, sold for more than €12.5 million (£11 million).

BEAUTIFUL: The D-Type won the Le Mans 24 Hour three times between 1955 and 1957.



Spanish sales soar



VOLKSWAGEN: Spain's best-selling brand in January.

NEW car sales in Spain increased by 20 per cent in January.

According to a report released by the Spanish Association of Manufacturers of Cars and Trucks (ANFAC), a total of 101,661 units were sold in Spain last month.

By brand, Volkswagen was Spain's best-selling brand in January, with 8,909 sales equating to a 34 per cent increase.

VW topped Spanish brand Seat in second place with sales of 8,540, while PAS Group's Peugeot and Opel took third and fourth place respectively.

Toyota rounded off the top five in Spain after posting a 12 per cent increase with 6,337 sales.

Communications director at Spanish automotive dealers Facionauto, Raul Morales, remained cautious despite the positive incline.

He told *Automotive News Europe*: "We cannot be overly

optimistic about February.

We don't think the good results will be sustained because in January we saw a decline in orders."

January sales to rental companies rose by 24 per cent to 16,219, while demand from private customers also increased by 16 per cent to 52,253 units.

In a statement, ANFAC said: "Rental companies have started renewing their fleets before the beginning of the tourist season, which starts early with the Easter holiday starting at the end of March."

Among Asian brands Hyundai sales jumped 76 per cent, Kia posted a 25 per cent increase and Nissan grew by 18 per cent.

Premium German brands also saw an incline in sales, with increases for Audi, Mercedes Benz and BMW, while American brand Jeep more than doubled sales with a 126 per cent increase.

Cheap as chips

FORD has revealed a new mini SUV that will cost just €12,000.

The new Ka+ has been upgraded with the new 'Active' range which comes with a host of new features despite its budget price.

It has a new raised roof height, roof rails, extra 'off-road' trim-like scuff plates and inside has a huge tablet touchscreen, equipped with Ford's range-topping SYNC3 infotainment system.

The latest SYNC3 features both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration, plus DAB and sat nav services.

Rain-sensing wipers, heated rear seats, parking sensors, automatic headlamps and quickclear heated windscreen are all also available to purchase.

Performance wise, the Ka+ will have a range of pollution-busting petrol and diesel engines, including the new 1.2 litre, three-cylinder petrol engine and a 1.5 litre diesel for higher mileage.

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La Liga Preview

Madrid look for back to back victories

REAL MADRID will look to return to third in the table this weekend as they travel to mid-table Real Betis.

Los Blancos ran riot last time out against Real Sociedad as Cristiano returned to form with a perfect hat-trick in a 5-2 win. They briefly moved into the top three with the win, but Valencia's 3-1 win over Levante saw them jump back into third spot.

A victory against Betis will see last season's Champions return to third in the table provided that Valencia fail to overcome struggling Malaga.

However that seems unlikely as Los Boquerones remain rooted to the bottom of La Liga following their 1-0 loss to Atletico Madrid last time out and have scored just once in 2018.

Antoine Griezmann grabbed the only goal of the game in the first minute as he ghosted in behind the Malaga defence to lash home from six yards out.

Following last week's victory, Atletico will look to cement their hold on second place as they return to the Wanda Metropolitano to host Athletic Bilbao.

The Madrid side are currently nine points ahead of Valencia and only seven points behind Barcelona after they could only draw 0-0 with Getafe.

League leaders Barca will look to get back to winning ways as they head to Eibar after they struggled to create any real chances against Getafe in their last La Liga game.

Elsewhere, sixth placed Sevilla, who have lost just once in their last six games in all competitions, will look to leapfrog Villarreal into fifth position as they face Las Palmas while Villarreal facing a tough tie against Espanyol.

Espanyol have put on some decent performances of late, picking up vital points against Barcelona and Celta Vi-

go in their fight against the drop and will be full of confidence ahead of their fixture against the fifth placed side.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Girona face Leganes, Real Sociedad take on Levante, Celta Vigo travel to Getafe and Alaves host Clarence Seedorf's Deportivo La Coruña.

Weekend's fixtures

Tomorrow (Friday)

Girona vs Leganes

Saturday

Las Palmas vs Sevilla

Eibar vs Barcelona

Alaves vs Deportivo La Coruña

Malaga vs Valencia

Sunday

Real Sociedad vs Levante

Atletico Madrid vs Athletic Bilbao

Espanyol vs Villarreal

Real Betis v Real Madrid

Monday

Getafe vs Celta Vigo



Credit: @ChampionsLeague/Twitter

RETURN TO FORM: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 43rd hat-trick for Real Madrid against Real Betis last week.

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE



TEAM	PJ	PG	PE	PP	GF	GC	PT
1 • Barcelona	23	18	5	0	60	11	59
2 • Atlético	23	15	7	1	34	9	52
3 • Valencia	23	13	4	6	45	27	43
4 • Real Madrid	22	12	6	4	50	23	42
5 • Villarreal	23	11	4	8	34	28	37
6 • Sevilla	23	11	3	9	29	34	36
7 • Eibar	23	10	5	8	32	34	35
8 • Betis	23	10	3	10	38	45	33
9 • Celta	23	9	5	9	41	34	32
10 • Girona	23	8	7	8	31	30	31
11 • Getafe	23	7	9	7	26	21	30
12 • Leganés	22	8	5	9	20	22	29
13 • Athletic	23	6	10	7	24	25	28
14 • R. Sociedad	23	7	5	11	43	45	26
15 • Espanyol	23	6	8	9	21	31	26
16 • Alavés	23	8	1	14	21	33	25
17 • Levante	23	3	11	9	21	35	20
18 • Las Palmas	23	5	3	15	17	50	18
19 • Deportivo	23	4	5	14	24	52	17
20 • Málaga	23	3	4	16	14	36	13

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation



PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	27	23	3	1	79	20	72
2 • M. United	27	17	5	5	51	19	56
3 • Liverpool	27	15	9	3	61	31	54
4 • Chelsea	27	16	5	6	49	23	53
5 • Tottenham H.	27	15	7	5	52	24	52
6 • Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	45
7 • Burnley	27	9	9	9	21	24	36
8 • Leicester City	27	9	8	10	39	40	35
9 • Everton	27	9	7	11	32	46	34
10 • Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	31	41	31
11 • Watford	27	8	6	13	37	47	30
12 • West Ham Utd.	27	7	9	11	34	46	30
13 • Newcastle United	27	7	7	13	25	36	28
14 • Brighton	27	6	10	11	22	36	28
15 • Crystal Palace	27	6	9	12	25	42	27
16 • Swansea City	27	7	6	14	20	37	27
17 • Huddersfield Town	27	7	6	14	23	47	27
18 • Southampton	27	5	11	11	28	40	26
19 • Stoke City	27	6	7	14	27	53	25
20 • West Bromwich	27	3	11	13	21	40	20

FA Cup returns

Wigan host Man City in repeat of 2013 final

LEAGUE ONE side Wigan Athletic host the Premier League's runaway leaders Manchester City as the FA Cup returns for the fifth round this weekend.

In a repeat of the 2013 final, where Wigan famously triumphed 1-0 winners, Manchester City will be looking to avenge their final defeat from five years ago. Both teams go into the match full of confidence and Wigan especially will be dreaming of another FA Cup upset.

Elsewhere, Huddersfield Town will face Manchester United for the second time this month as they host the 12-time holders at the John Smith stadium.

United ran out 2-0 winners the last time the two sides met, with Alexis Sanchez grabbing his first goal for the club following Romelu Lukaku's opener. But Huddersfield will be hoping to emulate their result earlier in the season when they ran out 2-1 winners at the John Smith stadium to beat United for the first time in 65 years.

Elsewhere, last season's finalists Chelsea face Championship side Hull as they look to bounce back from last year's 2-1 final loss with an eighth trophy.

Hull sit just above the relegation zone in the Championship in 21st place and will be looking to continue their cup run to give their fans something to cheer about.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Brighton and Hove Albion host Coventry City, West Bromwich Albion host Southampton, League One Rochdale host Tottenham, Sheffield Wednesday host Swansea City and Leicester City play Sheffield United.

Full fixtures - Tomorrow (Friday)

Leicester City vs Sheffield United

Chelsea vs Hull City

Saturday, February 17

Sheffield Wednesday vs Swansea City

Brighton and Hove Albion vs Coventry City

West Bromwich Albion vs Southampton

Huddersfield Town vs Manchester United

Sunday, February 18

Rochdale vs Tottenham Hotspur

Monday, February 19

Wigan Athletic vs Manchester City

All to play for as Spain face Romania in WC qualifier

SPAIN gave their hopes for automatic qualification to the 2019 Rugby World Cup a huge boost as they battled to a 20-13 win over Russia on Saturday.

In a tightly fought affair, Los Leones seemed to have killed the game off following Pierre Barthere's second-half try after a brilliant cross-field kick from fly-half Mathieu Belie.

But it seemed to all the world that Russian forward Tagir Gadzhiev had put his team within just a point of Spain with only a few minutes remaining as he picked up the ball from the base of a ruck and dived over into the in-goal area.

Despite clearly planting the ball over the line, referee Frank Murphy's view was obscured and without a Television Match Official (TMO) pre-

sent, he decided to award an attacking five-metre scrum instead.

Spain managed to withstand the late Russian onslaught to secure a 20-13 victory ahead of Saturday's top of the table clash with high flying Romania.

The victory moves Spain to within just three points of the table-topping Oaks, but they will

need to be at the top of their game against their opposition who come into the match off the back of an 85-6 destruction of Germany.

A win by more than seven would see Spain leapfrog Romania into first place in the Round Five Rugby Europe Championship and be in pole position for automatic qualification to next year's World Cup.

SPAIN'S Javier Fernandez will be competing for the gold medal at the Winter Olympics tomorrow (Friday) as he competes in the Men's Figure Skating gold medal final. He is hoping to win Spain's first Winter Olympic medal for 26 years.

TO READ MORE

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

Surf's up!

SPANIARD Naitxo Gonzalez has finished third in the Nazaré challenge as part of the Big Wave Tour (BWT).

In what was just the second ever BWT event in Nazaré, Portugal, the competition was forced to run over two days due to dangerous conditions.

Waves reportedly reached between six and 11 metres on Sunday when the challenge resumed and Gonzalez, who was brought in as a substitute for the event, made the most of his chance.

Gonzalez, from Plentzia in the Basque Country, achieved a historic result for Spanish surfing as he finished third with a 13.834

score behind second placed Billy Kemper and winner Brazilian, Lucas Chianca

Following the bronze, the 22-year-old wrote on Instagram: "I cannot describe what I feel right now, it has been a very hard year, trying to be in the biggest swells of the year all over the world.

"Suddenly I have the opportunity to enter as a substitute to the Nazaré championship, I take the third place of the event and position myself 10th in world ranking.

"Everything points to that if they do not make the Mavericks championship in two weeks, I will enter the tour again. A dream come true."

Marczynski misses out

POLISH cyclist Tomasz Marczyński was forced to miss this year's Ruta del Sol after suffering nasty injuries following a collision with a car.

The 33-year-old, who lives in Granada, was involved in a nasty accident while on a training ride last Saturday and was forced to miss the race across Andalucia that began yesterday (Wednesday).

While he suffered no broken bones during the reported head-on collision, he confirmed prior to the race that he had suffered facial injuries and whiplash and would take no part.

In a team statement, he said:



INJURED: Marczyński, who won two stages of last year's Vuelta de España suffered nasty facial injuries in the crash (inset).

"I was finishing one of my last training sessions for the Ruta del Sol when I was hit by a car.

"I was cruising down a main road when a car from a right-hand side street turned left. I could not brake in time, and crashed head on into the vehicle.

"The x-rays fortunately revealed that nothing was broken. My face is heavily bruised and my nose had to be stitched.

"I also have a whiplash and

that's what hurts the most at the moment. I am currently back home, but I will undergo a series of tests next week."

Marczyński, who won two stages of last year's Vuelta de España, was replaced by

Britain's James Shaw in Lotto-Soudal's line-up and prior to the race, Sports Director Bart Leyezen expressed his disappointment at the Pole's absence.

He told British media: "It is unfortunate that we have to miss Tomasz Marczyński in the Ruta del Sol, which is a home race for him since he lives in Granada.

"He could have played a prominent role as road captain. But we can mostly be pleased that his injuries are not too bad after his crash; this could have been much worse."

The Ruta del Sol continues until Sunday where it will end in Barbate.

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