

Explosion case closed

A COURT in Almeria has declared inquires into an explosion in a warehouse in Almeria's Science and Technology Park (PITA) closed.

Maria Belen Lopez, the judge presiding over the case, stated in the court order that there was no evidence to suggest the accident was criminal.

The court has therefore been required under criminal procedure laws to dismiss the case, according to the statement.

Ten researchers from the companies Hintes Oil Europe and Fergon SL were involved in examining the explosion at the site in September 2015.

The companies have reached a financial settlement with those affected, according to sources reported in Spanish media.

The explosion at the warehouse killed one of the workers while four had to be taken to hospital in the morning of September 21.

Two of the workers were left with burns covering 60 and 80 per cent of their bodies respectively. They were taken to the Virgen del Rocío Hospital in Sevilla for treatment where one of them died in November from the injuries.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by welding work and the court has dismissed the possibility that it could be classed as a violation of work safety laws.

Justice at last

by Matt Ford

After a decade of agony Helen and Len Prior have finally received a payout for their illegally demolished home.

"Now this is over, we just want to try and recover our lives, we have lost 10 years that no amount of money can ever replace," Helen said.

It comes as the couple, both in their early 70's, were paid a settlement of almost €236,000 by Vera Council.

Helen thanked lawyers Victor Martinez and Jose Contreras for their "hard work over the last 10 years," but pointed out that the payout is "very poor" since it does not even cover the original €350,000 cost of their home.

"The house was legal and demolished for political reasons, we were scapegoats," she said. "I was awarded €1,500 for 'moral damages' and my husband €7,500 for 10 years of suffering, ridiculous.

"In any other EU country the amount would have been much higher," she added.

The Priors' story made international headlines after their home was bulldozed over 'planning irregularities,' although the



TEN YEAR BATTLE: Helen Prior speaks at a 2016 rally while husband Len (right) looks on and (inset) bulldozers demolish the couple's villa in 2008.

couple insist the build was legal after the town hall granted them a municipal construction licence in 2002.

But their two-storey dream villa was pulled down in 2008 and they were forced to live in a garage for four-and-a-half years, with the demolition order later annulled by the Constitutional Court.

In 2016 they won a court battle entitling them to €425,185 in compensation, but the Andalusian High Court of Justice later ruled that they should re-

ceive just over half that amount. They had initially requested €800,000 which included a €200,000 emotional damages claim, but the latter was reduced to less than €10,000.

Gerardo Vazquez, lawyer and spokesperson for the Abusos Urbanisticos Almanzora No (AUAN) campaign group, which has been helping the Priors through their ordeal, said: "As a spokesperson for AUAN, I am very happy for the Priors.

"I hope that you can at least continue with your lives

more peacefully.

"With the good humour that has characterised them during the last 10 years that their struggle has lasted, they have shown great tenacity and resistance and are an example to all of us.

"I give all my love and admiration to the Priors."

And Helen added that at least "our case has helped others.

"We have supported AUAN and fought to change the laws to protect the innocent and those that bought property in good faith."

Politicians from the local Popular Party have called for a public apology to the Priors via social media.

PROPERTY SPECIAL

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NEWS EXTRA

Identity fraud

TWO men who stole a total of €12,400 from a friend by falsifying information from his personal bank documents and credit card have been arrested by the Guardia Civil in Garrocha.

Council pact

HUERCAL-OVERA'S Council and Chamber of Commerce have signed an agreement committing them to supporting local businesses, with plans for training sessions and inclusion of vulnerable people.

Crime down

THE mayor of Tabernas was joined by an official from the Almerian authorities who thanked the town for its cooperation on combating gender violence, with the area having committed itself to helping protect victims.

Alleged Almeria jihadist arrested in Paris

By Joe Gerrard

A MOROCCAN man who lived in Almeria around the time he allegedly began plotting a terror attack targeting an Amsterdam to Paris train has been arrested.

The 35-year-old was picked up in the French capital in a joint operation between that country and Spain's anti-terror police forces.

Police began their investigations after allegedly learning the man, who had an address in Almeria, was planning to attack the Thalys 9364 train in August 2015. They also worked with Almeria's Provincial Intelligence Brigade.

The joint operation reportedly uncovered the suspect's membership of a cell connected with the Daesh terror organisation. The group were plotting multiple attacks across the EU which the planned train

strike was part of.

Police claim the man collaborated with the cell to arrange for the movement of its members around the EU and by providing vehicles for this purpose.

National Police placed the man under 24-hour surveillance when he returned to Spain and he was arrested by their French counterparts while reportedly on his way to Belgium.

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Drug smugglers make hash of travels



Photo by Guardia Civil

WEEDED OUT: The suspects were caught en route to their homeland.

By Tom Woods

THE Guardia Civil has arrested two men accused of transporting 20 kilos of hashish in a vehicle bound for Switzerland.

According to police sources, the alleged traffickers were hiding the drug in the lining of the passenger airbag as they made

their way from Almeria.

The arrests form part of Operation 'Garpon,' centred on an international drug distribution network based in the Costa del Sol.

A total of 16 people have been detained so far, and five trading sites for drugs have been dismantled.

The investigation followed the steps of the sus-

pects and their contacts with producers established in Morocco.

A cartel had introduced the hashish in Spain through the coast and were identifying different routes of commercialisation.

Both detainees have Swiss nationality and were hoping to make a handsome profit in their home country.

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MOTORING

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Poor state of affairs

AN Ombudsman has criticised the conditions and organisation of the migrant reception centre in the Port of Almería. Fernandez Marugan said the facility had become in practice an extension of a police station that lacked beds, meaning people there had to sleep on the floor.

Tool theft

A MAN and a youth who allegedly burgled tools from a van to sell on have been arrested by police. The accused were picked up in Almería City after officers spotted them carrying a wheelbarrow loaded with the tools in the early hours of last Friday.

Transport use

MORE than 3.3 million trips were taken on intercity buses last year, according to Almería's Transport Consortium. Antonio Martínez, the province's development spokesperson, said the figures represented an advance towards improving Almería's environment and quality of life with the buses reducing traffic pollution.

Hit and run

POLICE have identified the owner of a car abandoned after hitting a 71-year-old man in Almería City. The driver and his passenger left the vehicle at a roundabout and fled after hitting the man, who was taken to Torrecardenas Hospital with severe hip pain.

Student visit

A GROUP of 25 pupils studying law at Alhamilla high school got the chance to put their knowledge into practice in a visit to Almería's city hall. The students, hosted by deputy mayor Manuel Guzman, were told about the importance of participating in city management.

Blooming gorgeous

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 2



IN THE PINK: Snow blankets the Sierra Nevada mountains in Granada as almond trees burst into flower on the lower slopes.

A MAGICAL display is taking place in the hills and mountains of Mediterranean Spain.

For a few weeks in January and February hundreds of thousands of almond trees erupt into blossom, with the countryside briefly transformed into a spectacular fairytale landscape of delicate pink and white hues.

Grown mostly in Andalucía, Aragon, Cataluña, Valencia, Murcia,

and the Balearic Islands, almonds form an important part of the local diet, being used to prepare everything from soups and sauces to cakes, pastries, marzipan and nougat.

Almonds form part of the Prunus 'stone fruit' genus along with plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines and apricots.

Native to the Middle East and Northern Africa, the trees were domes-

ticated around 3,000 BC and brought to Spain by the Moors.

And the country is now the world's second-largest producer of almonds after the United States.

More than 100 varieties are currently grown, but only five are produced on a commercial scale, with the marcona form - known as the queen of almonds - widely considered to be the best quality in the world.

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- 2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards
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Spring watch



Photo credit: Jesus, iFlicker

A Harramacho looks on and (inset) revellers gather in the village square.

It is an ancient festival of unknown origin.

Taking place in the hamlet of Navalacruz in the foothills of the Sierra de Gredos mountains, Avila, the Los Harramachos ritual is thought to be a pre-Roman call to protect livestock and children and boost fertility at the onset of spring.

During the event revellers dress in fearsome-looking costumes made from sacking, animal skins and natural materials, concealing their faces with animalistic masks.

And a number of different characters are involved in the annual celebration, which took place last Saturday.

The Harramachos themselves are brash, masked individuals with a frightening appearance, although they do not participate in the ritual itself.

The Heifer is the incarnation of evil and wears a set of cow antlers and a bell at the waist, with three black crosses painted on his face.

He chases women and lifts their skirts with his horns, before fighting and 'dying' in the village square.

El Vaquero carries chorizo, wine and bread, and traditionally rewarded children who rang small bells.

The mayor is the highest-ranking of the Fifts - boys who turned 18 during the previous year - and can be recognised by his black cloak and long stick that is used to leap the Chico River several times at a point of his choosing during a key part of the ceremony.

He temporarily becomes mayor of the village during the festival.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you agree with the Balearics' decision to ban tourists from travelling to the islands in diesel or petrol cars?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Do you agree with Formula 1's decision to replace grid girls with grid kids?

Yes 83% **No 17%**

EWN online this week
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TOP 5 stories



SPEEDING SNAP: The EXACT speeds that will trigger the devices have been revealed.

- 8,806 views** Police warn of exact speeds that will trigger roadside radar cameras
- 3,987 views** Couple face fine after shooting adult film in national park in Spain
- 2,915 views** Brit 'crack head' arrested in Benidorm after stabbing British bar owner
- 2,706 views** Police stop overloaded car and can't believe what they find
- 2,491 views** Motor homes plague Costa Blanca beaches

**For week 12 - 19 February*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

CORRECTIONS

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OUR VIEW

Wildlife trade pledge smacks of tokenism

SPAIN has announced it is to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

It is the country's first crack at confronting the issue, and comes after a gang of monkey traffickers were recently caged by Guardia Civil investigators.

Animal rights campaigners will be overjoyed at the news the country long-known as the gateway to Europe for poachers operating in Africa and the Americas is finally acting to address the problem. But will the government's measures make a difference?

The official plan speaks of increases in funds for awareness campaigns and the provision of alternative livelihoods for communities involved in poaching, but crucially, it does not have a specific budget.

Wildlife trafficking is among the most profitable criminal activities in the world, worth hundreds of millions of Euros per year.

Demand is unlikely to be stemmed by an educational crusade, while it will surely be difficult if not impossible to convince local people profiting from the trade that they should seek new employment. Conservation biologists say that in reality, Spain will need to spend millions to make even a small change.

And based on previous pledges by a Spanish government which has a long history of flouting or simply ignoring environmental laws, the level of investment is likely to be lacking.

While this week's announcement has been widely cheered by animal lovers, including many readers of the *Euro Weekly News* website, time will tell whether it is simply a token gesture.

Now we want to hear your views.
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Bank fraud suspect held

by Joe Gerrard

A 39-YEAR-OLD who allegedly amassed a €9,000 haul in fraudulent bank withdrawals has been arrested by the Guardia Civil.

The man, from Nijar, is accused of gaining access to a number of houses and taking bank cards and account documents from them once inside.

Police began their investigation after a number of people complained that money had been taken out of their accounts.

Officers claimed the accused looked for houses with several people living inside and visited them asking for a resident that he knew was not inside.

He then got inside the houses and took the documents and the bank or credit card while the others in the house were distracted.

The man was then able to go to banks and withdraw cash and over the course of the thefts took a total of €9,000, police said.

Police arrested the accused on February 12. The proceedings have been sent to a court in Almería.



Photo by Guardia Civil

FOUND OUT: The suspect's home is thoroughly searched by police.

Police raid yields drugs and illegal weapons

THE GUARDIA CIVIL has arrested a 35 year-old man in Zujar for allegedly committing at least 14 robberies in Almería and Granada.

He is also suspected of carrying out 45 similar crimes in homes and farmhouses across the region.

The detainee, of Romanian nationality, is also accused of illegal possession of weapons and drug trafficking.

The arrest comes as part of the Guardia Civil's operation 'Losan,' where two house searches were made in Zujar and Baza.

A stockpile of firearms was discovered in-

cluding a rifle, five shotguns, four pistols and around 500 cartridges.

Officers also established that the suspect was involved in the commercial sale of drugs, and found a room in his home completely kitted out for indoor marihuana cultivation.

In total 1.7 kilos of marihuana, 800 packages of hashish, and three precision scales have been seized.

The operation began last November after a high number of robberies in the Baza and Guadix districts caused a great deal of public alarm.

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Strictly on beach duty

AFTER months of speculation they finally confirmed their romance on Valentine's Day.

And Spanish dancer Gorka Marquez, 27, and actress Gemma Atkinson, 33, are clearly head over heels after the pair posted a series of snaps after jetting to Tenerife for a blast of winter sun.

The loved-up couple were pictured enjoying a tanning session on the beach, with Gemma sporting a skimpy bikini and Gorka showcasing his rippling torso, after earlier uploading a video of themselves arm wrestling.

Although they had previously denied any romantic link, Gemma let the cat out of the bag on Valentine's Day as she posted a picture of them sat on a rock together with her head resting on his shoulder.

She captioned the shot: 'Here's to many more kid. Happy Valentine's Day @gorka_marquez.'

Their idyllic getaway came after the pair wrapped up the Strictly Come Dancing live tour.

IN THE PINK: The stunner recently made the CBB final.



Jess the ticket!

SHE recently finished fourth on Celebrity Big Brother after splitting from rugby player fiancé Denny Solomona.

And former Ex On The Beach star Jess Impiazzi, 28, certainly appeared to be living life to the full after hitting the beach at an unknown location in Spain.

The London-born beauty left little to the imagination after slipping into a barely-there swimsuit for a racy frolic in the shallows.

Gorka Marquez/Instagram



LOVED UP: Gemma and Gorka.

Bad Baggies off hook over taxi raid



CIRCLED: From L-R, culprits Livermore, Barry, Evans and Myhill.

THE West Bromwich Albion players who allegedly stole a taxi from a Barcelona McDonald's have been let off by Spanish police.

Jonny Evans, 30, Gareth Barry, 36, Jake Livermore, 28 and Boaz Myhill, 35, were expected to face community service or a fine, but a court in the Catalan capital shelved the case due to 'a lack of proof.'

The quartet reportedly broke a midnight curfew and returned drunk at 6am, leaving a set of taxi keys at reception before heading to bed. They were quizzed at a Local Police station and later released an apologetic statement via the club.

They had been staying in Cataluña for three days warm weather training ahead of an FA Cup fifth round game at home to Southampton, which they lost 2-1.

Life's a peach!

SHE'S never been shy of flaunting her surgically-enhanced assets on social media. And ex-Geordie Shore star Chantelle Connelly had even more to display after slipping into an orange thong to display the result of her new bum implants.

The 27-year-old jetted to Marbella on the Costa del Sol for the surgery, and captioned the saucy snap with a series of peach emojis.

Dancing on ice

HE'S the Oscar-winning Spanish actor who married fellow star Penelope Cruz.

And dad-of-two Javier Bardem, 48, has revealed that his next film project will be to provide a voice-over commentary for upcoming environmental flick Sanctuary.

The project aims to draw attention to the plight of the Antarctic and create the world's largest nature reserve.



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Los Gallardos - 115,000€ (ref: LGHZ)
4 beds • 2 baths • Build 103m² • Garage: 18m²
A mid-terrace two storey property with private garage. Benefits terraces, courtyard, air conditioning, well maintained and is being sold fully furnished. Short walk to all amenities.



Almanzora - 190,000€ (ref: AVHR)
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Council invests €100,000 in commuter lanes

by Tom Woods

ALMERIA Council plans to link Macael's industrial estate to the centre of Macael with a bicycle lane and pedestrian path, through the Tahal Highway.

Development Councillor, Oscar Liria, has announced the move which will involve an investment of €100,000 and also enable the completion of the restructuring works on Calle Canteras.

The underlying vision is to improve the urban mobility of Macael and will "facilitate access for many workers by bicycle and on foot, who at present only

have the option to drive or walk along a dangerous hard shoulder," says Liria.

The works will be carried out on a 360-metre stretch of road, from the roundabout by the petrol station to the industrial estate.

To direct people onto the new pathway, a new signpost or physical monument will indicate the route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Lighting will be installed along the route and there will also be a handrail to assist commuters.

The others works on Canteras street will complete the renovation of the area, and will see improvements



Photo by Almería Council

ROAD TO SUCCESS: The new lanes will be welcomed by the public.

in lighting, street furniture, and undergoing piping.

The mayor of Macael, Raul Martinez said: "the

council of Almería has been fundamental in making these plans a reality.

"Not only has it drafted

the project, it will also allow us to save almost half of our contribution thanks to its funding."

NEWS EXTRA

Jobs for disabled

A CENTRE which looks after people with severe disabilities is set to create 90 new jobs, 80 per cent of which will be carried out by disabled people.

Plant works

THE construction of a €6.3 million water treatment plant near Nijar is now a quarter complete, which comes as the town's mayor and the planning spokesperson on Almería's Provincial Council visited it last Thursday.

Free birds

AROUND 50 schoolchildren from the Federico Garcia Lorca Primary and Early Childhood Education Center took part in the release of an eagle owl and a common eagle in Pulpi, following the rehabilitation of the birds after they were found injured.

New midwives

PONIENTE'S health district has recruited four new midwives as part of a Ministry of Health plan to improve patient care, bringing the total number to six.

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Second in region for fatal work accidents

DEATHS due to accidents in the workplace numbered 20 in Almería last year and the rate of fatalities in Andalucía rose by 15.4 per cent.

Almería came second among Andalucía's provinces in terms of deaths resulting from accidents at work. It came behind Sevilla which had 31 fatalities and ahead of Malaga which registered 16, Granada with 11, Cadiz with 10, Jaen with nine and Cordoba with eight.

Figures from the Ministry of Employment stated that the total of 112 workers lost their

lives as a result of work-related incidents in Andalucía.

Of that total, 95 died during the workday itself, with the remaining 17 fatalities occurring on the way to or from work.

Andalucía saw a greater rise in the number of such deaths than Spain experienced overall. A total of 618 people died in work-related accidents in 2017, a rise of 1.8 per cent compared to the previous year.

More than 583,000 accidents resulted in sick leave nationally last year, an increase on 2016 levels of 5 per cent. The number of those which

resulted in minor injuries was more than 499,000.

The manufacturing industry saw the greatest number of accidents at more than 94,100, followed by retail, wholesale and car repairs at a total of almost 72,000.

More than 59,500 of the accidents were in construction, followed by the hospitality industry at almost 51,000.

Most workplace accidents were due to physical over-stress, falls, stumbles and hitting objects or sharp and hard metals, according to data.

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Caught in the act

THE National Police has arrested a 59-year-old man who was caught as he was allegedly about to enter a shop to rob it.

The suspect was wearing a balaclava, gloves, and was carrying a large knife, a revolver, and another firearm.

Local Police were tipped off last Saturday that an individual was hanging around several shops holding a balaclava in his hand.

Upon seeing the police approach, the man began running



Photo by National Police

RUMBLED: Police apprehended the man before he could cause harm.

away but was soon intercepted. The detainee has 21 previous arrests for a variety of criminal acts.

Another dolphin dead

ALMERIAN animal protection organisation Equinac have found another dolphin washed up on an Almerian beach.

According to the group, the dolphin was reportedly found with clear markings of fishing nets on its body and had undigested food in its

stomach, which suggests the death was related to fishing.

It comes after five other dolphins were also found dead in recent weeks on different beaches across the region, some found with fractured jaws.

Following the latest finding, the group wrote on their

Facebook page: "We will continue to criticise (these deaths) without stopping, until the Ministry of Environment make it clear to the fishermen and everyone who causes the death of these animals that if a cetacean dies or is injured, even accidentally, you have to report it."

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NEWS EXTRA

La Desbanda road rename

IZQUIERDA UNIDA will push for the Malaga to Almería motorway to be designated as the Path of Democratic Memory to commemorate the La Desbanda massacre which took place on it during the Civil War.

Fishing aid

A MEETING on aid for the fishing sector is set to be held at the Interpretation Centre of Fisheries in Adra next Monday at 12pm, following an announcement from Andalusian authorities about cash help.

Lifeguards

THE Municipal Services of Almería's council have said authorities are still aiming to have lifeguards on the city's beaches from the first weekend of May to October 31 despite changes to salaries and hours.

Deputy criticises Palomares clean-up effort

ALMERIA'S representative in the Congress of Deputies has accused the Spanish government of throwing itself into the arms of the United States and Donald Trump over radioactive waste at Palomares.

Diego Clemente, from the Ciudadanos party, made the claim during a session of the parliamentary committee on the cleanup of the waste.

Pablo Garcia-Manzano, the government's Undersecretary for Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda, was in the meeting taking questions from deputies on the Almerian town.

Clemente said: "Palomares cannot wait a second more.

"The silence and ignorance of the government on the waste at Palomares brings us back to the dictatorial ways of 40 years ago," he told the committee.

Government energy officials have said the plan for the United States to take the waste from



Photo by Wikimedia Commons

CLEANUP TIME: Radioactive waste from the bombs that fell on Palomares after the 1966 plane crash has yet to be completely cleaned.

Palomares was still in place.

Clemente said the United States had always been reluctant to remove the radioactive debris.

"With or without the USA, Palomares cannot wait," Clemente said.

He added the Spanish government should implement the original Palomares Rehabilitation Plan as soon as possible.

"Waste management and evacuation plans for Palomares should also be enacted and a destination for radioactive substances should be found in one of the world's nuclear cemeteries," he said.

"Get back to reality and stop lying to the people of Almería because the United States' plan gives no hint of following through on the removal of the

waste," he said.

Palomares was covered in radioactive debris following a mid-air collision of two American planes in 1966, one of which was carrying four nuclear bombs.

The cleanup operation was never completed and parts of the town are still off limits due to the continued existence of waste.

Historic park enjoyed by tourist rats

RATS have been filmed marauding around the Nicolas Salmeron park, the supposed green lung of Almería.

The footage, produced by the PSOE, shows several rodents scuttling through the area, despite the council's promise to eradicate them.

Socialist councillor Ines Plaza said: "They (the Popular Party) are always saying that they have acted or that they are going to act, but residents have confirmed that nothing has been done and they continue to suffer the same problem."

That is why we are going to make a formal request to see the council's management plan for ridding the park of these pests.

The park has recently been registered by the Junta de Andalucía as an area of Cultural Interest and a historic garden.

Spanish inheritance tax and the effect of Brexit

Workshops

Some Spanish regions have reformed their succession and gift tax rules for 2018. Looking ahead, Britain exiting the EU could also affect how British nationals are taxed on death and when making gifts in Spain.

To help you understand this tax and what effect the changes will have for you in the future, please book a place on one of our workshops.

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Hiking pilgrims retrace fateful journey

by Tom Woods

UP to 800 hikers have repeated the steps of the thousands of people from Malaga who arrived in Almeria during the Civil War.

The 'pilgrims' followed the route of those who fled to Almeria in 1937, which was under the control of the Republican Popular Party and represented the only means of escape.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 civilians and militiamen from Malaga lost their lives in the so-called 'road to death,' as they were attacked from land, sea and air.

In homage to this tragic episode, considered one of the bloodiest of the Civil War, the trekking club 'La Desbanda' has repeated the same 250



Photo by Facebook: Asociacion de Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales

MARCHING ON: Those who took part honoured the memory of the victims.

kilometre route along the Malaga-Almeria road.

The march of remembrance took 11 days, ending on February 16 with the arrival of about 200 people to the centre of Almeria (although 800 have participated over the various stages).

On his arrival in Almeria, club President Rafael Morales said: "At the end of each

stage we organise events, conferences, book presentations and other activities.

"Last year was the inaugural march and the 80th anniversary of the event, and now we want to maintain the tradition every year."

The walk ended with the laying of a wreath at the monument to those who lost their lives.

Councillors place motion supporting feminist strike

THE Izquierda Unida (IU) group on Almeria City Council have requested a vote on supporting a strike set to mark International Women's Day.

Amalia Roman, of the IU, tabled the motion to be addressed at the next session of the council over whether to back the feminist strike.

Backers hope the industrial action will be a general strike of women throughout the country when it takes place on March 8.

It has been called in protest over inequality, discrimination and structural violence experienced by women. Strikers will also call for a fairer society, according to a statement from the IU.

NEWS EXTRA

Workers thanked

ADRA'S mayor Manuel Cortes has thanked a group of young people who took part in works to improve the town, in a work experience programme that lasted six months.

Maths time

CUEVAS DEL ALMANZORA is set to host the Mathematical Olympiad for the first time on March 10, following a meeting with Mayor Antonio Fernandez and the Andalucía education spokesperson with the Thales Mathematical Association.

Women talk

THE Nijar Town Council has prepared a series of activities to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8, including hiking, talks and plays for children.

Bike death

A 51-YEAR-OLD man has died after his motorcycle crashed into a car on the Camino del Mar in Viator on Monday evening, with no other people injured as a result of the collision.

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NEWS EXTRA**Marihuana arrest**

A 54-YEAR-OLD man who sold marihuana out of jars from his van has been arrested by Guardia Civil officers, who subsequently seized 25 grams of the drug and also almost €500 in cash from his vehicle.

Not on track

A MEMBER of the Partido Socialista on Almería's provincial council has said unfinished works on the Cuesta del Negro (AL-7105) road had left it in a poor state of repair almost seven years after repairs began.

Egg-static

CHILDREN of all ages from Cuevas del Almanzora have taken part in egg and mask painting workshops in the town hall and competed for prizes in a competition to decide which was best last Friday.

Jobs figures

THERE were 3,917 people unemployed in Almería last month, a fall of almost 6.3 per cent compared to January 2017 according to Andres Garcia Lorca, an Almerian provincial council official.

Cancer check

AROUND 200 people were given advice on how to self-detect the early signs of cancer in a 30 minute micro-course held at the offices of the Vocational Training Institute (MEDAC) in Almería City.

Smoked out

THE number of people in Almería who smoke daily has fallen by 9.4 per cent in four years, from 27.6 per cent of the population in 2016 compared to 37 per cent in 2011.

A GROUP of people accused of being members of an illegal cockfighting club have had their charges sent to court.

Prosecutors have requested 10 months in prison for each of the 11 defendants, who reportedly organised the fights in a warehouse in Viator's industrial estate.

More than 100 people were at one fight when police raided it in 2016. Seven young people were also at the fight and spectators were placing bets on the

Eleven in court for alleged cockfighting

outcome of the matches, it was reported.

Around 84 cages for the animals were found in the warehouse, along with a ring, stands and a bar. Police were able to

rescue 17 cockerels during the raid, according to the Guardia Civil.

Prosecutors claim the group organised a series of fights in January, February and

in the first days of March 2016.

The birds reportedly had tape and glue applied to their limbs so they would be more harmful to their opponents.

Thirteen roosters had to be slaughtered because of their injuries from the fights and two died after losing both their eyes.

Andalucian environmental authorities have announced they will pursue sanctions against the group which could lead them to receive fines of up to €30,500.

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It's a fare cop

Taxi meter fare fiddle probed



ON THE TAKE: Meters may have been tampered with.

POLICE in Spain are investigating several taxi drivers who, it is alleged, have fiddled their meters to overcharge their customers.

Local Police offices in Sevilla in Andalucia, southern Spain, have also raided a workshop where it is claimed the electronic system was installed. Pressing a button, the electronic device allowed the taxi driver to manipulate the final price of the passengers' journeys on the official meter.

The button was located below the gear lever out of sight of the customer. When drivers changed gear they could easily press the button that bumped up the price on the meter.

The city council in Sevilla that licenses the taxis issued a statement saying it believed the fraud only affected a 'small group.'

A taxi drivers' spokesman said, "It is not a massive fraud, but confined to a small group."

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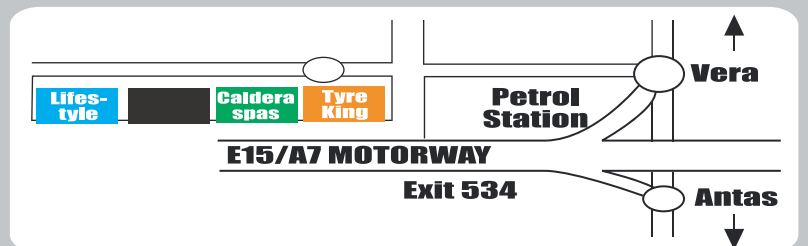
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A BRITISH woman, aged about 60 years old, has died after a multi-vehicle smash on the holiday island of Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands, according to the regional government. Three other people were injured in the three-vehicle pileup on

Car crash horror

the TF-46 in Guia de Isora. After the accident one vehicle caught fire. Firemen released four people who were

trapped in two of the cars. And one woman died at the scene. An air ambulance airlifted another with a serious head injury to hospital. Guard Civil traffic officers are investigating the sequence of events that led up to the fatal crash.

L of a plan

Revamped driving test to be unveiled



TESTING TIMES: The new rules come into force in May, according to Gregorio Serrano of the DGT (inset).

NEW drivers taking their test in Spain will have to attend compulsory classes.

It comes as the Spanish government puts the final touches to a raft of traffic law amendments expected to be approved 'within days,' according to reports.

Director of the Directorate General of Traffic (DGT), Gregorio Serrano, confirmed that an official announcement is expected shortly.

"It is clear that we must change the way we examine and introduce new material, such as videos, which include real life traffic situations and not just answering a, b or c," he said while addressing Spanish Congress.

Under the new rules, learner drivers will not be able to sit the theory test without attending a series of mandatory lessons.

According to the DGT, 'many' students show up to take the exam without any prepa-

ration, causing test centres to 'collapse.'

And some of the new questions will involve writing down solutions to potential traffic issues, rather than picking a traditional multiple choice answer.

New subjects introduced via the classes will include driving at night and the safe use of satellite navigation, plus risk assessment while at the wheel.

The DGT also plans to unveil a new system of sanctions for drug and alcohol offenders, making it more difficult for them to recover their licences.

More than 193,000 driving tests were cancelled last year in the wake of a slew of strikes by driving instructors locked in an ongoing pay dispute with the DGT.

The new rules - including previously announced changes to the ITV technical inspection - are set to be applied from May 20.

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REHEARSALS: A few of the ladies who dressed up for the occasion in Bar Solare.

Raise the curtain

STAGE DOOR will be performing their first matinee of 'The Speakeasy Murder' in the Roof Garden, Parque Comercial, Mojacar on Thursday March 22. Entrance is by ticket only available from the Roof Garden at €15 each including a meal. First course to be served at 2pm and the show will start at around 2.30pm.

On Wednesday April 11 they will be at La Magnifique, Mojacar Playa. Once again entry is by ticket only and these will be available from the venue. Tickets are €16 each including a free glass of wine with your meal.

Now is a good time to join the Indalo Players. They have just commenced rehearsals for their next murder mystery entitled 'The Mississippi Murder' and very soon they hope to recommence rehearsals for 'Plaza Suite' which some of you may recall had to be postponed last year.

They rehearse in Bar Solare, Turre every Tuesday from 4pm until 6pm. If you want to be on stage or back stage they will find a spot for you.

Alternatively contact: 671 810 819 or email: williamwhite9552@aol.com and they can arrange to meet over a coffee.



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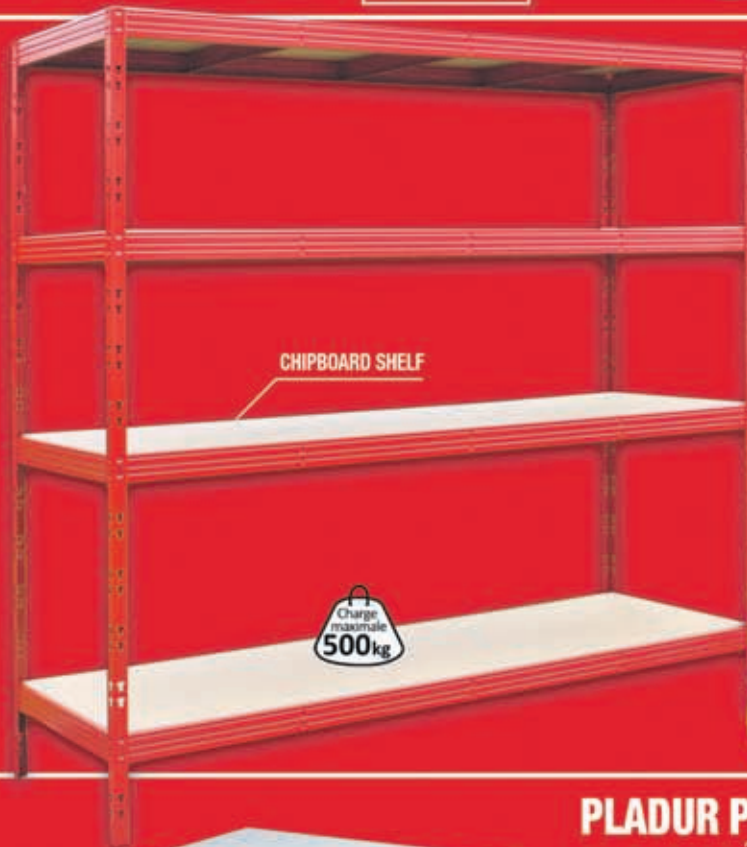
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Year of the Dog

A JOLLY audience greeted The Chinese New Year of the Dog at The Rooftop Restaurant in Mojacar in order to raise funds towards the Quarantine Unit for the Paws-Patas animal shelter.

The action packed afternoon provided music from Andy and Nadine, Lady Ellen and Stuart Drury. With a themed animal quiz, raffle plus a donation from Linda, owner of the restaurant, a grand total of €250 is added to this special fund.

Please visit our website: www.paws-patas.org.

Dance and sing along with FUSION

LOTS of barking, meowing and applause from Paws-Patas to the band FUSION who have raised almost €500 from recent gigs which they have donated towards the fund dedicated to building the much-needed Quarantine Unit at the animal shelter.

Local band FUSION consists of Baritones, Ukuleles (acoustic and electric) plus an array of percussion instruments. Their upbeat personalities deliver a range of 60's/70's classics from the likes of The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Creedence Clear Water, T-Rex, Bob Dylan and more! They are a perfect formula for any joyful occasion and are willing to play for 'free' for any charity.

To book them please contact Lesley Darling either at CliniVet in Turre or email her: lesleydarling@hotmail.com.



FUSION: Hand over their donation to Paws-Patas.

The band visited the shelter (minus percussionist Ray) with a heavy bag of money and was joined by Nouka who was abandoned at the shelter in September 2016.

Nouka is super cuddly and friendly, about five years old, weighs 30kg and is 55cm high. She loves people, attention and lying in the sun. Although she has a hip dis-

playsia on one side this does not bother her, but limits the amount of exercise she can do.

So if you are that person/family who would love to give Nouka her 'forever home' please contact Paws-Patas on 678 490 217. For all other information please visit the website: www.paws-patas.org.

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Crypto cash sweeteners

THE Spanish government is eager to attract companies using blockchain technology.

Conservative lawmaker Teodoro Garcia Egea has been tasked with preparing legislation to smooth potential deals, including possible tax breaks. "The level of digitalisation for companies is key," he said. "We hope to get the legislation ready this year."

According to Mr Garcia, it is in the country's interest to attract such firms as a driver for industries including finance, health and education.

Sub crash trial goes on

By Matt Ford

A SENIOR British naval officer who cost the UK €2.4 million after crashing a nuclear submarine near Spain has pleaded guilty in court.

Commander Justin Codd, 45, was in charge of the €1.2 billion HMS Ambush when it collided with the tanker MV Andreas off Gibraltar.

The submarine was taken out of service for three months after suffering damage to its conning tower.

Commander Codd was leading a training course when the incident occurred, as the group practised observing shipping

movement while controlling the craft at periscope depth.

Captain John Atwill, prosecuting, said that the commander did not carry out observations himself, relying on those of the trainees, who focused on a nearby yacht and failed to spot the tanker. He added: "Commander Codd's decision to focus on teaching, not safety, compounded the error carried out by the students."

Captain Sean Moore, defending, said: "This is a failure that will live with him for the rest of his life."

"No officer becomes teacher of the Submarine Command Course because they are good enough, they must be the best the submarine service has to offer.

"Perisher is widely acknowledged as the toughest command course in the world."

Judge Advocate Robert Hill said while sentencing: "You have, save for this incident, an exemplary record. It was more in the nature of a momentary aberration than a careless attitude."

The case will reportedly affect Commander Codd's 'career progress' and €88,000 annual salary.

A licence to print money

SPAIN wants to print money at a new location. And the government is pushing ahead with plans to build a new 'money factory,' after printing firm IMBISA - 80 per cent owned by the Bank of Spain - agreed contracts worth around €2 million.

More than half the cash will be handed to Spanish consultancy firm Everis for 'strategic design of information systems, with the remainder awarded to El Corte Ingles, best known for its chain of department stores, for 'development of new computer applications.'

Quote of the Week

"The EU does not abandon those who face a tragedy." EU Policy Commissioner Corina Crețu announces Spain is to receive €32m in EU aid to help repair the damage caused by last year's devastating wildfires in the Galicia region.



Photo by Twitter

GREAT BARCA BEKO-OFF: The firm has sponsored the club since 2014.

€19m shirt deal for Turkish firm

FC BARCELONA has extended a sponsorship deal with a budget washing machine brand.

Turkish domestic appliance maker Beko has revealed it is to pay €19 million per season for the next three years after sealing a new deal with the Catalan club.

In return, the company's logo will continue to appear on the first team training strip plus the left sleeve of the official club shirt.

Having been a relatively small sponsor since 2014, Beko now becomes one of the historic club's most important backers.

A new deal with American sportswear behemoth Nike - FC Barcelona's most important patron - is reportedly set to land the club €100 million per year for shirt sponsorship plus a further €60 million for managing its dedicated stores.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

The future is bright

SPAIN is set to be the second country to receive French telecommunication giant Orange's mobile banking service, with a full rollout planned for 2019 after the product dubbed Orange Bank launched in France last November.

Pension pain

SPANISH pensioners will lose an average of €350 of purchasing power per month over the course of their retirement as a result of the latest government reforms, according to consultancy firm Analysts Financieros Internacionales [International Financial Analysts].

Tasty profit

FOOD group Campofrío - headquartered in Madrid but owned by Mexican multinationals since 2013 - has revealed net sales shot through the €2 billion barrier in 2017, as the firm's Spanish sales soared by 22 per cent to €68.3 million.



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Spanish misery goes on

SPAIN has retained its position as the world's eighth most miserable economy. The country scored 17.3 on US technology firm Bloomberg's annual Misery Index, which ranks economies according to their rates of inflation and unemployment.

The company said in a statement: "The Bloomberg Misery Index relies on the age-old concept that low inflation and unemployment generally

illustrate how good an economy's residents should feel."

The league table was topped by Venezuela with a massive score of 1872, followed by South Africa (33.1), Argentina (27.1), Egypt (26.4), Greece and Turkey (20.6) and Ukraine (17.8) ahead of Spain, with Brazil (15.8) and Saudi Arabia (14.7) completing the top 10.

LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 19

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,723.00	-25.60	-1.46	23,785.75
Associated British Foods	2,645.00	-17.00	-0.64	20,694.36
Admiral Group	1,875.00	-31.00	-1.63	5,409.68
Ashtead Group	1,939.50	-91.50	-4.51	9,941.61
Antofagasta	925.00	10.40	1.14	9,030.45
Aviva	509.50	12.90	2.60	19,720.39
AstraZeneca	4,750.00	10.50	0.22	61,166.92
BAE Systems	596.50	-1.30	-0.22	18,239.56
Barclays	198.00	-2.05	-1.02	33,393.79
British American Tobacco	4,540.00	88.50	1.99	101,837.58
Barratt Developments	591.90	40.10	7.27	5,546.69
Berkeley Group Holdings	4,007.00	207.00	5.45	5,129.53
British Land Co	650.00	1.00	0.15	6,269.22
BHP Billiton	1,530.00	-47.40	-3.00	33,256.68
Bunzl	1,965.00	-69.00	-3.39	6,822.80
BP	475.00	1.60	0.34	94,660.10
Burberry Group	1,534.25	-17.75	-1.14	6,453.32
BT Group	238.50	10.10	4.42	22,378.85
Coca-Cola HBC	2,360.00	-99.00	-4.03	8,610.24
Carnival	4,845.00	34.00	0.71	10,123.13
Centrica	127.00	-1.15	-0.90	7,081.54
Compass Group	1,467.50	-80.00	-5.17	24,519.92
Croda International	4,456.50	1.00	0.02	5,682.74
CRH	2,482.50	20.40	0.82	20,360.50
DCC	6,967.50	262.50	3.91	6,065.66
Diageo	2,517.00	12.00	0.48	61,118.43
Direct Line Insurance Group	407.40	21.60	5.60	5,303.38
Evrax	351.00	-43.60	-11.05	5,374.50
Experian	1,571.00	14.00	0.90	14,036.65
easyJet	1,655.00	8.00	0.49	6,559.89
Ferguson	5,328.00	112.00	2.15	12,788.37
Fresnillo	1,348.00	-52.00	-3.71	9,797.00
G4S	271.55	12.85	4.97	3,910.02
GKN	403.00	-13.50	-3.24	7,064.52
Glencore	386.50	-1.50	-0.39	55,160.21
GlaxoSmithKline	1,304.50	-14.10	-1.07	64,000.38
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,681.50	-7.32	-0.44	7,880.80
Halma	1,222.50	0.00	0.00	4,540.51
Hammerson	479.30	16.60	3.59	3,651.86
HSBC Holdings	750.00	-10.80	-1.42	149,988.83
International Consoltd Airs Grp	635.00	27.00	4.44	12,372.63
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,852.50	-850.50	-18.08	8,815.54
3i Group	940.00	35.00	3.87	8,668.42
Imperial Brands	2,666.50	9.00	0.34	25,026.06
Informa	698.30	9.30	1.35	5,514.24
Intertek Group	5,130.50	137.50	2.75	7,829.06
ITV	167.50	-4.45	-2.59	6,658.03
Just Eat	855.00	-35.00	-3.93	5,857.20
Johnson Matthey	3,515.00	289.00	8.96	6,007.28
Kingfisher	357.00	-2.00	-0.56	7,757.13

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	967.50	23.70	2.51	6,900.75
Legal & General Group	230.55	-26.25	-10.22	15,051.35
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.09	-0.64	-0.94	48,034.79
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,074.50	24.50	0.60	13,772.38
Micro Focus International	2,235.50	117.50	5.55	8,929.06
Mediclinic International	591.50	8.50	1.46	4,217.04
Marks & Spencer Group	292.50	-6.30	-2.11	4,724.76
Mondi	1,901.50	38.50	2.07	8,698.70
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	223.90	3.10	1.40	5,112.12
National Grid	742.50	-7.10	-0.95	25,139.53
NMC Health	3,426.00	0.00	0.00	6,771.10
Next	5,211.00	290.00	5.89	6,916.16
Old Mutual Group	225.20	-21.20	-8.60	11,808.92
Paddy Power Betfair	7,615.00	-680.00	-8.20	6,919.79
Prudential	1,855.00	16.00	0.87	46,906.72
Persimmon	2,686.50	263.50	10.87	7,444.43
Pearson	691.50	-9.10	-1.30	5,249.67
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,502.50	-65.50	-1.00	44,501.74
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	274.80	-0.60	-0.22	32,894.13
Royal Dutch Shell	2,325.00	62.00	2.74	104,883.66
Royal Dutch Shell	2,283.25	-5.25	-0.23	86,876.57
RELX	1,520.50	29.50	1.98	15,445.27
Rio Tinto	4,080.00	-22.00	-0.54	54,236.45
Rolls-Royce Group	834.50	2.30	0.28	15,182.85
Randgold Resources	6,770.00	464.00	7.36	6,007.73
RSA Insurance Group	640.10	29.70	4.87	6,169.90
Rentokil Initial	295.00	4.60	1.58	5,216.19
Sainsbury (J)	247.00	-3.90	-1.55	5,361.82
Schroders	3,562.50	146.50	4.29	7,594.35
Sage Group (The)	751.10	50.90	7.27	7,471.07
Segro	600.60	9.40	1.59	5,552.20
Shire	3,250.00	48.00	1.50	28,534.30
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,633.00	23.00	0.88	5,940.39
Sky	1,105.00	4.00	0.36	18,599.77
Standard Life Aberdeen	367.10	2.90	0.80	11,597.50
Smith (DS)	489.35	5.65	1.17	5,046.93
Smiths Group	1,536.00	-53.00	-3.34	6,112.35
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	445.50	-12.90	-2.81	6,210.39
Smith & Nephew	1,225.00	-54.50	-4.26	11,015.02
SSE	1,315.00	115.00	9.58	12,082.63
Standard Chartered	820.00	-1.50	-0.18	26,670.97
St James's Place	1,149.25	24.25	2.16	5,925.70
Severn Trent	1,815.50	77.50	4.46	4,087.47
Tesco	205.50	0.90	0.44	16,563.62
TUI AG	1,645.75	91.75	5.90	9,045.76
Taylor Wimpey	189.50	1.70	0.91	6,083.80
Unilever	3,800.00	-1.50	-0.04	46,708.61
United Utilities Group	662.00	-7.40	-1.11	4,563.20
Vodafone Group	206.55	1.90	0.93	53,280.07
WPP Group	1,423.00	-48.00	-3.26	17,575.87
Whitbread	3,850.00	-100.00	-2.53	6,997.81

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CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 19

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	236,670	+0.77%	1,800	141,407,43
AMERICAN EXPRESS	96,7900	+0.24%	0,2300	83,365,95
APPLE	172,430	-0.32%	-0,560	879,828,78
BOEING CO	355,040	-0.40%	-1,420	209,249,50
CATERPILLAR	156,290	-2.31%	-3,690	93,508,69
CHEVRON	112,14	-0.35%	-0,39	213,185,73
CISCO SYSTEMS	44,330	+0.57%	0,250	220,164,21
COCA-COLA	44,98	+0.45%	0,20	192,177,40
DOWDUPONT	71,95	+0.14%	0,10	169,087,70
EXXON MOBIL	76,54	+0.43%	0,33	324,853,65
GENERAL ELECTRIC	15,0500	+1.35%	0,2000	130,899,92
GOLDMAN SACHS	267,62	-0.02%	-0,06	101,150,35
HOME DEPOT	186,9700	+0.92%	1,7000	218,637,57
IBM	156,18	+0.11%	0,17	144,646,57
INTEL CORP	45,5600	-0.78%	-0,3600	215,092,80
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	114,6800	-0.72%	-0,8300	395,074,10
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	133,1500	+1.46%	1,9200	358,395,21
MC DONALD'S CORP	157,7900	-1.86%	-2,9900	126,270,21
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56,29	+0.54%	0,30	153,957,93
MICROSOFT	92,000	-0.71%	-0,660	713,136,70
NIKE	68,30	+0.01%	0,01	88,891,45
PFIZER	36,2600	+1.54%	0,5500	217,088,96
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	82,600	+0.23%	0,190	208,587,85
TRAVELERS CIES	141,16	+0.20%	0,28	38,684,18
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	129,26	-0.57%	-0,74	103,347,35
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	229,37	+1.48%	3,35	221,972,20
VERIZON COMMS	50,15	+0.82%	0,41	204,955,19
VISA	121,85	-0.35%	-0,43	220,244,67
WAL-MART STORES	104,7800	+1.50%	1,5500	309,331,87
WALT DISNEY CO	106,5300	+1.28%	1,3500	161,118,83

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 19

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Synchronoss Technologies, Inc.	\$ 9.05	1.57 ▲ 20.99%
Yangtze River Port and Logistics Limited	\$ 5.25	0.80 ▲ 17.98%
The Navigators Group, Inc.	\$ 59.40	8.70 ▲ 17.16%
Calithera Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 8.10	1.15 ▲ 16.55%
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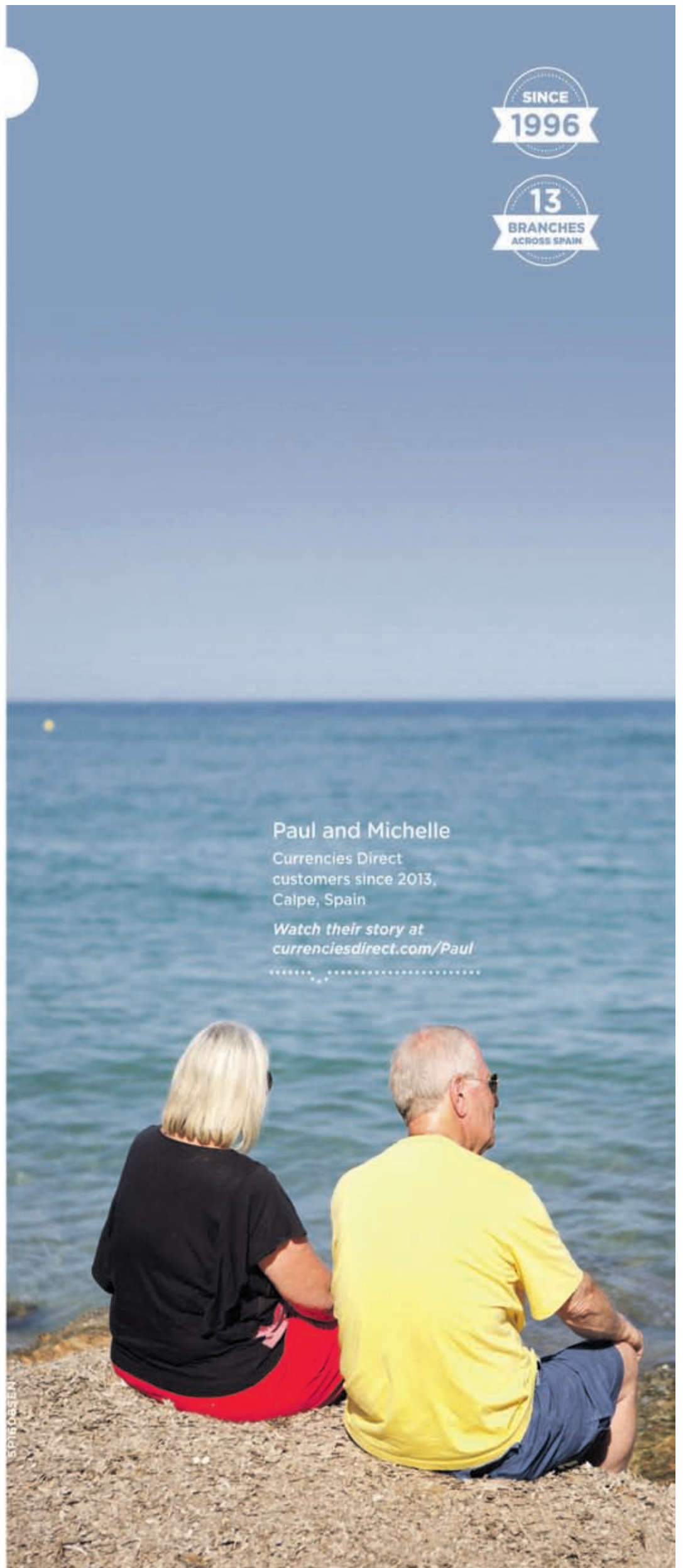
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Hunt for Med October

STATE-OWNED FIRM TO DESIGN WARSHIPS

SPAIN appears set to build new warships for the United States (US).

The news comes after the US government confirmed that it has chosen Spanish state-owned shipbuilding company Navantia to head the conceptual design of its massive multi-billion Euro frigate programme.

And the decision places the shipbuilder - the fifth biggest in Europe - at the head of the queue to construct the boats on behalf of the US Navy.

The programme, dubbed FFG(X), will see the first of the frigates completed by 2020, with a second due in 2021, after which the Navy will buy two per year until reaching a total of 20 at a cost of 'no more than \$950 million (€767 million) each,' according to a US Department of Defence report.

This timeframe does not allow for development of a completely new design, therefore the Navy has requested that the FFG(X) be based on an existing 'parent' ship, with the Australian Hobart-class destroyer, itself based on Navantia's F100/Alvaro de Bazan-class frigate, having been selected.

Having beaten off competition from four other firms, Navantia will now work alongside partner General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, a shipyard located on the Kennebec River in Bath, Maine, to design the frigates.

The US has ordered a warship that can keep pace with aircraft carriers, and the FFG(X) programme will equip the Navy with "sufficient capacity to achieve the objective of maritime security control and operations, as well as provide support to naval combat groups," Navantia said in a statement.

The frigates will be equipped with guided missiles and will have



ART OF WAR: The new frigates will be based on Navantia's existing F100 blueprint.

the capacity to destroy enemy ships over the horizon, detect submarines, defend convoys, employ electronic warfare systems, and defend against swarming small boat attacks.

The F100-class design has seen Navantia contracted to the world's largest warship programmes, including the Australian and Canadian fleets.

It last year agreed to work with Bath Iron Works on US military projects in a reverse of a relationship which began more than 40 years ago, when the American company helped provide technology to build ships for the Spanish Navy's Santa Maria-class fleet.

FAST FOOD AND BREAKFASTS ON RISE

Grub's up for restaurants

SPANISH diners are visiting more bars and restaurants than ever.

Sales in the catering sector increased by 2.5 per cent in 2017, with overall revenue topping €36 million, according to American market research company the NPD Group.

It is the third consecutive year that the industry has demonstrated positive growth, with the number of visits climbing by 1.3 per cent, or 98 million.

Each customer also spent an additional 1 per cent, an average of €4.88.

NPD Group Executive Director Vicente Montesinos said: "The improvement in an economic context has favoured recovery in terms of traffic, while the increase in visits and a growing average expenditure allowed the market to exceed €36 million in sales for the first time since 2011."

But the market has not yet recovered to pre-financial crisis levels, with the number of visits and expenditure both below the totals for 2005-2007.

The annual average number of visits per individual during that period was



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Spaniards are eating out more but increasingly prefer burgers and pizza, says NPD's Vicente Montesinos (inset).

180, while the average for 2017 was 158.

And the latest statistics show that eateries serving products quickly are the main driver behind the growth, with fast food restaurants, tapas bars and coffee

shops representing 86 per cent of the increase.

There is also a trend away from traditional Spanish fare, with American-style hamburger and Italian restaurants outstripping their rivals.

Chains also eclipsed independently-owned businesses in terms of both the number of visits and the amount of money spent, accounting for 23 per cent of the overall catering market.

Breakfast and lunchtime demonstrated the greatest increases in diners during the week, while the number of people eating out at weekends also shot up.

Mr Montesinos added: "At the beginning of the [financial] crisis the first thing that was hit were breakfasts eaten outside the home, because unemployment increased and labour mobility decreased.

"Then, around two million people lost their jobs in 2009 and the lunch industry was hit.

"But with the economic recovery we are seeing more jobs and an increase in the number of people eating out, including breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Spanish oil company inks €1.2bn 'mega deal'

SPANISH oil and gas firm Cepsa has announced a €1.2 billion mega deal with the United Arab Emirates.

The 40-year agreement will see the multinational bag a 20 per cent stake in the Umm Lulu and Satah al-Razboot (also known as SARB) offshore oilfields from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

It is the biggest contract inked by the company since its €1.76 billion acquisition of South East Asian exploration and production company Coastal Energy in 2013.

Cepsa was bought by Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) in a €267 million 2011 takeover.

IPIC was in 2016 merged with Mubadala Development Company PJSC, an investment vehicle owned by the Abu Dhabi government and classed as a National Wealth Fund.

Minister to tour London

SPAIN has moved to quash Brexit fears.

Speaking to the national congress, Development Minister Iñigo de la Serna revealed that Spain continues to view the UK as one of 11 key construction and infrastructure markets despite voting to leave the EU.

The official went on to confirm that he has a trip to London lined up later this month, during which he will offer support to Spanish companies competing for major UK infrastructure contracts, including construction of the HS2 high speed train and expansion of Heathrow Airport.

The whistle-stop tour will see the official hold a series of key business meetings plus bilateral talks with his UK government peers, before he visits some existing Spanish-led projects.

FLORIDA AND BALI CHEAPER THAN SPAIN Long-haul savings sky high

SPANISH hoteliers may have shot themselves in the foot.

Rising room prices, plus a weak United States dollar and competition from the Middle East mean it can now be cheaper to spend two weeks in far flung locations including Thailand, Dubai and Florida.

It comes after several years of record-breaking tourist figures, with 82 million holidaymakers choosing Spain in 2017.

But research by price comparison website TravelSupermarket has revealed that in 2018 various long-haul destinations are considerably more cost-effective than the Costa del Sol, Balearic and Canary Islands.

For example, over the upcoming May half-term, a week in a four-star Abu Dhabi hotel costs around €350 per person, compared with €620 in Menorca and €475 in Tenerife.

A similar break in Dubai - based on a seven-night stay for a



family of four flying from London Gatwick on the last weekend in May - is priced at €350, while Florida costs €420.

In summer, Pattaya in Thailand and the Indonesian paradise of Bali are up to 20 per cent cheaper than Ibiza or Menorca, according to TravelSupermarket's Emma Coulthurst.

"People may think their holiday budget can only stretch to short haul and they can't afford

long haul, so don't consider it. "But the reality is, long-haul destinations can offer incredible

value this summer... it is really worth doing your research and comparing both to see what else you can get for your money.

"But, be realistic on weather. Florida, for example, is also coming up cheaper this July and August and offering some incredible deals - but the weather at that time of year is incredibly hot and humid."

US holiday firms have slashed prices by up to 35 per

cent due to the so-called 'Trump slump,' with travellers less-inclined to visit the country in the wake of his appointment.

Ms Coulthurst added: "Brits have always been one of the US's biggest markets and Florida, particularly Orlando, can't afford for us not to go there."

Abu Dhabi and Dubai have also made cuts of around 10 per cent, while Spanish hotel prices have increased by around 8 per cent since 2016.

It is however cheaper to eat and hire a car in Spain.

More than 20 million British holidaymakers visited Spain last year, the most of any country, but 2018 forecasts predict a fall in numbers.

The 2016 Spanish boom came in the wake of terrorist attacks in Turkey, Egypt, and Tunisia, although travel agent Thomas Cook recently announced that it will fly to the latter this year.

De Guindos fears raised in Brussels

HE appears set to be named vice-president of the European Central Bank.

But the European Parliament has raised concerns over the appointment of Spain's Finance Minister, Luis de Guindos, to the coveted role.

In government office since 2011, the conservative politician announced he will step down 'in the coming days' after Ireland's Philip Lane - his sole rival - pulled out of the race.

He has been slated to replace Portugal's Vitor Constancio for months, although it was Lane who most impressed senior members of the parliament's monetary and finance committee during a non-binding, closed-door hearing with the two candidates in Brussels.

He had little support from ministers, however, while De Guindos has been backed by influential countries including France and Germany. A final decision is expected in March.

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Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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Something must be done quickly

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



THESE latest revelations of paedophilia and 'sex for aid' in OXFAM didn't surprise me one bit.

Frankly I also consider it merely the tip of the iceberg. I believe that just about all organisations that deal with children are positively riddled with these low life predators. After all, if I were a junkie I would go where the drugs are. If my habit was gambling I would seek out gambling joints.

It stands to reason that those who feel the need to prey on youngsters, go where they can find children. OXFAM. UNICEF. Football scouting. Church and teaching organisations. Dr Barnardo's homes. Children's hospitals and so on, all are vulnerable to the infiltration of these evil beings who destroy young lives before they have barely begun.

A recent report by an ex-UN official stated that UN aid workers, may not only have raped up to 60,000 people over the last 10 years, but are estimated to employ some 3,300 paedophiles in their worldwide operation.

One terribly sad result of these alarming, seemingly never-ending revelations, is that decent men and women, who sincerely want to



OXFAM SCANDAL: The tip of the iceberg?

help and care for the young, are shying away and entering other professions, simply because they don't want to be regarded with suspicion by their peers. Even stating publicly that you love children can attract a 'funny' look in some circumstances. If this unacceptable situation is allowed to continue unchecked, sooner or later the majority of children's charity workers will all be sex abusers and paedophiles.

So where do you start? Well first of all there needs to be a worldwide easily accessible data centre, which holds a record of every worker who has been sacked for abuse of any kind.

This would ensure that these people at least could never get into any other organisation that involved children. Secondly, those at the very top need to be thoroughly vetted. After all it stands to reason, if they are rife with such

large numbers of offenders, some could quite easily be in board and management positions.

This would also explain the fact that there have been numbers of occasions where whistleblowers have been sacked, with their accusations stifled and pushed under the carpet.

Far from being vilified, these caring people need to be given every encouragement and complete anonymity while a thorough investigation of their accusations is conducted by an independent body set up by respective governments. I also believe the finances of these big charity companies should be more carefully looked into. It seems to me many of those 'at the top' seem to be living far too comfortably - for comfort - if you get my drift.

Well that's my three penneth, for what it's worth. All I know is something must be done and as quickly as possible. After all it is the children who are suffering at the hands of these monsters, and above all they must retain priority.

Thanks for all your wonderful mails after last week's piece. Fair warmed the ol' boy's cockles. Keep 'em coming, and whatever ya do.

Always.
Keep the faith,

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

Love Leapy. leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

If 'Send to All' really existed...

If you really want to play the Michael McIntyre game, practise safe sending

TECH FOR THE TIMID



LAST year a friend sent my email address a joke.

Now I'm deluged with offers to augment the male anatomy, retrieve my winnings from a lottery I didn't enter, or enjoy the charms of ladies called Anushka or Anastasya.

And all because my friend took a leaf from the Michael McIntyre show by using his equivalent of that 'Send to All' game to pass on his innocuous joke.

What email etiquette did he contravene? His emailed joke was openly addressed to everyone in his address book. I could see all his dozens of friends' addresses, and they could all see mine. In this age of easy digital pilferage that put all our addresses out there in the wild, it's easy pickings for the spammers.

So here's this week's tiny but vital email etiquette tip: when you want to forward the funniest thing since seg-



EMAIL OVERLOAD: To BCC or not to BCC.

mented whole wheat, hide the addresses of your inflictees.

Here's how:

- 1) Compose your email.
- 2) Address it to your own email address.
- 3) Then add your recipients one by one with the BCC button.

BCC officially means 'Blind Carbon Copy'. It's the subversive variant of the CC 'copy' function, responsible single-handedly for swamping workplaces with

avalanches of digital sludge.

BCC is a really sneaky way to copy someone into correspondence without the original addressee being aware of it. All BCC addresses are hidden from all other recipients, so no one can harvest valuable contact details from your address book.

By addressing an email to yourself and then BCC-ing your recipients, their details remain sacrosanct and they'll only hate you for the inanity of your joke, not for revealing their

email addresses to all.

While we're at it, here's another obvious but surprisingly common email fault: keeping everything in your Inbox.

My immortal beloved eventually had several thousand emails in her groaning, treacle-slow Inbox until she finally saw the light and was saved.

All it takes is to make folders/directories in your email program's left-hand navigation column, and every day drag your dealt-with emails from the Inbox into their respective folders: Business, Friends, Lovers, Potential lovers, Final demands, Absolutely final demands, whatever folders suit your particular needs. It makes finding the email you want a whole lot easier too.

One more tip: delete those huge attachments from your emails once you're done with them. In some programs you just right-click the attachment symbol and choose delete.

Your email program will become much more responsive without the burden of all those forwarded cat videos. So do it right miao.

Scorched earth

RATHER than clean my lodgings as a student, it was often easier just to keep moving somewhere else.

Sadly it's not that simple with email, though some of us do indeed just give up when spammers overrun our accounts, and endure the 'scorched earth' hassle of starting a new address.

Hitting an 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of an email often works. But sometimes it has the opposite and unintended effect of confirming to the spammer that he has reached an actual live recipient, and the invasion ramps up.

For extreme cases you can actually train your program to recognise junk mail and move it to a junk folder automatically. Or you can use a proper spam blocker. I had 30 emails advertising one in my Inbox last week...

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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

What a state Britain's in - how did it get to this?

WHAT'S going on in the UK?

We read that the NHS was forced to pay £1,500 for a £2 pot of moisturiser, people have been extortionately fined for putting cardboard boxes in the wrong recycling bins, plus there's been a torrent of false rape allegations.

First up, the owner of the high street chemist, Boots, charged the NHS £1,500 for a £2 moisturiser.

The case is among thousands where it looks as if the NHS has been overcharged for drugs called specials: custom-made for patients who need non-standard medicines, mixtures of skin creams for eczema etc and drugs in liquid form for those unable to swallow pills.

This speaks volumes about poor management at the NHS. Are they totally blind to the blatant abuse of the

system by unscrupulous suppliers, who must have knowledge of pricing and policies, but choose to exploit them for their own gain?

Next, a woman was fined £600 for putting one cardboard box into the wrong recycling bin. When she complained, she was warned she'd face an even larger fine, possibly a prison sentence unless she paid up. The fine was imposed by a company, employed by the council, that provides enforcement to councils free of charge and makes money from all these fines. Really?

Then, the false rape allegations. A teenage schoolboy, Liam Allan, was cleared of rape after his lawyers uncovered key evidence proving his innocence but missed by



EXTORTIONATE: Boots ripped the NHS off £1,500 for a £2 moisturiser.

police and prosecutors.

Expelled from school after his arrest, on bail for two years, he's the youngest vic-

tim of the disclosure scandal engulfing the CPS.

But are other innocent men behind bars less 'lucky' than

young Liam? Has the pendulum against men swung a bit too far?

Let's take another exam-

ple. The UK, as elsewhere, is confronted by threats of a world order; Putin's Russia on the prowl, terrorists galore, Trump's America not completely dependable anymore. Meanwhile, what sort of questions were the British media hurling at the defence secretary in response recently? Why, all about his past sex life, of course. 'Nuff said.

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

All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Advertising Feature

An appetite to travel?

Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL

christina@globelink.co.uk



WE know that age doesn't slow down your appetite for travel to new, exciting destinations. We know that it's the mature generation taking holidays by storm and travelling more often and further afield than ever before.

An impressive 85 per cent of over 65's travel more than twice annually. And why not! With time and enthusiasm to discover the world, whether visiting family, friends, or taking a life time trip, there is no holding back this sea of change as holidays escalate up our 'essentials list' the older we get.

Older travellers tend to be more security and health conscious, yet it's sometimes increasingly difficult to get travel insurance the



WINTER SPORTS: Cover is free on certain policies.

older you get, especially for the over 80's.

At Globelink we like to think we work hard to develop and improve products in line with customer's feedback, particularly as we really appreciate how loyal you are, with a whopping 68 per cent of you repeat buying from us.

We believe that age shouldn't be a blocker when arranging Travel Insurance, that's why we're excited about Globelink's latest new product - Single Trip Travel Insurance for 85-89 year olds.

Thanks to the support of our insurance partner at Lloyds, we've introduced comprehensive cover

for this older age band, so spread the word to look further for a quality policy if you're aged up to 89.

We will also soon be offering long term Single Trip cover for up to 10 months for people aged up to 79 years, so there's no need to cut short those exotic adventures, or trips to family and friends.

Did you know that all our policies include Cruise Cover as standard, with no extra charge? Fourteen per cent of holidaymakers plan on taking a cruise this year and there's more choice than ever, especially river cruises, so avoid paying insurance hidden extras by choosing Globelink.

We know the older you get, the more likely you might have a medical condition, so we've doubled the number of Pre-Existing Medical Conditions covered as standard, including gastric reflux, diabetes, hypertension and more.

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Lap of luxury

Costa is class act for high end sales



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: The Mediterranean coast is leading the luxury property drive.

By Kat Ashton

THE purchase of Spanish homes by foreign buyers is sky rocketing.

And the real estate market has recovered faster since the financial crisis than most of the country's other industries.

The Spanish Mediterranean coast remains among the top destinations for those on the hunt for luxury homes, complete with pristine golf courses and, above all, sea views.

According to the latest data published by Spanish notaries, there were more than 50,000 purchases by foreign investors in the first half of 2017, marking a 13.4 per cent year-on-year increase.

And while Spanish housing market figures have shown a consistent improvement since 2014, they have boomed in recent months.

The southern Spanish coast remains one of the preferred destinations year after year for foreign buyers looking for a luxury home.

Sea views are reportedly among the top priority for these buyers, closely followed by distance to the nearest golf course and their own swimming pool, according to a new report by a leading estate agent.

The agency claims that these buyers are looking for properties built using the latest materials and technology, but are also energy efficient. Smart homes are the latest trend among foreign upmarket buyers, which combine state-of-the-art technology with energy saving features.

However, foreign buyers reportedly prefer a house further away from the coast, so long as they have a good pool, are closer to the golf course and still have great views of the sea, while homes sought by Spanish buyers tend to be closer to the beachfront.

The typical "foreigner looking for a house in Spain is usually Nordic or British, who buys the property as a holiday home first and often ends up spending his retirement there," explained the agency.



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sell your home. New property listings are urgently required in all price brackets and of all property types, to meet the needs of clients, following a brilliant start to 2018, with properties selling faster than ever, please make contact with us now.

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* Buy or Sell a property with Grupo Platinum Estates in 2018 and you will be entered into a draw to win back the cost of your buying or selling fees.* Each property can only have one ticket in the draw, so if there are multiple owners, sellers or purchasers, just one ticket will be given in joint names. Each prize has a maximum value of €5,000*. There will be two prizes. One for a seller. One for a buyer. The draw will take place in front of the notary public of Pulpi on January 10, 2019.

Tiny mobile homes making their mark

THE trend is yet to hit Spain, but the popularity of the Tiny House movement is sweeping across the US, and other countries are taking notice.

People are embracing a vision about mobile homes that takes in a lifestyle immersed in nature, but that can be near urban areas or even in a green area in the middle of a city.

For many it has been a day-dream to escape the stress and frantic pace of urban life, with an energy saving home that you can take where you want, with less expenses and less chores.

But the Tiny House social movement was born out of this vision, and to promote the reduction of built-up urban sprawls.

The case was there to be made that it is not necessary to live in houses of more than 200 square metres, in which owners spend a



PHOTO BY TWITTER @ARCHITECTS_MAG

BRANCHING OUT: The Tiny House movement is spreading internationally.

third of their income over many years on the mortgage.

The Tiny Houses do not usually exceed 20 or 30 square metres, and have all the comforts of a normal home, with a bathroom,

heating, appliances, but combined with a stylish minimalism.

Those who are curious about the concept can even start with a rental arrangement, or a weekend getaway.

Real estate sales go through the roof

MALAGA is the fourth most popular province in the country to buy a home, according to the National Institute of Statistics.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE: Malaga Province is enjoying a real estate boom.

It is surpassed only by the two flagship cities, Madrid and Barcelona, and by Alicante.

Between January and November 2017 a total of 27,941 homes were sold in Malaga, representing a growth of 13.1 per cent over the previous year.

The data confirms the view that the real estate sector is enjoying its strongest period in recent years, with November alone posting the best figures since 2007.

Malaga alone counts for a third of all sales in the Andalusian region, owing to its popularity with foreign buyers.

The scale of Malaga's real estate performance can be seen in the fact that the January-November period saw it sell twice as many homes than both Galicia and the Basque Country.



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Ref: PEPDR160 • €89,900



Fantastic luxury penthouse apartment 2 bed & 1 bath with sea views from the large south-facing terrace. Gated complex with communal gardens and swimming pool.

Ref: CAPD4LP • €89,950



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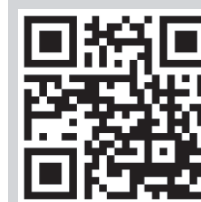
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A Place in the Sun



Casa Zeta Jones: the new self-styled interior designer

WITH five luxury homes to choose from, including a €40 million, 11-bedroom villa in Mallorca, it's little surprise that Catherine Zeta Jones has developed an interest in home decor.

The Welsh-born mother of two, 48, Hollywood actress and wife of screen legend Michael Douglas, 73, is not shy about showing off her efforts either.

Although her new film, *Cocaine Godmother*, in which she plays Colombian drug baron Griselda Blanco, recently aired, her acting career has been on the quiet side of late.

But after launching her Casa Zeta Jones homeware range with QVC in August last year, and regularly sharing her renovation projects on social media, it looks as though the Oscar-winning star is taking a new career direction.

The couple's largest home is an €11.29 million property in Bedford, upstate New York, complete with stables, as well as eight bedrooms and 13



FINE DINING: Catherine's feminine flourishes offset the dark wooden pieces.

bathrooms.

It boasts shiny black granite floors that require daily polishing by the staff, and there is an array of antiques including an art deco butterfly wing piano worth more than €34,000.

Catherine adds a touch of softness and colour to imposing, dark wood dining tables by decorating them with arrangements of fresh roses, telling fans: "Wish you could smell these fragrant blooms."



PHOTO BY INSTAGRAM/CATHERINE ZETA JONES

Even at mealtimes, the ornately carved breakfast bar in the tiled kitchen, which boasts two cookers and a quirky arrangement of framed spoons, is laid with matching China with fresh flowers on the nap-

kin rings.

Visitors who are lucky enough to be invited over can relax in the luxury guest house, which has been remodelled by Catherine, who is clearly relishing her new direction.

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TABERNO	LA ALFOQUIA	ZURGENA	HUERCAL-OVERA
<p>VH1250 €129,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 / 5 bed, 2 bath Country House • Workshop & sun terrace • Large courtyard plus land • 5 mins drive to Taberno 	<p>VH1255 €154,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed, 2 bath Quality Villa • 6m x 3m swimming pool • 339m2 landscaped garden • Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia 	<p>VH1254 €182,000 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed, 2 bath Quality Villa • 8m x 4m swimming pool • 780m2 landscaped garden • 5 mins drive to Zurgena 	<p>VH1252 €85,000 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bed, 1 bath Country House • Habitable but renovation needed • Garage and 25,000m2 of land • 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa
<p>THANK YOU FOR ALL THE NEW LISTINGS BUT PLEASE WE NEED MORE</p>	<p>LOW COMMISSIONS</p> <p>NO "LOCK IN" CONTRACTS</p> <p>NO AGENT WILL WORK HARDER</p>	<p>THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT</p>	<p>VH1249 €159,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed, 1 bath Country House • Quality renovation but more to do • 5,000m2 of land, great views • 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa
<p>VH1228 €149,000 CEE E40 2</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 bed, 1 bath Edge of Village House • Habitable but further work needed • Walk to shops, restaurants etc • Taberno village 	<p>VH1086 €144,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>BARGAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacious 3 bed, 2 bath Villa • 415m2 plot, pool & sun roof • Modern, spacious style • Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia 	<p>VH1253 €179,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed, 2 bath Quality Villa • 8m x 4m swimming pool • 553m2 landscaped garden • 5 mins drive to Zurgena 	<p>VH1248 €149,950 CEE TBC</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 / 4 bed, 2 bath Country House • Totally new build with character • 1,400m2 garden with views • 14 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

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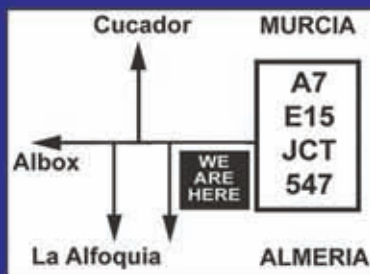
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Log into a unique floating hotel

ARTICBATH is Sweden's upcoming floating hotel on the Lule River, and is literally an escape from everyday life.

Located in the Scandinavian north, the area is a glacial haven of snow-tipped forests, world-class fishing, amazing wildlife and the Northern Lights.

The resort is from the team behind the region's acclaimed Treehotel - the quirky brainchild of owners Britta and Kent Lindvall.

ArcticBath will offer a similar mix of luxury and nature, inspired by the stunning Swedish surroundings.

"You don't have to copy things made elsewhere, it's not interesting," says architect Bertil Harstrom. "I think the interesting things come from your own history and your background."

The unique design is inspired by

Swedish log-shiping traditions which Harstrom recalled from his childhood.

"It was a symbol for that era and so I chose to build this idea around the connection to the forests," he said.

The resulting circular structure is a striking combination of man-made and natural influences.

ArcticBath is home to six rooms alongside saunas, a cold plunge pool, spa treatment rooms, a restaurant and a bar.

During winter, the resort will be frozen into the ice, and obviously floating in the river in the warmer months.

After the success of Treehotel, locals in the nearby village of Harads have been very encouraging about the project.

ArcticBath is due to open in late 2018.



LIQUID DREAMS: Customers will have a unique experience on the water.

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A1329 60,000€

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LV744 172,500€

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LV745 160,000€

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LV747 110,000€

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LV748 249,950€

Vera



Modern 3 bed, 2 bath, detached villa of 172m2 on a plot of 10,815m2. Very private yet only a short drive to shops & beaches. Part furnished.

DV1435 245,000€

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DV1428 295,000€

Mojácar Playa



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DV1439 499,000€

Cortijo Grande



Refurbished 3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa & 1 bed, 1 bath, guest apartment of 355m2 on 2,860m2. All mod cons. inc. garage, private pool. Superb country views.

DV1452 625,000€

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Superb south-facing 3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 220m2 on a fenced plot of 10,900m2. Good quality. Great views. 9x4 pool, A/C, carport & much more.

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DV1443 495,000€

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DV1449 360,000€

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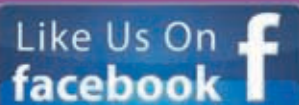
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PRICE RISE: An increase in demand and a shortage of supply has pushed up prices for property in Marbella and elsewhere in Malaga Province.

Shortage of land in Malaga leading to rising prices

MALAGA PROVINCE is among Madrid and the Balearic Islands in experiencing a lack of suitable land for building new homes, according to a report.

The shortage of directly buildable land has begun to impact on an already scarce supply of houses which, along with increasing demand, is causing prices to rise.

Prices in Marbella have risen particularly significantly due to these factors, according to the Appraisal Society's data from January.

House market activity has also increased in Sevilla, Malaga and

Granada. Markets in Cordoba, Jaen and Almeria are reportedly more stable in contrast.

Nationally, land prices in the Basque Country have reportedly remained stable, although residential values have risen.

There was vacant land available for development in Aragon, but building is expected to remain concentrated around its main urban centres. Much of the free land there is more suited to industrial use.

The picture in Cataluña was more varied, with activity in the land market focused around Barcelona, but not growing in areas such as Lerida and Tarragona. This is reported-

ly down to ongoing political uncertainty with the region's independence crisis still ongoing.

The markets of Madrid and Valencia are reportedly experiencing strong levels of growth. In Alicante and Murcia prices have remained stable in part due to the availability of land.

In the Balearic Islands prices have continued to rise, fuelled by an increase in demand particularly in coastal areas.

The markets of Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla Leon have not seen much recent development despite the availability of land, although prices have risen.

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189,950€ | cla 7061



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lovely views and easy walk to the village
Arboleas

189,000€ | cla 6960



2 bed 2 bath villa with separate guest
annex, roof terrace with stunning views,
pool and 2,500m plot
Albox

215,000€ | cla 7059



3 bed 2 bath two storey villa
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views Arboleas

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country house Chirivel
swimming pool

145,000€ | cla 7025



3 bed 2 bath villa Almanzora
huge underbuild, pool and lovely
views

230,000€ | cla 7089



5 bed 4 bath country villa Oria
easy walk to village, swimming pool,
stunning views

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3 bed 2 bath villa La Alfoquia
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3 bed 3 bath Lakes Vega villa
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Moving home from Spain? Make your money go further

If the sun is setting on your time in Spain and you need to transfer savings or the proceeds of a property sale back to the UK, it's important to consider your currency options.

Picking the best time to transfer your funds and having the support of a specialist provider can leave you thousands better off. Intrigued? Read on to discover the key things you should be looking out for...

1. Exchange rate volatility

Exchange rates are the value of one currency relative to another, and they can move in reaction to all manner of economic, political, social and even environmental stimuli.

The EUR/GBP exchange rate, for example, has shifted significantly over the last few years.

Back in 2016 the EUR/GBP exchange rate was around £0.75 - meaning one euro was worth 75 pence. But then Brexit happened. The UK's unexpected vote to leave the EU sent the pound reeling, and the broad-based weakness in Sterling helped the EUR/GBP exchange rate jump as high as £0.92 - 17 pence stronger.

17 pence might not sound like much (it couldn't even buy you half a Mars Bar these days) but the exchange rate shift meant that people making larger currency transfers from the Eurozone to the UK were thousands better off than they would have been pre-vote.

Although the EUR/GBP exchange rate has since eased away from its post-referendum highs, it's still substantially stronger than it was a couple of years ago - making now a good time to transfer money back to Britain.

However, exchange rates can move by as much as 5% in a matter of weeks, so it's worth keeping an eye on what the currency market's up to if you want to transfer your funds at the best time.

If you aren't sure where to find the latest currency news, sign up to receive market updates from a leading currency broker and they'll send the information you need to know right to your inbox.

The type of provider you use can also make a massive difference to how much you receive, with currency specialists tending to offer far more competitive exchange rates than banks.

2. Transfer charges

While currency providers like Currencies Direct will manage your currency transfers fee-free, many other providers (and most high-street banks) will charge for the service.

The fee will vary, but no matter how much it is, it's still money you don't need to spend. Make

sure you check how much a provider charges before using them to move your funds back home.

3. Transfer options

When it comes to transferring currency overseas, there are a number of different options to choose from...

If you need to make an immediate transfer, a spot contract allows you to move the money quickly at the current exchange rate.

Meanwhile, if you don't need to move money at the moment but you're worried the exchange rate might change in the future, you can use a forward contract to lock in the rate for up to a year.

You can even use a stop loss order to set a worst-case rate, or use a limit order to target a rate higher than the current market level.

Currencies Direct offers all these options, and their teams of currency experts will be able to talk through your requirements and help you pick the best solution for you.

Currencies Direct also have a relationship with CaixaBank that means anyone selling a property in Spain can deposit the banker's draft in their euro account without incurring all the usual fees.

At Currencies Direct, we've helped over 210,000 customers save on their currency transfers since 1996. Just pop into your local Currencies Direct branch or give us a call to find out more about how you can save money on your currency transfers.

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<p>Townhouse in Vera Playa • VIP7328</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Communal Pool • Move in Ready <p>Price: 127,000€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7519</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Communal Pool • Sea View <p>Price: 125,000€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Pueblo • VIP7532</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Bedroom • 1 Bathroom • Stunning Views <p>Price: 59,750€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7313</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Great Location • Communal Pool <p>Price: 128,000€</p>
<p>Villa in Bedar • VIP7485</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • 10,000 m2 of Land • Stunning Views <p>Price: 299,000€</p>	<p>Bungalow in Mojacar Playa • VIP7538</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in Pueblo Sol • 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Solarium <p>Price: 138,500€</p>	<p>Villa in Agua Nueva • VIP7522</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Private Pool <p>Price: 227,500€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7476</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Communal Pool • Ground Floor <p>Price: 139,000€</p>

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Spain's innovative energy saving method

S E V E R A L contemporary buildings in Spain are using a new technique in order to save energy.

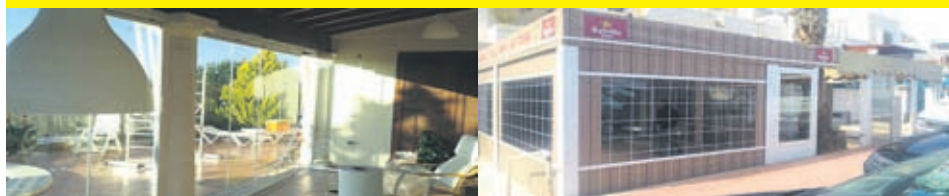
According to Andrew Michler, author of 'The Hyperlocalisation of Architecture,' who calls the technique 'the architecture of wrapping,' by adding an outer layer beyond the glass to control solar exposure, certain Spanish buildings use minimal energy to keep residents at ease.

In turn, this then allows architects to ensure that an adequate amount of natural light is available in order to

ENERGY SAVING:
Fuencarral Police Station in Madrid.

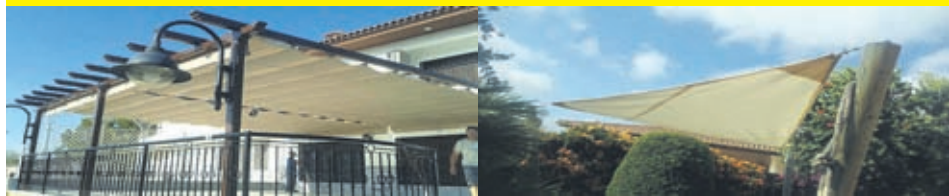


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reduce the need for energy-intensive artificial lighting.

There are several examples of this technique being used on unique buildings all across Spain.

Inside the E8 office building in Vitoria Gasteiz, large facets of glass draw the reflection of the sky down to earth, which gives an effect as if the building is almost disappearing.

Its 'second skin' provides solar control and wind protection which

reduces the building's overall energy use.

Similarly, inside the Comisaria Fuencarral Police Station in Madrid, there are very few opaque surfaces except for interview rooms and private offices.

The building's second skin reflects ambient light during the day which protects the structure from excess heat.

And a similar model is being used on a planned future pro-

ject, the Ferrer Research and Development Centre in Barcelona.

The centre is reportedly specifically designed to create biodiversity, with one wood wall that plays host to trees and shade.

While one wall has trees and shade, another collects solar energy, but also has vertical shading in the colours and patterns of butterflies while its fourth wall is covered in greenery.



FUTURISTIC:
The E8 building in Vitoria.



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...it's all in the detail

Ref: OLV0579



Olive

This immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa is located in a prime position in the popular village of El Pinar, less than 10 minutes from Bedar village and 15 minutes to the beautiful beaches of Mojácar. This property has room for a small plunge pool or jacuzzi if required.

Bedar (El Pinar) 139,950€

Ref: OLV0456



Olive

This unique spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom property has been finished to a high standard with great countryside and coastal views, private pool and plenty of land. This really is worth a viewing.

Lubrin 319,950€

Ref: OLV1351



Olive

This spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom property is located in the former mining village of El Pinar, just 5 minutes from the picturesque town of Bedar and 5 minutes from the market town of Los Gallardos. This villa also boasts a wonderful roof terrace and private pool.

Bedar (El Pinar) 185,000€

Ref: OLV1186



Olive

This wonderful 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom semi detached property is situated on the edge of a delightful village surrounded by Almond and Olive groves within walking distance of two great bar/restaurants. The house is within easy access to Uleila del campo, Sorbas and Lubrin.

Sorbas 149,950€

Ref: OLV1335



Olive

This fine looking and spacious property is located just 5 minutes from the picturesque village of Bedar, the villa boasts 3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and wonderful private pool area.

Bedar 425,000€

Ref: OLV1187



Olive

This fabulous detached cortijo is located in a beautiful valley 10 minutes from major road links. The property boast 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and lots of original features and has been restored to a very high standard. The property was originally over 100 years old.

Sorbas 315,000€

Ref: OLV1192



Olive

This fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, one level detached villa sits in it's own plot with great views of the surrounding mountains and Bedar village. It is a 5 minute drive from the lovely village of Bedar with all the amenities you need for everyday life.

Bedar 299,000€

Ref: OLV1299



Olive

This wonderful country property is located in the sought after area of Vera campo, less than 15 minutes from the historical town of Vera with all its amenities and 20 minutes to the beautiful coastal resorts of Vera playa, Garrucha and Mojácar. Being sold fully furnished.

Vera 249,950€

Ref: OLV1322



Olive

This spacious and detached 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom village house is located in the beautiful village of Bedar, the property boasts incredible views, easy access and a private swimming pool. Reduced from 189,950

Bedar 169,000€

Ref: OLV0919



Olive

A rare opportunity to purchase a fine looking spacious traditional village property located in the popular market town of Los Gallardos. This interesting property formerly the original pharmacy and boasts 5 bedrooms, wonderful gardens, terraces and also has the potential for commercial use.

Los Gallardos 420,000€

Ref: OLV1111



Olive

This truly exquisite and sizeable property is situated in an elevated position in the Macenas area of Mojácar boasting truly stunning sea views. This remarkable property includes a build size of over 400m², 2 separate apartments, private pool, large garage.

Mojácar 695,000€

Ref: OLV0259



Olive

This great 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse located in the hamlet of Los Raimundos, 10 minutes from Antas town and the same distance from the pretty village of Bedar. The property is in the centre of the village and has been lovingly restored with attention to detail.

Antas 89,950€



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LEGALLY SPEAKING

Permission to use your vehicle

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

AUTORIZACIÓN PARA CONDUCIR DE MANERA TEMPORAL UN VEHÍCULO DE MI PROPIEDAD. N332

TITULAR / OWNER
 Nombre/Apellidos (Name/surname):
 N° NIE o Pasaporte (Nie/Passport):
 Dirección (Address):
 Teléfono de contacto (Contact Phone):

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 MATRÍCULA (Plate Number):
 MARCA (Make):
 MODELO (Model):
 Compañía Aseguradora (Insurance Company):
 Teléfono Asistencia / Roadside Assistance Phone:
 N° Póliza (Policy Number):

CONDUCTOR AUTORIZADO / AUTHORIZED DRIVER
 Nombre/Apellidos (Name/surname):
 N° Nie/Pasaporte (Nie/Passport):
 Dirección (Address):

VIGENCIA DE LA AUTORIZACIÓN / TERM
 Desde (from):
 Hasta (until):

Legar, fecha, hora / Place, date, hour.
 Titular (signature) Autorizado (signature)

(Attach the photocopy of both IDs to this document)

ASSUMING your insurance covers multiple drivers, you may allow any qualified driver to use your vehicle. However, in order to avoid problems if the driver is stopped, it is recommended that the vehicle driver is given a document proving that they have the owner's permission to drive the vehicle.

This may seem like an inconvenience, but it is for your protection. If the vehicle is stopped, the officers who come across a vehicle driven by somebody other than the registered keeper will question the legalities of the driver, which is in your best interest, as if it is stolen they will find out very soon.

Otherwise, if a vehicle is stolen but not yet reported as such, there could be no reason for the

Guardia Civil or police to doubt the person driving the vehicle has the owner's permission, and so it could otherwise go unchecked. But of course there could be a genuine reason for somebody other than the registered keeper to drive the car, which is what this document would help to prove.

Simply download the document and complete it, or complete the online version and print it, and attach a copy of both the owner's driving licence, and a copy of the licence of the person given permission to drive. It should be completed in full, including a term of validity, and then dated and signed.

Download, print and complete the following document: <http://n332.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/authdriver.pdf>.

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

What is rental registration?

Q. To a recent enquiry about noisy renters you replied that the landlord must include a registration number on his advert. Does this apply to companies that manage properties for rental for the

landlord? I ask because I never knew this and I have not seen it on any adverts. Where would the registration be placed and how many digits should it have?

M F (by email)

A. Good question. The regulation of short-term tourist lettings is handled by each one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions, so the rules are different from Andalusia to Valencia to the Balearic Islands. Furthermore, most of the regulations are quite new and the land-

David Searl
 You and the Law in Spain



lords may have up to a year to comply in some areas. My own quick search showed that practically no one is in compliance yet. There have been

many bureaucratic delays in obtaining the registration but it has been made easier in some areas so you should find the numbers used before too long. And, yes, the letting agencies will be required to include the registration number for each property they advertise on the internet.

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

I am 'Relentless'

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



THERE is nothing that makes me grumpier than dealing with ignorant, stupid people. Ryanair has recently introduced a 'live chat' facility which, after never being able to actually speak to a human being, is a good alternative. But this is the conversation I had with one of their agents today:

'Hello Michael - how may I help you?'

'I have booked a flight and paid to carry hand luggage. I am disabled and travel with my own wheelchair and I have just read in your FAQs that disabled passengers can take their hand luggage free of charge so I'd like to arrange a refund please.'

After going through the usual security questions she comes back with, 'There is no refund with priority boarding. Is there anything else I can help you with today?'

Well a) she hadn't actually helped me with anything and b) now she's offering to not help me with something else.

I explained again that I don't need priority boarding as I always have Special Assistance due to my disability but, because of their new

luggage policy, I felt I had no choice other than to pay for priority boarding. Nowhere on their luggage details do they state that passengers using Special Assistance are able to keep their hand luggage with them free of charge.

I only discovered that little gem buried in their FAQs. Is it so hard to make it easy for people to know that or is it, as I suspect, an easy way to nick more money?

She confirms again there is no refund as they are 'a non-refundable airline'! What the hell does that mean??? I asked to be transferred to a supervisor at which point she says, 'I can't transfer you to a supervisor, if you're not happy fill out a form, goodbye'. And then she disconnects our chat!! And that was the end of my chat. How rude. This is not 'customer service' - this is 'customer alienation.'

Ryanair boast about how they are 'making things better' for their passengers. Really??? I then get a box come up asking me to fill in a survey regarding my experience. I asked them to send me copy of the chat so if anyone thinks I'm exaggerating I have the proof. I'm sure that nowhere on the booking page or the priority boarding does it say Special Assistance passengers do not need to pay. My nickname is 'Relentless' so I won't let this go and it's not even about the money, it's the principle.

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YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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It seems crazy that the Spanish government makes some things so difficult

I LIVE in Spain, needing to fit a much-needed body-part to my car that would help my wife to enter and exit - especially as she has advancing mobility problems.

But so help me, the very expensive and robust stainless-steel side-steps I bought from Poland cannot be fitted as it doesn't include a Homologated Certificate. Where the heck does it all end?

Spain is a great country, with a population that is welcoming, friendly and warm; so why the Spanish government is so short-sighted, blinkered and blatantly stupid when it comes to allowing individuals to fit replacement or new parts to their cars is unbelievable?

Towing arms, bull-bars, air-horns, etc are all included. And lots more too! Whoever made this stupid rule a law needs to reconsider it, I reckon. Maybe Gibraltar should close its borders to the Spanish! That would cause a storm-and-a-half!

The fact that anything fitted to a car that is seen as modifying it (?) has to be checked by an experienced Trained Tester at an ITV Centre before it is added to the relevant vehicle's paperwork for legality.

So why-oh-why is there such a palaver when it comes to fitting something? Either it's done properly or not at all. If not at all,

A honeymoon and now their forever home

WE originally came here in 1985 on honeymoon (age 23 and 22 years old), we have been back a few times since then but back again this year, 2018 (some 33 years later!).

It was always a dream of ours to come back to our beloved Benalmadena and for two months now we have been doing the groundwork, planning out the next chapter of our lives. On the right is us in 1985 on the prom. This is us in the same place, today: 33 years later!

Anne Currie,
Benalmadena



it will fail. It doesn't need a flimsy certificate. It doesn't necessarily need a so-called professional mechanic to fit it. It's only a few nuts and bolts, in most cases! It fails or it passes. What could be simpler?

Scotty Mackay, Alcaucin

Sangria explained

SANGRIA was originally produced and consumed only during Easter and its name refers to the blood of Christ.

It was produced on Easter Saturday from red wine, lemonade, lemon slices, cloves, cinnamon and a shot of brandy, no more, no less.

It was left in a bowl to simmer overnight and was consumed on Easter Sunday.

Oscar Gonzalez, Marbella

Road rules

RE Issue 1701, cyclists are governed by the same traffic laws that apply to any vehicle using the roads in Spain. The traffic law also states cyclists must now use head-phones when using a mobile phone or when listening to music. They also should dismount before using a crossing.

Hope this helps.

John Dale, Los Dolses

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.

Motor homes plague Costa Blanca beaches

Live and let live. The vast majority are tidy people, some of the motorhomes cost more than a bungalow in Torrevieja. Plus, most of the 'beauty spots' around Costa Blanca look like wasteland anyway.

Marcus Tipa

If the town hall got their heads together, found them some wasteland, charged them a nominal fee and supplied electricity, water, toilets etc. They could then ban them from the beaches.

Maureen Rush

How is it that they don't use all the campsites on the Costas? Or are they too tight?

George R Carman

Some of us 'motorhomers' do not enjoy getting stacked like sardines into campsites. We pour the grey water into drains and the WC waste into disposal spots. Mostly we stay two or three nights and spend money in shops and restaurants, a lot of them owned by the very people moaning about our existence.

We do appreciate that in winter it is a different ball game than in summer and would expect to use official sites then, if only because all those areas will be full of Spaniards coming down to the coast and there is no room.

Comments from EWN online

But I would hope that the money spent in the local economies is worth way more than minor inconveniences caused by a few.

Edda Stentiford

Exact speeds that trigger radar cameras

Wish there were more signs posting the correct speed, too many ups and downs as it is!

Justice Christopher

What about when they hide in a full car park in an unmarked car, that's entrapment surely!

Amanda Allen Wheatley

What about people who drive far too slow? Surely that is just as bad, and dangerous?

Tricia Harrington

Political party members face jail over protest

They might change their minds if the Brits did go home and their money stream dried up.

Richard Gus Warren

Would be replaced by a better Quality of tourist Richard! Ones that spend real money! Like the Russians and the Scandinavians that don't want to come and see drunk Brits vomiting all over the place falling off balconies!

John William Roberts

I have several (seven) friends who live there most of the year John. They spend 'mucho dinero' there. They have all lived there for 15 to 20 years each. That's a lot of spending power. This mob of terrorists 'Arran' (check the definition of terrorist) need to be locked away for a few years till they grow up. They are the NF of Mallorca.

Richard Gus Warren

Arran is CUP. This is not about tourism, it's Catalan nationalist 'kale borroka.'

Peter Harvey

Poll position

I THINK we should keep grid girls provided they are not forced to be there.

As grid children will be all boys that will start another argument as grid girls will come under the ban.

Anyway, the grid girls provide a touch of glamour to a male dominated sport. I am an F1 fan and vote for the status quo.

Derek, La Marina

Suits the Spanish

IT always amazes me how very popular crowded, noisy events are with the Spanish people.

This is not a criticism, but maybe a cause for grudging admiration from a 'stiff upper lip Brit' who wouldn't dream of dressing up as a pirate and wandering around town during carnival.

Having said that however when you see hens and stags in fancy dress, they do actually look like idiots, but the Spanish seem to have a naïve charm which makes their bizarre costumes seem common place.

Perhaps the fact that they join in as groups of family and neighbours rather than a pack of drunken foreigners helps!

Brian Cox, Sabinillas

Advertising Feature

JJT of Los Higuerales

WE weren't sure about the funeral system in Spain and how it all worked, but friends of ours recommended Golden Leaves, so we decided to get in touch and the helpful agent thoroughly explained everything over the telephone in a clear and informative manner. We both chose a plan each and it was

wife was repatriated back to the UK within a week and I had nothing to worry about at this stressful and upsetting time.

All I had to do was go with my son to see the funeral director in Newton Abbot to discuss which flowers we would like and the details of the service.

I was very impressed with the way things were carried out and I decided immediately to upgrade my plan to a Golden Plan, so that I can be repatriated back to the UK and join my wife eventually.

I certainly would recommend Golden Leaves to anyone, the service was excellent and relieved me of so much pressure and they really helped me.

Call Emma or her team for advice or a chat on 966 493 082.



GOLDEN LEAVES: There for you in your time of need.

“Golden Leaves were there to take the pressure off and organise everything each step of the way.”

such a relief to know we were covered for when the time comes. Sadly, my wife passed away in August last year, but Golden Leaves were there to take the pressure off and organise everything each step of the way.

It only took me one phone call and the process went very smoothly throughout. My



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Haylee Roebuck

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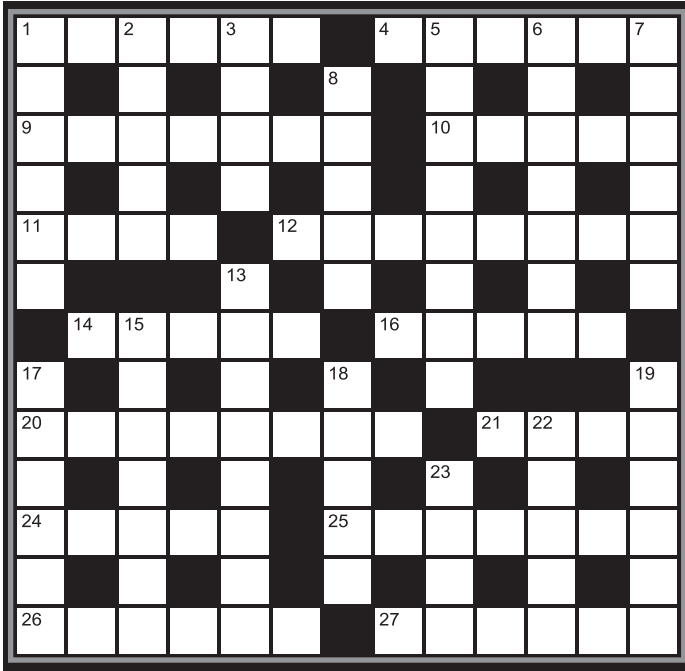
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Stop translating Sartre (6)
- 4 Prepared sauces for the campaigns (6)
- 9 First class rider takes a tumble in Scotland (7)
- 10 Swap jazz key (5)
- 11 Rotate tea boiler (4)
- 12 Fine head start with British Airways, perhaps (8)
- 14 Harbour with own pole (5)
- 16 It's torture putting silver on Yankee (5)
- 20 Risk money, a pound, after some light shopping? (8)
- 21 Funny ditch (2-2)
- 24 Play doctor and a graduate (5)
- 25 Crush the star characters (7)
- 26 Something glossy for a teen's dance (6)
- 27 Love means nothing for such players (6)

Down

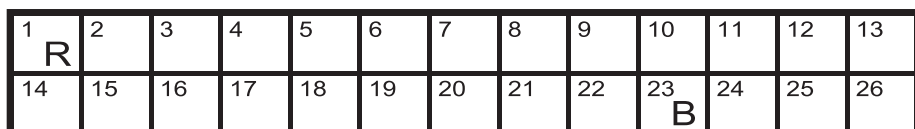
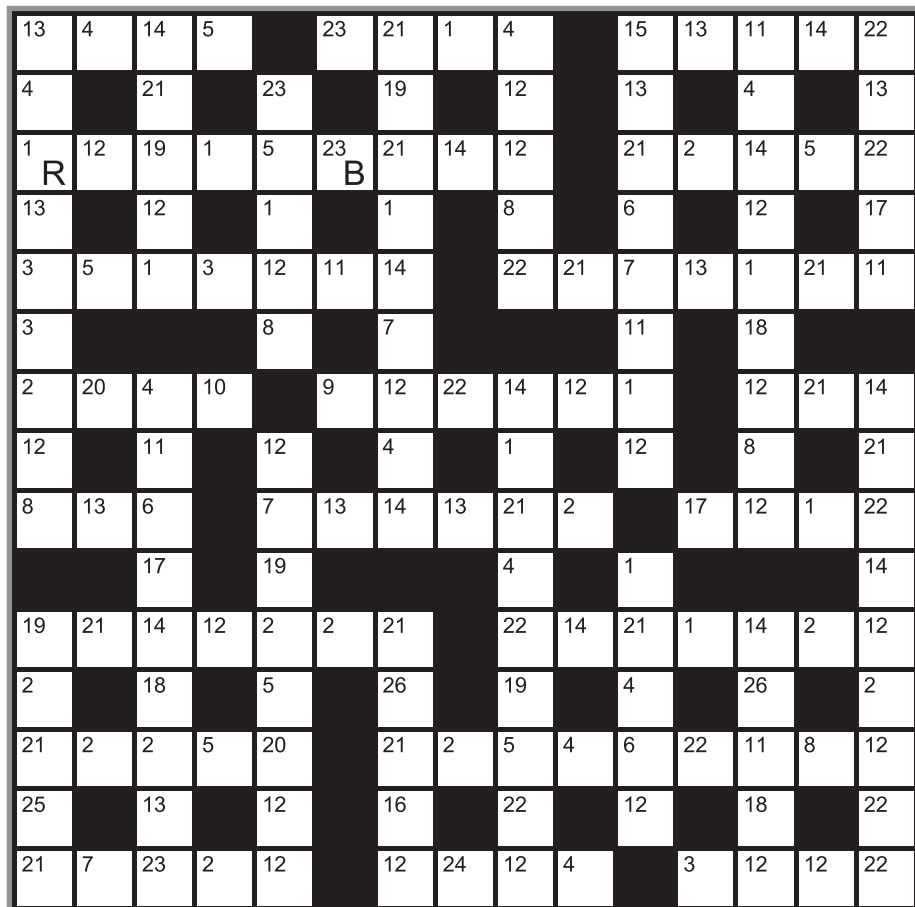
- 1 Changes Pat's ad about (6)
- 2 More uncommon rubles are registered (5)
- 3 Agile secret agent creeping round the ringleader (4)
- 5 Modify, for example, ring for a confidant (5,3)
- 6 One's position is not changed at the inside (7)
- 7 Metal pin crook finally found in waste pipe (6)
- 8 Keep out of French watering



- hole (5)
- 13 State risk accepting European jurisprudence (8)
- 15 After a time, the pamphlet will entice (7)
- 17 Remains in taxicab I'd escaped in (6)
- 18 Squander, say, part of the body (5)
- 19 Mother, doctor and a Sikh leader are all from Chennai (6)
- 22 Continue performing in part of West London (5)
- 23 Cabbage is an ingredient of cock-a-leekie soup (4)

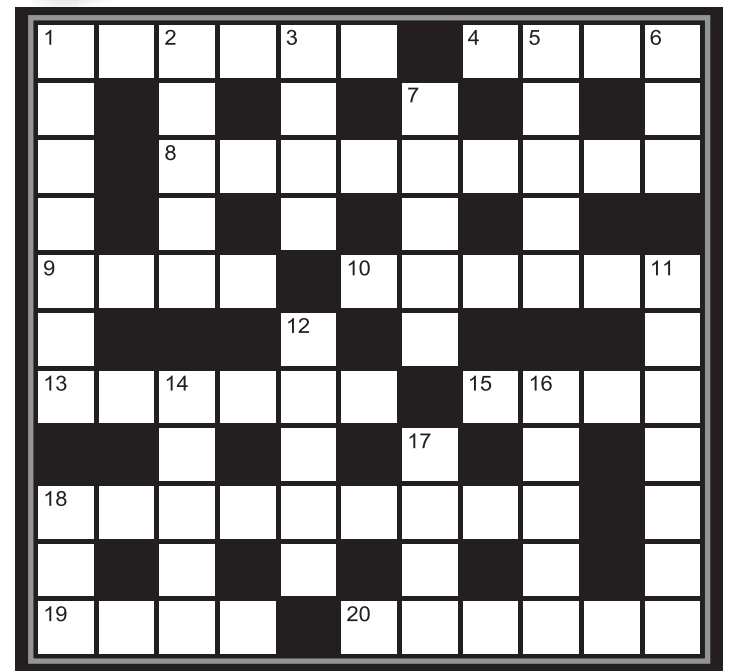
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents R and 23 represents B, so fill in R every time the figure 1 appears and B every time the figure 23 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

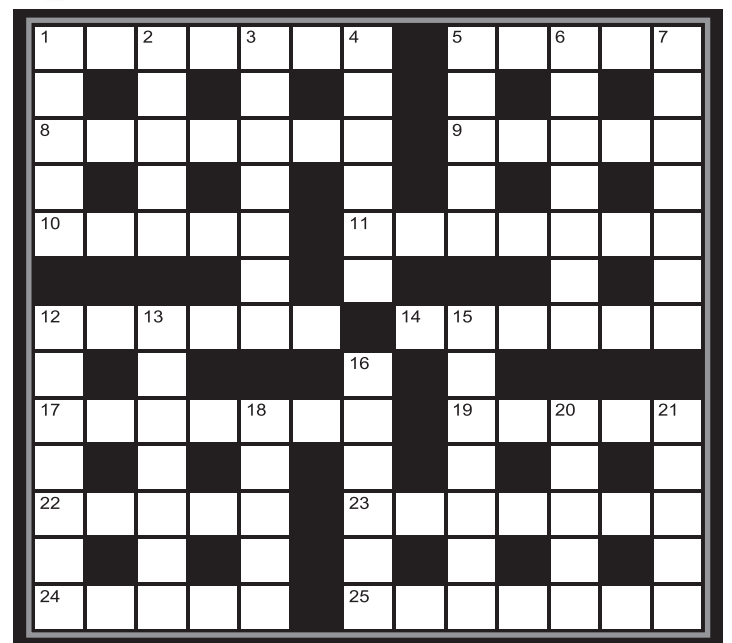
- 1 Come or go back (6)
- 4 Prison (4)
- 8 Variety of peach with a smooth skin (9)
- 9 Gemstone (4)
- 10 Rely on (6)
- 13 Stable units (6)
- 15 Capital of Norway (4)
- 18 Sweets on sticks (9)
- 19 Nesting insect (4)
- 20 Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal (6)

Down

- 1 Unpleasantly loud and harsh (7)
- 2 Friendly Islands (5)
- 3 Wealthy (4)
- 5 Nimble or active (5)
- 6/18 Hide out (3,3)
- 7 Ship of the desert (5)
- 11 Bishop's jurisdiction (7)
- 12 Ordinary (5)
- 14 Collection of maps in book form (5)
- 16 Japanese food (5)
- 17 Chief or leader (4)
- 18 See 6

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Desafortunado (7)
- 5 Toads (5)
- 8 Gaviota (7)
- 9 Parrots (5)
- 10 Thirteen (5)
- 11 To obtain (7)
- 12 Cubo (balde) (6)
- 14 Geese (domestic) (6)
- 17 Reign (7)
- 19 Arches (5)
- 22 January (5)
- 23 Pendiente (joya) (7)
- 24 Sheep (5)
- 25 Cantantes (7)

Down

- 1 Alterado (5)
- 2 Key (door) (5)
- 3 Dummy (for baby) (7)
- 4 Amarillo (6)
- 5 Hendidura (corte) (5)
- 6 Padres (7)
- 7 Tailors (7)
- 12 Barber (7)
- 13 Chino (7)
- 15 Scorpion (7)
- 16 Toallas (6)
- 18 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
- 20 Delito (5)
- 21 Señales (indicaciones) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS'
VIEW ON LIFE



THE UNTOUCHABLES - HOLLYWOOD U.S.A. 2018

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday February 17

5 8 9 BONUS BALL
10 38 53 56

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday February 17

20 21 23 BONUS BALL
34 39 43 4

EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday February 13

10 13 17 BONUS BALL
21 44 10

Friday February 16

10 12 23 BONUS BALL
32 50 10

EL MILLON: XXGP60849

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday February 15

1 2 21 BONUS BALL
22 27 47 0

JOKER: 4 085 600

Saturday February 17

9 18 19 BONUS BALL
22 31 38 8

JOKER: 8 034 825

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday February 18

23 30 42 BONUS BALL
51 54 7

YOUR STARS
FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Your emotions, extra expenses and other domestic pressures are on the boil. Put off major decisions until next week. Meanwhile, loosen up, walk into some creative space, and if necessary, talk to someone who understands your ups and downs. There are good things waiting to happen, refuse to lose nerve.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Move forward on this week's positive waves of optimism. Treat yourself, but don't overindulge your temptations. The planets aren't dancing to all your wants and desires. If certain situations or individuals seem complicated, wait until the dust settles, then follow your hunches.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

It's both a vertical and horizontal week. What goes right somewhere could easily go wrong elsewhere. Sensitive Venus conspires with touchy Mars to trigger tensions and troubles. If you're aware of where others are coming from, you'll be fine. You'll have fun, but don't let your spending splurges rule your head on Wednesday or Saturday.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

There's a saying that if it doesn't rain, it pours, so keep an umbrella of humour to hand. Spring is around the corner, and with it, a much happier trend for your workaday, social and financial prospects. Strive through this showery emotional week, and the sunshine will surely follow. Meanwhile, focus on the now.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Your efforts to get your message across might be best delayed for seven days. Fickle Venus and flighty Mercury will cross swords with other planets, so keep your ideas and emotions grounded. Take nothing for granted on Tuesday, and don't agree to anything without the facts.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Scanning the rest of the star-signs, you'll see that you have many things in common this week: challenging influences at work and play, and during other clogging capers. Unexpected events, finances, or the usual everyday frustrations could pile on the pressure.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Don't jump from one financial frying pan into another. Take it easy on all fronts, especially where your money, emotions and other people's moods are at odds with your ideas.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You're not the only member of the zodiac who'll have to toughen up. It'll pay you to chill on Tuesday, be patient on Wednesday, and put your potent insights into orbit throughout the weekend. Although certain set arrangements are liable to veer off track, some discussions and shared commitments are slowly but firmly improving.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You will see the advantage of working towards a new location, or even a specific makeover for your domestic scene. Either way, wait for a further green light, especially where money's concerned. Monday and Thursday are delicate days, so play it cool.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The full moon in your own sign is a powerful ally against this week's planetary fracas. Speak from the heart and reject any ambiguous emotional games. It's the only way to clear the air and truly know where you're heading.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

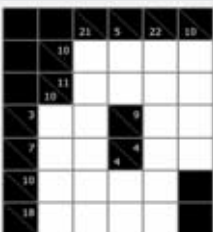
Refuse to be miffed by whatever disagreements or difficulties clutter your world. The sooner you get on with things, the better for your peace of mind. Even this week's affrays and dismays are simply passing clouds. Put yourself first, and things will start to change.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

There's a financial theme to many of your plans and ideas. Above all, spend with care and examine all offers carefully. Rely on your sixth sense, especially where close-to-you matters are concerned. Give more thought to what you hope to have achieved in 12 months from now. Be patient, especially over personal stresses and strains.

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



TARGET:

- Average: 6
- Very good: 12
- Good: 8
- Excellent: 15

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

aloe dale deal dole flea fled floe foal fold fool lade lead leaf load loaf lode oleo addle aloof doled flood laded loofa offal doodle foaled folded fooled loaded loafed flooded offload OFFLOADED

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

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Stars, 4 Caracol, 8 Against, 9 Ice, 10 Seaweed, 11 Abajo, 12 Brooms, 14 Porfin, 17 Temer, 19 Barrels, 22 Hot, 23 Ejemplo, 24 Respeto, 25 Shave.

Down:

- 1 Shops, 2 Aparato, 3 Suave, 4 Cuñada, 5 Retraso, 6 Caida, 7 Lie down, 12 Butcher, 13 Marbete, 15 Fregona, 16 Obrero, 18 Motos, 20 Ropes, 21 Sauce.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Spots, 4 Starlet, 8 Russell, 9 Limbo, 10 Polecats, 11 Wage, 13 Scroll, 15 Raptor, 18 Path, 19 Carousel, 22 Oiled, 23 Sterile, 24 Sprites, 25 Notes.

Down:

- 1 Stripes, 2 Ousel, 3 Stencils, 4 Salute, 5 Ally, 6 Lambast, 7 Trove, 12 Napoleon, 14 Rattler, 16 Rollers, 17 Causes, 18 Plots, 20 Saint, 21 Edit.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Cryogenic, 7 Terms, 8 Rayon, 9/5 War cry, 10 Salmon, 14 Almond, 18 Andes, 20 Aware, 21 Gangsters.

Down:

- 1 Cite, 2 Yardarm, 3 Gasp, 4 Normal, 6 Awning, 11 Mundane, 12 Banana, 13 Unison, 16 Bans, 17 Fees, 19/15 Dog end.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

	2	1		2	1	
	4	2	3	1	5	
	1	3	2			
				1	2	3
	2	3	4	5	1	
	3	1		1	2	

QUIZ: HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT TOO

- According to its advertising slogan, who 'makes exceedingly good cakes'?
- Baby Cakes was a UK number one hit single in 2004 for which British garage trio?
- First published in 1930, Cakes and Ale is a novel by which British novelist, short-story writer and playwright?
- Pannetone, a light cake, usually made with sultanas and candied peel, is traditionally eaten at Christmas in which European country?
- The name of which small, fancy cake comes from the French for 'small oven'?
- What is the name of the oblong sponge cake covered with marzipan, with a square cross section quartered with two colours of sponge?
- What is the name of the rich loaf cake containing 16 ounces, or equal weights, of each

- chief ingredient, typically flour, butter and sugar?
- Which 1974 Top 10 Queen hit contains the lyric 'Let them eat cake she says, just like Marie Antoinette'?
- Which Scottish city gives its name to a rich fruit cake, typically decorated on top with almonds?
- Which small yeast cake is saturated in syrup made with hard liquor, usually rum, and sometimes filled with whipped cream or pastry cream?

Not a lot of people know that... the first cupcakes were so called, in the late 19th century, because they were baked in cups and made from ingredients measured by the cupful.

Answers:

- MR KIPLING (owned by Premier Foods), 2. 3 OF A KIND, 3. WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM, 4. ITALY, 5. PETIT FOUR, 6. BATTENBERG, 7. POUND CAKE, 8. KILLER QUEEN, 9. DUNDEE, 10. RUM BABA or BABA AU RHUM

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event						
22 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	The Coroner	1:00pm	The Daily Politics	6:00pm	The Chase	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	3:15pm	NCIS	10:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	2:00pm	Winter Olympics	7:00pm	ITV News London	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm	Killer Obsession	11:00am	Premier League Daily
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:00pm	5 News at 5	12:00pm	Live European Tour Golf
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm	Neighbours	12:00pm	Live Honda Classic
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Winter Olympics	9:00pm	Trans Kids: The Right Response? Tonight	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	3:00pm	Live Honda Classic
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	Sea Cities - Bristol	7:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	3:00pm	Featured Grps
	7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	Girls on the Edge	9:30pm	John Worboys: The Taxi Cab Rapist	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	The Wonderful World of Puppies	8:00pm	Live Premier League
	8:00pm	The One Show	11:00pm	The Mash Report	10:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	11:30pm	Darts
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm		10:00pm	Married at First Sight	10:00pm	Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive	11:30pm	Live ATP 500: Rio
	9:30pm	Would I Lie to You?	12:15am	Dragons' Den			11:00pm	The Job Interview			2:30am	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
10:00pm	Death in Paradise											
FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	The Coroner	2:00pm	Winter Olympics	6:00pm	The Chase	3:10pm	Countdown	3:15pm	NCIS	11:00am	Premier League Daily
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	ITV News London	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:15pm	A Sister's Nightmare	12:00pm	Live European Tour Golf
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	3:00pm	Live Honda Classic
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm	Winter Olympics	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Neighbours	3:00pm	Featured Grps
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:30pm	Mastermind	8:30pm	Coronation Street	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:00pm	Football
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	Wild Cameramen at Work	9:00pm	Love Your Garden	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	11:15pm	The Debate - Live
	7:30pm	BBC London News	9:30pm	An Island Parish	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	The Wine Show	12:15am	Live ATP 500: Rio
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	QI	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	Celebrity Five Go Barging	3:30am	Barclays Premier League Preview
	8:30pm	Six Nations Rugby Union	11:00pm	Newsnight	11:30pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	10:00pm	McDonald	4:00am	Sky Sports News
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten					10:00pm	Gogglebox	11:00pm	Will and Grace	5:00am	Sky Sports News
11:25pm	BBC London News											
SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY	2:10pm	Weather	3:00pm	Italy's Invisible Cities	2:30pm	Six Nations Live	2:25pm	Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	Rich House, Poor House	7:00am	Barclays Premier League Preview
	2:15pm	Winter Olympics	4:00pm	Nigel Slater's Middle East: Iran	5:30pm	Ireland v Wales	3:25pm	Coast v Country	7:00pm	The Wonderful World of Puppies	7:30am	Rugby Union
	5:00pm	Six Nations Rugby Union	5:00pm	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	5:50pm	ITV News and Weather	4:25pm	A Place in the Sun	8:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald	9:35am	Rory: A Decade on Tour
	8:00pm	BBC News	6:00pm	Final Score	6:00pm	Local News and Weather	5:30pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	9:00pm	Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht	10:00am	Live European Tour Golf
	8:10pm	Regional News	6:30pm	Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good	7:00pm	The Chase	6:35pm	The Supervet	9:55pm	5 News	12:30pm	Football
	8:13pm	Weather	7:00pm	Hugh's Wild West	8:00pm	Take Me Out	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	Football on 5	4:15pm	Live Super League
	8:15pm	All Together Now	8:00pm	Winter Olympics	9:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night	8:00pm	Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages	11:00pm	Football on 5	6:15pm	Football
	9:20pm	Casualty	9:00pm	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	10:50pm	Takeaway	9:00pm	Britain at Low Tide	11:30pm	Britain's Favourite Biscuit	10:45pm	Live PGA Tour Golf
	10:10pm	Troy: Fall of a City										
	11:10pm	BBC News										
11:25pm	Weather											
SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY	4:30pm	Songs of Praise	7:00am	Winter Olympics	3:30pm	What Would Your Kid Do?	3:00pm	The Simpsons	10:30am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	11:00am	The Sunday Supplement
	5:05pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	12:00pm	Winter Olympics	4:30pm	Tipping Point	3:30pm	The Simpsons	11:00am	Football on 5	12:30pm	Goals on Sunday
	6:05pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	3:00pm	Athletics	5:30pm	ITV News and Weather	3:55pm	Tooth Fairy	11:50am	Football on 5		From Wembley
	7:05pm	BBC News	6:30pm	Flog It!	5:50pm	Local News and Weather	6:00pm	Ice Age	12:20pm	The Bridge at Remagen	2:00pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:20pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Back in Time for Tea	6:00pm	The Chase	7:35pm	Continental Drift	2:50pm	A Bridge Too Far	5:00pm	Live Carabao Cup Final
	7:25pm	Weather	8:00pm	Winter Olympics	7:00pm	Dancing on Ice	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	6:05pm	Where Eagles Dare	8:30pm	Live Fight Night: Jd Nxtgen
	7:30pm	Countryfile	9:00pm	Top Gear	9:00pm	Life and Death Row	9:00pm	Posh Pawn	9:00pm	Football on 5	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	8:30pm	Hold the Sunset	11:15pm	The Mash Report	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	11:00pm	Hannibal's Elephant	9:55pm	5 News	1:00am	Sky Sports News
	8:30pm	Call the Midwife	11:45pm	Top Gear Extra Gear	11:15pm	Peston on Sunday	11:15pm	Army: The New Evidence	10:00pm	Trainwreck		
	9:00pm		12:10am	Cleverman	12:15am	Rugby	12:15am	Homeland	12:30am	Sex Tape		
MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY	6:15pm	Pointless	4:55pm	More Creatures	4:00pm	Tenable	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	3:15pm	NCIS	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:00pm	BBC News	5:25pm	Great and Small	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	4:15pm	Killer Obsession	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:30pm	Regional News	6:25pm	Simon Reeve Caribbean	6:00pm	The Chase	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	5 News	11:00am	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Flog It!	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	3:00pm	Sky Sports News
	8:30pm	Inside Out	7:30pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:00pm	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	9:00pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	9:00pm	Food Unwrapped	8:00pm	5 News	7:30pm	Sky Sports News at 6
	9:30pm	Classic Mary Berry	8:00pm	Top Gear	9:00pm	Coronation Street	9:30pm	24 Hours in Police Custody	9:00pm	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	8:00pm	Football
	10:00pm	MasterChef	9:00pm	Only Connect	9:30pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show	10:00pm	Electric Dreams	10:00pm	Extreme Winter Road Rescue	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	University Challenge	10:00pm	Coronation Street	11:00pm	Married at First Sight		The Flying Scotsman		
	11:30pm	Regional News										
11:40pm	Weather											
TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	4:55pm	More Creatures	3:00pm	James Martin's American Adventure	3:10pm	Countdown	6:00pm	5 News	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	5:25pm	Great and Small	4:00pm	Tenable	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:30pm	Neighbours	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:25pm	Simon Reeve Caribbean	5:00pm	Tipping Point	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	7:00pm	Home and Away	11:00am	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	Flog It!	5:00pm	The Chase	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:30pm	5 News	3:00pm	Sky Sports News
	7:00pm	BBC News	7:00pm	Eggheads	6:00pm	The Chase	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	8:00pm	Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild	4:00pm	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	9:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	7:30pm	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Sea Cities	8:00pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	10:00pm	Elizabeth: Our Queen-the Crown Under Attack	8:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
	8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	Back in Time for Tea	8:30pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News			8:30pm	Live Checkatrade Trophy
	9:00pm	Holby City	10:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	9:00pm	100 Year Old Driving School	9:00pm	How to Get Fit Fast			11:00pm	The Debate - Live
	10:00pm	Shetland										
11:00pm	BBC News											
WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	Shakespeare and Hathaway	6:20pm	Flog It!	5:00pm	Tipping Point	2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	3:20pm	NCIS	7:00am	Cricket
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	7:00pm	Eggheads	6:00pm	The Chase	3:10pm	Countdown	4:20pm	Left for Dead	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News	11:00am	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm	Sea Cities	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:30pm	Neighbours	3:00pm	Sky Sports News
	6:15pm	Pointless	9:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:00pm	Live ATP 500: Dubai
	7:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	9:30pm	Coronation Street	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	7:30pm	5 News	7:30pm	Sky Sports News at 6
	7:30pm	Regional News	10:50pm	Live at the Apollo	10:00pm	Benidorm	8:30pm	The Simpsons	8:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	8:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
	8:00pm	The One Show	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Hollyoaks	9:00pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors	8:30pm	Football
	9:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build						Channel 4 News	10:00pm	Violent Child, Desperate Parents	11:00pm	The Debate - Live
	10:00pm	Earth's Natural Wonders						The Supervet			12:00am	Sky Sports News
11:00pm	BBC News						Britain's Cheapest Street			1:00am	Live ATP 500: Acapulco	

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Lathering in lavender

LAVENDER oil is extracted from the flowers of the lavender plant, usually using steam, and is often used in beauty and health products such as aromatherapy oil, lotions and soaps.

The essential oil also works well when blended with other essential oils such as pine, cedar wood, geranium and nutmeg.

The health benefits of lavender oil have been raved about for centuries. It has the ability to relieve pain, enhance blood circulation, get rid of nervous tension, disinfect the skin, enhance blood circulation, and treat respiratory problems among others.

It also works as an effective bug repellent and has anti-inflammatory qualities that help to reduce the irritation if you do get bitten.

Lavender oil has been used for centuries to induce sleep and can be used to treat insomnia. Studies on elderly people have revealed their sleep regularity increases when they place some lavender essential oil on their pillows due to its relaxing impact.

For this reason it also helps to calm the nerves and ease anxiety.

The stimulating aroma has been proven to get rid of nervous exhaustion and restlessness while increasing mental activity at the same time. This, therefore, makes it effective in treating depression, headaches, emotional stress and nervous tension.

One study revealed that people taking exams suffered from less anxiety if they inhaled lavender and rosemary oil before taking the test.

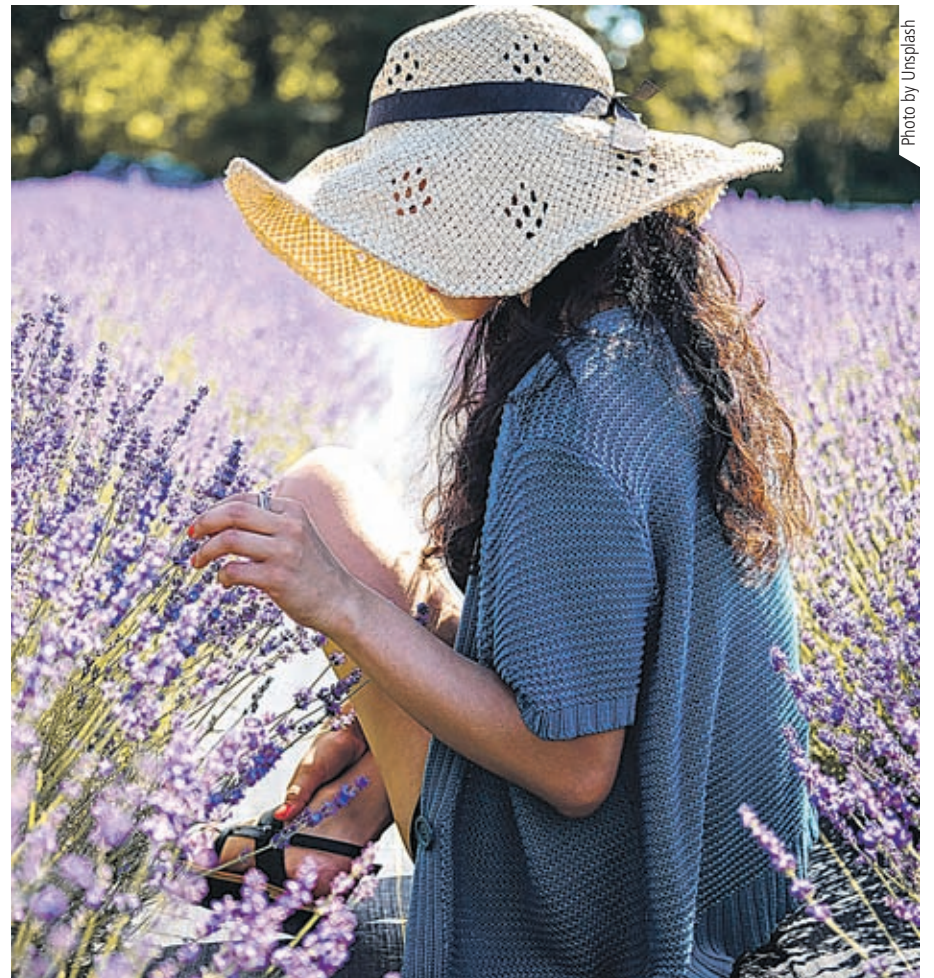


Photo by Unsplash

PURPLE GAIN: Lavender has been proven to reduce emotional stress and nervous tension.

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Dental Clinic

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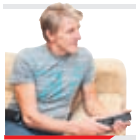
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TV COUCH CRITIC

THERE seems to be a concerted effort by the BBC to bring American football to the British sporting masses?

I applaud the coverage shown on Sunday at some ungodly hour for the Super Bowl, and I realise it's a big deal in America, but to headline it on the sports news the following day. Why? Not too many people are interested except the odd fan.

There is only one football and it doesn't have American before it! We also have rugby in two codes - union and league - both of which are much more entertaining and British.

I prefer *The Voice* (ITV Saturdays) to the *X Factor*. Although the judges are far more famous on *The Voice* they are also more humble and don't love themselves as much as the *X Factor* pretenders.

Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and the great Sir Tom Jones come across as genuinely seeking singing talent that they personally like and can improve. The banter between the acts, with themselves and the audience really appeals.

I also love the ad-lib jamming that they all do and last week we had an impromptu rendering of 'It's Not Unusual' live by Tom which was fantastic. His own voice has lost none of its strength and he is held in awe by the three other judges as well as myself. Yes indeed Tom, a true legend!

What can you say about *Casualty* (BBC1 Saturdays)? Firstly, it's not my usual fare on Saturdays but



HUMBLE: *The Voice* judges Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson, Tom Jones and will.i.am.



FABULOUS: Mary Berry.

The Voice has the X Factor and Berry is a gem

I occasionally watch it. It's been going so long the early operations were performed using ether as the anaesthetic, and they even had a contract with Burke and Hare for supplying specimens to practise on.

Good old Charley, (Derek Thompson) the only surviving original cast member on the show, was a sprightly young man at the series onset and him and Duffy (Kathy Shipton) seemed to always have a thing for each other so marriage was inevitable. Still, the hospital staff always go the extra mile, much further than a normal hospital in the UK would, but it seems there's a good following or the Beeb would have pulled the plug ages ago.

Who wouldn't want to stay at Mary Berry's house for a week or two? Her Saturday lunchtime cookery show on BBC1 has me drooling at the screen. Apart from her fantastic food recipes she comes across as a

nice person. The rack of lamb she produced last week had me scrambling to open a tin of beans as soon as the show finished. Still judging by the size of the house and gardens either her cooking or character has paid dividends, or her husband's not short of a few bob. Good luck to her whichever, she deserves it and is fabulous.

It's obvious Morse was as miserable in his early police career as he was in later life, judging by ITV's Sunday evening prequel, *Endeavour*. I have to admit his fledgling police career is more gritty and the nostalgia of early policing methods and the 60's feel swings it for me, even though there was only one John Thaw.

Shawn Evans plays the young *Endeavour* Morse well, and in this episode he had just been promoted to a DS before going about his business hunting

down murder suspects which are connected to a horror film set at the local flix. There's also an influx of racist attacks which seem to escalate.

Morse and Inspector Thursday hunt down their prey in a relaxed manner, ably assisted by the usual forensic scientist describing the victim's injuries in colourful detail after examining the bodies.

Not seen much of the *Winter Olympics* this time round (BBC1 and BBC2, various times), although I don't think many people have. The usual problem is that it's not cold enough and there's not enough snow, but Korea seems to be the opposite! Oh well, at least we have had a lessening of hostilities between the two warring factors north and south, both actually presenting a passable united front and sitting down to talk. Progress I hope.

Critique: PM, San Fulgencio, Costa Blanca.

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MAGICAL: A scene from the musical with Bella and the Beast.

Beauty and the Beast

OFTEN music and imagination can transcend language and this may well be the case for youngsters who are taken to see the musical Beauty and the Beast.

It may be performed in Spanish, but so many children know the story from the 1991 Disney cartoon on which the musical is based that they will be swept away by the magic when it visits the Adra Cultural Centre tomorrow (Friday) at 5pm for the second time.

Taken from a French fairy tale written in the 18th century, the show tells the story of a young prince who is transformed into a horrible beast as punishment for his cruel and selfish behaviour and the story of a beautiful girl named Bella whom the Beast imprisons in his castle in exchange for her father's freedom.

To become human again, the prince must win Bella's love before it's too late.

Tickets cost €15 from the

box office on the night.

Tickets are available from the Adra Cultural Centre box office and website.

Il Divo to perform in Almeria

IT has just been announced that classical vocal group Il Divo will perform in Almeria City in September as part of their world tour.

The quartet has been confirmed as appearing at the Teatro Apolo on September 6.

Il Divo have confirmed just three dates in Spain so far as part of their tour, which will also see the group perform in Argentina, Mexico and the UK.

The other Spanish performances have been confirmed

for Marbella on July 28 and Merida on September 8.

Tickets for the concert will officially go on sale on next

Tuesday with prices starting at €50 and may be obtained from www.almeriaculturaen.tradas.es.

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The **Luvvies** Theatre Group presents

When We Are Married
J.B Priestley's classic comedy

Directed by Heather Farrelly

This amateur production of 'When We Are Married' is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

Teatro Museo Pedro Gilabert
Arboleas

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Total Entertainment - Arboleas
One Stop Pool Shop - Longos, Albox
Colin the Card - Longos Albox
The Corner Shop - Albox
C.A.T.S Services - Alfoquia
Tickets available on the door

Dates and times
Friday - 9th March 2018 - 7-30 pm
Saturday - 10th March 2018 - 7-30 pm
Sunday - 11th March 2018 - 3-00 pm
Doors open 30 mins before. Curtain Up

This year the Luvvies will be supporting Little Owls

Albox Insurance

When We Are Married

Three couples are celebrating their combined 25th wedding anniversaries, all married on the same day, at the same church, at the same time, by the same preacher. But, a revelation that comes forth during the festivities throws them into turmoil. This comedy was written in 1938 by one of Britain's finest playwrights, J.B. Priestley. It is set in Northern England in 1908, where the theme of the story would have made the participants social pariahs and bywords. Three couples celebrating their Silver Weddings when they receive such news of such calamity, such misfortune, such... but mustn't spoil the surprise, come and see the play. A large cast in period costume equates with the huge entertainment it provides.

Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys words over weapons.

Venue: Teatro Museo Pedro Gilabert. Arboleas.

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday Afternoon...
9th / 10th & 11th March

Admission: 7.50€ per ticket.
Tickets can be purchased at the following outlets:
TOTAL ENTERTAINMENT - Albox & Arboleas,
ONE STOP POOL, COLIN THE CARD - Longo's
THE CORNER SHOP - Albox
CAT SERVICES - Alfoquia

Curtain Up: 7.30pm Friday & Saturday Evenings
3.00pm Sunday Afternoon

(Doors Open 7pm on Friday / Saturday & 2.30pm Sunday Afternoon)

The Luvvies Theatre Group next presentation



Statue of J B Priestley in Bradford.

THREE couples are celebrating their combined 25th wedding anniversaries, all married on the same day, at the same church, at the same time by the same preacher.

A revelation that comes forth during the festivities throws them into turmoil and the comedy *When We Are Married* written in 1938 by J B Priestley is set in Northern England in

1908, where the theme of the story would have made the participants social pariahs.

These couples celebrating their silver weddings receive such news of such calamity, such misfortune and the audience will be able to see the turmoil that results.

Tickets cost just €7.50 each for the performances taking place on March 9, 10 and 11 at

the Teatro Museo Pedro Gilabert in Arboleas with curtains up at 7.30pm on the Friday and Saturday and 3pm on Sunday afternoon.

Tickets can be purchased at the following outlets, Total Entertainment in Albox and Arboleas, One Stop Pool and Colin the Card in Longos, The Corner Shop, Albox and Cat Services Alfoquia.

Upcoming wine region

PRIORAT, as one of the upcoming Spanish wine regions, has recorded an extraordinary leap in quality and reputation over the last decade.

This small area which qualifies as Denominación d'Origen Qualificada (DOQ) is in Tarragona Province in Cataluña and is one of only two regions - alongside Rioja - to qualify as DOCa, the highest qualification.

It produces mainly red and powerful wines.

Characterised by a terroir of volcanic origins with black slate and quartz soil known as llicorella, with vineyards on terraces at 100m - 700m, the area has low yields due to the rocky soil which does not allow water accumulation.

Wine production in the area dates from the 12th century, when monks from the Monastery of Scala Dei introduced viticulture and the prior ruled as a feudal lord, giving rise to the name Priorat.

At the end of the 19th century, the phylloxera pest devastated the vineyards and replanting was undertaken only in the 1950's. In the 1980's bulk wine production was phased out

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



PRIORAT: On the march.

and bottling of quality wine was introduced.

The traditional grape variety in El Priorat is the red Garnacha tinta, which is found in all the older vineyards. Other red varieties are Garnacha Peluda, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

White varieties are Garnacha blanca, Macabeo, Pedro Ximenez and Chenin.

The traditional reds are a single grape bottling of Grenache and Carignan, or a blend of these with French grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Syrah. Usually aged in oak barrels for 18 months followed by six months in the bottle, Priorat wines have a consumption optimal two years later.

Happy tasting.



LUCKY WINNER: Glenn presents the bottle of brandy to Liz Carey.

Raising funds with raffle

APSA, the animal charity based in Albox, runs a monthly raffle to raise funds.

Albox Insurance was delighted to support the raffle with a bonus prize for the January draw. Glenn, from the office in Calle Malaga, Albox, was pleased to present the prize, a bottle of brandy, to Liz Carey from Partalao.

The monthly raffle is run by Jackie and Keith

Roberts and they are grateful to local businesses for donating prizes and to all those who purchase tickets.

You can buy tickets from the APSA shop in Avenida Lepanto, opposite Chapmans, from the Bowling Alley and from APSA volunteers.

Local businesses, who may be able to help with regular or bonus prizes, can contact Jackie via the APSA shop or bowling alley.

Bowling for Walk for Life

A FUN-FILLED bowling event has been organised for Walk for Life by the Arboleas Forum, arboleas.co.uk.

This will be held on the afternoon of Saturday March 10 from 1pm to 4pm at the Almeria Tenpin Bowling Centre. They need 150 bowlers in teams of three to make this as big a success as it has been in two previous years when it has raised over €3,000 to help people affected by cancer and their families.

You can collect a form and register at The Bowling Alley or email w4lifesweet@btinternet.com. It is open to anyone, regardless of whether you have bowled before or not and the cost is €8 per person. This includes two games and free entry into the raffle. All entry fees go to Walk for Life. Find out more at www.walk4lifearboleas.com.

Thanks to Phil Taylor of the Arboleas Forum, arboleas.co.uk, and to Rafa of Almeria Tenpin Bowling Centre for organising this event.

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Mayor criticises Junta over health move

THE mayor of Albox and the local Partido Popular (PP) have criticised the Junta de Andalucía over alleged proposals to move the town's

mental health unit to Arboleas. Francisco Torrecillas said on Facebook that the PSOE-managed Junta wanted to fill the new centre at Arboleas

with services at the expense of Albox.

"Everything has been done with treachery and with the acquiescence of Albox socialists," the mayor said.

"This is aggression towards the town and its people," he added in the post on the social media site.

Juan Pedro Perez Quiles, a spokesperson for the Partido Popular, said the party would not allow the loss of another service in Albox.

"The Partido Socialista should stop pursuing personal vendettas and try to settle their differences with the mayor another way. The people of Albox are not to blame for their mistakes or problems," he said.

Sources from the Andalusian health service told Spanish media that no transfer had been decided. They added the mayor should have made contact with the Health Delegation before making statements that could alarm the population.

Council acquires Building of the Unions

THE mayor of Albox has finalised the purchase of the Union Building from the Spanish government.

Francisco Torrecillas reached the agreement at the offices of the Ministry of Labour. Albox Council are set to use the building for social and cultural purposes.

The building, located on the Calle Ramon y Cajal, was purchased for €55,000 and has two floors along with space totalling 600 square metres.

The mayor said the sale of the building would be beneficial to the town.

"The importance of the artistic works and materials that will be housed in the building is beyond doubt.

"The legacy of Don Bartolome Marin, from Albox and a key figure in 20th century Almeria, originally had to be moved from the town because there was no space. Finally it will remain in Albox."

Marin's works, which include sculptures of Don Quixote, will be moved to the building after the mayor reached an agreement with the Ibanez-



Picture credit Albox council

DONE DEAL: The mayor signed documents confirming the purchase of the building at the offices of the Ministry of Labour.

Cosentino Foundation.

The building is also set to serve as a home for the elderly where they will be able to meet in their free time.

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Picture credit LEGO Education Robotics/Twitter

CONTEST: The University of Almeria hosted this year's provincial round of the First Lego League.

Students triumph in robotics contest

PUPILS from the Cardinal Cisneros high school in Albox have won the provincial round of the First Lego League, a global technology contest.

The team represented Spain at the international tournament in South Africa three years ago. They are now set to compete in the next round after besting the competition at the contest held at the

University of Almeria.

The tournament focuses on applying maths, engineering, and robotics to a given theme, which this year was water management.

The Albox team created a system that collects data from a simulated water plant which can be accessed from any location.



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Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



SEARCHING for a discreet yet fabulous holiday? One that is a destination and a conveyance at one and the same time? Need to take the whole family, several friends and their families too? Looking for the height of luxury, the epitome of service, huge interior spaces as well as a close and intimate connection to the ocean? May I suggest the yacht NIRVANA.

Completed by Oceanco and delivered to her owner in the spring of 2012, then presented to the world at the Monaco Yacht Show (the premier superyacht show of the world) that September.

NIRVANA at 88.50 metres is a striking, elegant and exclusive mega yacht with modern lines and contemporary style. NIRVANA features six enormous decks and offers an impressive 150 square metre owner's suite comprising study, lounge, lobby and private exterior deck area with whirlpool. A further five guest cabins, a 3-D cinema, a fully equipped gym, a 7.5-metre long oval pool and whirlpools with panoramic views are just a few of the massive superlatives of this superyacht.

NIRVANA's six decks are connected by the main stairwell and an extraordinary six-person glass lift, which is entwined in a striking Balinese stainless-steel woven art piece resembling a bubbling whirlpool. This sculptural feature is a focal point from all levels of the yacht.

Two vivariums act as room dividers - be-

This is what a €900,000 a week holiday looks like



TRULY OPULENT: NIRVANA at sea.



SIX DECKS: A view from above.



EATING IN STYLE: The al fresco dining area.



WATER SPORTS: The garage houses jet skis and a speedboat.

tween the salon, dining room and a cosy separate sitting room - and are home to live and active reptiles, a chameleon, water dragons, bearded lizards, turtles and exotic frogs.

The timeless Sorgiovanni-designed interior mixes various distinctive and exceptional materials, including bamboos and textured leathers, in imaginative and inspiring ways.

NIRVANA accommodates an experienced crew of 24 in an exceptionally friendly layout, enabling the efficient and discreet fulfilment of any and all her guests' requirements.

Guests are close to the sea and the excitement and involvement is enhanced through the garage, which can hold a large array of tenders and water sports equipment.

A watersports room holds diving equipment and a drying cabinet for wetsuits, with immediate access to the sea through the lower lobby access.

Charlie Birkett and Gary Wright together with their professional team at Y.CO (www.ycoyacht.com) are the brokers for numerous mega yachts as well as NIRVANA.

This winter NIRVANA is cruising in the Indian Ocean, and can be yours for a charter of €900,000 per week.

Letter from the Canaries

Every island town has its own carnival

WE may be over 2,000 kilometres further south down here, but it's not very warm at the moment. This comes to you from the coldest February on record.

Tourists in summer togs huddle out of the wind and locals shiver in boots, sweaters, scarves and woolly hats. This two seasons at the same time clothing phenomenon is normal. Everything, after all, is relative. If I'd just arrived from Stockholm I'd probably wear a t-shirt too.

Tenerife's high peak Teide, at 3,718 metres is covered in snow, as it is at some point most winters, but this year there's snowfall down at rarely affected levels, with approach roads in and out of Teide National Park closed.

Gran Canaria's peak area, Pico de Las Nieves at 1,956 metres, is much lower than Tenerife's, but also snowbound. So is Tejeda at 1,050 metres, which had snow this morning, surprising everybody. Tejera postman Jaime Gitana's day: "...Has been very difficult. I'm not used to driving in these conditions. I couldn't believe it when I woke up!"

Neighbour Sergio Cobas adds: "We're not used to these extreme conditions, but it's not all bad. There's been no rain for two years and this'll help fill reservoirs."

Eastern islands Lanzarote and Fuerteventura



CARNAVAL: Comes to Tenerife.

are also hit by high winds, rain and colder than normal temperatures. With an already low 13°C feeling like 9°C in the wind, islanders are feeling chilly.

Local authorities impose alerts, urging people to stay at home and keep clear of high areas and coastal areas battered by huge seas. There's TV debate about irresponsible bad weather behaviour, which has caused injuries, one fatality and a lot of work for rescue ser-

vices. Images of sightseers blithely taking selfies beside enormous waves were the last thing I saw before TV transmissions crashed here (La Gomera) 10 minutes ago in high winds.

An unprecedented zero degrees and blanket of white surprised villagers in Iqualero, La Gomera's highest village, this morning, whilst westerly neighbour El Hierro is wind-battered and wet.

La Palma's Roque de Muchachos Observa-

tory area, at 2,426 metres is, unsurprisingly, snow-covered, but again with snow spreading down to much lower altitudes than usual. In short, we're having uncharacteristically wintry weather.

Never mind. Carnival's come early this year to warm us.

From the Latin, 'carne vale' means goodbye meat and marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter. Carnival's the goodbye party, the hedonistic big bash before abstinence.

In carnival-crazy Canaries, fantastic costumes are being concocted everywhere. Santa Cruz de Tenerife's carnival is second only to Rio de Janeiro's and must be seen to be believed.

Every town on each of the seven islands has its own particular carnival version, with traditions like La Palma's extraordinary Los Indios on carnival Monday going from strength to strength.

All night dancing to son, salsa, meringue and cumbia, Canarian popular music from the Americas, is the common thread running through Carnival celebrations here and we'll hopefully dance off the chill very soon.

Barbara Belt
EWN February 2018

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ATTRACTING birds to your garden is easy if you have the right plants that will provide water, food, shelter and protection from predators.

Birds do best in gardens with multiple storeys of plants from ground covers, shrubs as under storeys, to taller tree canopies as an upper storey.

Providing water in the dry months in safe places for birds to drink, is the sure way to have birds attracted to your garden. A steady, reliable source of water is a primary need, even more than food, if other sources of water are not nearby.

If you provide water, birds will visit regularly, if you provide food plants, they will stay longer and if you provide safe shelter as well, native birds may start to nest in your garden. Migratory birds will only visit but are more likely to visit if you have a food source as well as water.

There are many plants that can provide food for the birds. As different bird species have different requirements of seed, nectar or insects, a variety of different plants are needed to attract the bird species you wish to support in your garden.

Bird lovers paradise, a garden for the birds

The best way to provide food is to use a lot of native plants and have a wild zone for allowing naturally occurring non-invasive native plants - even the plants considered weeds in the ornamental and vegetable garden - to go through their full life cycle.

Many plants considered weeds are useful plants for birds to feed on for the flowers, nectar and seeds.

Birds usually prefer to arrive onto the upper storey to survey a garden for food and dangers before entering, and different species build their nests in the upper storey for safety from ground based predators.

Each bird species has different needs however, so many smaller birds will look for nesting places in the under storey that has dense thickets to prevent larger predators from entering. So to attract a wide range of birds, having a wide range

of plants that give good protection is important for diversity.

Plants that provide nectar include Sages (*Salvia* species), Grevillea species, Torch lilies (*Kniphofia* species), Lobelia species, Penstemon species, Verbena species, Sunflowers (*Helianthus*), Thyme (*Thymus* species), Lavender (*Lavendula* species), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species), Ice Plant (*Sedum* species), Firethorn (*Pyracantha* species) and Barberry (*Berberis* species).

Seed plants include Sunflower (*Helianthus* species), Coneflower (*Echinacea* species), Aster species, Zinnia species, Cumin (*Cuminum* species), Calendula species and many others.

Attracting birds can just be a matter of widening the range of plants that you normally grow, which may provide even more interest to your garden as many bird food plants are very attractive.

Hedges and thickets of plants will provide safe nesting places for smaller birds, and tall trees can have nesting boxes installed to make trees a ready-made nesting place.

Applying natural mulches around your garden will help birds find materials to build the nests.



BEAUTIFUL:
Everyone loves to see birds in their garden.

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IT may not quite be spring yet, but now is a great time to start getting stuck into your garden again.

Although temperatures are on the up, there is still a risk of some chilly days ahead, so make sure you

protect any plants that are extremely averse to the cold by wrapping them in insulation, such as garden fleece.

This is also a good time to clear your garden of any fallen leaves or debris in time for spring, as well as clearing out your shed or greenhouse.

You could also get structures and plans in place for what you want to plant when it gets a bit warmer.

If it is fairly warm where you live, you could start sowing seeds in parts of your garden that receive a lot of sunlight.

Keep the seeds and seedlings covered at night to protect them from pests and then plant in well-prepared soil when it gets warmer.

Also make sure to keep up with your pruning, but leave cherry, plum and apricots trees until summer, as pruning these trees now could make them vulnerable to Silver Leaf disease.



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Training day is vital

OVER the past 60 years I have seen many changes, some excellent but many not suitable. I frown upon the harness as I do not know anyone that can train a dog in a harness which was designed for tracking, rescue and for the blind and disabled.

Those that use the flexi cord should be aware they were designed for people who live in apartments to enable dogs to be taken down to the garden to relieve themselves.

Those that use them in the streets are not aware of the danger these can cause since there is no control when they are extended and again this is not a suitable tool for training. I have known many people to trip and indeed get hurt.

The standards of training have certainly diminished. Most 'trainers' have been to a training school themselves for four to six months, then give themselves a title 'I am a dog trainer'.

Some join American organisations on the internet which give out certificates without putting the person through a test to see how they handle



GOOD JOB: These dogs know how to behave.

dogs. Note I use the word 'dogs', every type of dog is different to handle and so much depends on the breeders and puppy school teachers, best to look before

you book!
All good schools will spend at least half the time explaining to owners many aspects of the dog including,

most importantly, feeding the correct type of dried food, as food affects behaviour and many skin problems. Today one does not need to march around

in circles as owners need information and help on feeding, grooming and their general attitude towards their pet.

Dogs must be respected by children who in turn need educating and taught that this is not a furry baby or toy, it is a canine live creature.

Young married couples must think hard before taking on a dog as one must think of their lifestyle including a future family, since everything changes once the lady gets pregnant. Dogs do get jealous and a good trainer will explain about dangers etc. Many of you reading this article may not realise that I never trained a dog! (I educated people.)

Never forget children need to be taught to respect animals. It is always a good idea to allow them to feed the dog and explain we never touch the dog or bowl when the dog is eating.

Before training a dog one must do research and understand how much work, cost and time is needed, plus the most important fact that dogs should never be allowed to be on their own for more than two hours.

Dangers of a 'butcher's dog' diet

IN the vein of the clean eating health food trend that involves going back to basics and consuming raw, unprocessed food, some dog owners are rejecting traditional pet food and going back to a more old-school 'butcher's dog' diet consisting of raw meat.

This food is still often bought pre-prepared so it can be easily served and frozen for convenience.

However, a recent study has suggested these raw meat products could contain bacterial and parasitic diseases, which are not necessarily a problem for dogs - although they can suffer

from food poisoning - but they can become carriers of the bacteria.

This can then be spread through their faeces, which could then make their owners seriously ill.

Storing the meat at -20°C could help to kill the bacteria and handling the food sensibly should help minimise the risks.

Always make sure to wash your hands with hot water and soap after handling the dog food and picking up your pet's faeces.

You should also keep your cutlery and bowls separate from your dogs and try to keep him out of the kitchen if possible.



WILD: Golden Retriever eats a raw chicken.

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MOTORING FACT



Hypothetically speaking, it would take less than six months to get to the moon by car if you were travelling at an average speed of 95km/h.

A LIMITED edition Aston Martin, owned by James Bond actor Daniel Craig, is expected to sell for more than €450,000 when it is put up for sale.

Craig's very own customised Vanquish is being put under the hammer to raise money for his youth project.

The 2014 model, aptly numbered 007, can reach speeds of up to 320 kmph and has a spec chosen specifically by the Hollywood A-lister.

It features left-hand drive with a denim and dark interior, and deep blue, leather, hand-stitched seats based on Craig's personal choice.

On his decision to let the car go, Craig told British media: "This Aston Martin Vanquish is a tour de force of automobile engineering and a distinct pleasure to drive.

"While I will miss it, I am keen to further the very important work of The Opportu-

Bond bombshell!

Limited edition Aston up for sale



Photo by Twitter/Shutterstock

BEAUTIFUL: The limited edition Aston, owned by Daniel Craig (inset).

nity Network with its sale."

The car was personally designed by Marek Reichman, Aston Martin's Chief Creative Officer, who was also responsible for the DB10 in Spectre.

It is capable of doing 0 - 100 kmph in roughly four seconds and reach 320 kmph thanks to its 5.9 litre V12 engine.

The famous Aston will officially head to auction on April 20 in Christie's, The Exceptional Sale.

Along with purchasing the car, the winning bidder will also be offered a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aston Mar-

tin headquarters in Gaydon, Warwickshire, England.

Becky MacGuire, director of The Exceptional Sale, told British media: "We are thrilled at the chance to support Daniel Craig's generosity to The Opportunity Network with the offer of this unique and gorgeous sports car.

"With its pristine condition, luxury materials, exceptional craftsmanship and impeccable provenance, the Aston Martin fits perfectly into Christie's masterpiece sale."

Auctioneers have estimated that the car will fetch between €320,000 and €480,000, with all proceeds going to The Opportunity Network.

The Opportunity Network, which Craig is an avid supporter of, is a non-profit organisation that aims to help young people into higher education and support career development.

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Spanish superiority

OPEL has announced that the next generation of the Opel/Vauxhall Corsa will be exclusively produced at the company's Zaragoza plant as of 2019.

The company has also announced that the electric version of the bestselling sub-compact car will roll off the Zaragoza production line by 2020, meaning that the Spanish plant will be the first Groupe PSA plant to produce a fully electric Opel/Vauxhall model in Europe.

Opel Chief Executive, Michael Lohscheller, said: "This is an important step forward for the Zaragoza plant and marks the beginning of a new era."

The news comes after a social framework agreement was signed between Opel and the workers unions at the end of January.

The deal will not only enable the plant to significantly increase its competitiveness, but will also allow further future investments into the site

Lohscheller continued: "This result is significant and shows the mutual trust and confidence of all involved stakeholders."

"Zaragoza will continue to play an important role in the industrial footprint of Groupe PSA."

The Corsa will be one of four electrified models in

the Opel/Vauxhall portfolio by 2020 and according to the company's strategic plan 'PACE!', all European Opel/Vauxhall passenger car models will have an electrified version by 2024.

STEP FORWARD: Opel CEO Michael Lohscheller, Plant Manager Zaragoza Antonio Cobo and Jonathan Akeroyd, Director Sales, Marketing & Aftersales Opel Iberian Cluster



Photo by Opel

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La Liga Preview

Malaga on the brink

by Ben Park

MALAGA'S relegation to the Segunda division could be all but confirmed by next week as they face a tough La Liga double header in the space of three days.

Los Boquerones were much the better side in their last match against Valencia, and led for a large period of the game thanks to Brown Ideye's first goal since joining on loan in January.

But a late collapse saw them concede two goals in the final 10 minutes and lose Ignasi Miquel to suspension after picking up a red card, as they fell to yet another loss.

They first face a Bilbao side on Saturday that is desperate for a win themselves, having picked up just three points from a possible 15 in their last five La Liga games.

Following the trip to Bilbao, they host Sevilla at home in what will be considered as a must win game if the side have any hope of surviving the drop to Segunda B.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid will look to cement their position in second but face a difficult match as they travel to Sevilla on Sunday.

Madrid closed the gap on Barcelona

last weekend as they swept aside Athletic Bilbao 2-0 thanks to goals from Kevin Gameiro and Diego Costa.

Following the Sevilla match, Greizmann and co host Leganes at the Wanda Metropolitano and will be confident of a win.

Barcelona will continue their push towards the title and look to keep up their unbeaten record as they host Leganes at the Camp Nou.

The Catalan giants sit seven points clear of Atletico at the top of La Liga following their 2-0 win over Eibar last weekend and are still yet to lose in the league this season (W19 D5).

Valencia remain locked in a battle with Real Madrid for third place and will be confident of grabbing all six points from their La Liga double header as they first host Real Sociedad on Sunday before heading to Athletic Bilbao next Wednesday.

Madrid will also be hopeful of getting all six points but may suffer from fatigue as their schedule begins to hot up.

After travelling to Leganes yesterday (Wednesday) Real Madrid host Alaves on Saturday before playing their third game in six days against Espanyol on Tuesday.

Villarreal remain in the driving seat for Europa League qualification and will hope to get back to winning ways after last week's 1-1 draw with Espanyol as they first host Getafe before travelling to Eibar, who are also in the hunt for a Europa League spot, on Wednesday.

Full week's fixture list

Tomorrow (Friday)

Deportivo La Coruña vs Espanyol

Saturday

Celta Vigo vs Eibar

Real Madrid vs Alaves

Leganes vs Las Palmas

Barcelona vs Girona

Sunday

Villarreal vs Getafe

Athletic Bilbao vs Malaga

Valencia vs Real Sociedad

Sevilla vs Atletico Madrid

Monday, February 26

Levante vs Real Betis

Tuesday, February 27

Espanyol vs Real Madrid

Girona vs Celta Vigo

Wednesday, February 28

Athletic Bilbao vs Valencia

Getafe vs Deportivo La Coruña

Malaga vs Sevilla

Atletico Madrid vs Leganes

Eibar vs Villarreal



STRUGGLING: Malaga are yet to win under Jose Gonzalez.

Credit: @ChampionsLeague/Twitter

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PJ	PG	PE	PP	GF	GC	PT
1 • Barcelona	24	19	5	0	62	11	62
2 • Atlético	24	16	7	1	36	9	55
3 • Valencia	24	14	4	6	47	28	46
4 • Real Madrid	23	13	6	4	55	26	45
5 • Sevilla	24	12	3	9	31	35	39
6 • Villarreal	24	11	5	8	35	29	38
7 • Eibar	24	10	5	9	32	36	35
8 • Girona	24	9	7	8	34	30	34
9 • Getafe	24	8	9	7	29	21	33
10 • Betis	24	10	3	11	41	50	33
11 • Celta	24	9	5	10	41	37	32
12 • R. Sociedad	24	8	5	11	46	45	29
13 • Leganés	23	8	5	10	20	25	29
14 • Athletic	24	6	10	8	24	27	28
15 • Alavés	24	9	1	14	22	33	28
16 • Espanyol	24	6	9	9	22	32	27
17 • Levante	24	3	11	10	21	38	20
18 • Las Palmas	24	5	3	16	18	52	18
19 • Deportivo	24	4	5	15	24	53	17
20 • Málaga	24	3	4	17	15	38	13

Premier League preview

United host Chelsea in top four clash

MANCHESTER UNITED welcome Chelsea to Old Trafford as the Premier League returns this weekend in what could be a huge game in the quest for automatic Champions League places.

The Red Devils were all at sea during their last fixture against Newcastle, as Matt Ritchie's goal was enough to secure a memorable win over Mourinho's men.

They host a Chelsea side on Sunday, who returned to winning ways with a 3-0 win against West Brom, following a string of bad results to ease the pressure on boss Antonio Conte and could climb up the table with a win.

If Manchester United were to lose by several goals, they could drop down as low as fourth in the Premier League table by the end of the day.

That is provided that Liverpool, who thrashed Porto 5-0 in their Champions League match last Tuesday, beat West Ham at Anfield.

The Hammers have found a bit of form in recent times, registering a 2-0 win against Watford in their last game, but it is hard to see anyone stopping in-form front three Mohammed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino at the moment.

At the other end of the table, West

RESULT: Alvaro Morata scored the only goal of the game the last time the two sides met.

Bromwich Albion host Huddersfield Town in a tie that could be vital for both team's seasons

Premier League new boys Huddersfield currently sit just a point above the relegation zone and a win could give them some breathing space between them and the bottom three, while a loss for West Brom may all but seal their drop to the Championship.

Fellow strugglers Swansea seemed to have turned a corner since bringing former Sheffield Wednesday boss Carlos Carvalhal into the frame, with big wins against Arsenal and Liverpool followed up by a 1-0 victory against Burnley

They travel to Brighton and Hove Albion on Saturday, who themselves will be buoyed by the result in their last Premier League fixture, a big 4-1 win over Bournemouth.

In the weekend's other fixtures Leicester host Stoke, Newcastle travel to Bournemouth, Burnley are at home to Southampton, Watford take on Everton and Tottenham travel to Crystal Palace on Monday.

Full weekend fixtures

Saturday

Leicester vs Stoke City

Bournemouth vs Newcastle United

Brighton and Hove Albion vs Swansea

Burnley vs Southampton

Liverpool vs West Ham United

West Bromwich Albion vs Huddersfield Town

Watford vs Everton

Sunday

Crystal Palace vs Tottenham Hotspur

Manchester United vs Chelsea

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



AFTER going 160 games without a goal for Arsenal, January signing Francis Coquelin opened his goal-scoring account for Valencia at the weekend. Coquelin scored the equaliser in Valencia's 2-1 victory over Malaga.

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One step closer

Spain edge nearer to Rugby World Cup

SPAIN took a huge leap towards qualifying for the 2019 Rugby World Cup after beating top-of-the-table rivals Romania 22-10 in Madrid.

Los Leones haven't qualified for a World Cup tournament since 1999, but moved top of the table after overpowering the Oaks at a packed Estadio Nacional Complutense in Madrid.

Early tries from Benat Auzqui and Sebastien Ascarat eased the pressure on the hosts, as Brad Linklater also kicked



Credit: Federación Española de Rugby

BATTLE: Spain fought hard for their victory against Romania.

four successful penalties in front of almost 16,000 fans.

Spain now sit one point clear of Romania on 21 points at the top of the group following the victory and two wins from their remaining fixtures against Germany and Belgium in March will guarantee Spain's place at the World Cup.

The winner of the group will

qualify outright for the Tokyo World Cup next year and will go into Group A alongside Ireland, Scotland and Japan as well as the winner of a play-off.

Los Leones host Germany in their next group game on March 11, before heading to Brussels to face Belgium in their final group game on March 18.

Open de España returns to European Tour

THE Open de España, one of the oldest and most celebrated tournaments in Continental Europe, will return to the European Tour in April.

After its absence from last year's, the 91st edition of the Open de España will be held at the Centro Nacional de Golf in Madrid, the home of the Royal Spanish Golf Federation, from April 12 to 15.

The €1.5 million tournament will fulfil a pledge created by European Tour Chief Executive Keith Pelley made during a visit to Spain's capital last year when he promised the event would return to the European Tour in 2018.

Pelley said: "I am delighted to announce the return of the Open de España to our

schedule. The roll call of champions reads like a Who's Who of the game itself and we look forward very much to seeing who will add their name to that illustrious list in a couple of months' time.

"Our game thrives on prestigious national championships such as the Open de España and we thank everyone at the Royal Spanish Golf Federation and the Madrid Golf Federation for helping us to make this happen."

The Open de España was officially the first tournament played in the European Tour's inaugural season in 1972, with home favourite Antonio Garrido crowned as champion.

Several Spanish greats followed onto the Roll of Honour including Seve Ballesteros with three victories, Sergio Garcia, Alvaro Quirós and Miguel Ángel Jiménez.

Other prestigious winners include Major Champions Bernhard Langer, Sir Nick Faldo, Padraig Harrington, Charl Schwartzel and the late Arnold Palmer among many others.

Gonzaga Escauriaza, President of the Royal Spanish Golf Federation, said: "The Open de España is back on the European Tour International Schedule, which is great news for Spanish golf and we are doubly delighted to be welcoming it back to our home at the Centro Nacional de Golf."

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