

## Water ban threat to be lifted

THE Junta de Andalucía regional government has scrapped a ban on watering following massive rainfall.

The Board said there would be no further watering reductions after the La Concepcion reservoir reached 71.3 per cent capacity after this week's wet weather.

The Ministry for the Environment has also confirmed it will look into lifting a ban on watering in Axarquía after the region's reservoirs received 58 cubic hectometres since the start of the rainy season.

Jose Fiscal, Minister for Environment and Territorial Planning, added further plans to reduce water levels for the tourist season could also be binned.

He explained, "the measure of having less water for the Costa del Sol starting in April - which the Board had not publicly discussed until now - is not going to be necessary, which is very important because we are talking about a vital area where the number of tourists multiplies from this time."

From the beginning of February, farmers in Velez-Málaga were forced to cut their irrigation by 60 per cent. The Junta explained the subtropical fruit farmers would be offered just 10 hectometres of water for irrigating this year compared to the 23 hectometres normally used.

Alexander Clavero, a spokesman for Plataforma de Aguas de la Axarquía, praised the policy which saw Viñuela's water levels maintained at their current level rather than decreasing as before.

# Sinking feeling



Credit: benalmadena/facebook

Credit: Vicky Turner

**ROAD CLOSED:** The MA-4108 fell away in severe weather and (inset) Torrox Coast suffered storm damage.

Immense rainfall saw part of one road disappear entirely during the recent stormy weather.

It is thought the MA-4108 mountain road between Salares and Archez could be closed for up to a month after the tarmac dramatically fell away in one section, leaving drivers unable to cross.

Politicians and resi-

dents are now calling on the governing Partido Popular council to repair the damage 'immediately,' claiming the road had been 'abandoned.'

Other motorists were also affected by storms with one driver having to be rescued from the Rio Seco in Torre del Mar.

Firemen were forced to intervene after a car was

dragged into the currents as it tried to cross the normally dry riverbed. The vehicle was reportedly dragged to the Rio Seco Bridge around 50 metres from the mouth of the river, causing firefighters to intervene.

Heavy rainfall also saw tons of plastics and debris wash up on Torrox Costa, leaving much of

the beachfront in tatters. Torrox Council are forced to pay out thousands of Euros each year to deal with storm damage to the area's beaches, even installing a groin to prevent sand movement.

Last year, however, damage to the coastline was still visible leading to criticism from opposition parties.

## Havana laugh?

A MAN has been arrested for threatening strangers with a knife.

The 37-year-old Cuban national is said to have intimidated those walking past him in Malaga City, brandishing a large knife at them and attempting to hurt one person.

Police were forced to detain the man after a resident reported seeing the accused threatening strangers on a street in the Santa Rosalia-Maqueda neighbourhood. Officers arrested the alleged culprit, taking him to a police station and identifying him before discovering he had previous convictions for similar crimes.

The unusual incident follows a spate of knife crimes in Axarquía over the last month, resulting in one death and one injury.

Last week in Salobreña a man was arrested for slashing a teenager's face in the middle of a street following a case of mistaken identity. The accused, who is 47, is said to have approached the teenager on Calle Cañas before briefly arguing with him.

The victim is said to have told the man he was not the person he was looking for but the alleged perpetrator still took out an eight-centimetre knife before slashing the boy's face.

At the beginning of February, a woman was killed after her partner allegedly stabbed her almost 30 times at her home in La Viñuela.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Police chief  
hit on job**

THE Nerja Chief of Police was reportedly injured after a 77-year-old man accidentally hit him with his car while the officer was on the job at the roundabout near Burriana beach, and has suffered several fractures on his legs.

**Drug bust**

SEVEN people have been arrested in Velez-Malaga for selling marihuana and hashish in the Carabanchel neighbourhood. The group are charged with belonging to an organised criminal gang, drug trafficking and electricity fraud.

**Pile up**

A WOMAN has been seriously injured following a car crash in Velez-Malaga. The three-vehicle collision took place in El Trapiche, forcing traffic to be suspended for 15 minutes.



**UPGRADE:** Millions of euros to be invested in Malaga Airport's Terminal 2.

**€6m terminal boost**

AENA is to invest millions of euros in Malaga Airport's Terminal 2.

The project, which has been awarded to company Comsa, will be completed within 20 months, modernising the area to the standards of Terminal 3.

According to the company, the project will 'take in the Departures area, including the check-in foyer, Arrivals and the intermediate floors to the north and south.'

During the works Terminal 2's flooring will be replaced to match that in T3, and workers will paint walls and ceilings throughout the building.

Last week it was announced that funding of more than €6.2

million would allow the airport's capacity to soar from 24 million passengers a year to 25.9 million. Upgrade plans will also see a maximum of 180,000 flights come and go each year.

According to Aena, the move is designed to ensure it 'has sufficient capacity to meet traffic levels and retain high levels of quality.' The project will see 2.36 hectares of land surrounding the current airport limit used to expand facilities.

Further plans include adapting the building housing Terminals 2 and 3 in departures and arrivals to provide new parking spaces in front of the airport.

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**Problems  
in the  
pipeline**

EMASA has postponed sending water to a reservoir following pipe problems.

The water company will now instead continue channelling 10,000 cubic metres of drinking water a day to the La Viñuela reservoir after it emerged further work would be needed before directing the water to Torremolinos.

Emasa had previously been sending drinking water to La Viñuela's dwindling reservoir for a month and a half, before announcing it would instead supply the Pinillo reservoir in Torremolinos.

The Ministry of the Environment announced works would have to be carried out to the pipeline to Pinillo before the transfer could begin. It explained these works would have to be carried out by the Junta de Andalucía and Emasa before water could be transferred from El Atabal as planned. Viñuela's water levels now sit at around 22 per cent with only 35 cubic hectometres remaining.

Since early January, Emasa had been diverting around 100 litres of water a second to Viñuela in the hope of slowing the rate at which water levels decreased.

Homes in Rincon de la Victoria, Totalan, Moclinejo, Macharaviaya and Velez-Malaga are now receiving water from the Gualdahorce reservoir following the move by Emasa.

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**MOTORING**

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE

**P45**

# Teacher trust broken

A BRITISH teacher has been sentenced to 16 months in prison for defrauding nearly 200 parents out of money for a short story competition. The 66-year-old accused is said to have charged €12.95 for parents to submit work for a book which the defendant failed to produce.

## Job boost

ALMUÑECAR is celebrating after unemployment rates decreased during February. Joblessness dropped to just 100 cases last month following a rise in January. Over the past year, unemployment decreased by 238 people in the municipality, a drop of 7.89 per cent.

## Flights cancelled

TWENTY-TWO flights in and out of Malaga Airport were cancelled due to bad weather. Despite, fog, heavy rainfall and storms in Spain, the problem was down to severe weather conditions in the UK and Ireland following snow, ice and cold temperatures there.

## Insurance fraud

TWO people are being investigated after allegedly lying to defraud their car insurance company. The pair are said to have staged an accident before attempting to make off with the €50,000 pay out. The high-end car involved is said to have suffered major damage.

## False alarm

THREE young people have been investigated in Alhaurin de la Torre for making false emergency services phone calls. The group is said to have placed seven false calls in the early morning of February 25 telling police two vehicles were carrying out an illegal race on the road.

# Splash of the titans

**THE BIG PICTURE Nº 4**

RIVER WILD: The 'reventon' is a rare event.

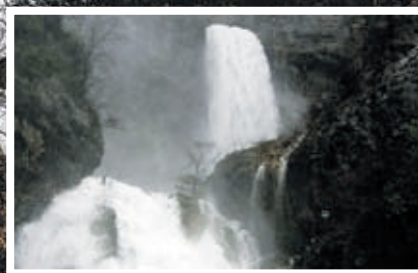


Photo credit Flickr

IT is one of Spain's most dramatic natural spectacles.

And El reventón de los chorros del río Mundo - literally, the explosion of the Mundo River streams - has this week served up some stunning photo opportunities for thrill seekers.

The rare spectacle only occurs when rainfall above 100 millimetres falls for a prolonged period around 10-15 days beforehand, with a drop in temperature and atmospheric air pres-

sure sparking the breathtaking display.

The Mundo is the main tributary of the Rio Segura, which flows from its source through Murcia and Alicante before reaching the Mediterranean Sea.

Arising in the Sierra de Alcaraz mountains in Albacete, Castilla-La Mancha, the river flows out of a limestone cave which is at least 32 kilometres deep before plummeting 300 metres down a spectacular

cliff face.

The volume of water can be very low during dry periods, but when conditions are right an extraordinary upswelling occurs, pushing millions of litres through the limestone rock in a phenomenon known as 'trop plein' (overflow in French).

And the result is a truly unforgettable sight for the lucky few willing to brave the dangerous, slippery conditions.

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# Worldstoppers

## Spanish women set to strike



Photo credit Twitter

**GIRL POWER:** The strike will be followed by demonstrations.

SPANISH women are set to make their biggest ever stand against Spain's macho culture.

It comes as hundreds of thousands of women will hold their first national one-day strike to demand equal salaries and tougher action against domestic violence to mark International Women's Day today (Thursday).

Organised by The Commission for March 8, a collective of feminist groups, the strike takes place under the motto 'if we stop, the world stops.'

While the action is legal and women are permitted to down tools for the whole day, national unions CCOO and UGT have suggested a pair of two hour slots - from 11-1pm and 4-6pm - since workers will not be paid while they are on strike.

The walk out will be followed by demonstrations and rallies in Spanish towns and cities, most of which are scheduled to begin at 6.30-7pm.

And the protest is not restricted to working women, with housewives urged to join the strike, or at least hang kitchen utensils or aprons in the

windows of their homes.

Purple bracelets will also be worn throughout the day, and women are being pressed to avoid buying any non-essential items, particularly feminine hygiene products which critics say are subject to a 'pink tax' in Spain, while boycotting companies considered to exploit the female image.

Men are encouraged to support their partners by assuming responsibility for housework and other domestic tasks, or by joining the protests and marches.

Women in Spain earn an average of 14.9 per cent less than men per hour, while there is a recognised career glass ceiling, with the majority of managerial and directorial positions in the country occupied by men.

Domestic violence also remains a major issue in the country, with 48 women killed by their partners or ex-partners in 2017.

For more information on the strike, see the website *feministas.org*.

**POLL OF THE WEEK**

*Following recent controversy in Spain, should bars and restaurants be allowed to ban children?*

■ **LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

Should Spain be allowed to co-manage Gibraltar Airport?

Yes **77%**No **23%**

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CREDIT: Kelly Louise Metcalfe

**TRASHED:** John Anthony Parkin (inset) reportedly wrecked Kelly Louise Metcalfe's villa.

**17,634** views **TENNANT FROM HELL:** Claims expat trashed Brit's villa and 'blackmailed' landlady

**12,168** views **Storm Emma** chaos as orange alerts activated on the Costa del Sol

**9,066** views **Gibraltar Airport** shut and flights diverted to Spain after damage from heavy winds

**8,336** views **Thousands** trapped as Canary Islands battered by heaviest storm in years

**5,938** views **TV favourite** 'A Place in the Rain'... sorry 'Sun' - films in soggy Spain

\*For week 26 Feb - 5 March

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## OUR VIEW

### It's time to end the gender no-pay gap

SPAIN'S feminist strike is to be applauded.

The decision by Spain's working women and housewives to take a stand against issues including domestic violence and salaries is a brave one in a country with a strong male bias.

Whether or not today's industrial action and demonstrations spark genuine change remains to be seen, but the Spanish government has been wise not to contest the strike.

And if the turnout is anything close to the inspiration for the event it will undoubtedly be a resounding success.

In 1975 the women of Iceland decided to strike for equal rights.

Around 90 per cent of the female population took part, and the event brought about a seismic shift in the way women were viewed, placing it at the forefront of the fight for equality.

It was known as the Women's Day Off and five years later Iceland elected Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, the world's first democratically-elected female leader.

In Spain, women simply hope to be seen as equals.

Heavily over-represented in part-time and temporary jobs, women also spend double the amount of time on unpaid work such as caring for family members of household chores than men, according to the National Institute of Statistics.

While progress has been made since the 1970s, when women were unable to vote, obtain a passport or buy property without their husband's permission, there is still a long way to go.

And today could mark an important step along that road.

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## More taxis

A FURTHER 140 taxis will be on duty during busy weekends between April and October.

Many of the drivers currently forced to avoid working weekends will now be able to pick up fares during some of the busiest times of the year following the announcement by Malaga Council.

Under current rules, 716 of Malaga's cabbies are forced to take alternating weekends off in a scheme to ensure drivers receive enough rest.

A similar measure to ensure enough taxis are on Malaga's roads during busy tourist periods was established last summer but has now been extended to include more months.

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## Airline boss blames Leo

A BUDGET airline chief has claimed that plans to extend Barcelona's El Prat Airport have been scuppered because planes are unable to fly over football superstar Lionel Messi's house.

The bizarre accusation was made by Vueling supremo Javier Sanchez-Prieto, who told Spanish media that construction of new runways is impossible "because you cannot pass over where Messi lives."

He added: "This doesn't happen anywhere else in the world."

The Barcelona and Argentina forward, 30, owns a multi-million Euro villa on the exclusive Bellamar housing estate in the suburban town of Castelldefells, where teammates including Luis Suarez, Ivan Rakitic and Philippe Coutinho also own properties.

He lives there with wife Antonella plus their two sons, and famously bought his neighbour's home before demolishing it to build a private football pitch.

The area is around 12 kilometres from the airport.

GIFT OF THE GARB: Garbiñe Muguruza.

Photo credit Antonella Rocuzzo/Instagram



HOME WIN: Lionel and family in their garden.



Photo credit Garbiñe Muguruza/Instagram

## Having a ball!

SHE'S the Spanish tennis champ who last year broke her Wimbledon duck.

But two-time Grand Slam winner Garbiñe Muguruza, 24, showed a different side after taking to the red carpet at this year's Oscars in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

The current world number three stunned in an elegant black satin dress by Spanish designer Hannibal Laguna before posing for snaps with basketball star Kobe Bryant.

## Welsh wonder

SHE recently announced her retirement from swimsuit modelling.

But former Big Brother contestant and beauty queen Imogen Thomas, 35, showed she's still able to set pulses racing as she flaunted her killer curves in the Canary Islands after fleeing the freezing UK.

The Welsh mum-of-two sizzled in a sultry grey swimsuit before slipping into a skimpy peach number for an eye-popping yoga session.



BEACH READY: Imogen Thomas.

Photo credit Imogen Thomas/Instagram

## Statue claim Virgin on the ridiculous



BRANSON PICKLE: Was Sir Richard around 150 years ago?

A STATUE on an iconic Spanish church has been compared to billionaire Virgin tycoon Richard Branson.

The stunning likeness was highlighted by British tourist Zach Culpin, who visited the famous La Sagrada Familia - the largest unfinished Roman Catholic church in the world - while on holiday in Barcelona.

And the 34-year-old from Weymouth

in Dorset was left stunned after snapping a shot of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi's Nativity Façade.

He explained: "I was on holiday and wanted to visit the Sagrada Familia to see the incredible architecture and Antoni Gaudi's work in person.

"But when I looked at the pictures closely on my camera, I couldn't believe my eyes."

## Lara respect

SHE is set to star as Lara Croft in the rebooted Tomb Raider movie franchise.

But Oscar-winner Alicia Vikander, 29, said that she "could never compete" with Angelina Jolie's original screen version of the video game heroine.

The Swedish actress was speaking at a Madrid photocall for the new film, due to be released later this month.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Helping hand for women**

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA'S Centre for Women has helped women 1,000 times in the last year, including financial aid, job advice, housing and divorces.

**Noise control**

A REPORT into how to control Malaga City's noise problem has been delayed. The city's council is seeking ways to reduce noise levels following an increase in the opening of bars and restaurants.

**€2m garden**

VELEZ-MALAGA Council has put aside millions of Euros to improve the area's parks and gardens, including a scheme to use recycled water for irrigation.

**Car fraud**

THE Local Police in Torrox have invested in a tool to detect whether cars have been tampered with or their documentation forged. The system is expected to help crack down on car theft.

**Hotel dodge**

A MAN has reported a couple to the police as alleged fraudsters after his partner sold a hotel to them. The pair allegedly swindled hundreds of millions of Euros in online currency.

**New supply**

RESERVOIRS in Malaga Province have received enough water in rainfall to provide supplies to Malaga City for six months. Current rain has provided 25 cubic hectometres of water.

**Family fight**

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl has been arrested for allegedly assaulting her mother in Malaga. The girl is said to have injured her mum's wrist and forearm following an argument.

SEVENTY-TWO dog owners have been fined under new laws.

Thousands more pet lovers could also be at risk of hefty sanctions after failing to register their dog's DNA before the beginning of January.

Pooch owners face €217 for not complying with the law, which is designed to prevent dog fouling and kidnapping. Local Police officers in Mala-

ga have been tracking down negligent owners who do not have a card proving their pet's DNA was sent off to be registered on a database.

Officials are encouraging anyone who has yet to complete the process to

visit a veterinarian who for €35 will take a sample of the dog's blood and fill out the paperwork.

The initiative follows a similar scheme in Rincon de la Victoria, Ojen and Benalmadena, with owners being

fined up to €500 if dog mess is traced back to them.

At the end of last year it was thought only around 7,000 of Malaga's 100,000 dog owners had signed up to the scheme.

Specialists are now taking to Malaga's streets and collecting samples of dog mess to identify owners who do not clear up after their pets.

# Dog days

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**NEWS EXTRA****Get ready for tram time**

POLITICIANS in Velez-Málaga are considering the possibility of reopening the town's defunct tram line for the summer. The service stopped in 2012 and has not been restarted since.

**Theatre delay**

A POLITICAL PARTY has asked Torre del Mar's council to solve the town's flooding problem. The Independent Group Pro Municipality of Torre del Mar (GIPMTM) claim the floods are delaying works to the town's theatre.

**No service**

A UNION has criticised a health centre in Torre del Mar for sending out ambulances to pick up patients without health workers on board after staff levels decreased between 8am and 3pm.

# Answers sought over new hospital

by Sally Underwood

A POLITICAL party is demanding answers over plans to build a new hospital in Málaga City.

Ciudadanos are asking the Junta de Andalucía regional government 'what the Board intends to do' with current public services after it was announced a further hospital would be built in the city.

A representative for the party, Carlos Hernandez, has asked for further details of the construction plan for the new building, which is expected to be completed in 2024 on the land behind the current Matero Hospital.

Last week, Jose Luis Garcia de Arboleya, a former health minister, explained Málaga cannot cope without another hospital. He added the future



Photo credit: Manuel Riera Jimenez/Facebook

**NEW ADDITION:** The new hospital could be built behind Málaga's Matero Hospital.

of a further hospital in the city looks likely following prolonged negotiations between various groups.

Mr de Arboleya, who served as Minister for Health at the Junta de Andalucía between 1992 and 2000, told one

publication some progress has been made, however, claiming, "We have achieved a good degree of consensus."

A group of experts compiled a 300-page report considering the impact of building an 800-bed hospital. Under the

proposals the current Carlos Haya Hospital would become a 400 or 500-bed hospital for patients with chronic conditions.

In turn, the Hospital Civico would become a research and training hospital.

**Police in protest**

AROUND 20,000 police officers have taken to the streets protesting over pay.

Members of the National Police, as well as the Guardia Civil, are demanding the government increase their salaries in line with other regional police.

The protest's organisers, Jusapol, labelled the movement a 'great success,' adding up to 25,000 officers could have been in attendance.

Protestors waved banners proclaiming, 'Same job, same salary,' as they made their way along Málaga City's main streets, eventually arriving in Plaza de la Constitución.

The demonstration came after Jusapol rejected the government's proposed rise of €561 per month for National Police and €720 a month for the Guardia Civil. Instead they are demanding further pay, more hours, greater pensions and assistance during trials.

A week earlier, around 250 members of the Local Police gathered in Málaga City to protest work conditions.

Officers are demanding their shift patterns forecast at the start of each year so they can plan their family and down time around work.

## Prison for cat poisoners in Málaga City

A COUPLE accused of killing their neighbour's cats in Málaga City have been jailed for eight months.

The pair will also be banned from working with animals for a year after poisoning eight of their neighbour's pets, killing five.

Prosecutors alleged the couple 'threw

balls of raw poisoned meat' over the dividing wall of their neighbour's home in March 2011 with the 'intent to end' the lives of his cats. His animals quickly ate the meat, with five dying. The others were saved after their owner intervened.

Last November the Guardia Civil were forced to investigate after a video

emerged of three boys appearing to throw a cat off the second floor of a building in Torre del Mar.

Officers began their investigation after the footage, lasting one minute and 44 seconds, was posted on social media. Police have identified a 16-year-old boy who they believe threw the cat, as well

as another boy shown in the video, aged under 14, and the boy who allegedly filmed the incident.

The film appears to show the boys laughing and joking about throwing a cat from the apartment block. The boys initially tell their older friend not to do it before then encouraging him to do so.

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# Organised chaos

by Sally Underwood

MALAGA Council is taking advantage of a cleaning shake-up to improve its services.

The council has announced it will replace the entire fleet of its street cleaning vehicles during a project to semi-privatise municipal cleaning company, Limasa.

The vehicles, which have not been renewed since 2001, will be replaced with smaller, more environmentally-friendly models following several breakdowns in the current fleet. It is hoped the 15 lorries and 40 cleaning machines will be in



Credit: Wikimedia

**LIMASA VEHICLES:** Will be replaced with newer models.

place by the end of the year.

Raul Jimenez, councillor for Environmental Sustainability, explained, "with this system collection will be much faster and will additionally be carried

out with fewer staff, so those two employees could be dedicated to other tasks, such as going with support teams to collect all the waste left outside containers."

Following the end of Limasa's 16-year contract to supply cleaning services in Malaga last year, the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, decided to split the company in two.

The controversial move will see waste collection services remaining publically run but street cleaning being organised privately.

Limasa workers have said they will fight "to death" against the decision to divide the company. Manuel Belmonte, president of the works council, explained, "We are willing to do whatever it takes to defend our rights."

## Call for coppers

A UNION has criticised a shortage in the numbers of National Police officers.

The Unified Police Union (SUP) claimed the 57 officers being hired in Malaga Province is 'totally insufficient,' and is demanding more officers. The SUP complained there is 'a large lack of personnel,' explaining a further 600 officers would need to be hired to cover Malaga Province adequately.

At the same time, political party Izquierda Unida (IU) asked Rincon de la Victoria Council for a National Police station before being rejected.

A motion was approved, however, to ask the Ministry for the Interior to increase the number of Guardia Civil officers at the station in Torre de Benagalbon.

Meanwhile, it has been announced Velez-Malaga's new National Police station will be open by the end of the year.

The building, which will house the National Police, is expected to be completed within its original 20-month schedule if works "continue at this pace and there are no unforeseen events," according to Miguel Briones from the Junta de Andalucia.

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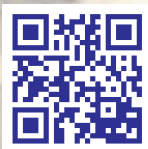
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## NORWAY

### Stocking up

THE 'doomsday' seed bank located in a mountain on the Norwegian Arctic island of Svalbard, said it has collected more than a million varieties of crops, which it tries to protect from natural disasters.

### House of cards

POLICE have raided five Norwegian poker clubs to crack down on gambling, arresting five people, and it was confirmed that the amount of money collected by the clubs was 'far beyond' what was permitted.

### In hot water

NORWEGIAN hydropower com-



Photo by Popular Mechanics/Twitter

pany Norsk Hydro has been told to reduce its production by Brazilian authorities over reports that it has been polluting local ecosystems.

### Photo row

TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Norwegian handball star Nora Mørk

**DOOMSDAY: The Norwegian Seed Bank prevents crops from going extinct.**

has agreed to return to the national team after she had her mobile phone stolen and intimate photos of her were circulated by the men's side online.

## GERMANY

### Coalition deal

GERMANY finally has a new government headed by Angela Merkel after the Social Democrats voted in favour of a grand coalition, ending five months of political deadlock.

### Cyber attack

GERMANY'S government was threatened with a security crisis after hackers

managed to access its online system and collect confidential information, and German media blamed a hacking group known as 'Snake' for the attack.

### Mind matters

ONE in six German students suffer from a mental health illness, according to a new study by Barmer health insur-

ance, amounting to nearly half a million people in total.

### Unbiased anthem

A GERMAN official allegedly wants to change the National Anthem to make it more gender neutral by removing a reference to 'the Fatherland' and replacing it with 'Heimatland,' or homeland.

## FRANCE

### Gem heist

TWO diamond traders from India had their briefcase full of jewels, worth around €300,000, stolen from a metro in Paris while they were in town to sell their wares.

### Finally held

A 57-YEAR-OLD French grandfather from the town of Pont-sur-Sambre has admitted to sexually assaulting and raping around 40 women over the past 30 years after police traced his car to the recent rape of a young woman.

### Snow tragedy

FOUR skiers have been killed and one more injured in an avalanche. A ski touring expedition in an off-trail area in the French Alps and their guide have been held for questioning.

### Name game

A FRENCH couple has been taken to court for naming their baby girl 'Liam,' as the public prosecutor said the name "would be likely to create a risk of gender confusion."

## BELGIUM

### Speed conflict

THE Flemish and Walloon regional ministers have rejected a draft royal decree to raise the speed limit from 120 to 130 kilometres per hour on sections of certain motorways.

### Cracking down

TAX authorities in Belgium are reportedly more closely investigating Belgians who invest in crypto currencies, such as Bitcoin, who must pay tax of 33 per cent on any gains, but are notoriously difficult to track.

### Unbuckled

MORE than 20,000 Belgians have reportedly been granted exemptions for wearing seatbelts over the past decade for health reasons, according to figures released by FPS Mobility.

### Sleazy sports

ONE in four Flemish athletes has been found guilty of attempted or actual match-fixing or corruption, according to an investigation by The University of Ghent.

## NETHERLANDS

### Plastic free

THE world's first plastic-free aisle has been introduced to a Dutch supermarket, offering more than 700 products, with plans to introduce the idea on a national scale.

### Balanced life

THE Netherlands reportedly has the best work - life balance in the world, according to the latest OECD Better Life Index after being assessed on 11 different factors, such as life satisfaction, income and housing.

### Crime down

CRIME in Amsterdam fell by 5 per cent last year from 2016, according to figures issued by National Police.

### Royal victory

THE illegitimate son of Prince Carlos has won the right to use his father's title after a three-year court battle but is still prohibited from being an official member of Dutch royal house De Bourbon de Parme.

## SWEDEN

### Safety first

SWEDISH people are reportedly eating less meat and buying more meat produced locally, according to new research from the Swedish Board of Agriculture, with the average consumption dropping by 2.6 per cent, the biggest reduction since 1990.

### Drugs busted

POLICE in Stockholm have uncovered more than 180 kilos of cannabis, estimated to be worth €2.02 million, hidden in IKEA's infamous blue and yellow bags in a van.

### Bias in play

A SWEDISH court has ruled that a wife who claimed her husband assaulted her did not have a credible case because he 'seemed to come from a good family, unlike hers.'

### Road kill

A RECORD of 149 predatory animals were killed on Swedish roads and train tracks last year, many reportedly getting hit while eating other animals that were also killed by traffic.

## DENMARK

### No ghettos

THE Danish government has proposed to double the punishment for those who commit crimes in 'ghettos' in order to help improve the level of social integration between immigrants and nationals in urban areas.

### Bridge bother

THE infamous Øresund Bridge between Denmark and Sweden was temporarily closed in both directions following an accident caused by a lorry which lost control due to hazardous driving conditions caused by the cold weather.

### Top model

DENMARK'S Prince Nikolai made his modelling debut by walking on the runway for Burberry during London Fashion Week after signing with Denmark's Scoops Models agency.

### Sniffed out

A DANISH man was arrested on suspicion of drug dealing after he appeared on a documentary about the sale of recreational drugs on social media.



## TV's big two boost profit

SPAIN'S TV duopoly has strengthened its grip on the market.

Media group Atresmedia, owner of channels Antena 3 and La Sexta, reported a profit of €142.1 million, a 10 per cent increase on 2016 and its best result since 2008.

Meanwhile Italy-based Mediaset, the country's leader in audience ratings and advertising revenue through its channels Cuatro and Telecinco, among others, raked in €197.5 million profit for an increase of 15 per cent.

# Bargains for Brits abroad

By Matt Ford

BRITISH holidaymakers are bargain hunters while the Spanish are 'memento shoppers' according to a new survey.

The study by American market research consultant Horizon Consumer Science saw more than 22,000 globe-trotters from 37 countries quizzed over their shopping habits while travelling.

And the results showed that British tourists tend to overlook premium brands and local products in favour of items that they can pick up more cheaply than in the UK, including tobacco and alcohol.

They also spend little time planning

where to shop while abroad and tend to head to wherever is most convenient.

Other nations displaying similar behaviour include Sweden, the Netherlands, Brazil, Denmark, Malaysia and New Zealand.

"People motivated to find bargains will put discounted prices ahead of factors such as whether the items are culturally important or unique to the places they are visiting," the report said.

But Spanish tourists are more likely to seek items that will "serve as a re-

minder of their trip," it added.

"The items need to be different than what they can buy at home, but they don't necessarily need to signify the destination.

"It is the buying experience itself that creates an important part of the memory.

"It might be that the shopper buys something they can get at home, such as a luxury handbag, but, because they bought it on a trip, they are reminded of the place every time they use it."

Other memento shoppers include the Swiss and Poles.

## Tax boon for flush expats

SPAIN is among five European countries trying to attract rich expatriates via attractive tax rates.

According to Dutch professional services firm KPMG LLP, foreign residents of France, Spain, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands earning average salaries of €250,000 per year now fork out less tax and social security than those living in the UK.

In Spain, expatriates receiving their salaries from companies registered outside the country pay a special rate of 24 per cent on income up to €600,000.

### Quote of the Week

*"I can assure you all I will do what I can and a bit more than what I can, if that is possible; and I will do everything possible and even impossible, if the impossible is also possible."* Spanish Prime Minister discusses the Extremadura region's economy



Photo credit Partido Popular/Shutterstock

**TRAVEL BOOST:** The cost of flights is set to fall, according to Iñigo de la Serna (inset).

## Air fares set to plunge in Spain

SPAIN will soon have the cheapest air fares in Europe.

It comes after Development Minister Iñigo de la Serna revealed that national air navigation manager Enaire is to lower tariffs by 12 per cent.

Rates have been frozen since 2012 and were expected to fall by 4 per cent this year.

But by tripling the cutbacks, officials expect the price of flights to tumble.

Mr de la Serna said that the

scaling down of tariffs will "make the European navigation service more competitive," adding that he expects carriers "to maintain a policy of co-responsibility with the effort that is being made" and transfer a portion of the savings to ticket prices.

Secretary of state for infrastructure, Julio Gomez-Pomar, added that the government is "pushing" and "insisting" for airlines to slash ticket prices.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Feeling the benefits

THE number of jobless people in Spain hit a nine-year record low in February as the official total fell to 3.47 million, according to data released by the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security.

## Cash landing

SPAIN'S second-biggest airline Vueling posted record profits of more than €120 million in 2017, eclipsing the previous year by two and a half times, the carrier owned by Anglo-Spanish group IAG has revealed.

## Crust magic

SPANISH fast food restaurant firm Telepizza - which has more than 1,600 eateries worldwide - has splashed out €10.7 million for a majority slice of Irish chain Apache Pizza, according to reports.

## Debt mountain to climb

SPAIN has finished in the global top 10 of countries with the highest ratio of government debt to Gross Domestic Product.

The country ended 2017 with arrears of more than €1 trillion, equivalent to 105.76 per cent of the total value of goods produced and services provided over the year.

And the shocking figures place the country ninth in the international ranking, which was topped by Japan with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 220.82 per cent, Greece (179 per cent) and Portugal (138.08 per cent).

Spain is sandwiched between the United States (106.1 per cent) in eighth and Singapore (104.7 per cent) in 10th.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 5

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,752.60	65.00	3.85	24,462.78
Associated British Foods	2,609.00	2.00	0.08	20,464.78
Admiral Group	1,870.25	25.25	1.37	5,403.94
Ashtead Group	2,038.50	40.00	2.00	10,061.40
Antofagasta	825.50	-17.10	-2.03	8,452.74
Aviva	504.80	7.30	1.47	20,250.81
AstraZeneca	4,758.50	22.50	0.48	60,350.10
BAE Systems	586.60	10.60	1.84	18,470.73
Barclays	205.49	0.19	0.09	36,047.20
British American Tobacco	4,220.00	8.14	0.19	97,972.80
Barratt Developments	528.40	-4.00	-0.75	5,356.34
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,817.50	52.50	1.39	5,084.49
British Land Co	640.90	13.30	2.12	6,166.16
BHP Billiton	1,456.30	43.70	3.09	30,789.78
Bunzl	1,931.00	-19.00	-0.97	6,503.67
BP	471.05	6.95	1.50	94,360.06
Burberry Group	1,618.25	-16.25	-0.99	6,658.26
BT Group	238.13	1.88	0.80	23,812.57
Coca-Cola HBC	2,288.00	-76.00	-3.21	8,698.40
Carnival	4,591.00	-30.00	-0.65	9,860.77
Centrica	141.40	0.70	0.50	7,859.73
Compass Group	1,524.00	4.38	0.29	24,361.57
Croda International	4,744.00	288.00	6.46	6,019.10
CRH	2,366.50	-32.50	-1.35	20,511.59
DCC	6,722.50	207.50	3.18	5,866.34
Diageo	2,382.75	1.25	0.05	59,781.91
Direct Line Insurance Group	364.45	-9.35	-2.50	5,205.75
Evraz	444.30	0.00	0.00	6,418.46
Experian	1,486.75	-33.75	-2.22	14,092.49
easyJet	1,550.25	-26.75	-1.70	6,403.00
Ferguson	4,905.50	-192.50	-3.78	12,789.02
Fresnillo	1,227.50	30.00	2.51	8,765.35
G4S	258.90	4.60	1.81	3,984.50
GKN	404.90	-15.10	-3.60	7,471.60
Glencore	364.03	-0.47	-0.13	54,215.39
GlaxoSmithKline	1,315.80	25.80	2.00	64,674.70
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,681.50	24.50	1.48	7,909.26
Halma	1,138.50	-27.50	-2.36	4,498.75
Hammerson	464.75	16.85	3.76	3,540.67
HSBC Holdings	695.10	-9.90	-1.40	144,039.83
International Consldtd Airs Grp	615.00	-2.34	-0.38	12,833.62
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,449.00	-5.00	-0.11	8,654.05
3i Group	902.40	-3.60	-0.40	8,991.47
Imperial Brands	2,570.00	-14.00	-0.54	24,830.54
Informa	706.40	8.80	1.26	5,723.54
Intertek Group	5,116.00	243.00	4.99	7,833.90
ITV	151.98	-1.92	-1.25	6,255.49
Just Eat	874.90	25.90	3.05	5,893.27
Johnson Matthey	3,068.50	38.50	1.27	5,978.25
Kingfisher	342.45	-5.35	-1.54	7,506.48

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	919.20	6.20	0.68	6,821.41
Legal & General Group	259.45	6.05	2.39	15,522.07
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.82	-0.18	-0.27	49,249.45
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,779.50	-57.50	-1.50	13,668.36
Micro Focus International	1,980.25	-7.75	-0.39	8,793.90
Mediclinic International	604.90	30.50	5.31	4,332.05
Marks & Spencer Group	291.20	4.50	1.57	4,729.64
Mondi	1,854.25	-56.75	-2.97	8,934.19
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	225.05	2.35	1.06	5,312.36
National Grid	729.35	-9.85	-1.33	25,045.53
NMC Health	3,241.00	-91.00	-2.73	7,041.45
Next	4,772.00	92.00	1.97	6,823.86
Old Mutual Group	247.20	1.20	0.49	12,568.72
Paddy Power Betfair	8,317.50	22.50	0.27	6,995.92
Prudential	1,754.50	-36.00	-2.01	47,346.55
Persimmon	2,564.00	-20.00	-0.77	7,978.82
Pearson	727.30	8.50	1.18	5,659.72
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,576.00	-114.00	-2.00	40,285.93
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	260.55	2.95	1.15	31,793.27
Royal Dutch Shell	2,294.50	45.00	2.00	105,343.37
Royal Dutch Shell	2,325.00	45.50	2.00	86,427.11
RELX	1,477.50	10.00	0.68	15,671.42
Rio Tinto	3,711.25	72.75	2.00	50,845.99
Rolls-Royce Group	801.10	-16.30	-1.99	15,319.77
Randgold Resources	5,834.00	-106.00	-1.78	5,424.46
RSA Insurance Group	625.00	11.60	1.89	6,321.29
Rentokil Initial	265.75	-6.75	-2.48	4,834.02
Sainsbury (J)	252.50	-0.50	-0.20	5,618.09
Schroders	3,405.50	58.50	1.75	7,650.86
Sage Group (The)	668.60	6.60	1.00	7,323.73
Segro	549.20	-23.00	-4.02	5,726.71
Shire	3,141.25	-64.25	-2.00	29,321.49
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,445.00	15.00	0.62	5,883.55
Sky	1,408.75	35.25	2.57	23,584.92
Standard Life Aberdeen	361.95	-4.25	-1.16	10,876.57
Smith (DS)	452.95	-6.85	-1.49	5,006.35
Smiths Group	1,529.50	-23.00	-1.48	6,254.82
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	457.70	6.50	1.44	6,298.23
Smith & Nephew	1,269.50	5.50	0.44	11,173.27
SSE	1,240.25	26.25	2.16	12,386.98
Standard Chartered	770.00	-10.00	-1.28	26,232.49
St James's Place	1,108.50	0.00	0.00	5,973.32
Severn Trent	1,701.25	-20.75	-1.20	4,072.12
Tesco	210.05	8.05	3.99	17,087.89
TUI AG	1,555.50	37.50	2.47	8,957.65
Taylor Wimpey	188.93	2.88	1.55	6,055.96
Unilever	3,582.50	-130.00	-3.50	45,704.72
United Utilities Group	679.50	16.70	2.52	4,594.56
Vodafone Group	199.02	0.00	0.00	53,976.28
WPP Group	1,348.25	82.25	6.50	16,255.14
Whitbread	3,790.00	-9.00	-0.24	7,039.99

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3M	230,370	-0,42%	-0,970	137.012,64
AMERICAN EXPRESS	95,6000	+0,48%	0,4600	81.700,68
APPLE	176,210	+0,69%	1,210	888.104,50
BOEING CO	344,670	-1,44%	-5,020	201.752,13
CATERPILLAR	146,380	-2,56%	-3,850	87.429,60
CHEVRON	111,64	-0,36%	-0,40	212.381,96
CISCO SYSTEMS	44,060	+0,59%	0,260	216.110,44
COCA-COLA	43,72	+0,67%	0,29	184.927,05
DOWDUPONT	68,43	-0,48%	-0,33	159.142,17
EXXON MOBIL	75,55	+0,47%	0,35	318.391,29
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,1200	+0,71%	0,1000	122.467,73
GOLDMAN SACHS	258,12	+0,52%	1,34	97.399,24
HOME DEPOT	178,4600	-0,66%	-1,1800	207.859,25
IBM	154,49	+0,44%	0,68	141.657,20
INTEL CORP	48,9800	+2,38%	1,1400	226.980,00
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	113,3200	-0,10%	-0,1100	385.958,05
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	128,8200	+1,21%	1,5400	344.430,90
MC DONALD'S CORP	148,2700	-4,77%	-7,4300	117.561,85
MERCK AND CO. NEW	54,36	+1,23%	0,66	146.133,53
MICROSOFT	93,050	+0,22%	0,200	710.745,95
NIKE	65,89	-0,65%	-0,43	85.244,42
PFIZER	35,9500	+0,90%	0,3200	213.529,26
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	79,500	+1,02%	0,800	199.108,87
TRAVELERS CIES	137,88	-0,78%	-1,09	37.318,63
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	129,94	-0,28%	-0,36	103.659,26
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	225,19	+0,33%	0,74	217.182,27
VERIZON COMMS	48,26	+0,63%	0,30	196.304,87
VISA	120,77	+0,31%	0,37	216.369,03
WAL-MART STORES	88,7700	-0,35%	-0,3100	261.341,29
WALT DISNEY CO	102,9900	+0,41%	0,4200	154.066,59

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 5

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
T2 Biosystems, Inc.	\$ 6.36	1.28 ▲ 25.20%
American Public Education, Inc.	\$ 35.25	6.90 ▲ 24.34%
Synergy Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 2.17	0.42 ▲ 24%
Nektar Therapeutics	\$ 102.87	18.32 ▲ 21.67%
Intra-Cellular Therapies Inc.	\$ 21.80	3.76 ▲ 20.84%
Protagonist Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 20.86	3.45 ▲ 19.82%
51job, Inc.	\$ 76.39	11.88 ▲ 18.42%
Conatus Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 6.12	0.93 ▲ 17.92%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 13.27	1.90 ▲ 16.71%
Puma Biotechnology Inc	\$ 71.05	9.30 ▲ 15.06%
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 3.89	0.50 ▲ 14.75%
Most Declined		
Atlas Financial Holdings, Inc.	\$ 11.10	7.70 ▼ 40.96%
Ascent Capital Group, Inc.	\$ 5.07	1.60 ▼ 23.99%
Mersana Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 14.18	3.14 ▼ 18.13%
eHealth, Inc.	\$ 13.65	2.62 ▼ 16.10%
Radius Health, Inc.	\$ 32.915	4.625 ▼ 12.32%
Fulgent Genetics, Inc.	\$ 3.82	0.49 ▼ 11.37%
Olympic Steel, Inc.	\$ 20.845	2.465 ▼ 10.57%
Marinus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 4.47	0.52 ▼ 10.42%
Asta Funding, Inc.	\$ 4.40	0.45 ▼ 9.28%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 9.05	0.86 ▼ 8.68%
Fluidigm Corporation	\$ 6.27	0.58 ▼ 8.47%

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Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1508 .....

£1.0651 .....

£1.3223 .....

£1.2122 .....

£1.4799 .....

£1.3638 .....

PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0038

£0.0035

£0.0070

£0.0063

£0.0091

£0.0083

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# Gender equality boost

## SPANISH QUARTET MAKE GLOBAL RANKING

FOUR major Spanish companies have been included in Bloomberg's Gender Equality Index 2018.

Electricity firm Iberdrola, and telecommunications behemoth Telefonica plus banking groups Santander and BBVA all appear in the business media specialist's latest ranking of the world's 104 most gender diverse businesses.

Spanning 24 countries, the report comes as thousands of women strike across Spain to mark International Women's Day today (Thursday).

Chosen companies demonstrate diversity from director level and most have developed a 'structured strategy' aimed at ensuring diversity in the workplace.

Marta Garcia-Valenzuela of Madrid-based consultancy firm Talengo explained that the Spanish quartet do not yet have such initiatives in place, although plans are reportedly on the table.

"There is less discrimination against women because they are mothers... but companies have to realise that talent and leadership have no gender, whereas the usual model in Spain corresponds to a male aged over 40 and born into a particular family," she said.

Talengo is working alongside companies keen to break these established patterns including Telefonica, where president Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete has introduced several initiatives aimed at promoting multiculturalism, gender equality and 'generational inclusion.'

A special committee has been charged with implementing the schemes, and in 2017 the number of women contracted by the firm increased by 12 per cent, with 42 per cent of current managers female.

Elsewhere, BBVA Culture and Communications director Enrique Gonzalez said that his company is also committed to boosting women via in-



**SEXISM IN THE CITY: Although conditions are improving, there is a 'long way to go' in Spain.**

ternal promotions, manager training and changing the way in which internal vacancies are listed.

Iberdrola is the only energy firm included in the Bloomberg Index and has five women on its board of directors, while the total number employed has increased by 50 per cent in the last decade and the company's recently-appointed chief executive officer is female.

But Roberto Martinez, director of the 'family protection' foundation Masfamilia said that more must be done.

"Women are discriminated against because they are mothers, and worse, because of their capacity to be mothers in the future," he said. "There is no magic solution, only determination and the need for the government to help companies."

# STAFF TO STRIKE OVER CONTRACT DISPUTE

## Amazon 'fails to deliver'

EMPLOYEES at American e-commerce giant Amazon's biggest warehouse in Spain are to go on strike.

The decision comes after more than 74 per cent of the 1,100 staff working at the multinational's depot in San Fernando de Henares, Madrid, voted in favour of the move.

It follows months of talks over disputed working conditions during which the two parties failed to strike a deal.

The previous agreement expired at the end of 2016, but a revamp proposed by Amazon officials sparked outrage among workers.

The main bone of contention is reportedly the decision to switch from a bespoke agreement (convenio in Spanish) to a standard version designed for logistics companies by Madrid's regional government.

Under the terms of the new agreement, salaries for existing staff would be frozen indefinitely while new employees would earn less than before.

In addition, workers would continue to only have one in every five weekends off, and supplementary payments



**PRIMED TO STRIKE: The warehouse in San Fernando de Henares, Madrid is Amazon's biggest Spanish facility.**

for sick leave would be slashed.

Ana Bercerueto, an official responsible for collective bargaining for Spain's largest trade union, the Workers' Commissions, said: "The company says it has a problem with absenteeism, but we say it is directly related to workload."

She went on to explain that working in the warehouse involves walking up to 20 kilometres per day, with the unions slamming the 'musculoskeletal

diseases' and occupational risks involved.

Under the current agreement, Amazon pays staff 100 per cent of their salaries when they are off sick for the first time, and from the fourth day of any later periods of illness.

But the firm aims to reduce the payments to 50 per cent.

"They say that people go on the sick because of these payments," said Ms

Bercerueto. "They are also branding local doctors as liars."

The staff are happy about one of the suggested changes, which would see many of the 800 people currently employed on a week-by-week basis handed permanent contracts, since the new agreement only allows a maximum of 25 per cent of the workforce to be temporary.

Amazon said in a statement that its salary packages are "in the high range for the logistics sector, with a complete package of benefits including private health insurance, a pension plan, and life insurance."

But an attempt to make peace by calling 'friendly and concerned' meetings with groups of 30 employees backfired and led to the strike call.

"They tried to influence us by speaking to us in smaller groups... I do not know if this has been done in any other company but it was grotesque and had a rebound effect," a source told Spanish media.

A date for the strike is set to be announced shortly.

## Bust toy chain says Spanish stores 'will remain open'

TOYSHOP chain Toys 'R' Us has moved to calm Spanish shoppers.

An official from the embattled brand said that its stores in Spain will stay open after announcing that its 106 UK stores will be shut down, with around 3,200 staff facing redundancy.

The firm's American parent company last September filed for bankruptcy protection in the UK and Canada after racking up debts of more than €4 billion and failing to make a profit since 2013.

Jean Charretteur, Toys 'R' Us director in France, Portugal and Spain, said: "Our stores are being transformed and modernised while we seek new and better locations to expand our network in the Spanish market."

## The future of commuting?

AN international technology firm headquartered in Spain has bagged a €2.8 million development contract for a futuristic train.

The civil works division of Carbures has been commissioned to design and engineer a prototype passenger 'capsule' for the proposed Hyperloop One project to link Dubai with Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Chaired by Virgin tycoon Sir Richard Branson, Hyperloop One is an American company that aims to move travellers at airline speeds for a fraction of the cost.

The prototype is earmarked for delivery by the end of the year, and will consist of a 700-metre tube which will be equipped with thousands of intelligent sensors allowing the system to be tested.





Photo credit: Sotheby's.com

**THE BEAUTIFUL FRAME:** The painting was sold at Sotheby's in London.

MASTERPIECE RAKES IN MORE THAN €55M

# Picasso piece breaks record

A MASTERPIECE by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso has smashed the British record after selling for £49.8 million (€56.2 million) at auction.

The Malaga-born painter's *Femme au Beret et la Robe Quadrillee* (Marie-Therese Walter) was bought by a telephone bidder at Sotheby's London.

It was the prize piece in a 47-lot sale of impressionist, surrealist and modern art, and obliterated its £35 million (€39 million) estimate to become Europe's second-most expensive artwork after Giacometti's *Walking Man* sculpture, which sold for £65 million (€73.4 million) in 2010.

Painted in 1937, the same year as other Picasso masterpieces, including *Guernica* and *The Weeping Woman*, it depicts the head and shoulders of his French mistress and muse Marie-Therese Walter.

The couple met 10 years earlier, when he was 45 and she just 17, and their daughter Maya was born in 1935, but by

the time the painting was completed Marie-Therese was vying with Dora Maar, the model for *The Weeping Woman*, for Picasso's attention.

The brightly-coloured 22-inch high painting had never appeared on the market before, with the former owner having acquired it from the artist's private estate, according to Sotheby's catalogue.

London-based art adviser Gurr Johns - which buys and sells artworks for moneyed clients - landed the piece plus the sale's three other Picasso paintings, splurging £73.8 million (€83.4 million) in the process.

A day earlier, the company splashed £38.9 million (€43.9

million) at Christie's as it snapped up at least nine other Picasso works.

It remains unclear whether the purchases were on behalf of a single or multiple clients.

Sotheby's first major auction of the year raked in £136 million (€153.6 million), down on last year's £150 million (€169.5 million) but still a sign of market strength, according to an official.

But despite including the most expensive artwork ever sold on British soil, it was eclipsed by Christie's total of £149.6 million (€169 million).

The sales come ahead of the opening of the Tate Modern exhibition 'Picasso 1932 - Love, Fame, Tragedy', which opens today having transferred from the Musee National Picasso, Paris.

It includes the masterpiece *Le Reve*, an earlier portrait of Marie-Therese Walter which was bought in 2013 by American billionaire hedge fund manager Steven A Cohen for \$155 million (€127.2 million).



## Spain's Ibex firms reveal profit boost

SPANISH businesses have been reaping the rewards of an economy that has grown for 17 consecutive quarters.

It comes as accumulated profit for 34 of the 35 firms listed on the Ibex 35, Spain's principal stock exchange, reached €40.1 billion in 2017 according to new data from national security watchdog the Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores.

The total represents a 16.2 per cent year-

on-year increase.

And the companies also brought in 7.6 per cent more than in 2016, with revenues approaching €474.2 billion, equivalent to the combined expenditure of all of Spain's public agencies.

Banking group Santander topped the Ibex 35 net profit chart with €6.6 billion, while mining company ArcelorMittal pulled in the greatest revenue of just over €56 billion.

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# I'm sure it will all sort itself out

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT**

**OTHERS THINK IT**



WELL, the Finns may have been calling it 'just another Wednesday,' but when I found myself heading for the Piccadilly underground station, in a temperature of minus four degrees centigrade, (with a wind shear of minus 12!), it certainly felt like the 'Beast from the East' to me!

Yep, the ol' boy's in Blighty again, and, with his usual impeccable timing, found himself experiencing one of the coldest March days to hit the auld country since records began. Talk about brass monkeys. Once more I was reminded as to one of the main reasons I moved to balmy España all those years ago.

On this occasion I was 'in town' to accompany my son David on his first fashion shoot (don't ask!). It all actually went rather well. In fact, as I have now been promised a new Bentley and a villa when he 'makes it,' I am delighted that my future, which has al-



**'UNRECOGNISABLE':** London shivers in 2018 and (inset) Leapy's son on his fashion shoot.

ways been somewhat precarious, is now completely assured and I can now relax a bit - dream on Leapy!

'Course nothing has really changed from my last visit. London is still completely unrecognisable from my particular days of yore, both in skyline and diversity. To me one of the saddest aspects is still the suppression of free speech. On one visit to a well-known large West End store, when I quietly,

but truthfully remarked that the experience reminded me of a Mid-East bazaar, my horrified niece fearfully urged me to keep my voice down, before we were arrested or suffered actual physical damage.

Ah well, I'm sure it will all sort itself out, one way or another.

Could hardly believe one report I read this week. It concerned a young girl of 11 who had been turned out of a

McDonald's into the snow; apparently for no better reason than the fact that she was wearing a school uniform! In the report McDonald's proffered no better explanation than it was now their policy to ban any youngster dressed in this manner. Unbelievable? Yes I thought so too. So I delved a bit.

It was actually my 17-year-old God-daughter who came up with the reason for this seemingly unacceptable policy.

Apparently school uniforms are looked upon as a way of rival factions identifying themselves. It appears after experiencing a number of altercations and violence between children of opposing schools, McDonald's had decided to ban uniforms altogether. Is that a sad reflection of our day and age or what?

Finally, to really take the biscuit on all this feminism and 'me too' onslaught we've been experiencing of late, I cite the utterly moronic American university feminist, who has seriously begun a movement to eradicate the word 'Man' altogether!

In fairness she was subsequently shot down in flames by her interviewer, who suggested that, among other things, if her quest were to become a success, she herself would become merely a 'Wo'! Yep, she would also become a 'Hu' of course. Manfred Man would become plain old Fred and the baby Jesus laid in a 'ger.' I dunno, what a load of old 'ure.'

*Keep the faith.*

*Love Leapy*

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

## Terms of ensnarement

**Do not enter this column if you have not agreed to its Terms and Conditions, warns Terence Kennedy.**

### TECH FOR THE TIMID



SOME 22,000 people recently agreed to clean toilets for 1,000 hours after failing to read the fine print on a phone app.

Quite a few diners agreed to give up their firstborn in return for using a restaurant's free Wi-Fi.

They were of course victims of pranks played by software designers, who perhaps need to get out more.

But there was method in their madness: making people aware of what they might be giving up by simply clicking 'I agree' to get past the Terms and Conditions of whatever juicy software or service being offered.

Hands up if you ever read that fine print? In the early days I used to, until it became the length of a Jackie Collins bonkbuster and twice as tedious.

Now developers can sneak virtual-



**CONTRACTS:** Lawyers get their clauses in.

ly anything into the T&Cs and most of us wouldn't know it. If you did you might be horrified.

When a shiny new app asks for access to our e-mail accounts, we click 'Yes' without hesitation. When it asks if it may raid our precious contacts lists, we agree.

Give up whatever shred of online privacy we still have left? Certainly. May the app track how many times we visit Pornhub? Click 'Yes' and 'If

you liked pneumatic Morris Dancing, here are 28 other perversions you may enjoy.'

A *Guardian* journalist recently spent an entire week just reading 146,000 words of the T&Cs covering everything he wanted to do that week, and said it made him want to die.

He had to read 21,000 words just to use his iPhone. Booting his laptop, opening Gmail and checking Twitter

took another 35,000 words of his life.

And who knew when buying a Kindle book from Amazon, that it's not actually yours, as thousands of people found out suddenly a decade ago when the company remotely deleted users' copies of George Orwell's *1984* and *Animal Farm* from their devices without so much as a how's yer father, because of a copyright dispute.

The supreme irony was of course that it involved *1984*, the dystopian novel where Big Brother controls everything.

But as long as there are lawyers there will always be fine print. Which we will rarely, if ever, read.

Unless of course it's something along these brief lines:

'I don't claim this software is good for anything. If you think it is, cool. If it doesn't work, that's too bad. If you don't like this disclaimer, that's too bad. I reserve the right to do the absolute minimum provided by law, up to and including absolutely nothing.'

### Reading the EULA-gy

**LAWYERS** are divided on whether the typical T&Cs none of us read are actually enforceable.

These 'end-user licence agreements' (or EULAs) are certainly contracts, usually considered to be legally binding. But our inability to negotiate them violates common law principles of fairness, so they may not be worth the pixels they're written on.

In an ideal world we'd know what we're agreeing to. Those days evaporated when we all discovered the pressing need for a way to tell everybody online exactly what we had for breakfast.

To show how ridiculous it all is, a bored Apple iTunes lawyer once sneaked a prohibition into the music service's T&Cs, forbidding using iTunes for the design, manufacture or production of nuclear or biological weapons.



**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.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson)

# #MeToo 'trial by Twitter' still making headlines

THE #MeToo movement is too focused on isolated incidents of male misconduct and must do more than simply 'collect scalps,' the historian Mary Beard has said. And I can't help agreeing with her.

The pendulum is swinging, but I suspect it could swing too far the other way thanks to a hefty push from the likes of Twitter.

Without due care, #MeToo could become #Allmenarapists which couldn't be further from the truth. This is a serious subject that's at risk of tipping into trial by Twitter - a torch-carrying, pitchfork-wielding witch hunt.

Why not concentrate instead on something really meaningful in the interests of protecting women rather than the: 'He may have touched my knee, but it was difficult to tell, it might have been the tablecloth, but I'm still a victim' claims that



## GRID GIRLS: Demeaning, empowering, or neither?

make up much of what we've seen so far?

From another perspective, I don't quite understand why being a hostess at the Presidents Club or a Formula One grid

girl, for instance, is demeaning, but a photo of a female celebrity posing naked is 'empowering.'

Admittedly, for decades, women were routinely groped in the workplace, but why carry

on waging a war against men?

Surely a better solution is to work with them to help them understand what's going on and how best to deal with this. Otherwise aren't we simply storing

## SNOW JOKE: The 'Beast from the East' sparked hysteria.

up resentment from men when we just single out their bad behaviour? Surely none of us want young boys to grow up in a world where men are scared of putting a foot wrong and no allowance made for tactless mistakes? We shouldn't be putting all behaviours in the same bucket.

Finally, what about the Beast from the East? The snow that caused road chaos, cancelled trains, closed schools. Ridiculous! It's not like the UK's never had snow in February/March before, but the media nonetheless went into full disaster-predicting mode. But of course it's all caused by global warming, or Brexit. Not so much Beast from the East, more like Apocalypse Snow or Hysteria from Siberia...

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](http://www.nora-johnson.net)) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cud-eca cancer charity.

[columnists@euroweeklynnews.com](mailto:columnists@euroweeklynnews.com)

Photo credit: National Police Air Service

## Advertising Feature

# Time to be less patient with debts

CAN it really be 40 years since LPL Commercial Services started collecting overdue accounts and is still going strong?

How quickly the time goes. Have things really changed... well many seem to think that the cataclysmic change seems to be the dreaded Brexit! But I'm not really sure that change will be as life affecting as some may think.

As far as debt collection is concerned and the recovery of Community debts from owners living outside of Spain, wherever they reside, our success rate has not diminished, neither do we anticipate it doing so.

Wherever owners reside there are Statutes in place to protect and assist Spanish Communities and always will be.

So when it comes to collection has anything over the years really changed... perhaps it is embodied in the way that our wealth in real terms has increased; personal income, value of property and of course the overall cost of goods and services.

Many Communities in Spain, most not more than 25 years established,



Photo Credit: Olivier Le Moal Shutterstock

## LPL COMMERCIAL: Help IS at hand to collect debts.

have seen costs rise enormously, whether it be heat and power, gardening fees, pool servicing and the general obligations to local taxes and rates.

This, in turn, has put an increasing burden on all property owners who are left juggling between income and

expenditure; not helped by the daily threat to expatriate pensions, brought on by pension fund collapses as well as the threat on currencies by the usual trends of commerce, not to mention the perceived threat of future trade agreements.

But somehow we all manage to survive, a little penny pinching here and there and perhaps engendering a little more skill in how we look after our Communities. I think the days are gone when we could sit back and wait a few more years until we get pay-

ment from the debtor that we have not seen or heard of for the last five years.

Do we really need to settle for €50 a month when the debt is increasing by €60 per month and do we really need to be generous with time to pay when we see renters enjoying the benefits of a property where thousands are still owed in management fees?

So if I am really honest, from a Community point of view, I think the biggest change over these past 40 years is simply the fact that we should not be as patient as we were for the fees to come in, costs rise too quickly and personally I am greedy to enjoy the time I have left in more comfort than I had before, not less!!

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**Nick Horne** *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



THE 88th Geneva International Motor Show opens once again today (Thursday).

There will be more than 110 World and European Premiers paraded at this year's show. Over the last two days at 15-minute intervals the world's press has been briefed by top designers, professional race drivers and the prestigious brand ambassadors of the exhibiting brands.

Nearly 10,000 members of the world's press have swarmed over the exhibition halls close by Geneva Airport where 900 cars are exhibited over more than 77,000 square metres of exhibition halls with more than 700,000 visitors expected to attend over the next 11 days.

Among the luxury and bespoke manufacturers exhibiting are three British Brands. Rolls Royce Motor Cars, Aston Martin and McLaren. The Rolls Royce 'Phantom' was confirmed by the world's media as the 'Best Car in the World' on the shores of Lake Lucerne six months ago. Rolls-Royce will show why by showcasing three very different Phantom models each pitched at a different potential buyer of the marque.

Aston Martin has returned to Geneva buoyed as the fastest growing automotive brand, with swelling profits and the announcement last week of the highest

revenue performance in its history. At the centre of a bullish Aston Martin exhibit is the new Vantage, which is making its global show debut. Still to be tested by the world's media, this is the first

opportunity to get up close to Aston Martin's thoroughbred twin-turbocharged V8 sports coupe. McLaren is exhibiting what it bills as the 'ultimate road-legal track car'; the 'McLaren Senna' debuts at

Geneva and sets hearts racing. Solar Yellow and Laurel Green detailing echoes the helmet livery of the legendary Ayrton Senna F1 driver and three times World Champion at the wheel of a McLaren. Just 500 examples will be produced and all are already 'assigned.' Each 'McLaren Senna' is priced at €839,715 and if further individualised at McLaren Special Operations the price will soar by an extra €335,856 to the price. Legalised for the road but designed for the track the aggressive looks are a powerful expression of McLaren's philosophy, 'form follows function.'

Choose from the endless torque of the select Rolls Royce 'Phantom,' the heart-stopping excitement of the Aston Martin 'Vantage,' or the stark headbanging exhilaration of the 'McLaren Senna.'

Geneva is a petrol head's haven once again.

*Nick Horne, Freelance Correspondent, London*

**HEART STOPPER:**  
The McLaren Senna.



# Brick wall tactics

**Cassandra Nash***A weekly look*

- and not entirely impartial reaction -  
to the Spanish political scene

THE Mobile World Congress was held recently in Barcelona where Cataluña's political and constitutional crisis has not gone unnoticed by the Congress's organisers GSMA.

They have agreed to hold the annual conference in Barcelona until 2023, a spokeswoman said: "But we will continue to monitor events in Spain and Cataluña and evaluate any potential impact," she announced.

So as well as the 3,208 companies that have left since last autumn, Cataluña could lose the Congress, which brings jobs, thousands of visitors and millions of euros to the city.

Cataluña might believe it drives the Spanish economy but instead it's driving head-on into a brick wall.

## Who could put a name to most of them anyway?

DE GUINDOS has always been one of the most-

easily recognised, together with finance minister Cristobal Montoro. Then there's Rajoy's right-hand woman, the vertically-challenged vice-president Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, sometimes known as the Poison Dwarf.

There's also the Partido Popular secretary general Dolores de Cospedal, who hungered after a Cabinet post but was shunted into a siding, namely the Ministry of Defence, to keep her out of Saenz de Santamaria's way.

What the mutterers are aware of, but reluctant to say aloud is that new, recognisable faces are badly needed and change should start at the top.

The very top, eh Mariano?

## Wear a yellow ribbon

PEP GUARDIOLA, sometime Barcelona manager, now at Manchester City, makes no secret of his support for Catalan independence.

He wears with pride a yellow ribbon demonstrating his support for Oriol Junqueras, Jordi Sanchez and Joaquim Forn, remanded on charges of sedition, rebellion and misappropriation of public funds.

The Football Association announced that the ribbon is a political statement which breaches its kit and advertising regulations but Guardiola does not intend to remove it. "Those guys in

Spain, they haven't been proven guilty," he said.

Junqueras, Sanchez and Forn remain remanded because Pablo Llamela, the Supreme Court judge, believes they could flee once released.

Given the example of former president Carles Puigdemont who scuttled off to Brussels as soon as things got hairy, there is every reason to believe Llamela is right.

Other members of the former Catalan coalition government remanded with them last November were released after promising to be good boys and girls and explaining that the UDI of October 27 was 'purely symbolic.' More of a white flag than a yellow ribbon, then.

## Delaying tactics

CONSIDERING that pollsters have found that only 40.8 per cent of Catalans now support independence, it's time for the Catalan separatists to concede that they are unauthorised to form a government.

Perhaps that's why they now want remanded Jordi Sanchez as a substitute for self-exiled Carles Puigdemont as the next regional president.

Since this will get the thumbs down on legal grounds, this allows the separatists to continue to avoid forming a pro-independence government that only two-fifths of the population want.



**LUIS DE GUINDOS:** New vice-president of the European Bank.

## Room at the top

LUIS DE GUINDOS, Spain's Minister of the Economy, is all set to become vice-president of the European Bank and his departure should theoretically herald a Cabinet reshuffle.

As always, Mariano Rajoy is shuffling only his feet and giving his usual impression of forward movement while standing still.

Nominating a new economy minister will be the only change, Rajoy has said, to the despair of many Partido Popular insiders.

Change and renovation are needed, they mutter amongst themselves, but the public and potential voters are getting only the same old faces.



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# Feeling good!

## *Back-to-back Spanish press awards for EWN*

THE *EURO WEEKLY NEWS* has done it again.

After scooping the 2018 Professional Trajectory gong, Spain's leading English language newspaper has now picked up back-to-back wins at the Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards in Madrid.

The latest honour comes after the paper was in 2017 voted Best Free Publication at the same event.

It follows a ground-breaking year for the paper and parent company EWN Media Group (EWNMG), with sister brands *RTN* newspaper and *Sol Times* joining the company's portfolio after last year's win.

According to the organisers, the award is won by a company "for its successes and outstanding professional journey."

And the EWNMG are justifiably proud after being recognised by an international panel of judges from the upper echelons of European business and media.

Having started life in a tiny Fuengirola flat more than 20 years ago, the group now produces 10 newspapers per week from its modern headquarters on the Costa del Sol, with readership thought to be pushing a million.

In the past year alone the company has acquired two additional brands, given away a car in a prize draw, raised money for two major appeals, sponsored a motor racing team and moved into its state-of-the-art new offices.

But what most clients and readers don't see is the endless commitment of all in-

involved in putting together 10 newspapers every seven days.

From editorial to design, sales to production, accounts to HR, every single member of the EWNMG team has performed above and beyond the call of duty - often under extreme pressure - over the last 12 months.

And while massive thanks is of course reserved for all who read and advertise in the final products, it is those at the sharp end who merit special praise for securing a second consecutive national award after emerging from an especially challenging year.

Congratulations to all, you deserve it.



**'WHAT AN HONOUR':**  
Michel and Steven Euesden  
accept their Professional  
Trajectory award.

## Official praise



**“** Many congratulations to *Euro Weekly News* for this fresh recognition on their work and achievements. It is fantastic to see an English language newspaper thriving in the Spanish media landscape. **”**

**SIMON MANLEY:**  
British Ambassador to Spain.

Photo credit UK In Spain/Flickr





OH WHAT A NIGHT: The nominees and winners take to the stage and (insets) winners and speakers at the glittering Madrid event.

## ‘Biggest and most popular’ *EWN clients salute national accolade*

“Congratulations to the *Euro Weekly News* for winning this prestigious award.

It goes some way to recognise the hard work and commitment by all the team at *EWN* to produce a paper which is enjoyed every week by many thousands of expats and a good number of Spanish readers keen to improve their English.

May your success continue even as the world of journalism evolves in this more digital age.

Best wishes from all at *Currencies Direct* as you continue on your ‘trajectory.’

**Peter Loveday**

*Director*

*Currencies Direct Southern Europe*

“A just deserved award for the biggest and most popular expat newspaper in the Spanish islands for the second year running, it is an absolute pleasure to both work and advertise with you and your team.

Congratulations and here’s to the third year in a row...

**Emma Quantrill**

*Operations Director*

*Golden Leaves International*

“As a regular and long term advertiser in *Euro Weekly News*, Sala Group are not surprised that the newspaper has received yet another award from the Spanish Press Association.

Congratulations to the Euesdens and all of the hard work-

ing staff connected with this excellent English language newspaper in Spain.

It works for us!

**Ian Radford**

*Chairman*

*Sala Group*

“I am not surprised by the success of the *EWN* winning a prestigious national award for the second year running.

The owners Steven and Michel and the whole team are hardworking, inventive and creative and are good to their clients. I am enjoying writing for them each week. In my opinion this is THE paper with everything you need and with everybody in it! My warmest congratulations to all at *EWN*, you deserve it!

**Steven Saunders**

*Master Chef, restaurateur and food writer for the RTN newspaper*

“Costa Women are delighted to be adding our congratulations to *EWN Media Group* for their latest award - what a journey the group have been on over the last few years. The papers are not only a recourse, but the integrity of their journalism helps support the foreign community in Spain with up to the minute news and information. Costa Women wish to thank Michel and Steven for their continued support. Let the news and stories continue!

**Ali Meehan**

*Founder of costawomen.com*

## Numbers to trust in

6 weekly editions covering the Costa Blanca North and South, Costa del Sol, Axarquía, Almería and Mallorca

134,000 copies distributed 52 weeks per year

4,000+ distribution points

6 offices with the majority of production now taking place at our new, state-of-the-art head office on the Costa del Sol

10 weekly newspapers after the RTN newspaper (Costa Blanca North and South, Costa del Sol) and Sol Times (Almería) were added to the *EWN* stable.

81 per cent year-on-year increase in website traffic during 2017

512,200 average page views per month

30,000+ followers on social media



# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to [yoursay@euroweeklynnews.com](mailto:yoursay@euroweeklynnews.com) or make your comments on our website: [www.euroweeklynnews.com](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com)

Views expressed and opinions given are not necessarily those of the EWN publishers. No responsibility is accepted for accuracy of information, errors, omissions or statements.

## Brexit result was not a mistake and expats support it

REGARDING Our View 14 to 21 February, I would like to enquire where you got your information regarding the stats which you quote stating that it has become clear the majority of expats voted to stay in the EEC?

This is quite clearly false information, in fact you will find out if you do a proper survey that most expats voted to leave, the other false information which you seem quite happy to band around and quote, having found the time to force through the referendum bill, total rubbish and more false information.

Isn't it bad enough living abroad having to listen to the constant drip, drip, drip, of left wing socialist rubbish from the BBC, Sky, Channel 4, the list goes on and on, you need to let it sink in that the vast majority of expats are not stupid. We left the UK because of EEC rules and regulations which here in Andalo are mostly totally ignored unless they suit.

I have lived in Spain when it was not inundated with EEC rules and regulations as well as the UK and we were far better off.

Colin MacGregor, address withheld

### Fear and loathing in La Linea

AS the year passes so there seem to be more and more reports of drug dealers taking over the border town of La Linea de la Concepcion.

In fairness it always had a reputation of being a bit rough around the edges, but recently the storming of the local hospital to 'rescue' a major dealer, attacks on police officers and a brick through the window of a reporter's car shows things have got worse.

The Spanish authorities seem to be able to find plenty of Guardia Civil and National Police officers to man the border with Gibraltar, many of whom



Ayuntamiento de La Linea

**LA LINEA CITIZENS: Demonstrated against lawlessness.**

spend more time on their phones than checking passports, so perhaps it would be a

good idea to get them involved in policing the town.

Paul Edwards, Sotogrande

**Editor's note:**

Colin thank you for your letter. Our View allows for the newspaper to comment on a range of different matters. In this case, we have a huge pool of expatriate readers and a large number have expressed their opinion that the vote was a mistake. You are of course welcome to your opinion which is why we are happy to publish your comments.

### No cry baby

IN reply to David from Nerja (Issue 1702).

Roger Federer is a gentleman and gracious in defeat, just because he shows emotion does not mean he is a cry baby.

He is a man who is not afraid to show how he feels, he never makes excuses if he is not playing well and always praises his opponent.

I enjoy watching Rafa as well and have seen him cry also, there is no shame in a man crying with emotion.

They deserve to be praised for their genius, not criticised.

I suggest if you don't like it, don't watch it.

Jan Lemon, Mojacar

### 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.euroweeklynnews.com](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com).

## 'Bible for foreigners in Spain' updated

A real gentleman with true knowledge... thank you Mr Searle.

Sandra Russell

Brilliant David! Just what we need. Xx

Maggie Hayes

### Brain tumour boy 'clear of cancer'

They definitely did the right thing - any normal loving parents would try to do their utmost for their children no matter what sacrifices they had to endure to give their children the best possible chance of life.

Gillian Evans

They were on a UK programme this week. He is now in school, riding a bike etc, like all other children. Parents should always research when their child's life is at stake, even if the doctors don't approve. They wanted to zap his brain with radiation. The chances of him living a normal life was minimal, if he had survived.

Great admiration for the parents. They were very well informed about the treatment their son could get elsewhere.

Pamela Doyle

Fantastic news, the parents did the right thing. So pleased for them all.

Vivienne Mallinder

### Comments from EWN online

### Tenant from hell 'blackmailed' landlady

At least in Spain there are mostly no carpets. Floors you can clean. I had £8,000.00 worth of carpets ruined plus a skip of rubbish left outside. Plus writing on all outside walls. Garden totally left to go to ruin etc etc. In just half a year. Husband was high earner in the city. Proves you never know! Disgusting how some treat other people's property.

Edith Farminer

How is it possible to make and live in such a mess?

Jenny Dodd

He needs to be caught and jailed then sent back to the UK. We don't want scum like that over here!

Ken Officer

Tenants have been given every right under the sun which includes ripping off the landlord. I am a landlord myself and

had good tenants when there was an equilibrium in the law in regards to rights of both parties. Today if the tenant doesn't want to pay that's fine. If tenants trash your house that's ok as it's the right to do anything to your home at your expense as long as there's a tenancy agreement. The moment the landlord gets a tenant in then in effect the landlord has given up this right to expect his house to be looked after. That is the reason why I sold all my house and that is one of the reasons rents will increase.

Jo

### Spain demands shared control of Gibraltar Airport

Nobody cares what Spain 'Demands,' it should start paying its own way first, it's in no position to be demanding anything.

Carl Glover

It was almost guaranteed Gibraltar was going to be Spain's bargaining power!

Tina Sexton

Gibraltar voted 96/4 to stay in the EU. So to share with Spain under EU rules is no big deal.

John Lionel Trailor

### Glamorous grid girls

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 a F1 fan and vote for the status quo.

Derek, La Marina

### Likes Leapy

HI LEAPY, I read your article today in Euro Weekly and want you to know that despite your closing comment that 'that should offend just about everyone,' it did not offend me in the least, in fact I found myself agreeing with everything you said, as I did a couple of weeks ago with your piece as an immigrant in Spain.

I am a UK national and live down here for about three months in the winter and I thoroughly enjoy your column; keep telling it as it is Leapy, so few do these days.

David O, UK and Spain



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## MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' HERE THEY COME - THE BREXIT, BEAST OF THE EAST SNOWBOUND BRITS -  
DON'T MENTION GLOBAL WARMING! '

## Trivia from around the world

\*\*\* The Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona has been under construction for more than 130 years. It is expected to be finished by 2026.

\*\*\* There are six seasons in India's Hindu calendar: spring, summer, monsoon, autumn, winter and prevernal.

\*\*\* Colombia, Jamaica and St Lucia are the only three countries in the world where bosses are more likely to be women than men.

\*\*\* Lake Malawi, located on the borders of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, is home to more fish species than any other freshwater system on earth.

\*\*\* Varosha in Cyprus was once a popular tourist desitination. Today it is a ghost town following its invasion by Turkish forces during their conflict with the Greeks on the island.

\*\*\* Almost one in five Africans live in Nigeria. The country is Africa's most populous at around 155 million.



**BANNED: China said filmmakers made up absurd versions of history in time travel films.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Depictions of time travel were banned in Chinese films and TV in 2011. Authorities said it was because filmmakers and writers were treating history in a 'frivolous' way.

## Women's wit

“The thing that gives me the most psychological pain in life, and it gives me tremendous pain, is man's disrespect for nature.”

*Joni Mitchell, musician*

## Famous quote

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.”

*Groucho Marx, comedian*

## World of English

“Commensalism - An association between two organisms where one benefits from the relationship and the other neither benefits or is harmed.”

## YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



**AQUARIUS**  
(January 21 - February 19)

In your heart of hearts you know what you want out of life. It is a little timidity of spirit that is now stopping you. I know that recent experiences have sapped your confidence, but I have a message for you. Now is the time that you are most likely to make progress in your chosen field. Do not hesitate through lack of confidence in your talents. Build on your strengths.



**PISCES**  
(February 20 - March 20)

Let others whinge if they will. Being determined to get your own way, they will stand little chance. Recent disagreements have left a sour taste. In the best of worlds, things will not always go your way. Life would be boring if that were the case. What you need now is a good dose of realism washed down with some sound financial planning. Be likeable and you will be liked. Simple, isn't it?



**ARIES**  
(March 21 - April 20)

Awkward situations usually bring out the best in you and this week proves that. In the longer term, you will be grateful to those making things difficult now. Midweek sees you turning the tables, which gives much satisfaction.



**TAURUS**  
(April 21 - May 21)

Be determined not to be intimidated by someone who thinks that they are superior. Decide who you will take advice (or orders) from and stick to it. You are not the person that you were in the past and others need to realise it.



**GEMINI**  
(May 22 - June 21)

Outside influences and pressures make it hard to concentrate. However, finances in particular need attention, so do not be distracted by others trying to put a finger into your 'pie'. Do not be concerned about making changes in your social life because this, in turn, will sort out some of your more immediate practical problems.



**CANCER**  
(June 22 - July 23)

Being unusually uncertain of yourself this week could throw confusion into your ordered life. There is a partnership problem to be sorted out. Links with personal matters, however, make this tricky. Let some time pass so that someone close can get the message without feeling pressured.



**LEO**  
(July 24 - August 23)

Some loss of control over a project is irksome. A new start that seemed so promising seems to be going off course. A real injection of time and effort will make all the difference, however. Midweek, you see things going in the right direction again. Keep finances simple and try not to combine business with pleasure. That way lie complications.



**VIRGO**  
(August 24 - September 23)

You are holding a good hand. Deal with the right people and the rewards are high. There is potential for being cheated out of something that is morally yours, so it may be necessary to be 'difficult' or 'awkward' to get what you deserve.



**LIBRA**  
(September 24 - October 23)

Being a brave and forthright soul, it is easy this week to dispel the negative thoughts of others. A relationship that makes you hesitate could be of great benefit to you. There is little to lose by 'going for it'. The outcome could be beyond your dreams, something that you have not had many of lately.



**SCORPIO**  
(October 24 - November 22)

Hidden forces are working away in the background. These give good and bad influences but life will not be dull this week. Sometimes you wish others would leave you alone. Not that you are being anti-social. We all reach a point when we need space to think.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
(November 23 - December 21)

Petty arguments should be forgotten. More important things are afoot. Have you heard about fiddling while Rome burns? This may be you at the moment. Avoid wasting time with certain individuals and projects. A little extra effort in other directions, however, yields great results.



**CAPRICORN**  
(December 22 - January 20)

Avoiding a decision will not help this week. Who will deal with this matter but you? A relationship is threatened if you do not make a move. Will loved ones always be there for us no matter how much we neglect them? Why take such a chance? We only get out of life what there is willingness to put in.

## LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday March 03	Saturday March 03	Tuesday February 27	Friday March 02	Thursday March 01	Saturday March 03	Sunday March 04
(15) (19)	(23) (25)	(3) (31)	(2) (7)	(6) (9)	(5) (14)	(1) (23)
(20) (29)	(33) (39)	(41) (48)	(34) (45)	(17) (22)	(24) (28)	(41) (43)
(42) (50)	(42) (46)	(50)	(48)	(28) (36)	(36) (49)	(50)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(36)	(24)	(8) (11)	(1) (12)	(7) (1)	(21) (7)	(4)
		EL MILLON: XZT87895		JOKER: 8 185 066	JOKER: 4 052 156	



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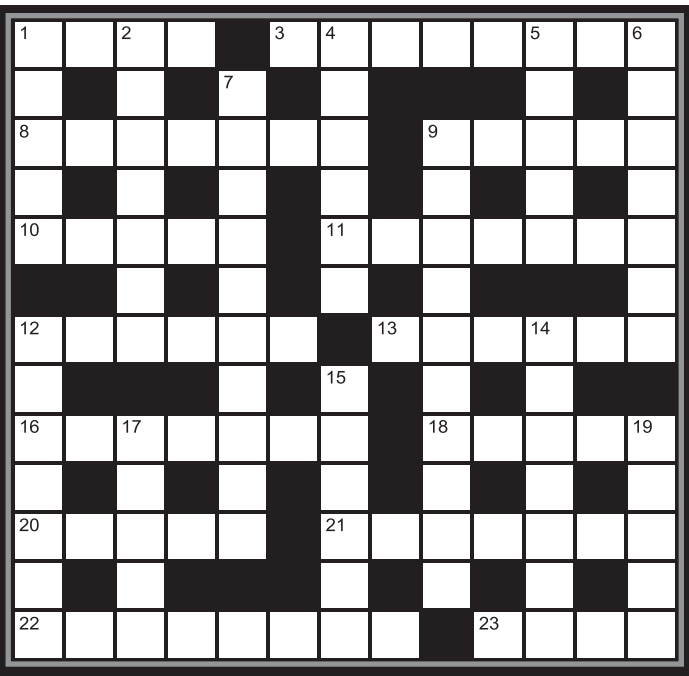
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Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Dismiss white fortified wine (4)
  - 3 Star with young girl outside US city (3,5)
  - 8 Educator will find non-alcoholic beverage dear in France (7)
  - 9 Point to unsatisfactory animal track (5)
  - 10 One-off programme for aviator (5)
  - 11 Commended form of despair (7)
  - 12 Some slip-on chosen as something to wear (6)
  - 13 Dishes spelt a different way (6)
  - 16 Firm must order Eastern outfit (7)
  - 18 Constellation seen from Mediterranean or Ionian Sea (5)
  - 20 American finding time for management (5)
  - 21 There's nothing in the brass instrument but a crown (7)
  - 22 Eve's late, perhaps, but gives a lift (8)
  - 23 Gravity-free network (4)



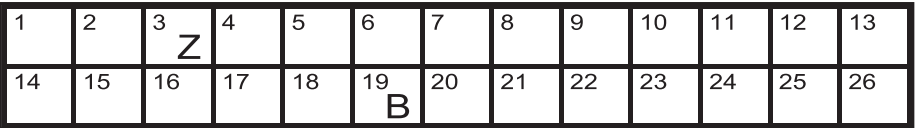
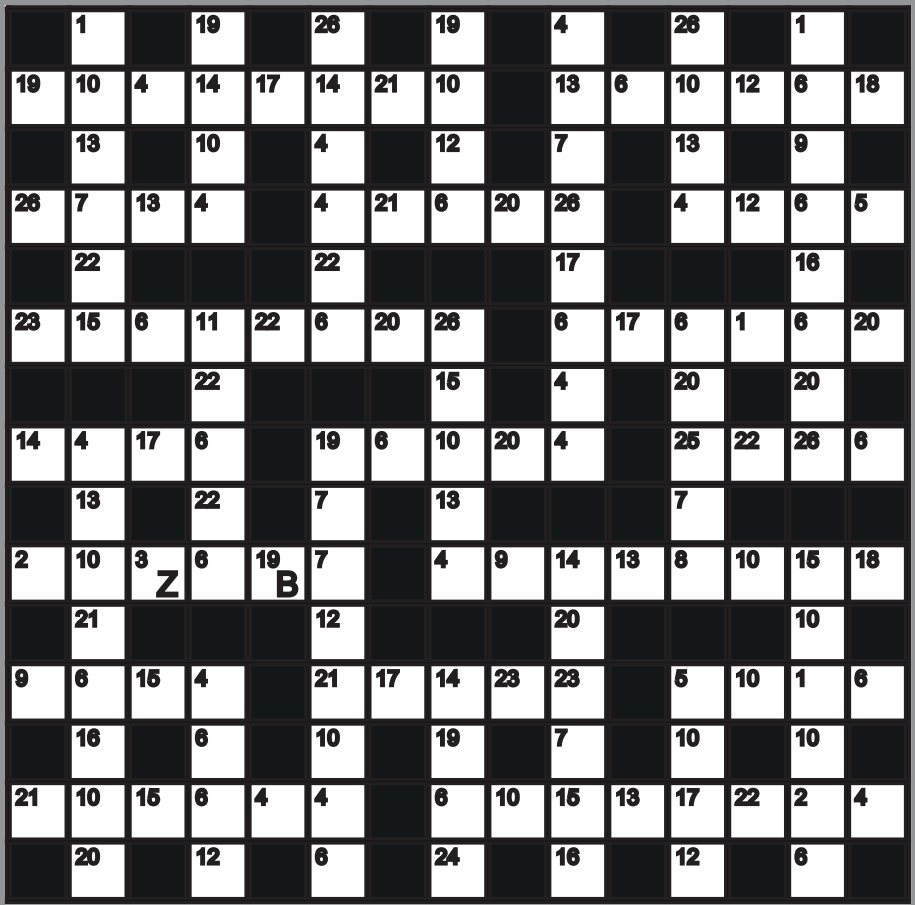
- Down**
- 1 As prearranged, is winning in the tennis match (5)
  - 2 Man left in, he made people laugh (7)
  - 4 Sharp bar put off (6)
  - 5 Slogs wildly, yet with a certain polish (5)

- 6 Good man drives and advances (7)
- 7 How suite he makes becomes head of state's residence (5,5)
- 9 Little time early in the morning (5,5)
- 12 Imagine an old Northerner on the

- Northern river (7)
- 14 Diluting agent is less thick (7)
- 15 Save when secure, possibly (6)
- 17 Flash flood ruins tapes (5)
- 19 Not a journalist is mentioned (5)

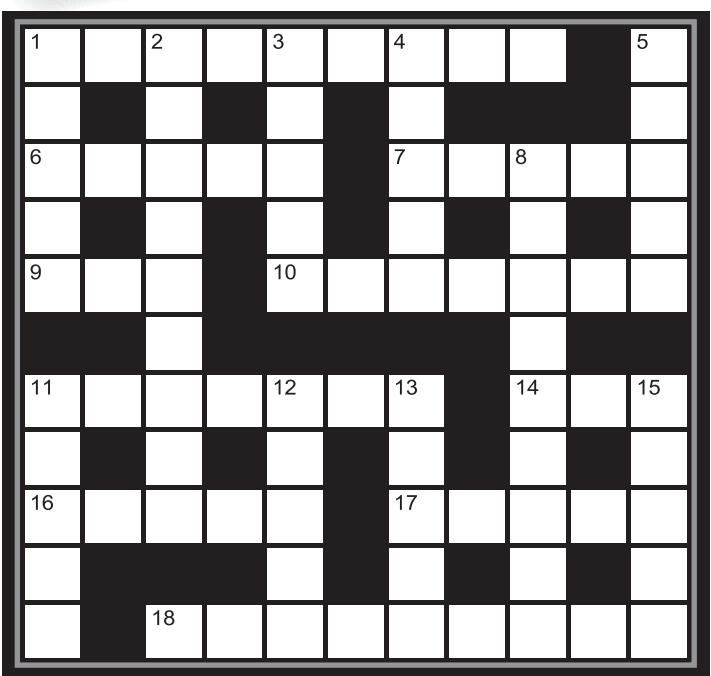
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents Z and 19 represents B, so fill in Z every time the figure 3 appears and B every time the figure 19 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

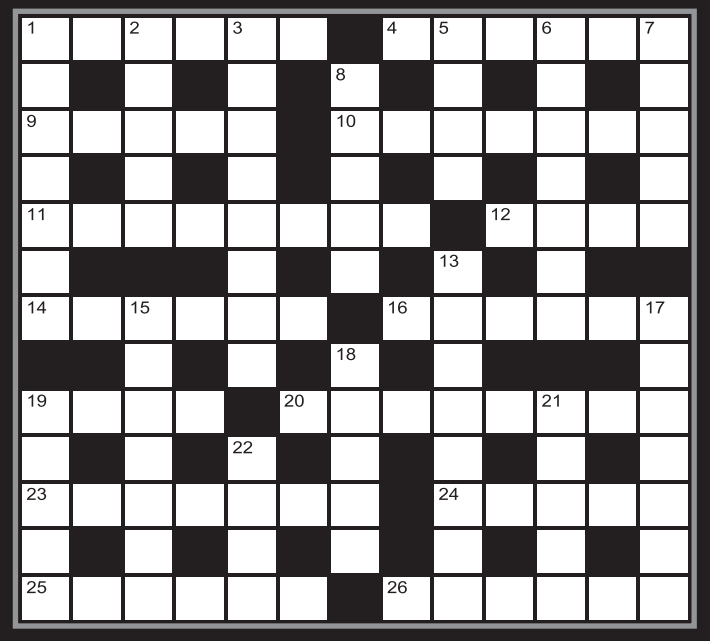


- Across**
- 1 Frilly undergarment (9)
  - 6 Group jargon (5)
  - 7 Moderately warm (5)
  - 9 Beer (3)
  - 10 Open and genuine (7)
  - 11 Lowest rank in the Army (7)
  - 14 Large vase (3)
  - 16 At or in the front (5)
  - 17 Two times (5)
  - 18 Having no smell (9)

- Down**
- 1 Bohemian dance (5)
  - 2 Variety of mandarin orange (9)
  - 3 Metal shackles for hands or legs (5)
  - 4 Frequently (5)
  - 5 Avoid (5)
  - 8 Bias in favour of or against anything (9)
  - 11 Keyboard instrument (5)
  - 12 Sound (5)
  - 13 Come or go into (5)
  - 15 Requirements (5)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 1 Lawn (6)
  - 4 To weep (6)
  - 9 Lila (5)
  - 10 Lentejas (7)
  - 11 Then (at that time) (8)
  - 12 Obedecer (4)
  - 14 Billete (6)
  - 16 Tijereta (insecto) (6)
  - 19 Mordedura (4)
  - 20 To return (8)
  - 23 Postman (7)
  - 24 Struggle (effort) (5)
  - 25 Dill (6)
  - 26 Nadie (6)

- Down**
- 1 El más frío (7)
  - 2 Hendidura (corte) (5)
  - 3 To turn on (8)
  - 5 Firewood (4)
  - 6 Arco iris (7)
  - 7 Oxidado (5)
  - 8 Moscas (insectos) (5)
  - 13 Brick (8)
  - 15 Fourteen (7)
  - 17 Alemania (7)
  - 18 Fast (quick) (5)
  - 19 Pothole (in road) (5)
  - 21 Sacred (art, musical) (5)
  - 22 Doblar (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE



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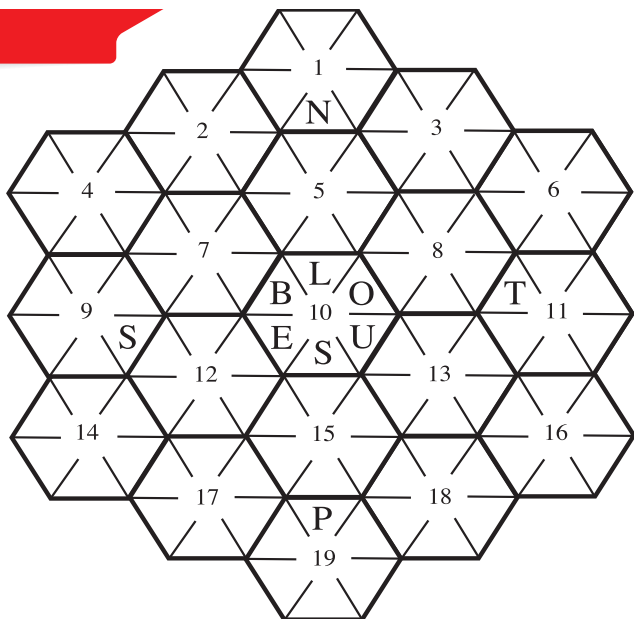
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## Hexagram

AZALEA  
BLOUSE (10)  
CANTOR  
COERCE  
COLLAR  
CURSOR  
ENABLE  
ESCAPE  
ESTATE  
INGEST  
ISLAND  
SLATER  
SLEEVE  
SPLASH  
STROBE  
SYSTEM  
TELLER  
TREBLE  
VESSEL



The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells **MUST BE THE SAME**. The letters in the words must be written **CLOCKWISE**. The word in cell 10 (**BLOUSE**) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

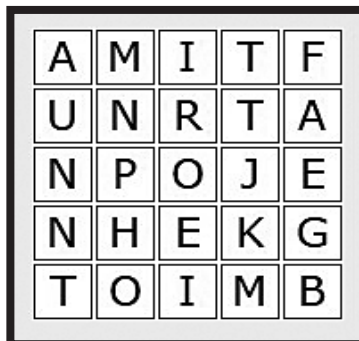
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Coerce 2 Oblong 3 Wheeze  
4 Zounds 5 Poncho 6 Assent 7 Dugout  
8 Sorrow 9 Tandem 10 Uproar  
11 Roster 12 Petrel 13 Sorrel  
14 Ampere 15 Please 16 Teeter  
17 Teller 18 Tinsel 19 Biceps.

## Boggled

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

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



### TARGET:

- Average: 16
- Very good: 32
- Good: 22
- Excellent: 42

### SCORING:

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

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

true trope trove roux ruin apex auxin  
pain pixie pine rove rover fort four  
front font fever feet ufos sort soft  
sour soever sonnet oven over euro  
even event ever enter nipa nixie neap  
nine fret fervor fervors fervour  
fervent fete vein vent venter neve  
never nerve inner inter intervenor  
intervene refs revs rent rennet rennin  
rete teen tenor tenors tenner

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



### TARGET:

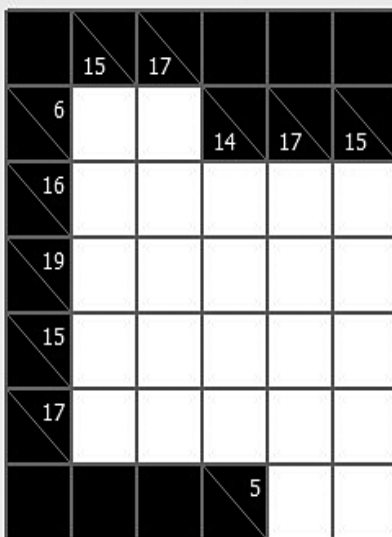
- Average: 7
- Good: 9
- Very good: 14
- Excellent: 18

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

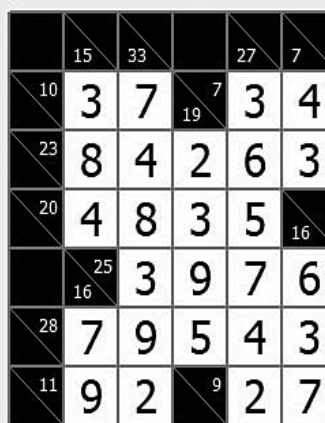
cent coin cone corn icon into iron nice noir note once  
rein rent tern tine tone torn cento conte crone inert  
inter intro ionic nicer niter nitre nitro noter recon ricin  
tenor toner tonic trine citron coiner corner cornet cretin  
incite irenic ironer ionic nitric noetic notice orient tinier  
tonier citrine cornier inciter oneiric tricorn interior  
tricorn CRITERION

## Kakuro

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



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### QUICK

#### Across:

1 Poker, 4 Cross, 7 Astronaut,  
8 Sick, 10 Begin, 13 Dated,  
14 Lego, 17 Timetable,  
19 Egret, 20 Pagan.

#### Down:

1 Praise, 2/18 Kit bag,  
3 Rook, 4 Chapel, 5 Outline,  
6 Safe, 9 Chatter, 11 Permit,  
12 Govern, 15 Cage, 16 Stop.

### CODE BREAKER

1	U	2	I	3	R	4	N	5	Z	6	X	7	D	8	C	9	J	10	P	11	F	12	Y	13	B
14	T	15	W	16	S	17	L	18	E	19	A	20	M	21	H	22	V	23	G	24	Q	25	O	26	K

### CRYPTIC

#### Across:

1 Descent, 5 Tacks, 8 Exact, 9 Bumpier,  
10 Mere, 11 Freehand, 13 Rocker,  
15 Recoup, 18 Marginal, 19 Blot, 22 Chalets,  
23 Beano, 24 Allot, 25 Retinue.

#### Down:

1 Dreamer, 2 Stair, 3 Eats, 4 Tabard,  
5 Tampered, 6 Chicago, 7 Shred, 12 Sediment,  
14 Curtail, 16 Pothole, 17 Hawser,  
18 Mecca, 20 Learn, 21 Abet.

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

#### Across:

1 Alacrán, 5 Rocks, 8 Arm, 9 Atravesar,  
10 Early, 11 Oysters, 12 Mosca, 14 Bajar,  
19 Spanish, 21 Firma, 22 Adelantar,  
23 Bat, 24 Otoño, 25 Mostrar.

#### Down:

1 Abades, 2 Armario, 3 Ready, 4 Narrow,  
5 Revista, 6 Cisne, 7 Stress, 13 Cuidado,  
15 Aprobar, 16 Estafío, 17 Rhythm,  
18 Pastor, 20 Abeto, 21 Forks.

## App of the week



### Pic Collage

An app that lets users choose from hundreds of photo grid layouts to put together collages of their favourite snaps. It includes stickers and background patterns and photo drawing tools.

## QUIZ: MIDDLE NAMES

- What are the middle names of British actor Hugh Grant: (a) Jack Mary, (b) Jeffrey Midge or (c) John Mungo?
- What is the middle name of the American actor, director and producer Nicolas Cage: (a) Kim, (b) Jong or (c) Un?
- What is the middle name of American actor Ricard Gere: (a) Cartier, (b) Graff or (c) Tiffany?
- What is the middle name of American actress, producer/director Courtney Cox: (a) Guitar, (b) Bass or (c) Drum?
- What is the middle name of American record producer, arranger, composer and musician Quincy Jones: (a) Delight, (b) Enthral or (c) Joy?
- What is the middle name of American singer, songwriter, dancer and actress Beyoncé Knowles: (a) Carmen, (b) Coppélia or (c) Giselle?

- What is the middle name of Cruel To Be Kind/I Love The Sound Of Breaking Glass singer Nick Lowe: (a) Ditch (b) Drain or (c) Pipe?
  - What is the middle name of former US vice president Joe (Joseph) Biden: (a) Crowette, (b) Finchette or (c) Robinette?
  - What is the middle name of retired professional basketball player Kobe Bryant: (a) Bean, (b) Chickpea or (c) Lentil?
  - What is the middle name of singer/songwriter Sir Elton John: (a) Hercules, (b) Jupiter or (c) Zeus?
- Not a lot of people know that... the famous showbiz Phoenix family have some unusual first and middle names: Rain Joan of Arc Phoenix, Liberty Mariposa Phoenix, Summer Joy Phoenix, Joaquín Rafael Phoenix (formerly known as Leaf Phoenix) and River Jude Phoenix*

### Answers:

1. C - JOHN MUNGO, 2. A - KIM, 3. C - TIFFANY, 4. B - BASS, 5. A - DELIGHT, 6. C - GISELLE, 7. A - DRAIN, 8. C - ROBINETTE, 9. A - BEAN, 10. A - HERCULES (he was born Reginald Kenneth Dwight)



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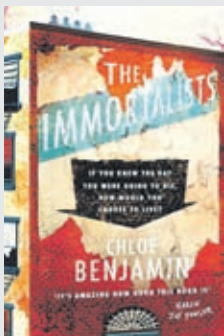
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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Seeing  
the  
future

A TRAVELLING psychic woman has just arrived in New York's Lower East Side claiming to be able to tell anyone the date of their death.

Four teenagers from the Gold family seek out the mystic when she arrives in 1969, keen to know their fortunes. Her predictions will have ramifications for years to come.

Simon, the family's golden child, runs off to San Francisco in search of love in the 1980's. Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician. Daniel winds up as an army doctor following the 9/11 attacks. Varya becomes interested in extending life with laboratory experiments.

Chloe Benjamin's *The Immortalists* shows how someone's present can change when they know their future.

[books@euroweeklynnews.com](mailto:books@euroweeklynnews.com)

Axarquía

TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



<b>Malaga</b> TODAY: Max 20, Min 11-C Fri - 20 13 - C Sat - 19 10 - Sh Sun - 18 11 - Sh Mon - 19 10 - C Tues - 21 12 - C Wed - 21 11 - C	<b>Almeria</b> TODAY: Max 19, Min 12-CL Fri - 21 14 - S Sat - 20 11 - S Sun - 18 11 - S Mon - 19 12 - Cl Tues - 20 12 - Cl Wed - 20 13 - C	<b>Bilbao</b> TODAY: Max 18, Min 13-Sh Fri - 20 15 - C Sat - 20 10 - C Sun - 16 10 - C Mon - 16 10 - Sh Tues - 19 12 - C Wed - 19 10 - C	<b>Madrid</b> TODAY: Max 14, Min 8-Sh Fri - 15 10 - Sh Sat - 13 5 - Sh Sun - 12 5 - Sh Mon - 13 5 - C Tues - 15 7 - C Wed - 16 5 - C
<b>Alicante</b> TODAY: Max 19, Min 12-C Fri - 20 13 - S Sat - 22 11 - Sh Sun - 20 11 - C Mon - 20 11 - C Tues - 20 12 - S Wed - 20 11 - C	<b>Benidorm</b> TODAY: Max 19, Min 11-C Fri - 20 12 - S Sat - 20 11 - Sh Sun - 18 11 - C Mon - 19 11 - C Tues - 19 12 - C Wed - 19 12 - C	<b>Mallorca</b> TODAY: Max 16, Min 10-Sh Fri - 19 11 - S Sat - 19 11 - Sh Sun - 16 12 - Sh Mon - 16 9 - S Tues - 18 10 - C Wed - 19 11 - C	<b>Barcelona</b> TODAY: Max 15, Min 9 - C Fri - 18 11 - S Sat - 18 11 - C Sun - 17 10 - S Mon - 17 9 - S Tues - 17 9 - C Wed - 18 10 - C

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

• **Chuck Norris, Actor; March 10, 78**

Norris is known as one of the silver screen's leading martial artists. It was as an Air Policeman in Korea that he first took an interest in the sports and he created his own style known as Chun Kuk Do.

• **Micky Dolenz, Musician; March 8, 73**  
The drummer of 1960's rock band The Monkees has also been an actor, starring in the children's programme *Circus Boy*. Born in Los Angeles in the US, he went on



Chuck Norris.

to join the group that had hits with *Daydream Believer* and *Last Train to Clarksville*.

• **Oscar Isaac, Actor; March 9, 39**  
Born Oscar Isaac Hernandez Estrada in Guatemala, the actor moved to Miami when he was a child. He had a role alongside Ryan Gosling in the 2011 film *Drive* before starring in the 2013 Coen brothers movie *Inside Llewyn Davies* in which he plays a singer of the same name.

• **Alex Kingston, Actor; March 11, 55**  
Born in Epsom, England, Kingston went to

Rosebery School for Girls in Surrey before taking up acting. She has since had roles in *Doctor Who* and *ER* and also played Dinah Lance in the TV series *Arrow*. Her performance in *ER* earned her an SFX award in 2012.

• **Mitt Romney, Politician; March 12, 71**  
The 2012 Republican presidential nominee also served as the 70th Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. Prior to his career in politics he worked for the Boston Consulting Group and served as the CEO of venture capitalist firm Bain & Company.

Sierra Nevada

SNOW REPORT

Some snow forecast for this morning (Thursday) but it is not until this weekend that Sierra Nevada is expecting considerably more snow. Monday and Tuesday are forecast to be clear but snow is expected to return towards the end of next week. Many slopes have been closed and there is a risk of avalanches in certain areas according to the Sierra Nevada website.



241 BC - Punic War ends

The Romans sink the Carthaginian fleet during the Battle of the Aegates, bringing an end to the first of three wars between the powers.

624 - Muhammad victorious

The Prophet Muhammad defeats the forces of the Quraysh of Mecca in the Battle of Badr. The Muslim army takes the Herjaz region in Arabia as a result and the event becomes known as a turning point in the rise of Islam.

1489 - Cyprus sold

Queen Catherine Cornaro sells her Cyprus kingdom to the Republic of Venice.

1500 - Cabral departs

Portuguese explorer Pedro Alvares Cabral sets sail from Lisbon to travel to the Americas. His fleet will go on to discover Brazil.

1689 - Williamite War

A conflict breaks out in Ireland between the armies of deposed Stuart king James II and William of Orange over who will sit on England's throne.

1841 - Amistad ruling

The United States' Supreme Court rules that slaves who seized control of a ship bound for America were taken from Africa illegally in the United States v *The Amistad* case.

1918 - Spanish flu outbreak

The first case of Spanish flu is recorded. The disease would cause a pandemic that would leave somewhere between 50 to 100 million people dead.

2014 - Flight 370 lost

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 goes missing en route to Kuala Lumpur with 239 passengers on-board. The search for the plane and the reason it disappeared are still ongoing.

DVD

A desert  
adventure



GERTRUDE BELL (Nicole Kidman) comes from a wealthy British family, but her life among the London elite has left her wanting more from life.

She decides to move to Tehran, Iran with her diplomat uncle. While there she falls in love with embassy employee Henry Cadogan (James Franco). After tragedy hits the couple Bell sets out to explore the Middle East, meeting personalities such as Lawrence of Arabia (Robert Pattinson) in Werner Herzog's film *Queen of the Desert*.

CALL  
TALL  
TOLL  
TOOL  
TOOK  
BOOK  
Solution

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

Word Ladder

BOOK

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

CALL

CALL



# LEGALLY SPEAKING

## Motorbikes will save lives

**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.

THE latest two-wheeled addition to the Guardia Civil fleet sees a return for BMW, with the acquisition of nearly 300 BMW R1200RT motorbikes, set to replace the previous R850RT model, which had already started to be phased out by the powerful Yamaha FJR 1300.

As well as the move towards more powerful and purpose designed motorbikes, the latest fleet sees the addition of high-visibility colours, fluorescent yellow, required by new European regulations that recommend its use in police vehicles.

BMW Motorrad, owned by the BMW consortium, delivered the new motorbikes recently to the Guardia Civil, with the specific role of improving the safety of the officers who patrol the roads and motorways in Spain, and to make the roads safer for all.

The motorbikes will be used on the Iberian Peninsula, in the Balearic Islands and also in the Canary Islands and will serve to replace the previous BMW R850RT.

In this regard, the R1200RT 'includes all the elements of safety and comfort' and have specifications required by the Traffic Department in order to carry out the tasks for which they will be used, such as the installation of a siren and emergency lights, amongst other elements.

Francisco Javier Molano, Chief Lieutenant Colonel Guardia Civil in Galicia explained, "The new motorcycles allow the officers to perform speed controls and alcohol and drugs checks, without having to wait for the arrival of other patrols".

The motorcycles provide greater autonomy on the roads and with the new portable



Photo credit Guardia Civil

**WHEEL OUTLAY:** The Guardia Civil has invested in 291 new motorcycles.

radars, the officers will be able to set up checks and controls in more areas, and faster than ever before. The new radars are small enough to be carried in the motorbike's compartments, and can be set up on a tripod or used by hand.

The new alcohol and drug testing kits are also small enough to be carried on the motorbikes, allowing for instant checks to be carried out at the roadside at any time, day or night.

The Director General of Traffic, Gregorio Serrano, explained that the bikes are also intended to avoid the influence of applications and social networks that warn of alcohol controls. "With motorcycles, these monitoring devices for alcohol and drug consumption will be much more dynamic, since the motorcycle has a greater versatility of use than cars, and the controls will be much more agile".

For more news and articles visit [www.n332.es](http://www.n332.es) or search N332 on Facebook.

## Lawyer won't respond

**Q.** Four years on from completing our house purchase we have paid no IBI, despite numerous visits to the council offices. We do, however, receive IBI bills addressed to the previous owners. The solicitor who dealt with the conveyancing does not return my emails or answer my calls. I have spoken to another solicitor, who tells

me that our original solicitor held money back and should have got everything changed into our names. I was told to threaten to take legal action. I have done this and still he won't respond. What do I do next? I do not want to pay the previous owner's bills.

PB (by email)

**A.** Stop threatening and act. First, find a Spanish abogado to act for you. Step one should be to approach your provincial Colegio de Abogados, the law society, with all the documents relating to your case.

**David Searl**  
You and the Law in Spain

They have a department of intermediation, which can require your original abogado

to defend his case. Spanish lawyers have been disbarred and even sent to jail for appropriating their clients' money. Also, pay the IBI bills. They are really yours, as you own the house even if it is not registered.

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

## Hotel coat hangers...

**Mike Senker**  
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

IT used to be that supermarkets carefully placed products near the till so us, the punters, would pick them up on the way out. Then there was a hoo ha that, for instance, it wasn't fair if they put sweets there, kids would start kicking off if their parents wouldn't buy them some so many shops stopped the practice.

To be fair the worst thing that could happen is you'd come home with a) a couple of sulky ankle biters or b) some scrummy chocolate. Then Aldi and Lidl came along and the whole art of shopping changed.

Rows and rows of cheap groceries with unpronounceable names. So the wife pops out for some bread and milk and you get a phone call saying, 'Err have you got the phone number of a van hire company?' 'Why.' 'I'm in Aldi - I got the bread and milk then strolled down the middle aisles and bought a drum kit and a canoe.'

I exaggerate slightly but recently I've found myself the proud owner of a cover to put on the back seat of the car so the dog won't moul out all over the place, pots and pans I don't need and a padded jacket. This means that all the

money saved buying hurdy gurdy brand products is blown in the middle aisles. It's the equivalent of a jumble sale come boot fair. I know the answer is 'don't' look' but I just turn in to the kid having a stroop because mum won't let me look at the sweetie counter. I'm thinking of starting a group called MAA - Middle Aisle Anonymous - so all addicts like me can go and get support.

Hotel coat hangers? Who decided that instead of the traditional household ones they have the things that are just a stem that you then have to try and get into a fiddly little hole. They would be more at home at a fairground than a wardrobe. Now it's probably worse for me because of my leg problems but even Mrs S says they are a nuisance and if she says so then it's written in stone. Do hotels get that many nicked?

I mean, they sometimes have the little satiny ones which are no good to man nor beast which are obviously more expensive than the wooden ones, but those can be removed easily. I'd happily pay a tenner hanger deposit for normal ones or just give me plastic ones that they give me if I ask for more. Mind you it's not as bad as one hotel I stayed in in New York in the early 90's where they had the ashtrays in the room screwed to the table but that's another story for another time.

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**FRIDAY - 9 MARCH**

**BBC one** **BBC Two** **BBC FOUR** CHANNEL 4. CHANNEL 5

12:00pm	Wanted Down Under Revisited	9:00am	Back in Time for Tea	8:00pm	World News Today	9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45pm	Caught Red Handed	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire		The latest national	9:30am	Frasier	10:05am	Mofy
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live		and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.	10:00am	Frasier	10:15am	The Wright Stuff
2:00pm	BBC News at One	1:00pm	The Daily Politics			11:00am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:30pm	BBC London News	2:00pm	Perfection						5 News
2:45pm	Doctors	2:45pm	Plan it, Build it			11:55am	Winter Paralympics Opening Ceremony Live	1:10pm	Lunchtime GPs: Behind Closed Doors
3:15pm	Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators	3:15pm	Yes Chef	8:30pm	Top of the Pops			1:15pm	Closed
		4:00pm	A Place to Call Home		Simon Bates and Richard Skinner present the pop chart	2:00pm	Channel 4 News	2:15pm	Home and Away
4:00pm	Escape to the Country	5:40pm	More Creatures Great and Small		programme, first shown on 6 June 1985.	2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	2:45pm	Neighbours
4:45pm	Coast and Country Auctions	6:10pm	Flog It!			3:10pm	Countdown	3:15pm	NCIS
		7:00pm	Eggheads	9:00pm	Classic Albums	4:00pm	Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare	4:15pm	The Perfect Roommate
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland	10:00pm	Tones, Drones and Arpeggios: The Magic of Minimalism	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:15pm	Pointless					6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	BBC News at Six	8:00pm	Saving Lives at Sea	11:00pm	Tubular Bells: The Mike	6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	BBC London News	9:00pm	Mastermind Gardeners' World		Oldfield Story	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	The One Show	9:30pm		12:00am	Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	The Gadget Show
8:30pm	MasterChef					8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
9:00pm	EastEnders	10:00pm	Putin: The New Tsar	1:30am	Top of the Pops	8:30pm	Crufts 2018		
9:30pm	Room 101			2:00am	Classic Albums	10:00pm	Gogglebox		
10:00pm	Requiem	11:00pm	QI	3:00am	Tubular Bells: The Mike	11:00pm	The Last Leg		
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:30pm	Newsnight		Oldfield Story	12:05am	8 Out of 10 Cats	10:00pm	Jane McDonald and Friends
		12:05am	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	4:00am	Tones, Drones and Arpeggios: The Magic of Minimalism	12:55am	The Inbetweeners	11:00pm	Will and Grace
11:25pm	BBC London News					1:30am	Winter Paralympics Live	11:30pm	French and Saunders
11:35pm	The Young Offenders			5:00am	This is BBC Four			12:30am	That's So... 1990

7:00am	Good Morning Britain	9:20am	Emmerdale	3:30am	Teleshopping	4:00am	Teleshopping	7:00am	Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells
9:30am	Lorraine	9:50am	You've Been Framed!	7:00am	Coronation Street	7:00am	Football Rivalries		
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show	10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	7:25am	Coronation Street	7:10am	The Chase		Day one of the BNP Paribas Masters from the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California.
11:30am	This Morning	11:15am	Who's Doing the Dishes?	7:50am	Heartbeat	8:00am	Pawn Stars		
1:30pm	Loose Women	12:10pm	Dress to Impress	8:55am	The Royal	8:20am	Ironsides		
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News	1:15pm	Emmerdale	9:55am	Judge Judy	9:15am	Quincy, M.E.		
2:55pm	ITV News London	1:50pm	Emmerdale	10:25am	Judge Judy	10:20am	Minder		
3:00pm	James Martin's American Adventure	2:15pm	You've Been Framed!	11:20am	Inspector Morse	11:25am	The Sweeney		
4:00pm	Tenable	2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	1:35pm	The Royal	12:30pm	The Avengers		
5:00pm	Tipping Point	3:35pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show	2:35pm	Heartbeat	1:35pm	Ironsides	7:30am	Live NRL
6:00pm	The Chase	4:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show	3:40pm	Coronation Street	2:40pm	Quincy, M.E.		Week one of Australia's National Rugby League is here as Newcastle Knights meet Manly
7:00pm	ITV News London	5:50pm	Judge Rinder	4:15pm	Coronation Street	3:40pm	Minder		Warrigah Sea Eagles at McDonald Jones Stadium.
7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:50pm	Take Me Out	4:45pm	On the Buses	4:50pm	The Sweeney		
8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	You've Been Framed!	5:20pm	On the Buses	6:00pm	The Avengers		
8:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Two and a Half Men	5:50pm	You're Only Young Twice	7:00pm	Storage Wars		
9:00pm	Love Your Garden	9:30pm	Two and a Half Men	6:25pm	Rising Damp	7:30pm	Storage Wars		
9:30pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	The Hangover	6:55pm	Heartbeat	8:00pm	Pawn Stars		
10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	11:00pm	FYI Daily	8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote	8:30pm	Hornblower		
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:05pm	The Hangover	9:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple	10:30pm	Live Bamma World Title Fight		
11:30pm	ITV News London	12:05am	Family Guy			12:30am	Reservoir Dogs		
11:45pm	Piers Morgan's Life Stories	12:30am	Family Guy			1:30am	FYI Daily		
12:45am	Mickev Blue	1:05am	American Dad!			1:35am	Reservoir Dogs		
						2:35am	Fifth Gear	9:45am	Rugby League
						3:25am	The Protectors	11:45am	Cricket
						3:50am	ITV4 Nightscreen	4:30pm	Live Valspar
						4:00am	Teleshopping		Featured Grps
						5:00am	Teleshopping	8:00pm	Sky Sports
								8:30pm	Tonight
									Football
									The Edinburgh derby from Easter Road as Hibernian take on Hearts in the SPL



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**SUNDAY - 11 MARCH**

BBC one BBC Two BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

8:30am	Match of the Day	4:25am	This is BBC Two Coast	8:00pm	Only Connect <i>Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far</i>	8:00am	Tennis Winter	7:00am	Milkshake! Teenage
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show	7:55am	A-Z of TV Gardening			9:00am	Paralympics Breakfast	11:05am	Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:00am	The Big Questions	8:15am	The Instant Gardener			10:00am	Frasier	11:40am	Football on 5 The Championship
12:00pm	Sunday Politics	9:05am	Gardeners' World	8:30pm	University Challenge	10:30am	Sunday Brunch		
1:15pm	BBC News	9:35am	Countryfile			1:30pm	Jamie's Quick and Easy Food	12:30pm	Football on 5 Goal Rush
1:25pm	Weather for the Week Ahead	10:30am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	9:00pm	Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth	2:05pm	The Simpsons	1:00pm	Britain's Greatest Bridges
1:30pm	MasterChef	12:00pm	Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge		<i>Classical Dr Michael Scott journeys to Athens to explore how drama first began.</i>	3:05pm	The Simpsons		
2:00pm	Homes Under the Hammer	12:45pm	Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook			3:35pm	The Simpsons	1:15pm	Police Interceptors
2:55pm	Songs of Praise					4:05pm	The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	2:15pm	Police Interceptors
3:30pm	Six Nations	1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra			5:25pm	Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare	3:15pm	Open Season 2
6:05pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	2:00pm	The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives			6:30pm	Channel 4 News	4:45pm	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2
7:05pm	BBC News	3:00pm	Money for Nothing	10:00pm	Michael Jackson's Journey From Motown to Off the Wall	7:00pm	Winter Paralympics	6:25pm	Journey 2: The Mysterious Island
7:20pm	Regional News	3:45pm	Laura Back in Time for Tea				Today	8:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
7:25pm	Weather	5:10pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes			8:00pm	Crufts 2018	9:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
7:30pm	Countryfile	6:10pm				10:00pm	Homeland	9:55pm	5 News
8:30pm	Hold the Sunset			11:30pm	Sings Motown	11:00pm	The Last Leg	10:00pm	Olympus Has Fallen
9:00pm	Call the Midwife	7:10pm	Deep Impact	12:31am	I'm Not in Love: The Story of 10cc		Winter Paralympics Special	12:15am	Rise of the Krays
10:00pm	Sir Bruce Forsyth: A Celebration	9:00pm	Top Gear			12:00am	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	2:15am	Super Casino
11:05pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Life and Death Row	1:30am	Art of France	1:00am	Married at First Sight	4:10am	Cowboy Builders
11:25pm	Regional News	11:20pm	The Mash Report	2:30am	Smile! The Nation's Family Album	2:00am	The Inbetweeners		
11:30pm	Weather	11:50pm	Top Gear Extra			2:30am	Winter Paralympics Live		
11:35pm	Match of the Day 2	12:15am	Women's Six Nations						
12:35am	Fright Night		Highlights	3:30am	Sings Motown				
2:15am	Weather for the Week Ahead	12:45am	Question Time	4:30am	The Beauty of Anatomy				
		1:45am	Panorama						
		2:15am	Holby City						

7:00am	CITV	7:00am	Planet's Funniest Animals	7:00am	Murder, She Wrote	4:00am	Teleshopping	9:00am	Cricket
10:25am	ITV News					7:00am	Minder		Day three of the second Test between South Africa and Australia at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth.
10:30am	Love Your Garden	7:20am	You've Been Framed!	7:50am	Murder, She Wrote	7:50am	Minder		
11:00am	Peston on Sunday	7:45am	Emmerdale		Jessica's night at a political fundraiser turns to murder.	8:45am	Storage Wars		
12:00pm	The Voice UK		Omnibus			9:10am	Storage Wars		
1:20pm	ITV News and Weather	10:30am	Coronation Street Omnibus			9:40am	Storage Wars		
1:30pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	1:20pm	The Voice UK	8:50am	Heartbeat	10:05am	Storage Wars		
		2:45pm	The Flintstones	9:50am	Heartbeat	10:30am	Storage Wars	12:30pm	Football
3:00pm	Britain's Brightest Family	3:45pm	FYI Daily	10:50am	Columbo	11:00am	Storage Wars		Rangers take on Celtic at Ibrox in the SPFL Ladbroke Premiership.
		3:50pm	The Flintstones		Columbo faces off against a lawyer who killed his rock star girlfriend.	11:25am	Storage Wars		
3:30pm	Catchphrase	4:30pm	Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights			12:25pm	Storage Wars		
4:30pm	Tipping Point	5:30pm	FYI Daily	12:55pm	A Touch of Frost	12:55pm	Storage Wars		
5:30pm	ITV News and Weather	5:35pm	Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights	2:55pm	A Touch of Frost	1:20pm	Pawn Stars	3:00pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday Arsenal face Watford at the Emirates Stadium in the Premier League
5:45pm	Local News and Weather	7:15pm	FYI Daily	4:55pm	Lewis	1:50pm	Pawn Stars		
		7:20pm	Evan Almighty	7:00pm	The Durrells	2:15pm	Pawn Stars		
6:00pm	The Chase	8:10pm	Gravity	9:00pm	Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs	2:50pm	The Battle of Britain		
7:00pm	Dancing on Ice	9:15pm	FYI Daily			3:50pm	FYI Daily		
9:00pm	Endeavour	9:20pm	Gravity	9:30pm	Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs	3:55pm	The Battle of Britain		
11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	10:00pm	Ibiza Weekender	10:00pm	Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure	5:30pm	You Only Live Twice	4:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday Bournemouth take on Tottenham Hotspur at the Vitality Stadium in the Premier League
11:15pm	Peston on Sunday	11:00pm	Family Guy			6:35pm	FYI Daily		
12:15am	Six Nations Highlights	11:30pm	Family Guy	11:00pm	An Audience with Victoria Wood	6:40pm	You Only Live Twice		
1:15am	100 Year Old Driving School	12:00am	Family Guy	12:10am	Lewis	7:50pm	Hornblower		
1:40am	Marcella	12:30am	American Dad!	2:10am	Life of Crime	10:00pm	Firefox		
2:30am	Jackpot247	12:55am	American Dad!	3:00am	Blue Murder	11:00pm	FYI Daily		
		1:30am	Zack and Miri Make a Porno	4:20am	Rising Damp	11:05pm	Firefox		
		2:30am	FYI Daily	4:45am	Road to Avonlea	12:45am	Falling Down	8:00pm	Live PGA Tour Golf
						1:50am	FYI Daily		
						1:55am	Falling Down		
						3:00am	River Monsters	11:00pm	Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells

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





## TV COUCH CRITIC

**BENIDORM**, ITV1 Wednesdays, is back for another season of fun in the sun. I'm still not sure that the hour-long format works, I think the writing was much punchier with a 30-minute slot, but for a show celebrating a significant telly milestone someone is clearly doing something right.

The season 10 launch saw Joyce Temple-Savage (I would love to know the back story here, is there a Mr Temple and/or Savage in her past and was she ever at Butlins Skegness, maybe 1974?) getting married to Monty.

John Challis plays a wonderfully shady Monty and is a great addition to the cast, but one of the reasons I continue to watch is Tim Healy in various states of excessive make-up and figure hugging clothes, including a wedding dress at Joyce's big day.

Episode two saw Jacqueline panic about Kenneth going missing, but of course he returns safe and sound. I'm pleased Joey is back,

plays this part so well, but I'm not sure about his new friend Callum, who seems to be a taller version of Tiger who has hit the gym.

Critics of the show will say the once present comedy edge is slipping, but I think the format is sufficiently robust to withstand even

### FUN IN THE SUN: Benidorm.

the terrible weather we have been having on the Costa del Sol, although I hear the weather is better along the coast and further north.

Another show recently starting a new run is *Mum*, BBC2 Tuesdays. The second season kicked off with Cathy's 60th birthday celebrations in the local gastro pub, followed by Cathy playing Easter day cat and mouse with Michael, but it's a game I enjoy. The show would surely stall if these two ever did manage some time alone?

This week Cathy hosted a BBQ and the cat and mouse game with Michael continued. But the stars this week are Cathy's in-laws, Maureen and Reg, who should have their very own hashtag #sayhowitis. There were some predictable and deliberate misunderstandings on their part but some kinder touches too. The through line here is quite dark and for me, works really well.

I need to mention *100 Years Younger in 21 Days* ITV, Tuesdays. I've no idea where this mess of a show was dreamed up, but I wish the producers had taken a duvet day when

# Does the Benidorm holiday need a break after 10 years?



Photo credit ITV

they commissioned it and simply not bothered. The celebrity ant-agers look just fine as they are and wouldn't be themselves if they were a little less portly, had smoother skin or lived on a liquid diet, unless that liquid was Rioja and they lost a few ounces with some tapas in the sun.

*The World's Most Extraordinary Homes*, BBC2 Wednesdays continued its look at, well, homes which are extraordinary, in Switzerland this week. Caroline and Piers (you are right, I've no idea who they are either) walked

us through homes made of concrete, a house with vintage cars in the basement and prison cell bedroom. I think the team should come to Spain, I could show them some truly extraordinary homes on the Costas and if we threw in the people who live in them, now there's a show. You know some potential participants, right? Next week the team are in Japan...

Happy viewing.

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

## Out and about

**Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar, invite you to attend the following events and excursions:**

### MONDAY March 19: Art Appreciation Group.

Starting from December the group will use 'The Private Life of Masterpieces' which was a BBC arts documentary series and told the stories behind great works of arts languages.

The original narrations were done by the actors Samuel West and Tim Pigott-Smith. Janice will give a short introduction about the artist.

Then, they will watch the DVD, followed by a discussion. In March, they are looking at Primavera by Botticelli. Refreshments available to purchase. Donation of €2. Time: 10.30am at the Centre.

### Tuesday March 20: Photography Group.

From 'good shot' to 'great shot', why not come and learn the art of photography with Bob Bell Photography. Open to all, from beginners to the more experienced photographer, regardless of the type of camera they use.

This season they will be looking at the various styles of photography and computer software with monthly themes and photo challenges. Don't forget to bring your camera. Time: 4pm.

### Thursday April 12: Coach excursion to Puente Genil.

Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar invite you to join friends on a coach excursion to Puente Genil, a picturesque town situated in the province of Cordoba, in Andalucia.

After leaving Torre del Mar you will stop en route for coffee, arriving in Puente Genil at approximately 10am.

On arrival there will be a guided tour, in English, of the town, including the quince factory, the old town, the Church of the Assumption and the collection of museums situated in the old convent.

There will then be free time for you to have lunch and you will depart from the town at 5pm. Ticket price €25 available at the centre.

Departure times: Viñuela (football pitch) 7.30am, Algarrobo (Lidl) 7.55am, Caleta (vets) 7.55am, Torre del Mar (bus station) 8.05am.

For more information call  
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**SUPPORT IN SPAIN: British Consul for Andalucia, Charmaine Arbouin speaking to local healthcare staff and volunteers.**

## British Consul comes to town

THE British Consul for Andalucia, Charmaine Arbouin, was in the Axarquía region on Wednesday to meet with local healthcare staff and volunteers who work with British residents in the area.

Arbouin and representatives of the consular team were presenting the new British Consulate and University of Birmingham website service Support in Spain ([www.supportinspain.info](http://www.supportinspain.info)), designed to help British residents over 50 find useful in-

formation to help them avoid social exclusion or vulnerability while living on the Costa del Sol.

The consul was welcomed to the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar by Axarquía area health service director, José Pinazo Luque, and area customer service head, José Luis Checa.

Also attending were Teniente Alcalde of Torre del Mar, Jesus Carlos Perez, several members of the AVISA volunteer interpreters group,

the Red Cross, Lux Mundi, local town halls and from other groups.

Both the Consul and Hospital directors praised the work of volunteers in supporting vulnerable British residents and hoped the website would be a useful new tool.

The team from the Consulate also emphasised the importance of British residents registering on the local town hall 'padron' to reduce the risk of vulnerability and social isolation in the future.



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MONDAY - 12 MARCH

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
2:45pm Doctors 3:15pm Escape to the Country 3:45pm Commonwealth Observance Day 5:15pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Inside Out 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Classic Mary Berry 10:00pm MasterChef 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Imagine...	2:30pm Yes Chef 3:15pm Your Home in Their Hands 4:15pm Planet Earth I 5:15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm The Repair Shop 7:30pm Top Gear 8:00pm Only Connect 9:00pm University Challenge 10:00pm Being Blacker 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather 12:15am Putin: The New Tsar	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days 8:30pm Great Irish Journeys 9:00pm Treasures of the Indus 10:00pm The Art of Spain 11:00pm Caligula with Mary Beard 12:00am Mothers, Murderers and Mistresses Empresses of Ancient Rome 1:00am On Camera: Photographers at the BBC 2:00am Top of the Pops	4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody 11:00pm Electric Dreams 12:00am Winter Paralympics Highlights	3:20pm NCIS 4:20pm Deadly Daycare 5:00pm 5 News 6:00pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights 9:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue 10:00pm Terror in the Air: Flights Out of Control 11:00pm Police 24/7 12:00am The X Files 12:55am Traffic Cops 1:55am Britain's Greatest Bridges 2:10am Super Casino 4:10am Cowboy Builders
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
3:00pm Judge Rinder 4:00pm Tenable 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Kyle Files 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Marcella 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:50pm Judge Rinder 6:50pm Take Me Out 8:00pm You've Been Framed! 8:30pm You've Been Framed! 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 9:30pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm Family Guy 10:30pm American Dad! 11:00pm Action Team 11:35pm Family Guy 12:00am Family Guy	2:35pm Heartbeat 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street 4:50pm On the Buses 5:20pm On the Buses 5:55pm You're Only Young Twice 6:25pm Rising Damp 6:55pm Heartbeat 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote 9:00pm Vera 11:00pm DCI Banks 12:00am DCI Banks	10:50am Minder 11:55am The Sweeney 1:00pm The Avengers 2:05pm Ironside 3:10pm Quincy, M.E. 4:15pm Minder 5:20pm The Saint 6:25pm The Avengers 7:35pm Storage Wars 8:05pm Pawn Stars 8:35pm Pawn Stars 9:00pm River Monsters 10:00pm River Monsters 11:05pm Above the Law 12:05am FYI Daily 12:10am Above the Law 1:10am This is the End	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Cricket 4:30pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Football 12:00am Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells

TUESDAY - 13 MARCH

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
4:10pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm Coast and Country Auctions 5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm This Country 12:15am Inside Britain's Moped Crime Gangs	3:30pm Your Home in Their Hands 4:30pm Planet Earth I 5:30pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan 6:30pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm Back in Time for Tea 10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 11:00pm Mum	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days 8:30pm Great Irish Journeys with Martha Kearney 9:00pm Immortal Egypt with Joann Fletcher Joann Fletcher explains how ancient Egypt's extraordinary story fits together. 10:00pm The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story 11:00pm The Prosecutors: Real Crime and Punishment 12:00am A War 1:45am Top of the Pops	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 10:15pm Seven Year Switch 11:20pm Gogglebox 12:00am Winter Paralympics Highlights	3:20pm NCIS 4:20pm Naval Killer. Missing Daughter 5:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm World Rally 9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh 10:00pm Wild Britain with Ray Mears 11:00pm The Crown in Crisis: Elizabeth-Our Queen 12:05am The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 9:00pm What Would Your Kid Do? 10:00pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:45pm The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska 12:15am Benidorm	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:50pm Judge Rinder 6:50pm Take Me Out 8:00pm You've Been Framed! 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm The 40 Year Old Virgin 11:00pm FYI Daily 11:05pm The 40 Year Old Virgin 12:25am Family Guy	4:15pm Classic Coronation Street 4:45pm On the Buses 5:20pm On the Buses 5:55pm You're Only Young Twice 6:25pm Rising Damp 7:00pm Heartbeat 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote 9:00pm Vera 11:00pm Scott and Bailey 12:00am Scott and Bailey 1:00am A Touch of Frost 3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen 3:30am Teleshopping	1:05pm The Avengers 2:15pm Ironside 3:20pm Quincy, M.E. 4:20pm Minder 5:25pm The Saint 6:30pm The Avengers 7:40pm Storage Wars 8:05pm Pawn Stars 8:35pm Pawn Stars 9:00pm River Monsters 10:00pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow 11:00pm Full Metal Jacket 12:15am FYI Daily 12:20am Full Metal Jacket 1:30am Minder	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Cricket 4:30pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells The sixth day of the BNP Paribas Open from Indian Wells. 5:00am Sky Sports News

WEDNESDAY - 14 MARCH

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
1:15pm Bargain Hunt 2:00pm BBC News 2:30pm Regional News 2:45pm Doctors 3:15pm A Place to Call Home 4:10pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm Coast and Country Auctions 5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Panorama 9:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build 10:00pm Saving the British Bulldog 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm A Question of Sport 12:15am Film 2018	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live 12:30pm The Daily Politics 2:00pm The Two Tribes 2:30pm Yes Chef 3:15pm Your Home in Their Hands 4:15pm Planet Earth I 5:15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes 10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace American Crime Story 10:50pm Live at the Apollo 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days 8:30pm Great Irish Journeys with Martha Kearney 9:00pm The Secret History of Our Streets 10:00pm The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story 11:00pm Crime and Punishment Blues America Two-part documentary about the history of the blues in the USA. 1:00am Island at the BBC 2:00am Top of the Pops 2:35am Top of the Pops 3:15am The High Art of the Low Countries 4:15am The Secret Life of Books	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA 1:00pm Channel 4 News Includes sport and weather. 1:05pm Come Dine with Me 2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers 3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 9:00pm The Supervet 10:00pm One Born Every Minute 11:00pm Damned 11:30pm 8 Out of 10 Cats 12:00am Winter Paralympics Highlights	7:00am Milkshake! 12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 1:10pm 5 News 1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 2:05pm Access 2:15pm Home and Away 2:45pm Neighbours 3:15pm NCIS 4:15pm Naval Killer. Framed for Murder 5:00pm 5 News 6:00pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents When Talent Shows Go Horribly Wrong 2:00am Super Casino 4:10am Cowboy Builders 5:00am Now That's
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
6:05am The Jeremy Kyle Show 7:00am Good Morning Britain 9:30am Lorraine 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show 11:30am This Morning 1:30pm ITV Lunchtime News 2:00pm Cheltenham Festival ITV Racing. 5:30pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street Britain's Brightest Family 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Benidorm 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:45pm UEFA Champions	8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes? 8:55am Emmerdale 9:55am You've Been Framed! 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show 11:15am The Bachelor 1:05pm Emmerdale 2:05pm You've Been Framed! 2:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:50pm Judge Rinder 6:50pm Take Me Out 8:00pm You've Been Framed! 8:30pm You've Been Framed! Two and a Half Men 9:30pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm Hell's Kitchen 11:00pm Hell's Kitchen 11:55pm Family Guy 12:25am Family Guy	7:00am Classic Coronation Street 7:25am Classic Coronation Street 7:55am Heartbeat 8:55am The Royal Judge Judy 9:55am Inspector Morse 1:35pm The Royal Heartbeat 2:35pm Classic Coronation Street 4:50pm On the Buses 5:55pm You're Only Young Twice 6:25pm Rising Damp 7:00pm Heartbeat 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote Vera 11:00pm Law and Order: UK 12:00am Law and Order: UK	7:00am The Chase 7:45am The Chase 8:35am Pawn Stars 9:20am Ironside 10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show Nijinsky's Triple Crown 11:30am The Protectors The Saint 1:10pm The Avengers 2:20pm Ironside 3:20pm Quincy, M.E. 4:20pm Minder 5:25pm The Saint 6:35pm The Avengers 7:40pm Storage Wars 8:05pm Pawn Stars 9:00pm Britain's Busiest Motorway 9:30pm Britain's Busiest Motorway 10:00pm The Chronicles of Riddick 11:05pm FYI Daily 11:10pm The Chronicles of Riddick 12:15am Lethal Weapon 1:10am Hornblower	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Sky Sports Daily 1:00pm Sky Sports News 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Sky Sports News All the news from the Premier League and beyond. 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells

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# The science of lying

ACCORDING to scientists, most people are generally quite bad at recognising if someone is lying or not.

As visual cues vary depending on the person and the situation, they are often unreliable and considered too subtle to be distinctive.

Research reveals that we each tell dozens of lies on a daily basis, but that we're only detected about half the time. Physical cues such as avoiding eye contact and having a higher pitched voice are often unreliable as skilled liars know how to control or disguise them.

A study from the University of Granada revealed the area around your nose often gets warmer when lying, which has been appropriately named the 'Pinocchio Effect'.

This tick is easy to detect as the flow of blood to the cheeks usually increases when this happens.

Meanwhile, psychologists have claimed it is easier to detect lies from language and speech than body cues. Liars allegedly distance themselves from the subject subconsciously ('that man' instead of using their name) and will also use a disproportionate amount of first person pronouns such as 'me' and 'I', as well as more formal language.



**LIAR, LIAR:** Can you tell if someone is really telling the truth?

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RECENT research from GAES, a company that specialises in hearing correction in Spain, has revealed that only one in 10 Spaniards get their ears checked from time to time, while 20 per cent revealed they have never had an ear exam.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are about 350 million people who suffer from hearing

## Hear, hear!

problems globally, and it has been estimated that 8 per cent of the Spanish population suffers from hearing loss.

However, 89 per cent of

Spaniards said they pay little attention to their ears and 70 per cent consider it a problem associated with old age.

However, Juan Royo, a hearing specialist, revealed that there are

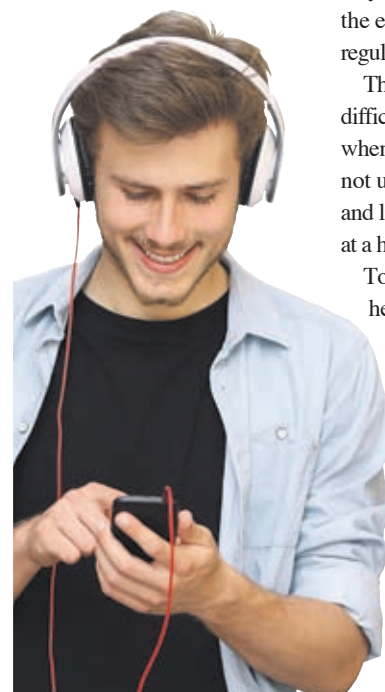
an increasing number of young people who suffer from hearing problems.

Bad habits such as listening to music at a high volume and going to loud nightclubs are reportedly to blame for the issue, so Royo recommended protecting the ears against loud noise and regularly checking your hearing.

The first symptoms of hearing difficulties are: having problems when following a conversation, not understanding some words and listening to the TV or music at a higher volume than usual.

To help keep your ears healthy, you should treat ear infections early, listen to music at a low volume, especially when using headphones and try to keep water from getting into your ears as much as possible.

**LISTEN UP:** Keep music at a low volume to protect your ears.



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## Getting ready for Easter

VELEZ-MALAGA will host the 13th Lenten Food Contest, organised by the Jazmines de la Axarquía women's association next Friday at the Palacio de Beniel.

Despite the change in attitude concerning the church and fasting for Lent, this contest which highlights the Lenten stew amongst other traditional dishes, is still popular and brings together people from different parts of the city.

Awards will be given to the best starter, the best second course and the best dessert, and the jury will start tasting at 1pm.

Scoring will take into account the use of typical products of the area and the difficulty in the preparation and presentation, with the result to be announced at about 2pm.

## Join a choir and perform for TRBL

THERE is to be a special concert in aid of The Royal British Legion (TRBL) at the Nerja Caves restaurant on April 21.

Starting at 7.30pm, the evening of popular songs will be performed by the long-established choir, Coral Coraxalia, under the leadership of Eusebio Pita with tickets costing just €5.

Booking is required in advance by calling 654 085 811 or 615 550 886 but that's not all.

The choir is looking for new members who would like to attend a rehearsal to see whether this is something you would like to be part of.

Rehearsals take place at the Casa Cultura on the A7205 road at Viñuela village on Thursdays, 5.30pm to 8pm.

For more information call 689 111 352 or 669 682 139.

# If music be the food of love

IT is worth remembering that three professionals from the West End stage will be performing in Torre del Mar next Thursday March 15.

Mike Sterling, who appeared as Phantom of the Opera more than 1,000 times, Lucy Van Gasse who was very popular in Wicked and Kate Galston from Chicago, will be appearing together at the Salon del Mar.

The three artists will be featuring songs from the shows they have appeared in, as well many other well-known numbers from other top musicals in a two-hour production.

All information about the venues and ticket prices can be found on the promoter's website [www.costadeldisco.com](http://www.costadeldisco.com) and there is a hotline on 658 579 695 to make sure of your reservation.



MIKE STERLING: The man behind the mask.

## Please pass the port

PORT, a fortified wine similar to Marsala and Madeira, is produced exclusively in the Douro Valley in northern Portugal.

Though typically red and sweet, port - taking its name from the city of Porto - also comes in dry, semi-dry, rose and white varieties.

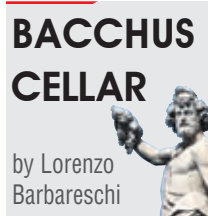
Rich and sweet, it is also high in alcohol content due to the addition of neutral grape spirits, known as aguardente. This is done to halt fermentation, leaving residual sugar which boosts the alcohol level prior to storing and ageing in sealed glass bottles or barrels.

More than 100 varieties of grapes, all suitable for long-ageing wines, are sanctioned for port production, although only five - Tinta Cão, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Roriz, Touriga Francesa, Touriga Nacional - are widely cultivated.

The four main styles of port are:

**Ruby:** Bright red with full bodied fruitiness; the most extensively produced and generally does not improve with age.

**Tawny:** Sweet or medium dry, made from



by Lorenzo Barbareschi



PORT: Comes in many varieties.

red grapes. Can be aged for years in wooden barrels and as a result of the oxidation gradually mellows to a golden-brown colour and gains a caramel, nutty flavour.

**White:** From white grapes, can go from dry to very sweet. When matured in wood for long periods the colour can darken substantially.

**Rose:** A new style made like rose wine, with flavours of strawberry and caramel.

Apart from white port, which can be served chilled, port should be served at around 16°C.

Vintage ports need to breathe and require decanting. Once opened they are best consumed within a short period although aged types may keep for several months.

Happy tasting.

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# Not 'a place in the sun'

Rain affects filming for C4 show



CREDIT: Facebook/JasmineHarmanOfficial

**PAIN IN SPAIN: A Place in the Sun called a halt to filming.**

THE popular British television series *A Place in the Sun* has taken a battering from the weather this week while filming in Spain.

The Channel 4 TV programme that helps British couples swap the grey skies of Britain for sun, sea and

sand abroad came unstuck when the crew encountered bad weather bringing production to a halt.

Presenter Jasmine Harman, who has worked on the show since 2004, took to social media as the crew retreated indoors on the Costa

del Sol.

In a series of posts, the TV star even joked, "I'm sure it says '*A Place in the Sun*' on my contract! This is not what I signed up for! I might just have to have a diva stop!"

She went on, "The rain in Spain falls mainly on... us!"

Before adding, "Whoops! This weather is bonkers! I've been feeling left out of all the extreme weather posts, but now we've had torrential rain, gale force winds, glorious sunshine and pea soup fog all within half an hour...!"

And then she went on, "It's not snowing, but just to let you know, it's not all sunshine and roses here in Spain either!"

The popular programme first aired in 2000 and has seen spin-offs including an overseas property exhibition.

## The Nordics are coming

INTEREST in Spanish real estate from Scandinavian nations is rising steadily as life in the sunny south draws buyers from colder climes.

Second-home buyers are driving the recovery in Spain's property market, and Swedish buyers now rank among the top five nationalities of foreign purchases in 2017.

According to government statistics, Swedish nationals accounted for 6.4 per cent of all foreign property transactions, last year. They also represented 10 per cent of all purchases made with Spain's top builder, Taylor Wimpey España, with low cost flights contributing to the trend.

A recent report from Knight Frank states that Spain is forecast to trump the UK as a favoured investment location in 2018, with Scandinavian buyers accounting for 80 per cent of all the company's Marbella luxury developments in 2017.

Marc Pritchard, Sales and Marketing Director of Taylor Wimpey España, said:

"Spain's economy is the fastest growing in the Euro-zone, bringing greater confidence back to the property market and thus attracting demand from North European countries.

"Many Swedish buyers are looking at other destinations other than their beloved Costa Blanca, with the new Bahia Sant Pere development in Mallorca, for example, in very high demand."

Norwegians and Danes are also increasing their Spanish property purchases, with Norwegians making up 2.2 per cent of foreign sales in 2017, while Danes accounted for 1 per cent.

## Quality Airsured

AIRBNB is sending out inspectors to assess thousands of properties listed on its home rental service, in an effort to reassure customers of their quality.

The plus programme is aimed at winning over travellers who are sceptical of the current rating system drawn from guests' comments.

The volume of misleading reviews that have been posted through Airbnb has become a big enough problem to spawn a website devoted to horror stories.

These have ranged from an overcrowded, dirty, hippy commune in Pasadena, California, to a Paris vacation ruined in a mouldy, bug-ridden apartment.

"You realise over time that you do have to take more responsibility for your platform, you have to be hands on, you have to make judgements," said Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky in an interview with The Associated Press.

The plus programme will initially cover about 2,000 properties in 13 cities including: Barcelona, Cape Town, Los Angeles, London, Rome and Sydney.

It is of course a fraction of the roughly 4.5 million properties listed on Airbnb across 81,000 cities worldwide.

At a time when the company's growth has been slowing, by the end of the year Chesky expects 75,000 homes to be verified in 50 cities.

Despite its popularity though, Airbnb remains unprofitable, posting a loss of \$75 million (€60.8 million) on revenues of nearly \$2.6 billion (€2.1 billion) in 2017.

Chesky is responding by developing Airbnb into more of a traditional hospitality company instead of an industry renegade.

Changes include discounts and perks for frequent customers, and the addition of bed and breakfast inns and boutique hotels.



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**DICK HANDSCOMBE**



THE home gardener has many advantages from the development of gardening techniques, tools and machines to help ease the work in the garden.

Modern technology has contributed greatly to increased production of food as demand for improved methods to increase quantity overshadows the need for quality. Many are now questioning what we can do to improve quality.

There is great demand from many people to have better quality food as can be seen by the flourishing of organic product stores and availability in supermarkets of ecological products.

Along the way to having increased production through streamlining and controlling the environment many traditional techniques have been lost due to not being economical or their influence is not relevant with the powerful effects that environmental controls from chemical treatments can provide.

A home gardener can take advantage of modern knowledge and the ancient gardening techniques that has sustained us for thousands of years.

In the Spanish countryside you can find many people that still follow traditional techniques to grow their gar-

## Use ancient gardening calendar for planting and harvesting

### *It will have you feeling over the moon*



Photo Credit: Vovan Shutterstock

**NATURAL WAY:** The moon may encourage growth.

dens. Usually they have just been brought up gardening in this way and the knowledge is passed from generation to generation.

A neighbour of mine had a flourishing garden based just on compost and had never learned about the use of chemicals in his garden as he had solutions for most problems in the way it had always been done. When he did look at chemical solutions he just thought it was too expensive to solve things he could resolve in natural ways.

Of course most natural solutions take time, patience and work that commercial growers could not do and retain a competitive position in today's world. If you have time to adopt more wholesome methods in your home garden you can be rewarded with far more nutritious and health promoting results.

One technique that is followed by many traditional gardeners in Spain and around the world is the lunar calendar. It is used to determine the best timing to plant and harvest different types of

plants and other activities in the garden.

Many traditional gardeners just know the times for the various activities, having done it all their life but there are calendars available that explain in detail the best timing for different jobs. Booklets on the information of traditional methods are often called farming or gardening almanacs.

Usually they need to be specific for your time zone to be accurate for the timing of the Moon phase but you can adjust the time from another zone.

They are available in Spain in Spanish and you may find information on the internet.

From my experience the climatic and weather conditions are of course a greater influence than the lunar influence but if you are able to really refine your gardening practices to align with moon phases as well, then it can be an additional influence to successfully create an even healthier garden without so much dependency on chemicals.

## The healing herb

AS well as becoming increasingly popular in gardens, Echinacea is also becoming more widely known for its medicinal properties.

Used as a healing herb for hundreds of years, the Native Americans used Echinacea for more medicinal purposes than any other plant. Echinacea is great at treating colds and flu and has no known side effects.

It can also be used to treat skin conditions such as eczema and urinary tract infections and reportedly acts by

triggering the immune system which helps to fight off disease.

Echinacea is a member of the aster family and grows mainly in Europe and the United States.

It is the perfect plant for the Spanish climate as it thrives in hot weather and is relatively unbothered by pests and diseases.

It attracts bees, butterflies

and other insects helping to make the garden more eco-friendly.

The flowers are also good

**BLOOMING:** Echinacea has a no-fuss approach to life.



for cutting and can really help to brighten up the house, especially as you can get so many different colours and varieties these days.

If you care for them well, they will form pretty clusters in the garden and live for a long time.



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# A dog is not a human baby

**David**  
**THE Dogman**

[columnists@ewnmediagroup.com](mailto:columnists@ewnmediagroup.com)

ANTHROPOMORPHISM (not for those that love their dog!) is the word that is used when we believe dogs have the same feelings and emotions as humans and they understand our language. A mistaken belief, of course.

Dogs are not small, fur-clad human beings. They are canines. True, they are man's best friend and companion because their natural instincts and hierarchical society blends into our own, and because they show loyalty and devotion to the hand that feeds them.

As we have seen in wolves, this bonding between man and dog happened thousands of years ago when both man and wolf lived similar nomadic lives as hunters, roaming the



**MAN'S BEST FRIEND: Dogs do not operate in the same way as humans.**

country to seek food.

The dog's adaptation to our way of life was assisted and accelerated by man using selective breeding to develop the most desirable features, first to work for us and then to turn them into pets.

Even so, there remain of course fundamental differences between us and our dogs. To take just one example, dogs live totally in the present moment.

They do not worry about the past. They do not dream about the future.

They are not endowed with imagination or feel grief, hate, jealousy or greed or other emotions that bedevil our human society. They do have a high sensory ability which is often mistaken for a kind of sixth sense.

They will understand that certain words like 'Sit', 'Stay', 'Down' require the right reaction if they are to be rewarded with a tit-bit or praise. They will understand whether your tone of voice and your facial expressions are good or bad when you are talking to them, in whatever language, but they will not understand longer phrases.

We often attribute human emotions to dogs when, in fact, they are reacting instinctively. We assume our dog is happy to see us when we return home and it looks pleased and wags its tail. All it is doing is reacting in the same way a wolf puppy reacts when the pack returns with food from a hunt.

It behaved in the same way when it

was feeding from its mother along with the rest of the litter. It is true the dog is enjoying a pleasurable experience but it is not pleased in human terms.

Another example of anthropomorphism is when we believe our dog is 'sulking' when it returns home from a stay in kennels, or is grieving over the death of a member of the family.

In the latter case, what it will be feeling is the loss of a higher member of the 'pack' and the anxiety caused by no longer knowing its position in the family hierarchy.

It will also be confused by the vibrations of distress it picks up from the family. Once the 'pack' has settled down again, the dog will make a quick recovery, for it lives in the present and doesn't mourn the past.

So please do not attribute dogs with human emotions. Try, instead, to understand their simple canine minds, which are untroubled by so many of our emotions.

## Designer puppies



Photo credit: Barbra Streisand/Facebook

**PUPPY REPLICAS: Barbra Streisand with her cloned dogs.**

LEGEND of stage and screen Barbra Streisand recently revealed she had cloned her late dog Samantha before she passed away last year.

Her two new dogs, Miss Violet and Miss Scarlett, were reportedly cloned from cells taken from Samantha's mouth and stomach.

Ms Streisand told *Variety* magazine the two pups "have different personalities."

"I'm waiting for them to get older so I can see if they have her brown eyes and her serious-

ness," she said. Since the revelation, PETA has come out to criticise Ms Streisand's decision, with PETA's president Ingrid Newkirk stating "We all want our beloved dogs to live forever, but while it may sound like a good idea, cloning doesn't achieve that. Instead, it creates a new and different dog who has only the physical characteristics of the original."

"When you consider that millions of wonderful adoptable dogs are languishing in animal

shelters every year or dying in terrifying ways when abandoned, you realise that cloning adds to the homeless animal population crisis" Newkirk went on to say, "And because cloning has a high failure rate, many dogs are caged and tormented for every birth that actually occurs".

If you want your dog's DNA to live forever, it will set you back at least a whopping €40,000 and the cloning process usually takes about 60 days to complete.

## Could you look after this cat?

*Looking for petsitters to care for a cat and a dog this summer*

ONE of our homeowners in Buckinghamshire in the UK is looking for pet-sitters to care for their gorgeous cat and their dog Nuka. Can you help?

**Keeping pets safe at home in their own environment**

These homeowners prefer to have their pets cared for at home when they go on holiday. They like the house-sitters to arrive the day before so they get to know them, show them the routines, the best dog walks and meet the neighbours.

For the pet-sitter this is like a working holiday, you choose the person or couple you want to house-sit and prepare a list of things for them to do and they look after your home and pets while you are away.

**How do you benefit?**

By registering on our HouseSitMatch network it means you can get to know people



**This gorgeous cat and the dog Nuka, are looking for sitters this summer.**

who would like to visit your area of Spain and who would house-sit in exchange for free accommodation.

Registered members of the network help each other. It saves both members a lot of money, no hotel fees for the house-sitter, and no pet or paid sitter fees for the owner.

Use the discount coupon code PERFECT20 when you register online to get the 20 per cent off any registration plan.

**What do you need to do?**

- If you have pets and need house-sitters, register on our site and provide photos and general information about your location and your assignment. If you register as a premium

homeowner for £79 per year we help you at every step.

- If you have experience with home and pet care and want to house-sit abroad, register as a house-sitter, build a profile with photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners. Choose a premium plan for £79 per year and you can build a large profile with more prominence.

**Client testimonial**

*I am very satisfied with this company. The help I have received has been first class. It is very professionally run and organised. I would recommend it.*

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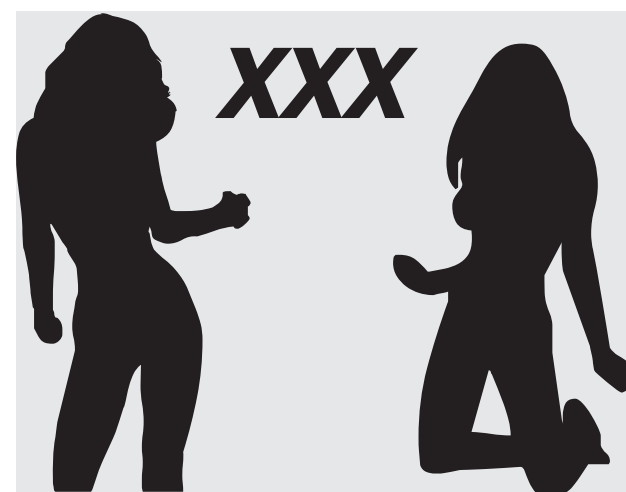
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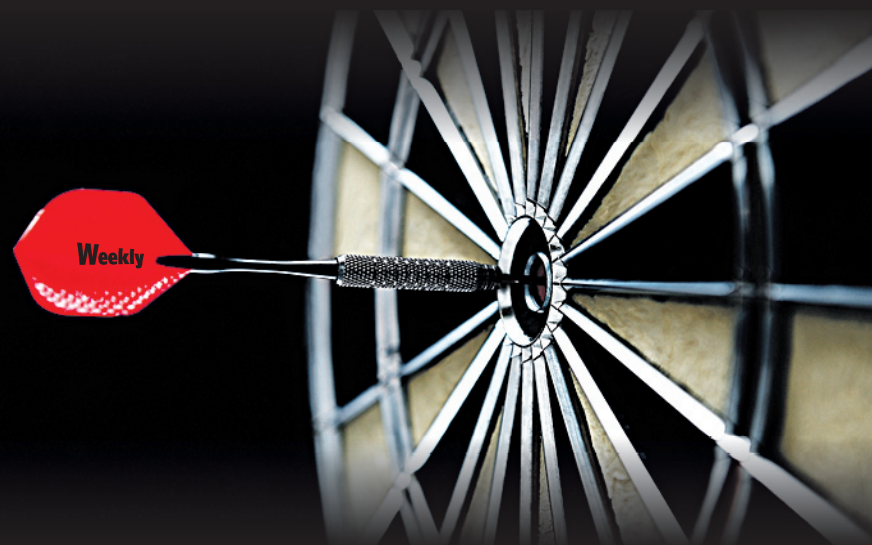
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## MOTURING FACT

*The top speed at the world's first real automobile race in 1895 was just 15 mph.*

# Jaguar reveal new electric I-PACE

JAGUAR has revealed its first battery operated vehicle, the I-PACE, reportedly as a direct competitor to the Tesla Model X.

First debuted as a concept in 2016, the I-PACE made its official public debut at the Geneva Motor Show on Tuesday.

The brand new I-PACE from the British car giants can reportedly accelerate from 0-100 km/h in just 4.8 seconds while one full charge provides a range of 480 km (298 miles) which the company claim can be topped up from 0-80 per cent in just 45 minutes.

There are five full seats, innovative storage and a substantial rear loadspace, while the I-PACE also delivers all-surface, all-weather drivability.

Its 90 kwh battery is made up of high energy density lithium-ion, which supports longevity as well as periods of sustained maximum power with the car's total output registering at 395 bhp and 696 Nm of torque.



**I-PACE: JAGUAR'S first battery operated vehicle.**

The I PACE also features a 'Touch Pro Duo infotainment system' which makes it simple to control all the car's technologies. 4G Wi-Fi capability is standard and a host of connectivity additions mean it's easy to keep in touch with the digital world.

Jaguar's design director, Ian Calum, told Top Gear: "What I im-

mediately saw as a designer was opportunity. We've done the long bonnet, big engine thing, quite a few times actually, and we've done all these sports cars. I've got that out my system now.

"The shape of this has been in my head for a long time. How could you do a mid-engined family car?

Well you can't because you've got to put the children in the back, so this was my opportunity. It just unshackles you from so many things."

Prices reportedly begin at just over €66,000 (£58,995) with orders now being accepted.

## Tanks for the memories!

A TANK said to have been used in the Gulf War during the early 1990's is going up for sale online.

The Sultan Armoured Command Tank, which has reportedly seen active military service in the last 30 years, will be put up for sale on eBay for just €19,000 (£17,000).

Built in 1979, the tank is fitted with a Jaguar XJ6 5.9-litre petrol engine and has a top speed of approximately 77 km/ph (48 mph).

Named the 'Ypres' after the famous Belgian town from the Second World War, the tank weighs more than 8,300 kilos but can be driven on the road; provided the driver completes a two-day H licence course for tracked vehicles.

Seller, Gavin Mayall, told British media: "As tanks go the Sultan family is considered to be very manoeuvrable and agile... and can be accurately driven by almost anyone, all that is required to drive on the road is a two-day course for an H licence.

"She was built in 1979 and was fitted with the lovely Jaguar XJ6 straight six petrol engine.

"The UK military converted the tank to diesel and she was retrofitted with the highly desirable 5.9-litre engine.

"There is some evidence of yellow paint beneath the green paint so she's been somewhere hot possibly the Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan."

## ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

VOLVO'S XC60 has recently won the overall UK Car of the Year title and after just a few minutes behind the wheel, you discover why.

The XC60 is Volvo's best-selling car ever, and the latest version of this premium mid-size SUV impresses with its elegant styling, prestige look and sheer presence. It is also laden with advanced safety and connectivity features.

Prices start at €42,175 (£37,205) for a Momentum model which has standard features including all-wheel drive and auto transmission, sat-nav, leather-faced seating, powered tailgate, dual-zone climate control, large touchscreen, connectivity, plus safety kit which includes pedestrian, cyclist and animal detection, emergency steering assist, auto emergency braking, and auto steering assistance if you start to drift out of lane.

There are petrol, diesel and plug-in hybrid models and my D4 Momentum Pro version came with a 190 hp 2.0 litre diesel engine delivering a nippy 0-100 kph time of 7.9 seconds, top speed of 204 kph (127

## Volvo XC60 D4 Momentum Pro

mph) and fuel economy of 19.6 kpl (55.4 mpg).

Extra features on the Pro model include heated steering wheel, wiper blades and windscreen, cornering headlights and powered driver's seat with memory function. With other options including panoramic sunroof, all-round parking camera and auto parking, total price was €52,349 (£46,180).

The cabin is beautifully designed and finished with premium materials and has a wow factor often lacking in German rivals. Seating is comfortable, controls well-positioned for easy use, and accommodation is spacious front and rear.

The large 505 litre boot expands to 1,432 litres with rear seats folded. My only minor negative was that the rear doors need to open a little wider for improved access, they seem rather narrow.

On the road, the XC60 is

quiet and refined, with smooth power delivery and composed handling. It provides an effortless driving experience.

Rivals in this class include the

new Jaguar F-Pace, BMW X3 and Audi Q5, but the XC60 offers a fresh contemporary Scandinavian design which makes it distinctly different and very appealing.

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# Springing forward with the CCC of A

*Motoring correspondent Ian Giles reports on the latest news from the Andalucia Classic Car Club, the most successful such society in the area and probably in Spain with over 600 members.*



**B**USINESS as usual for the CCC of A. Always busy the Club has just had its March dinner at Treetops Restaurante at El Chaparral which, as always, was excellent. Well attended and with great food, wines and amazing service.

This coming Saturday, the Club has a classic car run and lunch to look forward to. Organised by Stuart Sandon and Rob Walker this promises to be a great day out. The start will be from Venta Los Morenos, just on the outskirts of Alhaurin El Grande, opposite the BP garage there. The finish will be at Simbads beach restaurant near Elviria which is always excellent and a very good menu has been selected by the guys. Cars will depart at 11.00am with signing on and registration done beforehand. Non-members are most welcome to come along and see the cars and enjoy coffee or breakfast.

## Changes to Motoring Law in Spain

I have tried to keep readers 'up to speed' with changes in motoring law in Spain, especially when it applies specifically to classic cars and classic car owners.

**MINTY FRESH:** An oldie but a goodie.



Thanks to our friends at Lifestyle Group we have regular input of such useful information. There is some particularly useful information here that will be music to the ears of owners, and more important to future owners, of American classic cars.

This is what they have to tell us:

## Motor & Driving Law Changes in 2018

Last year several changes to traffic rules were proposed aimed at reducing road traffic accidents, and the risk of serious injury or death. Many of these will be coming into effect in May this year, and we've picked out a few which may affect owners of Classic Cars in Spain.

### ITV

This could make things easier for Classic Car owners. When Classic Cars need repairs, owners can find themselves restricted with choice of who they can go to and may have to take the car to a specialist who might be some distance from where they live.

In the unfortunate event of an ITV fail, if you need to send your vehicle to a non-local specialist to fix the issue



**TEMPTING TROUBLE:** For any budding Steve McQueens.

causing the fail, the vehicle re-test can now be done at any ITV station.

Not having to take the vehicle back to the original ITV station it failed for the re-test, provides flexibility and convenience for anyone needing to re-test their vehicle, and for Classic Car owners being able to have the re-test done local to the garage carrying out the repair work, also makes it easier to have their specialist mechanic or vehicle technician close to hand when the re-test is done. Useful in the event of further issues arising.

**RUBY IN THE SMOKE:** Perfect for a sunny day.



## Historical vehicles

Classic 'historical' registered vehicles will be allowed to carry a maximum of five occupants, and those that do not have seats belts are to be limited to 80km/h.

'Historical' vehicles with lateral

(side facing) rear seats, are to have the use of those seats prohibited when the vehicle is moving. A variation of this rear seat use restriction will specifically apply to auto caravans, and in some cases will restrict use of seats in these types of classic vehicles, to the driver and front passenger.

to 'Historical' plates in its original form, ie no EU conformity modifications, such as changing the lights will be required.

The dropping of the conformity requirement, makes the import and registration of American Classics a lot easier and also removes what is currently a significant part of the cost.

If you have any questions regarding any of these pending changes and your Classic Car in Spain, feel free to get in touch.

IF you would like to know more, or have a chat with classics specialist, Chris Goodacre, then these are the contact details for Lifestyle Group:

(+34) 951 775 544 / (+44) 033 0001 0777 or email: [classics@lifestylegroup.es](mailto:classics@lifestylegroup.es)

There is also a useful website you can visit: <http://lifestylegroup.es/classic-car-historical-rules-change>.

That's all from me for now, you might be interested to know that I am writing this from a ho-

tel room in Geneva, having been caught out by severe weather problems in the Alps with cars off the road everywhere. Roads impassable, diversions everywhere and nothing but snow and ice! Just like my rallying days!

## American Classics

A potentially very useful change here for American Classic lovers. You will be able to bring an original American Classic to Spain and register it on-

*Ian Giles*  
MOTORING

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



La Liga Preview

# Barcelona look to continue title march in Malaga

BARCELONA travel to Malaga on Saturday as top meets bottom of the table with just 11 games of the La Liga season left to play.

The Catalan giants moved eight points clear after securing victory in their top of the table clash with Atletico on Sunday but will have one eye on Wednesday's Champions League tie against Chelsea as they head to La Rosaleda.

A stark contrast to Saturday's opponents, with Malaga currently finding themselves rooted to the bottom of the league, eight points adrift of safety and without a win since December 10.

The race for European football continues as fourth placed Valencia travel to fifth placed Sevilla.

Sevilla, who currently sit eight points behind Valencia, kept their faint hopes of a top-four finish alive with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday and will look to increase their hold on fifth with a win against their rivals in the race for the Champions League.

That is provided that Villarreal fail to



MAGIC: Messi scored his 600th career goal in the win over Atletico.

find a way past relegation threatened Las Palmas on Sunday.

Las Palmas held on for a memorable draw against Barcelona last week, but were beaten by a last gasp goal against Celta Vigo on Monday to remain in La Liga's bottom three just a point behind Levante.

The Gran Canarian side could drop to 19th place before they kick off if Clarence Seedorf's Deportivo La Coruña manage to pick up three points against Girona tomorrow (Friday).

Deportivo are yet to win under Seedorf but have managed two draws in their last three games, whereas Girona are looking for their third win in a row.

Weekend's fixtures in full

- Tomorrow (Friday)
- Girona vs Deportivo La Coruña
- Saturday
- Eibar vs Real Madrid
- Sevilla vs Valencia
- Getafe vs Levante
- Malaga vs Barcelona
- Sunday
- Espanyol vs Real Sociedad
- Atletico Madrid vs Celta Vigo
- Las Palmas vs Villarreal
- Athletic Bilbao vs Leganes
- Monday
- Alaves vs Real Betis

Premier League preview

# Derby day could decide second place

by Ben Park

MANCHESTER UNITED will look to continue their good run of form as they host red-hot Liverpool on Saturday in a match that may determine second place in the Premier League.

Second placed United produced a stunning comeback on Monday as they came from 2-0 down to secure a last-gasp 3-2 victory thanks to Nemanja Matić's world class winner.

While Manchester City continue their march towards the Premier League title, the race for second is still very much in the balance with bitter rivals United and Liverpool both in the hunt, with Tottenham right on their tails.

After returning to second following their dramatic win over Crystal Palace, another win on Saturday for United would see them move five points clear with just eight games left to play, but they will undoubtedly have one eye on Tuesday's second leg Champions League fixture against Sevilla at Old Trafford, having drawn 0-0 in Andalucia two weeks ago.

Fourth placed will look to keep up the pressure on their North-West rivals as they head to Bournemouth.

Bournemouth have lost just one in their last six but have also only won one during that time, whereas Tottenham



RIVALRY: Jurgen Klopp faces off against Jose Mourinho.

have won four and drawn two in the same period.

Elsewhere, Arsenal will be desperate for three points as they host Watford at the Emirates on Sunday.

The Gunners play AC Milan later this evening (Thursday) in the Europa League Round of 16 after their fourth consecutive loss for the first time since 2002 as they went down 2-1 to Brighton on Saturday, leaving them 13 points outside the Champions League places.

At the other end of the table, Newcastle host Southampton with both teams sitting worryingly close to the relegation zone. Newcastle sit just two points above the relegation zone while Southampton remain just a point above after both sides won just one in their last six.

Crystal Palace will look to bounce

back from their second late defeat in a row to Manchester United as they head to Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Weekend fixtures in full

- Saturday
- Manchester United vs Liverpool
- Everton vs Brighton and Hove Albion
- Huddersfield Town vs Swansea City
- Newcastle United vs Southampton
- West Bromwich Albion vs Leicester City
- Sunday
- West Ham United vs Burnley
- Chelsea vs Crystal Palace
- Arsenal vs Watford
- Bournemouth vs Tottenham Hotspur
- Monday
- Stoke City vs Manchester City

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	27	21	6	0	70	13	69
2 • Atlético	27	18	7	2	45	12	61
3 • Real Madrid	27	16	6	5	65	29	54
4 • Valencia	27	16	5	6	52	30	53
5 • Sevilla	27	14	3	10	36	40	45
6 • Villarreal	27	12	5	10	36	32	41
7 • Girona	27	11	7	9	38	36	40
8 • Eibar	27	11	6	10	34	39	39
9 • Celta	27	11	5	11	45	39	38
10 • Betis	27	11	4	12	43	52	37
11 • Getafe	27	9	9	9	33	25	36
12 • R. Sociedad	27	9	6	12	49	48	33
13 • Leganés	27	9	6	12	23	32	33
14 • Athletic	27	7	11	9	27	31	32
15 • Espanyol	27	7	11	9	24	33	32
16 • Alavés	27	10	1	16	24	39	31
17 • Levante	27	3	12	12	22	42	21
18 • Las Palmas	27	5	5	17	20	55	20
19 • Deportivo	27	4	7	16	25	57	19
20 • Málaga	27	3	4	20	16	43	13

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	29	25	3	1	83	20	78
2 • M. United	29	19	5	5	56	22	62
3 • Liverpool	29	17	9	3	67	32	60
4 • Tottenham H.	29	17	7	5	55	24	58
5 • Chelsea	29	16	5	8	50	26	53
6 • Arsenal	29	13	6	10	52	41	45
7 • Burnley	29	10	10	9	24	26	40
8 • Leicester City	29	9	10	10	41	42	37
9 • Watford	29	10	6	13	39	47	36
10 • Brighton	29	8	10	11	28	38	34
11 • Everton	29	9	7	13	33	49	34
12 • Bournemouth	29	8	9	12	34	44	33
13 • Swansea City	29	8	6	15	25	42	30
14 • West Ham Utd.	29	7	9	13	36	54	30
15 • Huddersfield Town	29	8	6	15	25	50	30
16 • Newcastle United	29	7	8	14	27	40	29
17 • Southampton	29	5	13	11	29	41	28
18 • Crystal Palace	29	6	9	14	27	46	27
19 • Stoke City	29	6	9	14	28	54	27
20 • West Bromwich	29	3	11	15	22	43	20

# Game, Set, Match!

## Bautista Agut wins first ATP crown

SPANIARD Roberto Bautista Agut claimed his first ATP 500 Series title after a 6-3, 6-4 win over Lucas Pouille in Dubai.

Bautista Agut, who came into the match having recently won New Zealand's ASB Classic, took the upper hand early on in the match as he converted his fourth break point in the third game of the first set.

The Spaniard had only dropped one set en route to the final and continued to control the match, fighting off a break point before securing the first set in just 34 minutes.

And despite dropping a break in the second set, Bautista Agut battled back immediately to secure a

break of his own and dominated his own serve from then on to end the match.

Speaking to British media, the World No 16 said: "I was a bit nervous to close out the match. I have been working a lot this month and I was prepared to manage all the emotions and I did very well in the last game," said Bautista Agut.

"This tournament is very special. It is for sure going to be (always) in my heart and I am so happy I have won a 500 event.

"Lucas is a really great player, he has a great future and is playing unbelievable tennis in the last month. I want to wish him good luck for the rest of the season."





MANCHESTER CITY recorded a Premier League record 902 passes in their 1-0 win over Chelsea at the weekend.

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# Going from La Liga

## President plans to play games abroad

LA LIGA President Javier Tebas has said that he remains determined to play at least one La Liga game abroad a season.

Tebas reportedly believes that playing 'one or two at most' Spanish top flight games abroad every season will improve the league's global popularity.

The Premier League had a similar plan 10 years ago, but the idea of a '39th game' played outside England was met with fierce opposition from fans.

Despite this, Tebas remains enthusiastic about the idea of playing one or two games a year

outside of Spain and remains determined to become the first country to do so.

Speaking at the Web Sport Congress, the 55-year-old said: "It's a difficult and complicated issue because there are many things that need to be ironed out.

"But we want to be the first league that plays an official game outside its usual territory.

"We're not talking about playing all 380 games per season abroad; it will be one per season or two at most. We are now trying to get clubs to agree to the decision."

La Liga's formidable top-two, Real Madrid and Barcelona, were involved in the first 'Clasico' played on foreign soil last year, as they played a friendly in front of a full 65,000 seater Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida in July.

May's El Clasico has now been scheduled for May 6 at 8.45pm to reportedly appeal to the American Market but La Liga's Head of Global Communications, Joris Evers, expects neither team to be involved in an official game outside of Spain in the future.

# The pain in Spain

## Sprinter disqualified after 'winning title'

SPRINTER Oscar Husillos suffered a moment to forget at the World Indoor Championships after he suffered disqualification in the final.

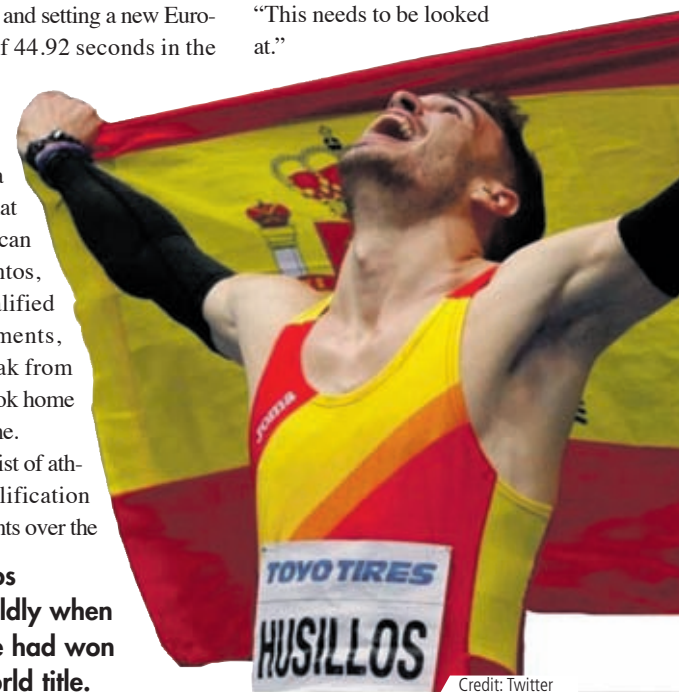
The Spaniard celebrated wildly after seeming to secure his maiden indoor 400m gold medal in Birmingham, and setting a new European indoor record of 44.92 seconds in the process.

But his celebrations were cut short as he was later told during a television interview that he, alongside Dominican sprinter Luguelin Santos, had both been disqualified due to lane infringements, meaning Pavel Maslak from the Czech Republic took home the title for the third time.

They joined a long list of athletes to suffer disqualification due to lane infringements over the

course of the three-day competition, leaving experts scathing and claiming that the issue needs to be addressed.

In commentary for the BBC, three-time Olympic gold medallist Michael Johnson said: "This needs to be looked at."



**UPSET:** Husillos celebrated wildly when he thought he had won the 400m World title.

Credit: Twitter

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