

Sex pest arrest

POLICE have detained a 'cyber-predator' who allegedly groomed underage children online.

The Madrid-based 40-year-old now faces trial for corrupting a minor after reportedly arranging to travel to Malaga to meet a boy aged under 12 for sex.

The computer scientist was arrested after the victim's mother told police her son had been engaging in explicit sexual conversations with the man on a social network who had encouraged him to provide pornographic photographs.

Officers made various attempts to find the accused, initially investigating three other people living in various parts of Spain. Police then began to suspect the man they were looking for had high levels of computer skills which he used to cover up his activities, deflecting blame onto third parties.

Once they uncovered the alleged culprit, officers raided his home, reportedly uncovering computers, hard drives, cameras and digital devices which are now being analysed.

Police said the first data recovered from the technology points to the accused sharing paedophilic images with his victim. Officers added they found a large number of paedophile images amongst the seized software with victims ranging from 11 to 17 years old.

Car crash horror

One badly hurt in pile-up

By Sally Underwood

A three vehicle pile-up has left one person seriously injured on Torrox Costa.

The driver of one of the cars remains in a serious condition in hospital suffering from multiple injuries while two others are said to have been mildly injured.

The crash took place in the heart of Torrox Costa at a roundabout connecting the inland road to the coastal highway outside an Aldi supermarket.

One man, the most seriously injured, was said to have lost control of his Renault Clio as he made his way along the road, hitting two cars travelling in the opposite direction.

The man, who is a well-known resident of Torrox,



Photo credit: Malaga/Twitter

ACCIDENT SHOCK: The driver was believed to have lost control at high speed.

is said to have come to a stop overturned on the pavement after hitting the other two cars at around 8pm. The driver, aged around 30, was said to have been travelling downhill at high speed before

losing control of his car.

An ambulance transferred the man to the Axarquia Regional Hospital while members of the Local Police, Guardia Civil and Trafico teams blocked off traffic and cleared the

scene. Two lanes of traffic were closed off leading to heavy delays.

Accidents at this roundabout are said to be common as drivers often break the 40-kilometre an hour speed limit in place there.

Water cheer

LA VIÑUELA reservoir is no longer on drought alert after rainfall brought its levels to 57 billion litres.

The reservoir, which had been at drought level for the past nine months, now has the same water quantity it did before the alert last year.

Jose Fiscal, Minister for Environment and Territorial Planning, explained, "There is more water than a month ago in the reservoir." Speaking about softening restrictions of irrigating, Fiscal added, "of course we are going to review restrictions."

Following drought warnings, Axarquia's farmers had been forced to dramatically reduce the amount of water they gave their crops. The problem also saw water company Emasa channelling 10,000 cubic metres of drinking water a day to the La Viñuela reservoir.

Viñuela's water levels before this month's heavy rainfall sat at around 22 per cent with only 35 cubic hectometres remaining. Since early January, Emasa has 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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NEWS EXTRA**No time to spare**

DAYLIGHT saving time starts this weekend, with clocks going forward by an hour at 1am on Saturday, meaning we will lose an hour of sleep, but benefit from an earlier sunrise and sunset until October.

Appy tax

THE Spanish Tax Agency has released a mobile phone app - available by searching 'Agencia Tributaria' on both Google Play and Apple app stores - to help citizens submit their tax returns, this year's campaign running from April 4 to June 27.

By the book

THE Euro Weekly News Facebook page has soared past 25,000 'likes,' a year-on-year leap of more than 31 per cent, as the EWN website and social media continue to demonstrate rapid growth in 2018.

(W)hole lot of workby **Sally Underwood**

THE damaged mountain road between Salares and Archez will be closed for another month.

The provincial council has announced works to the collapsed road will take at least another month, weather conditions permitting.

Elias Bendodo, President of the Provincial Council, visited the sink hole on the MA-4108 alongside Carmen Moreno, mayor of Archez, Obdulio Perez, mayor of Competa, and Jorge Martin, mayor of Canillas de Albaida. It is expected the project to repair the road will cost around €250,000.

The damage occurred earlier this month when the road's tarmac dramatically fell away in one section following heavy rainfall, leaving drivers unable to cross. Politicians and residents are now calling on the governing Partido Popular council to repair the damage "immediately," claiming the road had been "abandoned."



Credit: benaimadena/Facebook

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HOLEY MOLEY: Part of the MA-4108 fell away in poor weather.

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 rescue the driver.

All smoke, no fire

A JUDGE has declined to prosecute 60 firefighters accused of derelicting their duties.

The firemen will now be able to return to work as normal following an investigation lasting almost a year.

The workers had been accused of the crimes of abandonment of public service and denial of assistance after refusing to attend to five fires while on strike.

A Malaga court has now closed the case against them after a judge found 'the conduct investigated should not have criminal consequences.'

The senior lawyer did criticise the management of Malaga's fire department in cases when workers are on strike, however.

He warned, "there is no protocol whatsoever, neither in terms of how to locate staff and get in touch with them nor in terms of whether they must be available or on what schedule."

The firefighters had been investigated after failing to attend five blazes in one day last June.

According to reports, on June 27 five fires broke out simultaneously around the province. Sixty-one firemen were all called and asked to come to work but only one turned up. Twelve said they could not because of child care or doctor's appointments, three said they were out of the area, one refused to go, two were on leave and the other 42 did not pick up their phones or return the call.

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**P38**

Help for the elderly

MALAGA City Council has provided 38 new houses for the elderly. The sheltered homes are located in the previous Municipal Centre on Calle Carrill. The 1,406 square metre building will offer residents an average of 37 square metres of space per home.

Elderly abuse

A MAN and a woman have been arrested in Malaga for allegedly abusing a couple in their 80's. The 58 and 57-year-old are said to have abused the woman's parents and were only discovered after friends and neighbours raised the alarm.

Electioneering

MALAGA'S Ministry of Health has been accused of 'electioneering' in timing their announcement of a new hospital in Malaga. Isabel Albas, a spokeswoman for Ciudadanos Andalucia, said "it is curious that the Minister for Health announced it in 2018, one year before the elections."

False accusation

ELEVEN people have been arrested in Malaga Province for filing false police reports since the beginning of the year. One person had told police he had been robbed to collect money from his insurers. Police are reminding people it is a crime to file a false police report.

Missing person

A MISSING woman has been found with help from a group of Malaga taxi drivers. The Brazilian tourist, who was visiting the city for the day on a cruise, became separated from her husband as she toured Malaga. The Alzheimer's sufferer was found wandering the streets and reunited with her husband.

Spring break!

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 6

TOTAL WIPEOUT: Huge waves batter the Galician coast.

SPRING has sprung, but the winter chill lingers on.

Much of Spain has spent the week in the grip of a deep Siberian cold front that brought blizzards, strong winds and giant waves.

The north and centre of the country was badly affected by snow, with almost 200 stretches of road closed and schools shut down in Galicia, Cantabria, Asturias, Castilla y Leon, Castilla-La

Mancha and Cataluña.

Meanwhile a second storm battered southern Spain, with five-metre waves and gale-force winds lashing Andalucia and the Balearic Islands.

A motorist was killed in Jaen Province before a Guardia Civil officer lost his life after being swept away by flood waters while rescuing three people in Guillena, Sevilla.

The Arctic blast saw tempera-

tures plummet, with the mercury in some regions plunging to between 10-15°C below average for the time of year.

And the freezing snap came as the country said an official goodbye to winter on Tuesday, the first day of spring.

Falling on the vernal equinox, the date on which day and night both last for around 12 hours, it usually takes place on March 19, 20 or 21.

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100

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On the wing



Photo credit Matt Ford/Shutterstock

IN A FLAP: A huge group of white storks arrives at Tarifa in Cadiz and (inset) a short-toed snake eagle makes the crossing.

It is one of Europe's greatest natural spectacles. And the annual spring migration of millions of birds from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar to breed in Europe is in full swing.

With just 14 kilometres separating the two continents at the Strait, the area serves up ideal conditions for huge numbers of large soaring species from storks to raptors including eagles, kites, and vultures.

This is because they are not strong flyers, and rely on thermals - the columns of rising air that form above the land as it warms in the sun - to travel.

But thermals do not form over water, meaning the birds have to use the narrowest hop possible, rising as high as possible in Morocco before gliding over to Spain.

Spread over several months, peak numbers are observed from March to May, and on a good day it is possible to see literally thousands of birds of prey, storks and smaller birds make the crossing.

Although some stay in Spain, many continue on

their epic journeys to northern Europe, Greenland or Russia, having already crossed the Sahara, the world's largest desert, with some racking up more than 5,000 kilometres.

But there is concern that the migration is in danger, with the numbers of birds returning to their breeding grounds plummeting in recent years, with some species in danger of disappearing completely.

Threats from hunting to illegal poisoning, power lines, wind farms and draining of wetlands have had a devastating effect on populations, which are thought to have halved to 2.1 billion since the 1950s.

Yet it is still a not-to-be-missed extravaganza for nature buffs.

There are a number of dedicated migration watchpoints along the coast between Gibraltar and the kite surfing mecca of Tarifa, Cadiz, and the website www.euroweeklynnews.com is a good source of information should you wish to take your seat for one of the greatest shows on earth.

POLL OF THE WEEK

In the wake of national protests, should Spain introduce life prison sentences for a wider range of crimes?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following recent parliamentary debates, should Spain decriminalise insulting the crown?

Yes **67%**

No **33%**

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TOP 5 stories



COUPLE: Must pay £15,000 in costs to Tui for fraudulent claim.

- 8,339** views Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 for fake claim
- 8,132** views Police find body of missing eight-year-old boy in Spain
- 5,780** views Girl who died in window fall was daughter of woman arrested with body of dead boy in car
- 5,734** views Father's girlfriend confesses that she killed Gabriel Cruz Ramirez
- 4,227** views Drunk and aggressive Brit pair held after clash with airport police

**For week 12 - 19 March*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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NEWS EXTRA

Fighting for free speech

A POLITICAL PARTY in Rincon de la Victoria is complaining it has had its rights to free speech curtailed by a regulation preventing criticism of the council.

Better water

A POLITICAL PARTY in Velez-Malaga has called on water company Aqualia to improve its supply after it was accused of containing an 'excess of lime and earth.'

Alarm bells

TWO people have been arrested after the tablet which they stole gave them away using its tracking beacon. The thieves were nabbed after the device's owner used software to emit a high-pitched noise.

OUR VIEW

NGOs must boost employees' rights

THE revelations about charity employees' wages in Spain are nothing short of a disgrace.

Full-time workers for giant non-profit organisations (NGOs) including the Red Cross, the country's biggest, can earn less than €800 per month gross, while managers bring home €3,500 plus.

The third sector rakes in €14 billion annually, representing 1.5 per cent of Spain's gross domestic product.

So why can it not afford to pay its staff a decent wage?

NGOs are by definition supposed to balance investments against revenue, but the behaviour of some suggests they are becoming ever more corporate.

And in a sector which aims to tug at the heart strings as it appeals for donations, there is an irony in the fact that many of its employees are victims of the same human rights issues they are battling to overturn elsewhere.

One anonymous staff member told Spanish media: "One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

This smacks of a worryingly institutionalised corporate approach by charity bosses in Spain, and suggests that NGOs may to an extent perpetuate the problems they were set up to solve.

Charity wage woe goes on - page 18

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Celeb focus



BESOTTED: Liam and Zaidi.

Benidorm love story

TWO members of the Benidorm cast have revealed they are a real life couple.

Adam Gillen plays Liam Conroy while Laila Zaidi joined the latest series as Rob Dawson's girlfriend Cyd.

And the pair appear to have got together while filming last summer, with a slew of social media selfies showing them together, including a recent jaunt to paradise island Mauritius.

Fun in the sun

IT'S a coming together of reality TV royalty.

Former Ex on the Beach and TOWIE star Megan McKenna and Love Island hunk 'Muggy' Mike Thalassitis have confirmed they are an item.

It comes after a series of racy snaps appeared of the pair as they holidayed together in Tenerife.

Minogue in vogue



Photo credit: Twitter

SHE'S the pint-sized pop star on a whistle stop tour to promote her new album.

And Australian singer Kylie Minogue, 49, was all smiles as she stepped off the plane at Barcelona Airport clad in a fluffy white jumper.

The *Can't Get You Out Of My Head* hitmaker was in Spain ahead of her 14th long player Golden hitting the shops on April 6.

GOLDEN GIRL: Kylie's career has spanned three decades.

Photo credit: Jerzy Dudek/Instagram



FULL SPANGLISH: Jerzy Dudek.

Footie star's brekky quiz

HE'S the Liverpool legend who saved two penalties in a Champions League final shootout.

And Jerzy Dudek, 44, proved he is the master of confusion after showing off his eccentric breakfast choice while holidaying in Spain.

The Polish goalkeeper famously employed the 'spaghetti legs' tactic used by former Reds 'keeper Bruce Grobbelaar to distract opposition players during penalties at the end of the 2005 final against AC Milan, which Liverpool won 3-2.

And he warmed up for a round of golf in La Manga, Murcia, by tucking into a peculiar combination of baked beans, croissants, salami and half a cherry tomato on a cocktail stick.

He even posed with the meal before posting a snap on social media, captioned: 'What is your breakfast like? Mine today is to give a good result in the field.'

Reality lovebirds frolic on the beach



Photo credit: Metisse Campbell/Instagram

SURVIVORS: Metisse and Tristan.

THEY hit it off while competing against each other in the South African savannah on *Survival of the Fittest*. And Metisse Campbell, 21, and Tristan Jones, 20, showed they are still going strong after being snapped on a Spanish beach.

The reality stars jetted off for their first holiday as a couple in the wake of their appearance on the ITV2 show dubbed the 'ultimate battle of the sexes.'

While Tristan donned a pair of pink swimming shorts, Metisse sent temperatures soaring after slipping into a revealing red bikini.

She was crowned the fittest of the winning girls' team at the end of the series and chose to split her £40,000 winnings with her teammates.

The pair were both models before their TV stint.

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Flea nuisance

PARENTS are complaining their children are receiving flea bites at their school.

Angry parents are calling on the Augusto Santiago Bellido School in Velez-Malaga to find a lasting solution to the problem after children have been complaining of flea bites for almost a decade.

Students at the public school, known locally as Reñidero, have been left requiring medical attention after three children were bitten last week alone. Irene Peña, President of the school's parents' association, claimed, "Since January there are cases almost every week."

Parents protested the ongoing problem last November by taking their children out of school for a day and the school was reportedly fumigated, however the problem seems to continue.

Last year, some children were reportedly even left needing antibiotic treatment for their bites.

The parents' association claims the plot opposite the school is used by dog walkers and their animals are often allowed to leave mess on the land. They say this attracts fleas which in turn enter the playground and bite their children.

After the school was fumigated over the Christmas holidays last year a representative from the parents' association said, "Something is failing on the part of the administration.

"It is not logical that we have to be complaining about bites every now and then."

Budget crunch time

NERJA'S governing team is putting its revised budget before the council for a vote.

The tripartite, made up of PSOE Izquierda Unida (IU) and EVA-Podemos, is hoping opposing parties will support their proposal despite failing to secure approval for its budget in February.

The council will meet today to decide the fate of Nerja's financial future after failure to approve a budget last year left politicians unable to move forward with several planned projects.

A spokesperson for the opposing Ciudadanos party expressed optimism the bill would pass this time, explaining, "There have been changes since the last draft." Another opposition party, Partido Popular (PP), were not as hopeful however, saying they had "detected a series of errors" in the draft budget.

In February it was revealed the coalition team faced resistance from opposing parties over the €27.5 million document. A similar situation last year saw



Photo credit: Lola Sanchez Noguera/Facebook

LOLA SANCHEZ: Criticised the council's haste in regards to the budget.

Nerja's 2016 budget continue into 2017 after politicians failed to agree a new 2017 budget. Commenting on the council's 2018 draft budget one councillor, Lola

Sanchez, criticised the coalition for "demanding approval in a hurry in just five days without the analysis such an important document requires."

NEWS EXTRA

Lending a hand

COUNCILLORS in Rincon de la Victoria have signed up to a scheme to help the environment by giving grants out to various bodies wishing to improve the look of the town.

Minor theft

A 21-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for using a child aged under nine years old to help him steal in Malaga. Police say the girl was discovered trying to steal a purse in a shopping centre and pointed the finger at the man when questioned.

Fibre optic

SUPER fast internet will soon be available in El Trapiche, Triana and La Zorrilla. Around 530 homes in those areas will be affected once fibre optic broadband goes in from April.

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Photo credit: Cruise Planners/Facebook

SETTING SAIL: Seabourn Encore made its first ever trip to Malaga last year.

Mega rich

MALAGA Port has opened a contest to find a company to build a new mega yacht marina.

Competitors will have three months to submit their plans to the Port Authority who will then decide which company will construct the new space.

The marina is expected to be able to accommodate around 40 boats measuring between 30 and 100 metres in length and 20 metres in width.

The Port Authority is offering companies the use of 41,484 square metres of water and 4,830 of land to build and use the marina for between six and 20 years in a project costing between €2.5 million and €9.5 million.

Malaga Port is attracting increasing numbers of large boats and cruise ships and last year a new cruise ship, Seabourn Encore, made its first ever trip to the city after visiting Gibraltar.

The luxury ship measures 210 metres long, and can accommodate 640 passengers and 400 crew.

The vessel, belonging to American company, Seabourn Cruise Line, was welcomed by Malaga's Port Authority, the council's department for tourism and company Cruceros Malaga.

The ship's captain was also given a commemorative plaque to mark the inaugural visit at a reception held on board.

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Dirty protest

THE Nerja Sanitation Forum has congratulated politicians for helping works to the town's sewage plants to restart.

The forum expressed its 'satisfaction' the works had begun again 10 months after they were halted due to bankruptcy of the contracting company.

A spokesperson for the body said, "it is only fair to recognise good work and that is why the Sanitation Forum congratulates all the institutions that finally, and after years of delay, have reached a consensus to resume the works.

The works, which had halted at 80 per cent completion last April, resumed again after the Ministry for the Environment

received financial guarantees from the company responsible for the project, Isolux-Cosan-Corviam.

Residents, politicians and businesses had protested over delays in completing the works after the company went bankrupt last year despite assurances to finish the project in mid-2016. The €23.24 million plant is being funded by the Ministry of the Environment, who would not allow works to resume until it was able to confirm Isolux-Cosan-Corviam could honour their commitment.

Nerja is the only large resort in Malaga to still pour untreated sewage into the sea.

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NEWS EXTRA**Concrete action plan**

TORRE DE BENAGALBON is set to benefit from an improved road after Calle Iznate received €37,988.80 in investment for new paving and lighting.

Hash haul

TWO marijuana factories have been brought down in Rincon de la Victoria. Police arrested two men and two women and seized 5,320 grams of hash buds and 1,850 cannabis plants.

Patent sold

A MAN has been investigated in Granada for allegedly selling a patented variety of avocado without permission. The unique crop belongs to a farmer in Velez-Málaga.

Food banks

THE CIUDADANOS party has called on Malaga Council to keep food banks open all year after it emerged 2,200 families rely on the assistance.

EU warrant

AN Estonian man has been arrested in Malaga wanted on an EU arrest warrant from his own country. The man is said to have stolen money and credit cards across several robberies.

Smells bad

RESIDENTS are complaining Malaga's Rio Guadalmedina is beginning to smell. Neighbours say heavy rainfall may have caused sewage to pour into the river.

Sales drop

ONE of Axarquía's biggest exports is facing decline. Sales of papaya have dropped since their peak several years ago leading some producers to abandon the crop.

THE JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA regional government has still not committed to a health centre in Nerja one year after a site was picked out for it.

A delegate from the Junta has said they are now working on adapting the agreed plan and selecting a new location which may then be approved in 2019.

Ana Isabel Gonzalez, Delegate for Health, explained, "We hope

No new health centre

that money can be put aside in the 2019 budgets once the functional plan has been sent to the Ministry in Sevilla and approved."

She added, "We continue taking steps in the right direction and the commitment of the Junta to improv-

ing Nerja's health infrastructure is firm."

The Andalucian Administration, chaired by Susana Diaz, has ruled out running a hospital centre in the municipality. She explained, "We are not in favour of creating small

hospitals, but rather a good network of well-equipped primary care and referral hospitals in with this area."

Nerja's mayor, Rosa Arrabal, expressed confusion over why the Junta was planning on selecting a second site for the healthcare centre after agreeing one last year. She said, "The Board has already informed us that it has accepted the proposal."

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NORWAY



Ice cool

ARTISTS from Chinese city, Harbin constructed a church made entirely out of ice on a ski slope near the village of Beitostolen in an effort to attract more Chinese tourists to Norway's ski resorts.



Credit: Thoughts of Norway/Facebook

CHILLY CHURCH: Tourists observing the new ice building in Beitostolen

Crown taken

NORWAY'S title as the world's happiest country has officially been snatched by Finland, with the winner decided by factors such as good governance, generosity, health and income.

boards 10 years ago, the legislation has allegedly not had any impact.

Listhaug removed a Facebook post that caused controversy by claiming the nation's Labour Party considers 'the rights of terrorists (to be) more important than the security of the nation.'

MP controversy

NORWAY'S Justice Minister Sylvi

Board balance

ALTHOUGH Norway introduced a law that required companies to have at least 40 per cent women on their

GERMANY



Spending up

THE sharpest increase in consumer spending in Germany since 1994 was seen in 2017, according to the Federal Statistics Office, around €1.64 trillion splurged on personal goods, an increase of 3.6 per cent from the previous year.

lor Angela Merkel when he said he believes 'Islam does not belong' to the country in an alleged attempt to win back voters from the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

the US, noting a rise in deaths caused by an addiction to legal painkillers.

Leaders meet

GERMANY'S chancellor Angela Merkel visited Paris to meet with President Emmanuel Macron to discuss EU reforms such as bringing in a common Eurozone finance minister and budget.

Causing conflict

HORST SEEHOFER, Germany's new interior minister, contradicted Chancel-

Opioid crisis

ONE of Germany's leading newspapers claimed the country was on the brink of an opioid epidemic, as has been seen in

FRANCE



Joining forces

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has supported the UK's assertion that Russia was behind the poisoning of a former spy with a nerve agent, saying he plans to 'take action.'

Regal warrant

AN arrest warrant was issued for Princess Hassa bint Salman of the House of Saud, daughter of Saudi Arabia's King Salman, in Paris after she reportedly ordered her bodyguard to assault her decorator at her apartment.

Rail strike

FRENCH rail workers will stage strikes on two days out of five from April until June unless the government drops its plan to overhaul the state-owned operator SNCF which would strip the employees of several benefits.

Bling ring

POLICE have revealed a gang of teenage burglars were behind more than 1,500 break-ins over six months across the south of France looting up to a dozen houses a day.

BELGIUM



Royal visit

KING PHILIPPE and Queen Mathilde of Belgium recently visited Canada for a state visit, marking the first state visit by Belgian royalty since the 1970s.

Beer bother

MONKS from the Belgian village of Westvleteren who allegedly make the best beer in the world were outraged to discover that the Jan Linders supermarket sold bottles at around five times the usual price.

Footie fail

A DUTCH football player who played for Westerlo is suspected of carrying out armed robberies on a casino, a petrol station, a supermarket and two gambling offices in Turnhout.

Easy peasy

THE Belgian parliament has approved a bill that will allow foreign workers to be able to receive their work and residence permits in a single document, helping to speed up the relocation process.

NETHERLANDS



Sleep tight

ONE in five Dutch people have trouble sleeping, according to the national statistics agency CBS, with women, people on low incomes and older people more likely to sleep badly according to the research.

National snide

POPULIST party Leefbaar Rotterdam has claimed it wants to introduce new legislation to stop streets becoming 'un Dutch,' meaning it could prevent halal butchers, phone shops and other 'foreign' stores from opening.

Pot o' gold

WORKERS in the Dutch city of Vianen discovered an earthenware cooking pot containing more than 500 silver and gold coins dating back to the 15th century while carrying out excavation work.

Safety first

DUTCH car insurers have called for a 'black box' to be installed in every vehicle in order to increase traffic safety, make handling damage claims easier and prevent insurance fraud.

SWEDEN



Smart move

SWEDISH banking giant Nordea will move the company's head office from Stockholm to Helsinki so it can be within the European banking union, after 97 per cent of the bank's owners voted in favour.

Close call

MOUNTAIN rescue teams rescued six French tourists who went missing in the Swedish mountains after searching through the night using snowmobiles because the weather was too bad to use a helicopter.

Making progress

NORTH KOREA'S foreign minister Ri Yong-Ho travelled to Sweden for key talks with foreign minister Margot Wallström, to discuss setting up a meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un.

Tongues twisted

FINNISH-SPEAKING Swedes who are the country's largest national minority and are entitled to Finnish lessons in school claim their minority language rights are being threatened with students claiming they are constantly told to stop speaking Finnish.

DENMARK



Migrant halt

NEARLY 5,500 foreign citizens have been refused entry to Denmark at its border with Germany, according to the Danish National Police, since the new controls were brought in at the beginning of 2016.

Debate drama

THE leader of the Danish Social Democrat party is facing criticism after seemingly suggesting a Danish-Somali woman was less entitled to take part in a debate because of her immigrant background.

Family tragedy

A 39-YEAR-OLD man has been found guilty of murdering his wife and three children, after admitting the crimes at the start of his trial, in the Bronshøj neighbourhood near Copenhagen at a Frederiksberg City Court.

Park shooting

A 24-YEAR-OLD man linked to the Loyal to Familia crime gang died after being shot in Valby Park in Copenhagen, but police have declined to comment on whether the incident was connected to any possible connection.

An offer they could refuse

A SPANISH restaurant chain is unable to trademark its name after European judges ruled it could 'shock and offend' people.

It comes after Italy launched a complaint after Spanish chain La Mafia, which runs 42 Italian eateries, applied to trademark the name La Mafia Se Sienta a la Mesa (The Mafia take a Seat at the Table).

But the European Court of Justice said that the Godfather-style branding is not compatible with 'fundamental EU values.'

Ryanair lands new airline

By Matt Ford

RYANAIR has agreed to buy a majority stake in a new Austrian airline founded by former motor racing champion Niki Lauda.

Europe's largest budget carrier will buy an initial 24.9 per cent stake in Laudamotion, which recently regained control of airline Niki from insolvent former owner Air Berlin.

This will rise to 75 per cent 'as soon as possible,' subject to European Union approval, the carriers said in a statement, with Ryanair set to pay a total of around €50 million.

It is the Irish low cost giant's first acquisition since it bought UK airline Buzz from KLM in 2003, closing it down a year later.

It has since tried to take over Aer Lingus and last year pulled out of an auction for Air Berlin last year amid claims that it was rigged in favour of German rival Lufthansa.

Lauda will become chairman of Laudamotion and oversee the company's rebuilding, while Ryanair will provide six crewed aircraft this summer to increase its fleet to 21

planes, with further expansion to 30 jets planned within three years.

Ryanair has reportedly beaten off competition from Lufthansa and British Airways parent IAG to secure the deal, which will see it launch a major push on the German and Austrian markets.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary said in a statement: "This Laudamotion partnership is good news for Austrian and German consumers/visitors who can now look forward to real competition, more choice and lower fares."

€18.8bn deal ends toll war

A POTENTIAL bidding war for Spain's biggest toll road operator has been averted.

It comes after Madrid-based construction firm ACS and Italian company Atlantia - which had been competing separately for months - agreed a joint takeover deal for the Abertis group.

Under the agreed terms, ACS's German arm Hochtief will buy Abertis for €18.18 billion.

But in the final holding, the Italians will own 50 per cent, ACS 30 per cent and Hochtief 20 per cent.

Quote of the Week

"Our concern is the citizens... we're trying to reach an agreement that at least maintains the general economic situation in Gibraltar." Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis discusses Spain's approach to the rock during Brexit negotiations.



Photo credit Viadi Private Islands/Flickr

ISLE TAKE IT: S'Espalmador is popular in summer when tourists head ashore for mud baths (inset).

Protected island sold at discount

A BALEARIC island between Ibiza and Formentera has been sold to a private bidder for €18 million.

An unnamed family from Luxembourg has bagged 137-hectare S'Espalmador after attempts to sell it to Formentera Council failed.

Former owners, Catalan architect Norman Cinnamond and his sister Rosy, confirmed the sale with the price dropped from €24 million after three

years on the market.

The island - which is almost three kilometres long and 800 metres wide - had been owned by the Cinnamond family since 1932.

It boasts a 13-bedroom house, chapel and watchtower, can be reached by foot from Formentera when the tide is low and is part of the protected Las Salinas Natural Park.

In summer it is a popular mooring spot for yachts, and many people head ashore for a mud bath.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Dress to impress

SPANISH clothing giant Inditex, which owns Zara among other brands, has revealed that net profit soared to €3.37 billion in 2017, placing the group ahead of long-term Swedish rival H&M, which posted returns of €1.6 billion.

Samba style

SPANISH energy firm gas Natural Fenosa will sink €95 million into two solar energy projects in Minas Gerais, Brazil, after snapping them up from rival Canadian Solar, with the plants set to become operational before the end of the year.

Anti-social

SPAIN'S data protection agency, AEPD, has slapped Facebook and WhatsApp with €300,000 fines for processing and sharing users' personal data without their consent, with the former currently appealing an earlier €1.2 million sanction for the same offence.

Ikos invests in luxury

INNOVATIVE Greek luxury hotel chain Ikos is to sink €150 million into its first Spanish project.

The company has snapped up the Costa del Sol Princess Hotel in Estepona, Malaga, which will be transformed into its latest 'infinite lifestyle' venture.

The resort will include 400 rooms, eight restaurants, upmarket sports facilities, a theatre, indoor

and outdoor swimming pools, a spa and 70,000 square metres of gardens, Ikos said in a statement.

It will become the brand's fifth hotel and first in Spain, and is set to open in 2020.

Ikos has created a buzz in the industry after redefining the all-inclusive boutique concept, and two of its Greek hotels were ranked in the world's top three in 2017.

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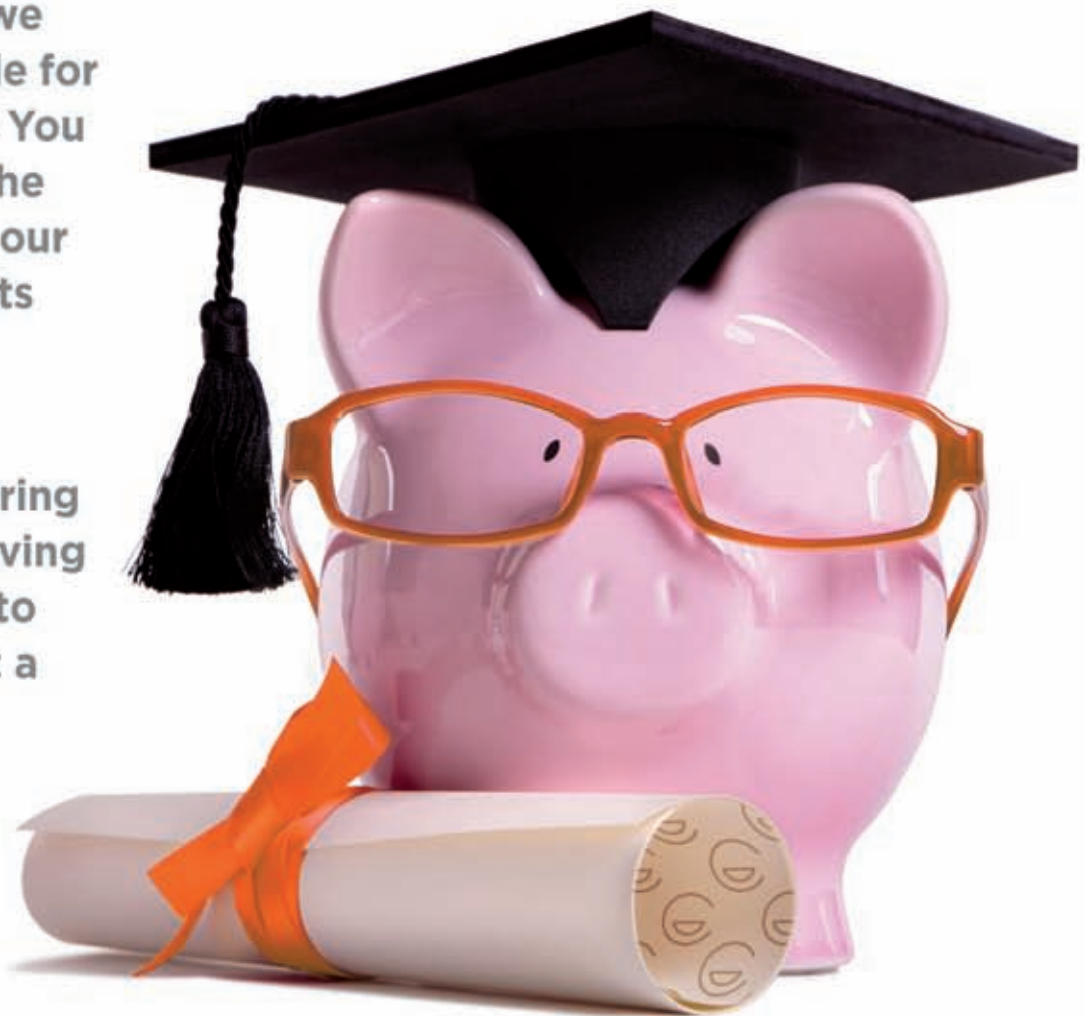
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€14.8bn fraud windfall

'TRIVIAL' DROP AS TAX DODGERS TACKLED

THE battle against fraud in Spain continues.

And the national Tax Agency has revealed that last year it raked in almost €14.8 billion - a year-on-year decrease of €91 million - in sanctions from cases relating to illegal renting of homes and other financial crimes.

The total has plunged for the third consecutive year, after the bureau revealed that it made €14.9 billion in 2016 and €15.7 billion in 2015.

Agency director Santiago Menendez argued that the average income from fraud over the last three years beats that of the previous three by 3.5 per cent, as he said: "The results consolidate the upward trend in recent years... it is a trivial drop with no significant reason."

And the figures still far outstrip the €8 billion earned in 2008, when the Tax Agency employed 2,000 more people and the housing bubble - having yet to burst - fuelled a significant 'underground economy.'

Fines for undeclared rental income shot up to €522 million in 2017, an increase of around 40.5 per cent on 2014, when the agency launched an annual campaign of sending inspectors to suspects' homes.

Among 32,215 visits made by tax inspectors last year, 14,698 were related to non-payment of IVA, the Spanish equivalent to VAT in the UK.

Menendez added that the use of new technology capable of processing big data has allowed investigators to acquire almost €333 million from cases including "aggressive tax planning, 'hidden' companies, buying powers that did not match what was declared and assets abroad."

He explained that thanks to Spain's tax amnesty (a disclosure facility introduced in 2012), plus revelations exposed in the Panama



RICH TWIST: Spain has clamped down on cheats owing more than €1 million - who allegedly include pop star Shakira - says Tax Agency director Santiago Menendez (inset).

Papers and other legal documents, that his agency has new data available.

And the result is that tax debt fell by the greatest amount yet recorded in a single financial year.

Pending collection, the outstanding amount plummeted by 7.6 per cent compared with 2016, with the total of €42.4 billion the lowest since 2010.

The annual inventory of defaulters owing more than €1 million to the state, introduced by Treasury Minister Cristobal Montoro in 2015, also contributed heavily to debt reduction, with €1.2 billion raised from taxpayers "afraid to appear on the list," according to Menendez.

Photo credit Shutterstock/Twitter

Abu Dhabi set to invite bids for Spanish oil and gas giant

THE United Arab Emirates is seeking to offload part of Spanish oil and gas multinational CEPSA.

It comes after the Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's state-owned holding firm, bought out French oil giant Total's stake in 2011.

The move saw the investment vehicle seal 100 per cent control of Spain's second-largest petrol company, which was at the time valued at around €8 billion.

But reports suggest that it is now worth much more, leading Mubadala to invite bids for a partial stake from a 'strategic ally' or 'major investment fund.'

Cepsa has been on an upswing since the takeover, breaking new ground in exploration and production, with several 'mega projects' in Asia and the Middle East.

UNION FURY OVER BELOW AVERAGE PAY

Charity wage woe goes on

THE working conditions of charity workers in Spain are under scrutiny.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) employ around 645,000 across the country, but both central and regional governments slashed third sector budgets during the 2008 financial crisis.

The move saw many of Spain's 30,000 NGOs freeze or reduce salaries, and conditions have not improved in the 10 years since.

"There is a latent instability," an administrator for several NGOs told Spanish media. "It's a sector that has been damaged and which requires a certain element of volunteering and a huge dose of personal motivation, which is exploited when it comes to unstable contracts and unpaid overtime.

"One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts



Photo credit Cruz Roja España

HELP FOR ZEROS: Charity staff are underpaid, critics say.

that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

Around 34 per cent of NGO contracts are temporary, and employment reforms introduced by the Spanish government in 2012 mean that companies and not-for-profits are able to ignore national labour

agreements and bring down salaries while maintaining investment.

In Teruel, Aragon, a full-time cleaner employed by the Red Cross now earns €765 gross per month in the wake of a 2.5 per cent January increase following a long

freeze on wages, while in Alicante part-time telemarketing staff can earn as little as €500.

Jose Luis Pascual, Red Cross Spain's Human Resources director, said: "We're not inventing low salaries, it's a fact. Should that be changed? Possibly."

When quizzed if €800 per month is enough to live on, he hesitated before admitting: "It would be very hard to cover everything... I don't agree that we ignore employment rights. In many cases, our salaries are better than others in the sector."

Critics, including unions, have panned Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and the regional authorities after spending on social issues was cut by 23 per cent since 2016 despite the national economic upturn.

Pilar Marmol, from the UGT union, added: "Many NGOs don't behave like NGOs; they're all about business. And when there's an [outsourced] tender, they're like vultures. They go as low as they can."

Cashing in on crowdfunding

A SPANISH provincial council has become the first authority in the world to set up its own crowdfunding platform.

The innovative scheme allows residents of Biscay in the Basque Country to invest in start-up projects chosen by the governing body.

According to venture capital think tank, Seed Capital Bizkaia, the move will boost investor confidence and reduce risk.

The goal is to launch eight start-ups - cherry-picked from around 30 applicants - in the first year of the scheme, with the council hoping to attract some 350 investors after agreeing to plough €240,000 into the project itself.

Businesses must be headquartered in Biscay, of which Spain's 10th largest city Bilbao is capital.



TRADING BLOWS: The US President claimed that European Union subsidies create unfair competition before announcing the tariffs.

MEPs condemn Trump olive tax

THE European Parliament has called on the United States to reverse President Trump's move to impose import duties of up to 20 per cent on Spanish olives.

The tariffs were introduced in January to protect producers in California after Washington said that growers in Spain benefit from subsidies allowing them to sell olives below fair value.

"The US has started a trade war and they have used us as scapegoats," said Gabriel Re-

dondo, chairman of exporter Agro Sevilla, at the time.

And MEPs in Strasbourg have hit back at the levies, claiming that the EU agricultural grants follow World

Trade Organisation rules.

"The European Parliament calls on the US authorities to withdraw their interim decision and re-establish a mutually constructive approach in this domain to the mutual benefit of producers and consumers on both continents," they said in a statement.

Spain exported 32 million kilos of black olives worth €70 million to the US in 2016, but says the new tariffs will cost the sector €350-700 million over the next decade.



Thumbs down for €4.9 billion Hammerson takeover bid

A €4.9 BILLION bid for British shopping centre operator Hammerson sent the company's shares soaring by almost 27 per cent.

French firm Klepierre was behind the offer, which is being seen as an attempt to derail its competitor's €3.9 billion takeover of Intu Properties, which owns or has stakes in 17 shopping centres in the UK and three in Spain.

The deal is set to create the UK's biggest property group, worth an estimated €24 billion.

Klepierre said in a statement that it had offered 615p a share, but the bid was rejected by Hammerson chairman David Tyler within 24 hours. Tyler described the approach as "wholly inadequate and entirely

opportunistic," before advising shareholders to take no action.

He said in a statement that the board "sees absolutely no merit in Klépierre's proposal and has unanimously rejected it."

Klepierre is one of Europe's biggest players in the retail market, with more than 100 shopping centres in 16 countries.

The Hammerson takeover bid highlights the pressure currently gripping the sector, as more customers choose to shop online.

Hammerson owns or part-owns 37 shopping centres, including Birmingham's Bullring, and if the Insu deal goes ahead it will gain control of a €650 million scheme to create one of Spain's largest shopping complexes in Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol.

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You don't get more classic than that

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



NOT only is Vladimir Putin a gangster, he is actually your classic gangster.

I think the facts speak for themselves. He is undoubtedly an egomaniac and a bully. He is surrounded by thugs, hit men and bent politicians. He rubs out or 'subdues' any opposition. As a warning to others, those he considers 'ratfinks' are ruthlessly hunted down and 'eliminated.'

Both he and his henchmen are worth billions, and the general public of his domain consider him a hero. You don't get more classic than that.

Of course, that is where the resemblance ends. His operation makes the Capone, Gambino's and Mafia Dons of yore look like pussies.

However, in my opinion, through all this worrying new 'cold war' era I believe we can all console ourselves with one fact, Putin won't attack the West, certainly not nuclear. Why would he? He earns a big chunk of his ill-gotten gains from the West. He's not involved in all his skulduggery from a view of patriotism, or the old communistic ideals - heaven forbid. He's in it purely for the power and the money.

To take out the UK would be like Al Capone



Photo credit Twitter

VLADIMIR PUTIN: A 'gangster' but unlikely to attack the West.

destroying Chicago. He definitely doesn't want to terminate a golden egg layer of our magnitude. All that aside, I do truly believe that at this moment in time we are nearer to the ultimate holocaust than we have ever been - even during the Cuban missile crisis. At least in those days the USA and the USSR pulled most of the strings.

Both of these powers were fairly stable and had

reasonably sane leaders. Now they are all at it, and in my opinion a number are nowhere near stability. North Korea, run by a man/boy who thinks he's playing video games. Iran, who probably have a few tucked away by now, is run by a fanatical regime, who have vowed to destroy Israel - also a nuclear power. India, in an uneasy and still precarious 'truce' with fellow nuclear

power Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, threatening to develop nuclear weapons if Iran doesn't halt its own programme (some chance), France mmm! The ever-unpredictable China.

And, top of the bill, two megalomaniacs in the shape of Trump and Putin, who both think they are infallible. Sounds pretty volatile to me. Oh, I forgot about the good 'ol UK. Well I wouldn't worry too much about us. If Corbyn gets elected we'll all be sheltering behind our CND badges. Perhaps that means they'll leave the UK alone? Ha ha! Good luck all!

As most of you know, I have always believed in free speech. Thank the Lord I write for a publication that, although it may not always agree with my views, also considers free speech a human right!

I have always been a firm believer that if it ever came to being prevented from speaking the truth because it may 'offend' somebody, would mean we had either succumbed to the yolk of fascism or were finally being run by a bunch of lily livered leaders running totally scared. Well, try speaking out in the UK these days and you can take your pick!

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Keep the Faith

Love Leapy

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

TECH FOR THE TIMID



All you need is pods

Terence Kennedy's listening life changed forever when he discovered the joy of podcasts.

IF you think silence is golden maybe give this week's column a miss. It's inspired by a Canadian lady who fills every unoccupied moment listening to podcasts, a hundred a week.

Mea not quite so culpa, I have to confess, and she's definitely the pod one out (sorry), but my own consumption does certainly max out at three or four a day.

My listening life changed radically when keeping my butterfly mind topped up during fallow periods suddenly meant I didn't have to put up with whatever dross was on the radio at the time, but instead a chosen programme I could actually control as my own DJ.

'Women's Hour' discussing hysterectomies might have been all well and good mid-morning when there was nothing else on, but podcasts meant I could now listen on demand to Melvyn Bragg discussing the finer points of three-toed newts or quantity

surveying. And I could hit the pause button so as not to miss a riveting second of it.

Initially we could tape radio programmes directly off-air onto cassettes. The tech breakthrough came with the iPod 17 years ago, then MP3 players and today there are two-thirds as many smartphones in the world as there are people.

Now four billion podcasts are downloaded each year and rising, with sensible users (unlike our Canadian lady or indeed me) spending an average of four hours a week listening to them.

In the western world, more people listen to podcasts than go to the movies. An American statistic John Lennon would have loved says there are more regular podcast listeners than Catholics.



PODCASTS: Four billion a year and rising.

Where original adopters were typically under 25, now the fastest growth is among the so-called 'silver surfers', those of us somewhat closer to our sell-by dates.

Downloading (mostly free)

Pods straight off the web is the work of seconds to an MP3 player or increasingly now, a smartphone. And almost all will let you interrupt and pick up where you left off again at will, freeing you forever from the shackles of broadcast schedules.

There are hosts of apps for finding and playing podcasts. and for the latest pod experience, this year's 'next best thing' in tech, smart home assistants like Amazon's Echo and Google's Home can serve up unlimited podcasts on demand.

For the moment I'm stuck with downloading them straight off the web, as not all of us are (yet) blessed with a smart home assistant.

I was going to drop in a gag here about my wife fulfilling that role, but on reflection it could cost me my dinner.

Taking pod luck

TYPE 'podcasts' into your browser and prepare to be swamped.

A good place to start is with the traditional broadcasters, who all now package their output into free podcasts for downloading.

The BBC is a great source (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>), with simply hundreds free for the grabbing, all in the ubiquitous MP3 format which any player or phone can handle.

Other broadcasters like America's NPR (www.npr.org/podcasts/), or Australia's ABC (www.abc.net.au/radio/podcasts/) have their own treasure-troves. Services like Apple's iTunes have pages and pages of them. If you 'subscribe' they will even be downloaded automatically to your player without human intervention.

So all you have to do, as Shakespeare so famously said, is 'lend me your ears'. Perhaps adding headphones for domestic harmony.

The Golden Man of Malaga

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



PABLO PICASSO led Sotheby's London's Impressionist and Modern Art and Surrealist Art in February and last week the most popular Museum in London the Tate Modern opened Picasso's Golden Year exhibition which focused on his creations of 1932.

A year of two halves the first part dominated by his urgency to meet the deadline of his first major retrospective held in Paris in June 1932 at the Galeries George Petit.

The painting that crowned the Sotheby's sale Pablo Picasso's 'Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter)' achieved the second highest price for any work ever sold at auction in Europe - priced at €56.7m - as three bidders competed. This painting was created in 1937, the same year in whose final months saw his master work 'Guernica,' which happily may be seen by Spaniard and visitor alike at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, regarded by most as the greatest anti-war statement in art.

In a decade of extraordinary significance many see echoes of the trajectory of that decade in the profuse and varied output of an



Photo credit: Sotheby's

PRICEY: Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter).

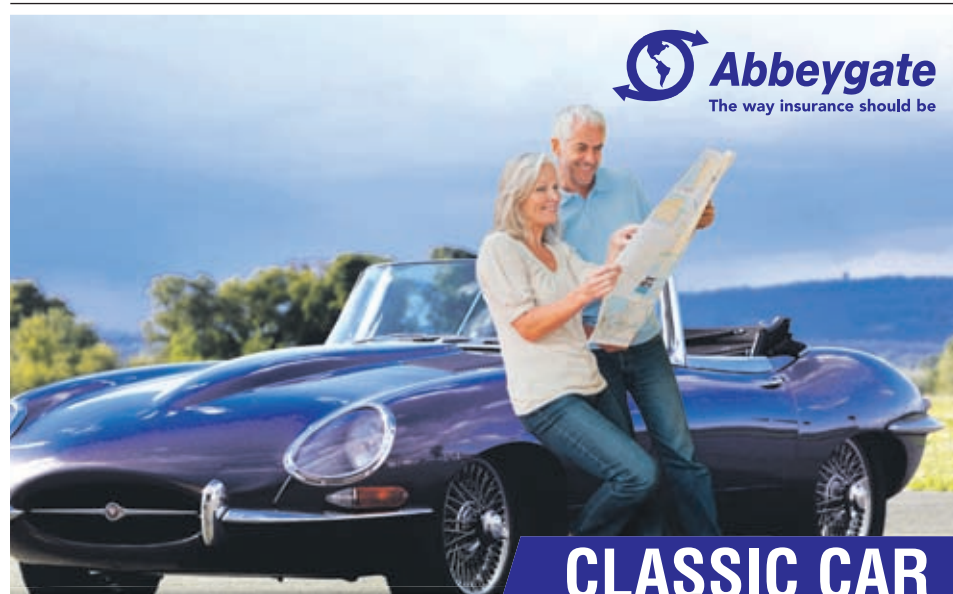
artist who never seemed to stand still. By 1932 Picasso was an established artist, famous and wealthy. Tailored suits and chauffeur driven car attest to that as well as the Paris apartment and country chateau.

At a moment when some entertained the thought that Picasso was at his peak, perhaps even past it, he continued to search and discover. For an impoverished immigrant from Spain who would have blamed him for slowing and enjoying the fruits of his youth?

Also 1932 was the year that Picasso is considered to have reinvented himself. Here he can be seen to be exploring surrealist distortion, painting and sculpture. It also saw the start and development of his relationship with his muse Marie-Thérèse Walter, by 1935 his wife Olga Khokhlova had left him for the south of France.

The darkening clouds of war marked with the Spanish Civil War which began in 1935 and ended in 1939, with the rest of Europe engulfed in what came to be known as the Second World War months after its conclusion.

Picasso was a man of his times. As an artist his times cover much of the 20th century. The triumphs, anxieties and tragedies, the vast scope of his art continues to fascinate and attract. For a determined collector a fascination that very occasionally may be satisfied by an acquisition.



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It's no joke any more - not like the old days

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

YOU know what I miss? I miss jokes. Nobody tells jokes anymore. Yeah, there are loads of comedians but they are all, bar one or two, observational comedians. Years ago, when I was out with friends, we would all sit around telling or repeating jokes.

The types with a build up then a punch line. In fact, although I'm now very definitely labelled 'Mr Grumpy,' I was known for my sense of humour and my party trick was to be able to tell a joke on nearly any subject. My point is it doesn't happen now.

Why? Because everyone has 'jokes' on their phones 24/7. There are jokes on Twitter, Facebook etc etc. Nobody is actually telling them - they are just there to read. There's no delivery, no comic genius timing like the great comedians they used to have on the TV. My favourite show was actually called The Comedians and was just a bunch of guys telling joke after joke.

Most were so politically incorrect but hilarious and I'd try to remember as many as I could to add to my repertoire. I also get loads of videos and GIFs (not sure what that actually

stands for) on WhatsApp now.

I don't mind the odd one but I've got one friend who can send what seems like a 100 a day. Most are not funny and many are just YouTube stuff and when I tell him it's enough he gets the hump. Hope he reads this!

I watched a bit of the winter Olympics and thought the Russians were banned for their vast government run doping scheme that allowed them to win loads of medals by cheating. So I was to see, not their Olympic team, but a bunch of people called 'Olympic Athletes from Russia.'

What a lot of hogwash! One-hundred-and-sixty-eight of them took part and, guess what, two of them failed a drugs test! I don't get it - they were Russian athletes from Russia and no, they didn't march under their flag.

But it's simple - they were banned for cheating, got slung out, found a loophole, got back in and surprise, surprise, they cheated again! It's like the asthma drugs and the cyclists.

I know three people that have asthma. One can't walk up a flight of stairs and the other two won the Tour de France. When I took drugs I wouldn't have even been able to find my bike, never mind ride it!

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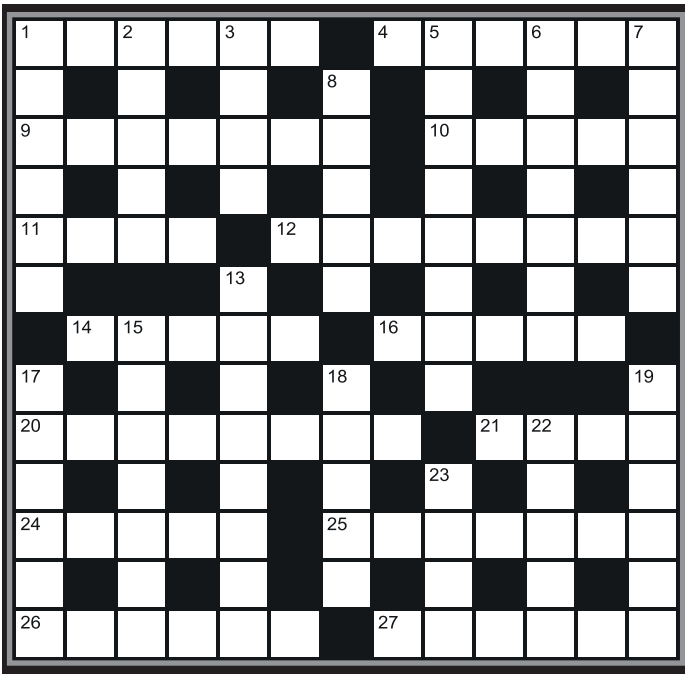


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Clues I arranged for Watergate (6)
- 4 Has faith in repaired struts (6)
- 9 Plead for British cheese, for a change (7)
- 10 The Irishman I love for the terrace (5)
- 11 Parking on a great many building sites (4)
- 12 I acted in poor show (8)
- 14 Take the road to the river, going back by horse (5)
- 16 It's reported the dogs have reached the tops of the mountains (5)
- 20 Is a huge fan of dual seat contraption (8)
- 21 Encourage some of our generation (4)
- 24 President and African leader's animal (5)
- 25 Increase Green movement around Louisiana (7)
- 26 A duty list or back rest, maybe (6)
- 27 Withhold food from pop star vegetarian's diet (6)



Down

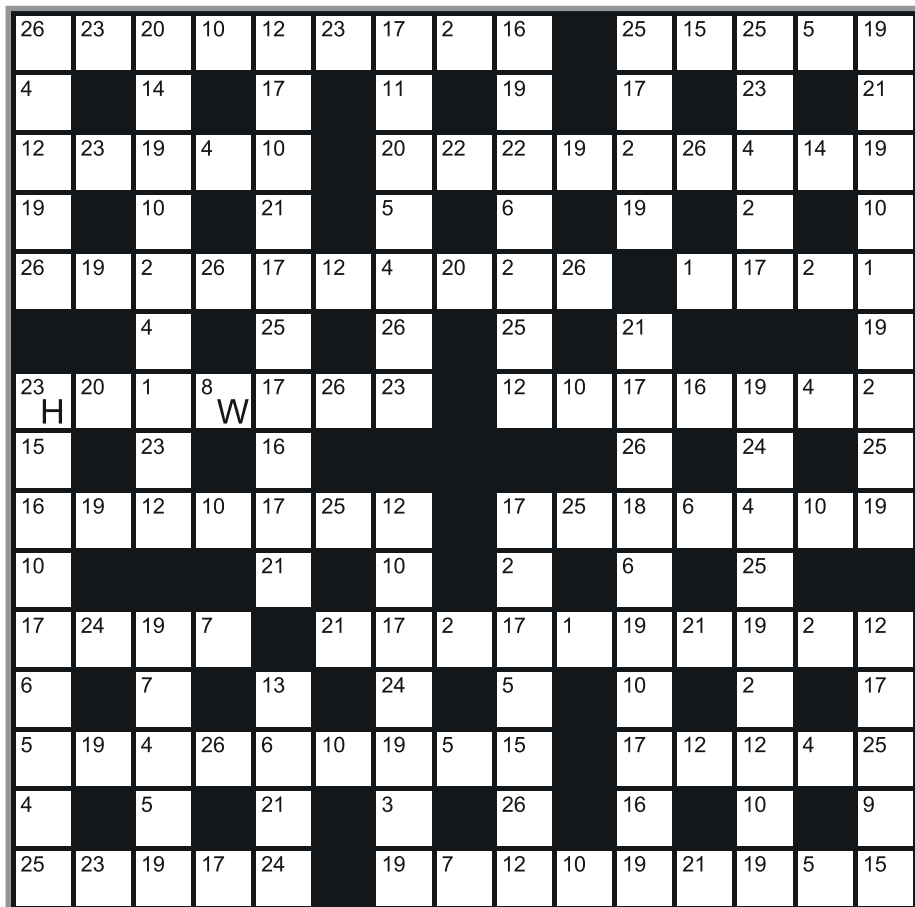
- 1 Delicate bust remodelled on the French (6)
- 2 Disturbed by the unexpected result (5)
- 3 Cook some borsch effortlessly (4)
- 5 About being put into twosomes,

- 6 Difficulty is fixed by rugby player (7)
- 7 Inclined to work in a sleigh (6)
- 8 She's caught in the beam (5)
- 13 State challenge to accept European rule (8)
- 15 Forgery of art stun absentees (7)

- 17 Hold up picnic container? (6)
- 18 Put off in high-altitude terrain (5)
- 19 Remove delegate and Latin sweetheart (6)
- 22 More uncommon rubles are registered (5)
- 23 Spot partial job lot (4)

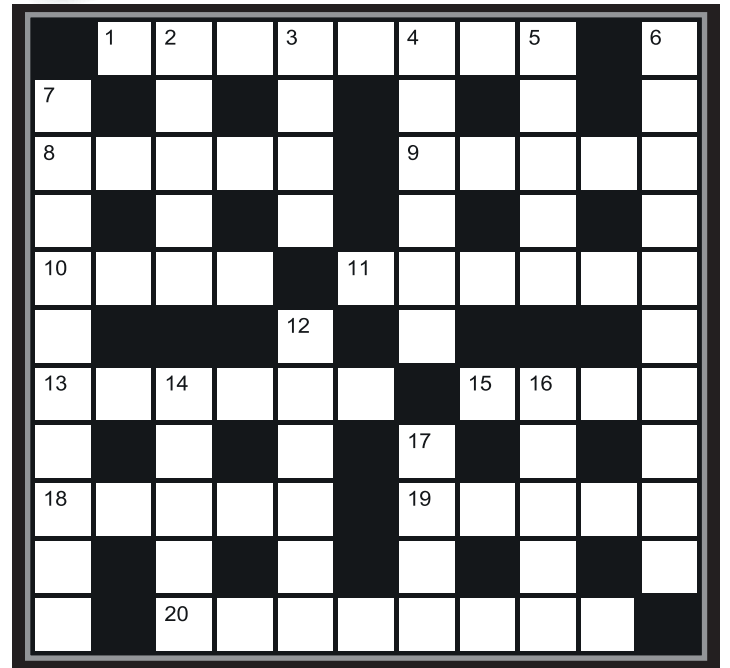
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 8 represents W and 23 represents H, so fill in W every time the figure 8 appears and H every time the figure 23 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

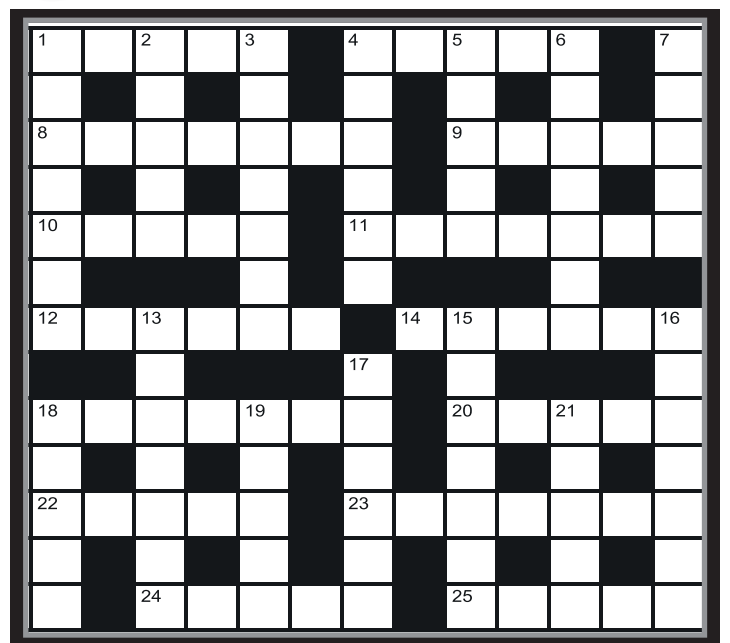
- 1 Journalist (8)
- 8 Escape or avoid by cunning (5)
- 9 Giver (5)
- 10 Speed (4)
- 11 Report or maintain (6)
- 13 Salted roe of the sturgeon (6)
- 15 Silvery-white metal (4)
- 18 Defendant's plea of being elsewhere at the relevant time (5)
- 19 Shoulder firearm with long barrel (5)
- 20 Natural opening in something (8)

Down

- 2 Precise (5)
- 3 Kitchen appliance (4)
- 4 Slightly intoxicated (6)
- 5 Scope (5)
- 6 Implausible (10)
- 7 Mischievous elf in Irish folklore (10)
- 12 Arrived at without due care or effort (6)
- 14 There you are (5)
- 16 Establish by deduction (5)
- 17 Worry unnecessarily or excessively (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Levantarse (3,2)
- 4 Alterado (5)
- 8 To hold on to (7)
- 9 Codo (5)
- 10 Cuchara (para comer) (5)
- 11 To achieve (7)
- 12 Tailor (6)
- 14 Dove (6)
- 18 To know (someone) (7)
- 20 Code (cipher) (5)
- 22 Cocineros (5)
- 23 Elected (7)
- 24 Roncar (cuando se duerme) (5)
- 25 Forma (figura) (5)

Down

- 1 Vasos (para beber) (7)
- 2 Cloth (for cleaning) (5)
- 3 Pareja (compañero) (7)
- 4 Magpie (6)
- 5 Vapor (5)
- 6 Ankle (7)
- 7 Menos (5)
- 13 Cantantes (7)
- 15 Arqueros (7)
- 16 Impresionante (7)
- 17 Brisa (6)
- 18 To cook (5)
- 19 Basket (5)
- 21 Friend (f) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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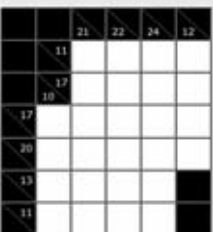
MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'IT'S HER - MARY POPPINS, AS SOON AS THIS CRAZY WIND DROPS - GET HER AUTOGRAPH'

Kakuro

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



Nonagram

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



TARGET:

- Average: 12, Very good: 24, Good: 16, Excellent: 31

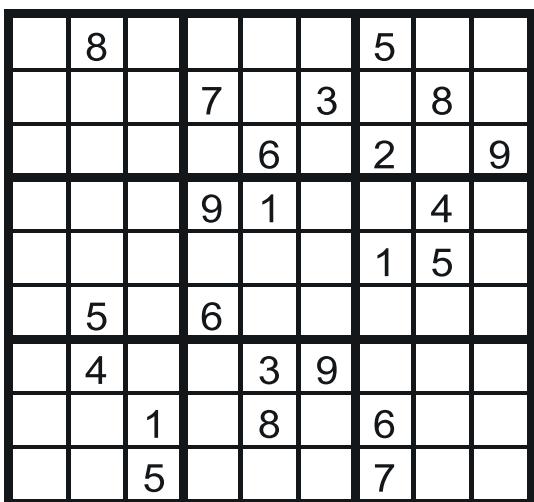
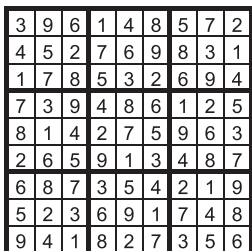
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

dent even need neep nerd neve peen pend pent rend rent teen tend tern vend vent enter event nerve never preen trend deepen eterne evened evener needer nerved rented repent tender vendee vender veneer vented venter entered preened preteen pretend prevent repented PREVENTED

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday March 17



IRISH LOTTO

Saturday March 17



EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 13



Friday March 16



EL MILLON: ZPF44617

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday March 15



JOKER: 3 794 358

Saturday March 17



JOKER: 4 497 057

Sunday March 18



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

The last time that you sat down and thought about your finances it was confusing. Things are a lot simpler now. Keep emotions and the needs of others out of the equation. Balance is what this week is all about. Get the percentages right now and it is plain sailing for the immediate future.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

At last it is clear that the future holds something quite exciting. Looking back during the past few years there has been a build-up to this moment.

Treading a new path is half the story. There is much to be discovered both outside and inside your sphere.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Something comes to your attention that makes you feel both anger and injustice. As you are urged to speak out and put your cards on the table, you hesitate. Be sure to have the true facts of the matter because this gives you real confidence. Keep emotions out of the equation and speak with a balanced view.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Your heart is saying 'Let's get out and have some fun'. Your head is saying 'Okay, but let's leave it until later'. Which is right? Well, one thing is for sure, emphasis on finances is restraining.

You are, however, building on something strong for the future.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

There is a strong urge to be up and doing something to further your artistic needs. Be sure that you know what is important. Keep it simple and aim straight for it. There may be other options to be explored, but do not go off at a tangent. To do so would see you have many fingers in many pies but making little real progress. Trust your instincts.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

What others see as our way ahead is not always the path which we want to tread. It would be easy to be cosy and not take a chance. Is that what you really want? Outside influences are heavy and pressing at times.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Although you are feeling more confident in many ways, there is also a secret insecurity. There is a strange emotional atmosphere this week, which perplexes you. An unusual feeling that you need to change your surroundings cannot be put down to a seasonal 'nesting' instinct. Let this be a time to pay more than lip service to your ideals and beliefs.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Be sure not to put up with tedious comments.

Someone is trying to rile you. Who are they to think this way? It is foolish and impossible to please this person. Avoid them and move on to something out of their sphere.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Waiting for just the right time to do and say things this week can produce miracles. Spontaneity may be your watchword but forward planning is where real progress is at the moment. It's not a week to expect cooperation from others.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Who wants you to go where and who wants you to do what?

Each day seems to be spoken for before it arrives. Spending your life like this means running out of credit on your health. Do not neglect your well-being for the wishes of others. Give yourself permission to love and care for yourself as you do so much for others.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If you are James Bond, I see no surprises in the week ahead. If you are not, then I certainly do. Something quite shocking crosses your path, so be cautious in your approach to new situations. Keep your eyes and ears open and be prepared to seek advice. Your social life may be dynamic, but what has to be done is irrefutable.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

There are plenty of people who will tell you that what you seek does not exist. They will also tell you that what you feel is unsustainable.

This is, however, no time to compromise your dreams or emotional needs.

Taking a bright view and a chance now seems unusual to those round you. Who knows best?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Espalda, 5 Crabs, 8 Capaz, 9 Terraza, 10 Mostrar, 11 Santo, 12 Daisy, 14 Tenth, 19 Apodo, 21 Roperia, 23 En avión, 24 Sabor, 25 Again, 26 Answers.

Down:

- 1 Encima, 2 Pipes, 3 Lizards, 4 Altura, 5 Caras, 6 Against, 7 Season, 13 Abogada, 15 Esposas, 16 Maceta, 17 Prensa, 18 Cabras, 20 Onion, 22 Roble.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Susan, 4 Crass, 8 Curator, 9 Green, 10 Ember, 11 Errands, 12 Stroll, 14 Walrus, 18 Pottage, 20 Sable, 22 Pence, 23 Evening, 24 Stale, 25 Event.

Down:

- 1 Sachets, 2 Scrub, 3 Natural, 4 Comea, 5 Anger, 6 Sterner, 7 Bends, 13 Ratings, 15 Austere, 16 Sleight, 17 Recede, 18 Pupil, 19 Akela, 21 Bribe.

QUICK

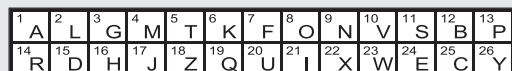
Across:

- 1 Secure, 4 Fake, 8 Adapt, 9 Apple, 10 Legitimate, 13 Assistance, 17 Chaos, 18 Torso, 19 Lies, 20 Decide.

Down:

- 1 Stag, 2 Cease, 3 Rat, 5 Alpha, 6 Eleven, 7 Fajita, 11 Insist, 12 Cancel, 14 Snare, 15 Corgi, 16 Core, 18 Tie.

CODE BREAKER



KAKURO



QUIZ: TOYS R QUIZ

- 1. 'How gentle is the rain that falls softly on the meadow' is the opening line of which 1965 UK Top five hit single by The Toys?
2. In which 1968 British musical adventure fantasy film did comedian Benny Hill play the part of the Toymaker?
3. Released in Japan in November 1996 and the rest of the world six months later, what was the name of the electronic toy displaying a digital image of a creature that had to be looked after and responded to by the 'owner' as if it were a pet?
4. The name of which famous toy is derived from the Danish phrase for 'play well'?
5. What is the nationality of the sculptor and professor of architecture Ernő Rubik, the inventor of the famous 3-D combination puzzle the Rubik's Cube?
6. Which actor is the voice of Woody (Sheriff Woody Pride), a pull-string cowboy doll in the Toy Story series of films?

- 7. Which comedy duo starred in the musical film Babes in Toyland, first released in November 1934?
8. Which mechanical drawing toy was invented by Frenchman André Cassagnes in 1960?
9. Which of these toys was the first ever winner of the British Association of Toy Retailers' Toy of the Year award in 1965: (a) Hot Wheels, (b) James Bond Aston Martin die-cast car or (c) Spirograph?
10. Which toy shop, the oldest and largest toy shop in the world was founded as Noahs Ark in High Holborn in 1760 but moved to its current site on Regent Street in 1881?

Not a lot of people know that... the yo-yo is believed to be the second-oldest toy in the world. Its name likely derives from the northern Philippine Ilocano language word 'yoyo'

Answers:

- 1. A LOVERS CONCERTO, 2. CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, 3. YAMA GOTCHI, 4. LEGO (leg good), 5. HUNGARIAN (born in Budapest), 6. TOM HANKS, 7. LAUREL AND HARDY - the film is also known by the alternate titles Laurel and Hardy in Toyland, Revenge is Sweet and March of the Wooden Soldiers, 8. ETCH A SKETCH, 9. JAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DIE-CAST CAR - Spirograph (1967) and Hot Wheels (1969), 10. HAWLEYS

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THURSDAY - 22 MARCH

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
10:15am	Holding Back the Years	7:00am	The Repair Shop	8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days	7:45am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:05am	Floggals
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	7:30am	Holding Back the Years		<i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>	8:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:20am	Digby Dragon
12:00pm	The Sheriffs are Coming	8:15am	The Sheriffs are Coming	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:35am	Rusty Rivets
12:45pm	Caught Red Handed	9:00am	Earth's Natural Wonders	9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire	9:30am	Frasier	10:05am	Mofy	10:05am	Mofy
2:00pm	BBC News at One	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live	10:00am	Frasier	10:15am	The Wright Stuff	10:15am	The Wright Stuff
2:30pm	BBC London News	1:00pm	The Daily Politics	10:35am	Frasier	12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:45pm	Doctors	2:00pm	Two Tribes	11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:10pm	5 News	1:10pm	5 News
3:15pm	A Place to Call Home	2:30pm	Yes Chef	12:00pm	Undercover Boss USA	1:15pm	GP's Behind Closed Doors	1:15pm	GP's Behind Closed Doors
4:00pm	Escape to the Country	3:15pm	Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape	1:00pm	Channel 4 News	2:15pm	Home and Away	2:15pm	Home and Away
4:45pm	Money for Nothing	4:15pm	Planet Earth	1:05pm	Come Dine with Me	2:45pm	Neighbours	2:45pm	Neighbours
5:30pm	Flog It!	5:15pm	Spy in the Wild	2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	3:15pm	NCIS	3:15pm	NCIS
6:15pm	Pointless	6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	3:10pm	Countdown	4:15pm	Secrets in the Attic	4:15pm	Secrets in the Attic
7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:00pm	Eggheads	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5
7:30pm	BBC London News	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:00pm	Home and Away
8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Saving Lives at Sea	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Star Boot Sale	7:00pm	5 News Tonight
8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	Big Cats	6:30pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	The Yorkshire Vet
9:00pm	MasterChef	10:00pm	Civilisations	7:00pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	The Yorkshire Vet
9:30pm	Not Going Out	11:00pm	Match of the Day	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Location, Location, Location	9:00pm	Bargain Loving
10:00pm	EastEnders	11:30pm	Newsnight	8:00pm	Location, Location, Location	9:00pm	Location, Location, Location	9:00pm	Do the Right Thing
10:30pm	Still Game	12:15am	Top Gear	9:00pm	Location, Location, Location	10:00pm	My Baby's Life: Who Decides?	10:00pm	Do the Right Thing
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	1:15am	Imagine...	1:15am	Top of the Pops	11:00pm	The Job Interview	11:00pm	Eamonn and Ruth
11:30pm	BBC London News	1:45am	This is BBC Two	1:45am	The Inca: Masters of the Clouds	12:05am	Gogglebox	12:05am	Under Siege
11:45pm	Question Time	3:00am		2:45am	The Inca: Masters of the Clouds	1:05am	Seven Year Switch	12:10am	Under Siege
12:45am	This Week			3:45am	Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues	2:05am	One Born Every Minute		

FRIDAY - 23 MARCH

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire	8:00pm	World News Today	7:00am	Countdown	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:15am	Holding Back the Years	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live	7:45am	<i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>	7:45am	3rd Rock from the Sun	10:05am	Mofy
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	1:00pm	The Daily Politics	8:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun	8:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun	10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:00pm	The Sheriffs are Coming	2:00pm	Two Tribes	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
12:45pm	Caught Red Handed	2:30pm	Yes Chef	9:30am	Frasier	9:30am	Frasier	1:10pm	5 News
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	3:15pm	Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape	10:00am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	10:00am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:15pm	GP's Behind Closed Doors
2:00pm	BBC News at One	4:15pm	Planet Earth	11:05am	Undercover Boss USA	11:05am	Undercover Boss USA	1:15pm	GP's Behind Closed Doors
2:30pm	BBC London News	5:15pm	Spy in the Wild	12:00pm	Channel 4 News	12:00pm	Channel 4 News	2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Doctors	6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	1:00pm	Come Dine with Me	1:00pm	Come Dine with Me	2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	A Place to Call Home	7:00pm	Eggheads	1:05pm	Come Dine with Me	2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	3:15pm	NCIS
4:00pm	Escape to the Country	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	2:45pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	3:10pm	Countdown	3:15pm	NCIS
4:45pm	Money for Nothing	8:00pm	Saving Lives at Sea	3:15pm	Countdown	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:15pm	The Gourmet Detective 3: Death At Dente
5:30pm	Flog It!	9:00pm	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:15pm	Pointless	9:30pm	Gardeners' World	5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	BBC News at Six	10:00pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Star Boot Sale	7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	BBC London News	11:00pm	A Question of Sport	6:30pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Sport Relief 2018	11:40pm	Newsnight	7:00pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	The Gadget Show
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	12:15am	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	Sandringham: Holidaying with the Queen
11:25pm	BBC London News	4:00am	Fleetwood Mac: Don't Stop	9:00pm	Britain's Favourite Food	9:00pm	Britain's Favourite Food	10:00pm	Jane Mcdonald and Friends
11:35pm	Sport Relief 2018	5:00am	This is BBC Four	10:00pm	Gogglebox	10:00pm	Gogglebox	11:00pm	Will and Grace
2:00am	Zoe Ball's Hardest Road Home			11:00pm	The Last Leg	11:00pm	The Last Leg	11:30pm	Lip Sync Battle UK
				12:05am	Rude Tube	12:05am	Rude Tube	12:05am	Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups

|| 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.

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Not convinced by Couch Critic Issue 1704

THIS guy certainly has no taste and I'm all shook up!

However I'm so pleased that his friends Graham and Robert do have taste along with myself and family and friends.

I so look forward to Jane McDonald's cruising programme as Jane is so vibrant and comes across with so much enthusiasm, the cruises are all so different.

We are so lucky to live here in Spain but there's a big wide world out there to explore so why not be tempted to try something different? I feel sure that so many people will be tempted by this programme, cruising is already very big business and I think Jane will have encouraged a lot more people to try one, going to different countries and seeing different cultures.

Before the end of each programme I am trying to guess what song she will be singing, never guessed yet. A shawl that looks like a tablecloth um, I must look for one of those at my Sunday market.

Looking for news about Altea wildfowl

I WONDER if any of your readers can put me in the picture regarding the swan and duck that are always together in the river mouth by Altea Yacht Club. I often drive by there and it really pleases me to see the pair of them so contented together.

The only thing I've heard is that they both used to live on the river mouth by the flags in Altea but, after hooligans broke one of the swan's wings, a local animal charity moved them both to their present location, which is hopefully safer for them. Thanks in anticipation.

Roy Gough, Altea



Photo Credit: Somos Gos Facebook

Paco the Swan and friend.

Editor's note
Back in September of last year, Paco the Swan was rescued by the animal charity Somos Gos as he had a problem

with his wing and was depressed.
Perhaps readers will be able to give more information about current whereabouts.

So Adam;
Are you lonesome tonight? No because you're watching Jane cruising,
Can't help falling in love but perhaps not with Jane's cruising.
Don't be cruel so what can one say?
Perhaps You're the Devil in disguise!
Ann Rosser, Calpe

Difficult journey

I REFER to the waterfall article in Issue 1705. Thought this would be a great visit, so yesterday set off from Quesada. When we arrived there some 2.5 hours later we discovered that the access road was closed. What your article FAILS to mention is that at this time of the year the access road is CLOSED, and we were informed by Spanish locals that it was a 7km walk to the falls and thus another 7km back!!!! As it was around 4pm we gave it a miss, so will have to return later in the year, do you know when the road is opened?

Bill Peters, Quesada

Editor's note
We have been unable to find any reference to the access road being closed for part of the year on local tourism websites, and there was no answer when we phoned the tourist office in Cazorla. Most likely is that the road was damaged or flooded and you were extremely unlucky.

HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters by email or post should carry the writer's address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: www.euroweeklynews.com.

Girl rescued after dangerous stunt

Downright stupid if you ask me and her parents should be made to pay for the emergency services costs and she should repay it out of her pocket money! When will this generation learn?! Get a life... everything isn't about uploading photos and videos of yourself to see how many people like you!!

Tessa Green

Where the hell were her parents while this was going on?

Christine Petrie

Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 fine

Thankfully there was a sensible judge in this case. Now she needs to throw the book at the doctor and law firm who are involved.

Clare Lloyd

Fantastic...and so they should. People don't like to hear this but I remember as a Main Line Holiday Rep in Benidorm, overhearing people discussing on their way to resorts from the airport ways of trying to claim on the insurance!!... and this just makes it more problematic for the genuine claims and of course is part of the reason premiums are so high for everyone... Of course it's all over the world this horrible claim culture...

Stephen Chatt Milne

Comments from EWN online

Brilliant. About time these thieves we taken to task and made cough up.

Gerard O'Brien

Police roll out 'invisible' speed cameras

If they are invisible how is that going to improve safety... just another money making measure.

Alex Walker

Invisible cameras do nothing to improve safety. Visible warnings improve safety, they cause people to slow down. This is a punishment, pure and simple. What would improve road safety is targeting lorry drivers who drive with disregard for other road users.

Robert Mitchell

Just don't speed. Simple! What's the hurry anyway? Relax and enjoy your holiday.

Dean Grande

Starving lions and tiger rescued

I've now watched the video of these poor injured, starved and very sad lions and a tiger. These circus people are disgusting and should be prosecuted to the highest degree, let's hope they are.

Chris Gregory

Thank God they were rescued. Thank you to all who achieved this.

Danusia Bourdon

This circus used to come to the town where I live. Hateful treatment, so glad they are safe now.

Jenny Brodie

Thank the Lord for this rescue. Will the circus owners be prosecuted?

Mary Povey

Ryanair: 'We're still Europe's No 1 customer service airline'

They are great, they get you there cheap what more do you want for 30 quid?

Tim Northern

Our View Brexit

IT is clear which extreme end of the political divide Colin MacGregor sits (Issue 1705). He seems to assume that because he favours Brexit, the majority of expats think likewise. Let me repeat what we all know. What is relevant is that a majority in the UK now favour Remain, because they realise they were fed false, misleading and inadequate information prior to the referendum. It is now irrelevant how they voted in June 2016. This is not a case of 'whining because we lost.' The future direction of the UK is at stake.

The government should not be too timid or too proud to admit we got it wrong. There is still time for a meaningful referendum.

David R Worboys, El Capistrano Village, Nerja

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



SATURDAY - 24 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Breakfast	9:00pm The Silk Road	7:15am King of Queens	11:00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live	11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live	10:00pm Below the Surface	7:40am King of Queens	11:35am The Gadget Show
12:30pm Classic Mary Berry	12:30pm Classic Mary Berry	10:45pm Below the Surface	8:05am King of Queens	12:30pm Police
1:00pm Football Focus	1:00pm Football Focus	11:30pm Top of the Pops	8:30am Mobil 1 the Grid	1:30pm Police
1:30pm BBC News	1:30pm BBC News	12:00am Top of the Pops	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	1:30pm Interceptors
1:40pm Weather	1:40pm Weather	12:30am Blues at the BBC	9:25am Everybody Loves Raymond	2:30pm Police
1:45pm Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists	1:45pm Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists	1:30am Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC	9:55am Frasier	3:30pm Live Premiership Rugby
3:05pm Gymnastics	3:05pm Gymnastics	3:30am Lost Kingdoms of Central America	10:25am Frasier	6:15pm We'll Take it Away!
4:50pm The Boat Race	4:50pm The Boat Race	4:30am The Silk Road Secret Knowledge	11:00am Frasier	7:15pm Can't Pay?
7:15pm Doodlebugs	7:15pm Doodlebugs	5:30am In 1912, workmen demolishing a building in London's Cheapside district made an extraordinary discovery - a dazzling hoard of nearly 500 Elizabethan and Jacobean jewels.	11:30am The Big Bang Theory	8:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
7:30pm BBC News	7:30pm BBC News		12:00pm The Big Bang Theory	9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle
7:40pm Regional News	7:40pm Regional News		12:30pm The Big Bang Theory	9:55pm 5 News
7:43pm Weather	7:43pm Weather		1:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm King Tut's Treasure Secrets
7:45pm Pointless	7:45pm Pointless		1:30pm The Simpsons	11:00pm King Tut's Tomb: The Hidden Chamber
8:40pm Who Dares Wins	8:40pm Who Dares Wins		2:00pm Formula 1	11:55pm Secrets of the Valley of the Kings
9:20pm Casualty	9:20pm Casualty		3:50pm Car S.O.S	12:45am Football on 5 Goal Rush.
10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City	10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City		4:50pm Coast v Country	
11:10pm BBC News	11:10pm BBC News		5:50pm A Place in the Sun	
11:25pm Weather	11:25pm Weather		6:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	
11:30pm Guardians of the Galaxy	11:30pm Guardians of the Galaxy		7:30pm Channel 4 News with Julie Walters	
1:23am Weather for the Week Ahead	1:23am Weather for the Week Ahead		8:00pm Coastal Railways	
1:30am BBC News	1:30am BBC News		9:00pm Britain at Low Tide	
			10:00pm Everest	
			12:20am Predator 2	
			3:20am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	

SUNDAY - 25 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
10:00am The Andrew Marr Show	7:20am Coast	8:00pm Only Connect	7:00am Milkshake!	7:00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:00am The Big Questions	8:20am The Instant Gardener	8:30pm University Challenge	7:10am King of Queens	10:50am Football on 5 Goal Rush.
12:00pm Sunday Politics	9:05am Gardeners' World	9:00pm Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth	7:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:25am Make You Laugh Out Loud
1:15pm BBC News	9:35am Countryfile	9:00pm The Banker's Guide to the Art Market	8:25am Frasier	11:50am The Illusionist
1:25pm Weather for the Week Ahead	10:35am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	10:00pm Capability	9:25am Race of Champions 2018	3:25pm The Man in the Iron Mask
1:30pm MasterChef	12:05pm Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge	11:00pm The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge	10:30am Sunday Brunch	5:45pm A Knight's Tale
2:30pm MasterChef	12:50pm Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook	11:30pm The Secret Life of Children's Books	1:30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	8:05pm We'll Take it Away!
3:30pm MasterChef	1:20pm Homes Under the Hammer	12:30am The Secret Life of Children's Books	2:30pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Can't Pay?
4:00pm Money for Nothing	2:20pm Bringing Up Baby	1:00am The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge	3:30pm Formula 1	9:55pm 5 News
5:00pm Escape to the Country	4:00pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	2:00am Moominland Tales: The Life of Tove Jansson	6:15pm The Great Escape to the Chateau	10:00pm The Bodyguard
5:30pm Songs of Praise	5:00pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives	2:25am The Last Leg	8:00pm Channel 4 News	12:35am Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love
6:05pm Sport Relief	6:00pm Real Steel	3:00am Capability	8:00pm Homes by the Med	2:20am Whitney Houston: Her Greatest Hits
7:05pm BBC News	8:00pm Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall	3:20am The Question	9:00pm Escape to the Chateau	3:10am Super Casino
7:20pm Regional News	9:00pm Top Gear	4:15am KOTV Boxing Weekly	10:00pm Homeland	4:10am Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups
7:25pm Weather	9:00pm Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives	4:45am Mobil 1 the Grid	11:15pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	5:00am Britain's Greatest Bridges
7:30pm Countryfile	11:00pm Mock the Week	5:10am Mobil 1 the Grid	12:10am Rush	
8:30pm Hold the Sunset	11:30pm Top Gear Extra	5:40am Coast v Country	2:25am The Question	
9:00pm MasterChef	1:30am Life of Crime		3:20am Jury	
9:30pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor	2:30am Holby City		4:15am KOTV Boxing Weekly	
11:00pm BBC News			4:45am Mobil 1 the Grid	
11:22pm Regional News			5:10am Mobil 1 the Grid	
11:25pm Weather			5:40am Coast v Country	
11:30pm War of the Worlds				
1:15am The Women's Football Show				

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MONDAY - 26 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	2:10pm Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:10pm Access
2:00pm BBC News	3:40pm Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape	8:30pm Danny Baker Rocks the Seventies (a Bit)	3:10pm Countdown	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	4:40pm Blitz Cities	9:00pm Treasures of the Indus	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	10:00pm The Art of Spain	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	3:15pm NCIS
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	11:00pm The Lost Genius of British Art: William Dobson	6:00pm Four in a Bed	4:15pm Kidnapped: Desperate Hours
4:05pm Escape to the Country	7:00pm Eggheads	12:00pm Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	5 News
4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:30pm The Repair Shop	1:00am How to be a Surrealist with Phillipa Perry	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:00pm Neighbours
5:30pm Flog It!	8:00pm Top Gear	2:00am Top of the Pops	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:30pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Only Connect	3:00am The Art of Spain	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:00pm 5 News
7:00pm BBC News	9:30pm University Challenge		9:00pm Dispatches	8:00pm Aviva Premiership
7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Hospital		9:30pm Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday	8:00pm Rugby Highlights
8:00pm The One Show	11:00pm QI		10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	9:00pm Paralympic: Britain's Worst Winter
8:30pm MasterChef			11:00pm The Great Spy Murder Mystery	10:00pm Paddington
9:00pm EastEnders			12:05am How to Get a Council House	11:00pm Station 24/7
9:30pm Classic Mary Berry				12:05am The X Files
10:00pm The Queen				
11:00pm BBC News				

TUESDAY - 27 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
2:30pm Regional News	1:00pm The Daily Politics	10:00pm How Quizzing Got Cool: TV's Brains of Britain	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:10pm Access
2:45pm Doctors	2:00pm The Super League Show	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	3:10pm Countdown	2:15pm Home and Away
3:15pm Home	2:45pm Gunga Din	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:00pm Escape to the Country	2:45pm Neighbours
4:00pm Escape to the Country	4:40pm Blitz Cities	6:00pm Four in a Bed	4:45pm Money for Nothing	3:15pm NCIS
4:45pm Money for Nothing	5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	5:30pm Flog It!	4:15pm Kidnapped: Desperate Hours
5:30pm Flog It!	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:15pm Pointless	5 News
6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm BBC News	6:00pm Neighbours
7:00pm BBC News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm Regional News	6:30pm Home and Away
7:30pm Regional News	8:00pm Top Gear	9:00pm Dispatches	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm 5 News
8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Only Connect	9:30pm Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Aviva Premiership
8:30pm MasterChef	9:30pm University Challenge	10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	9:00pm Holby City	8:00pm Rugby Highlights
9:00pm EastEnders	10:00pm Hospital	11:00pm The Great Spy Murder Mystery	10:00pm Come Home	9:00pm Paralympic: Britain's Worst Winter
9:30pm Classic Mary Berry	11:00pm QI	12:05am How to Get a Council House	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Paddington
10:00pm The Queen			11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Station 24/7
11:00pm BBC News			11:40pm Weather	12:05am The X Files
			11:45pm This Country	

WEDNESDAY - 28 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
12:45pm Claimed and Shamed	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	8:30pm Danny Baker Rocks the Nineties (a Bit)	9:30am Frasier	1:10pm 5 News
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:30pm The Daily Politics	9:00pm Metalworks!	10:00am Frasier	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2:00pm BBC News	2:00pm Wuthering Heights	10:00pm Make! Craft	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen	2:10pm Access
2:30pm Regional News	3:40pm Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape	11:00pm Britain	12:00pm Nightmares USA	2:15pm Home and Away
2:45pm Doctors	4:40pm Blitz Cities	11:00pm Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork	1:00pm Undercover Boss USA	2:45pm Neighbours
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	5:15pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	12:00pm Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency	1:05pm Channel 4 News	3:15pm NCIS
4:05pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	1:00am Treasures of Ancient Egypt	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	4:15pm My Daughter Must Live
4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	2:00am Top of the Pops 1983: Big Hits	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	5 News
5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	3:00am Compilation of some of the biggest hits of 1983 featuring soul, reggae, jazz, new wave and pop.	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Mountain	4:00pm The Witness for the Prosecution	4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:30pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Mountain		5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm The Secret Helpers		6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:30pm 5 News
8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story		6:30pm Star Boot Sale	8:00pm King Tut's Treasure Secrets
9:00pm Regional News	10:55pm Live at the Apollo		7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9:01pm DIY SOS the Big Build	11:30pm Newsnight		7:30pm Hollyoaks	10:00pm Minute by Minute
10:00pm MasterChef	12:10am Weather		8:00pm Channel 4 News	11:00pm Social Housing, Social Cleansing
11:00pm BBC News	12:15am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby		9:00pm The Supertvet	12:05am Under Siege
11:30pm Regional News			10:00pm One Born Every Minute	2:05am Super Casino
11:40pm Weather			11:00pm Are You Autistic?	4:10am Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
11:45pm A Question of Sport			12:05am 999: What's Your Emergency?	

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TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THE DURRELLS have returned to *ITV* on Sunday evenings to bring a touch of Corfu to our weekends. This is the third series of the drama very loosely based around Gerald Durrell's memoir about his life in 1930's Corfu and is a perfect tonic if you are fed up with talent(less) shows and movie reruns.

I like the soft storylines, the scenery and the fact I could watch it with my Mum and not have to worry about anything nasty flashing across the screen. There are few shows which could simultaneously carry plotlines about giving up on finding love, taking up the harp and juggling multiple girlfriends and still be OK to watch con mi madre - but *The Durrells* does it really well. The Greek sunshine helps to make you feel just a little bit warmer too.

Immediately after *The Durrells* have gently guided us around their Greek lives, Amanda Redman wizzes us to Southern India with the return of *The Good Karma Hospital*, *ITV* Sunday evenings. I'm really not sure about Dr Ruby (Amrita Acharia) on that motorbike you know, the helmet must play havoc with her hair, but fans of the show will be pleased that she is still around to be put in her place by Ms Red-

The Durrells, Good Karma and a chateau



Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

PERFECT TO WATCH WITH MUM: The Durrells.

man and to continue her strange flirting antics with Dr Varma; I say flirting, I think that is what's happening, but Dr R can be so grumpy she will surely find herself heading for a night shift at *Holby City* if she doesn't crack a smile sometime soon. This isn't hard hitting, point making medical stuff, but it does what it sets out to do and I like it.

Sticking with Sunday night viewing for just a little bit longer, I'm so pleased that *Channel 4* are serving up another series of *Escape to the Chateau*. The Chateau de la Motte Husson is in the Loire and over the previous three series has been restored by Dick and Angel - she is the

brains and he is, well everything else. Dick can fix just about anything and knows how everything works, frankly I could do with him for a couple of days in mi casa, just to pull everything together.

Having 'done up' the Chateau, the couple are running an obviously successful foodie and wedding business and it's lovely to watch. You might struggle with Angel's hair and the fact Dick sometimes looks like an eccentric Englishman being Bohemian in the French countryside, oh wait, that's exactly what he is!

I don't know what to make of BBC2's new show *The Secret Helpers*, *BBC2* Wednesdays.



MANE ATTRACTION: Escape to the Chateau.

The format links people who need help or advice with random people around the world via secret earpieces. Family and friends aren't aware of the earpiece advice as their loved ones muddle through their personal challenges.

The advice givers include a Catholic nun, a retired NY police officer and someone in Denmark who is neither a nun nor a policeman, they just seems to be Danish. Now, the get-you-to-watch element seems to be the people getting advice. Show one helped out Dan who was left blind after two strokes and first time parent Brett who just wants to be a good Dad. You know I will be coming back to this one!

Looking ahead, *The Voice* is slowly drawing to a close with the knockout shows continuing on *ITV* on Saturday. I have no idea who is going through... *Happy viewing.*

Hey! Study uncovers yet more useless bits of research!

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.euoweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson

ACCORDING to a recent survey, 11 per cent of young adults believe Margaret Thatcher was prime minister during the First World War.

If you think that's bad enough, a 2015 survey suggests that 20 per cent of youngsters believe fish fingers are fingers from actual fish.

Problem is, people are always ready to express an opinion, even on subjects they know nothing about.

In one survey, 15 per cent of people said they were either for or against the Monetary Control Bill. The Monetary Control

Bill doesn't exist (Oops! Men are the worst offenders here according to 'research').

People also lie to pollsters. According to the British Election Study, 11.6 per cent of survey respondents claimed to have taken part in the 2010 general election despite not doing so. This accounts for 5.3 million people.

And then there are all these research 'studies.'

Household cleaning products are as bad for lung function as smoking claims one recent investigation. And was it just yesterday we were told processed foods cause an increase in various sorts of cancer? What doesn't, it seems?

Modern living exposes us to a

range of chemicals that wouldn't have been present in primitive societies. But life expectancy in times past was much lower than today. On balance, the contemporary world, although it presents new dangers, offers us the prospect

of living well beyond the biblical three score plus 10.

Fortunately, no one believes any of these scare stories in any case. We've been saturated with so much doom and gloom

(and still are) that you'd think that the world's coming to an end tomorrow through disease, famine and pestilence.

I reckon dogs are far smarter than many of the individuals

involved in any of these surveys or 'studies.'

For instance, in a vet's waiting room recently I was surprised to see owners pacing up and down, jingling coins in pockets, listlessly checking out posters and notices while all the dogs present were sitting, waiting calmly and patiently.

Then I noticed the sign on the waiting room door: 'Be back in five minutes, Sit! Stay!'

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



SURVEYS AND STUDIES: Designed to scare?

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TO READ MORE

Dairy: the good and the bad

WHILE it isn't wise to give up entire food groups unless you are advised to by your doctor - like when you have an allergy, for example - it is becoming increasingly popular to cut dairy completely out of diets.

You may notice several changes to your body if you decide to go dairy-free - whether you need to or not - both good and bad.

This is because each food group fuels your body with different nutrients that are needed by your body to work properly, including dairy, however the US National Library of Medicine claims that two thirds of the world's population lack the enzyme needed to digest cow's milk.

This means your digestion may improve and you may feel less bloated if you cut out dairy, however, you



GOT MILK: Giving up dairy has both positive and negative side effects.

could also feel more bloated at first as your body reacts to the change in your diet.

You also might get fewer headaches as cheese contains a natural chemical called tyramine which can cause migraines and headaches.

However, dairy also contains vitamin B2 and people with a deficiency of this vitamin can suffer from migraines as a side effect, so make sure you eat lots of spinach, mushrooms and almonds which can contribute to this.

You could also miss out on other essential nutrients such as calcium and vitamin D if you go dairy-free so eat lots of fatty fish, as well as plant-based milks, which are normally a good alternative source of the nutrients you need.

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How to keep your brain healthy

AS we age, it is expected that our cognitive functions will start to decline, and we will become more forgetful, tired and flummoxed by simple tasks.

However, it is easier than you may think to keep

your brain in good shape and prevent cognitive decline as you get older.

First things first, try to get at least eight hours sleep each night as sleeping less has been linked to cognitive decline.

Vices such as smoking and alcohol have also been proven to prematurely age the brain and body, so try to cut down on these as much as possible.

Go to your doctor to find out your homocysteine levels as increased levels in the blood have been connected to Alzheimer's disease.

While you're there, also get your testosterone level tested as low levels of the hormone have been associated with low energy, depression and Alzheimer's disease.

On a daily basis, leading a healthy lifestyle by eating well and exercising are small things that can help to make all the difference.

Eating oily fish and lots of fruits and vegetables will help to keep your brain functioning effectively and check your blood pressure often to make sure it is under control.

Mood food

GUT health is fast becoming one of the biggest wellness trends of 2018, with new food products, diets and books being cultivated around the concept.

Looking after your gut basically means taking care of the ecosystem of fungi, yeasts, bacteria and viruses which live in the intestinal tract.

Several reports claim that having a healthy gut helps to reduce chronic inflammation that can cause all manner of diseases, but could also have a significant impact on our mood.

This is because the gut produces many hormones and transmitters that have an impact on the brain, such as serotonin which helps to regulate sleep, social behaviour and mood.

Some studies have claimed that the gut produces 95 per cent of the body's serotonin which is why an imbalanced intestinal tract can have a big impact on our emotions.

Conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome has also been linked to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

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Expect to be amazed by Malambeando

A VERY special show from Argentina will be presented at the Congress Palace in Motril on Thursday May 17.

Malambeando, a breathtaking mix of two of the most attractive of the dances from Argentina, Malambo and Tango has been put together by two exceptional dancers and choreographers Horacio Oscar Fernández and Nazareno Valverdi.

Malambo is a dance just for men and its speed as well as the skill of the dancers has meant that it has left audiences breathless and now as part of its world tour, the show will stun those who attend the performance in Motril.

It's not just about Malambo however as two great ex-



BREATH TAKING: The total commitment of the Malambo dancers.

ponents of Argentine Tango will be performing their own brand of the country's

most famous export. Tickets for this evening which starts at 9pm cost just

€15 per person and can be obtained direct from the Congress Palace.

Music for all in Almuñecar

THIS weekend there are some quite different concerts in Almuñecar starting with the L84 band who are playing Surf 'N' Roll on Friday evening.

Saturday sees the town Municipal Band playing processional marches based on Holy Week celebrations and entitled 'From step to step through Almuñecar' will take place at 8pm in the Casa de la Cultura.

The last day of the Holy Week concerts will culminate in a rendition of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony for piano, viola and violin performed by the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra also at the Casa de la Cultura early evening.

The town will then focus on Semana Santa with a staging of the traditional El Paso, a parade that harks back to the 16th century in the Plaza de la Constitución.

For the chosen few

BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA is a Spanish winery founded in 1864 by Don Eloy Lecanda y Chaves and owned since 1982 by the Alvarez family.

Don Eloy, a Spanish winemaker, brought several grape varieties back from the Bordeaux region where he trained to his Castile homeland, including Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, all of which are still used today together with Tempranillo and Malbec.

In the 20th century, Vega Sicilia - located in the Ribera del Duero DO in northern Spain - earned a reputation as one of Spain's most notable wineries with its top bottles selling for an average of €300.

The name Vega Sicilia refers to the Catholic Saint Cecilia with no connection to the island of Sicily.

Many of Vega Sicilia's 250 acres are planted with old vines, some more than 100 years old, resulting in a low yield during harvest.

The wines are aged in barrel and bottle for many years and depending on vintage for decades before release.

For example, in 1991 the winery released the 1968 and 1982 vintages after 23 and nine years ageing.



by Lorenzo Barbareschi



BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA: Family-run since 1864.

Vega Sicilia produces three cuvees:

Unico: This Gran Reserva is the signature wine released 10 - 15 years after vintage. Taken from some of the oldest vines it consists of Tempranillo (80 per cent) and Cabernet Sauvignon (20 per cent) and accounts for about a third of production.

Valbuena 5°: Aged for five years, it is composed mostly of Tempranillo, with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vega Sicilia Unico Reserva Especial: A non-vintage blend of different Unicos, aged at least for 10 years; it can include grapes from vintages harvested more than 30 years apart and usually only available to private customers.

Happy tasting.

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Groundbreaking house goes into its shell

MEANDRE'S shell-shaped house in northern Spain is an innovative and futuristic design that maximises space.

The layout is impressively groundbreaking in that it turns traditional notions of space planning in a house inside out.

A normal design is based around a central common space, with other rooms leading off from it.

However, in this new concept the common space is hugging all rooms, forming a common corridor around the whole structure where the other spaces become separate shell-shaped cells.

Russian architecture firm Meandre has produced a vision here that provides complete privacy for bedrooms, with windows opening only into internal garden space.

Other rooms are transparent with glazing on all sides, while the

suites are positioned in a way that allows them to be lit with natural light in the morning.

In the evening, only the living and dining areas receive sunlight, and there is courtyard access from the corridor but not the rooms.

This unique design is a mesh of functional and bioclimatic ideas, a new aesthetic that is vividly memorable.

The geometry of simple lines and arches gives the house a stylish facade, while the dome ceilings of the rooms increase the sense of space and allow more natural light.



Credit: Meandre

SHELL SUITS: The design is simple, stylish and innovative.

Benidorm popularity

BENIDORM may be best known among tourists for its sun, sea and nightlife, but it's the city's burgeoning real estate market that is causing international investors to take notice.

Back in 2008, Spain's unem-

ployment rate shot up by 36 per cent and when the property bubble burst, investors couldn't get rid of Spanish real estate fast enough.

Today, however, there is a very different outlook: the

economy is doing well; the banks are healthy; there is an investor-friendly legal framework; and property is still cheap compared to other European cities.

The recovery started six years ago with a €41 billion banking system bailout, and it is gathering pace as lenders clear out toxic property assets.

In the rental sector, cities like Benidorm have witnessed record average prices due to a combination of increased demand and a fall in supply.

That is because many homeowners, who had been renting out their properties during the economic slump, are now putting them back on the market as prices start to pick up again. Added to this is the fact that short-term rentals to tourists have become a more profitable proposition than long-term leases.

Visitors flock to Benidorm for the beach, hotel and theme park pleasures by day, and the highest concentration of entertainment and clubbing venues in Europe by night.



BUILDING BLOCK: The housing crash left Sesena littered with unfinished homes.

Ghost town comes alive again

SESENA, a town that came to symbolise the excesses of Spain's last real estate boom, has begun building again.

It was a decade ago that ghost-like buildings in the Castilian countryside became an emblem of out-of-control speculation and of the housing crash.

However, Sesena, (34km south of Madrid), is making plans to build thousands of new homes after councillors approved the 'Quixote Park' project in late January.

Mayor Carlos Velazquez says proposals

to combine homes with an industrial park on the site prove that the town has learnt from the mistakes of the past.

In fact Sesena's change in fortunes is a sign of how soaring demand is causing Madrid's real estate and rental markets to heat up again.

Fernando Encinar, co-founder and head of research at Idealista said:

"There is as yet no bubble but there is a mini-boom. People will start to move out of the capital to the satellite cities."



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GRAEME TYRRELL

DESIGNING the plantings in your garden takes a lot more skill than just what looks good on paper.

It is a good idea to also know which plants can help and support each other's characteristics and needs. Many plants provide attributes that can greatly benefit each other.

Something as simple as providing shade where a taller, more sun tolerant plant can shelter a softer, sun sensitive one is a way to use plants to benefit each other.

Trees are an obvious example of a good means of providing shade for a variety of plants that cannot tolerate the hot Mediterranean sun.

In the vegetable garden corn can provide shade for beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, peas, potatoes and many other shorter heat intolerant plants, including flowers.

Companion planting

Finding the right friends for your plants



Photo Credit: Miyuki Satak Shutterstock
COMPANION PLANTING:
Peas and spring onions.

There are also plants that are incompatible. Tomatoes will not grow well with corn. Sun-loving plants or plants that need low nitrogen will not do well in a well prepared nitrogen-rich corn bed.

Many culinary herbs fit into this category.

Companion planting can be very detailed. If you want to find natural ways to improve your garden, it is important to at least understand the basics of it. Pests can be repelled by adding flowers and herbs such as marigolds, thyme, sage, lavender, tansy, mint and many more. Some plants will attract beneficial insects, such as zinnias which attract ladybirds. Garlic and onions are good pest deterrents but they can stunt the

growth of some legumes including beans and peas.

There are many guides on companion planting and there is a lot of variation in advice so it is best to research ideas you like and just try it out to see if recommendations work for your plants in your environment.

It can be a help to research plants beneficial to the specific problems you have with your plants and use those.

Combining plants known to support each other and ones that are detrimental to each other is also very handy to know. Lavender growing under or around fruit trees susceptible to codling moth will give them some protection.

Growing flowers in veg-

etable gardens is becoming more popular as people learn of the benefits of different flowers to deter damaging pests and to attract beneficial ones.

Do not be too concerned that you cannot follow garden plans for companion planting exactly.

Plants may not be crucially affected and some advice is regional. It is just an additional skill for better gardening. You can still get enjoyment from learning for yourself what works well and what does not.

It may be more detrimental to plants to be dug up and removed to another place if you find established plants are not where they should be to get the benefit of companion planting.

The most important thing

is that you can feel good about gardening.



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PETS PAGE
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Denning is a natural instinct

David
THE Dogman

columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

DOMESTICATION of dogs is a fairly recent event in the history of canines on earth. Although wild canines have been around for millions of years, they have only spent a few thousand of those as our pets. As a result, they still retain some of their 'wild' instincts, and one of those is the instinct to 'den.'

Canines have a definite instinct to hide out in dens. If they do not have one available, they will 'make their own.' We frequently see our dogs under desks or the dining room table, if they can fit. When a dog digs a hole in your garden one reason might be the instinct to make a den.

What this behaviour is all about is a canine's natural desire to have a place he can call his

own. Many people dislike the idea of 'caging' or 'crating' their dog, feeling as if it is cruel and somehow hampering his freedom. This is not true. Just go to a friend's house who has a dog that has been properly crate (or cage) trained.

The dog will often seek out this refuge when he is tired, stressed, or just wants to be away from it all. Your friend probably feeds her dog in or near his 'den', has provided soft, comfortable bedding for his 'den', and has plenty of toys for him to play with or to chew nearby. What dog would not want to stay in a place with so many luxurious amenities?

Many people leave a cage or crate available for their dog so he has his own place to go to. The door is always open and the pet comes and goes as he pleases.

To him it is not a cage, but rather an indoor doghouse that he feels secure in.

Other advantages of cages or

crates include:

- Safety for your dog and house. Having your young or untrained dog in a cage may protect your house from dog-related destruction while you are away or are unable to watch him. I know of a woman who forgot to put her 10-month-old giant breed puppy in his cage. She came home to papers ripped up and spread all over, and toilet paper strewn throughout the house. A crate can prevent this type of disaster from happening. It can also prevent the young, unsupervised animal from hurting himself by chewing electric cords or becoming ill from something he ate during his escapade.

- When travelling with your pet, a crate in your car can protect both your pet and the driver from being disturbed. Whether you choose a plastic crate or a wire cage, you will be doing both you and your pet a favour when you get him his own 'den.'

Mature pets need understanding care

IF you are fortunate enough to have had a pet live with you into old age, you'll understand what I am about to describe. With every year, every noticeable limp, their comfort becomes more important both to you and to them.

They may not be as agile as they once were, and despite obvious enthusiasm and excitement about the prospect of going out with you, perhaps their gait is a little arthritic and the tail wagging somewhat shorter in duration than before.

Just like humans the older our pets become they may need prescribed medications and treatments to keep them well and comfortable. This can make a trip away more of a challenge.

Do you take them somewhere for the duration of your absence or keep them at home? Often pet owners express a wish to keep mature pets at home. They say it is less stressful if they know their location, familiar smells, and their routines.

Fortunately, today in the age of the internet there are options available to access affordable pet care for when we go on holiday. Joining a

membership network where the house and pet-sitters are all checked on registration is easier than ever.

On HouseSitMatch.com the sitters offer an exchange of services free for home and pet care swapped for free accommodation.

It is easy to join our membership network online and we can help you get started. Check out our Trustpilot (link to <https://www.housesitmatch.com/testimonials/>) references online to see what our verified customers say about us too.

"Excellent company and we have always had brilliant house sitters from here!"

Jules Ross - home and pet owner in Malaga
So if you have holiday plans for this year, and especially if you have mature pets, it is best to find your house-sitter now and ensure you have good pet care at home for free!

Standard membership costs £49 per year. Premium membership costs £79 per year and offers larger adverts and more support at every stage.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting, and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20. To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HousesitMatch.com.

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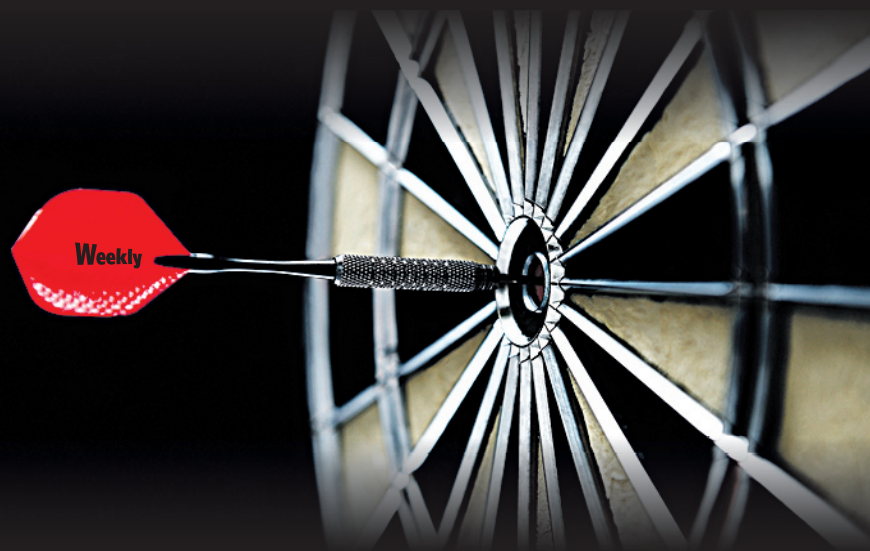
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MOTORING FACT



Domino's Pizza co-founder Jim Monaghan traded his shares, half of the business, for a Volkswagen Beetle in 1961.

Rock and Roll-ing in style

THREE vintage supercars previously owned by rock and roll superstars have gone under the hammer at auction for staggering fees.

Billed by some as the 'rock stars' cars' auction, the three cars formerly owned by Paul McCartney, Sir Rod Stewart and Pink Floyd's Nick Mason went up for auction as part of Bonhams' Goodwood Members' Meeting sale on Sunday, March 18.

Paul McCartney's limited edition 1967 Lamborghini 400 GT, one of just 247 ever built, belonged to McCartney during the Beatles' heyday and went on sale for a stunning €559,000 (£494,000).

According to reports, the former Beatle had the car



COOL: Mason's former Ferrari has been dubbed the 'coolest car ever made.'

specialized converted to right hand drive in the late 1960's before eventually selling it on in 1979.

Tim Schofield, head of the auction house's motor department, told British media: "There is certainly a market for celebrity owned

vehicles, especially when the cars themselves are desirable marques and models such as this Lamborghini.

"Paul McCartney, he has had some fantastic cars in his time and this is no different.

"It was first registered to him in February 1968, the heyday of his time with The Beatles."

Also sold at the auction was Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason's 1974 Ferrari Dino 246 GT Spider.

Dubbed the coolest car



LIMITED: The 1967 Lamborghini, previously owned by Paul McCartney, is one of only 247 ever made.

ever made, the jet black supercar has 'Nero' painted down the side of it and fetched almost €476,000 (£420,000) when it went to auction.

Also under the hammer was Sir Rod Stewart's bright red Lamborghini Diabolo.

The 200mph supercar, which Sir Rod reportedly bought for himself at Christmas 1991, after his album went platinum in six countries, fetched €154,000 (£136,000).

New lawnmower - a cut above the rest



FAST: The Honda Mean Mower Mk2 is claimed to top 134mph.

JAPANESE giants Honda have revealed their latest model is set to hit a top speed.

In a remake of their Mean Mower, which claimed the title of world's fastest lawnmower in 2014, Honda are set to release the new impressive follow up model - the Mean Mower Mk2.

Honda's latest super powered ride-on grass cutter has the same engine as the brand new CBR1000RR Fireblade, a 1,000cc engine with roughly 189bhp.

And while it is yet to be officially tested, the Japanese manufacturing giants reportedly claim that the super-bike powered mower will top 134mph - which would make it faster than a 2017 Honda Civic hatchback.

The Mean Mower secured the world record for world's fastest lawnmower in Spain four years ago, when it reached 116.57 mph at the IDIADA proving ground close to Barcelona.

But Honda lost their title to the Norwegian Speed Factory Team just over a year later as they topped out 133mph on a modified Viking T6 lawnmower.

And now the Japanese giants are set to challenge that figure and reclaim their title with the Mean Mower MK2 model, which they promise will be able to go beyond the current record of 133mph.

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Appalling weather doesn't stop the CCCA!



Motoring correspondent Ian Giles reports on the latest news from the Andalucía Classic Car Club, the most successful such society in the area and probably in Spain with over 600 members.

IT'S not very often that we complain about the weather here in this wonderful part of the world. It's also very rare that the CCCA would even contemplate cancelling one of its classic car runs due to adverse weather conditions. But it nearly happened because the weather was so bad around the time of the Club's March event.

I only said 'nearly'!

The Club and its membership are made of stronger stuff and, despite heavy rain, the March run organisers, Stuart Sandon and Rob Walker, took the plunge (not quite literally!) and ran the event regardless.

Almost 40 people turned up at Venta Los Morenos, just outside Alhaurin el Grande, on a rather wild Saturday morning and thoroughly enjoyed what would have been a beautiful route - if they could have seen it properly!

Understandably, a lot of members cried off but those that came along really enjoyed the entire day and the sheer challenge of it all.

Organisers Stuart and Rob, ably assisted by their stalwart wives Linda and Margarita, even managed to serve Cava and canapés at the refreshment halt on the way around. A bit like wet Martini deliveries with all the members sitting in their cars, rolling down the windows to receive their red-cross parcels! Sadly, all that was missing

was the Martini girl on her roller skates!

After a most enjoyable drive the event arrived at Simbads restaurant near Las Chapas where a warm greeting and cold drinks awaited our hardy members.

It must also be said that Simbads provided a first class lunch for a very reasonable price and included live music too. All members appreciated the service and quality of food that the restaurant was able to offer and soon the heavy rain was but a distant memory!

Several new members turned out for the run including one brave lady who came for her very first outing without a navigator and driving a very rapid Audi R8. She thoroughly enjoyed it all and tells me that she is really looking forward to the next one in early April!

The next Club dinner is on Tuesday April 3 at El Chaparral, and the next classic car run is on Saturday April 7. After that the six-day Tour D'Algarve gets under way, starting from San Pedro and finishing at the Molino del Santo in Benaocan near Ronda.

At this moment, in addition to the CCCA Club events, I am working on a fabulous six-day tour from London to Monaco. Timed to arrive in the Principality in time for the Historic F1 race and festival of historic racing, the



WHAT A BEAUTY:
Brought to the CCA event.

event will visit many famous places in France where the emphasis will be on fabulous hotels and fine, French food and wines. And, of course, spectacular routes and driving!

The event will start from the iconic Brooklands circuit in Surrey in early May before crossing the channel and heading for the Alps, taking in The Route of Napoleon to Nice to finish in Monaco itself. The Historic weekend is an amazing festival of motor sport itself and well worth going to. The

high-light has got to be the race for front engined F1 cars which is always really spectacular. The CCCA has several members competing in this prestigious race and quite a number of members will be going along to support them.

I have spent the last couple of weeks in the UK, France and Monaco preparing the route, which I am well pleased with. I hadn't, however, prepared myself for the atrocious weather conditions I was to meet in the Alps and around the lake near Geneva, Lausanne and Evian. Snow and ice which even caught out the locals, roads that were impassable, accidents galore and a time loss for me of two and a half days when we had to 'hole-up' in Geneva while the weather improved.

One good thing came out of it though, we found an excellent Spanish

restaurant within careful walking distance of our hotel which we visited on two consecutive nights!

Sadly, that meant I missed my flight to Barcelona for the F1 test sessions there which I wanted to report on for this publication. By all accounts it looks like the leaders of the pack will be Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull so no great change there. Roll on the first GP in Australia in a week or so and we'll see which teams have made progress!

That's it from me until the next time.

FULL OF STYLE:
An oldie but still a goodie.

MEMBERS WHO LUNCH: At Venta Los Morenos near Alhaurin el Grande.



Ian Giles
MOTORING

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

CRISTIANO RONALDO scored his 50th career hat-trick as he scored four for Real Madrid in a thrilling 6-3 win over Girona at the weekend, as he also took his tally to 17 goals in his last eight games.

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Axarquía's best guide to local sport

Start your engines!

Formula One season begins in Australia

THE Formula One season officially kicks off this weekend, getting underway with the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

All eyes will be on last year's champion Lewis Hamilton and his battle with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who will both be attempting to win their fifth titles respectively.

Mercedes will also be looking to pick up their fifth consecutive constructors' ti-

tle this season but the infamous fifth title may be the hardest of all, with several competitors set to rival them for the championship.

Alongside Ferrari, who will be desperate to reclaim the title, Red Bull finished the year hot on Mercedes' heels; and young Red Bull driver Max Verstappen is also tipped for a good year this season.

Verstappen, 20, is one of nine drivers this year under

the age of 25 in this year's championship and is an outsider for the title after a strong performance in 2017.

The young Belgian-Dutch driver showed glimpses of what may be to come in 2018 last season with wins in Malaysia and Mexico, and he will certainly be in contention, along with last year's Abu Dhabi champion, Valtteri Bottas and Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, whose fu-

ture still remains seemingly up in the air.

The Australian is out of contract at the end of the season and there is currently no news of him close to agreeing a new deal, unlike youngster Max Verstappen who signed an extension with the team until 2020 last year.

If Red Bull hit the ground running, we may see a change of heart from the 28-year-old but a reported 2019 move to Mercedes continues to seem the likeliest alternative at the moment.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso and McLaren will be positive heading into the season after posting the third fastest time in testing, despite five breakdowns, while the Australian GP will



BACK: The F1 returns this weekend, with Brit, Lewis Hamilton aiming for his fifth driver's championship.

also see the return of Alfa Romeo, who teamed up with Sauber ahead of the 2018 season.

This weekend's race in Australia will also be an F1 first as it will be the first ever season opener to feature two four-time world champions.

Action gets underway from 2am tomorrow (Friday) with P1 followed by

P2, ahead of Saturday's Qualifying, which begins at 7am.

And the season's racing will officially begin at 7.10am on Sunday.

After Australia, the Formula One season heads to Bahrain on April 8 and then Shanghai the following week before taking a two week break ahead of the Azerbaijan GP in Baku on April 29.

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