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# Nerja landfill probe

## Prosecutor finds 'serious environmental breach'

by Benjamin Park

The State Attorney General's office has reportedly detected 'serious environmental breaches' in the case of the La Miel de Nerja 'illegal' landfill.

According to reports, the Environment and Urban Planning department has sent an expert report on the situation to the Court leading the case as part of the Guardia Civil operation surrounding the case, known as operation 'rubbish.'

The illegal dumping ground, which was reportedly found on a mining gap, had reportedly been used as a landfill site since at least 1998, covers an estimated area of three hectares and held a volume of waste of more than 802,000 cubic metres of pruning, construction and demolition waste.

The report from the Environment and Urban Planning department allegedly details that the uncontrolled rubbish



Credit: Twitter

**'ILLEGAL':** The site had reportedly stored waste since 1998.

dump was located on an old quarry and that there were a series of regulatory non-compliance issues.

Several environmental infringements were found to have affected a number of matters on the site including breaches against mines, waste, water, protected natural space, forest fires and were also a risk to the health

of the local population.

In June last year, it was revealed that local businessmen and even public officials including current Mayor Rosa and her predecessor Jose Alberto Amijo, had been implicated in the operation as 40 people were investigated by the Guardia Civil; of which 12 were arrested.

Those arrested have been

charged with alleged crimes of forgery and fraud, in relation to the dumping ground which reportedly covered a staggering 36,000 square metres by the end of 2016.

It has since been reportedly confirmed by Guardia Civil officers that the landfill was exploited for more than 15 years while it was managed economically by a group of construction companies in Nerja that failed to comply with administrative regulations.

## Prison for caretaker

A SCHOOL caretaker has been jailed for 10 years for abusing two girls aged five and six.

The former janitor will also be prevented from coming within 500 metres of his victims and will take part in a sexual re-education programme.

The man, who worked at a school in La Cala del Moral, was given two five-year sentences for abusing two girls. A lawyer for the victims, Susana Bellido Garcia, said, "justice has finally been done and the truth has come to light," following the crimes which took place in 2013 and 2014.

The defendant had launched an appeal against his conviction at the Supreme Court but it was rejected on the grounds there had been no, "obscurity or insuffi-

ciency in the proving the facts." The court also highlighted the, "seriousness of the facts, and that it was repeated over time in the same way at the same place."

The convicted was found to have used, "different tricks such as offering sweets or colouring books," to lure his victims to another room where he abused them.

His abuse continued between October 2013 and January 2014, using behaviour described by a court as, "aberrant, inappropriate and abusive," using the girls, "as instruments to satisfy his lubricious desires."

During the trial, the convicted person stated that he had never touched the minors but offered no argument or reason that could justify the accusations he was facing.

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**NEWS EXTRA****New Malta route to go**

AVIATION company Air Malta has launched its first direct flight with Spain from Malaga. The company hopes the route will strengthen ties between Spain and Malta.

**Security fear**

OPPOSITION politicians have accused Velez-Malaga's mayor of playing 'Russian roulette' with the lives of residents following an alleged lack of security over Easter. Mayor Antonio Moreno Ferrer denies the accusation.

**Lottery con**

THREE people have been sentenced to 23 months in prison for defrauding 13 others with fake lottery prizes. The scam is thought to have cost victims more than €217,000.

# Sewage works go on

PROGRESS to Nerja's much-anticipated sewage treatment plant continues at a good pace.

Work is expected to begin in the Burriana beach area after sewage collection points have been completed in Calles Antonio Ferrandis and Antonio Milon.

The project, which began again in February following a 10-month break, will see a further collection point installed in the area surrounding Burriana beach which will take waste water to a treatment plant.

Isolux-Corsan-Corviam, the company undertaking the project, will begin the works once specialised machinery has been moved to the area which can break down several concrete walls along the seafront.

At the end of last month, stormy weather broke an underwater sewage pipe off Nerja's coast, causing waste water to pour out into the sea. The pipeline was repaired last March in a €100,000 project after a leak caused a 'geyser' of

sewage to form off the town's popular beaches. Witnesses said the raw sewage was visible from popular attraction the Balcon de Europa.

Almost half the municipality's sewage is pumped through the underwater pipeline untreated before it is let out to sea at around 1,000 metres off shore.

The council says this distance is far enough for the current to take the waste out to sea.



**RAW SEWAGE:** Formed a slick off Nerja's beaches.

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## New hospital takes form

THE Junta De Andalucia says a firm plan for Malaga's new hospital will be put forward before the summer.

The Department of Health has said the plans will deliver a 'cutting-edge and innovative project aimed at residents.'

The minister of Health, Marina Alvarez, called the proposed hospital a "big city project," adding, "the Junta de Andalucia is offering Malaga its strong and firm support."

Last month, Ms Alvarez said the Junta will

support the plan and hopes the new building will be located at the back of the Materno Hospital 'if technically possible.'

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

In turn, the Hospital Civico would become a research and training hospital. Around 300 people helped create the document, with sources saying, 'we are confident that what we have proposed will go forward.'



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**P24**

**SPORTS**

NEWS, FIXTURES AND RESULTS FROM THE UK AND SPAIN.

**P39**



**LETTERS**

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

**P29**

**MOTORING**

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



**P37**

**Open all hours**

LIBRARIES in Rincon de la Victoria are set to open for longer. Buildings in La Cala del Moral, Benagalbon and Torre de la Benagalbon will now be open between 9.30am and 1.30pm and 4.15pm and 8pm.

**More buses**

MALAGA City Council has announced it will use its financial surplus to purchase 21 new buses. The local authority plans to use €7.8 million to invest in local services ahead of the municipal elections next year.

**€103m budget**

VELEZ-MALAGA Council has announced its 2018 budget promising €11 million in investments. Among the municipal sites that are set to benefit is the Lope de Vega theatre which will receive €500,00 in funding. Investment in social care will also reach €1.3 million more than last year.

**€52,724**

**compensation**

THE family of a young man killed in a crash have been awarded thousands of euros in compensation. A court in Malaga found Velez-Malaga Council was liable for costs after the man died in a motorcycle accident while driving on roads in a 'terrible state of conservation.'

**Food fame**

FOOD made in Frigiliana will be featured on an Irish TV show. Chef Neven Maguire recorded the programme, which will be aired during prime time, in Frigiliana following a collaboration between Turismo Andaluz, Turismo Costa del Sol, Frigiliana Council and the Spanish Tourism Office in Dublin.

**Frozen in time**

**THE BIG PICTURE Nº 9**



**SAD ESTATE OF AFFAIRS:** It is unlikely that most abandoned properties will ever be finished.

THERE are an estimated 3.4 million of them across Spain.

And DJI Drone Photography Award winner Markel Redondo spent the early part of 2018 snapping the country's abandoned housing developments from the air for his Sand Castles II project, with jaw-dropping results.

He first photographed the sites in 2010, and has now retraced his steps with a DJI Phantom 4 Pro drone for company.

Over the course of 15 days he doc-

umented 12 developments in southern Spain.

The photographer said that the unfinished houses were built by developers in "a dizzying rush to make the most of cheap loans and favourable government regulation."

But now they lie deserted.

"In 2009, I was working on an assignment in southern Spain when I saw a group of abandoned houses in Andalucía," the prize winner explained.

"I am interested in the environment so when I saw these developments and how the environment, often beautiful mountains or coastline, was being treated, it made me angry.

He added: "We live in a society with huge housing issues, where many cannot afford a place to live, yet Spain has more than three million empty homes.

"There is an apocalyptic feel to the developments, it is as if you are the last inhabitant in the world."

Photo credit Markel Redondo/British Journal of Photography

**PLUS THE REGULARS**

**News**  
1 - 10

**Finance**  
11

**Leapy**  
17

**Time Out**  
20 - 21

**Couch Critic**  
27

**Health & Beauty**  
30

**Social**  
31

**Property**  
32

**Pets**  
34

**Services**  
35

**Classifieds**  
36

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**84**

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- 2017 Best free publication in Spain - Premios AEEPP XI edition
- 2015 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall
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# Bottoms up



**GRAPE EXPECTATIONS:** The Spanish wine industry faces challenging times despite topping world sales in terms of volume.

CORKS are popping for Spanish winemakers.

The country remains the world's largest world exporter, having shipped out almost 2.3 billion litres of home-grown plonk in 2017, according to the latest data from the Spanish Observatory of Wine Markets (SOWM).

And the figure means that Spain outstripped its nearest rival Italy, which sold 2.1 billion litres, by more than 1.8 million.

Traditional heavyweight France lagged behind in third as it sent 1.5 billion litres abroad.

But the cheap price of Spanish wine saw France top the revenue ranking with sales totalling €9 billion, followed by Italy with €6 billion and Spain trailing in third having made just €2.85 billion.

This is due to Spain selling its vino at bargain prices, with a litre costing on average €1.25, compared with €2.78 in Italy and a whopping €6 in France.

The value for money offering places the country's wine among the world's cheapest, with only South African plonk costing less at €1.23 per litre, while Australia billed €3 and Chile €1.89.

But price is not necessarily reflected in quality, said Rafel del Rey, general manager of SOWM.

"The average (quality) of Spanish wines packed in many of the final consumer markets is a reasonably good average," he said.

There is a caveat, however, as he added: "It is true that we are relatively far from the French and Italian and this is fundamentally due to the greater experience the French and Italians have in the international markets compared to the Spanish market."

The main challenge facing Spanish winemakers is reportedly the over-production of cheap, mass-produced 'bulk' wine, which in 2017 accounted for 12.6 billion litres of sales despite a lack of internal infrastructure to monitor its distribution, according to Spanish national media.

And the country could face more challenges this year after frost laid waste to much of the 2017 harvest in key growing areas including Ribera del Duero - which lost an estimated 70 per cent of its crop - as global production plunged to a 56-year low.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

*Should Spain reduce speed limits on main roads as proposed by authorities this week?*

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

Do you think the new maximum €30,000 fine for animal cruelty crimes in Spain is sufficient?

Yes **54%**

No **46%**

## EWN online this week

**222,480 Page views**

**TOP 5 stories**

**EXCLUSIVE: 'Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun' is packing Benidorm bags and heading to Costa del Sol**



**HIT REALITY SHOW: Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun.**

- 29,684** views 'Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun' heading to Costa del Sol
- 5,949** views Rain to soak Spain for the next week
- 3,535** views Kirsty Maxwell 'may have been victim of mistaken identity'
- 3,307** views Mum and daughter tied and beaten in violent break in
- 3,288** views Nine cyclists injured, one critically after car plows into them

*\*For week 2 - 9 April*

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**CORRECTIONS**

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, non-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected. Email: editorial@euroweeklynnews.com

CREDIT: Blakevay North TV

**NEWS EXTRA**

**Sent down**

A MAN has been convicted of throttling his partner to death with a phone cable in Torre del Mar following a trial. Prosecutors are now asking that he be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

**Super-fast**

YOUNG job seekers in Velez-Málaga are being offered a free course in installing fibre optic broadband while the municipality's internet is currently being upgraded.

**No battery**

THREE young people and a man were surprised by police as they attempted to steal batteries from 10 parked cars in Málaga. The boys, aged between 15 and 18, have been arrested.

**OUR VIEW**

**Shut down expat titles a sad sign of the times**

IT was with sadness that we this week learned of the passing of two of our long-standing rival titles.

The Costa del Sol News and Costa de Almería News have long been leading the pack in terms of purchased (those that readers buy) expatriate newspapers.

And their decision to stop the press after two decades of hitting the newsstands each week can only be taken as a sign of the times.

It is surely the latest warning that an ongoing shift to digital media is threatening to snuff out the British love affair with printed papers.

But while their closure could be described as symbolic of the wider issues facing the expatriate news market, we believe there remains a strong demand for quality free of charge titles.

Our own distribution and circulation data suggests that there has been no drop-off in readership, only that far fewer people are prepared to pay for their weekly news when so many free options exist.

There is also the need to diversify across platforms - including websites and social media - rather than relying on a single source of income.

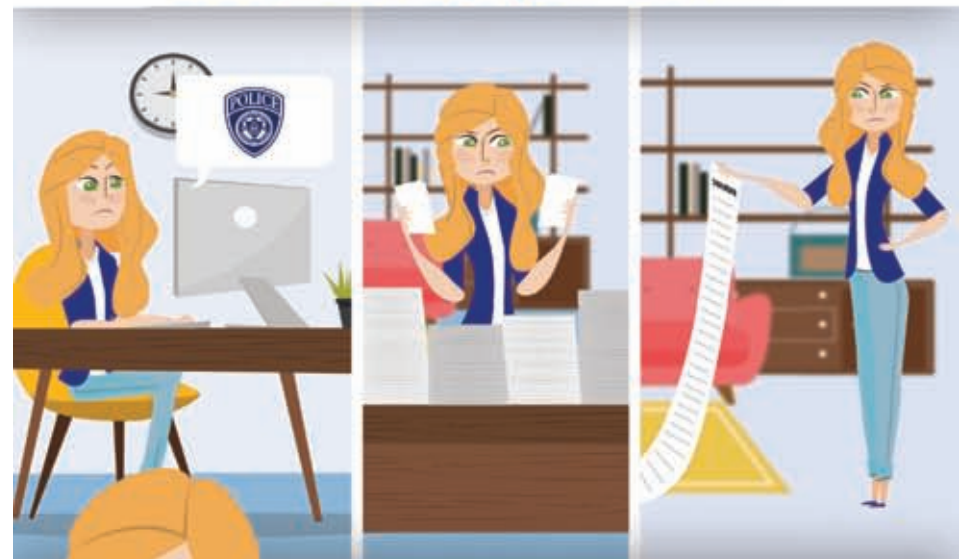
But we must also ensure that news sources remain credible, as Prime Minister Theresa May recently warned that the closure of hundreds of titles is "a danger to our democracy" leaving the public "vulnerable to news which is untrustworthy."

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**Celeb focus**

**She's nuts!**

**FRISKY: Lisa Appleton.**

FORMER Big Brother star Lisa Appleton last year revealed that she had splashed out more than €25,000 on cosmetic surgery to stop her "looking like a testicle."

But the outrageous reality star went back on her word on holiday in Tenerife after strapping a giant sex toy to her face.

The 49-year-old was pictured in a series of saucy poses, to the apparent bemusement of passing tourists.

**Fit for a king**

KING Juan Carlos has been released from hospital following a knee operation.

The former monarch, 80, has had an old prosthesis on his right leg replaced.

It comes after his wife Sofia and daughter-in-law Leticia put on a united front while visiting him, after video footage of an apparently tense stand-off between the pair during a Mallorca church service emerged.

# Beach ready

SHE'S only just returned from a sun-drenched break in Dubai.

But former glamour model Danielle Lloyd, 34, was this week snapped parading in Marbella after slipping into a barely-there bikini.

The mum-of-four only gave birth to her son Ronnie seven months ago, but the Celebrity Big Brother star appeared every bit the beach babe as she topped up her tan.



Photo credit You Tube

**HOT MAMA: Mum of four Danielle.**

Photo credit Donald Trump Jr/Instagram



**DON THE SPOT: Trump Jr in the Spanish wilderness.**

## Trumped up nature walk

HIS wife has filed for divorce after 12 years of marriage.

And Donald Trump Jr - the eldest of the US president's children - this week decided to get away from it all as he hiked through the mountains of Aragon, northern Spain.

The businessman and former reality TV star, 40, posted a series of snaps of himself decked in camouflage gear as he hiked through the Puerros de Tortosa-Beceite mountain range.

He captioned one of the shots: "Some truly incredible scenery and terrain here in Spain this weekend."

It comes as his estranged wife Vanessa, 40, reportedly triggered divorce proceedings amid rumours that he had an affair with ex-Danity Kane singer Aubrey O'Day, 34.

The couple have five children together, and it was recently revealed that Trump Jr complained about visiting the Playboy Mansion with this then-pregnant wife in 2007.

## Seething Thandie's airport headache



**VENTING HER SPLEEN: Thandie Newton.**

SHE last year appeared in a Comic Relief spoof safety video for British Airways.

But British actress Thandie Newton, was less than impressed with the service received from the carrier as she tried to return to London after a trip to Ibiza.

Her flight was eventually cancelled after she spent six hours waiting at the airport before flying home the next day.

And the Westworld star took to Twit-

ter to vent her fury, as she wrote: "A horrible end to a vacation, six-hour delay with no information. Flight cancelled? Next availability???" Still waiting. #Ibizablues."

The mum-of-three continued her social media rant as she followed up with "The Saga Continues. @British\_Airways can you please check our private messages? I need your help!"

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**NEWS EXTRA****Coast upgrade**

TORRE DEL MAR'S beaches are set for a facelift following council proposals to transform the coastline, protecting its sand supplies and dunes.

**Art affair**

YOUNG people in Torrox are being offered outdoor art classes taking place in various parts around the municipality. Those aged between 12 and 31 will be offered 80 places on the course.

**Pact intact?**

POLITICAL party PSOE has threatened to break a political pact with other parties over the proposed rise in water rates in Velez-Malaga, Rincon de la Victoria, Torrox, Algarrobo and Benamocarra.

**School's out**

THE Junta de Andalucía is proposing to expand schools in Torre de la Benagalbon over a lack of infrastructure caused by a growing population in Rincon de la Victoria.

**Park life**

VELEZ-MALAGA Council is proposing a new park and barbecue area in Las Golondrinas. The 10,350 square metre plot was acquired by forced expropriation in 1996.

**Green-fingered**

RESIDENTS of Velez-Malaga may soon learn it pays to be green after the council has proposed a points system for those who recycle. Accrued points can then be used for discounts on municipal services.

A TRADE body has revealed private taxis are cheaper over longer distances.

The Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU) has confirmed firms including Uber and Cabify offered better value for money over longer journeys, while traditional taxis were cheaper on shorter trips.

The OCU released the information after collecting data from 170 trips across 10 Spanish cities, including Malaga. The body said while the information, "is not intended to be a comprehensive price comparison analysis," it did find private taxis were cheaper in all

# Cheap ride

trips in every city but Malaga and Valencia. The OCU study explained longer trips were cheaper with private hire vehicles in all cities, however, saving more than €5 on a journey to an airport.

The organisation added Cabify offered the best value due to, "the impeccable interior appearance of its vehicles, the quality of driving and the way the bill is managed." Traditional taxis won out on their visibility and availability as well as the way drivers responded to clients' requests. Uber was praised for the condition of the interiors of its cars and personality of its drivers.

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# Inheritance tax break

NERJA Council is offering residents a 95 per cent reduction in capital gains tax on inherited property.

The move will cost the local authority €384,600 a year but save residents thousands of euros in tax.

The tax break, which was approved in January, was proposed by Ciudadanos councillor, Maria del Carmen Lopez. Similar schemes have also been approved in Rincon de la Victoria, Competa and Alhaurin de la Torre.

The tax reduction was one of the measures party Ciudadanos demanded in exchange for supporting the council's March budget, which was voted through.

Politicians from parties Ciudadanos, Partido Popular (PP), PSOE and Izquierda Unida (IU) all voted to pass the tax break, while a councillor from party EVA-Podemos, Cristina Fernandez, abstained and a former Ciudadanos councillor, Lola Sanchez, rejected the proposal.

Councillor Fernandez ex-



NERJA TOWN HALL: Approved the measure.

plained her abstention saying her party were, "supporters of subsidisation by increments, so that people who have more pay more, so that it is the largest inheritances that pay."

Councillor Lopez, who rejected the measure, comment-

ed it would be a, "great relief to the pockets of residents."

The 95 per cent reduction is the largest tax reduction allowed to be passed on to residents by councils under law established by the Junta de Andalucia.

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# Fighting fire with fire

AROUND 4,000 people took part in a protest organised by Malaga's fire-fighters.

The city council and trade unions have accused each other of a 'lack of interest,' in finding a resolution to an ongoing labour dispute which began at the end of 2016.

Firefighters are demanding an update to their work regulations, which were last updated in 1959, as well as a reduction in working hours and having their positions reclassified to be paid the same as other emergency workers.

The workers say they typically work around 1,822 hours a year, the highest in the country, but

are paid less than other professionals.

During the dispute several firemen were fined, suspended or prosecuted, leading to calls for an apology from the Partido Popular (PP) led Malaga Council.

Earlier this month, two firemen were suspended and docked pay for 'dis-

rupting service,' after stopping work for around 20 minutes on April 23, 2017 at the same time as a demonstration held by staff.

In March it was revealed a judge had declined to prosecute 60 firefighters accused of dereliction of duty.

The firemen will now be able to return to work as normal following an investigating 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 on June 27 last year while on strike.

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## Water wars

IRRIGATORS are at loggerheads over the transfer of water from the Rio Chillar to the La Viñuela reservoir.

The Spanish Association of Subtropical Producers has criticised other irrigation communities for threatening to end the supply.

The association's president, Jose Linares, explained, "to suggest this is a fight for water does not make any sense. The water that is going to be sent to the La Viñuela system is a surplus from the Rio Chillar and is not going to be used for subtropical irrigation but rather than for human supply."

Last week the Association of Employers of Nerja (AEN) and communities of irrigators from Nerja and Frigiliana said they may protest if the Junta de Andalucía uses water from Chillar for subtropical fruit crops in Velez-Malaga.

The AEN claimed the Junta intend to extend an emergency measure to transfer nine cubic hectometres of water to La Viñuela each year and continue the policy indefinitely. The association explained this has "caused alarm," due to the, "absence of an environmental impact report."

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## Opel launches finance option

OPEL VAUXHALL FINANCE, the automotive finance arm of the car manufacturer, has launched in Spain.

The firm will offer finance products and mobility solutions to Spanish consumers, and is expected to strengthen Opel's market position as it aims to finance one in three Opel vehicles across Europe by 2020.

"Entering the Spanish market is an important milestone for us," said Alexandre Sorel, CEO of Opel Vauxhall Finance. "As Opel's captive finance organisation we can substantially support Opel's growth plans in the country."

# Labour charges below par

ONE hour's worth of work in Spain cost an average €21.20 in 2017, about €9.10 cheaper than the eurozone average, according to European Union (EU) data.

Hourly work costs, which include salaries and social security contributions, were €5.60 cheaper than average across the EU as a whole.

Costs across the eurozone increased by 1.9 per cent during 2017, while those in Spain increased by 0.5 per cent on the previous year.

by Joe Gerrard

Eurostat, the EU data collection body, found that Spain came 10th among the 19 eurozone countries.

Denmark had the highest hourly labour costs in the EU at €42.50, according to the statistics. It was followed by Belgium at €39.60, Luxembourg, €37.60 and Sweden, €36.60.

The countries with the lowest costs were Latvia at €8.10, Lithuania, €8.00, Romania, €6.30 and Bulgaria, €4.90.

Around 25 per cent of the

€21.20 total was made up of costs not related to salaries such as social security contributions. The EU average was 24 per cent.

The proportion of costs not relating to salaries varied across the bloc.

The highest was in France at 32.8 per cent and the lowest was in Malta, with 6.7 per cent.

The data was compiled by analysing the labour costs in companies with 10 or more employees, excluding agriculture and public services.

## Fast Pensions nest egg debt

A COMPANY that ran 15 pension schemes in the UK has gone bust.

Fast Pensions and five associated firms have been told to suspend trading by the High Court of Justice in London.

Around 250 people who sank millions of pounds into the enterprise face losing their investments after they were unable to access their savings.

The Insolvency Service said those affected should contact a lawyer, regulated financial adviser or the government-funded Pensions Advisory Service.

### Quote of the Week

"It was a bad decision not to rescue Popular in 2012." Luis Maria Linde, Governor of the Bank of Spain, admits that in hindsight it would have been wise to use EU money to bail out the bank later sold to the Santander group for €1.



## Fake degree row stirs new scandal



### SCHOLIARS?: Cristina Cifuentes and Pablo Casado.

TWO senior Spanish politicians face calls to resign after being accused of faking their Master's degrees.

Cristina Cifuentes, president of Madrid's regional government, and Pablo Casado, a deputy communications chief, are both members of Spain's ruling Popular Party (PP).

They allegedly obtained master's degrees in public regional law at King Juan Carlos University in Madrid without attending classes or defending a thesis.



Photo credit: PP/YouTube

Casado told a press conference that he was never expected to attend classes or sit exams, while a university departmental director resigned after saying her signature had been forged on a document Cifuentes produced when the story first broke at the end of March.

And the scandal could see the PP lose control of the regional assembly, where it relies on the support of centre-right party Ciudadanos, which has made fighting corruption one of its key policies.

### BUSINESS EXTRA

## Tanks a billion

MUBADALA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, the state-owned holding company through which United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi controls CEPSA, Spain's second-largest oil and gas firm, is preparing to sell a stake in the company for around €10 billion, it was reported.

## Battle plans

THE Spanish Ministry of Defence has given the green light to construct five F-110 class frigates, a new class of warship featuring the Aegis naval weapons system, at a cost of €251.9 million, although the scheme needs to pass Congress.

## Bank on it

US magazine Global Finance has for the fourth consecutive year chosen CaixaBank as the best bank in Spain, highlighting that the group has safeguarded the future of its 16 million customers by adjusting to their needs in a highly competitive market.

## Expatriate papers shut down

TWO long-established expatriate weekly newspapers will no longer be hitting the stands.

It comes as the Costa del Sol News and Costa Almeria News, both part of the CB News group, last week printed their final editions.

They had been read by English-speaking residents for 22 and 13 years, respectively.

CB News was in 2007 acquired by Rotativos del Mediterraneo, part of a larger media group based in Germany.

And the firm has now taken the decision to axe both titles, citing finances as the reason for their closure.

The company's other publications - based on the Costa Blanca - will continue to operate as normal, according to reports.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 9

Table with columns: COMPANY, PRICE(P), CHANGE(P), % CHG., NET VOL. Lists companies like Anglo American, Associated British Foods, Admiral Group, etc.

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Table with columns: COMPANY, PRICE, CHANGE%, CHANGE, VOLUME(M). Lists companies like AMERICAN EXPRESS, APPLE, BOEING CO, etc.

M - MILLION DOLLARS

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CLOSING PRICES APRIL 9

Table with columns: COMPANY, PRICE, CHANGE NET / %. Lists companies under 'Most Advanced' and 'Most Declined' categories.

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# SPAIN'S TOP 100 RICHEST BRANDS NAMED Zara tops value ranking

FASHION retail giant Zara is the most valuable Spanish brand in 2018.

The popular clothing firm - owned by Europe's richest man Amancio Ortega - is currently worth €14.83 billion according to a new report by London-based consultancy Brand Finance.

It represents a year-on-year increase of more than 21 per cent in the company's value according to the Top 100 ranking, which sees the retailer claim top spot from banking group Santander.

"The spearhead of the Inditex group has improved in every aspect: its turnover has been 14 per cent higher, growth forecasts have grown by 6 per cent and its profit margins are among the strongest in the industry," the study says.

"It is one of the brands most recognised by the public, and far from satisfied with short-term success has managed to maintain an intelligent policy of capital investment in its facilities, creating the profits that are now being accrued," added Brand Finance's managing director in Spain, Teresa de Lemus.

And seven of the top 10 positions occupied by textile firms were taken by brands owned by Zara's Galicia-based parent company Inditex, the biggest fashion group in the world.

"The Inditex group contributes 18 per cent of



**FROCKING HELL:** Zara, Spain's most valuable brand this year, is owned by Inditex tycoon Amancio Ortega (inset) who is worth an estimated €56.3 billion.

the total value of the Top 100 companies," the report continues. "It owns firms including Bershka (15th position), Massimo Dutti (18th), Pull and Bear (20th) and Kiddy's Class, making its first appearance on the list."

Second-placed Santander increased its overall value by 2 per cent to €13.77 billion, with the banking sector contributing the greatest total worth to the classification.

BBVA, Spain's second-largest bank, placed third with a brand value of €9.87 billion, a rise

of 42 per cent in the space of a year.

But the fastest-growing firm was Madrid-based luxury fashion house Loewe, which rocketed by 70 per cent, followed by Catalan clothing retailer Mango and real estate specialist Merlin Properties, both of which soared by 55 per cent.

The overall top five was completed by telecommunications brand Movistar, which was valued at €9.7 billion, and Europe's largest department store El Corte Ingles, now worth €3.51 billion.

## ADGP to open probe in wake of Cambridge Analytica row

SPAIN'S Data Protection Agency (AGDP) is probing British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica.

The company is accused of harvesting the personal details of 87 million Facebook users through an app called thisisyourdigitallife - built by Cambridge University psychologist Aleksandr Kogan - in one of the social network's largest data breaches to date.

And AGDP confirmed the move as it tweeted: "The Spanish Data Protection Agency has opened an investigation against Facebook in order to examine the possible harm caused to Spanish users."

Facebook had allegedly been aware of the violation since late 2015 but failed to alert users. The news comes as Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg revealed he plans to testify before Congress in Washington DC after admitting that he made a "huge mistake" over the scandal.

# HSBC WHISTLEBLOWER FREED AFTER ARREST Swiss extradition demand

A HIGH-PROFILE banking whistleblower has been released on bail but ordered to remain in Spain.

It comes after French-Italian IT specialist Herve Falciani - who worked for HSBC's Swiss private bank - was last week held in Madrid.

He fled from Switzerland to France in 2008 taking with him the names of 130,000 individuals and organisations allegedly flaunting the country's system to evade tax and launder money.

The 46-year-old later leaked the information, sparking investigations in France, Austria, Belgium, Spain and Argentina.

Switzerland first issued an international warrant for Falciani's arrest on charges of industrial sabotage in 2009, but French authorities ignored it and instead used the stolen data to prosecute tax dodgers.

He has been living between France and Spain under a high-security United Nations programme



**'INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE':** HSBC Private Bank was accused of helping clients to avoid paying billions of Euros in taxes after stolen data was leaked by Herve Falciani (inset).

since 2013, when the Spanish national court acquitted him of the violation of bank secrecy charges he faces in Switzerland, since the leaks exposed alleged serious offences.

In November 2015 he was sentenced in absentia to five years in prison for data theft and financial espionage, and the Swiss justice ministry last Thursday confirmed

that it has submitted a formal extradition request.

Spanish Judge Diego de Egea freed Falciani while he considers the case, but he has been stripped of his passport and banned from leaving the country, while he will be jailed if he fails to present himself in court once per week.

In November last year HSBC Pri-

ate Bank agreed to pay France around €300 million to avoid tax fraud charges, while Spain has reportedly recovered a similar amount in unpaid duties from the 637 Spaniards who appear on Falciani's list.

Sources at the Spanish High Court told national media that there is a 'judicial agreement' in place to protect him given the help he has provided to Spanish authorities.

But Spain wants to extradite two separatist fugitives, Marta Rovira of the Republican Left party and Anna Gabriel of the radical Popular Unity Candidacy, who fled to Geneva after being charged with rebellion over their roles in Cataluña's independence movement.

Switzerland has thus far been unwilling to cooperate, and Falciani's arrest is being widely seen in Spain as an attempt to curry favour, while triggering speculation of a possible prisoner exchange should the Catalan pair be held.

## Operator nets airwaves deal worth €600m

TELEFONICA has forked out around €600 million to improve its British mobile service.

The UK subsidiary of the Spanish telecommunications provider has snapped up the biggest portion of new airwaves in an auction that raised more than €1.5 billion for the UK government, according to regulator Ofcom.

"We have acquired four blocks of 10 MHz each in the 2.3 GHz band and eight blocks of 5 MHz in the 3.4 GHz band," Telefonica said in a statement.

The airwaves are earmarked for next generation services, with the 3.4 GHz band set to be enabled for 5G, the upcoming wireless technology with the potential to link up everything from household devices to supermarkets to cars while offering super-fast smartphone speeds.

# €8.4bn Bitcoin crackdown

## CRYPTOCASH USED TO LAUNDER DRUG MONEY

ELEVEN people have been held in Spain and Colombia with 137 others being quizzed over an international drugs money laundering scheme involving the cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

A Guardia Civil probe was launched after 174 suspicious current accounts were opened with Dutch multinational banking firm ING.

Small amounts of cash up to €3,000 - the maximum permitted before identification is required - were reportedly dripped into these deposits via Spanish cash machines.

The money was later withdrawn in Colombian cities including Bogota, Cali, Cucuta and Medellin using credit cards associated with the accounts by mules travelling from Spain, where the drugs were sold.

A number of withdrawals also took place in Panama City, with a large network of people reportedly employed to make the initial deposits in order to avoid the alarm being raised.

Using this method, the gang was able to successfully convert €5 million of dirty money into legitimate assets, police said in a statement.



Photo credit Guardia Civil

**BIT HITS THE FAN: The arrest of a cash mule by Colombian police sparked the probe.**

But when Colombian investigators snared one of the culprits, the traffickers adopted a new technique, snapping up Bitcoins in Euros and later selling them for Colombian pesos using the Finnish startup LocalBitcoins.

In total, an additional €3.4 million was laundered this way, triggering a wider crackdown codenamed Operation Tulipan Blanca, a collaborative sting between detectives from Europol, the



Guardia Civil, the United States Department of Homeland Security and Finnish authorities.

Investigators swooped on eight unspecified properties in Spain during a series of raids, seizing computer equipment, documentation, plastic bags for packing bank notes and money counting machines. Colombia is currently ranked third in the world, behind China and Nigeria, in terms of the number of transactions carried out using cryptocurrencies. According to a LocalBitcoins spokesman, the transfer of Bitcoin into Colombian pesos soared by more than 1,200 per cent in 2017 alone.

It comes after the arrest in Alicante last month of the suspected leader of a gang of cybercriminals who allegedly stole up to €1 billion from banks by tampering with account balances and instructing hole in the wall machines to spit out cash.

The Ukrainian ringleader named as 'Denis K' had reportedly directed the plot from Spain since 2013, converting the proceeds into Bitcoin in his homeland and Russia before spending the proceeds on luxury goods in Spain.

## Solar power to drive future of energy market

SPAIN'S Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Digital has published a new report, including new growth scenarios for the future of the Spanish energy market.

It recognises solar as the future cheapest source of power and predicts it to dominate all other energy sources within 12 years.

The Spanish government said that increasing the renewables share would significantly reduce power generation costs, thus enabling savings of around €9.6 billion and slashing CO2 emissions.

According to the most optimistic figures, solar is expected to reach a capacity of 47.1 TWh by 2030, becoming the country's leading power source, followed by wind, combined cycle plants, hydropower, cogeneration facilities, and nuclear power.

Under this scenario, renewables would have a 70 per cent share in Spain's electricity mix.



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# How many more lives must be lost?

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT**

OTHERS THINK IT



I MUST confess I thought long and hard about the subject matter for this week's blurb.

I actually had a number of events I could have covered, including the arrest of the OAP who, in the act of protecting his home and family killed a scum burglar, or the disgraceful humiliation of some of our most loved stars (including a number of my friends) by a jumped up drag queen in the new reality show, 'Last Laugh in Las Vegas.'

In the end, I decided in the light of all the recent horrendous violence and murders in London, that I simply had, despite the near certainty of once more being labelled a racist, follow my own moral instincts and endeavour to speak freely about a subject that is being worsened and compounded by PC-riddled, fact-distorting media outlets with exactly the same anxieties.

All week, as report after report came in of further murders and injuries to youngsters in areas of London I waited, through numerous newscasts and discussions, for someone to finally state the truth - and almost unbelievably nobody did! The pure and utterly irrefutable fact that almost every victim involved in these crimes were black.



**LONDON: Violence is on the increase.**

It almost seems that our media outlets, including the politicians and police hierarchy, are either in complete denial or total funk regarding this glaringly obvious and extremely worrying situation. Until the true problem is at least admitted and faced up to, how on earth can the authorities begin to solve and prevent further maiming and murders of youngsters who originate in areas that are mainly occupied by the black communities? This is a black on black situation.

This is not 'a London problem,' as those who blame everyone else for the situation would have us believe. The majority of decent Londoners, ethnic or otherwise, are not rushing around in gangs, stabbing and committing drive-by shootings. It is utterly unfair to lump all the law abiding decent citizens of this great Metropolis into the same bag as a small majority, who have turned their local areas into some sort of tribal, drug-infested killing field.

Have we learned nothing from America,

where similar problems resulted in whole great cities being reduced to ghost towns of dust and destruction? This is a black community problem. Until all members of London society, including its dysfunctional mayor along with local members of these beleaguered communities admit this and come to terms with it, it will NEVER be sorted. The police must be given more power to act in these areas. They must be allowed to stop and search far more freely without fear of political correctness or accusations of racism.

Gang members must be rounded up and incarcerated, until their organisations break down and cease to exist. If this means bringing in the army, so be it. Community and sports centres need to be opened in these areas, with decent youngsters not being afraid to attend because it means straying into a 'rival' gang territory. All this can only be achieved if the true problem is recognised, admitted and acted upon. How many more young, misguided lives must be lost before the authorities get some bottle and do something to root out the true origins and perpetrators of this utterly tragic and unacceptable situation?

I await the 'Slings and Arrows.'

*columnists@euroweeklynews.com*

*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**



## Assault and battery

**'My name is Terence Kennedy and I am a battoholic'**

AM I the only one to get a charge from juggling and relocating batteries religiously between devices until they really are very, very, very empty?

By the time my throwaway AA battery has sparked its last after an action-packed journey from electric razor to torch to electric spaghetti fork (yes, mea culpa...) to doorbell to kitchen clock, I realise that yes, I do indeed need to get out more, but at least my humble battery has had almost as many lives as our cat.

The irony is that we're a dying breed in an increasingly battery-powered world, and it doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to unearth the truth: manufacturers increasingly want us to change our devices rather than their batteries. Removable batteries are (becoming) history.

The underlying wastage is staggering, as many of us can see by simply pulling out a desk drawer to reveal a graveyard of phones finished when their batteries were.

Removable batteries peaked in the 90's and have been losing ground ever since. The recent debacle where Apple finally fessed-up to slowing



**CELL-BY DATE: The end of the removable battery?**

down older iPhones as their batteries weakened, nudged the issue back to centre-stage.

At least iPhones can take a replacement battery, even if it's an expensive surgical intervention which only Apple will perform. Not a single flagship Android phone is now open to the public.

For fancy phones, metal and glass bodies simply don't mix well with removable batteries, playing havoc with waterproofing and sealing. Removable batteries are bulkier, in a world which prizes slimness over sense.

I have an early Nexus tablet still ticking along on its original battery

after five years and some 400 charges. As a DIY geek I could indeed swap its battery with the aid of a specialist kit - but it costs almost the same as an enticing new tablet so why would I?

A friend recently scrapped his entire laptop because it started showing a 'BIOS' error when booting. Had he asked, all it really needed was a new button battery worth a euro.

But today the only phones with removable batteries are budget ones, and who's to say you will still find niche batteries for a GreatLeapForwardfone three, four or five years down the line so why bother?

Manufacturers generally are increasingly replacing the ubiquitous removable cells with their own proprietary sealed units - while persuading us to buy today's new kid on the must-have gadget block, the portable powerbank.

As a David Attenborough aside to it all: could we thus also be facing the extinction of one increasingly endangered animal: the Duracell Bunny?

**For battery or worse**

**DIEHARD battery-swappers take hope: online help is on hand if you can't face ditching a perfectly serviceable and much-loved device just because its battery has ceased to be.**

**Try running a Google search like 'how to change a non-removable battery' and you'll be astonished how many tutorials will appear.**

**In some cases all it takes is a cheap set of jewellers' screwdrivers, or a slightly fancier toolkit if your manufacturer attempts to thwart break-ins with odd-shaped screws (like the increasingly common Torx heads).**

**Specialist battery kits can be found online for the more popular phones, tablets and e-readers. But you will need a steady hand, eagle eyes - and no tears for any minor damage caused while breaking and entering.**

**Nick Horne** *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



THE RAF, the first independent Air Force in the world, is celebrating a century of service in 2018.

Last year inspired by and in anticipation, luxury sports car manufacturer, Aston Martin commissioned a unique series of sports cars to mark that service, a limited edition of 10 Vanquish S Red Arrows editions.

The Vanquish S Red Arrows is the result of collaboration between Q by Aston Martin, the Royal Air Force and Aston Martin Cambridge with approval from the Ministry of Defence, resulting in one of the most exclusive Aston Martins ever built.

Just 10 of the Red Arrows inspired cars were constructed, each with special design features, hand crafted interiors and graphic elements drawn from the language of aviation as well as the skill and agility of the RAF's acclaimed official aerobatic unit, the Red Arrows.

Why 10 cars when the Red Arrows perform in a diamond formation of nine Hawk jets? Because the 10th was gifted to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The Aston Martin Red10 was raffled in support of the fund, and more than 70,000 tickets were sold, raising more than £1.5 million. The winner of the raffle and lucky owner of the Aston Martin Red10 supercar, Humphry Bradley

## RAF inspired super car raffled for charity: one very lucky driver!



**FLYING HIGH:** The Aston Martin Vanquish S Red Arrows edition.

said: "I was totally shocked to win such an incredible prize, absolutely gobsmacked. I am honoured to have supported a service charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund undertakes some truly incredible work supporting the RAF family. As an ex-service man myself I know how important the work of charities like the fund is."

The Vanquish Special Edition is finished in striking Eclat Red, mirroring the livery of the Hawk jets and referencing the word 'Eclat,' the Red Arrows' motto.

Subtle details enhance the body work and interior from white and blue carbon detailing to the white smoke

trail feature on the side strake.

Exposed carbon fibre roof panels include a 'charge pattern' imitating the design of a fast jet with Union Jack enamel wing badges and a titanium exhaust complete the exterior design.

Inside Red Arrows and RAF inspired details abound, Pinewood green inserts evoke the classic flight suit and Martin Baker ejection seat fabric together with the green webbing seatbelts.

The signature Red Arrows emblem of nine aircraft in a classic diamond formation is embroidered on the seat backs, together with unique sill and engine inspection plaques. Each car is signed by the equivalent Red Arrows pilots, one through to 10.

The cabin is finished in a 2+0 configuration allowing for rear mounted stowage of twin racing helmets, both finished in the Red Arrows livery. Each Vanquish S Red Arrows owner also receives bespoke accessories including racing helmets, racing suits, embroidered bomber jackets and bespoke luggage.

Editions one to nine are available for £275,000 (€315,400) on the road, while the raffle winner owns Aston Martin Red10.

**TOP GUN:** The stunning bespoke interior.

## Under fire CPS boss to quit after 'disastrous' rocky reign and crises

**Nora Johnson**  
*Breaking Views*

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

RARELY has news that a public official, the ideologically-driven Director of Public Prosecutions for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Alison Saunders, is leaving their post been greeted with such glee.

One of her worst moments was when her decision not to charge the Labour peer Lord Janner with alleged child sex crimes was overturned after the complainants demanded a review of the CPS' assessment.

She was also heavily criticised after most of the journalists charged as part of Operation Elveden, the investigation into

allegations involving reporters bribing police officers and other public officials, were acquitted.

And recently, after the collapse of several rape trials following the failure of the prosecution to disclose evidence led to the CPS announcing a review of all current rape cases, she found herself faced with yet another crisis.

Again, during her rocky reign, the CPS wasted considerable police time and court resources in prosecuting cases dating back decades (Cliff Richard, for instance) where the evidence was tenuous at best.

While there's no doubt these matters should be investigated and the guilty brought to justice - like Max Clifford, Rolf Harris, Gary Glitter - several investigations were botched at taxpayers' expense. The cases of Lords Brittan, Bramall and McAlpine clearly show mistakes of identi-



**CLEARED:** Cliff Richard was among those wrongly accused during botched investigations launched by CPS boss Alison Saunders (inset) paid for by taxpayers.

ty or false allegations aren't impossible and that justice and fair procedures should apply to the living (as well as the dead).

So, another nail in the failing

reputation of the UK's justice system and also public trust in the police? The suspicion is that the police are yet another British institution that's become re-

moved from the concerns of the vast majority of people who pay for it. Too easily influenced by fashionable political issues; fairly useless at doing what people

really want it to do (stop crime); and eager for the spotlight in pursuing celebrities over allegations dating back to the 1970's.

Such was the never-ending roll call from the 70's, it reached the point when you expected Captain Pugwash, the Blue Peter tortoise and Zippy from Rainbow to be hauled in next for questioning ...

To the ridiculous without going through the sublime...

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

All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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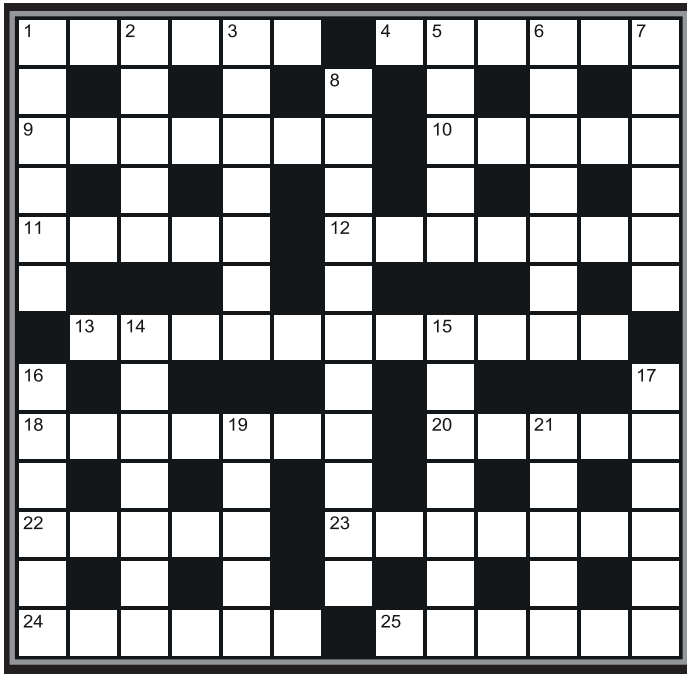


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**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 Doesn't sit where the dearest seats are (6)
- 4 Boat seen after short time in capital (6)
- 9 It's mean to state how old one is (7)
- 10 Old stringed instruments from hilly resorts (5)
- 11 Guy entertains Mark and Victor (5)
- 12 The wrong deep tar is a cause of delays (3,4)
- 13 Underground building isn't cleaned (11)
- 18 Some tennis pros perceptively thrive (7)
- 20 Small owl, young, somewhat humble (5)
- 22 Ascend, having registered band (5)
- 23 Edwin's upset about Lloyd's first fraud (7)
- 24 Cooked small trout for the coaches (6)
- 25 Invisible nun wandering around diocese (6)

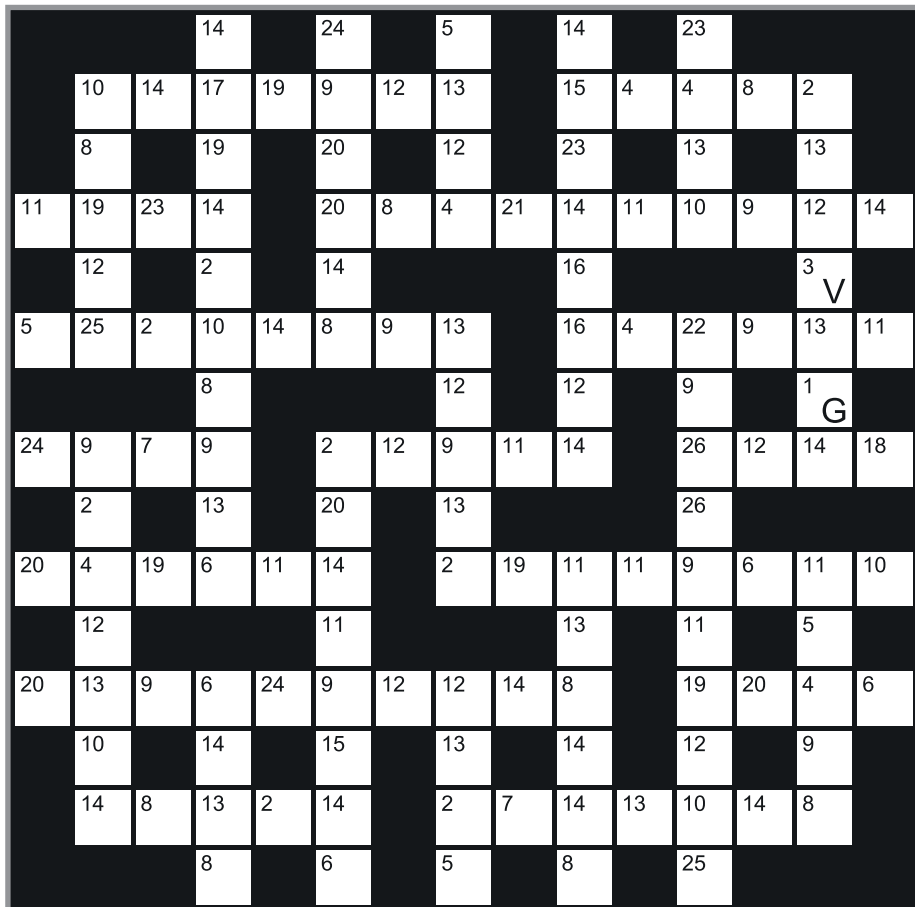


**Down**

- 1 Formality of a celebrity going to church (6)
- 2 Near a demolished stadium (5)
- 3 Inscrutable late Greek god (4,3)
- 5 Anointed muddled oldie (5)
- 6 Sure to have new crate at home (7)
- 7 Has Edward got drunk? (6)
- 8 Decoration to make the patron saint annoyed (6,5)
- 14 Warning cry to main watchman (7)
- 15 Capital city has towering hostelry (7)
- 16 Peg, drunkard, crossing gorge (6)
- 17 Heraldic beast with very strange name (6)
- 19 Scottish player to defeat queen (5)
- 21 Club gaining advantage after wicket (5)

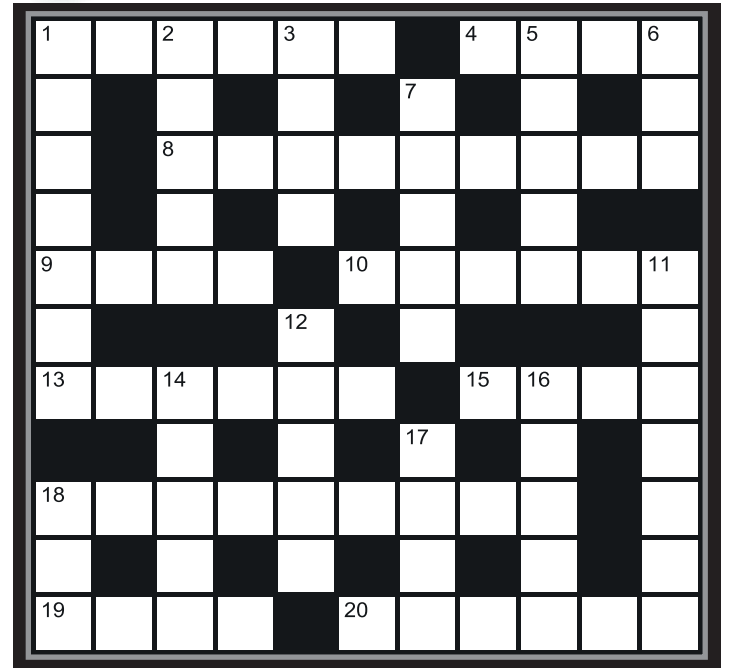
**Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents G and 3 represents V, so fill in G every time the figure 1 appears and V every time the figure 3 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.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G		V										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

**Quick**



**Across**

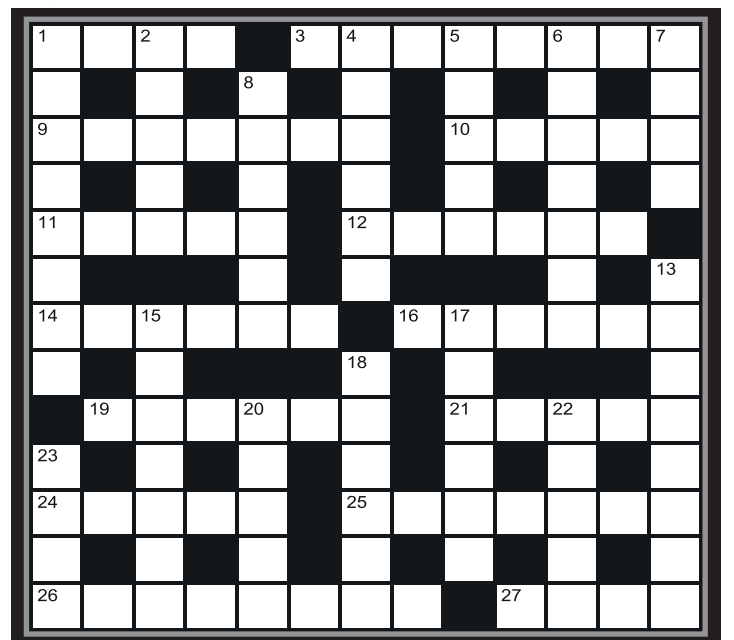
- 1 Like a cat (6)
- 4 Worry unnecessarily or excessively (4)
- 8 Within reach (9)
- 9 Do what one is told (4)
- 10 Hydrophobia (6)
- 13 Next after or below the first (6)
- 15 Habitation of wild animals (4)
- 18 Come into existence (9)
- 19 Abstaining from food (4)
- 20 Fight or encounter (6)
- 2 Depart (5)
- 3 Close at hand (4)
- 5 Jewish spiritual leader (5)
- 6/18 Begin round of gold (3,3)
- 7 Dull and cheerless (5)
- 11 Medical instrument used to inject or withdraw fluids (7)
- 12 Out of condition (5)
- 14 Strips of potato fried in deep fat (5)
- 16 Watchful (5)
- 17 Collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn (4)

**Down**

- 1 Marked by extreme anger (7)
- 18 See 6

**English - Spanish**

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



**Across**

- 1 Faja (de tela) (4)
- 3 Swing (child's) (8)
- 9 Church (7)
- 10 Choque (5)
- 11 Cider (5)
- 12 Huéspedes (6)
- 14 Corner (inside) (6)
- 16 Pegajoso (6)
- 19 Prize (6)
- 21 Alcanzar (5)
- 24 Planchas (utensilios) (5)
- 25 Hornet (7)
- 26 Tan pronto como (2,4,2)
- 27 Boss (4)

**Down**

- 1 Tijeras (8)
- 2 Ensalada (5)
- 4 Naranja (6)
- 5 Tío (pariente) (5)
- 6 Plástico (7)
- 7 Eight (4)
- 8 Tin (ore) (6)
- 13 Por casualidad (2,6)
- 15 Nervioso (7)
- 17 Third (fraction) (6)
- 18 Lapel (6)
- 20 Museum (5)
- 22 Manzana (fruta) (5)
- 23 Appointment (with client, bank manager etc) (4)

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# Have you been hacked?

**Mike Senker**  
*In my opinion*



*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*

I GOT an email from MyFitnessPal telling me that they had been hacked and it had affected 150 million people. Firstly, let me tell you what this phone app does. It measures how far you walk, what calories you eat, carbs, fat, salt, etc, are all measured and then it tells you how your weight and healthy eating regime is doing.

My initial reaction was why anyone would be interested if I'd had a crafty Mars bar or hadn't walked as far as I should. But then I read more and began to get a little grumpy.

I was told that I had to change my password and also change the password on any other sites where I might use the same one. So that got me thinking. Why do they need so much information? Why does a site that measures how much weight you are losing have to be passworded in the first place? Then I realised that on all these sites we are not the customer we are the product! Our data is worth fortunes and these companies use us as a currency.

I checked online and was shocked that this hacking was actually very serious as the data includes peoples' whereabouts, your exact lo-

cation, and this could include military personnel on secret military bases for example. At least this company reacted quickly - not like Uber (that I also have an account with) - who hid it from their punters by paying off the hackers! All your privacy settings go out the window when you are hacked. It's now a case of not what happens if you are hacked; it's what happens when you are hacked.

Our phones, and the apps on them, are gathering millions of data points about our lives on a daily basis. So what you eat and how many steps you take might not seem valuable to a hacker but where you work out and how long you are away from home and your exact location may well be.

I will now be going through all my apps on my phone and getting rid of the ones I do not use and which ask for too much information for, what I consider to be, no reason. I think the first I am going to get rid of is Facebook after what I have read in the last few days. In my opinion what they have done is verging on criminality.

But it's our own fault for mostly believing everything we read. As clever as we think we are these companies are cleverer with their data gathering. Big Brother is definitely watching us and so are his little sister, his mum and dad, and even the little innocent looking Granny too!

*columnists@euroweeklynews.com*

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## THURSDAY - 12 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
4:00am Commonwealth Games 2018	7:00am Commonwealth Games 2018	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:35am Digby Dragon
7:00am Breakfast	10:15am Oxford Street Revealed	8:30pm The Sky at Night	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am Rusty Rivets
10:15am Commonwealth Games 2018	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	9:00pm Commonwealth Games Extra	9:30am Frasier	10:05am Mofy
2:00pm BBC News at One	12:00pm Britain's Home Truths	10:00pm Putin, Russia and the West	10:00am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:30pm BBC London News	12:45pm Dom on the Spot	11:00pm Law and Order	10:35am Frasier	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:45pm Doctors	1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:20am Totally British	11:05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell	1:10pm 5 News
3:15pm 800 Words	2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018	1:20am Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	1:15pm Lunchtime GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4:00pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	2:20am Putin, Russia and the West	1:00pm Channel 4 News	2:15pm Home and Away
4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	A four-part series profiling Russian leader Vladimir Putin - after eight years as president and four as prime minister, one of the world's most powerful men	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:45pm Neighbours
5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm Today at the Games		2:05pm Posh	3:20pm NCIS
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Living with the Brainy Bunch		3:10pm Countdown	4:15pm The Killing Game
7:00pm BBC News at Six	10:00pm Civilisations		4:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News at 5
7:30pm BBC London News	11:00pm Match of the Day		5:00pm Escape to the Chateau	6:30pm Neighbours
8:00pm The One Show	11:30pm Newsnight		6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:00pm Home and Away
8:30pm EastEnders	12:15am Secret Agent		6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:30pm The Simpsons
9:00pm MasterChef	Selection: WW2		7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Channel 4 News
10:00pm Not Going Out	1:15am Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives		7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Location, Location, Location
10:30pm Still Game	2:15am MasterChef		8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Springtime on the Farm
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	3:15am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby		9:00pm Location, Location, Location	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
11:30pm BBC London News	4:15am Weather for the Week Ahead		10:00pm Indian Summer School	11:00pm Undercover: Nailing the Fraudsters
11:45pm Question Time			11:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	12:05am First Dates
12:45am Commonwealth Games 2018			12:05am First Dates	1:05am 999: What's Your Emergency?
4:30am Commonwealth Games 2018				12:05am The Murderer Next Door

## FRIDAY - 13 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Commonwealth Games 2018	4:20am This is BBC Four	7:00am Countdown	9:20am Floggals
10:15am Commonwealth Games 2018	10:15am Oxford Street Revealed	8:00pm World News Today	7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:35am Digby Dragon
2:00pm BBC News at One	11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am Rusty Rivets
2:30pm BBC London News	12:00pm Britain's Home Truths	BBC Young Musician 2018	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	10:05am Mofy
2:45pm Doctors	12:45pm Dom on the Spot	10:00pm Nat King Cole: Afraid of the Dark	9:30am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
3:15pm 800 Words	1:15pm Bargain Hunt	Documentary about crooner Nat King Cole	11:05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
4:00pm Escape to the Country	2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018	11:30pm The Joy of the Guitar Riff	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	1:10pm 5 News
4:45pm Money for Nothing	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	12:30am Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band	1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
5:30pm Flog It!	7:00pm Eggheads	In 1975, The Bay City Rollers were on the brink of global superstardom	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:15pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm Today at the Games	Cilla at the BBC	2:05pm Posh	2:45pm Neighbours
7:00pm BBC News at Six	9:00pm Gardeners' World	Totally British	3:10pm Countdown	3:20pm NCIS Special: Game of Shadows
7:30pm BBC London News	10:00pm The City and the City	In 1975, The Bay City Rollers were on the brink of global superstardom	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:20pm Patient Killer
8:00pm The One Show	11:00pm Episodes	Cilla at the BBC	5:00pm Escape to the Chateau	6:00pm 5 News at 5
8:30pm Sounds Like Friday Night	11:30pm Newsnight	Totally British	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours
9:00pm EastEnders	12:05am Front Row Late	Nat King Cole: Afraid of the Dark	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:00pm Home and Away
9:30pm MasterChef	Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	10:00pm Mondays	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
10:30pm Have I Got Backshall's Hedgehog Rescue	1:30am Panorama	11:00pm Gogglebox	8:00pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm The Gadget Show
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	2:00am Civilisations	11:35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats	9:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Springtime on the Farm
11:25pm BBC London News	3:00am Picasso's Last Stand	12:20am Rob Beckett's Playing for Time	9:00pm I Don't Like Mondays	10:00pm Jane McDonald: My Life Story
11:35pm The Graham Norton Show			10:00pm Gogglebox	11:00pm Will and Grace
12:25am Wannabe			11:00pm Lee and Dean	11:30pm Will and Grace
12:50am Commonwealth Games 2018			11:35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats	12:05am Greatest
4:30am Commonwealth Games 2018			12:20am Rob Beckett's Playing for Time	Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
			5:00am This is BBC Four	1:00am Super Casino

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



# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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

## Motorhome owners are generally respectable

WHAT a shame David and Sally have nothing better to do than complain about motorhomes pitching at Aguilas Carolina's.

The car park is not only for cars, it's for all vehicles including motorhomes. Costa's laws do not allow overnight parking, but is tolerated as these vehicles contribute to the local economy.

Most of the motorhome fraternity are elderly and retired, enjoying their new found freedom. We spend vast sums of money for our self-contained vehicles.

We do not leave our rubbish on the ground. Nor do we go behind bushes for a poo or wee, leaving tissue paper and faeces which cannot be said about the general public!

We are of a considerate and responsible age, having high regard for the environment in which we live.

I live locally and enjoy weekend trips to the beaches, something that cannot be experienced in the UK.

Would David and Sally be happy to see chiringuitos and homes demolished as they too are contravening Costa's laws??

### Behind the times in La Cala

LA CALA DE MIJAS may have a new tourist office but they are still behind the times with their time keeping.

Since the clocks changed at the start of summer time last Sunday the clock on the town hall/police station has remained an hour behind the official time.

Perhaps just four days after the clocks change, plus the added



Photo Credit: Tjk Wikimedia

BEHIND TIME: The town hall in La Cala.

Easter holidays, means even clock-watching officials - and there are normally plenty of them around - have not turned their attentions to keep the public accu-

rately informed.

Time will tell how long this might take.

P Wardman, Mijas

### Dog fight

RE: Letter from Mr Edward Taylor

Your letter regarding stray dogs everywhere and animal rights activists. For politeness I will not write what I think about your views, to each his own!

Animals do not contaminate the air, we humans do - with the fumes from our cars and other vehicles, from the power stations and incineration plants burning our refuse, industrial toxic fumes belching chemicals into the air.

Animals do not pollute the oceans nor

Their righteous indignations against us motorhomers, would be better channelled by targeting the local councils to provide public conveniences for all. This would improve the environment at beauty spots.

Dave, Turre

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

## Norwegian flies high in air transport world awards

They are worse than Ryanair for the come in, sit down, shut up routine. Very bad at keeping schedules from my experience with them.

Robert Carter

They don't deserve it. Absolutely diabolical customer service.

Mark Rainey

### Cyclist dies after horror crash

Happening too often, drink and drugged up drivers killing people. Van/wagon drivers should be tested before being allowed on roads and police should do regular drink / drug test on roads. The only people who would have a problem are the ones doing wrong!

Paula Bush

Should throw the key away ! So sad for the cyclist RIP.

Jay Ellis

### Holiday hotel bookings down 25 per cent

Perhaps a bit cynical of me, but barely a week in to the summer season and already one region

### Comments from EWN online

asks for €100 million! Perhaps the huge increase in hotel rates, tourist taxes, tourist protests (in some parts of Spain), villa registration requirements, huge fines to the booking agencies are all contributing to the great general public, looking to the likes of the Azores, Cape Verde, Egypt, Greece, Turkey. There's a fine line in a family budget and Spain should not expect loyalty when the price difference can run into hundreds of pounds.

Gordon Hulme

I think if hotel bookings are down it's because so many come out to holiday homes now, or stay in someone else's or visit grandparents, like my family do, if we didn't live here six families, including us would be looking for hotels, there are many like us now.

June N Maurice Johnson

Maybe look at your level of service given to the tourist and the lack of value for money.

Shaun McElhinney

### Eric Bristow dies of heart attack

RIP Eric great loss not just to darts but to lots of people. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

Mark Peake

He will be sadly missed by all his friends in Los Cristianos, Tenerife, RIP Eric .

Robert E Pearce

My mam's fave darts player, shocking news.

Elizabeth Burrows

Wow too young to die. RIP.

Stephen Kim Raymond

### Fines of up to €30,000 for animal cruelty

Just as cruel leaving them abandoned in gardens for days or weeks at a time while owners are absent. I know they are fed but are so lonely and sad. Add to that the endless barking is intolerable.

Rosemary Harknett

Then use the money to neuter stray cats and dogs for free!

Mary Naismith

rivers, we humans do, with toxic waste and over-fishing and because we are too lazy to recycle fill these waters with plastics. Animals do not destroy their habitat in the jungles and forests, we do, cutting down millions of trees in the forests of Latin America or Asia. Animals do not cause wars - we humans do.

In a nutshell, we humans cause all the misery on planet earth, which we call our home.

Olivia Qualtrough, Mallorca

### Tee'd off

ALTHOUGH not a keen writer I felt it time to put my frustration into words.

Can you imagine my disappointment when a couple of years ago I bought my dream retirement home on the Costa del Sol in beautiful El Faro only a stone's throw away from a great golf course?

Can you imagine how I felt when not only was I told membership is closed as it was at capacity but that the waiting list was also full?

Never in my life have I heard of a waiting list being full, who decides when it's full and why not just extend it?

I must say as a middle aged retired gentleman looking to spend my twilight years enjoying a knock two or three times a week here on the Costa this now looks like a distant dream and I've got to say I feel like I've been left in the luff!

What's next, a waiting list to get onto the waiting list, but joking apart I find the whole thing pretty annoying! As a local tax paying middle aged gentleman spending my hard earned pension here on the Costa, without the only concession I feel I should be entitled to, this seems pretty rough justice.

Stephen Hamilton, Costa del Sol

### Cover up!

THE first official sign of summer for me has just been sighted yesterday - a tourist walking around in shorts without a shirt on. I am not certain, but I think he was British!

Why do the authorities on the Costa del Sol not take a leaf out of the powers-that-be in Barcelona and ban people wearing swimwear and parading around without shirts away from the beaches?

I doubt if this letter will bring about any action as there have been many public complaints each summer without success, but it gets it off my chest.

Fred Calbern, El Faro

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



SATURDAY - 14 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	4:50am BBC News	5:00am This is BBC Four	8:10am King of Queens	7:00am Milkshake!
11:00am Saturday Kitchen	7:00am Commonwealth Games 2018	<i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more. More depth, more range, more to stimulate the mind</i>	8:35am King of Queens	10:55am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:30pm Classic Mary Berry	11:00am Commonwealth Games 2018		9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:30am The Gadget Show
1:00pm Football Focus	1:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018		9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	12:30pm Traffic Cops
2:00pm BBC News	2:15pm MasterChef		10:00am Frasier	1:30pm Traffic Cops
2:10pm Weather	3:15pm MasterChef		10:30am Frasier	2:30pm Traffic Cops
2:15pm Commonwealth Games 2018	4:15pm Escape to the Continent		11:00am Frasier	3:30pm Live Aviva Premiership
5:30pm Final Score	5:15pm Money for Nothing	8:00pm Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth	11:30am The Big Bang Theory	6:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
6:30pm A Question of Sport	5:45pm Flog It!	<i>Documentary investigating life in the Atlantic Ocean.</i>	12:00pm The Big Bang Theory	7:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
7:00pm Doodlebugs	6:30pm Living with the Rainy Bunch		12:30pm The Big Bang Theory	8:00pm The Secret Life of Owls
7:15pm Ready or Not	7:30pm Today at the Games		1:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm QE2: The Worlds Greatest Cruise Ship
7:45pm BBC News	9:00pm The Forest		1:30pm The Simpsons	9:58pm 5 News
7:55pm Regional News	9:30pm Dad's Army		2:00pm F1: Grand Prix Qualifying	10:00pm Football on 5
8:00pm Weather	10:00pm Gettys: The World's Richest Art Dynasty		3:30pm Car S.O.S	11:00pm Football on 5
8:05pm Pointless	11:15pm Commonwealth Games 2018		4:30pm The Restoration Man	11:30pm 20 Moments That
8:55pm Who Dares Wins	12:45am Swingers		5:30pm A Place in the Sun	1:00am Super Casino
9:35pm Casualty	2:15am Civilisations		6:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	4:10am Murder on the Internet
10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	3:15am Weather for the Week Ahead		7:30pm Channel 4 News	5:00am Countdown to Murder
11:00pm BBC News	3:20am BBC News		8:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	5:45am House Doctor
11:15pm Weather			9:00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns	
11:20pm Match of the Day			10:00pm Thor	
12:45am Commonwealth Games 2018			12:15am Big Game	
4:30am Commonwealth Games 2018			1:55am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	

SUNDAY - 15 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
8:30am Match of the Day	7:00am Commonwealth Games 2018	8:00pm Only Connect	5:50am The Question	5:45am House Doctor
10:00am The Andrew Marr Show	10:15am Commonwealth Games 2018	<i>Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far.</i>	6:45am Steph and Dom's One Start to Five Star	6:10am Divine Designs
11:00am The Big Questions	4:00pm Women's FA Cup Semi Final: Chelsea v Manchester City	6:30pm Flog It!	7:15am King of Queens	6:35am Wildlife SOS
12:00pm Homes Under the Hammer	6:30pm Today at the Games	7:30pm Today at the Games	8:05am Everybody Loves Raymond	7:00am Milkshake!
1:00pm Bargain Hunt	9:00pm Britain's Biggest War Ship	9:00pm Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants	8:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
2:00pm BBC News	10:00pm My Year with the Tribe	10:00pm Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster	8:55am Everybody Loves Raymond	11:35am Football on 5
2:10pm Weather for the Week Ahead	11:00pm The Homesman	11:00pm Why the Industrial Revolution Happened Here	9:25am Eat the Week with Iceland	12:20pm Football on 5
2:15pm MasterChef	11:20pm The Hunters	12:00am Conversations	10:30am Sunday Brunch	12:50pm FIA Formula E Highlights
3:15pm MasterChef	1:15am Question Time	1:00am Eyes Down! The Story of Bingo	1:30pm The Simpsons	1:50pm Traffic Cops
4:15pm Escape to the Country	3:05am David Dimbleby presents topical debate from Liverpool.	2:00am Insect Worlds	2:00pm The Simpsons	2:45pm Traffic Cops
5:00pm Lifestory	4:05am Holby City	2:30am Revolution and Romance: Musical	2:30pm The Simpsons	3:45pm A Royal Night Out
5:10pm Songs of Praise	5:05am This is BBC Two	3:30am Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster	3:00pm F1: Grand Prix Highlights	5:40pm The Hundred-Foot Journey
5:45pm Pointless	<i>Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.</i>		3:30pm Speed with Guy Martin	7:55pm 5 News
6:35pm BBC News			6:30pm Grand Designs	8:00pm The Royals
6:50pm Regional News			7:30pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Meghan Markle: The First 100 Days
6:55pm Weather			8:00pm Escape to the Chateau	10:00pm Meghan and Harry
7:00pm The Big Painting Challenge			9:00pm The Crystal Maze	11:00pm The Dater's Handbook
8:00pm Countryfile			10:00pm Homeland	12:45am Kensington Palace: Fit for a Princess
9:00pm Antiques Roadshow			11:05pm Lifestory	2:15am Super Casino
10:00pm Ordeal by Innocence			12:00am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	4:10am Secrets of Great British Castles
11:00pm BBC News				5:00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
11:20pm Regional News				5:45am House Doctor
11:25pm Weather				
11:30pm Match of the Day 2				
12:30am The Peacemaker				

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.

SEMANA SANTA was, for most of



**TV COUCH CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

us, as glorious as ever across Spain, but it seems that TV presenters in the UK haven't realised that most of us went back to our usual day to day activities on April 2.

Lorraine (ITV, weekday mornings) is still on her Easter break and she must be confident that her fan base will gush once again when she returns, because the fabulous Christine Lampard has been doing a great job sitting in the hot seat whilst our Lorraine is off guzzling Easter eggs (unlikely) or sunning herself somewhere (possible).

Elsewhere, Rylan and Emma substituted for Phil and Holly and did a great job too. We know that Phil was in the Maldives because he made sure it was all over social media, but Holly was quiet, maybe she was in a chocolate egg-eating competition with Lorraine?

Piers Morgan is still absent from *Good Morning Britain*. It seems that this week Eamonn Holmes (he has his own website you know, with a massive picture of himself on the front

# Missing presenters and a possible change of venue



**FABULOUS: Christine Lampard.**

page) has been doing a little bit of filling in whilst Piers dines with Joan Collins and the like in LA.

I know that I'm risking an onslaught from loyal Piers fans if I dare even hint at another criticism of him, but if I'm honest, Eamonn is just as arrogant and dominating as Piers.

So if the 'Piers' job description is to be dominating, arrogant and to gener-

**BREAKDOWN: Ruti Olajugbagbe.**

ally talk over or down to the female presenters, then my money is on Mr Holmes. And if you



Photo credit You Tube

were watching GMB on Monday, I hope you caught Kate discovering, live on air, that she still had a roller in her hair - she laughed it off.

In TV News, *Britain's Got Talent* returns to ITV on Saturday, perhaps with one half of Ant and Dec, and Richard Blackwood is leaving *EastEnders*. Richard is apparently pleased to be going. Really? Isn't that a little bit like a politician standing down to spend more time with their family? Fans of *First Dates*

might want to suggest alternative restaurant venues for the new series on *Channel 4*. It seems the show wants to move from its current location by St Paul's, maybe to a more 'hip' setting. My suggestion, although I'm clearly bias, is the beautiful Los Claveles bar and restaurant in Casares village. Fred would fit right in.

*The Voice* has finally dragged itself to an end on ITV. Ruti Olajugbagbe, coached by Sir Tom Jones, was crowned winner and broke down in tears when her win was announced. *Dreams* by The Cranberries, will be her debut single, I hope it does well.

*Gogglebox* has been making headlines for a mixed bag of reasons over the last few weeks. The show has been running for five years and we now know that Jenny and Lee, the two in a caravan and the Siddiquis are our most popular families.

Happy viewing.

**Cassandra Nash**

A weekly look

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

IRENE MONTERO, partner of Podemos supremo Pablo Iglesias announced on Facebook that she was expecting twins, addressing her followers as vosotras y vosotros. The wordiness is inevitable in someone who insists on using the hybrid portavoz for spokeswoman instead of portavoz which does for both males and females.

The twins' sex has not been announced but if there's one of each, doubtless she will have to use twice as many words as any other mother.

**Jailhouse rock**

ONE of the Catalans' greatest disfavours to Spain is claiming that they are persecuted democrats in an undemocratic state.

This wasn't the view taken by the Schleswig-Holstein's Public Prosecutor who requested the extradition of self-exiled, former regional president of Cataluña, Carles Puigdemont for rebellion and misappropriation of public funds.

It was rebellion, according to the Germans, because he insisted on going ahead with the vetoed October 1 referendum, knowing it would spark violence.

There was a risk that Puigdemont, who had been swanning around in Denmark, would scarper, the German Public Prosecutor decided.

It was up to the Schleswig-Holstein court to

decide whether Puigdemont was extradited and in the event they freed him. But Angela Merkel made it clear before the announcement that she

would not hinder his extradition as - borrowing Mariano Rajoy's go-to line - this was strictly a legal issue.

"Spain is a democratic state where rule of law exists," Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said. And as far as the German government is concerned any solution to the Catalan problem "must be found within Spain's legal and constitutional order."

Not the kind of words that are music to a separatist's ears, but the sort they can expect to hear, possibly to the tune of 'Jailhouse Rock'.

# Doubly blessed

**It doesn't add up**

MANCHESTER CITY manager Pep Guardiola appears to be all in favour of the Proces towards Catalan independence.

He has worn his yellow ribbon with pride and felt that paying the equivalent of €22,925 for wearing it at FA matches was cheap at the price.

"This isn't about independence, it's about democracy," insisted Guardiola who wears the ribbon to demonstrate his support for the separatist politicians who have been remanded since last October.

"All that we six million have achieved in these years, taking the streets, we have achieved peacefully," the ex-footballer told an interviewer not long ago.

Years before separatism gained its present momentum, he might have been right but the Catalan police, the Mossos d'Esquadra, admitted there were 250 violent acts during the Proces, often targeting the Constitutionalist parties and politicians.

Pep minimised that one, but definitely maximised the six million who took to the streets, considering that Cataluña has a population of 7.5 million.

He might be a pretty good trainer but he's lousy at arithmetic.



**'LOUSY AT ARITHMETICS': Pep Guardiola.**

**When in Rome**

PABLO IGLESIAS visited the former Argentinian president, Cristina Kirchner. She is due to stand trial for an alleged cover-up of Iran's involvement in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires.

Not a problem for our Pablo who stressed the Peronista roots of Podemos, buttering up Kirchner, who is a Peronista. And there were we, thinking the party had Bolivarian roots, thanks to the Venezuela connection when Iglesias and other party founders were Hugo Chavez's assessors.

In Cataluña Iglesias flirts with independence because he needs the votes and does a reverse turn anywhere else because he needs the votes. Peronista, Bolivarian, Separatist, Constitutionalist - seems Iglesias either likes doing as the Romans do, or can't make up his mind.

# GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



## MONDAY - 16 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
2:00pm BBC News	3:30pm Going Back, Giving Back	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:30pm Regional News	4:15pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	8:30pm Nature's Microworlds	1:00pm Channel 4 News	12:15pm Traffic Cops
2:45pm Doctors	5:15pm Tigers About the House	9:00pm Turkey with Simon Reeve	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	1:10pm 5 News
3:15pm 800 Words	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	10:00pm Beirut: An Art Lovers' Guide	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	1:15pm The Gadget Show
4:00pm Escape to the Country	7:00pm Eggheads	11:00pm The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Emperors	3:10pm Countdown	2:10pm Access
4:45pm Flipping Profit	7:30pm The Repair Shop	12:00pm Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	2:15pm Home and Away
5:30pm Flog It!	8:00pm The Secret Helpers	1:00am The Toilet: An Unspoken History	5:00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY	2:45pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Only Connect	2:00am Top of the Pops	6:00pm Four in a Bed	3:20pm NCIS
7:00pm BBC News	9:30pm University Challenge	2:35am Top of the Pops	7:00pm Buy it Now	4:20pm Deadly Duplicate
7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Secret Agent	3:10am Beirut: An Art Lovers' Guide	8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:00pm 5 News
8:00pm The One Show	11:00pm QI		9:00pm Dispatches	6:30pm Neighbours
8:30pm Nightmare Pets SOS	11:30pm Newsnight		9:30pm Travel Man	7:00pm Home and Away
9:00pm EastEnders	12:10am Weather		10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	7:30pm 5 News
9:30pm Panorama			11:00pm Kiss Me First	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
10:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build				9:00pm Police Interceptors
11:00pm BBC News				10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7
11:30pm Regional News				11:00pm Waco Inferno: The Untold Story

## TUESDAY - 17 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
2:00pm BBC News	3:30pm Going Back, Giving Back	8:30pm Nature's Microworlds	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	12:15pm Traffic Cops
2:30pm Regional News	4:15pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	9:00pm King Alfred and the Anglo Saxons	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	1:10pm 5 News
2:45pm Doctors	5:15pm Tigers About the House	10:00pm The Story of the Jews	3:10pm Countdown	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
3:15pm 800 Words	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	11:00pm Majesty and Mortar: Britain's Great Palaces	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	2:10pm Access
4:00pm Escape to the Country	7:00pm Eggheads	12:00am Chivalry and Betrayal: The Hundred Years War	5:00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY	2:15pm Home and Away
4:45pm Flipping Profit	7:30pm The Repair Shop	1:00am Francesco's Italy: From Top to Toe	6:00pm Four in a Bed	2:45pm Neighbours
5:30pm Flog It!	8:00pm The Secret Helpers	2:00am Top of the Pops	7:00pm Buy it Now	3:15pm NCIS
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Only Connect	3:00am Apples, Pears and Paint: How to Make a Still Life	8:00pm Channel 4 News	4:15pm Deadly Delusion
7:00pm BBC News	9:30pm University Challenge	1:10am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	9:00pm Dispatches	4:15pm 5 News
7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Secret Agent		9:30pm Travel Man	6:00pm Neighbours
8:00pm The One Show	11:00pm QI		10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	6:30pm Neighbours
8:30pm Nightmare Pets SOS	11:30pm Newsnight		11:00pm Kiss Me First	7:00pm Home and Away
9:00pm EastEnders	12:10am Weather			7:30pm 5 News
9:30pm Panorama				8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
10:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build				9:00pm Police Interceptors
11:00pm BBC News				10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7
11:30pm Regional News				11:00pm Waco Inferno: The Untold Story

## WEDNESDAY - 18 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	7:00am Milkshake!
10:15am Health	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	8:30pm Nature's Microworlds	9:30am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	12:30pm The Daily Politics	9:00pm The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart	10:00am Frasier	12:15pm Traffic Cops
12:00pm Heir Hunters	2:00pm Lifestyle	9:30pm The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart Series	11:05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell	1:10pm 5 News
12:45pm Dom on the Spot	2:10pm Coast	10:00pm The Real Winnie Mandela	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	2:45pm Home Away From Home	11:00pm The Plantagenets	1:00pm Channel 4 News	2:10pm Access
2:00pm BBC News	3:30pm Going Back, Giving Back	12:00pm The Plantagenets: Professor Robert Bartlett continues the remarkable story of the Plantagenets	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	4:15pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor	1:00am Time Shift	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	5:15pm Tigers About the House	1:00am The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS
3:15pm 800 Words	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	2:00am Top of the Pops	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm Perfect Life, Perfect Lies
4:00pm Escape to the Country	7:00pm Eggheads	2:25am Top of the Pops	5:00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY	6:00pm 5 News
4:45pm Flipping Profit	7:30pm The Repair Shop	2:50am The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours
5:30pm Flog It!	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip		7:00pm Buy it Now	7:00pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	9:00pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge		8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News
7:00pm BBC News	10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace		9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
7:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Live at the Apollo		10:00pm One Born Every Minute	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
8:00pm The One Show	11:30pm Newsnight		11:00pm First Dates	10:00pm Housing Yorkshire: Somewhere to Call Home
9:00pm Watchdog	12:10am Weather		12:05am Paradise Hunters	11:00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents
10:00pm Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation			1:05am Live From Abbey Road Classics	12:05am Meghan and Harry In Their Own Words
11:00pm BBC News				
11:30pm Regional News				
11:40pm Weather				
11:45pm A Question of Sport				

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# Slap on some cream

AS temperatures begin to soar and layers of clothing begin to be shredded, spare some thought for your skin and remember to cover yourself in sun cream.

Protecting yourself from the sun could be one of the most important things you do for yourself this year as the incidence of skin cancer continues to rise, particularly among young adults.

Even if your skin tans easily, don't think you don't need sun protection. Skin turning brown is actually a sign of sun damage, even if there is no redness or peeling. It does this as a way of trying to protect itself because the UV rays are damaging living cells. And don't shy away from using a high sun protection factor. Even SPF 50 only blocks up to 98 per cent of UV radiation.

Remember, skin cancer is serious and

was the direct cause of over 2,500 deaths in each of Spain and the UK last year. Treatment for skin cancer involves much more than simply having a lesion removed.

It can include major surgery, chemotherapy and can result in permanent scarring. Skin cancer can also spread to other parts of your body. The good news is that it is almost totally preventable, so follow the advice of the Aussies and take these five steps to protect yourself: 'Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!'



**CREAM YOURSELF:** Be careful to avoid your eyes.

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## Tackling the problem head on

WHERE once the only solution to a balding head was the dreaded toupee, now men of all ages can consider the much more convincing option of a hair transplant. In fact, some of our most loved - or hated -

footballers and politicians, such as Wayne Rooney and Silvio Berlusconi, have tackled their receding hairline problem head on.

The surgery itself is becoming less expensive and less in-

trusive and the results can bring vigour and confidence back into a man's life. The process involves removing hair from elsewhere in your body, usually the back of your head, to fill a specific balding area. This can be achieved by one of two methods, follicular unit strip surgery (FUSS) or follicular unit extraction (FUE). Which type you choose depends on your hair type, quality, colour and the size of the area where you're getting the transplant.

As the name suggests, FUSS involves a 15-25cm strip of skin being removed. This strip is divided into hundreds or thousands of tiny grafts, each

with an individual hair or just a few hairs. The FUE procedure, involves individual hair follicles being removed one by one.

After either process, the tiny grafts or individual hair follicles are carefully inserted into tiny holes or slits which have been opened up where the hair is needed. The whole process can take up to eight hours, depending on the size of the transplant you're having. A few weeks after your surgery, the transplanted hair will fall out but new growth should start to

appear within a few months. Within nine months your balding spot will have about 60 per cent more hair and you will feel a new man.

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## A week of music and culture

THERE is a lot of culture and entertainment going on in Almuñecar over the next few days so be it dance, music, poetry or even archaeology there is something for everyone.

The Casa de Cultura has the following events;

This Saturday at 8pm there will be a recital of romantic poetry accompanied by acoustic guitar, featuring Manuel Galiana and Guillermo Fernández

Then on Sunday at 7pm, classical music comes to town as the Orchestra of the Music Conservatory Rafael Orozco de Cordoba under the direction José Antonio Guerrero presents El Amor Brujo by Manuel de Falla, followed by Danzón II and Conga del Fuego by Arturo Márquez, with payment to be made at the end of the concert.

Thursday April 19 at 8pm sees a lecture on the art of the British artist JMW Turner, whose life was recently portrayed by Timothy Spall in the film Turner.

Dance takes the stage Saturday April 21 at 8pm and at 12pm the following day with presentation of A World Of Villains by Danza Aromar, in support of the Spanish Association Against Cancer.

The music continues on Sunday April 22 when at 8pm the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra sees a performance of classical music featuring soloist Emelia Ferriz, performing Concert for Violin and Orchestra by Tchaikovsky and Symphony no 4 by Johannes Brahms.

## Oh what a night this will be

AFTER 3,787 performances, the London production of Jersey Boys came to a triumphant close on March 25, 2017.

From the cast of this West End show was formed the vocal band Valli Seasons, taking this exciting musical on the road.

Big M Promotions have been able to contract Valli Seasons for a few very special shows in Spain in May.

Winner of 57 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, Jersey Boys, the internationally acclaimed hit musical, told the re-



Credit: Kevin Christopher Burke flickr

**JERSEY BOYS: One of the West End's most popular musicals.**

markable rise to stardom of one of the most successful bands in pop music history, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

They will visit the Salon del

Mar, Torre del Mar on Thursday May 3. Tour information including where to obtain tickets can be found at [www.costadeldisco.com](http://www.costadeldisco.com) or by calling 658 579 695.

# VALLI SEASONS

From the Award Winning West End Show  
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# Housing hope remains in top cities

SPAIN'S property success story of recent years is well known and some may feel that an affordable purchase is already beyond them.

However, with good timing and luck there are still great value properties available across Spain, just waiting for the eagle-eyed buyer to pounce.

## ■ Malaga

A decade ago this port city lacked the investment and tourist attractions, although it has always had lively nightlife.

Now it is the fastest growing city in Spain for visitor numbers, with a revamped harbour lined with shops and bars overlooking cruise ships.

But it is still possible to find historic city-centre apartments for less than €300,000 and a new two-bedroom penthouse apartment in a 19th century building there, is on the market for €295,000.

## ■ Madrid

It is a city of immense history, culture and energy, but many feel Madrid is overshadowed by the



**MAGNIFICENT MALAGA:**  
The beacon of the Costa del Sol is booming.

edgier Barcelona.

Yet there is no doubt that Madrid has benefited from the political crisis in Cataluña, and new developments are emerging all around.

Compared with many other European cities, the capital's prices are very competitive with fully renovated one-bed flats in trendy central Chueca (the Soho equivalent) going for €255,000.

## ■ Barcelona

The independence issue hit

Barcelona's economy hard, with companies moving out.

While the National Institute of Statistics (INE) revealed that property sales figures for the city took an 11 per cent dive in December, the beaches, culture and buzz of the city has seen it bounce back this year.

However, brand new one-bedroom apartments in the elegant Eixample are on sale for €265,000.

## ■ Valencia

Valencia has emerged out of its re-



**PALMA YOUR HAND:**  
Palma de Mallorca is growing in popularity.

cessionary trough to account for 13 per cent of all new-build sales.

Despite having the beachfront communities, old-town charm and modern architecture to draw people from Barcelona, it has a wider array of property at relatively low prices.

While property prices rose by 11 per cent last year, it is still possible to find small flats near the harbour for €100,000.

## ■ Palma

Mallorca's attractive capital es-

aped the worst of the economic crisis that shook Spain in 2008, and unassumingly carried on its thriving progression.

The island effect gives it a reputation as a safe haven and there is now a vibrancy to the city with new shops and restaurants springing up all over.

On the Playa de Palma an apartment just off the pristine beach can still be bought for less than €300,000.



**GIGANTIC:** The property has a 100,000 square-foot floor plan.

by Benjamin Park

A BRAND new American 'giga-mansion' is set to hit the market later this year with an estimated asking price of €408 million (\$500 million).

Dubbed 'The One', the giant mansion is based on the hill tops of Bel Air and has panoramic views of the City of Angels, while the Pacific Ocean can also be seen from the property. It is expected to have 20 bedrooms, 30 bathrooms and a parking garage big enough to hold 30 cars, while it will also house several amenities.

The One, which will reportedly be twice the size of the

## One of a kind

'World's most expensive home' nears market

White House, has a 100,000 square-foot floor plan and will also include a moat, a nightclub with its own VIP room, a 45-seat IMAX movie theatre, a four-lane bowling alley, a beauty salon, a casino and between four and seven swimming pools. The architect behind the project is Hollywood designer Paul McClean who has a wide

range of celebrity clients, including Bitcoin billionaires The Winklevoss twins and style guru Calvin Klein, and the developer Niles Niami.

The flash property tycoon splashed €22.8 million (\$28 million) on just the land alone prior to LA tightening its property regulations, which means when finished the giga-mansion

is likely to be the only one of its kind.

The One will reportedly go on the market later this year with an asking price of €408 million (\$500 million) and if it sells for anywhere near its asking price it will eclipse the current world record substantially; a French chateau bought by a Saudi Prince for €248 million.



**SPLASHING THE CASH:** The One is expected to have between four and seven swimming pools.



**LIVING THE HIGH LIFE:** It is expected to have its own bowling alley, cinema and nightclub.



# The kitchen garden, a quality extension of the food pantry

**GRAEME TYRRELL**

THROUGHOUT history, even as far back as the ancient Egyptians, a place to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and medicinal flowers with easy access to the home was considered an important aspect of a quality lifestyle.

A kitchen garden is distinct from agricultural production in that it is much more up close and personal to the specific needs of the home. No matter how small or big, it was a place that gave fresh additions to the family fare.

Its main attribute is that it can bring joy to the home as the plants are cared for so they flourish until the harvest after which they can be enjoyed in your meal.

No matter whether you live



Credit: Theiury Shutterstock

**A KITCHEN GARDEN: Can supply your five a day.**

in an apartment or on a farm you can grow at least a few of your favourite fresh herbs and

some of the compact vegetables that you love to use regularly.

My mother grew tomatoes in her living room by a sunlit corner window and had abun-

dant crops. It was a great point of interest and can look as attractive as many other indoor plants.

If you have some land to put a kitchen garden you are fortunate. It is a good idea to have it enclosed by a wall or fence to provide shelter from the wind, restrict access from unwanted animals that may damage the garden and to establish it as a special place just for its purpose.

Usually a countryside kitchen garden is not linearly designed like in agriculture. It becomes more special by having a theme such as an informal cottage garden or an elaborate symmetrical formal garden design to make it interesting

Many restaurants now have kitchen gardens to provide the best of quality produce and add to the meals for patrons with discerning taste. Nothing tastes as good as produce freshly picked and prepared immediately for the table.

A kitchen garden can be grown in a restricted space such as a balcony or terrace using attractive terracotta

containers, or you can build raised bed constructions out of a variety of interesting materials to blend in or stand out as a landscape feature.

Simply fill it with some quality potting mixture and add some nutrient fertilisers and you can have a kitchen garden growing in just a short time.

I find that fresh herbs can really make the most difference to a meal. If you have only a small space, some chives, parsley, oregano and basil planted around some tomatoes and capsicums in a large pot is a great basis for many Mediterranean meals. They all give a long-term harvest with minimal extra work.

The kitchen garden is a space you can visit daily to provide care and watch over the plants growing and provide you with your own choice of produce, adding flavour and nourishment to your kitchen preparations.

There are loads of possibilities to improve the quality of your lifestyle, if you decide to make your own kitchen garden it will enhance your prospects.

## Proper propagation

NOW is the perfect time of year to propagate softwood cuttings from some of your favourite plants around your balcony or garden.

Apart from the joy it brings to see your new plants grow, this is the cheapest way to multiply your flora and attract more pollinators this summer.

To grow a new plant from a cutting, use scissors or a knife to cut just below the leaf joint or node to create a cutting of about 5-10cm.

Remove the lower leaves, pinch out the soft tip and dip two-thirds of this cutting into some hormone rooting powder.

Then bury this length of the stem into a pot full of soil, leaving the first pair of leaves just above the level of the compost.

Cover the pot with a plastic bag and place this somewhere warm.

Remove the bag for a few minutes at least twice a week to allow the cutting to breathe.

Within three to five weeks your cutting will produce new roots.

Once these roots have taken hold, your softwood will eventually grow into a firm stem.

The new plant will be an identical clone of the parent plant, producing

new versions of your favourite flowers for years to come.



**IDEAL START: Plant the softwood in moist soil.**



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# Compassionate care

THE treatment of humans requires at least 21 specialists to look after somebody from prenatal days to post-mortem. Yet there is only one person who must be everything for a dog. That is the vet or, as the Americans say with deeper respect, veterinarian.

Much progress in many directions of pet care has been made in the last few years and many vets have invested in modern equipment to enable your dog to benefit from new techniques.

So, with a good, modern vet you are paying not just for the examination, but also for the time they have spent keeping up with the latest developments and for the equipment they have installed in their surgery.

Prepare your dog to visit the vet. It should have inoculations and boosters every year, worming tablets every three months, the only effective worming products being available from the vet.

## David THE Dogman

columnists@ewnmediagroup.com



A visit can be a problem if the dog does not like to be examined. It helps if, from an early age, you have accustomed your dog to be handled by yourself and different people. Reassure the dog and reward with praise and tit-bits.

Most vets will examine the dog on a table. So train your dog by lifting it onto a suitable table to get it used to the idea. Hold the dog in a comfortable position for a few seconds, praising and reassuring, then give it a tit-bit and gently lift it off. Put a mat or cover on the table so that it is not slippery.

After a visit to your vet you may have to continue a course of treatment at home. This can include giving pills



### VET VISITS: Give your dog an annual check-up.

or liquid medicine (or ally), applying ointments to eyes, ears and skin, giving eye or ear drops. Again, if the dog has been accustomed to being handled, all

these tasks will be a lot easier. Pills can be disguised inside a small piece of butter, margarine or cheese.

Do not give dogs any medicine un-

less prescribed by a vet. Never accept advice from unqualified people including pet shop staff, dog breeders, dog trainers, behaviourists and the person a friend knows who had a dog with the same sort of symptoms.

Never put anything in your dog's ears. Look, but don't poke. If there are discharges or smells, go to your vet. Do not put any drops or ointment into your dog's eyes unless told to do so by a vet. Do not interfere with any lumps, bumps, wounds, cysts, rashes or anything else on your dog's body. Consult your vet.

After surgery, it can be a problem to get a dog to rest and recuperate, especially if there are other dogs in the house. As soon as a dog starts feeling better, it will want to return to normal activity. Supervision and crating are the only answers while remembering that, unlike humans, sick dogs do not want to be pampered.



### LOOKING GOOD: Keep your dog's coat trim and tidy.

## Good grooming

TO keep a high-maintenance dog happy and healthy, they deserve a bit of TLC just as much as everyone else. And what better way than a hair-cut to keep their locks clean and mat-free.

Trimming things down can also keep your dog cool in the summer and can make grooming a little easier depending on the style you choose.

In vogue this year is the Lion Cut. This cut is defined by a short trim all over the body, with long hair left around the head and jaw to create the look of a Lion's mane. The tail is trimmed short until the end with a small tuft of hair left at the end.

Also, popular this year is the Teddy Bear Cut. To achieve this look, groomers will

trim the hair around your dog's head and face evenly and leave it slightly longer than what is on the body.

The hair on your dog's body is trimmed much shorter, making this a great cut for warm weather.

Whatever style you choose, remember that people can often come to look like their dogs, so choose wisely!

## Need vetted live-in pet-sitters for your holiday?

MAXI from Fuengirola is still young and needs home-sitters.

When your pets are young, just as when they are old, we prefer to have someone at home caring for them as we would want ourselves. Holidays and planning for holidays can be a challenge when we have pets, regardless of their age. As they get older, they become less flexible and more prone to stress in new surroundings or meeting a constant flow of new people.

*Does this apply to you?*

Maxi's owner contacted us to help find someone to care for her one-year-old pup at home. Enter Kristen, our new house-sitter from Iceland. The two met a day before the owners were due to fly on holiday and a friendship was formed.

*How do you benefit as a home and pet owner?*

By joining the HouseSitMatch network you can meet experienced and checked sitters safely online. For a small annual fee you can be part of the managed network that allows you to meet sitters online, and make arrangements for them to look after your pets and property. What is more is that the sitters do not charge a penny, they look af-



### PET-SITTERS: The answer to your plans.

ter your pets for free in exchange for free accommodation during their stay. It is an exchange of services that saves both parties money and often leads to lasting friendships.

*Why join a network like HouseSitMatch?*

HouseSitMatch is an online network which we believe makes us more secure. We ID check all members on joining, and police check all sitters.

Our membership offers a secure network to help you find suitable sitters. We don't reveal your contact details. You post an advert ahead of your travel dates, we publish the advert then house-sitters apply. You can view their profiles and chat with them before you choose an applicant.

*How you do join?*

Please register online via our website [www.Housesitmatch.com](http://www.Housesitmatch.com).

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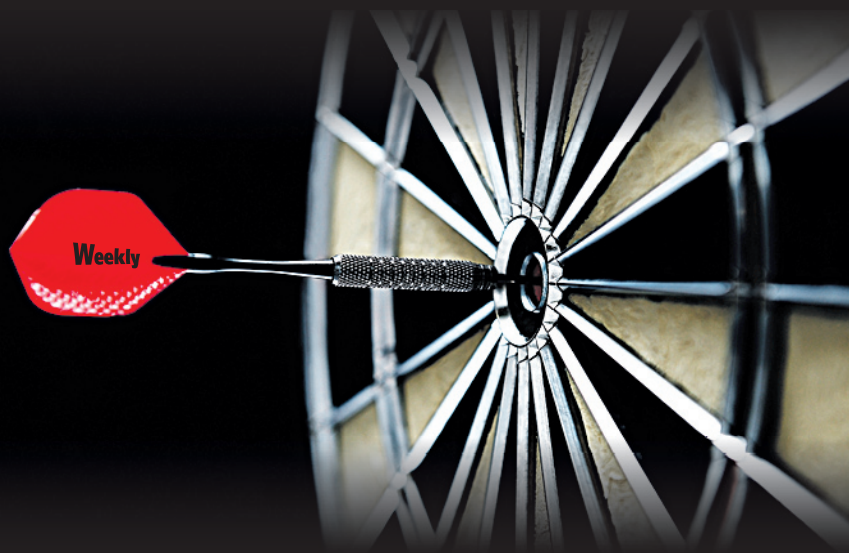


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**MOTORING FACT**

Millions of drivers don't know the actual sequence of traffic lights. More than 10 per cent think that a single amber light is followed by a green signal.

AUDI has turned a dream into reality for Gran Turismo video game racers after revealing the Audi e-tron Vision Gran Turismo, a new electric powered supercar.

The supercar will serve as a race taxi at selected Formula E events and will also offer high-speed passenger rides to lucky guests. Its first outing will be at the Rome Formula E race this Saturday.

As the name suggests, the Audi e-tron Vision Gran Turismo is based on a virtual race car that features in the 15th anniversary of the Gran Turismo video game on Sony's PlayStation 4. The marketing stunt by Audi forms part of its wider effort to strengthen its new e-tron electric car sub-brand. The

## Gamer's dream!

sub-brand also includes three other battery propelled e-tron models: the e-tron Quattro, the e-tron Sportback and the e-tron GT. The former is set for release in the second half of 2018 and the latter, more exclusive model, has its first deliveries scheduled for 2020.

This most recent addition to the electric supercar market, which

can accelerate from 0 to 62mph in 2.5 seconds swiftly chips away at the long-held Clarksonite belief that electric vehicles will never be able to rival its combustion engine counterparts.

But the success of the electric supercar in overturning this notion rests largely on the continued progress of electric batteries. Audi has not yet provided information on the battery used by e-tron Vision Gran Turismo. However, car review website, Autocar reports that the supercar will share the lithium-ion unit set to be used in the production version of the e-tron Quattro due to be rolled out later this year.

**MADE REALITY: Audi e-tron Vision Gran Turismo supercar.**



## SEAT joins electric bandwagon

SPANISH carmaker, SEAT has announced plans to launch its first fully electric hatchback model, which is set to hit the market in 2020.

The move confirms that electrification is at the heart of the Spanish car manufacturer's plans for the foreseeable future. While full specification of the eco-vehicle has yet to be revealed, the model will be a five-door hatchback, similar in size and price to its popular Leon model and will be based on Volkswagen's ID Neo car, a company with whom its research endeavours are closely tied.

SEAT's bold electrification strategy indicates that car manufacturers are paying close attention to the EU's strict new CO2 emission targets. The EU's tough regulation champions a double pronged approach: on the one hand, fining heavily for exceeding carbon dioxide limits, and on the other, using an incentives-based credit system to reward companies choosing to produce electric vehicles.

SEAT bagged record post-tax profits of €281 million in 2017, up 21.3 per cent on 2016's results. This success allowed the firm to spend nearly €1 billion over the past 12 months, making it Spain's largest investor in research and development. Such investments appear to represent a clear sign that SEAT sees an electric road ahead.

**ROAD TEST**

by Nick Fletcher

# Toyota Auris Hybrid

TOYOTA'S Auris is one of the few full hybrids in the compact hatchback class, able to run on electric power alone, and this gives it a distinct advantage when it comes to low running costs.

Rival 'mild' hybrids just use an electric motor to aid the petrol engine, but don't store power for electric-only use, so the Auris delivers better fuel economy and lower emissions, plus lower tax rates for business users.

The latest Auris has sleeker styling, upgraded equipment and is powered by a 1.8-litre petrol engine mated to an electric motor and electric CVT auto transmission.

That combination results in a 0-60 kph time of 10.9 seconds and top speed of 180 kph (112 mph), fairly typical in its sector. However, fuel economy of 25.6 kpl (72.4 mpg) and emissions of just 91 g/km are very impressive.

Auris prices start at €23,020 (£20,155) though the Design Bi-Tone model has higher specification and costs €26,902 (£23,555). Features include auto air-conditioning, power windows, auto lights and wipers, front and rear parking sensors, touch-screen, DAB radio/CD player, Bluetooth and rear view camera. There is also plenty of safety kit including a pre-collision system, lane departure warning and road sign assist.

On the move, the Auris is smooth, quiet, composed and refined. At low speeds and over short distances, the car can be driven on electric power alone. When there is insufficient power in the battery, the Auris automatically uses the petrol engine, a simple no-fuss system.

You get most benefit from the system in urban traffic, though the Auris is a comfortable motorway

cruiser too. It's a smart-looking all-rounder with good family practicality. A roomy four seater - five at a squeeze - it has a large 435-litre boot, expandable

to 1,200 litres by folding the rear seats.

To some, the dashboard may at a glance look rather under-stated but it's very well designed for easy use,

with buttons close to hand and clearly labelled.

As diesel cars are waning in popularity hybrid sales are already rising and the common-sense plus-

points of the Auris underline why.

The model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

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## La Liga Preview

# Barca march on

BARCELONA entertain third placed Valencia on Saturday looking to set a La Liga record of 39 games unbeaten.

Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick last Saturday as the runaway leaders defeated Leganes 3-1 to share the incredible unbeaten streak with Real Sociedad.

Not to be outdone, Cristiano Ronaldo scored in a 10th straight game for Real Madrid, although they were held to a 1-1 derby draw by Atletico Madrid.

The two rival teams will continue to battle for second place until the end of the season.

Elsewhere, Malaga's battle to beat the drop took a major blow last Friday as direct rivals Deportivo La Coruña scored late to make it 3-2, giving manager Clarence Seedorf his first win (in 16 games).

Deportivo have now leapfrogged Las Palmas into 18th place, six points

above the luckless Malaga.

Malaga will host Real Madrid on Sunday which is a daunting enough task aside from the fact that they are 11 points from safety.

On Saturday Sevilla will look to get back into the Europa League spots against Villarreal, who are only one place (sixth) and one point above them in the league.

Former Sevilla striker Iago Aspas scored a hat-trick last Saturday as Celta Vigo recorded a thumping 4-0 victory over the Andalusian side.

Other fixtures this weekend will see Girona take on Real Betis, in Friday's fixture, Real Sociedad will travel to Las Palmas on Saturday, and Atletico Madrid will host Levante on Sunday.

**ON FIRE: Malaga will be up against a red hot Ronaldo.**



Credit: Twitter @RealMadridCF

## SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	31	24	7	0	79	16	79
2 • Atlético	31	20	8	3	51	15	68
3 • Valencia	31	20	5	6	59	31	65
4 • Real Madrid	31	19	7	5	77	34	64
5 • Betis	31	15	4	12	52	53	49
6 • Villarreal	31	14	5	12	41	37	47
7 • Sevilla	31	14	4	13	39	50	46
8 • Girona	31	12	8	11	44	48	44
9 • Celta	31	12	7	12	50	43	43
10 • Eibar	31	11	7	13	36	45	40
11 • Getafe	31	10	9	12	35	30	39
12 • Athletic	31	9	12	10	33	35	39
13 • R. Sociedad	31	10	7	14	56	52	37
14 • Leganés	31	10	6	15	26	39	36
15 • Espanyol	31	8	12	11	26	38	36
16 • Alavés	31	11	2	18	28	45	35
17 • Levante	31	6	13	12	28	45	31
18 • Deportivo	31	5	8	18	29	63	23
19 • Las Palmas	31	5	6	20	22	63	21
20 • Málaga	31	4	5	22	19	48	17

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

## PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	32	27	3	2	90	24	84
2 • M. United	32	22	5	5	63	25	71
3 • Liverpool	33	19	10	4	75	35	67
4 • Tottenham H.	32	20	7	5	64	27	67
5 • Chelsea	32	17	6	9	54	31	57
6 • Arsenal	32	16	6	10	61	43	54
7 • Burnley	32	13	10	9	31	28	49
8 • Leicester City	32	11	10	11	48	45	43
9 • Everton	33	11	8	14	38	53	41
10 • Newcastle United	32	10	8	14	33	41	38
11 • Bournemouth	33	9	11	13	41	53	38
12 • Watford	33	10	7	16	42	59	37
13 • Brighton and Hove Albion	32	8	11	13	29	43	35
14 • West Ham Utd.	32	8	10	14	40	58	34
15 • Swansea City	32	8	8	16	26	45	32
16 • Huddersfield Town	33	8	8	17	26	54	32
17 • Crystal Palace	33	7	10	16	33	52	31
18 • Southampton	32	5	13	14	31	50	28
19 • Stoke City	33	6	9	18	30	63	27
20 • West Bromwich	33	3	12	18	26	52	21

## Premier League preview

## City head to London in title hunt

MANCHESTER CITY'S dramatic 3-2 loss to Manchester United last Saturday has put their title aspirations on ice.

The Citizens have a difficult game at Tottenham on Saturday and even if they win, Manchester United would have to lose at home against West Brom on Sunday for them to be crowned champions.

Pep Guardiola's side had put on a first-half masterclass with captain Vincent Kompany scoring with a powerful header and Ilkay Gundogan seemingly settling matters with a smart turn and finish five minutes later.

However, Paul Pogba scored two goals in two minutes after the break to wipe out City's lead, before Chris Smalling's volley completed the stunning turnaround.

Elsewhere, Liverpool will host Bournemouth on Saturday as they look to stay in second placed Manchester United's rear-view mirror.

The Reds were held to a forgettable goalless draw at Everton, although Premier League top scorer Mohamed Salah (29) was rested among five changes to the team.

England Manager Gareth Southgate was watching on and he will have been impressed by Jordan Pickford's close range block to deny Dominic Solanke, and an athletic effort to deny James



Credit: Twitter @premierleague

**GAME CHANGER: Paul Pogba has kept United in the title race.**

Milner's curling effort.

Fifth placed Chelsea will travel to Southampton on Saturday, hoping to keep their slim hopes of a top four (and Champions league) finish alive.

The Blues played out a frustrating 1-1 draw against West Ham last Sunday as Javier Hernandez's 73rd minute strike cancelled out Cesar Azpilicueta's first-half opener.

Tottenham are the only side yet to lose in 2018 in the Premier League and remain level on points with third-placed Liverpool after a 2-1 win at Stoke.

Christian Eriksen was the hero of the day with two second half goals, either side of a Mame Biram Diouf reply for the hosts.

Bottom of the table West Brom remain 10 points from safety after their 1-1 draw against Swansea, while Crystal Palace remain one place above the relegation zone having conceded an 89th minute goal to Bournemouth in a 2-2 draw last Saturday.

Among the weekend's fixtures will be Palace hosting Brighton, Leicester travelling to Burnley, and Newcastle entertaining Arsenal.

## Resolute Reed claims Masters title

PATRICK REED held off an incredible final-round surge from Jordan Spieth and a late attack from Rickie Fowler to clinch Masters glory at Augusta.

Rory McIlroy's day never really got off the ground and he failed to pose a threat after missing a series of short putts.

Spieth however, came from nine shots behind to fire himself level with Reed when he drained his ninth birdie of a stunning round at the 16th hole.

But an agonising bogey at the last gave overnight leader Reed the break he needed and while not setting the world alight, Reed's one under 71 card was enough to claim the green jacket.

Reed became the fourth first-time major winner in succession at Augusta, finishing 15 under and one shot ahead of Rickie Fowler.

Spieth's last-hole shank into the trees cost him second place, but even finishing the day in third represented a remarkable achievement.

In contrast, Fowler sank a six-foot birdie at the 18th to pip him, while Reed made a crucial par putt at 17 and held his nerve at the last from three feet to claim golfing immortality.

World number 24 Reed is the ninth first-time major winner in the past 12 Masters and all four major championships are now held by Americans.



UFC superstar Conor McGregor has been charged with three counts of assault and one of criminal mischief after the 29-year-old Dubliner attacked a rival's team bus.

**TO READ MORE**

**Axarquía's best guide to local sport**

**By Benjamin Park**

RUGBY'S leading governing body World Rugby has ordered an emergency review into European qualification for next year's World Cup amid Spain's complaints following their controversial defeat to Belgium.

Spain's 18-10 defeat to Belgium in the final match of qualification, overseen by Romanian referee Vlad Iordachescu, meant that Spain missed out on automatic qualification to next year's World Cup instead allowing Romania to qualify.

Following the defeat, a complaint was submitted to Rugby Europe by the Spanish Rugby Federation (FER), who felt aggrieved by 19 separate decisions from the referee, while it was also revealed that the FER had

asked Rugby Europe for the referees to be changed prior to the match.

Following an investigation from both World Rugby and Rugby Europe, World Rugby had said that a replay of the match would be 'in the best interests of the game' but stopped short of ordering the replay following new allegations that several different nations fielded ineligible players during qualifying.

In light of the new allegations, World Rugby have now set up an 'independent disputes committee' to look into the different issues now surrounding the qualifying process.

A World Rugby statement said: "World Rugby was deeply concerned about the circumstances surrounding the Belgium versus Spain Rugby Europe Championship match, a match that was decisive in the context of Rugby World Cup

2019 qualification.

"Specifically, concerns related to the process and perception of Rugby Europe's appointment of a match' official team that was not neutral in the context of qualification and failing to act

on Spain's concerns in respect of the appointment.

"Having considered all available information, the World Rugby Executive Committee and Rugby World Cup Board felt that a replay would be in the

best interests of the game.

"Since expressing that view, new information relating to player eligibility in the Rugby Europe Championship has been presented to World Rugby by the participating unions. Given this information concerns potential breach of World Rugby regulations and given the complexity and interconnectivity of the issues, a full and independent review is warranted. This is in the best interests of the sport, teams and fans and is fully supported by Rugby Europe."

Rugby's leading governing body also confirmed that 'a separate independent judicial panel has been appointed by Rugby Europe to consider conduct of the players after the final whistle' as Spanish tempers flared over.

# World Rugby orders emergency qualification review



**REACTION:** World Rugby will also investigate the 'conduct of players' following the final whistle.

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