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Council crackdown 'We just won't tolerate it'

BENIDORM is cracking down on rowdy holiday-makers.

It comes in the wake of a series of incidents involving drunk British revellers, after a group of men staggering around 'half naked' were told to cover up or be fined, before a quartet of

thrill-seekers were held as they prepared to parachute off a skyscraper.

The town's security councillor Lorenzo Martinez revealed he spoke personally to the shirtless tourists, as he announced: "This type of behaviour cannot be tolerated."

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NEWS EXTRA

Drunk driver

A SLOVAKIAN lorry driver, who was pursued along the N-340 by the Guardia Civil in Oropesa (Castellon) after hitting several parked cars, was six times over the drink-driving limit when detained and breathalysed.

Sun sums

THE Marina Baja's five resorts - Benidorm, Villajoyosa, Alfaz, Altea and Finestrat - are preparing their 20 kilometres of beaches for the summer season, distributing 8,200 sunbeds and 3,000 beach umbrellas.

Hit and run

ELDA General Hospital is holding an internal enquiry after a nursing auxiliary who works there failed to help a cyclist who broke a hip after she ran him down with her car.

It's a fair cop

UK's 'most-wanted' fugitive accepts fate

By Matt Ford

ONE of Britain's most wanted fugitives will not fight extradition after being held in Spain, it has been confirmed.

It comes after former Stephen Lawrence murder suspect Jamie Acourt was arrested as he ate lunch following a workout at Metropolitan Sagrada Familia Gym in Barcelona.

Reports suggest he tried to impersonate an Italian tourist but was unable to fool armed undercover officers who had spent days posing as fitness fanatics while keeping tabs on the 41-year-old from Eltham in South East London.

Acourt went on the run three years ago amid allegations that he was involved in a €4.5 million UK cannabis smuggling ring. Scotland Yard said in a statement he had been remanded in custody by Spanish police on a European Arrest Warrant at the close of an operation involving the UK's National

Crime Agency (NCA).

Dramatic images released in the wake of the swoop show the handcuffed suspect in a Barcelona police station.

And a court appearance in Madrid has reportedly been cancelled after the Spanish High Court heard via video link that he will accept his extradition.

Ian Cruxton, Head of Inter-

national Operations for the NCA, said: "Acourt thought he could evade capture but as a result of an intelligence-led operation his days on the run have ended."

"We were able to direct the Spanish authorities to his location in Barcelona.

"Our ability to share information and work at speed with our international partners ensures there is no safe haven for fugitives. We will never stop pursuing these individuals."

A Crimestoppers appeal to find Acourt was launched in October 2016, when he was described as one of Britain's Top 10 fugitives.

It is believed he regularly returned to the UK using a false passport to raise money for his life on the run.

A Met Police statement said: "Spanish authorities arrested Jamie Acourt, 41, in Barcelona on a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) on behalf of the Metro-



BARCELONA ARREST: Jamie Acourt was held in the Catalan capital.

politan Police Service.

"The EAW was issued as part of the Met's efforts to trace Acourt in relation to an investigation into the unlawful supply of controlled substances.

"This relates to an investigation launched in 2016 by detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Command.

"Extradition proceedings now await."

Acourt's arrest follows recent reports that he had been spotted living a party lifestyle in glamorous Costa del Sol resort Marbella.

He was alongside his brother Neil named among the five

prime suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder enquiry, but was not convicted and has always maintained his innocence.

Stephen was aged 18 when he died on April 22, 1993 after a racially motivated attack at a London bus stop.

Gary Dobson, now 42, and David Norris, 41, were found guilty of his murder and handed life prison sentences in 2012.

Acourt is the 81st of 96 British fugitives to be traced by Operation Captura, a joint scheme between the NCA, Crimestoppers and Spanish authorities.

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Bitter almonds

ALICANTE Province growers affected by the *Xylella Fastidiosa* plague are holding a demonstration against government measures tomorrow, Friday, in Benissa. As well as their personal and financial losses, plans to fell and destroy 56,000 almond trees will impact negatively on the environment, they maintain.

Arms race

THE Alicante Guardia Civil is auctioning 975 weapons next Monday. Ready to go under the hammer are 737 shotguns, 234 pistols and revolvers, 65 carbines and rifles as well as 39 other weapons. Any unsold arms will be destroyed and processed for scrap metal.

Family torment

THE Guardia Civil were called out after a 26-year-old threatened to kill his family. When police arrived, he took out a 12-bore shotgun and fired warning shots, saying he would kill anyone who came near and then kill himself. He finally gave himself up and now faces charges that include ill-treatment within the family and illegal possession of a firearm.

No can do

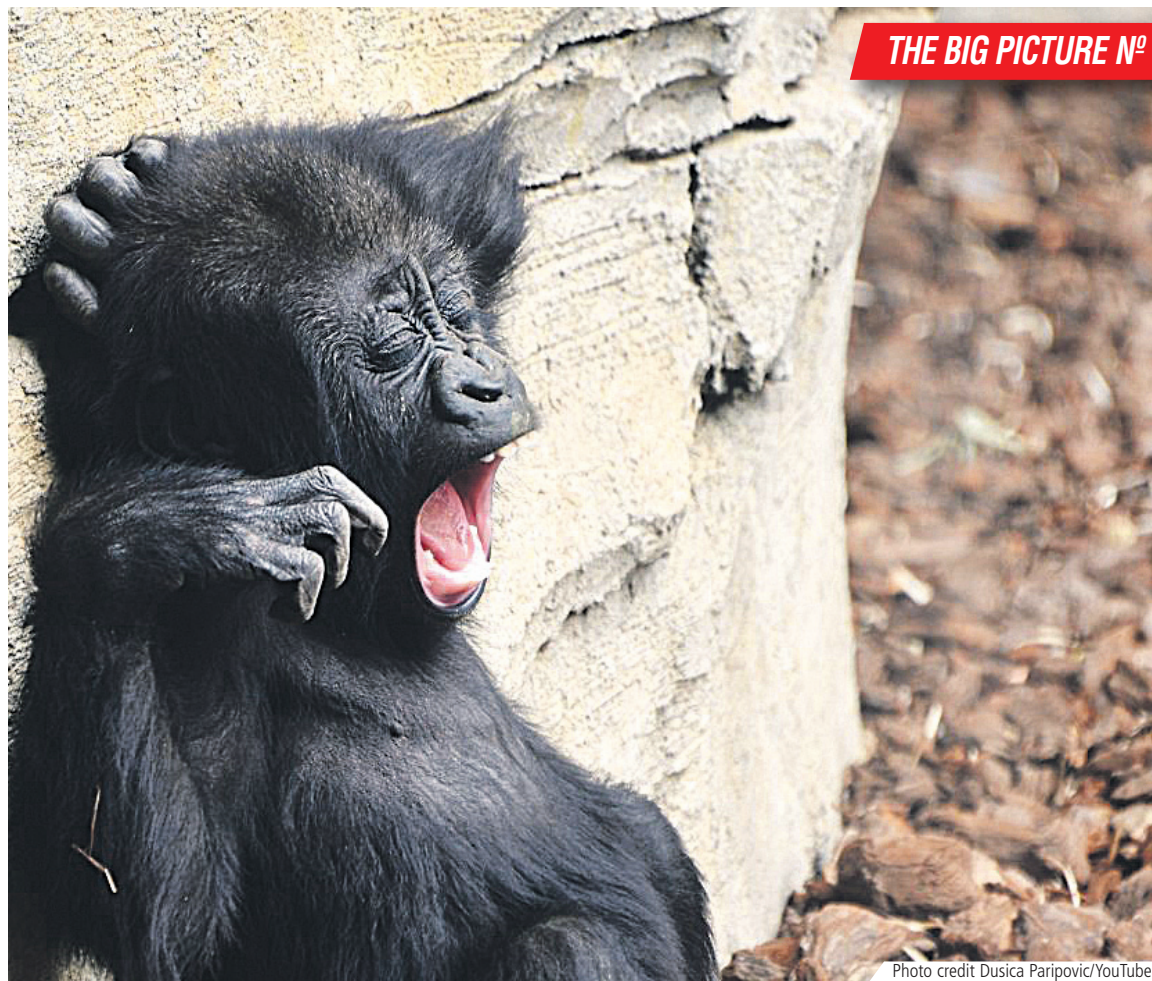
LONG-STANDING plans to relocate the La Española olive canning plant in Alcoy were turned down by Valencia's Upper Court of Justice which upheld an appeal by environmentalist groups who claimed that this would affect the El Molinar aquifer which provides the city's water.

Off yer bike

LACK of bicycles in the Bici-dorm sharing scheme has spread to Altea which belongs to the same scheme. The web page explained that the site is under maintenance, but the firm that provides the service will waive charges until the service can be restored.

Age barrier

A HIGH COURT tribunal in Alicante City acquitted a man of 35 accused of raping a 14-year-old as there was no proof of intimidation or violence. He had also believed that the victim, whom he met on an internet dating site for gays, was over 16.



THE BIG PICTURE Nº 13

GOING APE: The young primate unleashes an almighty yawn.

Planet of the naps!

THIS is the adorable moment that a baby gorilla was captured on camera as it hung loose at a Spanish zoo.

The at-ease ape was snapped by Bosnian photographer Dusica Paripovic, 32, during a visit to Bioparc Valencia.

The zoo has maintained a population of critically endangered western gorillas since 2007, and the group started breeding in 2012.

Named Mbeli, the youngster pictured here will be a year old this summer.

Dusica said: "The baby gorillas are so adorable and expressive. They play with twigs or whatever they can find, they stumble and fall, they playfully wrestle with other gorillas.

"When you photograph animals, you never know if you are going to get any good photos. They will not

stand in the best light for you or give you the best angle.

"But when I saw this baby gorilla yawning, I knew there had to be at least one good photo there. I was excited."

She added: "Animals are my favourite subject to photograph - it's challenging and fun. They are unpredictable, fast, can't be posed and there's no need for retouching."

from Front page »

Boozy Brits to be fined

Extra police officers have also been drafted in for the summer party season, and they have been told to make themselves more visible by organising early morning beach front patrols.

The council said in a statement that it is aiming to cut out "uncivic behaviour" since

it damages the image of the resort, and it has designed a new awareness campaign to get the message across.

Mr Martinez added that he has already held a series of meetings with local business owners from the Levante Beach area, but confirmed that

British sun-seekers are "fundamental" to the city's economy.

The move follows recent changes to laws in Marbella on the Costa del Sol, where British stag and hen parties are to be fined up to €750 for roaming the streets drunk, semi-naked or wielding inflat-

able sex toys.

And in Mallorca 64 new rules have been passed prohibiting bad behaviour among holidaymakers, with tourists fined for everything from dropping a cigarette in the street to streaking and having sex in public.

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Photo credit: Experimento Stuka/Suica Films

'WE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY THEY HAD CHOSEN US': A Nazi soldier among buildings destroyed during one of the attacks and (inset) survivor Angel Beltran in the film.

80-year riddle

A MOVING new documentary film has revealed why four small villages in rural Valencia were targeted by Nazi bombers.

In May 1938, three Junkers 87-A dive-bombers, dubbed stukas by Nazi Germany's Condor Legion, dropped their payloads on the hamlets of Benassal, Albocasser, Ares del Maestre and Vilar de Cane in Castellon Province.

Many buildings were reduced to rubble and 38 people died.

"It was the first plane I saw in my life. It was like a great bird, but different," remembers Obdulia Mir in Experimento Stuka (Stuka Experiment), which this week opened at the Docs Valencia international documentary festival.

Entirely lacking strategic or military value to the Germans, locals for decades believed that the attacks were ordered by Republicans fighting for General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War, which ended a year later.

Others blamed Franco's troops themselves, since some of the villages briefly fell within Republican territory.

"My father heard that the Reds [Republicans] had destroyed the village and the church," added

Angel Beltran, the son of a Republican militant.

But 80 years later, modern-day residents have finally learned the truth.

University physics professor Oscar Vives, who was born in Benassal, travelled to Freiburg in Germany to study local archives after finding a clue in a Spanish Civil War book.

A short passage revealed that the Condor Legion used the Spanish villages as a testing ground for Second World War operations, and in the German archive Vives found a folder containing 66 photographs of the attacks.

The images show Nazi soldiers driving to the bomb sites and studying the devastation before returning to an airbase in La Senia, Tarragona, and drinking beer together on the beach.

The film reveals the Nazis were testing whether their dive-bombers were able to transport and drop 500-kilo bombs, double the standard weight.

Rafa Moles, who directed the documentary alongside Pepe Andreu, says that the raids were among the world's first "surgical military strikes."

The film is a follow-up to the pair's Five Days to Dance, an award-winning documentary about a school dance performance.

POLL OF THE WEEK
 Do you agree that Spain has the best beaches in the world after it topped the global blue flag ranking?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 In the wake of the 'La Manada' court ruling do you think sexual assault laws in Spain should be reformed?
 Yes **92%** No **08%**

EWN online this week
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TOP 5 stories

- 15,536 views** Volcano eruption fears as almost 300 earthquakes rock Spanish holiday hotspot
- 8,741 views** MAGALUF DEATH PROBE: Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head' by trio
- 8,369 views** Brain tumour boy abducted from UK hospital to Spain 'clear of cancer'
- 5,353 views** Hundreds of flights cancelled by pilots' strike in Spain
- 5,310 views** Internet cafe owner on Costa del Sol faces fine and prison for pirated software

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Ambulance blunder

Brit assault victim found in roadside ditch

by Staff Reporter

ALICANTE COLLEGE OF NURSING has claimed that two ambulance crew members who tested positive for drugs after 'losing' a British attack victim on the way to hospital were not paramedics.

The institution released a statement in the wake of the pair being held by police in which it said it wanted to 'make clear' that the men were 'emergency health technicians,' and that no nursing professionals had been involved in the shocking incident.

It comes after the unnamed victim was found lying unconscious in a ditch a few hundred metres from La Villajoyosa Re-

gional Hospital.

He had allegedly suffered serious injuries during a brawl between four Britons in central Benidorm, with National Police officers calling for an ambulance after attending the scene.

But when they called the hospital several hours later in order to write their report, they were told that no-one in emergencies knew anything about the man, and it transpired that he never arrived.

According to Spanish media, the ambulance workers had returned to their depot, and when contacted by investigators said that the victim 'woke up in the middle of the journey' and started to attack one of them.

And when the driver stopped the vehicle and opened the back door the injured party 'escaped.'

Police launched a search for the Briton, and called the ambulance back out when they found him, at which point they noticed that the two crew members were behaving strangely.

A Guardia Civil traffic patrol was drafted in and local media confirmed they tested positive for cocaine, cannabis and alcohol before being held and charged with failing to assist a person in danger.

The Valencian Health Department has requested a full report of the incident, while sources reportedly told local

media that the two men had been suspended without pay but could soon return to work.

Rosa Louis Cereceda, manager of the directorate of the local health department, claimed no knowledge of the incident when quizzed, pointing out that the ambulance service is subcontracted to a private company.

The ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group, the temporary union for the firm providing the service, did not respond to a comment request.



Photo credit: Twitter

MEDICAL SHAME: The brawl took place in central Benidorm and (inset) an ambulance operated by ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group.

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Ova the moon!

SHE'S currently ranked number 52 in the world after a recent return from a drugs ban. But tennis star Maria Sharapova, 31, appeared at ease with life after posting a series of photos of herself enjoying the sights of Madrid, where she is competing in a tournament. And she was clearly amused by the local custom of late eating as she captioned one of the snaps: 'First ones at the restaurant...9pm #SpanishStyle.'



Photo credit Maria Sharapova/Instagram



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Maria has this week been in Madrid (inset).

Sheer outrage

BRITISH singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has angered a fan who travelled from Spain to watch him perform.

As the Shape Of You hitmaker kicked off his Irish tour at Cork's Páirc Uí Chaoimh stadium, the irate concertgoer tweeted: 'Just travelled from Spain to Cork. Ticket in my friend's name. Xmas present.'

"Told at box office I can't get in. WTF ED. After costing me €800 I can't get in. Screw you."

HE'S the former One Direction singer who has struck out alone.

But Liam Payne, 24, was joined by Mexican songstress Sofia Reyes on stage in Madrid as he performed at the LOS40 Primavera POP Festival.

The pair belted out his hit For You, which he originally sang with Rita Ora for the racy film Fifty Shades Freed.

Liam's relationship with ex-Girls Aloud star Cheryl Tweedy, 34, has reportedly been under strain since his solo career took off.

Liam heads in own direction

The couple's son Bear recently celebrated his first birthday, but widespread reports have suggested he is more committed to his pop career than family.

However the pair insist all is fine after a recent 'make or break' getaway at an undisclosed location.



Photo credit Liam Payne/Instagram

PAYNE ATTRACTION: Liam on stage in Madrid.

The former X Factor contestant said in a magazine interview Cheryl's bond with the baby left him feeling 'desperate' as he tried to "get through fatherhood."

Dan in the dumps over split rumour

JOSS A BREAK? Jacqueline and Dan. THEY have broken things off following 'a string of heated rows.'

And new reports have claimed that former The Only Way Is Essex star Dan Osborne, 26, failed to get in touch with wife Jacqueline Jossa, 25, while on a 'holistic bootcamp' in Marbella.

The ex-Eastenders actress - who is pregnant with their second child - is said to have been left furious after he failed to return her messages while on the sun-soaked break with Hollywood actress Stephanie Davis and Love Island's Gaby Allen, among others.

But Dan took to Twitter to vent his frustrations, as he wrote: 'Whenever a relationship goes through tough times etc... why is it always the man that gets stick...?'

And Jacqueline appeared to back him as she added: 'Daniel and I are dealing with things privately as a team, there is always two sides to every story. Stop with the nasty comments, no one deserves them.'

Sexy Sadie

ENGLISH actress and fashion designer Sadie Frost has been enjoying a sunshine break in Mallorca.

And the Bram Stoker's Dracula star, 52, shared a cheeky snap of herself after slipping into a black and orange bikini, posing in the doorway of her luxury suite at Belmond La Residencia, near Deya.



FUN IN THE SUN: Sadie in Mallorca.

Photo credit Sadie Frost/Instagram

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by Staff Reporter

A BRITISH expatriate who lives on the Costa Blanca has been jailed for stalking his ex-wife.

Philip Carter, 40, sent his former spouse threatening emails and used social media to call her names, spread lies about her, and harass her family.

The Benidorm resident even attached a tracking device to her car during the terrifying four-month ordeal, Exeter Crown Court heard.

Mum-of-one Caroline Perkins, a teacher from Torbay in Devon, became so frightened she took to sleeping with a knife under her pillow and lost weight, the prosecution said.

Carter was due to stand trial after he denied stalking but pleaded guilty on the first morning and was handed a nine-month prison sentence plus a 10-year restraining order.

Judge Simon Carr said: "I

Stalker nightmare

Brit expat jailed after 'abusive campaign'

hope all you feel is shame. This was abusive, threatening and very frightening."

Nigel Wraith, prosecuting, said the accused and victim had been married for three years before they divorced in November 2016, and that they have a young daughter together.

But when Carter travelled back to the UK in April the following year he found that his former flame had moved on and started to make financial demands.

"He embarked upon a campaign issuing extremely unpleasant and abusive threats to her, her family and friends and properties," Mr Wraith added.

"The campaign of threatening behaviour was very serious and caused her to be fearful and live her life differently to how she would choose to have done if he wasn't

harassing her."

A raft of abusive messages penned by Carter were read aloud in court, including one addressed to the headteacher of St Cuthbert Mayne School in Torquay accusing her of mixing with drug dealers.

In November 2017 she moved in with a friend but he 'had by now placed a tracker on her motor vehicle.'

A statement by the victim revealed that she felt like she was in hiding, took a series of different routes home after work, was unable to sleep and became depressed and jumpy.

"I can't see any end to Philip's actions. He's unstoppable, he'll stop at nothing. I feel he's still controlling everything I do on a daily basis. I worry at cars parked outside. I pull over to let other cars past. I feel I'll never be free of Philip and I'm always watching my back," it said.

Barry White, mitigating, said that the accused now wished to get on with his life

and would return to Spain.

"He has no desire for ongoing contact with her," he

added.

And Carter, originally from Gayton-Le-Marsh in Lin-

colnshire, was freed having already served five months of his sentence.



TORMENT OVER: The hearing took place at Exeter Crown Court and saw Philip Carter handed a nine-month jail sentence.

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Asturias with Mariña Lucense By bus, 7 days / 6 nights, full board with water and wine at meals, 3 **** hotel in Gijón, excursions included: (Ribadesella half day / Gijón half day with official guide / Oviedo half day with official guide / Ribadeo-Playa de las Catedrales-Cudillero full day with lunch in restaurant / Llanes half day / Cabo de Peñas and Luanco half day) travel insurance. Departure day: 13/05, 20/05 and 27/05 PRICE: € 319.

OUR VIEW

Black start to summer bodes badly for resort

AS the summer party season begins and thousands of Britons jet to Magaluf, the resort already has its first casualties.

And the death of young father Aaron Henderson plus an unnamed Scottish teen in recent days should trigger alarm bells for local authorities who have for years been promising to tighten regulations and curb drinking practices.

But Magaluf's reputation continues to plummet, with reports of balcony falls, rapes and muggings on the increase.

At what point does enough become enough?

Holiday death probe - page 11

Have we brought it on?

THE alleged abandonment of a British man by a Benidorm ambulance crew who were high on drugs and alcohol has rightly sparked outrage.

And it is arguably a sad indictment of the professional standards rife in private firms drafted in to provide cheaper alternatives to 'expensive' public services in Spain and the UK alike.

Perhaps just as worrying is that the two men accused of negligence were not even trained paramedics, but cut-price technicians.

But perhaps the question is, why do the general public allow such moves to happen without apparently batting an eyelid? Have we truly become so apathetic?

Ambulance blunder - page 05

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Dicing with death

Brit expat thrill-seekers held



Photo credit: Wikimedia/YouTube

BASE STUPIDITY: The daredevils were caught trying to parachute off Torre Levante.

by Matt Ford

FOUR British expatriates face fines of up to €300,000 after being caught trying to leap from a 33-floor skyscraper on the Costa Blanca.

The unnamed thrill-seekers were reportedly surprised by police as they prepared to launch themselves off the 120-metre Torre Levante building on the Benidorm seafront with para-

chutes strapped to their backs.

Their arrests follow a brief probe after investigators were tipped off about a series of internet videos filmed by the BASE jumping quartet.

An official revealed that the daredevils are suspected of performing several illegal jumps in the area, before confirming that their parachutes, helmets and other equipment have been seized.

BASE jumping is the practice of parachuting from a fixed structure or cliff and is considered much more dangerous than sky diving from a plane due to the relatively low height of the jumps.

The abbreviation stands for building, antenna, span, and earth (cliff), the four types of object from which fans of the extreme sport typically hurl themselves.

NEWS EXTRA

Water help

PENSIONERS, the over-65s, large families and the unemployed can apply to La Nucia Town Hall for subsidies of up to €150 on their domestic water bills from now and until June 1.

Get started

FINESTRAT's Youth department is organising a workshop on June 18, 20 and 25 on 'I want to be a YouTuber.' Subsidised by the Diputacion it will be held at the Vivero de Empresas (Business Incubator).

It's a gas

THE Alicante City fire brigade was mobilised and residents from nearby apartment blocks were evacuated while a gas pipe was repaired after it was pierced by an excavator during road works in Avenida de Novelda.



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Holiday death probe

Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head'

By Matt Ford

MALLORCAN police are probing the death of a British man in Mallorca.

Aaron Henderson, from Coleraine, Northern Ireland, was on holiday with his partner and children when he was allegedly assaulted on Magaluf's Punta Ballena party strip.

The dad-of-two, 30, was found lying on the corner of Calle Martin Ros Garcia in critical condition after suffering a severe head injury in the early hours of the morning, and investigators initially believed he had fallen.

But a witness, described as 'foreign' in local media, has since come forward to claim that he saw three men beating Aaron. According to reports, he was pushed to the ground before being kicked in the head, and later died of his injuries in capital Palma's Son Espases Hospital after medics failed to revive him. The precise cause of his death has not yet been confirmed.

Detectives say they are now scouring CCTV footage recorded on the night of his death while quizzing hotel customers and staff as they try to trace his attackers.

It is believed he decided to

continue partying after partner Daniella Baxter returned to their accommodation.

She paid an emotional tribute to him on social media as she wrote: "I love you Aaron Hendy Henderson always and forever, you've made me the happiest I've ever been in my entire life.

"Life is cruel... Love and miss you always... My babes xxxxxxxx."

Tributes have also been flooding in to the Facebook page of his family business Paul Henderson Wholesale, which has attracted more than 400 messages of condolence.



Photo credit Facebook/Twitter

ALLEGED BEATING: Magaluf's Punta Ballena, where Aaron Henderson (inset) reportedly suffered severe head injuries.

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MOROCCO	3, 9	230 €

TAILOR-MADE TOURS for Clubs and Associations

by Matt Ford

A SELF-STYLED 'maverick tycoon' who drove his €300,000 supercar through the front window of a Mallorca shop has escaped with a €500 fine.

But playboy millionaire Jody Sanders, 39, is now being quizzed for illegally modifying the licence plate of the convertible Rolls Royce Dawn involved in the accident.

Investigators believe he has substituted the number 1 with a letter J, so that it reads JODY, as the vehicle remains impounded in Calvia.

The new probe comes after the property magnate turned up to a police station in Palma five hours after reversing

Got his number

Brit playboy probed for false plates

through the façade of a Portal Nous tobacconist while two bikini-clad women took selfies on the back seat of the car.

He told the shop owner his flip-flop got stuck under the accelerator pedal during a phone call in the wake of the smash, with the pricey motor 'narrowly missing' around 20 people dining on a terrace.

A well-placed source told UK media: "He passed a

breath test although several hours had elapsed since the crash and he was reported for reckless driving.

"Because he paid up there

and then, he got a 50 per cent discount so ended up handing over €250.

"The damage he's caused to his car and the tobacco

shop is another matter and bound to run into thousands of pounds but that's a matter for him, the shop owner and the insurance people.

"He put [the five-hour delay] down to one of the women he was with being injured so his first concern was to get her to hospital."

It has also emerged that the trio were accompanied by a second man who popped into a nearby chemist just prior to the accident, and that Jody may have lost control while reversing the wrong way up the road to pick him up.



ROLL WITH IT: The Rolls Royce owned by Jody Sanders in the wake of the smash, before which he was partying with two bikini-clad girls.

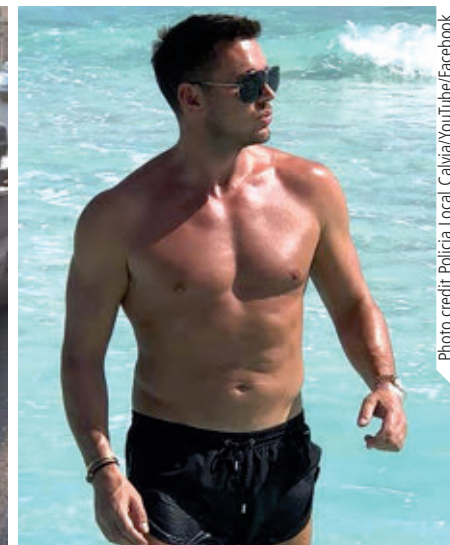


Photo credit: Policia Local Calvia/YouTube/Facebook

Comeuppance for white van man

A VAN driver, impatient as traffic halted in Calle Patricio Ferrandiz while a woman parked her car, began insulting her.

The woman left her vehicle and, going to the van driver, asked him to be patient but was greeted by more insults as well as laughter from the van driver's male passenger.

Passersby, annoyed by the incident, began to shout at the male driver, condemning him as a 'machista' after which, sensing hostility, he waited in silence while the woman parked and afterwards went on his way.



MACHISTA: Calle Patricio Ferrandiz where the woman was verbally insulted.

Credit: Google Street View



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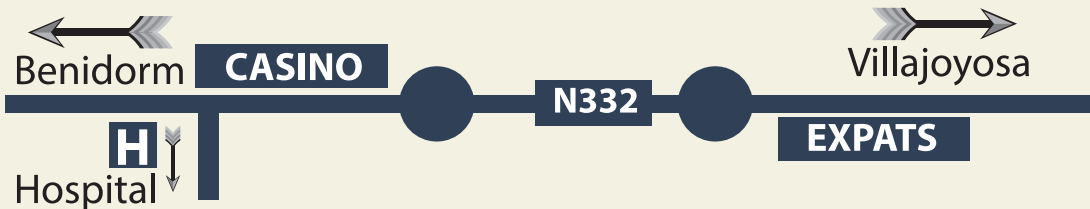
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MAKING A SPLASH: Rodas beach in the Cies Islands, Galicia, has regularly been voted among the world's best.

Just beachy!

SPAIN has maintained its status as the nation with the most blue flag beaches on the planet.

It comes after the Association for Environmental Education and the Consumer (ADEAC) handed the coveted award to 590 sandy strips across the country.

The Blue Flag is given to

beaches meeting high standards of hygiene, sanitary conditions, safety, and accessibility.

And Spain's total has increased by 11 this year, with the sun-drenched hotspot having topped the world ranking since the awards began in 1987.

Everyone welcome in 'English' zone



Photo credit: Raul Villalon

NO DISCRIMINATION: 'British zone is international' claim.

BUSINESS-OWNERS in Benidorm's British zone denied discriminating against Spanish clients.

They were responding to claims by popular Spanish ac-

tor, Ricardo Gomez that he and some friends were thrown out of a bar 'just for being Spanish.'

Shortly afterwards, a Spanish woman complained on so-

cial media that she could not get served in a British-owned pub for the same reason.

Business-owners as well as Benidorm Town Hall and the pubs, bars and discos associa-

tion, Ociobal rejected the existence of exclusion or discrimination.

Karen Cowles, president of the Benidorm British Businesses Association (BBBA), said she was surprised by this type of behaviour as she had seen no evidence of segregation in all her years in Benidorm.

But BBBA, Benidorm Town Hall and Ociobal all agreed that problems could arise from communication problems on both sides.

"If you live or work here it's essential to speak basic Spanish and it's true that some Britons never get to know the local language," Cowles said.

To prevent misunderstandings and encourage interaction, the BBBA intends to offer free Spanish lessons so that expatriates can get by in business situations or at the health centre.

Municipal sources insisted that there was no place for discrimination or inequality in Benidorm and Ociobal roundly denied that the resort had issues.

"The so-called English zone is in fact international," said the association's president, Victor Navarro, who rejected claims of 'conflictive' businesses that catered for only one sector or differentiated between clients depending on where they came from.

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Churning... the worst enemy of your pension or investment portfolio?

By Sam Kelly, Managing Partner, Chorus Financial.



So, before anyone asks, no I've not given up financial services to campaign against the dairy industry! Churning, in financial terms, is when a financial advisor persuades a client to buy or sell funds with the sole intention of generating commissions, rather than acting in the client's best interests. This unethical practice is illegal in the UK, so why is it so prolific here in Spain?

The problem lies in the fact that in Spain, financial advisors can still receive hidden payments from investment fund providers. I have seen numerous examples here in Spain where companies have found a new fund provider who will pay them a 3-5% 'entry charge' when they persuade their clients to

invest in that particular fund.

This generates problems in two ways: Firstly, that 3-5% comes right out of the client's pocket, and is either paid for by reducing the number of units you buy in the fund, or by elevating the fees for a period of time, normally 5 years, in order to recoup that payment. This can leave the client playing catch up from day one.

The other problem, and often even more damage results from this practice, is that funds that an advisor wouldn't usually recommend -

perhaps because they don't have a strong track record, are from an unproven fund house, or are poorly regulated - are finding their ways into client's portfolios, thereby lowering the quality of their investment portfolio.

The funds your advisor chooses for your pension or investment portfolio, should be chosen independently, after rigorous research. The Chorus approach is to favour UK based, FCA regulated funds, from well-known fund houses like Rathbones, Investec, HSBC, BlackRock, Fidelity and Aviva. We will never

receive any financial incentive when it comes to choosing funds for a client's portfolio, so you can be confident that our goals are aligned with yours.

If you think you may have been charged a 3-5% entry charge for an investment fund, or your advisor is making wholesale changes to your portfolio every year or two, then it's possible they are not acting in your best interests.

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NEWS EXTRA

Woman rescued

THE 50-year-old owner of a Novelda property required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation after firefighters from the Elda brigade rescued her from a blaze which badly damaged her Calle San Pedro home.

Good deed

A BRITISH driver in her 60's who ran into a tree and crashed down a bank after swerving to avoid a dog in Lliber went to Dénia hospital with suspected back and neck injuries.

Think pink

MAIDS OF HONOUR attending Benidorm's fiestas queen this year will alternate the regional dress's ochre-coloured skirts with a pink version, inviting criticism from purists who condemned the break with tradition.

Cop poisoner jailed

by Matt Ford

A JEALOUS Guardia Civil officer from the Costa Blanca has been jailed for 22 years after trying to murder a female colleague and her family.

The convicted Spaniard - who cannot be named for legal reasons - was found guilty of spiking the victim's food with rat poison and an insecticide, and robbing personal effects including lingerie and a sex toy.

Valencia's Superior Court heard that he attempted to poison the woman, her husband and three-year-old son 'on several occasions,' sneaking into her property on the barracks where he also lived after making a copy of her house keys which he stole from the caretaker's office.

He recorded his thoughts on a Word document recovered from his computer during a raid on his home.

Extracts from the file read in court included: "She seems to be incredibly happy and I can't stand it, she doesn't let me sleep at night.

"Envy corrodes and chokes me."

And he even admitted his intention to harm the family as he wrote: "The time



Photo credit Guardia Civil/Google

FATAL ATTRACTION: The Guardia Civil barracks in Villajoyosa and (inset) the convicted officer.

has come to see if I really have the courage to do this, I have planned it so many times in my head but one thing is to think about it and another is to dare to do it.

"I think I'm too cowardly, but if I don't do it I think I'll burst."

The victim first became suspicious when a USB pen drive containing images of her in sexually compromising positions went missing.

Other belongings, including expired

identity cards, passports and car keys later vanished while the family were out, sparking an official probe.

And when detectives swooped on the culprit's home they unearthed the lost items plus a small bottle containing one of the toxic chemicals detected in their food.

Having been convicted by Alicante's Provincial Court, he had appealed on the grounds that he had laced the food with 'very small doses

without risk to the family.'

But prosecutors argued that he had concocted 'a murderous plan,' and that since he is not a toxicology expert 'he was unable to tell whether the doses were harmless or not,' reminding the court that one of the victims was a child and another [the husband] undergoing cancer treatment.

The judge ruled that he was guilty 'without a doubt,' in the wake of the hearing, an official statement said.

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Region's roads are death-traps for cyclists



Photo credit: Pretire

ALICANTE ROADS: Inviting, but dangerous for cyclists.

ELEVEN of the 44 cyclists killed in road accidents in Spain last year lost their lives on Valencian Community roads.

According to the General Directorate of Traffic (GDT) there were 3,856 accidents involving cyclists between January and October in 2017 with 44 fatalities, compared with 30 during the same period the previous year.

Only Andalucia with 858 cycling accidents had more than the Valencian Community where there were 755, despite the differences between the two regions regarding size, road networks and populations.

Alicante and Castellon each had four victims, more than any other province in Spain while Valencia had three.

The three Valencia Province deaths occurred in the same ac-

cident in May 2017 when five Javea cyclists were mown down early one Sunday morning on the N-332 in Oliva.

The national parliament in Madrid is currently processing a proposal by the Partido Popular to modify the Penal Code which, if passed, will impose stiffer sentences of up to nine years for drivers found guilty of injuring or killing a cyclist in a road accident.



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‘Go and f**k yourselves’

Minister slammed after comments recorded

by Greg Kirby

A RECORDING of a senior Spanish minister slamming elderly people has landed the ruling Popular party in hot water.

Secretary of State for Communication, Carmen Martínez Castro said of pensioners protesting over state pensions: “It makes you want to give them the finger and say: ‘go and f**ck yourselves.’”

Isabel Montañó - a journalist for Valencia’s 12TV television station - captured the official’s words on her microphone.

The politician made her comments as Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy got out of his car to the sound of booing protesters during a visit to Alicante.

Pensioners chanted: ‘Less corruption and more funds!’



Image Credits: YouTube

FOUL-MOUTHED RANT: Communication minister Carmen Martínez Castro.

and ‘early retirement now!’ as the leader made his way to city hall to honour his party’s new mayor, Luis Barcala.

A video of the recording is already circulating on social network Twitter.

Martínez has since apologised to anybody who was offended by what she described

as “jokey comment.”

She admitted it was inappropriate and made her look “indecent,” although the footage was censored by national and local television stations.

It comes amid ongoing protests from retirees who say the prime minister’s pension plans are ‘undignified.’



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PARADISE LOST: Residents in Campello are concerned for their beaches.

Sewage connection in the pipeline

RESIDENTS' associations in Campello are complaining of the delay in connecting the town's sewers to the San Juan treatment plant.

Until then seepage will continue to pollute some beaches, the Amecove, Playa l'Horta Muchavista and La Zenia associations warned.

The town hall announced last October that it was settling the last compulsory purchase orders of land needed to build infrastructure and work would begin at the end of the year.

Seven months later nothing has happened

and the associations approached Sanejament d'Aigües - dependent on the regional Environment department - for information.

In a reply dated March 1, the department answered that the project awaited approval from Campello Town Hall, after which the plans would be put on public display.

"We don't know why the project is at a standstill, not when the environment is affected by the delay and the town hall must continue to pay fines when sewage reaches the sea," a spokesman for the associations said.

"We all know about the dangers of pollu-

tion that is generated over time by homes and which filters through to the calas (coves), given that the small treatment plants in the northern part of the town are now obsolete."

The town hall has since explained that municipal technicians had detected flaws in the plans that needed remedying. They have now approved the project and if all went according to plan, a start could be made in September.

Connecting to the San Juan treatment plant will cost almost €5 million and is expected to take 18 months.

THE first phase of remodeling Benidorm's Avenida del Mediterraneo will cost €11.498 million.

The original €9 million estimate has been amended to include improvements below the Avenida, the town hall explained.

Much of the existing subterranean infrastructure, which in some cases is more than 40 years old, is very deteriorated and both water and mains drainage pipes must be replaced. Improved storm drains will also be installed.

The first phase will transform the Avenida de Europa as far as - and including - the Plaza Triangular together with the six streets that lead off from this section of

New look for iconic avenue

the road.

The project envisages the Avenida del Mediterraneo as a 'parallel axis' to the Levante beach promenade, making more space available for pedestrians and banishing all architectural barriers so that pavements are flush with the road.

Existing trees, including the plane trees planted more than 40 years ago, will be respected and more will be added, especially in the Plaza Triangular which will be transformed into an 'urban wood,' Benidorm's mayor Toni Perez said.

It is essential to work

quickly, he explained, and it is hoped that the interruptions and upheaval will affect only one Easter week and summer season. This will also help to minimise the inevitable financial losses for the Avenida del Mediterraneo's businesses.

For the work to go ahead, the contract will be awarded in September and work should begin in October. If all goes according to plan the first phase should be completed within 11 months, Perez said.



ALL CHANGE: Avenida del Mediterraneo to be remodelled.

NEWS EXTRA**Hiker helped**

AN 80-year-old woman who ruptured a varicose vein while walking with a party on Puig Campana was airlifted by a Fire Consortium helicopter to a waiting ambulance which took her to Villajoyosa hospital.

New prom

WORK on the new €2.4 million boulevard at Gandia beach will start early in 2019, confirmed Valencia's provincial council, the Diputacion, but will halt during the summer to avoid disrupting the tourist season.

Tidying up

THE 265 people from Javea and other towns in Alicante and Valencia provinces who took part in the second edition of the town's Coastal Clean-up collected 78 huge sacks of plastics, metal and other rubbish.

One way to save on fuel

PARAGLIDER Ruben Carbonell recently flew 70 kilometres from Bocairent to Denia.

"I took off from the Sant Jaume peak in Sierra de Mariola," explained the experienced 28-year-old who belongs to the Santa Pola paragliding club.

"I planned to land somewhere on the coast although I didn't know exactly where it would be."

That day the wind took him 70 kilometres to Denia, not an unusual distance for a paraglider as the Spanish record stands at 288 kilometres. What was less usual, Ruben said afterwards, was where he landed.

He came down in Bosc de Denia, adjoining the Cami dels Lladres, which despite being located on the outskirts of the town is still relatively built-up.

Denia is not a recognised paragliding zone and some members of the public advised the Local Police.

"I did not put anyone at risk, I must make that clear," the paraglider told an interviewer.

He chose his landing spot very



FLYING HIGH: Ruben Carbonell glided through Sierra de Mariola Natural Park.

carefully, he said, as there are so many villas and urbanisations in the area that it would be easy to end up on private land.

"I looked for waste land, steering clear of private property and started to descend when I saw a good place to land," he continued.

While he was waiting for a friend to pick him up, a Local Police patrol arrived and Ruben showed them his licence and insurance papers.

"I explained that flying is legal so long as altitude regulations are respected, and they were very understanding," he said.

Not exactly model behaviour

TWO men were arrested in Novelda and a third is under investigation for robbery and posing as Guardia Civil officers.

The trio allegedly stole model cars and aircraft worth €4,000 from a villa in La Romana.

Their victim told investigators that three middle-aged men knocked at his door, explaining that they were Guardia Civil officers. They were wearing high visibility jackets over plainclothes but once he let them in, they covered their faces with balaclavas and pulled on gloves.

Throwing the owner to the ground, they tied him up and threatened him with a pistol, telling him to hand over all the money.

Their 39-year-old victim explained that there was little cash but told his attackers that they could take several model cars and aircraft valued at €4,000.

They left with the miniatures as well as their victim's mobile phone to prevent him from seeking help until they had made their getaway.

The only lead that the Guardia Civil had to work on came from a witness who saw a suspicious-looking black car that day in the neighbourhood.

Having traced the vehicle this led investigators to the three men who have relatives in La Romana but live in Novelda.

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BOOZE BLUES: Playa de Ingles and (inset) one of the revellers after being cuffed by police.

Drunk let off

Irish pair cleared of robbery rap

By Staff Reporter

A CANARY ISLANDS judge has cleared two 26-year-old Irish revellers of theft after ruling they broke into a holiday flat by mistake because they were too drunk.

Two Spanish women who had rented the accommodation in the popular resort of Playa del Ingles, Gran Canaria, claimed they had lost €280 in cash and a pair of sunglasses af-

ter finding one of the men asleep on their bed and the other on the sofa.

But a local court in San Bartolome de Tirajana heard there was 'no evidence' to suggest the unnamed pair - who were staying in the same complex - stole the items, concluding that they mistook the flat for their own after a night partying.

An official statement said that the holidaymakers "had been drinking a lot and do not

remember how they accessed the apartment... in fact they thought they were in their own room."

A police report confirmed they were 'extremely intoxicated,' and that it took officers '20 minutes' to wake them up.

The ruling added that the door to the property had not been forced and that the accused only had €22 in their pockets when they were arrested.

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TAX RETURN IN SPAIN

Who needs to lodge a Spanish tax return – and when ?

If you are resident in Spain for 183 days or more, you are considered a Spanish Tax resident.

You therefore are required to submit an annual Spanish resident tax return : “Declaración de la Renta”, as long as you comply with certain levels of income.

Some people however have more complex personal situations and they spend their time between a few countries or / and have property or business interests in other countries. In these cases there are International Double Taxation Treaties stating where the person subject to the tax should declare their income for tax purposes.

What is the minimum income to be liable for income tax?

If you have one source of income, not taxed at source, and you earn over 12.000 euros in pensions, you are obliged to file a tax return. However, that does not mean that you will end up paying taxes since it depends on your personal circumstances, allowances and deductions.

What happens if I file my tax return late?

- If there is no tax payable but you are obliged, there will be a fine of around 100 euros for filing a late tax declaration.



- If there is tax payable there is a charge to be paid. This is generally a percentage of the amount owed; it also depends on how late the tax declaration is submitted.

Are there any tax deductions for living in Spain?

Yes, some of the main deductions are:

- A personal tax-free allowance.
- Married couples allowance for joint declarations.

- Employment allowance.
- Child tax allowance.
- Deductions for private pension plans.
- Taxation regime for income from annuity pensions.

REMEMBER to submit your tax return in Spain before the end of June 2018 for the period relating to January 1st – December 31st 2017

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Transparency and its legal importance in consumer claims

Know your rights

THE law and the rules for the protection of consumers and users have been developed in an extraordinary way both in

Spain and in the European Union, with the particular

directive in 93/13 covering unfair terms in consumer contracts applicable to the countries in the EU.

Among other issues, one of the most important concepts to have emerged in recent years, is that of transparency, the development of which has seen the Spanish Supreme Court playing a key role.

Transparency is understood primarily as a concept that has to do with the need for contractual clauses to be clear and easy to understand and this is sometimes described as formal transparency.

Therefore you as a consumer when contracting with a bank, insurer, car salesman, plumber, etc, can demand that the clauses of

your contract be transparent, which from a formal point of view means that they must be clear, understandable and do not refer to other (obscured) texts.

Also what is referred to as substantive transparency is also required, that is, that not only the clauses of the contract must be clear, but that the consumer must understand the legal, economic and other consequences of the terms.

For example, the Spanish Supreme Court has declared in most cases brought over the mortgage floor clauses, that although they contain a transparent clause from the formal point of view and its wording is clear, it is not transparent from a substantive

point of view, because the consumer cannot fully understand or anticipate what it actually may mean (financially, economically, etc) in the future due to the possible fluctuation of interest rates, etc.

In reality, what we should understand as a society, and as was stated by the Supreme Court Magistrate Mr Javier Orduña at a recent conference at the University of Alicante which I attended, is that in order to understand that outside of theoretical concepts, either formal or substantial, transparency is an essential value.

It must be understood as a legal principle, in such a way that it is necessary to demand that contracts are

transparent so that people can understand the consequences of what they sign.

Transparency in practice is understood as a principle with legal value that should inform the regulations for consumers and users.

It has very important consequences in the current legal system and in the future, because you as a consumer can ask to have declared null and void any clauses of any contract, if the possible consequences of it were not clear and transparent at the time of signing.

Therefore, if you as a consumer have been harmed by a clause that was not transparent, when contracting with banks, insurers, service providers and other parties, contact us and we will help you.

The information provided in this article is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys general information related to legal issues.

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NEWS EXTRA**Bus ride service**

FOLLOWING the popularity of last summer's bus service between Denia's town centre and the La Pedrera and Montgo areas, the service has been resumed this year, the town hall announced.

Ticky-boo

RAIL operator FGV is increasing controls on Alicante Province TRAMs to detect passengers not buying tickets. Fines will rise from €50 to €100, with a 50 per cent reduction for payment in a fortnight.

Not interested

ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCION called for the Generalitat to invalidate the 'Of community interest' status for a plant to manufacture fertiliser created from sludge processed at Sierra de Fontcalent sewage plants.



Photo credit: Villajoyosa town hall

NON-AGGRESSIVE: The CASC freeze-dryer.

Galley freeze-dried for posterity

THE Catalonia Underwater Archaeology Centre (CASC) is restoring the wooden remains of the sunken Roman galley off Villajoyosa.

The centre, one of the most important of its kind in Spain, took an active part in the Bou Ferrer explorations last summer, providing its research vessel the Thetis as well as its team of experts.

The galley, named after the

two divers who discovered it in 1999, sank one-kilometre off the Villajoyosa coast in the First Century AD with a cargo of amphorae and lead ingots bound for Rome.

The CASC has offered to carry out the complex treatment needed to preserve the galley's wooden remains and since then has been in close contact with Villajoyosa's archaeological museum, Vilamuseu.

Permission to move the wood has been obtained from Valencia's regional government and the remains, which are 2,000 years old, were taken to Gerona by Vilamuseu's restorer, Maria Jose Velazquez, who stayed on to learn more about the specialised treatment.

The experts are now identifying the state of conservation of the wood, after which it will be freeze-dried to preserve it.

Communication let her down

WHEN Spain's president Mariano Rajoy visited Alicante recently it was inevitable that he should be greeted by demonstrators.

A group of 150 were waiting for him outside city hall in a protest organised by the unions as well as the Assembly of Pensioners and Citizens.

Rajoy entered the building to catcalls and booing as well as chanted slogans that included 'Less corruption and more funding' and 'Early retirement now!'

The demonstrators were asking for the improvements to police pensions that were promised by Rajoy but have not yet materialised.

Although they were kept at a prudent distance from the city hall en-

trance that Rajoy used, their protests were easily heard on various videos posted on the social media.

In one clip it is possible to hear Carmen Martinez de Castro, junior minister for Communications, remark to a companion, "How I'd love to give them a bloody great V-sign and tell them to f**k off!"

De Castro, known to be one of Rajoy's closest collaborators, controls and directs the government's Information policies.

She was later criticised for using bad language and 'showing little respect for freedom of speech' while the local PSOE and Compromis parties called for her resignation.



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Chess master
 CHESS lessons have remained on the timetable this year at the l'Arabi high school, where Carlos Agullo, president of Alfaz's Chess Club, coaches pupils twice a week. "Chess helps young people to concentrate, to be creative, solve problems and improve their memories," Education councillor, Isabel Muñoz said.

ALFAZ DEL PI / ALBIR NEWS

Suter tennis tournament

SUTER Tennis Club and Alfaz Town Hall held their 10th international tennis tournament recently. There were 40 teams that entered comprising of English, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and Russian players. It was a great tournament which was sponsored by Sarita Indian Restaurant and other local companies. The winners, Danny Hughes and David Lines (Eng), met Sara Andersen (Nor) and Arne (Rus) in the final.

Stuart and Scott would like to thank everyone who participated and supported this event. If you are interested please contact Scott on 619 052 178 or visit www.sutertennis.com.



WINNERS: Mario Martin (town hall), Stuart Suter, Scott Suter, Danny Hughes, Dave Lines, Genovesa Tent and Luis Mora.



SARITA SPONSER: Tom Grimmet receiving his prize from Luis Moran, Genovesa Tent, Mario Martin (town hall) and Scott Suter Credit: Suter Tennis Club.



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Bounty from Brussels

ALFAZ Town Hall will receive €5 million made available under the European Union's Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI).

Obtaining these funds was EU recognition of work and well done on Alfaz's part, said the local mayor Vicente Arques.

"The EDUSI grant is the best incentive for maintaining our policies of prioritising the intelligent, sustainable, healthy and integrating development that has already made the municipality a European reference point," Arques added.



Photo credit: Alfaz town hall

EDUSI GRANT: Alfaz's mayor Vicente Arques.

This was the first time that Alfaz had received such a sizeable and direct allocation, he continued, and the funds will be used to continue developing the town in its present direction.

"We shall promote green infrastructure and the cultural heritage network," the mayor said.

Connections between the town centre, the urbanisations and the beach will be improved and new technologies incorporated into public services."

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Foodie treat
 ALTEA was present at the Gastronomica food fair which was held at the IFA exhibition centre in Alicante City and devoted to the Mediterranean way of life. A 40-square -metre stall presented Altea's gastronomic specialities and workshops on the produce of autumn and dishes associated with the town's maritime tradition.

ALFAZ DEL PI / ALBIR NEWS

Getting immersed in Spanish

TWELVE Norwegian students are currently taking an immersion language course in Alfaz.

They come from Austevoll Island (Bergen) where they attend the Maritime School and as well as practising Spanish they are also experiencing firsthand the country's education system.

Accompanied by two teachers they are spending part of their eight-day course exploring the town and the surrounding area, setting out each day from the l'Arabi high school.

Alfaz has one of Europe's

largest Norwegian communities although around 2,500 are registered on the municipal Padron, Alfaz's mayor Vicente Arques said recently that the true number is closer to between 5,000 and 10,000.

On their arrival the 12 young people were welcomed by Martine Mertens, Alfaz's Residents of Other Nationalities councillor, who stressed the strong Alfaz-Norway connection, the importance of cultural interchange and the municipality's position as a centre for language study.



Photo credit: Alfaz town hall

NORWEGIAN STUDENTS: Learning the language and experiencing Spain.



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Photo credit: Altea town hall

IMPORTANT DAY: Altea Corporation and the new ambulance.

Bank finances new ambulance

ALTEA renewed one of its ambulances thanks to the collaboration of the Caixaltea bank.

"Once again we could replace an ambulance thanks to a Caixaltea donation," said Diego Martinez, Altea's Health councillor.

"This is an important day because we have a vehicle that is more modern and better equipped. I'd like to thank the Caixaltea president Jose Miguel Cortes and the board of directors for their help," he added.

"Collaborating with health in the municipal-

ities where the bank is present is one of Caixaltea Foundation's objectives, Cortes responded.

"We are proud to be able to help acquire this ambulance so that any Altea resident can get to hospital in an emergency," Cortes responded.

Although Caixaltea has presented the ambulance to the municipality, it will be used by the non-profitmaking DYA association which provides Altea's ambulance service.



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Teulada Moraira

NEWS

Council reshuffle

THE mayor of Teulada-Moraira, Carlos Linares, introduced changes at the town hall, restructuring his team of councillors during the last year of the legislature and preparing for next year's municipal elections. Linares himself has now taken over the departments of Tourism, Culture, Human Resources and Historic and Artistic Heritage.

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AITOR ORTEGA MARTINEZ, a 27-year-old from Teulada was awarded Summa cum Laude after defending his doctoral thesis.

As well as the Alicante University doctorate in Chemistry he also received an international doctorate certification following three months' study in Italy.

Both Aitor's defence and the-

Top marks for PhD

sis were presented in English under the supervision of his doctoral adviser, Carmen Nájero Domingo.

Together with his research

team Aitor created new ways of synthesising oxindoles, a family of molecules used to combat diseases that include cancer, diabetes and cerebral sclerosis.

Aitor, who is the co-author of research articles published in international magazines, will continue to work as an investigator at Alicante University.

Teulada-Moraira mayor Carlos Linares congratulated Aitor for the magnificent result which, he said, demonstrated the effort and dedication he had put into studies that were so important to society.

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Photo credit: Teulada-Moraira town hall

DOCTORATE: Aitor Ortega defends his thesis.

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JAVEA - XABIA

NEWS

‘Never again’ vows injured cyclist

ANDRES CONTRERAS who survived an accident that killed three cyclists wants to prevent tragic repetitions.

The 27-year-old saw his father, Luis Alberto Contreras, and his friend, Eduardo Monfort, die last May.

They were run down on the N-332 road near Oliva by a drugged and drunk driver early on a Sunday morning. Another friend, Jose Albi, died in hospital while he and Scott Gordon were in a coma for several days and are still recovering from their injuries.

The driver, who tried to drive off as she returned from a discotheque, lost her driving licence in the past while driving under the

influence of drugs and alcohol.

“These days are complicated,” Andres recently told the Spanish media. “It’s very difficult. A year ago I lost my father and two friends but little by little I am trying to return to normal.”

Andres is now visiting local high schools, giving talks on the importance of road safety and the consequences of driving after taking drugs and drinking.

He is also collaborating with the Red Cross’s Road Safety Education programme.

“It’s also hard to see that a year later cyclists are still getting run over. I survived and I’m going to fight to do everything possible to prevent further accidents.”



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JAVEA - XABIA NEWS

Touching message from the past

COINCIDING with the liberation of Mauthausen in May 1945, Javea pays homage on Saturday to two local men who died there.

Bertomeu Cardona Espasa was interned in April 1941 when he was 22, two years after leaving Spain following Franco's victory over the Republicans in 1939.

He fled to France where he was taken prisoner by the Nazis in April 1941, a fate shared by Batiste Bas

who was also from Javea.

Like the four Republicans from Denia and five from Pego - together with thousands of other Spaniards - Franco had declared them stateless and after first enduring the horror of the French refugee camps they were sent to Nazi death camps.

Batiste who entered Mauthausen in January 1941 died there in November that year, aged 29.

Bertomeu also died that

November and only one of his letters ever reached his parents.

Referring to many others he had sent, he writes: "I don't know if they don't arrive or get lost but if you receive this, answer it so that I can hear about you."

He assured his mother and father that he was in good health but goes on to say: "I don't know what will become of us, but we have a feeling that we shall be all right."

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Advertising Feature

A family life dedicated to restoring value in La Marina's traditional gastronomy

FROM their first family restaurant, Casa Federico, in 1980, the Cervera family have led the gastronomic field in La Marina. They now have eight highly successful traditional restaurants in Denia including a unique gastronomic show house located in central Denia (El Condado).

In the late 70's, gastronomy in Denia suffered as a consequence of massive tourism and lack of innovation in the catering industry. Most of the restaurants in the city had abandoned the traditional dishes and opted for menus combined far from the culinary identity of the area.

The family Cervera decided to turn their family home, located at the start of Las Marinas in Denia - into a traditional family restaurant. It was 1980 and **Casa Federico** was the chosen name. With the irreplaceable company of the mother Rosa in the kitchen, the four brothers (Pepa, Federico, Jaume and Conxa) all got involved in the project. Passion, sensitivity, good local product and a respect for gastronomic tradition were the keys to the restaurant.

Casa Federico was an innovative restaurant from its first day. The philosophy and principles have continued to be present in all their restaurants:

- Cuisine based on local tradition

They served rice, stews, salted, preserves, marinades and coupled ingredients... just as they made themselves at home before opening the business.

- Fresh food prepared daily and at the time of order

- Fresh and local products

Fish came from Denia's own lonja, produce and vegetables purchased from local markets.

- Food prepared to its 'punto'

A commitment on the part of the chef, a certain risk in the search for the perfect taste.

- The fusion of gastronomy and environment

In Casa Federico, the family opted for natural materials such as a glassware with traditional furniture of wicker chairs and wooden tables, avoiding the plastic or aluminum that proliferated then.

- Transparent and open kitchens

Guests see what they are going to eat. Everything forms part of a singular experience.

- A complete menu

They revolutionised the sector with complete menus, featuring starters, seconds and dessert.

- Format 'picaeta' - tapas!

The restaurant opted to share traditional dishes in picaeta version (tapas).

- Personalisation

In Casa Federico, a rice was prepared for two, six or 13 people. Every table had its own cauldron.

- Dishes from the home's daily menu to restaurant table

Original staple dishes that were traditionally prepared in the home every day of the year were brought to the tables of their restaurant.

- Bet on training, a stable staff all year

From the first day they bet both on the training of now 120 staff and on the dissemination of traditional gastronomy. The restaurants have the 'Tourism Quality Commitment' certification from the Tourism Institute of Spain (TurEspania).

- Sustainability and ecology

Sustaining the environment, both social and heritage. From the daily purchases from their restaurants, through to the choice of buildings for new openings.

For 10 years the Cervera family dedicated itself exclusively to their first restaurant, Casa Federico. During this decade a concept of gastronomy of La Marina was consolidated and the subsequent openings pivoted on it.

The restaurants had the same identity in the kitchen but with a different personalisation and character in the dishes of each of the new establishments:

- Casa Federico www.casafederico.es

Typical dishes of Mediterranean cuisine that include meats, rice, fish and seafood and tapas from La Marina.

- Primera Linea

www.restaurantprimeralineas.com

Located right on the shores of the Mediterranean, Primera Linea is a unique doorway to the marine gastronomy of Denia.

- La Seu www.laseu.es

A dynamic and creative space designed on 16th century building, in which the contemporary interpretation of the cuisine of La Marina offers suggestive tapas and surprising dishes based on market products.

- Hotel Nou Romà and its restaurant

www.restaurantelasenia.net

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- Els Tomassets

www.tascaelstomassets.com

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- Ca Pepa Teresa

www.calapepateresa.com

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- Al Forn www.alforn.es

Elegant rustic restaurant located in an old Moorish bakery. Tapas, cocas de La Marina, coca-pizza and traditional oven prepared dishes with local natural products, and an excellent touch of olive oil.

- El Condado www.condadodenia.com

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Political party poaches



Photo credit: Benitachell town hall

SHAKE ON IT: Josep Femenia, Sandre Llopis de Pau and councillors.

THE Democrates Valencians party has recruited some high profile Marina Alta members.

This new centre-orientated group wants to carve out a place and a name for itself in the area and has already attracted members who formerly belonged to the Compromis nationalist party in Benitachell and the PSPV socialist party in Teulada.

These councillors, three from Benitachell who include the local mayor, Josep Femenia, and four from Teulada, left their original parties and ran in the last election on the Red (Network) ticket.

Red has now been integrated into Democrates Valencians and the councillors will be included

on this party's lists in the next municipal elections in May 2019.

The party will also have Pego candidates next year although this will be in coalition with the independent councillors, Carmelo Ortola and Alicia Siscar.

According to sources close to the party, negotiations are underway to include councillor, Isidor Molla who, after his expulsion from Ciudadanos, is now non-aligned.

"We have very good relations with Isidor but each agreement has to ripen in its own time," said Democrates spokesman, Sandre Llopis de Pau.

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Still enough room to grow

THE Consell, equivalent to a Cabinet, has approved the regional government's Territorial Green Infrastructure Action Plan (PATIVEL).

The plan, which comes into force once it is published in the Generalitat's Official Bulletin, ring-fences 7,000 hectares of Valencian Community land of immense environmental, territorial and scenic value while protecting it from speculation.

Approximately 3,000 hectares of this land is located in Alicante Province, but the same regulations apply to the provinces of Valencia and Castellon.

The protected land comes under two categories, the first of which protects a 500-metre strip of rustic land, not zoned for building, measured from the water's edge.

Construction is restricted to activities,



PROTECTED: No further development at the Algar rivermouth in Altea.

infrastructures and non-residential installations whose nature require them to be located near the shore. Existing buildings

may be renovated on this first 500-metre strip if they are intended for public use, cultural activities or accommodation.

Category 2 land covers the next 500-metre strip and can be used for boutique hotels with 'a rural atmosphere' that cater for a few guests and occupy a limited area.

Campsites certified as sustainable, together with public facilities and other amenities that guarantee the ecological and functional continuity of local ecosystems will also be permitted.

PATIVEL has the backing of the region's universities, but not developers and it is opposed by many town halls who fear the plan will truncate their plans for future growth.

The Generalitat meanwhile insists that PATIVEL leaves sufficient room on the coast 'to satisfy municipalities in the short and medium term' the department of Land Structure maintained.

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Office number: 966 874 548 - Mobile 603 760 164

Severe injuries from cycling fall

A 52-YEAR-OLD cyclist from Muro de Alcoy was badly injured after a four-metre fall in Pinos.

He was descending on the Benissa side of the Bernia mountain and was 11 metres below the summit when he fell. This section of the steep Pinos road, together with the paths that start in Font de Bernia and Pinos, are very popular with cyclists, especially mountain-bikers.

The cyclist was initially attended by firemen from the town's brigade who moved him to where a parked SAMU emergency ambulance and a medical team were waiting for him.

After medics ascertained the severity of his injuries, which included head and spinal injuries as well as several broken bones, the cyclist was airlifted by an air ambulance to Alicante General Hospital.

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Are you being served?



Credit: Careline Theatre

HOLD THIS END: Mr Grainger (Mick Nial) and Mr Lucas (Ian Bennett) getting confused about how to take an inside leg measurement.

FOLLOWING the roaring success of Careline Theatre's *The Lion King Jr*, they will be performing the hit TV comedy *Are You Being Served?* from Wednesday to Saturday May 19 at 8pm at their theatre in Alcalali. Directed by Candida Wright, this will include all the risqué jokes, innuendo and over-the-top characters deemed non-PC in the UK now.

The action takes place in the faded glory of the Grace Bros store and in Spain. After finishing the German products' week, the staff of Grace Bros go on holiday to Spain

whilst the store is being redecorated. The one-star hotel in Spain cannot accommodate them all so some of them have to sleep elsewhere.

Mistaken bedrooms, upset tummies and creepy crawlies make for an unforgettable holiday. They even get caught up in local revolution.

Tickets are €12 with a 10 per cent discount for pre-paid groups of 10 or more. Tickets are selling fast, so contact the box office now on 605 181 726 or email carelineboxoffice@gmail.com.



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Fostering and fayre

AKIRA rescued these lovely chaps and brought them to the safety of the shelter a few weeks ago. The shelter's managers and a few kind volunteers have been working hard to socialise them and build their confidence, but Akira are seeking foster homes to help them get fully accustomed to the outside world.

Brave, Warrior and Hero are about four months old and have been vaccinated and chipped. Akira pays for all food and veterinary bill expenses for dogs which have been fostered.

Also, don't forget that AKIRA's eighth annual May fayre will be held on Sunday from 12.30pm until 5.30pm. As usual, this will be held at the Font Santa Picnic Area in Teulada, next to the Go Karts. The day will include live music from Contraband, Marnie and Banana Drama Rocky. There will also be dancing from Javea Fun Jive and Marcia's Dance School.

This is always a great family day out with face painting, lots of different stalls, tombola and the ever-popular cake stall. Cake donations will be very welcome. You can enjoy a drink from the bar together with some delicious paellas and other tasty BBQ food. All at



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Brave, Warrior and Hero are looking for a foster home.

reasonable prices.

All proceeds will go towards the running costs of Akira animal shelter. Come and help Akira help the dogs.

For more information about fostering the dogs or the upcoming May fayre, please call 657 689 567 or visit www.akira-animals.com.

PEPA fundraising

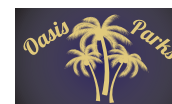
PEPA would like to thank all those who helped them rehome 16 dogs and one elderly cat last month. The rehoming team also took in two injured dogs and placed them with foster carers.

They had a successful month of fundraising, having held a sponsored walk which raised

€1,000 and a dance party night raised €1,321 for the charity. Contact membership secretary Jenny Screen on p.e.p.a.animalcharity@gmail.com.

Don't forget the PEPA Quiz Night on Tuesday May 15 from 7pm at Bar Restaurant Ca Elsa, Caretera Ador in Villalonga.

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Credit: Javea U3A's

CLASSICS: Pablo Alcaide, Angela Chantry, Tony Dearie, Joan Bou, Ximo Monllor and Peter Neeteson.

Cuisine, choirs and cycling

SIXTY members of the Javea U3A's Spanish culture and cuisine group enjoyed a classic concert at the Parador de Javea.

After a Cava reception and excellent lunch, they were treated to a very special performance by a trio of musicians, known as Arrels.

The programme was based upon medieval and traditional folk music dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries, performed on a variety of strings, wind and percussion instruments.

After the concert, group leaders, Angela Chantry and Tony Dearie thanked Pablo Alcaide, Joan Bou and Ximo Monllor for their excellent performance.

A special thank-you was also given to Peter Neeteson, of Momentos De Musica, Javea, who

had introduced Arrels to Angela and Tony and helped to organise the concert.

The Calpe U3A's choir and friends will perform 'Spring into Song' on Thursday May 17 at 10.30am in the Sol Ifach Hotel in Calpe. Entrance is free and non-members are welcome. All donations will be given in aid of Gargasindi in Calpe.

The Calpe U3A cycling group are also open to welcome new members. The cycling group has a mixture of ages and bikes, some on mountain bikes and some on road bikes. They are all very relaxed and sociable and everyone can cycle at their own pace.

For more information, please contact Verity Waddell at veritywaddell@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.u3acalpe.org.

Catching canal carp

FOURTEEN members recently fished for the Carp-R-Us Spring cup on the Eden Canal. A bit of peg clearing was required before the draw as a lot of the reeds had overgrown.

The match itself was won by Doug Hornblow with an excellent 9.32kg of mainly carp, caught on pole and corn. In second place was Tom Marshall, continuing his good form on this venue, with 5.32kg. Steve Fell came in third place with 4.04kg and fourth place went to Geoff Tempest with 2.66kg.

For further information about the club, please visit www.carp-r-us.weebly.com or visit their Facebook page.

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FRANCE

Caught off-guard

AUTHORITIES plan to beef up security after police were caught ill-prepared in May Day demonstrations after 1,200 hooded anti-capitalists torched cars in the capital.

Steely response

FINANCE MINISTER Bruno Le Maire has struck back at Donald Trump's planned US steels tariffs and threatened to shut down talks with Washington if France isn't exempted, the government said.

€5bn boost

THE government has announced a €5 billion master project to transform 222 decaying city centres by building new



Image Credits: Flickr

ON FIRE: A fireman hoses down a burning car after it was overturned in May Day riots.

stores, offices and renovated housing.

Uprising marked

FRANCE is commemorating half

a decade since the Paris student and worker uprising, a key moment in France's modern history which almost toppled General de Gaulle's government in May 1968.

GERMANY

Heat record

LAST month saw Germany's highest April temperatures since records began in 1881 with an average of 12.4°C, a whopping 5°C more than the 1961-1990 equivalent, according to the German weather service.

Search again

BRITISH investigators are excavating the Alme's riverbanks near Paderborn

in a renewed search for Katrice Lee, a British toddler who disappeared from the area in 1989, police have revealed.

Refugees resist

AROUND 200 African migrants in refugee accommodation in the town of Ellwangen stopped a 23-year-old man from being deported to Central Africa by outnumbering police who

arrived to take him away.

Fair share

GERMAN ministers are concerned about 'fair budget sharing' after the European Commission unveiled its post-Brexit finance plan last week, adding all member states should pull their weight to strengthen the European Union.

NETHERLANDS

Growth stunt

ELECTRICITY shortages in key areas are holding back growth of data centres, especially in Amsterdam where it is not possible to expand the grid further, the Dutch Data Centre Association said.

Goodbye London

CONSUMER GOODS giant Unilever has voted to 'strategically' relocate its headquarters from London to the Netherlands and its chairman Marijn Dekkers said the decision had 'nothing to do' with protectionism.

Left behind

FORMER soldiers' children from the Maluku Islands contingent - who migrated to the Netherlands in 1951 - want a state apology for not bringing over 300 other youngsters.

Video passes

THE Dutch public prosecution department will not stop the anti-Islamic PVV Party from broadcasting a propaganda video about the Muslim religion ahead of local elections.

BELGIUM

Be nice Belgium

EUROPEAN Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker asked Brussels to grant British EU officials with citizenship, telling Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel 'they deserve it' during a European parliament debate.

Abortion ahead

BELGIAN MPs will debate the decriminalisation of abortion after a survey showed public support for the move which would see Belgium join France in approving the procedure, according to reports.

Farage outrage

NIGEL FARAGE has caused uproar in Brussels' European Parliament claiming 'Belgium is not a nation' but an artificial creation, while slating EU leaders for ignoring Brexit.

Russian 'block'

A RUSSIAN government-run website has hinted the recent blockade of Air Belgium flights in Russian airspace is a Moscow backlash against the EU, according to a statement.

SWEDEN

Card please

SWEDEN could be the world's first cashless country as more of its citizens have access to a payment card than to cash - and 85 per cent use on-line banking - the central bank said in a report.

School's out

STUDENTS from Sturenskolan School in Boden have enjoyed a month free of tests and homework which were shelved because they cause stress and make "children feel bad," headteacher Petronella Sirkka said.

Meatball moan

SWEDISH meatballs are actually Turkish not Swedish and based on a recipe King Charles XII brought back from a visit to 18th century Turkey, according to Sweden's official Twitter account.

Access denied

THE mother of Mahmoud Alizade - a 17-year-old stabbed to death at a school in Soderort - has been refused the visa she needs to attend her son's funeral, according to local media.

NORWAY

Stargazing huts

THE Snohetta design studio will build a planetarium next to Norway's largest solar observatory in Harestua by 2020 allowing travellers to observe the 'magical' night skies, local astronomer Vegard Lundby said.

Better idea

SCOTTISH judges are interested in Norway's 'child home' method of interviewing child sexual assault victims at locations away from police stations, hoping it might increase convictions, the BBC reports.

Eastern robes

TOP Pakistani fashion designers are set to showcase their best designs and jewellery at the 'Colours of Pakistan' fashion show which is being held in Oslo later this month.

€17.5bn loss

THE country's state pension fund lost €17.5 billion in the first quarter of 2018 due to rocky global equity and bond markets according to Norges bank, which manages the money.

DENMARK

Rare wolf

A FILM which captured the illegal shooting of a wolf - one of the first to freely roam the county in 200 years - has sparked outrage among nature lovers, according to national media.

Sirens sound

EIGHTY per cent of the population heard alarm bells when the defence ministry ran its annual emergency siren tests preparing Danes for their use in major disasters, media sources report.

Tax lingo

THE government has released tax guidelines in five different languages to make it easier for newcomers to navigate the country's 'complicated' tax system, official Anne Dorte Erstad Jorgensen said.

Faking first

A Malaysian court has sentenced a Danish resident to jail for 'fake news' after complaining on YouTube about an ambulance team's 'slow response' to a Palestinian's shooting in Kuala Lumpur.



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HACKED OFF: Experts said cyber attacks were picking up ahead of the World Cup.

Online strikes step up ahead of World Cup

ONLINE attacks aimed at Russia and people heading to the country for the World Cup are becoming more frequent and sophisticated, crime analysts have said. Scams including spam emails about winning tickets to the event and fake websites offering cheap flights and hotels have sprung up and popular websites have been infected with viruses.

Demonstrators fined

PROTESTORS in St Petersburg have been arrested and fined for waving non-Russian flags and some were jailed following May Day rallies. Vadim Charushev was reportedly fined 11,000 rubles (€ 143) after allegedly being caught with a British flag and was charged for violating public assembly laws and resisting arrest.

Syria crash deaths

TWO Russian pilots were killed after a military plane crashed off the coast of Syria in what is reportedly believed to have been an accident. The

Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jet plunged into the sea shortly after taking off from Russia's Khmeimim air base where planes regularly fly from to target troops fighting Syrian government forces.

'Statue vandal' caught

A MAN who allegedly toppled a sculpture of Russia's ruble currency in the town of Syktyvkar has reportedly confessed less than a week after the incident, according to local police. The glass and metal statue of the Russian Cyrillic letter R was found shattered on the ground shortly after the incident last month.

Haircuts for veterans

MOSCOW authorities arranged for Second World War veterans arriving in the city for the Victory Day celebrations to receive free haircuts. Barbers were also on hand to provide free home services for the former soldiers, Moscow region consumer official Vladimir Posazhenikov said.

'Monstration' march

SEVERAL people took to the streets of Moscow for Monstration marches recently for a light-hearted take on protesting. An estimated 100 to 150 people turned out, with demonstrators bearing signs which read: 'We Ban Bans,' 'Piece, Work, Nonsense' and 'The Future Ripens in a Corner.' The idea behind the protests is to spoof traditional demonstrations by carrying signs which make little or no sense.

'BAN BANS': Between 100 and 150 people took part in the parody protests.



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STAT OF WEEK**€1.66 billion**

The amount owed in unpaid community fees across Spain, with up to 40 per cent of Communities of Property Owners affected, according to the latest government data.

Countries show united tax front

FRANCE and Spain have agreed on the need for 'financial harmonisation' in the European Union to clamp down on tax havens and unfair competition between member states.

It comes as French Minister of European Affairs, Nathalie Loiseau, and Spanish Secretary of State for European Affairs, Jorge Toledo, attended a debate organised by the Faculty of Law at Madrid's Complutense University.

Both officials also insisted that 'Euroscepticism must be fought against,' with citizens becoming 'more invested in the European project'.

Norwegian rejects IAG bids

by Matt Ford

LONG-HAUL budget airline Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS) says it has unanimously rejected two takeover offers from the owner of British Airways.

International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns 4.6 per cent of Norwegian, is reportedly aiming to increase its share of the market amid fears of competition from low-cost rivals.

But the NAS board said in a statement that it had rejected IAG's 'conditional proposals' because they 'undervalued NAS and its prospects.'

The rapidly-expanding carrier

added that the board 'would remain fully committed to delivering on its stated strategy.'

Shares in the airline plummeted by up to 10 per cent in the wake of the failed bid before a slight recovery.

IAG last month announced that it had acquired a minor stake in NAS 'intended to establish a position from which to initiate discussion, including the possibility of a full offer for the firm.'

But in an analyst presentation the company confirmed it had failed to

strike a full takeover deal as it said: "IAG confirms that it has had contact with the Norwegian board regarding a possible offer, without reaching an agreement."

"IAG is currently considering its options in relation to Norwegian."

The company - which also owns Spanish flag-carrier Iberia - also revealed a jump in operating profits in the first quarter of 2018, with underlying earnings before exceptional items up to €280 million compared to €160 million over the same period last year.

Economy cheer as hike goes on

THE General Council of Economists has revised its growth forecasts for Spain.

According to the national body, gross domestic product is expected to rise by 2.6 per cent in 2018 and 2.4 per cent in 2019.

The figure represents an increase of one 10th compared to earlier predictions.

It comes after the country's economy expanded by 0.7 per cent from January to March.

And it is expected to shoot up by a further 0.7 per cent over the next three months.



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€60m VAT conmen held in clampdown



Photo credit: Policia Nacional

VAT'S UNBELIEVABLE: The gang reportedly laundered money via luxury car dealers.

THE Spanish tax agency, National Police and Europol have busted the country's biggest VAT fraud scheme, with the culprits accused of cheating the state out of at least €60 million.

Raids across the country saw 58 people held in Madrid, Elche, Malaga, Cordoba, Murcia, the Basque Country and Navarra, with €400,000 in cash and 52 high-end sports cars seized.

It comes in the wake of a three-year probe during which the gang's ringleaders, two men of Indian ori-

gin holding Spanish passports, were found to have built an elaborate racket after setting up 100 bogus companies.

The pair reportedly fled to the United States after realising that the authorities were investigating them, from where they continued to direct the scam.

Detectives said that the group specialised in the import and sale of undeclared electronic goods before laundering much of the proceeds via luxury car dealerships in Galicia.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

€2.1bn tech tax scheme

SPAIN hopes to raise €2.1 billion by 2019 by slapping 'certain electronic transactions' with a new digital tax and using the cash to boost state pension hikes, Economy Minister Ramon Escolano has revealed.

Good job

THE Spanish Ministry of Employment has revealed that the number of jobless people across the country fell by 86,683 in April with more than 18.6 million now in paid work, the most for almost a decade.

Fuel's gold

MADRID-BASED global energy firm Repsol has announced an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in adjusted first-quarter profit after higher oil and gas prices helped the company rake in €616 million in January-March this year.

Uranium miner's list plan

LONDON-BASED mining firm Berkeley Energia has announced it is to apply for admission to the main board of the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and its Spanish equivalents in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia.

The company - currently listed on the Alternative Investment sub-market of the LSE - owns a controversial uranium mine in Salamanca.

Managing Director Paul Atherle said the

move "represents a major strategic move forward."

"It will allow us to build support amongst European institutional investors whilst we advance activities on site," he added.

Last summer, Berkeley received €100 million from Oman's sovereign wealth fund to help finish construction of the Spanish mine, with production set to start in early 2019.

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New scheme just the ticket

EUROPEAN AIRLINES TO AXE CREDIT CARD CHARGES

THE global airline industry is set to wage war against credit card firms.

Working with German financial services company Deutsche Bank, carriers aim to save billions of Euros in transaction fees using a new electronic real-time payment system for web-based ticket sales.

The scheme, which does not yet have a brand name, is earmarked to be trialled in Germany before being rolled out across Europe by the end of 2018. Spaniard Javier Orejas, senior banking manager for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, said: "We are developing an industry-wide payment solution that is an alternative to credit cards."

According to IATA, credit card payment processing costs the industry up to €6.7 billion per year, with credit card companies including Visa and Mastercard charging between 1 and 3 per cent for each transaction.

But the new system will employ a fixed rate which will be "a matter of cents," Orejas added.

It has been made possible by a new



FARE ENOUGH: The new scheme will be trialled in Germany and has already gained the support of the country's biggest carrier Lufthansa.

European Union ruling that forces banks to hand third parties access to customer data and trigger payments.

Customers will enter their bank account details before Deutsche checks their balance in real time, collecting

the fees and transferring the money to the relevant airline once it sees that sufficient funds are available.

"Most banks view this in a defensive manner and only reluctantly open their data," said Shahrokh Moinian,

global head of cash products at Deutsche. "For us, it's an opportunity for change. We have asked ourselves: why can't we behave like a tech company?"

But introducing new payments systems can be tricky, because companies will only buy into schemes that their clients are willing to use, and vice versa.

IATA and Deutsche believe that convincing Europe's biggest airlines to adopt the system will see them break through this barrier.

"We are currently in talks with large carriers," Orejas told the *Financial Times*, noting that there is "a lot of appetite among airlines."

Meanwhile, travellers will be lured in with offers of flight discounts or extra loyalty miles.

Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa said in a statement that it is in favour of modern payment initiatives, adding: "We believe that competition in payment and distribution systems is a basic factor for decreasing cost while improving customer experience."

Tourists splash record amount in first quarter

MORE than 13.7 foreign tourists spent almost €14.4 million in Spain during the first quarter of 2018, according to the National Institute of Statistics.

The record figures represent increases of 6 and 7.7 per cent on the same period in 2017, respectively.

In March alone more than 5.4 million holidaymakers flocked to the country as visitor numbers soared by 9.6 per cent compared to last year.

The average tourist stayed for 7.5 days and spent €1,064, with Britons (2.8 million), Germans (1.85 million) and French (1.69 million) travellers topping the rankings in terms of numbers.

And the destinations raking in the most cash were the Canary Islands (€4.5 million), Cataluña (€3.1 million) and Andalucía (€2.2 million).



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SO, there he stood.

Rick the Roo Boy, 6.30am, outside my hotel room, dangling some bewhiskered rodent up to the spy hole and asking 'if I was ready?'

For those who missed last week's introduction to this Australian saga, I was touring the great 'down under' and while appearing in Melbourne had recently mentioned in a radio interview that I had 'yet to see a kangaroo.' A local character had phoned in and offered to 'show me all the kangaroos I wanted.'

I had completely forgotten the incident and suddenly here he was, at my hotel room, raring to go, about 10 minutes after I personally had actually staggered into bed! His broad Australian 'rasp' once more penetrated my befuddled senses.

"Come on Leapy," he shouted through the door, "don't wanna be late."

"Freddy the ferret here wants to get him a few rabbits." What!?! Having very little choice I fumbled with the door and as he burst in I turned and moved hastily to the bedroom, calling over my shoulder for him to take a seat and that 'I wouldn't be a minute'.



AUSSIE RULES: Nurses, 'uppers' and bunny bashing.

I shut the bedroom door and flopped down onto the bed. Oh my God, I thought, what am I going to do? Well one thing was for sure, if I was going 'kangaroo hunting' I wasn't going on my own. Quickly downing a couple of 'wake up' pills, kindly donated by a couple of thoughtful young nurses, (who had only actually left around half an hour before!) I lifted the phone and began to ring

around the group.

The first member, my drummer, didn't answer at all. The next two mumbling musos blearily uttered hardly discernible 'no ways,' even under the threats of getting an early flight back to Blighty.

Mike, my guitarist was next. Mike was just a big old softy really and after extreme begging and pleading, plus the promise of a couple of 'uppers,'

he finally, very reluctantly, agreed to accompany me on the 'hunt.'

One hour later Mike, me, Rick the Roo Boy and Freddy the ferret were bouncing across the Australian outback in a jeep. We pulled up in the middle of nowhere. Rick leapt from the vehicle, clutching the wriggling Freddy in a sack and gleefully exclaiming that first, we were going to catch us a few rabbits for supper.

"Take these two clubs," he enthused, "and go over and stand on that hillock. I'll put Freddy down these burrows and when the rabbits pop out over there just hit 'em over the head!"

Oh really! Mick and I, both utterly 60's peace and love, further enhanced by the effects of the 'uppers' wandered reluctantly over to the distant, rabbit-holed mound, and just stood there, looking at each other. At that point those Australian rabbits were the safest animals on earth. There was no way in the world that either of us could have bashed their heads in as they emerged from the ground on that sunny morning. So, there we stood and waited... And I'm afraid that's what all of us will have to do 'til I round it all off next week. Back to my old 'telling it all as I see it' soon. Promise.

*Keep the Faith,
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TECH FOR THE TIMID



SOON the world's digital overlords will apparently hold 40 zettabytes of information on us.

No I don't know what that means either, but when a colleague recently asked Facebook for all the information it held on him, he got nearly a gigabyte back.

That's the equivalent of 200 copies of the Bible in plain text, if you're interested. Or not, if you're an atheist.

Most alarming of all was that it listed every call he had ever made and every message he had ever sent. The good news is that this changes in a fortnight. At least it does for we Europeans, thanks to the acronym of the moment: GDPR.

From May 25 the General Data Protection Regulation means that organisations may no longer treat us unilaterally as just so much advertising fodder, to be milked of every possible bit of personal information for



GDPR: Keep calm and comply.

their nefarious or even non-nefarious purposes. If they do, it's goodbye €20 million or more in fines.

The likes of Facebook, Amazon, Google or that popular anatomical research site Pornhub may not harvest our personal data without asking us, may not hit us with 40 screens of terms and conditions we cannot understand as an excuse, may not refuse to tell us what they know about us,

and must delete it if we insist. I certainly do.

If they get hacked they have to 'fess up' within 72 hours.

Not only may they merely store our details for a 'reasonable' time, but we will have the hitherto denied 'right to be forgotten' if we want to opt-out of any part of our brave new digital world.

It's not just our direct personal data

which is affected. Anything which could be identified directly back to us may not be collected without our explicit consent. That includes the 'IP address' which pinpoints your specific computer or phone even if you think you operate online anonymously.

The good news for non-Europeans is also that the GDPR will reverberate far beyond the old world's borders. Any company has to comply when doing business with Europe (here's lookin' at you Facebook and Google).

So: The Empire Fights Back? Will it all make a difference where online privacy has devalued more than a Zimbabwean dollar?

A recent survey revealed that 32 per cent of the respondents intend to ask at least one organisation exactly what information it holds on them.

I will certainly be asking Google to delete details of all those searches I did back then on performance-enhancing substances undetectable by local Scrabble clubs. Purely for scientific purposes, you understand.

Trackdown

WE'VE all seen those ads which mysteriously track us right across the internet - irritatingly offering to sell us the very item we just bought.

But it's not just GCHQ, the NSA or even the former KGB who'd like to track us physically too. Soon we might pass the supermarket and our phone might entreat us to buy today's special on biodegradable crumpets.

The GDPR doesn't (yet) tackle the thorny issue of surveillance, but it's coming. Proposed legislation hopes to take the next step: banning surveillance unless you agree.

Would anyone, other than 'helicopter' parents obsessing where their children are 24/7? Or a nurse keeping tabs on someone like my granddad, whose 105th birthday we celebrated this week? (Though sadly he died at 62).



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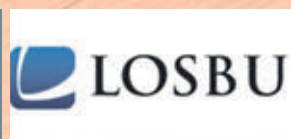


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Trigger-happy 'generation snowflake' forever in Neverland

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

AN over-praised and narcissistic generation of university students is persistently trying to negotiate better grades - or 'grade grubbing' as it's called - academics recently reported.

When university education was free, most students were grateful for what they got and wouldn't have considered complaining. But now students have to pay high fees, they're the customer and, understandably, expect to receive good grades in return for their financial investment.

But they argue frequently and aggressively about low grades, even when some of them haven't attended lectures, aren't particularly clever or just plain lazy.

Universities are scared stiff of getting low Student Satisfaction scores, which would lead to a lower student intake the following year and therefore loss of income. So, fundamentally students can do almost anything



SNOWFLAKES: Over-praised and narcissistic university students.

they please and they know this.

Basically, too much 'Aren't you clever, darling' and not enough 'naughty step!' from their parents?

Newsflash: 'The University of Neverland' acknowledges that law students are required to study topics in the criminal law module that may distress them, specifically murder, manslaughter, assault, rape and other sexual offences. At the start of lectures, relevant trigger warnings will be given and any student needing to leave may do so then.

'If an appeal is made without delay to the university indicating which parts of the course cause discomfort or anxiety, examination questions on these topics will be replaced with substitute questions on fraud, theft, corporate liability or other non-trigger topics.'

I made this up but you get the idea. Heck! I need trigger warnings for stories like this because my blood pressure spikes whenever I read about what a collection of girl's blouses young people have become.

Whatever next? A trigger warning at the beginning of a crime novel that someone, maybe even another person, will be dead by the close? Phew! As the author of crime thrillers perhaps I'd better shift gears and focus solely on fairy tales... set in Neverland!

Nora Johnson's 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) from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Do they need a tax adviser?

Q. My partner and I have lived in Spain for seven years. We have lifetime residency and NIE. We live on our pensions and do not pay tax in the UK, as we do not earn enough.

Some people tell us we must register for tax in Spain and some tell us we don't have to. A website tells us that if we earn less than €22,000 per year, we do not have to register in Spain. We are now confused.

I have recently begun earning from buying shares in properties with a Spanish company, and so I agree I must now register. Can you please clear up the matter?

N K (Costa Blanca)

A. YES you must declare for Spanish tax. Here is a simple rule: if you reside officially in Spain, your worldwide income is subject to Spanish tax.

In your case, you want to find a Spanish tax consultant who speaks English so you can understand. Ask your friends. The limit of €22,000 applies only when the income received has been subject to Spanish withholding tax during the year. Clearly, this does not apply to a UK pension.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



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

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Advertising Feature

A family company ready for all your transport needs

WE have some very interesting news about a well established and reputable travel agent called Beniconnect who have been operating for years in the north of the Costa Blanca offering shuttle and private vehicle transfers serving Alicante, Murcia and Valencia airports.

Beniconnect, a British / Spanish family business, has a wealth of experience operating for many years offering a wide range of transport services for every occasion as well as airport transfers.

The newest launch to their extended services is a shuttle service to and from Alicante airport to the south of the Costa to enable easy airport connections for both residents and tourists in the south calling at San Pedro Del Pinatar, Pilar de la Horadada, Dehesa de Campoamor, Campoamor, Villamartin, La Zenia, Playa Flamenca, Torrevieja and Ciudad Quesada.

Beniconnect is the sister company of Auto-



TRANSPORT SERVICES: Part of the Beniconnect fleet.

contact number.

While offering very competitive prices with a 5 per cent discount for booking online they also launch a different special offer every month.

Beniconnect are also available to 'tailor make' anything to your requirements, be they excursions, tours, transport for wedding guests, golfing groups, nothing is too small or too large for them to organise for you.

They have a service centre open seven days a week between 9am and 9pm for enquiries and bookings, however booking discounts for transfers only apply when customers book on their website.

The local Spanish number is + 34 965 850 790 and the local UK number is 0207 096 0052 (both operating from 9am to 9pm).

cares Grupo Benidorm coach company therefore they have their own fleet of vehicles, fully licensed which meet with local and European health and safety regulations.

The company prides themselves on excellent customer service which is why, to date, many of their customers return time and time again choosing Beniconnect as their preferred transfer

provider. In fact, 98 per cent of customer's satisfaction surveys prove that customers do travel with Beniconnect again.

They have a very user friendly website, www.beniconnect.com where with four easy steps you can make your reservation with a safe and secure payment system. After making a reservation you will receive written confirmation with full joining instructions and a 24-hour emergency

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sky sports main event

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'A1: Britain's Longest Road', 'The Housing Enforcers', 'Doctors', 'BBC News at Six', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Flog it! Trade Secrets', 'Antiques Roadshow', 'BBC Newsroom Live', 'The Daily Politics', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'World News Today', 'BBC Young Musician 2018', 'Eurovision at 60', 'Latin Music USA', 'Arena', 'Eurovision at 60', 'Latin Music USA', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like '3rd Rock from the Sun', 'Everybody Loves Raymond', 'Frasier', 'Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA', 'Channel 4 News', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Paw Patrol', 'Floogals', 'Digby Dragon', 'Nella the Princess Knight', 'The Wright Stuff', 'The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'New Girl', '2 Broke Girls', 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine', 'The Goldbergs', 'The Big Bang Theory', 'How I Met Your Mother', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize', 'Good Morning Sports Fans', 'Good Morning Sports Fans', 'Live Spanish F1 GP: Practice', 'Cricket', 'Indian Premier League', etc.

itv

itv2

itv3

itv4

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

sky sports football

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Good Morning Britain', 'The Jeremy Kyle Show', 'This Morning', 'Loose Women', 'ITV Lunchtime News', 'ITV News London', 'Judge Rinder', 'Tenable', 'Tipping Point', 'The Chase', 'ITV News London', 'ITV Evening News', 'Emmerdale', 'Coronation Street', 'Love Your Garden', 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?', 'ITV News at Ten and Weather', 'Through the Keyhole', 'Take Me Out', 'Jackpot247', 'Take on the Twisters'.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Emmerdale', 'You've Been Framed! Gold', 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', 'The Bachelorette', 'Emmerdale', 'You've Been Framed! Gold', 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', 'The Jeremy Kyle Show', 'The Jeremy Kyle Show', 'You've Been Framed! Gold', 'You've Been Framed! Gold', 'Two and a Half Men', 'Superstore', 'Fast and Furious', 'FYI Daily', 'Fast and Furious', 'Family Guy', 'Family Guy'.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Classic Coronation Street', 'Heartbeat', 'The Royal', 'Judge Judy', 'A Touch of Frost', 'The Royal', 'Heartbeat', 'Classic Coronation Street', 'On the Buses', 'On the Buses', 'You're Only Young Twice', 'George and Mildred', 'Heartbeat', 'Murder, She Wrote', 'Agatha Christie's Poirot', 'The Widower', 'An Hour to Catch a Killer with Trevor McDonald', 'Appropriate Adult'.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'The Protectors', 'The Chase', 'Pawn Stars', 'Cash Cowboys', 'Quincy, M.E.', 'Minder', 'The Saint', 'The Avengers', 'The Protectors', 'ITV Racing: Live from Chester', 'The Saint', 'The Avengers', 'Cash Cowboys', 'Pawn Stars', 'Christmas Special', 'Pawn Stars', 'The Motorbike Show', 'Car Crash Britain', 'Caught on Camera', 'Octopussy', 'FYI Daily', 'Latest news from the world of entertainment.', 'Octopussy', 'The Americans', 'Minder', 'ITV4 Nightscreen', 'Teleshopping'.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Tarzan', 'Highlander', 'Top Ten Show, the 2018', 'Underworld: Blood Wars', 'Pele: Birth of a Legend', 'Tarzan', 'Highlander', 'Kill Bill: Vol. 1', 'Kill Bill Vol.2', 'Robin Hood: Men in Tights', 'The House', 'The Other Guys', 'Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy', 'The Boss', 'The House', 'The Other Guys', 'Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy', 'Talladega Nights'.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Lou', 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul', 'Anon', 'Everything, Everything', 'Anon: Special', 'Anon', 'Dunkirk', 'The Stolen', 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul', 'Anon: Special', 'Anon', 'Dunkirk', 'My Cousin Rachel', 'Girl Flu', 'Zoology', 'Award-winning oddball drama about a middle-aged zoo worker whose life changes for the better when she begins to grow a tail. In Russian with English subtitles.'

Table with 2 columns: Time and Programme. Includes shows like 'Live Chinese Super League', 'La Liga Greatest Games', 'La Liga Greatest Games', 'To be Announced', 'Football's Greatest Teams', 'Scottish Cup Greatest Games', 'Scottish Cup Greatest Games', 'La Liga Greatest Games', 'La Liga Greatest Games', 'La Liga Preview', 'SPFL Matters', 'SPFL Greatest Games', 'SPFL Greatest Games', 'To be Announced', 'Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final', 'The Debate - Live'.

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



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BBC one

2:30am BBC News
7:00am Breakfast
11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live
12:30pm Hairy Bikers Asian Adventure
1:00pm Football Focus
2:00pm BBC News
2:10pm Weather
2:15pm Rugby League's Legendary Watersplash Final
3:00pm Rugby League Challenge Cup
5:30pm Doodlebugs
5:45pm Big Hero 6
7:20pm Ready or Not
7:50pm BBC News
8:00pm Regional News
8:05pm Weather
8:10pm Pointless
9:00pm Eurovision Song Contest 2018
12:35am BBC News
12:50am Weather
12:55am Lay the Favourite
2:20am Weather for the Week Ahead
2:25am BBC News

BBC TWO

8:30am Dengineers
9:00am Absolute Genius: Super Tech with Dick and Dom
9:30am Beyond Bionic
10:00am Robot Wars
11:00am Astronauts: Do You Have What it Takes?
12:00pm Homes Under the Hammer
1:00pm The World According to Kids
2:00pm Money for Nothing
2:10pm Escape to the Country
2:55pm Finding Neverland
4:30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
5:30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
6:30pm Love in the Countryside
7:30pm The Forest
8:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
9:00pm Coast Lives
9:30pm Dad's Army
10:00pm The Private Life of the Royal Academy
11:20pm My Old Lady
1:00am Versailles

BBC FOUR

4:45am This is BBC Four
8:00pm Nature's Epic Journeys
9:00pm Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom *The story of a race against time to help preserve the untouched forests of Burma.*
10:00pm Salamander: Blood Diamonds
10:45pm Salamander: Blood Diamonds
11:40pm Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song
1:10am Sings Bacharach and David!
2:10am Nature's Epic Journeys
3:10am Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom
4:10am Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom

CHANNEL 4

8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond
10:00am Frasier
10:30am Frasier
11:00am Frasier
11:30am The Big Bang Theory
12:00pm The Big Bang Theory
12:25pm The Big Bang Theory
12:55pm The Simpsons
1:25pm The Simpsons
1:55pm The Simpsons
2:25pm Come Dine with Me
3:30pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
5:00pm Location, Location, Location
6:00pm Formula 1
7:30pm Channel 4 News
8:00pm When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance
9:00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns
10:00pm Cowboys and Aliens
12:15am 2 Guns

CHANNEL 5

6:35am Nick's Quest
7:00am Milkshake!
11:05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:30am The Gadget Show
12:25pm Police Interceptors
1:25pm Police Interceptors
2:20pm Police Interceptors
3:20pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
4:20pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
5:15pm Nightmare Tenants
6:15pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords
7:10pm Rich House, Poor House
8:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9:55pm 5 News
10:00pm Live Boxing: Fury v Sexton
12:15am When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong
2:55am Super Casino
4:10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

4

7:00am Rude(ish) Tube
7:30am Couples Come Dine with Me
8:25am Couples Come Dine with Me
9:25am Made in Chelsea
10:30am Don't Tell the Bride Ireland
11:30am The Goldbergs
12:00pm The Goldbergs
12:30pm The Goldbergs
1:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:30pm Young Sheldon
2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm Evolution
5:00pm The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm Friends with Benefits
12:10am Gogglebox
1:10am Gogglebox
2:15am The Inbetweeners
2:50am The Inbetweeners

sky sports main event

7:10am Rugby Union
9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am Rugby League
11:15am Paddock Uncut
11:30am Live Spanish F1 GP: Practice *The third and final practice from the Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.*
1:15pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
3:45pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
6:00pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
8:15pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
11:00pm Live the Players Championship
1:00am European Rugby Champions Cup Final Highlights
2:00am Sky Sports News
3:00am Sky Sports News
4:00am Sky Sports News
5:00am Sky Sports News

itv

8:25am The Tom and Jerry Show
8:30am Teen Titans Go!
8:45am Adventure Time
9:00am Thunderbirds are Go
9:25am ITV News
9:30am Zoe Ball on Saturday
10:25am Saturday Morning with James Martin
12:20pm Countrywise
12:50pm ITV Lunchtime News
1:00pm Little Big Shots
2:00pm Midsomer Murders
4:00pm Ninja Warrior UK
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm ITV Evening News
7:15pm Regional News and Weather
7:30pm Ninja Warrior UK
8:30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
9:00pm Britain's Got Talent
10:15pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
10:45pm ITV News
11:00pm Terminator 2: Judgment Day
1:25am Jackpot247
4:00am Babushka

itv2

9:55am Coronation Street Omnibus
12:50pm Britain's Got More Talent
1:50pm Ninja Warrior UK
2:50pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams
3:50pm FYI Daily
3:55pm Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams
4:45pm Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
5:45pm FYI Daily
5:50pm Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
6:25pm The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
7:30pm FYI Daily
7:35pm The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
10:20pm Britain's Got More Talent
11:20pm Celebrity Juice
12:10am Family Guy

itv3

5:40am Love Your Garden
6:35am ITV3 Nightscreen
7:00am Murder, She Wrote
7:50am Murder, She Wrote
8:50am Poirot: Murder on the Orient Express
11:25am A Touch of Frost
1:25pm Columbo
3:00pm Prince Harry in Africa
4:00pm Prince Harry and Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply
5:00pm Invitation to a Royal Wedding
6:05pm Agatha Christie's Poirot
8:00pm Agatha Christie's Poirot
10:00pm Agatha Christie's Poirot
12:00am Poirot: Murder on the Orient Express
2:30am On the Buses
3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen *Text-based information service.*
3:30am Teleshopping *Shopping from home.*

itv4

7:00am Sporting Funnies
7:05am The Protectors
7:35am Minder
8:25am Motorsport UK
9:25am British Superbike Championship Highlights
10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show
11:30am Pawn Stars
11:55am Pawn Stars
12:25pm Lawman
1:25pm FYI Daily
1:30pm Lawman
2:30pm ITV Racing: Live From Ascot
5:30pm Octopussy
6:30pm FYI Daily
6:35pm Octopussy
8:15pm Police Academy 3: Back in Training
9:15pm FYI Daily
9:20pm Police Academy 3: Back in Training
10:00pm Passenger 57
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm Passenger 57
11:45pm Cycling
12:50am Executive Decision
1:55am FYI Daily

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Charlie's Angels
8:45am Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
10:45am Willow
1:00pm Fast and Furious 8
3:30pm The Dark Tower
5:15pm Birth of the Dragon
7:00pm The Hurricane Heist
9:00pm Fast and Furious 8
11:30pm The Dark Tower
1:15am Birth of the Dragon
3:00am Fearless

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:50am Mean Girls
9:30am Bridesmaids
11:40am Hot Tub Time Machine
1:30pm Baywatch
3:30pm Bridget Jones's Baby
5:40pm Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping
7:15pm Hot Tub Time Machine
9:00pm Baywatch
11:00pm Bridget Jones's Baby
1:10am Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

4:25am Zoology
6:15am Top Ten Show, the 2018
6:30am Avengers: Infinity War Part. 1: Special
7:00am Everything, Everything
8:40am Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul *Youngster Greg hatches a plot to reroute a family road trip towards a videogame convention.*
10:20am Dunkirk
12:15pm Anon: Special
12:45pm Anon
2:30pm Annabelle: Creation
4:30pm Top Ten Show, the 2018
4:50pm Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul
6:40pm Anon: Special
7:10pm Dunkirk
9:00pm Anon
10:45pm Annabelle: Creation
12:40am My Cousin Rachel
2:30am Anon
4:30am Girl Flu

sky sports football

6:00am Football's Greatest
6:30am Football's Greatest Teams
7:00am EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
9:30am EFL Greatest Games
9:45am EFL Greatest Games
10:00am Info not available
10:30am SPFL Matters
11:00am Soccer A.M.
12:30pm SPFL Matters
1:00pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
3:45pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
6:00pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
8:15pm Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
11:00pm Info not available
1:00am La Liga Icons
1:15am La Liga Icons
1:30am La Liga Icons
1:45am La Liga Icons
2:00am Info not available
5:45am SPFL Greatest Games

Not open all hours

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

I'VE been reading lately that shopping online is killing high street, bricks and mortar, shopping. This in my opinion is due to many reasons. Of course, the biggest one is the convenience - you don't have to get off your backside; you just click a couple of buttons.

Another is the massive shopping centres like Westfield. I've just got back from a few days in the UK and the thing is the high streets just haven't moved with the times. I was staying in Borehamwood. It has a nice high street but most of the shops are eateries - you can buy every type of food you want.

There is an abundance of nail places and estate agents but no 'shop' shops. At the back of the high street there is a mini shopping park where there are some of the big name stores but they are all closed up by 6pm.

Why? I remember when I had my first shop, we opened at 9.30am and closed at 5.30pm and had half-day closing on a Thursday. Remember those days?

This was 1980 and I had just opened my first video rental shop. After the first few weeks I realised that this couldn't work be-

cause the only customers I was getting were people who didn't work those hours or local workers who nipped in during their lunch break, so I changed my hours to be open 10am-7pm and no half-days and I opened Sundays too.

Business boomed, even though I had to fight the council tooth and nail not to be fined. Back to Borehamwood - I wanted to buy a pair of shoes. I got to the shop at 6.02pm and everything was locked up and gone. I'm sure if everyone opened later they would have a better chance of survival.

Of course they won't because you can't cover those opening hours with one shift. For us living here in Spain we are spoilt - we can shop from 10am till 10pm.

Sure we have some stores that still take a siesta but you don't half miss the longer hours when you are in the UK. Plus, here we still have thriving high streets with a great selection of independent retailers.

OK stand up Jet2 and take a bow. I used them for the first time this trip and they are head and shoulders above Ryanair. Their staff were so helpful and it's the little things like having a pocket on the back of the seat to put a paper and more legroom - give them a try.

So there you go I was temporarily happy this week.

mikesenker@gmail.com



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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

HOW dare they! No, not the tribunal - one of them a woman - who decided in Pamplona that the gang rape of an 18-year-old by five men during the San Fermin fiestas in 2016 wasn't rape but sexual abuse.

No, how dare the public and a minister or two, including Justice Minister Rafael Catala, criticise the verdict, thundered Spain's judiciary.

Inevitably they closed ranks once criticism rained down on three judges' bizarre insistence that rape is rape only where violence and intimidation are present.

They had analysed the evidence, interpreted existing laws and there was nothing more to be said, insisted judges and fiscales of all shapes, sizes and persuasions. No violence, no intimidation, no rape.

So being corralled in a dark deserted doorway by five men with their trousers down isn't intimidating? And obliging a young girl to allow herself to be used in every conceivable sexual manner isn't violence in itself?

No, a woman presumably has to put up resistance and allow herself to be beaten to a pulp before she can hope for justice in this country. And as more than one person has pointed out, this isn't a case of 'No means no' because only 'Yes' ever means yes.

Only yes means yes



Credit: Twitter/Guardia Civil

THE WOLF PACK: The five men found guilty of sexual abuse.

Olay was her undoing

AFTER weeks of clinging to the wreckage of her political career, Cristina Cifuentes, regional president of the Madrid community resigned.

She was game to any of the opposition parties because that's what they're there for. But the ex-president had enemies in her own Partido Popular who watched gleefully as she painted herself into a corner over a Master's degree in Au-

Vote catcher

THE PSOE is the only party not affected by a fall-off in women voters.

Fifty-six per cent vote for the PSOE, compared with 51 per cent for Podemos, 46 per cent for the PP and 1 per cent for Ciudadanos. Which must mean that Spanish females are committed socialists. Or, perish the thought, they prefer tall, dark and handsome Pedro Sanchez to Mariano Rajoy, Pablo Iglesias or Albert Rivera.

tonomous Law to which she may or may not have been entitled. Then CCTV footage emerged, showing her apparently detained for shoplifting two pots of face cream in 2011.

She took the only viable option of jumping before she was pushed but even Podemos supremo Pablo Iglesias said the rising star was the victim of a vendetta inside her own party, an opinion shared by Cifuentes herself.

Apparently Cifuentes' undoing was two pots of Olay. Olay! If it had been Crème de la Mer it still wouldn't have been worth it. Not when other politicians, many of them from her own party, have been getting away with millions.

Jobs take priority

CATALANS worry more about unemployment than independence, a Centre for Sociological Investigation (CIS) study found.

Jobs were their greatest preoccupation, said 43 per cent of the population, followed by the economy (37.7 per cent) and health-care (34.1 per cent). Independence was cited by only 26.1 per cent. No surprises there: former Regional President Carles Puigdemont increasingly reveals that his main interest is Carles Puigdemont, not independence.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THERE are an increasing band of TV celebrities who have a fan base so loyal (or sheep-like, you choose) that with the protection of social media have become somehow un-touchable.

Do I dare share some thoughts? Of course! Piers Morgan, Jane McDonald, and Jeremy Clarkson to name just three.

So with the return of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* this week (ITVI, until May 11) I paused before deciding if I should include something, or not, but here goes.

The show is celebrating 20 years with a run of seven shows with Mr Clarkson trying, oh he is trying so hard, to fill



Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

WELCOME RETURN: Friday Night Dinner.

Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

TRYING SO HARD: Jeremy Clarkson on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

Chris Tarrant's shoes.

ITV has introduced a new 'Ask the Host' option for contestants, that's useful if there is a question about cars or having a temper and taking it out on your co-workers.

Jeremy started out by making an obviously scripted off the cuff remark about winners being able to live like The Queen, with an old Greek upstairs, which Clarkson fans loved and fans of the show probably thought didn't need to be there.

Jeremy hasn't (yet) been overly

supportive to contestants who struggle with the earlier/easier questions, but the viewing figures aren't too bad, after all you can get Top Gear on catch up.

My view, if you like Jeremy you will love it, if you like the show, you will probably put up with the new host, while most of us will dip in and out as the feeling takes us.

Thankfully Jeremy wasn't invited to dine with the Goodmans when *Friday Night Dinner* returned to Channel 4 last Friday and a good job too. Jackie and Martin have bought a hot tub so there would have been a risk of Mr Clarkson in budgie smugglers, think I will leave that one there.

This is series 5 so there is a risk that Adam and Jonny turning up for dinner on Friday and something going wrong will start to look stale. The first episode of the new series shouldn't have disappointed fans of the show, Jim and Wilson are back and the 'nippy-nippy' sequence surely had anyone watching with a family member squirming in their seat.

Jackie's mum returns later in the

run, so that should keep things bumping along nicely and what did you make of Jim's potential new girlfriend, more this week?

I'm really not trying to keep the image of Jeremy in swimming trunks alive, but thankfully he didn't make it to the Levante beach (hi to all our readers in the Costa Blanca) for the final episode of *Benidorm* last week. Most of us probably agree that the show has gone off the boil recently, but I will miss the antics around the pool in this smashing part of Spain.

There was a nice guest appearance for the creator of the show when Derren Litten launched a possible takeover bid as Elvis from Skegness and Claire Sweeney, Bobby Ball and Holly Johnson all pitched in to push the show to a conclusion. I think I will be a little bit sad not to have the cast doing their thing anymore.

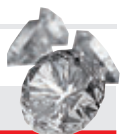
It's the *Eurovision Song Contest* this Saturday (BBC1, for over three hours). Watch out for Cyprus, but Israel, Spain and the UK are not expected to make the top 10.

Happy viewing.

Bentley Continental GT inspires kitchen

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



SALON INTERNATIONAL DEL MOBILE, Milan April 2018. The centrepiece of the Bentley Home collection presented at the salon was the kitchen. An idealised expression of the focal point of modern family living.

Designed by architect Carlo Colombo the Bentley Home draws together the materials and finishes of the luxury British carmaker.

Elegance, combined with luxury and contemporary design are the hallmarks of the Bentley Home collection. A line of furniture and accessories embodies a superb representation of the Bentley Car's design language further enhanced by Italian flair and manufacture.

The design of the collection focuses on proportion and shape rich in detail, with new patterns and sinuous geometries emphasised by metal details drawn from the interiors of the new Bentley Continental GT, as with the new Bampton sofa whose shape is highlighted by a



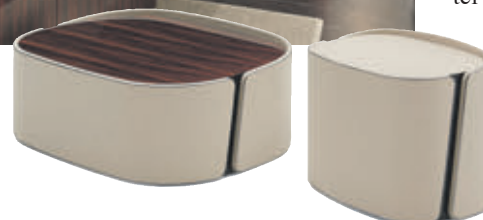
Photo credit Bentley Home Collection



SUPERCAR EFFECT: The Bampton Sofa is inspired by the interior of the Bentley Continental GT.

metallic profile.

The Buxton kitchen is defined by linear design enhanced by the richness of the finish. A central island made of larch, houses the Calacatta



LUXURY: The Buxton kitchen revealed. STYLISH: The leather outer cover is framed by a metal profile, a motif of the collection.

Gold marble top flared at the corners and characterised by a perimeter groove. The dynamic surface creates a movement effect while manual sliding panels create an elegant snack top and at the same time reveals a

steel under top and hi-tech cooking module. The absence of handles in the doors and the recessed opening emphasises the sophistication and cleanliness of the shapes.

The Bentley design language and style is reflected in the materials, the new larch wood, with its warm shades and dark veins is modelled to embellish sofa and seat frames or combining it with leather in table and coffee table surfaces.

Upholstery fabrics of soft velvets in silk and cotton, high performance chenille and Alcantara fabrics worked with a chevron motif in colour patterns of delicate and pastel shades. Stone grey and quartz grey tones combined with natural shades define a collection of a distinctive contemporary character.

Elements of the Bentley kitchen may be acquired selectively to enhance the ambiance at the heart of your home. A Bentley Home Matlock coffee table, combines elements, two curved modules create the structure on which the top made of new larch wood is fitted.

The leather outer cover is framed by a metal profile which is the motif of the collection, at €5,300, or the Bampton sofa - a design inspired by the dashboard of Bentley cars - at €19,030. Prices are excluding local taxes.



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BBC one

Table of BBC One schedule including Breakfast, Ill Gotten Gains, Homes Under the Hammer, etc.

BBC TWO

Table of BBC Two schedule including Nightmare Pets SOS, Britain in Bloom, Victoria Derbyshire, etc.

BBC FOUR

Table of BBC Four schedule including This is BBC Four, Beyond 100 Days, The History of the Future: Cars, etc.

CHANNEL 4

Table of Channel 4 schedule including Countdown, 3rd Rock from the Sun, Everybody Loves Raymond, etc.

CHANNEL 5

Table of Channel 5 schedule including Paw Patrol, Floogals, Digby Dragon, Nella the Princess Knight, etc.

4

Table of Channel 4 HD schedule including How I Met Your Mother, How I Met Your Mother, etc.

sky sports main event

Table of Sky Sports Main Event schedule including Sky Sports News, Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize, etc.

itv

Table of ITV schedule including Good Morning Britain, Lorraine, The Jeremy Kyle Show, etc.

itv2

Table of ITV2 schedule including Emmerdale, The Cube, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, etc.

itv3

Table of ITV3 schedule including Teleshopping, Classic Coronation Street, Heartbeat, etc.

itv4

Table of ITV4 schedule including Teleshopping, The Chase, Pawn Stars, etc.

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

Table of Sky Cinema Action & Adventure schedule including The Day the Earth Stood Still, Monster Trucks, etc.

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

Table of Sky Cinema Premiere schedule including Anon, Avengers: Infinity War Special, etc.

sky sports football

Table of Sky Sports Football schedule including EFL Play-Off Semi-Final, La Liga World, etc.

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If only someone could come up with a solution

MOST of us retirees enjoy a wonderful life here in Spain - the weather's amazing, the lifestyle is great, the people are friendly, our pensions go further etc.

However, the nagging thing that is always there in the background, and spoils it is we are all inevitably 'getting older' and what this may entail. Who will look after us?... especially if we lose our 'other halves.' It isn't fair to just plonk yourself on your family, or near, unless they want you of course. Perhaps you do not have any family...?

So many decide, reluctantly, they will have to go back to the UK as there are Retirement Homes, Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages etc to choose from. Most do not want to but feel there is no alternative.

Why can't we have Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages, Retirement Homes here with an in-house warden or nurse or both (hopefully who speak English as so many of us just cannot master Spanish). Maybe a DIY man on call, a gardener, a weekly driver to run us to Gibraltar, Sabinillas, Estepona or wherever.

Check the rates when changing cash

I WAS very interested to read the letter from Helen Stretch regarding unfair exchange rates in Benidorm. A similar thing happened to me in January this year at an exchange shop in the Old Town area. Again there was a large sign outside the shop offering the daily rate on a variety of currencies with no mention of minimum amounts for the rate shown.

I fortunately went into the shop with my husband and, as there was already a customer at the counter, was able to see his transaction. He was changing £100 and the woman behind the counter started to count out some coins but the rate advertised outside would have only needed notes. I would point out that I did change my money with an exchange shop on the main road in Benidorm and received the correct amount for my pounds. The moral of this is check before you hand over any money!!

Sylvia Stevens, Torrevieja



Credit: Nomading Shutterstock

EXCHANGE: Read the small print first.

More on motorhomes

I READ with annoyance Messrs May (La Marina), article regarding motorhome freeloaders.

Obviously they have annual problems in their small village with the convergence of motorhomes. Unfortunately, there are always bad apples in any basket. It is stated photos have been taken with motor homers emptying their sewage in and around the parkland.

If this is true, why were the local authorities not notified, and action taken? How do Messrs May think motor homers stock up with food and drink, if they do not contribute to the economy? Visitors to Spain do not pay taxes for emptying their rubbish, or the refilling of water, however, we do patronise local businesses. All items are taxed!

You are tarring us all with the same brush, and I object! If people abuse the law, then they should expect to be dealt with (including the Spanish). We are NOT all free loaders, because we choose to avoid campsites (another Issue)!

Dave Turre, on the road

This is what we need, a solution to the problem and then... WE CAN ALL STAY HERE!!

Sandy Avis, Marina de Casares *who advertise with us in Costa Blanca so your idea could hopefully become reality across Spain.*
 Editor's note. Thank you Sandy and there are already homes just like this

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.

RAILWAY RACE ROW: Asian teen appeals for help

I find it unbelievable that no-one on the train stood up for this poor girl during what is, without doubt, a racist attack. Had I been on that train I would have spoken out vociferously. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing!

Suzanne

Notice all those people standing by and doing nothing. Shame on them all. Poor innocent defenceless girl on her own. Shocking!

Anne Nancy Traynor

Where was the security guard?

Janette McEwan

WATCH: 'Reckless' driver of Brit-plated car strikes wrong chord with police in Spain

He shouldn't worry. Their courts recently gave an American who was over the limit a one-year suspended sentence after he ran down and killed a 46-year-old British father of three. I guess the young American hot footed it out of Spain and will never return.

Saya Sendiri

Drivers like this add to our insurance costs, and, more importantly, they add to the carnage on the roads.

Ron Curtis

Comments from EWN online

Another Brit car not taxed, mot'd and then that makes insurance if they had any void... Crush them all...

Samantha Bartlett

BnB website for naturists launches with holiday listings in Spain

These beaches attract all the old recycled teenagers! Puke! Brighton, England. I don't want my kids to see these unsightly crews on the beach. If that is what they want then put up 10-foot screens and keep them inside and charge them an indecency fee!

Anne Nancy Traynor

I used to be a beach seller in the south of France which I did in summer and went on to the nudist beach to sell and they weren't all old but seemed weird. No-where to keep their money haha!

Caroline Baldwin

Who the hell wants to see anyone's bits out ... honestly the older the him and hers gets, the more gross it looks.

Marje Turner

The Germans are most prolific nudists. You can walk around there in a mixed sauna in your birthday suit but you can't mow your lawn on a Sunday.

Michael Hearne

UNMASKED: 'Hot cop' police officer at centre of Twitter meltdown in Spain identified

Have to say most of the police in Spain are hot lol.

Mary Teresa Mc Donnell-Keogh

Vet arrested in Spain for trafficking drugs inside puppies to stand trial

Disgusting thing for a vet to do, unbelievable. x

Pam Hooker

Defies belief, just pure greed, I trust he'll be struck off!

Susan Poole

That's awful how low can some people go makes me sick

Myra Craven

Gran's tips

CLEANING out some cupboards, I came across old tubes of glue, super-glue, shoe polish and such.

The tops were completely stuck and the glue as hard as hell. I remembered my grandmother telling us to put these items in boiling water, leave for a few minutes and hey presto. The glue still has a life and also the shoe polish. I believe it also works on paint lids stuck.

Anyone got other handy old fashioned tips for 'green' remedies?

Thanks for the crosswords and other letters.... love 'em.

Ena Amengual, Calvia, Mallorca

We all agree

Hi Leapy

Many thanks for your splendid article 'How many...' You may be 'awaiting slings and arrows' but you won't be getting any from me. I brought your article back to the UK with me and distributed it to my many UKIP friends: they all agree with you.

Russ Smith, Cabo Roig and Bournemouth

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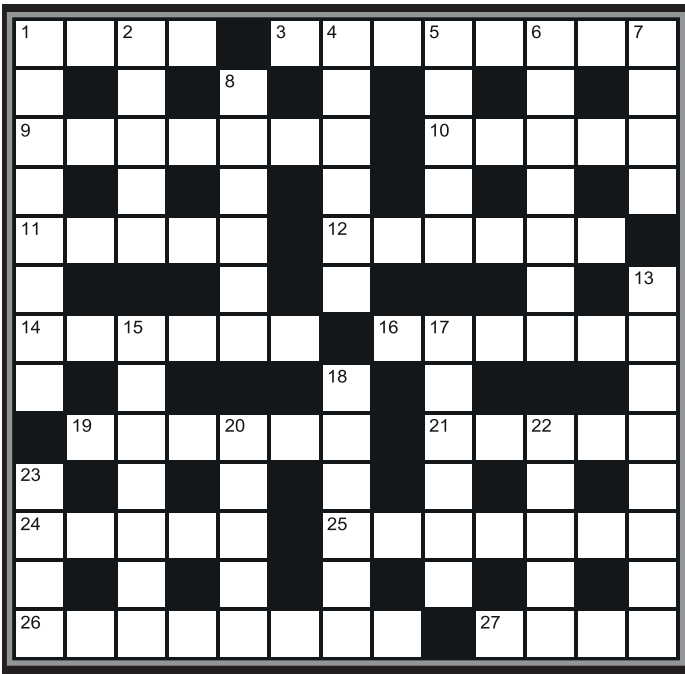


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Lady before time produced fat (4)
- 3 Prepared props etc to search for gold (8)
- 9 Unusual icon in urn depicting legendary beast (7)
- 10 Escapes from parasites, one hears (5)
- 11 Amber cooked a fish (5)
- 12 Paint two women (6)
- 14 Arrange roster for holiday location (6)
- 16 Hate a hotel that's disorganised (6)
- 19 Hardy companion in bush (6)
- 21 Discredit fake Earl (5)
- 24 Loosen international organisation's neckwear (5)
- 25 Can eels somehow purify? (7)
- 26 Being defeated must be a change for harsh Ted (8)
- 27 Before exercises we cried (4)



Down

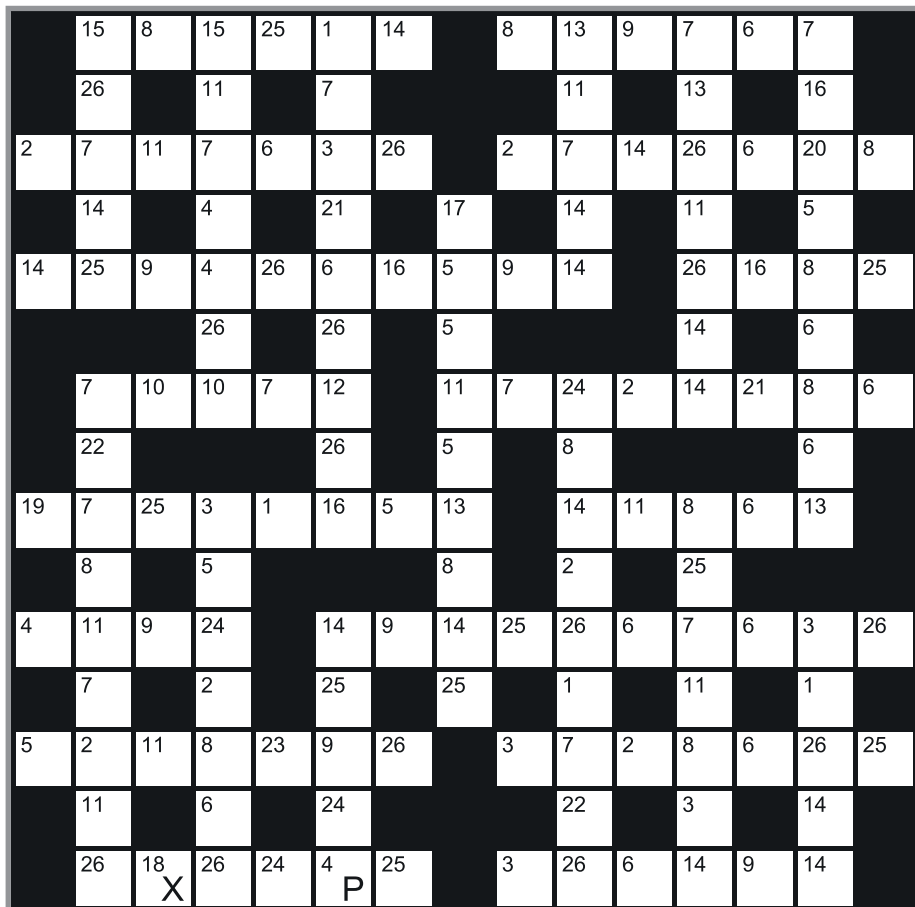
- 1 Counterfoil delivered is inflexible (8)
- 2 Former international the French deport (5)
- 4 A forged tenner for curdled milk (6)
- 5 Capital I invested in settee (5)

- 6 Pele mentioned part of kettle (7)
- 7 One may win it by a head (4)
- 8 Ex producer (6)
- 13 Most serious Sherpas start on mountain (8)
- 15 Crush the star characters (7)
- 17 Evicted, but used to moving (6)

- 18 Protection for plants? That's old hat (6)
- 20 Revolvers smuggled in somewhere else (5)
- 22 Making a comeback in White Horse Inn, a musical heroine (5)
- 23 Mouldiness is a requirement (4)

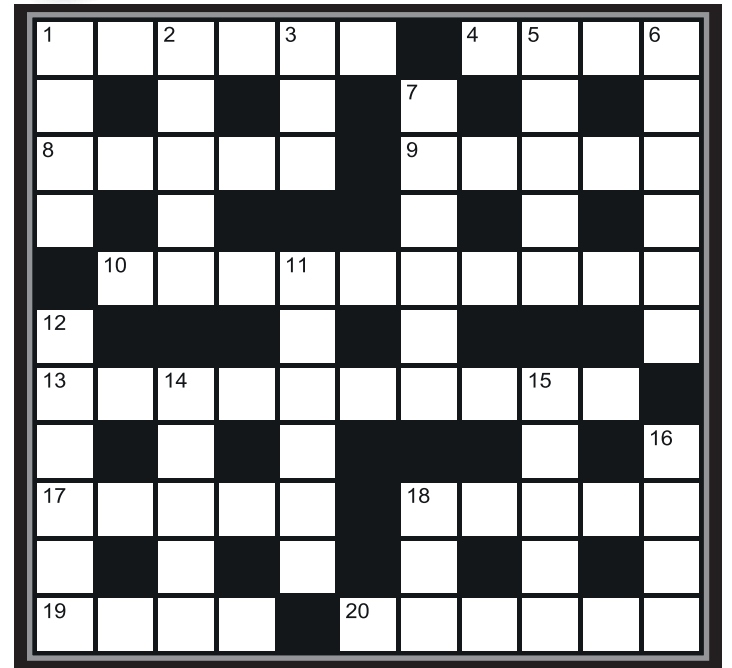
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents P and 18 represents X, so fill in P every time the figure 4 appears and X every time the figure 18 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

- 1 Thinly scattered (6)
- 4 Cut into pieces (4)
- 8 Moving quickly and lightly (5)
- 9 Motionless (5)
- 10 Disperse widely (10)
- 13 Lacking orderly continuity (10)
- 17 Courageous (5)
- 18 Have sovereign power (5)
- 19 Not difficult (4)
- 20 Stick fast to (6)

Down

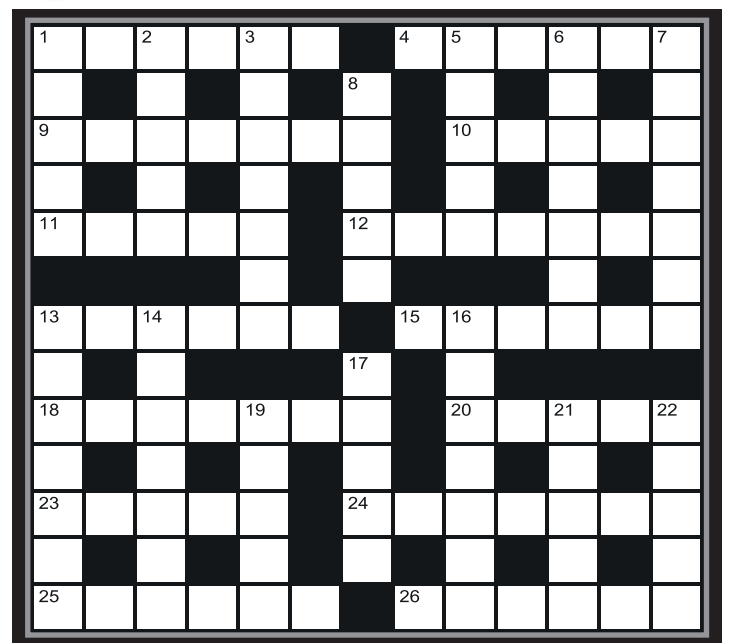
- 1 Counterfeit or pretence (4)

- 2 Plea in a criminal charge of having been elsewhere at the relevant time (5)

- 3/18 Become angry (3,3)
- 5 Japanese poetry form (5)
- 6 Steal in small quantities (6)
- 7 Allocate a task to a person (6)
- 11 Gardener's tool (6)
- 12 Suitable for use as food (6)
- 14 Complete duration of something (5)
- 15 Group or class of persons enjoying superior intellectual or social or economic status (5)
- 16 Joint between the thigh and shin bones (4)
- 18 See 3

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Cubo (balde) (6)
- 4 Alicates (6)
- 9 To bet (gamble) (7)
- 10 Daughter-in-law (5)
- 11 Sábana (de cama) (5)
- 12 Witness (7)
- 13 Keys (typewriter/piano) (6)
- 15 Delantales (6)
- 18 Moth (7)
- 20 Parrots (5)
- 23 Granddaughter (5)
- 24 Limpiadora (persona) (7)
- 25 Asustado (6)
- 26 Teller (in a bank) (6)

Down

- 1 Latón (metal) (5)
- 2 Cerrar (5)
- 3 Statue (7)
- 5 Pulmones (5)
- 6 Elected (7)
- 7 Estaciones (partes del año) (7)
- 8 Verdad (5)
- 13 Plugs (in bath, basin, barrel, for leak) (7)
- 14 Beehive (7)
- 16 Bracelet (7)
- 17 Salsa (5)
- 19 Irse de (5)
- 21 Enjuagar (de ropa) (5)
- 22 Deaf (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'NO PROBLEMS - ONE SEASICK, THE NEXT TOO MUCH GUINNESS AND THE THIRD IS COUNTING TOXIC JELLYFISH.'

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY Saturday May 05

Lottery numbers: 2, 9, 14, 49, 52, 56, BONUS BALL 41

IRISH LOTTO Saturday May 05

Lottery numbers: 13, 19, 30, 36, 41, 47, BONUS BALL 9

EURO MILLIONS Tuesday May 01

Lottery numbers: 6, 15, 17, 42, 48, BONUS BALL 4, 6

Friday May 04

Lottery numbers: 6, 12, 23, 39, 45, BONUS BALL 9, 12

EL MILLON: CKL41725

LA PRIMITIVA Thursday May 03

Lottery numbers: 2, 17, 18, 28, 35, 40, BONUS BALL 16, 6

JOKER: 3 025 905

Lottery numbers: 1, 19, 26, 32, 33, 34, BONUS BALL 25, 2

JOKER: 8 155 666

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA Sunday May 06

Lottery numbers: 21, 33, 39, 43, 50, BONUS BALL 2

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Keep up the pace this week so that you have plenty to discuss and 'write home about'.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

After a few recent excesses, bad habits can prove hard to shake off.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Others may be changing their minds, and generally being a bit of a pain.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

It happens that energy is sometimes low. Take the chance to read up on why this could be.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Looking back over the past few months you will realise that fine adjustments are needed.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

With so much going on, you are in danger of burning yourself to a frazzle.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Now that you are feeling much better, it will be tempting to put aside your healthy eating and exercise.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Leave nothing to chance when it comes to your health. Although you are feeling good now you will soon have problems because you are more concerned with others than yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There are so many things to do or try that you should be spoiled for choice.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Your tendency to see yourself through the eyes of others can lead you to undervalue your worth.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

When your feelings are so positive, which they should be now, it is hard to remember that they have ever been any other way.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Concentrate on your physical needs this week and spend much more time on yourself.

Kakuro

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left...

Kakuro puzzle grid with clues.

Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle?

Nonagram puzzle grid with letters K, A, R, F, B, E, E, R, I.

TARGET:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

acre back beck cake carb care cart cert crab crew race rack tack wack aback acerb brace bract caber carat caret carte cater crake crate creak react recta trace track wrack wreck backer racket tacker abreast bearcat bracket cabaret BACKWATER

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9.

Sudoku puzzle grid.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Sudoku solution grid.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Cada vez, 5 Habas, 8 Oar, 9 Papelería, 10 Anger, 11 Tadpole, 12 Armas, 14 Tyres, 19 Acostar, 21 Shake, 22 Insurance, 23 Pie, 24 Ovens, 25 Sisters.

Down:

- 1 Chocar, 2 Dirigir, 3 Vapor, 4 Zapato, 5 Holiday, 6 Burro, 7 Scared, 13 Autores, 15 Example, 16 Pálido, 17 Arañas, 18 Jewels, 20 Oeste, 21 Seeds.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Tariff, 4 Tribes, 9 Endorse, 10 Acres, 11 Scram, 12 Hostile, 13 So long, 15 Missed, 18 Vintage, 20 Korea, 23 Reeve, 24 Cleanse, 25 Landau, 26 Closet.

Down:

- 1 Tiers, 2 Rider, 3 Foreman, 5 Roars, 6 Berries, 7 Suspend, 8 Meths, 13 Several, 14 Lantern, 16 Inkwell, 17 Wench, 19 Akela, 21 Ranks, 22 Adept.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Accept, 4 Edit, 8 Marry, 9 Again, 10 Depreciate, 13 Rejuvenate, 17 Andes, 18 Chase, 19 Even, 20 Stingy.

Down:

- 1 Alms, 2 Curse, 3/18 Pay cut, 5 Drama, 6 Tender, 7 Falcon, 11 Revise, 12 Create, 14 Judge, 15 Train, 16 Defy.

CODE BREAKER

Code breaker grid with letters W, I, F, D, V, M, Y, E, S, B, X, C, U, P, Z, A, R, Q, G, K, L, O, N, J, H, T.

KAKURO

Kakuro puzzle grid.

QUIZ: THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD

Answers:

- 1. How many red stars are there on the national flag of New Zealand? 2. How many times have New Zealand won the Rugby World Cup (William Webb Ellis Cup)? 3. In which month do New Zealanders celebrate Waitangi Day, the national day of New Zealand? 4. What is the name of the Maori ceremonial war dance involving chanting, an imitation of which is performed by New Zealand rugby teams before a match? 5. What is the name of the New Zealand soprano who sang at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana at St Paul's Cathedral in 1981? 6. Which city in New Zealand's North Island is the largest urban area in the country, with an urban population of around 1,534,700?

- 7. Which Dutch explorer sighted New Zealand in 1642 and called it Staten Landt, supposing it was connected to a landmass of the same name at the southern tip of South America? 8. Which New Zealand crime writer created the character Inspector Roderick Alleyn, a gentleman detective who works for the Metropolitan Police? 9. Which New Zealander seized world headlines when he and his Sherpa companion Tenzing Norgay, on May 29, 1953, became the first to scale the summit of Mount Everest? 10. Which sport is played by the New Zealand Warriors?

Not a lot of people know that... in 1893, New Zealand became the first country to give women the right to vote.

- 1. FOUR, 2. THREE (1987, 2011 and 2015), 3. FEBRUARY (6), 4. HAKA, 5. Dame Kiri TE KANAWA (born Claire Mary Teresa Rawstron), 6. AUCKLAND, 7. ABEL TASMAN, 8. Dame NGAO MARSH, 9. SPEDMUND HILLARY, 10. RUGBY LEAGUE

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VAGINAL LABIAFAST

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Listen to your body

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more fluid in your system.

Other symptoms will include a dry mouth and passing little or no urine.

The more dehydrated you become, the more you will feel weak, dizzy and general fatigue.

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Be sure to take heed of any of the warning signs that your body gives off, as severe dehydration can lead to an untimely death.

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WITH the headline news that a glamorous 47-year-old granny is due to compete in Miss Maxim Australia, many grannies have been left asking themselves what they can do to achieve this sexy look.

A single mum-of-four and granny-of-one, Gina Stewart looks less than half her age. So just how does this granny look so hot?

Gina recently spoke of her top tips to stay healthy and remain looking youthful. She recom-

mends drinking at least two litres of (alkaline) water each day and limiting your intake of coffee, soft drinks and alcohol.

She avoids packaged and processed foods and eats as much natural food as possible. She never eats or drinks products which are packaged in

plastic. She uses organic rosehip and coconut oil on her face, body and hair to maintain her healthy complexion and keep everything soft and supple. And only uses all-natural toothpaste, deodorant and skincare products. She advises people to cut down on the use of heavy medications

and find natural alternatives.

Incredibly, Gina has said that if she happens to win the \$10,000 Miss Maxim Australia prize, she will donate it all to her friend who has recently had a stroke. Perhaps, after all, the biggest secret to remaining youthful is to have a good heart.

Gorgeous granny

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Brits prefer blondes

RECENT research from Mintel reveals that blonde is the nation's most popular dyed hair colour of choice. So why not keep the nation happy and freshen up your locks. But don't be restricted in your choice.

Even though blondes are said to have much more fun, other colours can offer their own delights.

According to the research,

42 per cent of Brits choose to go blonde, hot on the heels of trendsetters such as Kim Kardashian and Cara Delevingne.

However, why not break the mould and be a bit more adventurous.

Of those who coloured their hair, a courageous 25 per cent were bold enough to go for non-natural choice, such as pastels and bright colours.

Nor is this advice just for women. As many as one in five men have dyed their hair in the comfort of their own home. This peaks at 38 per cent for 16-24 year olds.

And once they start, they just can't stop. A staggering 57 per cent of men who reach for the bottle do so once a month or more, com-



BLONDE, BOUNCING AND BUBBLY: Even Kim prefers blondes.

pared to just 28 per cent of women.

If variety is the spice of your life then opt for a temporary hair colour or choose to have extensions put in.

Temporary hair colouring

products have seen a boom in sales of 48 per cent in the last year alone. And if you decide you don't like it - or it doesn't match your new weekend outfit - then just wait a week and after a few washes you'll be back to your natural self again.

Alternatively, choose an option which will allow you to both experiment with colour and add length to your locks. Hair extensions are additional synthetic or natural locks of hair which are usually clipped, glued or sewed onto your own natural hair.

The great thing about hair extensions, particularly synthetic ones, is the scope you have to change your look. Because of their synthetic nature, these additional locks can allow you to have straight and silky hair or go for a deep wave look. Or you can be a buxom brunette one night, and a bubbly blonde the next.

Now, you really have no reason not to go for gold.



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The bare necessities of skin

SOMETIMES you just need to give your skin a break. Yes, you might feel naked without running through your morning routine but your skin will reward you if you offer it the chance to breathe for a few days.

For a start your skin will be cleaner and healthier. The make-up you use is often full of chemicals. These are absorbed into your skin and treated as toxins by the body. In fact, many of these

chemicals are thought to cause cancer. By ditching the morning routine in front of the mirror, you'll also save a lot of time for some of the things that you actually enjoy doing, or have an extra 20 minutes in bed. Initially, you might feel vulnerable without make-up, but this is an opportunity for you to learn to love yourself more, blemishes and all. You'll soon realise that the only person judging you was you.

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Pain in the leg(s): The pinched nerve

In practice, the most common complaint is low back pain. This is often accompanied with radiating pain in one or both legs. This radiating pain is caused by an irritation of or damage to the nerve. This occurs when there is long-term pressure on the nerve, such as in a herniated disc, or when a vertebrae is pushing against the spinal nerve.

The affected nerve has often been trapped for a long time and the symptoms such as pain, tingling, numbness and weakness are caused by the interference of signals between the brain and the corresponding body part, which does not come through like it should.

The nerve cannot do its work properly. It is like a wire where its casing is damaged and a short-circuit occurs. People typically complain about pain in the legs during walking, pins and needles when sitting, and pain radiating from the buttock to the knee and even all the way down to the feet.

This problem can only be solved by getting rid of the cause of the impingement, so the cause of the pressure on the nerve needs to be addressed.

The nerve can be trapped in different



areas; in the spine, the pelvis and buttock. It is essential to determine the actual site of entrapment. Too often bulges / hernias of intervertebral discs in the spine are blamed for this kind of symptoms and the wrong method of treatment is started. Often the cause lies just outside the spine, such as a compressed sciatic nerve in the pelvis. This gives nerve impingement and

radiates in the leg to the knee with pain in the buttock. The disorder is often incorrectly diagnosed as a hernia.

We note that in practice people have such complaints for too long, sometimes years, before the correct diagnosis is made. They are told to live with the problem and have tried 'everything' to solve the problem, which very often just means lots of

X-rays and scans, medication and maybe some massage. Our clinic is specialised in diagnosing and treating these complaints.

Through chiropractic techniques such as manipulation, mobilisation, muscle techniques and changes made in posture, the pressure on the nerve can be removed. The nerve is damaged, after crushing, and will recover after removal of the cause of the pressure.

This is a slow process and means that after removing the cause of the radiating problems, it takes some time before the nerve will regain its full function and will not reproduce symptoms. This process can be accelerated by taking a vitamin B complex. There is no other form of therapy that will be able to get the pressure of a trapped nerve.

In our clinic we combine chiropractic therapy, postural exercises and prescription of supplements to treat these problems with great success. If necessary, we use X-ray and MRI studies to support our diagnosis.

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Photo Credit: Stefan Brending Wikimedia

ON STAGE: Biffy Clyro.

Biffy Clyro feeling Low

THE latest big name band to announce their participation at the Benidorm Low Festival are Scottish rockers, Biffy Clyro.

With seven albums under their belts, the band has won a number of international awards and although they record as a trio, they normally expand their line-up to a five-piece when touring and performing live.

However, as they are just about to release a new MTV Unplugged album, it is just possible that they may decide to perform an acoustic set.

Those who enjoy three days of beach, sun and live music as opposed to running the risk of

a muddy British field, the Low Festival 2018 will run on July 27, 28 and 29 in Benidorm.

This annual event is aimed at being clean, comfortable and affordable where festival goers from across Spain and Europe can enjoy some of the best sounds around.

British electronic duo, The Chemical Brothers, who have been together for 19 years are the headliners with a strong supporting cast of mainly Spanish bands

Tickets cost from €62 to €160 which gives access to a VIP pool section and may be purchased online at <http://lowfestival.es>.

Cannes, highlighting more than just films as women strive for recognition

ONE of the world's most important film festivals, the 71st Cannes Festival is underway and will run until May 19.

With all of the publicity given to the excesses of certain movie moguls, directors and actors, this will be an important pointer to how the film industry is actually trying to change for the better.

Although the jury which is chaired by Australian Oscar winner Cate Blanchett and includes actress Kristen Stewart as well as three other women, female directors are not greatly represented in the competition.

There are just three films out of 21 directed by women and they are France's Eva Husson, Alice Rohrwacher from Italy and Lebanon's Nadine Labaki and this year, Netflix is absent from the judging as it has refused to guarantee that their films will be screened in French cinemas.

One major change will be the instruction that those on the red carpet



Credit: StarWars.com

IN ACTION: The new Hans and Chewbacca.

will not be permitted to take selfies and if they do, they run the risk of being refused entry to the screenings as this activity is considered vulgar.

May 15 is an important date in many

Science Fiction fans diaries as the first showing of Solo: A Star Wars Story, starring Alden Ehrenreich and directed by Ron Howard will take place in Cannes.

A quick and easy spicy meal

Eat Well to Live Well
by Andrew Harding



THAI THIS AT HOME: Red curry is a quick and easy meal.

Thai Red Chicken Curry serves 2

- 400 grams chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 whole garlic clove, skinned and chopped
- 1 whole onion, chopped
- 1 Packet Thai Red Curry Paste
- 1 cube of ginger chopped (optional)

- 1 (or more) sliced and seeded red or green chillis
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 can of coconut milk
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1 whole aubergine, cubed
- 1 whole red bell pepper, sliced
- 2 teaspoons chopped Thai basil leaves

Fry the chicken, onion and garlic until chicken sealed and garlic and onion have become transparent.

Add the Thai red curry paste and fry for two more minutes.

Add all remaining ingredients, except for the basil and simmer until chicken cooked through and aubergine and red pepper are soft, add the basil and serve with boiled rice or noodles.

ANOTHER exotic but very easy and cost-effective recipe this week.

Thai red curry paste can be bought in most of the supermarkets in Spain, Mercadona have a good one for €1.

My jar of Thai basil was bought in the UK and frozen, but Italian basil is a perfectly good alternative, or coriander can be used if the taste of basil is not to your liking.

Ginger and chilli are optional and add heat to the curry, the former to a much lesser extent than the latter.

Tip: Choose chillis wisely, some are extremely spicy and contact lens wearers should get someone else to chop them otherwise bedtime will be a very painful experience! Wearing rubber gloves to chop them is always a good idea. Hand washing will not remove all the traces of the capsaicinoids that give the chillis their heat.

Tip: If as a family or couple, one or more like a hot curry and others don't, use green chillis that are not too finely chopped so they can be easily identified in contrast to the red pepper and removed from individual plates.

Tip: Any vegetable oil can be used but not olive oil. Ideally choose peanut or coconut, but rapeseed or sunflower also work well in this dish.

Tip: A cheap cut of beef can be used instead of chicken, it would need cooking slowly for about three to four hours (a slow cooker would be ideal) just add the aubergine and red pepper when the beef is tender. Prawns or fish can also be used and added just before serving so they are not overcooked. Use beef or fish stock instead of the chicken.

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Carlos Santana to visit Alicante

WITH just three gigs in Spain planned for legendary guitarist Carlos Santana as the 71-year-old undertakes the Divination world tour, one of his stops will be in Alicante.

He and his band will be appearing at the Plaza de Toros in Alicante on Tuesday August 7 from 10.30pm with tickets which are now on sale costing from €56 to €81.

Next year sees the 50th anniversary of the release of Santana's first album and also their stunning appearance at the Woodstock Music Festival which surprised many and kick started the band's incredible career.

This may be one of the last chances to see the Mexican maestro perform in concert.

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Rental revolution hits the Continent

A RECENT report from the Resolution Foundation has suggested that up to a third of young people in the UK face living in private rented accommodation all their lives.

The think tank said that 'generation rent' needs more help, with more affordable homes and better protection.

At this point it may be worth taking a look at other European countries to see how they compare:

Spain

Spain has historically had a high rate of home ownership, reaching 80 per cent in 2008 before the financial bubble burst and the building boom ended.

The figure has slipped to 78 per cent but is likely to decline further with unemployment remaining high and mortgages difficult to obtain.

As a result, demand for rentals has risen, boosting Airbnb and other platforms, while pushing up prices.

According to online real estate agency Idealista, rents in Barcelona have risen 55 per cent since 2012, and 23 per cent in Madrid over the same period.

Rental contracts tend to be for one or three years, after which they may be terminated, or renewed and the rent renegotiated.

Increasingly landlords in tourist areas are demanding excessive rents to force tenants out, so that they can turn apartments into lucrative holiday rentals.

Eviction also continues to be a serious problem, with lenders reluctant to negoti-



BUILDING BARCA: New apartment blocks are springing up across Cataluña.

ate terms.

France

French tenants benefit from much stricter rules on landlords, with rents on unfurnished dwellings only allowed to be increased by an index, called the IRL.

The rise was close to zero for much of 2016 and 2017, with an increase of 0.51 per cent permitted for this year.

Those renting an unfurnished property as their main residence are given a minimum three-year tenancy with an automatic right of renewal after three years.

If the landlord wants the tenant to leave, they must warn them six months in advance, (tenants only have to give three months' notice).

Landlords must also give the tenant a first right of refusal if they wish to sell,

while evictions are forbidden in the winter months.

Germany

Only 46 per cent of Germans own their own homes, the lowest figure in Europe.

However, culturally there is nothing like the drive to want to own as there is in other European countries, with many downsizing once the children leave and wage-related pensions covering monthly payments.

Wartime bombing destroyed about 20 per cent of residential areas in towns and cities, and many refugees arrived in the country who had lost everything.

Banks do not help by demanding deposits that are a fifth of the purchase price, while estate agent fees and stamp duty charges do little to help those dreaming of their own home.



HOT SPOT: Spain has long been a favourite for Brits of all ages.

Sunny Spain is best for British

NEW figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal that Spain is still the number one choice for British retirees in Europe.

The data confirms Spain as their 'most desirable location,' with Brits drawn in by sun, sea, leisure activities and tasty Mediterranean cuisine.

Three-quarters of a million British citizens live on the continent, and 37 per cent of them have made Spain their home, making it comfortably the most popular destination.

While two thirds of Brits living in the EU fall between the ages of 15 and 64, Spain is well-known for attracting an older demographic with some 41 per cent of British expats aged 65 and above.

Swimming and golf are believed to be the favourite ac-

tivities for those living in warmer nations, which will come as no surprise.

Moreover, a recent study carried out by the University of California indicated that the elderly who regularly walk longer distances suffer 50 per cent less cognitive impairment than those who are less active.

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

"The Mediterranean climate and diet are well suited to those looking for a healthy lifestyle, while the medical system here is also superb.

"As Spain remains the top choice in Europe for Brits living overseas, it's important to provide accommodation that suits their preferences and budgets."

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€44 million property lives on the edge

A STUNNING 'cantilever home' is being conceived by Arizona-based company Next Generation Living Homes, which is expected to be worth a cool €44 million.

The most striking feature of

the property is a swimming pool that juts out above trees and gardens, seemingly suspended in thin air.

Its cantilever design means that it is only supported at one end, so if you were brave enough

to swim out, you would be rewarded with breathtaking views.

Although it is only in the concept stage at the moment, the palatial house boasts 12 bathrooms and eight bedrooms in a stylish and contemporary layout.

There are also four balconies, two dining rooms, a wine cellar and a movie theatre.

Thirsty guests will be pleased to discover that there is both an indoor and an outdoor bar, a utility room and a garage with capacity for six cars and several motorcycles.

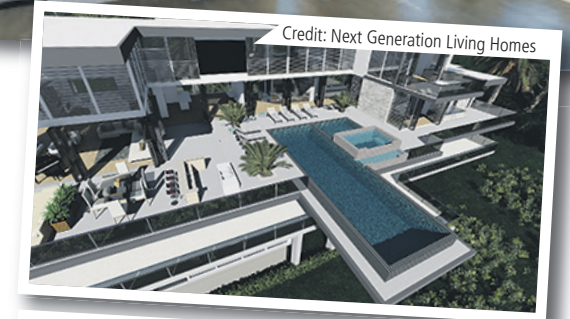
Overall it represents 18,000 square feet of luxury living and the firm behind it, Next Generation Living Homes, is hoping to find a suitable site and begin construction in Spain, Italy or Monaco next year.

In a statement, the company said:

"Our architectural design is best for a hilltop location with panoramic city views, or endless ocean views.

"We want to warn you that inviting guests may turn out to be a headache, as they will never want to leave this exclusive pampered lifestyle."

Two of the team behind the incredible design are architectural CG artist Julian Boswell and JP DZahr, the founder and CEO of Next Generation Living Homes.



SCENIC SWIM: The cantilever pool is the most eye-catching feature of the property.



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Why do estate agents hide the address of the property?

Real Estate Expert

by Adrian Barbudo



THE Internet is a fantastic tool for connecting people and I don't understand why some estate agents (realtors) don't give you the address of the property that you are interested in questioned reader Linda.

Well Linda, to be honest, some hide the address because they are afraid that the potential buyer could go directly to the property and try to make a purchase without paying the agent's commission. Although if the realtor did a good job when he took the property for sale there shouldn't be a problem.

My advice today is: if you want to sell your property, the best way of achieving this is to enter into an

exclusive agreement with a single Agent or Agency as he or she will be likely to work much harder to promote your property both online and off-line and he will give all information to the potential buyer.

If you are a potential buyer browsing the Internet from the comfort of your home in the UK, I am sure that you would like to have all information about the properties that you have seen on the Internet, including such details as community fee, floor plan and of course the EXACT ADDRESS, wouldn't you?

My column will be published every Thursday to advise you on the real estate market in Spain and if you have any question please send them to me at hola@adrianbarbudo.com and I will reply you.

Questions and answers will be published in future columns.

Adrián Barbudo is the author of *2018 to 2023 the best moment to buy or invest in a property in Spain*.

Gardeners get going - it's spring

GRAEME TYRRELL

THE spring growth is a great opportunity to gain a wonderful garden.

It is a very busy time for gardeners with the warmer temperatures and longer days creating an explosion of growth which needs to be managed to make the most of the season. To get them off to a quick start, it is the perfect time to plant your summer annual flowers and vegetables.

Established plants will also start growing rapidly now and the new growth will make them look wonderfully healthier than usual.

Of course weeds and excess growth of even your favourite plant will need attention to keep the garden in the way you prefer it. Fortunately it is so good to be able to get out into the garden, with the beautiful spring sunshine making it one of the best times of the year for the avid gardener.

Annual summer flowers can provide a beautiful display. Many favourite annuals from northern European regions require a lot of water to do well though. I usually plant a small number of summer annuals in planter boxes with trays to catch any excess water from being lost and use a good potting mix that retains water well.

The Mediterranean climate with long, dry, hot



Credit: Blackzheap Shutterstock

SPRING: A time of rapid growth.

summers is not ideal for large plantings of cooler climate summer annuals in the garden. If you have a balcony or terrace with planter pots or window boxes, annuals can be a really good way to brighten them up.

If you are planting a vegetable garden, make sure that you enrich the soil with plenty of moisture-holding compost to reduce watering needs in

summer. After planting your tomatoes, capsicum, summer squash and other summer varieties ensure that you mulch the garden with coarse compost, straw or any other suitable material which will reduce evaporation and keep soil temperatures cooler.

Keeping the soil temperature lower is important in summer as plant growth will slow when

the roots get too hot. Insulating with mulch keeps soil temperatures closer to spring conditions so growth will continue to thrive for longer.

There is the inevitable weed growth which always seem to grow faster than anything else in spring. It is a good idea to learn more about these spontaneous plants as many do have attractive flowers. If the garden is not a formal design, many weeds can be left to flower and then be removed.

Even in my vegetable garden I allow certain plants normally classed as weeds, such as poppies and borage, to add colour to the garden with no extra work.

Many people are also finding that there are many weeds which are actually edible and even the flowers can be added to salads and in cooking. Many of these wild plants were actually a normal part of the diet before explorers centuries ago brought back vegetable varieties from around the world to replace the native food sources of the Mediterranean.

The shrubs and perennials which are normally planted in autumn (so they establish their roots over winter) start to grow with the warmer spring weather. It is a good idea to lightly trim the ones that you want to grow thick and bushy now while growth is active and before the sun becomes too intense for pruning.

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Hot under the collar

WITH rising temperatures, you might feel the heat is on to finally install a central air conditioning system. However, if your budget is already stretched, there are other less expensive options to keep you cool under the collar at home.

The three most popular are port-

able units, window units and traditional fans.

Portable or window units can be cheap and easy to install. Both systems allow you to cool a specific room, rather than waste energy and money cooling your entire home.

The benefit of a portable unit is that it can be moved easily from room to room. This is different to a window unit which is fixed to a window, or through the wall. Of the two, portable units are more expensive to buy and tend to use a lot more energy. Whereas window units are extremely energy efficient and don't take up any valuable floor space.

However, if you want to keep expenses to a minimum, the traditional air fan is always a trusted option. Installation is easy - you simply plug it in - and it can be moved from room to room with ease.

Of course, do bear in mind that most air fans don't actually 'cool' the air. They simply circulate air around you, giving the sensation that you are being cooled off.

These fans might provide some much-needed instant relief from the heat, but if your budget can stretch that far, opt for a portable or window unit to keep your home comfortable over the months ahead.

COOLING DOWN: Portable fans can easily be moved from to room.



Keeping your plants alive

YOU might not have green fingers but there's no excuse not to have a few plants around the house to bring a bit of colour to your home.

Even if you feel your mere touch causes plants to wither away and die, here are a few foolproof suggestions to keep your plants alive this summer.

Most newbie plant owners worry that their plants are thirsty. The truth is that most people often overwater plants and drown them.

Dip your finger into the soil, if it's damp then there's no need to water it.

However, do mist your plants regularly to increase air humidity as air conditioning systems can make the air very dry.

Plants like to be together and will actually grow better if they're not left alone.

And as your plants grow, they will need to be repotted. So do some research for each plant to be sure you don't shock or damage it during this process.

Do remember to choose your plants wisely. Regardless of how much tender loving care you show to your plants some need certain conditions to thrive, or even simply to survive.

It is simply a lost cause to keep an exotic plant in a cold, damp flat or hide a sun-loving plant in the corner of a darkened room. So do some research and reap the rewards.

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How to create harmony at home

WITH the spring clean done and your home decluttered, now is the perfect time to look at your surroundings and introduce a bit of positive energy.

To achieve this, many people adopt the principles of feng shui. The practice originates in China and literally translates as 'wind-water' in English, with wind scattering energy and water holding it.

The practice attempts to use energy forces to achieve balance in your living space and maximise your potential for happiness.

If you want to bring a bit of Oriental philosophy into your life then why not take heed of some of the following suggestions for your home.

Your front door represents wealth and should be in per-

fect condition. To draw energy to your front door, place a vibrant plant and some lighting at either side.

Once inside, the next place to focus on is your hall. Even if this space is small, it should be cosy. Effective lighting can help you to achieve that effect.

This is also the perfect place to hang a mirror, but be sure not to place this in front of the front door. Feng shui principles dictate that the energy will bounce off and leave the house.

Moving onto the living room, according to feng shui, your sofa should be against the largest and most solid wall of the room. If you have several sofas or chairs, place them in an L or U shape to help the conversation flow. To activate wealth energy, place a lamp in

the corner of the room (diagonally opposite the room door).

Your kitchen represents nourishment and relationship harmony. To enhance the energy in this room it is good to always have fresh ingredients, such as vegetables and fruits and also those that symbolise life, such as seeds.

In the bedroom, the most important piece of furniture is the bed. The head should be supported on a wall without windows and it is important that the feet do not point to the door. Place curvy lamps and lightly fragranced candles on the bedside table to introduce some romantic energy

Finally, the often neglected bathroom is actually one of the most important spaces for feng shui. It is necessary in this space to transmit cleanli-

ness, calmness and comfort, so try to always be orderly with as little clutter as possible.

However, you can leave beautiful decorations on display, such as perfume jars or creams and also plants. Be sure to always leave the toilet lid down and the door closed to stop the energy and wealth you've now accumulated from being flushed down the drain.



HARMONY AT HOME: Feng shui can bring positive energy into your home.

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David THE Dogman



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MOST people treat their dog like a baby and often problems will occur when a real baby is brought home. You must plan for the new baby's arrival.

Acquaint the dog with a friend's children. Let them feed it some of its favourite treats. Stay calm and keep the dog on a lead. If at this stage the dog is showing any signs of aggression, then professional help is needed.

If the dog is used to sleeping in a bedroom, place the dog bed outside the room in its basket or on its blanket. If necessary, put the dog on a lead and restrict it to an area.

Consider walking around with a stuffed doll. Even talk to it in a baby voice as if it is a real baby. When changing the baby's nappy - both the real one and the toy one - always put your dog in the Sit-Stay command.

Let it sniff and watch, for this is the time to accustom it to baby sounds and praise it for being good. Use different phrases and voices for the dog and the baby.

Bringing the baby home



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES: You must train your dog around the new baby.

For safety reasons and hygiene, dogs must not be allowed on the furniture near the new baby. Start the new house rules by taking the dog by the collar and lead and taking it to its bed. Move the bed around the home to every room (except bedrooms) in the house. The dog must learn to stay where it is put.

Start getting a little more removed from the dog in three 20-minute intervals. First, go into another room for 20 minutes. Close the door behind you so that it cannot follow you. Then come out for 20 minutes before returning for another 20 minutes. Stop all tug-

of-war games, wrestling and all games involving chasing.

Babies have to be fed several times a day so, to prevent jealousy, give the dog four very small meals a day... the same amount split into four.

Toys are a big headache. You don't want a dropped toy to be licked. No more shoes, socks, slippers, and plastic or stuffed toys for the dog. Now is the time to take away all its toys from the floor. Train it to play with one at a time. Paint the others with a mouthwash which dogs do not like. If your dog goes for it, pick up the toy and shout at the toy. Very soon the dog

will keep away from anything smelling of mouthwash.

Babies like to grab and pull but dogs don't like it at all. Start getting the dog used to this treatment by gently pulling it and grabbing its tail and then, within three seconds, hug it and give plenty of praise.

When the baby is born, ask a maternity home nurse for some bed sheets from the baby's nursery. Have these put in the new nursery at home and around the area of the home where the baby will be nursed. Let the dog sniff around the house at the new smells and praise it.

Plan your homecoming and let the dog welcome the baby by sniffing while on a lead.

Keep the lead trailing on the floor for the first week so that it can be used to correct all mouthing and jumping. Praise when the dog does not jump or mouth.

Your dog should now accept the new house rules and the new arrival.

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MOTORING FACT

“ American inventor Ralph Teetor, who in 1945 invented cruise control aged 55, had been blind since an accident he suffered at five years old.

BRITISH carmaker Aston Martin has unveiled its latest €4.5 million luxury vehicle, but it doesn't have any wheels.

A joint project with underwater specialist Triton, the bizarre-looking James Bond-style pod is a submarine code-named Project Neptune, and it made its debut at this week's LYBRA Superyacht Show in Barcelona.

Initial images of the futuristic machine emerged last year, but now the manufacturers have released new photos with details of the 'exclusive, strictly limited edition'

Live and let dive

Aston Martin unveils €4.5m sub

vehicle's specifications.

Featuring a three-seat design offering near 360-degree visibility, it can dive to 500 metres below the surface and accelerate to just over five knots (9.6kph), four times faster than Triton's 'flagship' 3300/3 submersible.

One of the positions is designed to be occupied by a trained and qualified pilot, who will control the craft using a special joystick, although owners are able to sign up for a month-long training course during which they will also learn how to launch and

bring it back to deck using a crane which is sold separately.

The incredible gadget can stay underwater for up to 10 hours and has powerful LED headlights to navigate in the murky depths.

Aston Martin has said that Project Neptune is heavily-influenced by its upcoming €2.8 million Valkyrie track car.

And chief creative officer Marek Reichman said that the interior design was a greater challenge than that of the 200mph behemoth.

"Unlike a sports car where the interiors are installed into an open-sided cabin before the doors are fitted, everything you see inside will be lowered through the upper-hatch and assembled within the completed sphere of the hull," he said.

John Ramsay, chief technical officer at Triton Submarines, added: "The prototypes look incredible, being simultaneously functional and beautiful.

"The interior is quintessentially Aston Martin - a luxurious mix of hand-stitched leather and high-performance carbon fibre, assembled without obstructing the panoramic sight lines that Triton submersibles are famous for."

A range of colours and trims plus personalised extras will also be available.



ASTON-ISHING: The submarine can descend to a depth of 500 metres.

Photo credit Aston Martin

Hammer time!

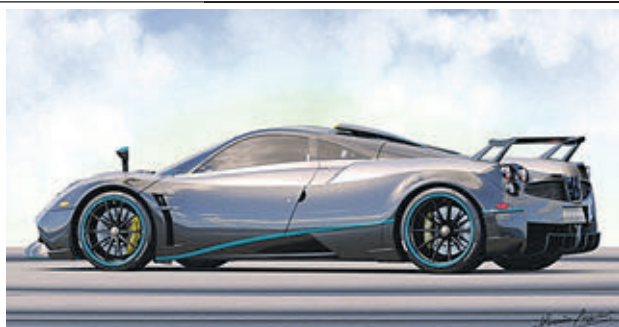
ITALIAN artisan hypercar maker Pagani has stopped production of its Huayra coupe after the 100th rolled off the production line.

But the manufacturer bowed out in style with a Lewis Hamilton-inspired special it is calling 'L' Ultimo.

It includes certain elements taken from other Huayra models including the Tempesta's carbon front splitter, panels, downforce-inducing skirts and rear diffuser plus a hood scoop similar to that seen on the BC and Cinque.

And it is all finished in carbon fibre with Petronas green highlights and stunning turquoise and white leather interior, in addition to a pricey Sonus Faber 1,200w sound system.

Introduced in 2012, the Huayra was the successor to the iconic Zonda.



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Skoda Karoq Edition

ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

SKODA'S Yeti compact SUV was a big seller and its replacement, the larger Karoq, is set for even greater success with enhanced space and versatility giving it wider appeal.

The SUV sector is jammed with alluring models and while some of them have per-

haps a more sporty feel than the Koraq, they do not have its overall blend of driving comfort and refinement and its day-to-day family practicality.

Offering more striking and classy styling than the Yeti, with more of an off-roader look, most Karoq models will be 2WD - a 4WD system is available only with the 2.0-



IMPRESSIVE: The car gives a superior ride.

litre diesel engine.

With prices starting at €23,767 (£20,875), Karoq is

keenly priced and offers a good range of engines, including a 1.6 diesel and 1.0-litre and 1.5-litre turbo petrol units.

There are three trim levels, with the starter SE model well-kitted with alloys, DAB radio, Bluetooth, smartphone connectivity and dual-zone climate control among its features.

My flagship Edition version adds much more, including larger touchscreen and upgraded satnav with voice and gesture control, leather upholstery, panoramic sunroof and rear seats with vari-

able positions to enlarge load space or allow more legroom for occupants. In 2.0-litre 148 hp 4WD form, and with seven-speed auto gearbox, this version costs €36,438 (£32,005).

Top speed is 195 kph (121 mph), the 0-100 kph time 9.3 seconds, and fuel economy 19.2 kpl (54.3mpg). The emissions figure is 138 g/km.

The exterior style of the Karoq is forceful and impressive and while the dashboard design is rather ordinary it has a quality appearance. It is

perfectly functional, with an excellent layout of dials and switchgear.

On the road, the car immediately impresses with its accurate steering, excellent handling balance and better ride comfort than you get in most SUV models.

Five occupants will have ample space, and the big 520-litre boot expands to 1,800 litres with rear seats folded.

Plenty of cabin stowage places and aircraft-style tables for rear seat passengers help underline the family-friendly aspect of the new Karoq.

STATS PANEL

- **Model:** Skoda Karoq Edition
- **Engine:** 2.0-litre diesel
- **Transmission:** 7-speed manual
- **Performance:** 0-100kph 9.3 seconds, top speed 195kph (121mph)
- **Economy:** 19.2kpl (54.3mpg)
- **Emissions:** 138g/km

Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

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Combi 1.5 DCi
Professional N1 75
Year 2014
1500cc
Manual, Diesel
114,000 km
8,995€



TOYOTA Corolla
Sedan 1.4D-4D Luna
Year 2007
1400cc, 90 hp
Manual, Diesel
111,000 km
7,295€



FORD Focus 1.6
Year 2004
1600cc, 100 hp
Automatic, Petrol
110,000 km
4,995€



TOYOTA Avensis
Year 2009
2200cc, 150 hp
Automatic, Diesel
165,000 km
10,995€



FORD Fiesta 1.25 Trend
Year 2012
1250cc, 80 hp
Manual, Petrol
37,000 km
7,995€



FIAT Punto 1.2
Feel/Classic
Year 2006
1200cc, 65 hp
Manual, Petrol
69,000 km
4,795€



CITROEN C4 Picasso
1.6 VTi Seduction
Year 2011
1600cc, 120 hp
Manual, Petrol
101,000 km
8,995€



CHEVROLET Matiz SE
Year 2009
800cc, 50 hp
Manual, Petrol
75,000 km
3,995€



NISSAN Note
Year 2008
1400cc, 90 hp
Manual, Petrol
82,000 km
5,595€



OPEL Corsa 1.2 Enjoy
Year 2007
1200cc, 80 hp
Manual, Petrol
103,000 km
4,995€



ALFA ROMEO MiTo 1.3
JDTrm S&S Distinctive 95
Year 2012
1300cc, 95 hp
Manual, Diesel
94,000 km
8,995€



TOYOTA Auris
1.6 VVT-i Luna
Year 2008
1600cc, 125 hp
Manual, Petrol
83,000 km
5,995€



KIA Carens VGT EX
Year 2006
2000cc, 140 hp
Manual, Diesel
116,000 km
5,795€



SMART Fortwo
Year 2010
1000cc, 60 hp
Automatic, Petrol
120,000 km
6,195€

THE NEWCOMER



CITROEN C3
1.4 HDi Tonic
Year 2012
1400cc, 70 hp
Manual, Diesel
35,000 km
7,995€

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Tesla's electric storm

AMERICAN electric car builder Tesla posted a record loss of almost €593 million in the first quarter of 2018, the firm has revealed.

But boss Elon Musk insists the company will become profitable before the end of the year.

It comes as the brand's loss from January to March more than doubled from €275 million over the same period in 2017.

Tesla generated €2.8 billion in revenue, a 26

per cent year-on-year rise, although it failed to meet its production targets for its Model 3.

It produced 2,270 of the cars per week in April, 230 below its aim of 2,500, having originally planned to ship out 5,000 vehicles per week by the end of last year.

But it has hit problems, and has stopped work in its California factory on several occasions as it bids to rectify 'production bottlenecks.'

Musk emailed staff to reveal that Tesla was 'ready' to become profitable if the 5,000 weekly target was reached by the end of June, alongside a reduction in capital expenditure.

Shares in the company reportedly plummeted by 5 per cent in the wake of the results being announced, wiping more than €1.6 billion off its value.

During a press call, Musk was asked how

many customers had paid for extras on their Model 3s, a sign of how much profit Tesla is making on each vehicle, to which he responded: "These questions are so dry. They're killing me."

And when quizzed about capital expenditure he said: "Boring, bonehead questions are not cool."



MUSK BE JOKING:
The Tesla Model 3
and (inset) company
chief Elon.



Photo credit Tesla/Shutterstock

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By Staff Reporter

Fergie's battle

TRIBUTES have been flooding in for former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who remains in intensive care after undergoing emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage.

It comes after the 76-year-old was said to be awake and 'asking about his results' in the wake of the life-threatening incident.

He was reportedly taken to Salford Royal Hospital with a police escort after falling ill at his Cheshire home over the weekend.

Manchester United said in a

statement: "Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain haemorrhage. The procedure has gone very well but he needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy in this matter."

The legendary Scot won 49 trophies as a manager, including 13 Premier League titles, five FA

Cups and two Champions Leagues.

He retired from club football in 2013.



FIGHT FOR LIFE: Sir Alex reportedly collapsed at home.



BOWLED OVER: Jan Phillips, Alan Phillips and Velia Wood.

Champion of Champions

EACH year the best of the best gather at Torrevieja to do battle in what is arguably the most prestigious event in the Spanish bowling calendar.

Club Champions from clubs in North and South Costa Blanca region play a knockout tournament against each other in Singles, Mixed Pairs, Ladies and Gents Pairs, Triples and Rinks.

Javea Green were represented in all disciplines with Alan Phillips and Paul Brown winning through several rounds to get to the semi-final where, after a nail biting game, they narrowly missed out in a final placing by just one shot.

The Ladies pairs of Lynne Eldon and Chris Evans won each round convincingly to reach the final before losing to a home team.

The Mixed triples team of Jan and Alan Phillips and Velia Wood reached the finals and won to claim victo-

ry and lift the cup.

Alan commented "It was a gruelling week of intense bowling made more difficult by the daily three-hour round

trip to get to the bowling venue, but it was all worth it to bring the Champion of Champions' title back to Javea Bowls Club.



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LIONEL MESSI and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored in the drawn El Clasico last weekend, and their goals mean they have hit a staggering combined total of 1,000 goals for Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

WITH the Premier League drifting towards its foregone conclusion, the FA Cup final on May 19 now stands as the biggest fixture left in the 2017-18 season.

It will be the 137th grand finale of the tournament, and a chance for two heavyweights of English

football, Chelsea and Manchester United, to salvage something from their disappointing seasons.

It will also mark the first final between Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho, two bitter rivals whose verbal spats this season descended into vicious personal attacks.

Eden Hazard, man of the match in Chelsea's semi-final win against Southampton and who has shone in the competition this year, can expect much



BEST OF ENEMIES: Mourinho and Conte will not give an inch in the final.

closer attention from United themselves can take much confidence

from absorbing Tottenham's blistering pace and pressing in the semi-final, fighting back from a goal down to claim victory.

A goal which saw Paul Pogba's perfect cross athletically converted by Alexis Sanchez was a sign of the weapons that Mourinho has at his disposal.

Chelsea are back in the final after losing to Arsenal a year ago, and winning the FA Cup might not be enough to convince either Conte or Chelsea

owner Roman Abramovich that their two-year partnership should be extended.

Meanwhile Jose Mourinho has claimed that his critics will 'kill' him if his team fail to lift the trophy.

However, victory over Chelsea would yield the fourth trophy of Mourinho's two-year reign as United manager, following last season's Europa League, League Cup and Community Shield successes.

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