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ISSUE No. 1717 | 31 May - 6 June 2018 **COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

## Pride and joy!



**ELEGANT:** The MS Star Pride glides through the sea.

ONE of the world's most luxurious small cruisers will dock in Almeria on Friday.

Winstar cruises' MS Star Pride will arrive at the Almeria's Levante quay after its voyage from Palma de Mallorca, according to the Bahia Almeriport foundation.

It will stay for 12 hours before continuing its journey to Malaga.

The vessel which flies the Nassau-Bahamas flag makes voyagers feel like true sailors, the foundation said.

The 212-passenger boat has an essence of spectacu-

lar 'romanticism' and sports an elegant but infor-

mal atmosphere, according to Bahia Almeriport.

## Housing call backed

THE head of Almeria's Diputacion has announced he is backing a push from a group representing British expatriates to change rules affecting their properties.

Gabriel Amat, of the conservative Partido Popular (PP), met with around 50 British members of the Abusos Urbanisticos Almanzora

NO (AUAN) group in Fines last Monday.

Amat was joined by party officials to discuss an amendment currently making its way through the Andalusian Parliament which propose changes to housing laws.

The efforts follow cases of British families such as the

Paynes and the Priors being forced out of their homes under the current planning regime. The proposals would allow for temporary documents to be issued for irregular homes if passed.

Gerardo Vazquez, a spokesperson for AUAN, said the group thanked the PP for their support.

**PROPERTY SPECIAL**

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## Freak fireball

A BURNING fire ball whizzing through the atmosphere at 90,000 km/h has plummeted into the Mediterranean Sea.

The meteorite crashed into the waters off the Almeria and Murcia coastlines in the early hours of the morning, according to Jose Maria Madiedo, an astrophysics expert at the University of Huelva.

Several celestial observatories captured the moment the burning rock entered our planet's airspace 89 kilometres above sea level. The engulfing flames fizzled out at 19 kilometres above the earth's surface.

The meteorite did not disintegrate as it approached earth.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Name of the game**

NEW data from the National Statistics Institute has revealed there are more than 800 children named after media figures or screen characters in Spain, including 135 Rihannas, 159 Neymars, and 516 (Princess) Leias.

**Flight mare**

CABIN crews for Ryanair in Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Italy warned in a statement they will go on strike this summer unless the low-cost carrier accepts their demands over working conditions by June 30.

**Vagi-what?**

OPPOSITION political parties in Lepe, Huelva, have demanded that posters advertising a 'vaginal acrobat' show at a brothel in nearby Alamoonte be torn down after they appeared next to publicity for a local water park.

# Brit fraudsters held

By Matt Ford

A FATHER and son who fraudulently claimed almost €1.2 million in VAT rebates before fleeing to Spain have been captured at a Benidorm villa.

Former builder Brian Colwell, 76, and his chartered surveyor son Jamie, 51, used the cash to fund luxury lifestyles, but have now been brought to justice after being sentenced in their absence at Bournemouth Crown Court earlier this year.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) said, during the January trial, that the pair were behind a scam with Jamie's former girlfriend, Briony James, 45, in which they falsely claimed to have forked out more than €16 million constructing properties between 2009 and 2015.

Colwell Jr, who was the 'ring-leader,' set up bogus firms in Dorset before recouping €1.1 million in VAT payments for new houses which were never built.

He used some of the cash to rent an expensive home on the exclusive Sandbanks peninsula,



Photo credit HMRC

**LIVING THE HIGH LIFE:** From left, Jamie Colwell, Brian Colwell and Briony James used the money to fund lavish lifestyles.

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also blowing money on designer clothes, high-end cars including a Porsche 911, and a speedboat.

His father was installed as director of the two companies and enjoyed 'good living' in a four-bedroom rented property in Hares Green, Bournemouth, HMRC told the court.

Judge Jonathan Fuller QC added: "All the money obtained went to fund the lifestyles and living costs of those involved.

"Particularly in the case of the Colwells it was extravagant, high-end sports cars and the like.

"No documentation exists sup-

porting any legitimate activity at all, their sole purpose was to facilitate the fraud."

Colwell Jr was jailed for five years three months, while Colwell Sr was handed a two-year eight-month term, but they failed to present themselves for the sentencing, sparking a manhunt.

Former dressage competitor James, of Bouverie Avenue South, Salisbury, was jailed for 20 months over her role in the plot after splashing the proceeds on stabling, saddles and vet bills for her four horses.

A probe into the trio's activi-

ties revealed that the companies' office was Colwell Sr's bedroom, where investigators found fake invoices stuffed into carrier bags.

But after Colwell Jr and James admitted a VAT fraud charge and Colwell Sr pleaded guilty to acquiring criminal property, the two men vanished.

It is now known the younger used a light aircraft to reach northern France, with the elder joining him after catching a ferry from Portsmouth to Caen, from where they drove into Spain.

They were eventually held on a European arrest warrant and will face additional breach of bail charges in the wake of their extradition to the UK.

Richard Wilkinson, of HMRC's fraud investigation service, said: "The Colwells thought they could evade prison and use their criminal cash to fund a new life on the Costa Blanca.

"We will pursue those criminals who blatantly steal from the public services we all rely on, and look to recover the proceeds of their crimes."

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## Tourism boom

ALMERIA has doubled the number of holiday rental apartments in just nine months. Vera, Mojacar and Nijar lead the charge, each boasting more than 3,000 properties available for tourists. This increase takes the total number of registered tourist lets in Almeria to 18,000, which last year was just over 8,000.

## Brits flown

BRITISH holidaymakers are the first to arrive in Almeria as part of a public-private partnership between the provincial government and the Jet2.com airline. A total of eight UK airports are taking part in the tourism-boosting agreement which aims to bring around 55,000 Britons to the province in 2018.

## Trafficked

A MAN has been arrested for allegedly smuggling nine people into Almeria on a boat. According to reports the migrants were told to claim they were Moroccan and pay an estimated €750 each to make the trip from Algeria. So far this year some 1,900 people have been rescued whilst attempting to reach the Almeria coast.

## Road rage

A WOMAN faces six years in prison after attempting to run over another woman and assaulting her. The accused allegedly chased the victim with her car until she crashed into a wall. She then reportedly got out of her car and began to beat her with a hoe shouting "I'm going to kill you" until police arrived and arrested her.

## Rail boost

THE Development Minister has approved plans to build two high-speed rail routes between Almeria and Murcia. With a total investment of €215 million, the new lines will run between Pulpi to Vera and Rio Andarax to El Puche. The first route is expected to take 30 months to complete and the other line expected to take 10 months.

## Budget jobs

ALMERIA'S national MP Juan Jose Matari has hailed the approval of Spain's budget as 'great news for Almeria.' He claims the budget will allow for 10,000 jobs to be created in Almeria this year, raise minimum pensions, provide police officers with fair pay and begin work on high-speed rail routes.

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 16

# World beater



**A GRAND TOUR:**  
Sevilla's Plaza  
de España.

IT'S known to split opinions among locals.

But whether over-the-top or a magnificent example of Spanish architecture, Andalusian capital Sevilla's Plaza de España remains a sure-fire tourist hit.

And the grandiose square has just been ranked the world's second-best landmark in TripAdvisor's annual Travellers' Choice Awards, beaten only by Cambodia's sprawling temple Angkor Wat.

Built for the Ibero-American Exposition World's Fair in 1929, the bombastic 50,000 square-metre plaza is the size of five football pitches.

It is the most celebrated example of a style dubbed regionalist architecture, which combines the Renaissance Revival and Moorish Neo-Mudejar Revival styles.

Designed by Aníbal González, the complex was designed to showcase Spain's industrial and technological strengths.

Located inside the impressive Maria Luisa Park, the plaza is surrounded by a huge semi-circular building fronted by a 500-metre canal and, love it or hate it, it remains a must-see on any visit to the regional capital.

Now housing government offices and museums, the sweeping building has also featured in Hollywood blockbusters including Lawrence of Arabia and Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones.

## Beach mobile app makes waves

ALMERIA'S councillor for Beaches, Juan Jose Alonso, has announced an update of the mobile app 'Almeria Sustainable,' which is to be renamed 'Almeria City' from tomorrow (Friday).

It will incorporate new services including information on the condition of beaches and a new incident reporting feature.

The application will update residents on street cleaning services, waste collection, and weather forecasts.

The council is proud of the new and

improved app, which it says will reveal whether the beach has a blue flag; if there are jellyfish; the temperature of the beach and the water; and even a photo of it.

Information will be updated 'several times a day' on beaches, the most significant being San Miguel, Las Conchas, Zapillo, El Palmeral and Costacabana.

The mobile application has been in place for almost four years, and has around 6,500 downloads.

## Police rescue captives

THE National Police rescued a woman and her two daughters, aged 19 and four months, who were allegedly being held captive in Almeria by the mother's boyfriend.

The woman managed to call her mother in Romania and tell her that she feared for her and her daughters' lives.

She explained that they had suffered continuous threats and injuries from the man, and her mother immediately reported the situation to the Dej police station in

the province of Cluj in Romania.

Through the Spanish attaché there, officers of the National Police were informed and took swift action.

An operation was duly carried out with the collaboration of both Spain and Romania, in which police visited the home and freed the victims.

They have been transferred to a shelter managed by an NGO, while the suspect has been arrested and charged with illegal detention.

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**120**

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1716 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almeria edition, including 85 local stories.

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  - 2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards
  - 2010 I Love Marbella - Professionalism award
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**MADE IN VALENCIA?** Aiello de Malferit and (inset) a label for Kola-coca liqueur, which the distillery still makes today.

# Taking a pop!

A RURAL Spanish village has laid claim to inventing soft drink Coca Cola.

The American beverage is widely reported to have been concocted as a medicine by pharmacist John Pemberton in the late 19th century, before he sold the recipe and trading rights to business tycoon and company founder Asa Griggs Candler.

But 79-year-old Juan Juan Mico, who owns the Ayelo distillery in Aiello de Malferit, Valencia, believes he owns a notebook containing the original secret recipe to Kola-coca.

And the council of the village, which has a population of 4,706 and lies around 40 minutes inland from the Costa Blanca, has just written to the giant multinational asking for permission to make the connection public, although the evidence is far from concrete.

"Everything points to this being the case," argues Mayor Jose Luis Pinter. "Our aim is to get Coca-Cola to acknowledge the project so that the town will get recognition. We're not seeking anything more than that."

According to residents, local entrepreneurs Enrique Ortiz, Ricardo Sanz

and Bautista Aparici opened the distillery 138 years ago, with the municipality already on the map for its liqueurs and American vines, which continue to be cultivated in the area and sold to La Rioja and other wine-producing regions.

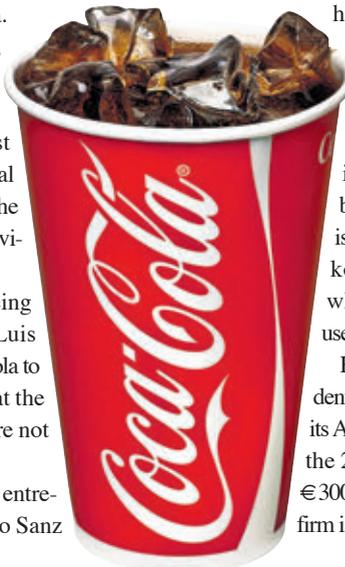
An 1892 document signed by Maria Cristina of Austria, regent of Spain, named the distillery as a royal supplier, allowing it to use the official crest.

Señor Aparici was in charge of sales, travelling internationally with a suitcase of samples, and rumour

has it that he visited Philadelphia in 1885, a year before Pemberton began marketing Coca-Cola in his home city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Juan - who bought the distillery in 1971 - says the only difference between Kola-coca and Coca-Cola is that in the former, coca leaves and kola nuts were mixed with soda, while in the latter fresh water was used.

He, and many of the village's residents, believe that the brand was sold to its American rival during the first half of the 20th century for around €180 to €300, a pittance of what the €60 billion firm is worth today.



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## POLL OF THE WEEK

Following Lidl's announcement that it would stop using plastic bags by the end of this year, should all supermarkets follow suit?

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

Will you be supporting England or Spain in this year's World Cup finals?

Spain: **54%**    England: **35%**    Other: **12%**

**EWN online this week**  
 164,337 Page views

**TOP 5 stories**



**FLYING LOW:** The man (inset) walked into Palma airport's arrivals.

- 11,575** views: Bikini clad tourist lands in Mallorca airport for stag do
- 9,049** views: Brit homeowner in Costa Blanca blames company for losing 'thousands'
- 7,144** views: Weather warnings issued across Spain as temperatures plummet
- 3,680** views: Storms flood town in Spain in just two hours
- 3,542** views: Footage of 'drunken' Costa del Sol tourists trashing street causes outrage

\*For week 21-28 May 2018

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**OUR VIEW**

**Corruption crisis leaves Spain bereft of stability**

AFTER digging his heels in for longer than anyone thought possible, the Spanish Prime Minister has surely now eroded any semblance of credibility.

Dogged by corruption, the ruling in which 29 officials and associates of Mariano Rajoy's ruling People's Party (PP) were found guilty in the Gürtel kickbacks scandal spells out that the leader's groundbreaking testimony in the case was questionable.

The time for excuses is over, and the PP's silence at a time when the country's stability is threatened by the Catalan independence crisis deafening.

Whether Rajoy survives tomorrow's vote of confidence or not, it is time the country sought an alternative government.

*Crisis of confidence - page 21*

**Celebrations full of bull**

THE shocking video clip of a bull writhing in a Valencian street during a traditional celebration has shocked many in the country.

But the battle against the use of live animals in Spanish fiestas has been running for centuries, and some progress has been made with the practice already banned in some areas.

And anyone still in favour should check out director Jaime Alekos' 2017 documentary Tauromaquia, which recorded bull-fights from the animal's perspective. It is a brutal insight into the terror and humiliation these poor creatures experience.

*Shunning of the bulls - 17*

*Now we want to hear your views.*

**YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION**

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by Matt Ford

A BRITISH holidaymaker is to receive almost €11,500 after winning a four-year court battle against budget airline Jet2.

Nick Taylor, 43, took on the Leeds-based carrier after 36 passengers walked off a flight from the Costa del Sol to the UK in the wake of a security scare.

He was returning to Manchester from Malaga with his wife and young son when a fellow traveller started to behave oddly.

After demanding to enter the cockpit ahead of take-off, the 'agitated' man snapped photos including selfies before breaking his mobile phone's SIM card, triggering fears of a terrorist attack.

The culprit was quizzed by police before being allowed to return, sparking outrage and leading Nick and 35 others to abandon the aircraft.

But after he forked out €850 for new flights the following day, the low-cost travel firm refused to cover the costs, so 22 of those af-

**It's only fare**  
Jet2 passengers win €11,500 payout



**COMPO CLAIM:** Passengers left the aircraft amid fears of a terror attack.

ected got together to launch a legal case.

Nick, who hails from Blackburn in Lancashire, represented the claimants at Burnley County Court, where a judge has now ruled that Jet2 must pay compensation.

Nick told UK media: "These big firms think normal people like me don't

have what it takes to see it through.

"But it just goes to show justice can be served if you keep at it and don't give up.

"We just wanted the company - who treated us like morons - to take us seriously.

"We were just normal people just trying to get our money back - and it's paid

off."

He said of his decision to disembark from the plane: "It was very unsettling as we thought that our lives would be in danger if we flew with that man still on board.

"There was absolute chaos around us - children crying, people shouting and scuffling.

"Obviously we were thinking it could be some sort of terrorism issue.

"And an air hostess was crying and in distress, which didn't exactly reassure us.

"I couldn't help but think if the professionals are scared for their lives and not happy with that idiot remaining on the plane, then why on earth should we risk it for the sake of around £1,000? So we decided to get off."



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**Toff life**

SHE'S known for her hectic social life.

But Lottie Moss, 20, took a breather as she sizzled in a striped bikini for a day by the pool in Ibiza.

The sister of super-model Kate looked totally relaxed as she stretched out on a sun lounger, after recently insisting she had no interest in fame or reality TV.



Photo credit ITV2

**For your rise only**

HE recently confirmed his return for a fifth James Bond movie after signing a rumoured €115 million deal.

And British actor Daniel Craig, 50, looked to be in character as he hit the set to film a beer commercial at the Parador Cardona Hotel near Barcelona.

Danny Boyle is lined up to direct the 25th 007 flick, but Daniel's return was unexpected as he revealed three years ago that he would rather 'slit his wrists' than make another.

**BOND MORE TIME:** Daniel Craig will again play the spy.**T-rextasy**

HOLLYWOOD star Chris Pratt wowed the crowd in Madrid as he stepped out for the Spanish premiere of Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom in Madrid.

The 38-year-old leading man look at ease as he posed alongside co-star Bryce Dallas Howard, flashing a broad smile and peace signs at fans.

It comes after the pair reunited for the sequel to Jurassic World, which was a hugely successful reboot of the Jurassic Park movie series.

**ROAR-SOME:** Chris Pratt.**Hot property**

SHE'S landed in Mallorca ahead of presenting the summer's steamiest show.

And Caroline Flack, 38, was clearly over the moon to be back in Spain as she posted a series of teaser snaps and videos on social media.

The star wrote 'guess where I am' over a moving shot of rolling Spanish countryside taken through a car window.

**BACK ON THE ISLAND:** Caroline Flack.

And she followed it up with a picture of three bags of jamon-flavoured Ruffles crisps lined up on her pillow, captioned: 'When you get to the island and he has three packs of Ruffles waiting for you.'

The suggestive mention of 'he' could suggest she is to be joined by fiancée and former Apprentice contestant Andrew Brady, 27.

The pair got engaged in the wake of a whirlwind romance which saw him pop the question in April, just three months after they are believed to have got together.

**Brazil's Ron bags double**

HE'S the former Barcelona and Brazil star who made his name as one of the most technically-gifted footballers in the world.

But World Cup winner Ronaldinho, 38, has been forced to take a step backwards after denying he is about to marry two women at the same time, or even one of them.

The retired midfielder, who quit the beautiful game earlier this year, is rumoured to be living with 'fiancees' Priscilla Coelho and Beatriz Souza at his €5.7 million Rio de Janeiro mansion.

But he has never publically confirmed his re-



Photo credit: Facebook

**HERE COME THE BRIDES?:** From left, Priscilla, Ronaldinho and Beatriz.

lationship with either of them, despite them accompanying him to events, and has moved to scotch claims he is marrying them in August.

"The whole world is calling me... I'm not going to get married, it is the biggest lie," he told a Brazilian sport channel.

Polygamy is illegal in Brazil, according to reports.

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## STREET TALK

# A strip in the right direction?

Holiday hotspots including Magaluf, Marbella and Barcelona have introduced new laws which will see tourists fined up to €750 for roaming the streets topless, clad in swimwear, or otherwise semi-naked. But do holidaymakers and residents agree sun-seekers should cover up away from the beach?

**Lennart Osterdihl, 59, on holiday from Sweden with 42-year-old son, Matias**

"I'm not a strict guy but I think they should cover up. Sleeveless shirts are fine, but anything less is not proper," Lennart said. But son Matias had a different view: "When it's hot it is nice to have the option to strip off." Both disagreed with the fine: "It's too much, a telling off would work better. I jumped a red light in Australia once and the officer who caught me made me drive up and down the road 10 times. It definitely worked, he was huge!"

**Bar workers Matias Vasquez, 28, born in Norway to Chilean parents and colleague Cristina Dimitrova, 34, from Bulgaria**

"It does not matter if they are shirtless. It's like when women breastfeed in public, it's absolutely natural."

Cristina: "You can do what you want at home but it's disgusting to show your body on the streets. Matias just likes looking at the pretty women," she joked. "It's not true. It's fine for both sexes," he replies.

**Tina Bakke-Gusjass, 30, holidaying from Norway with partner and two children**

"On the beach it is OK but not in shops."

"Sometimes you see people shirtless when buying food and it is not hygienic. A €750 fine is a bit heavy though. Police should just tell them to dress properly."

**Bas Dekker, 24, on holiday with girlfriend Melissa, 22, from the Netherlands**

"In a country as hot as Spain it is normal to wear less clothes."

"But it depends on the behaviour. If you are drunk and

making lots of noise while shirtless it becomes a problem."

**Ulf Sundberg, 60, holidaying from Sweden with wife Dures from Sweden**

"It's common sense to dress properly in public."

"You have to think about others and teach your children you can't just do what you whatever you like. People have to respect each other."

**Isabel, 55, a traffic warden from Malaga**

"Stripping off is what the beach is for!"

"I usually put a dress on when going into the centre, it's just more elegant! Fines are the best way to get humans to stick to laws unfortunately. I'm a traffic warden, I know what I'm talking about. If we were all a bit more civic, we might not need them."



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## NEWS EXTRA

**Weeded out**

ADRA Local Police have held a man on suspicion of crimes against public health and dangerous driving who was allegedly transporting 3.5 kilogrammes of marijuana in his car, according to reports.

**Team effort**

SPANISH coastguards and the European Union's frontex border agency have reportedly rescued 76 people, four of whom were women, aboard two boats in the Mediterranean Sea and transported them to Almeria port.

**Mobi felons**

STAFF at El Acebuche prison have reportedly confiscated 20 mobile phones in the first third of this year, double the figure for the whole of 2017 matching an upward trend nationally.

**Secure sands**

EL EJIDO Town Hall has met to outline priorities for the upcoming beach plan and confirmed more vigilance, security and lifeguard capability for sandy stretches as from June 15.

**Four injured**

FOUR people, including a two-year-old boy, have been transferred to Torrecardenas hospital after crashing into another vehicle on Almeria's N-340 motorway just before 2pm on Sunday, emergency sources said.

**Family fraud**

ALMERIA courts have sentenced a bank employee to 18 months in prison for pocketing €58,429 from her partner's parents' accounts which she accessed by forging their signatures, according to media.

# Junta gives elderly new lease of life

THE newly elected vice president of the Provincial Council of Elders in Almeria, Francisco Ruano, aims to promote 'training' and 'information' among associations for the elderly.

He also intends to reinvigorate these groups through work-

ing committees, getting them more involved in the decision making process.

"We have been worried by the lack of training and information for these organisations, and want to provide more trips and dances," said Mr Ruano.

The Council of Elders has also voiced its concern about pensions for Almeria's elderly, which are some of the lowest in the country.

Gracia Fernandez, a Junta representative, has called for a 'definitive solution' to the issue

that addresses the loss of purchasing power and increases awareness of those who are particularly vulnerable.

The group is assessing the viability of a grants system awarded by the Ministry of Social Policies aimed at the aged, as well as

development of the Active Ageing Policies programme.

Grants for the elderly have a budget of €429,000 for Andalusia, and there are 16 Active Participation Areas for Older People offering a range of training workshops.

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# Anfield rap

## Brit drug lord held at Liverpool game

by **Matt Ford**

A BRITISH drugs kingpin who went on the run to Spain has been convicted after breaking cover to watch Liverpool FC play in the Champions League.

Peter Atherton, 43, was found guilty of conspiracy to supply class A drugs in England and Wales and jailed for 18 years and nine months after being held in Andalucian capi-

tal Sevilla on a European arrest warrant.

Liverpool Crown Court heard that he was among the ringleaders of a Wirral-based gang who sold 303kg of cocaine worth more than €10 million across the UK in the space of just five months.

Detectives found his fingerprints on ledgers revealing the movements of the eight-man cabal, of which members must now serve a total of 106 years

behind bars.

The probe - code-named Operation Wessex - saw investigators swoop to seize a €1.6 million drugs stash including more than 9kg of cocaine, 7kg of pure heroin, 10,000 MDMA pills, 11,000 diazepam tablets plus €225,000 in cash.

Atherton's trial comes after he was extradited to the UK in the wake of his arrest at the 3-3 group stage draw between Sevilla and Liverpool last November.

He was one of three men managing the group's accounts and was initially arrested in a July 2017 raid at his home on

Mostyn Avenue, Heswall.

A gold-coloured iPhone and luxury Rolex and Audmarts Piguet watches were also recovered during the bust.

Atherton flew from Manchester to Malaga the day after being quizzed by police before failing to answer bail on December 6.

Nicholas Johnson QC, prosecuting, described him as 'the three principals in the conspiracy' and added he was involved in buying and selling 'on a commercial scale' as the hearing progressed.

The court also heard that the seized drugs were stamped



with designer logos with the codes 'LV' and 'Burb' appearing in the ledgers as references to fashion brands Louis Vuitton and Burberry.

Speaking after the hearing, Detective Sergeant Katherine Ashburner said: "Working

alongside our partners with Europol and the NCA, we were able to bring Atherton back to the UK to face justice. We will be relentless in tracking down those who think they can run and hide in other countries."

## Officers rescue suffocating dog

THE Guardia Civil is investigating the owner of a greyhound which had to be rescued after suffocating in the boot of a vehicle on Calle de Huerca Overa.

Officers managed to get the dog out of the car which was completely closed apart from a one centimetre opening in a front window.

They had been alerted to the situation by an onlooker, who had noticed that the greyhound was in some distress.

After trying to contact the owner of the vehicle for more than half an



hour, they proceeded to rescue the animal while minimising damage to the vehicle.

Eventually officers managed to contact the owner who returned to learn that he will be investigated for a crime of animal abuse.

The Guardia Civil launched a campaign last summer to encourage the public to report incidents of animal abandonment and abuse.

**SAVED:** The dog was minutes from death.



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**NEWS EXTRA****Daggers donated**

A CARBONERAS resident reportedly has donated five daggers from the 'Lawrence of Arabia' movie to the City Hall and they will be on show at San Andres castle's permanent display.

**Fire funding**

A CENTRE-RIGHT Popular Party official has reportedly complained about the lack of investment in preventing forest fires in the region during a visit to Alhama de Almeria's centre of forestry defence.

**On board**

THE Celiac association has offered its backing to the City Council in its bid to become Spain's 2019 gastronomic capital, which was gratefully received by marketing minister Carolina Latifa, according to sources.

# Leading the way

*by Staff Reporter*

A SWEDISH priest has become the first clergyman in Spain to conduct a gay wedding.

Father Gunnar Sjöberg, 60, married fellow Swede Soliman Herrera Johansson, 38, and his Venezuelan partner Luis Ricaute Madriz, 28, in a sun-drenched ceremony in front of a Costa Blanca beach.

Thousands of same sex unions have been registered in Spain since being made legal in 2005, but this was the first-ever church wedding.

The nuptials took place next to the 14th century Torre del Morro in Torrevieja.

Sjöberg said: "It's a question

of love, not a question of gender.

"It's a happy day when I can spread more love in the world."

The vicar has been working in the expatriate hotspot for 12 months after landing a five-year post.

"For me as a priest it is important not to see the difference in people, so I'm not bothered by the gender of a couple," he continued.

"If a couple want to celebrate their love in a world that really needs more love then that's great.

"For me every wedding is a demonstration of love and love makes the world better. I hope this will be the start of many more gay weddings here."

The priest explained that the option is only available to couples if one of the partners is Swedish, and cannot include Spaniards since "the law here doesn't allow that."

Bridegroom Soliman, who works for a multinational IT firm, added: "Having worked with LGBTQ rights for many years as a communications director at both Eurogames and Stockholm Pride, this really means a lot.

"We are absolutely thrilled over this."

The Catholic Church continues to reject gay marriage but the evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden voted to accept them in 2009.



**WE DO!** Father Sjöberg, left, and bridegrooms Soliman and Luis.

Photo Credit: Facebook

## Brits quizzed over laughing gas rape case

TWO British holidaymakers are being quizzed in connection with an alleged sexual assault on the Costa del Sol.

The victim, also a Briton, has been taken to a Marbella hospital for a medical examination in the wake of the in-

cident in Puerto Banus.

She works promoting a bar in the popular tourist spot, and is believed to have left with the two suspects after a night out partying with a larger group.

Police received an emer-

gency call early this morning, during which she claimed to have been raped in a room at the four-star Marbella Banus hotel.

A source close to the probe said that the pair may have been high on laughing gas

when they were held.

One is thought to have carried out the attack while the other reportedly stood by and let it happen.

Investigators said in a statement: "We received a call about an alleged sexual

assault this morning.

"Two men have been arrested. They are both from the UK. A woman is receiving medical attention.

"I cannot say any more at this stage because the investigation remains open."

# Estate planning for Spain and the UK. Are you sure the right money will pass to the right hands at the right time?

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by Matt Ford

**BANKRUPT** former tennis star, Boris Becker's €15 million Mallorca mansion has been taken over by a nudist hippy squatter.

Bearded free spirit, George Berres, from Germany, says he plans to 'save' the empty property near the rural village of Arta after pruning weeds and collecting litter with friends also thought to be staying there.

But the 44-year-old only discovered the identity of its owner after German media descended on the idyllic retreat last week.

The former carpenter told reporters that he would leave peacefully if the police asked him to.

# Peace and love-fifteen

## Naked hippy occupies Becker's €15m mansion

Three-time Wimbledon champion and ex-world number one Becker, 50, is believed to have 'abandoned' the villa, called Son Coll, after being declared insolvent by a London court last year.

He owed a large sum of money to a private banking firm, and his request to pay the debt by remortgaging the 3,000 square metre Mallorca estate was knocked back.

The BBC pundit bought

the mansion in 1995 and it briefly appeared on the market in 2007 before almost being auctioned off in 2012 when he forked out €400,000 to pay a local gardening company.

And in 2014 he reportedly managed to avoid it being sold off for a second time after he raised €470,000 to settle with a local building firm which sued him for unpaid maintenance work including carpentry, electricity, plumbing, and a new basketball court.

Bohemian Berres, who has lived on the island since 2014, has previously squatted in a number of empty houses and spent time in a caravan.

He said he has "big projects" in mind, adding that the residence "could be a place for meetings, we would like to plant vegeta-



Photo credit Prestige Property Group/George Berres/Facebook

**BREAK-IN POINT: Guru George Berres says he'll move off the estate if the police ask him to.**



bles, offer seminars about renewable energy and other things that interest people."

Speaking to a local German paper, he earlier spoke of an organisation dubbed

'intergalactic relief and rescue commando' which aims to occupy and regenerate empty properties.

"We do not occupy houses, we save them, we do not

make claims to property, we are concerned with nothing other than to live in a rent-free home and give something back to the house," he added.

And on Facebook he wrote in his mother tongue: 'I am not real. I am everything and nothing. This has big advantages. Every day is different.'

A PayPal account he links to urges internet users to 'send money to Jesus,' but the balance is currently zero.

Becker himself took to Twitter to deny owning the villa as he wrote: "Just to be clear: I don't own any finca on the beautiful island of Mallorca! Amused by the 'story' myself."

But the German legend is thought to retain the deeds via a third party, according to reports.

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# Migrant rape claim

## ‘He forced me to have anal sex’



**SEX ASSAULT:** The Moroccan victim worked on a Huelva strawberry farm.

*By Staff Reporter*

INVESTIGATORS are probing alleged cases of labour and sexual abuse in southern Spain in the wake of complaints by immigrant strawberry pickers.

It comes after a Moroccan woman told officers in Huelva that a farm manager made her have sex as she worked in a covered field.

The unnamed victim - who was working on a sea-

sonal temporary contract - said that her boss “made me kneel and forced me to have anal sex with him,” according to a police statement.

“I did not know anyone and when I learned some Spanish he threatened me and told me not to tell anyone,” she added.

A number of similar cases have been reported to the Andalusian Workers’ Trade Union and will be passed

onto the national Labour Inspectorate so that an official enquiry can be launched.

Additional complaints have also been sent by the Junta de Andalucía regional government’s Directorate-General of Migration Policy.

The association of Andalusian strawberry growers, Interfresa, has reportedly requested a full report of the accusations.

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# Sex trade mutiny

## Brit holidaymakers chant 'go home'

by Staff Reporter

BRITISH holidaymakers have joined a protest against street prostitutes in Magaluf.

The early morning rally was organised by a group of local, mainly expatriate-owned, businesses operating on the Punta Ballena party strip, and demonstrators were heard chanting 'go home' and 'you're not welcome' at women.

Passing revellers joined in the march, while others filmed the police-approved action on their phones, as one entrepreneur said: "We are fed up with a group of undesirables spoiling our activity season after season."

It comes in the wake of a fresh wave of trouble in the resort, with the mostly African women accused of robbing drunk tourists after enticing them with promises of cheap sex.

And it is believed that their pimps often target 'rich-looking' foreigners as they head



**DAWN PROTEST:** Local businesses claim woman and pimps target drunk tourists.

back to their hotels.

One alleged incident saw a group of prostitutes use tasers to stun their victim, while a German partygoer told police that a €4,000 gold chain was ripped from his neck.

Half a dozen clubs, acting as fronts for brothels, have recently been closed down as police attempt to crack down on the problems.

The raids followed residents' complaints about 'nocturnal'

noise, leading to the discovery of condom-filled hidden rooms with beds and bidets behind walls.

The Guardia Civil said in a statement that the demonstration was 'within the rules' and that no arrests were made, with similar events reportedly planned throughout the summer high season.

# Teacher hunt

by Gregory Kirby

MURCIA has released a 'historic' public employment offer for the region's schools, but competition for sought-after state jobs will be fierce.

This year as 5,449 candidates are set to battle it out for just 506 teaching positions. This puts their chances of success at less than 10 per cent.

Education minister, Adela Martinez-Cacha, presented a breakdown of available posts. She said it was a "historic public employment offering" constituting a regional government bid for quality education.

This year's secondary school teacher offering was the largest since 2010, she added.

A total of 136 English as a foreign language teaching posts were announced this year, the highest of any subject. Some 963 contenders have applied to take the corresponding exams so far.

The next most popular subject categories by numbers and posting are geography and history, Spanish language and literature, mathematics, physics and chemistry, educational support and finally economics.

To access a public posting in Spain, hopefuls often face disheartening odds as large numbers of job seekers vouch for a relatively tiny batch of posts.

And budding public servants can spend several years preparing for the tests, mixing solo



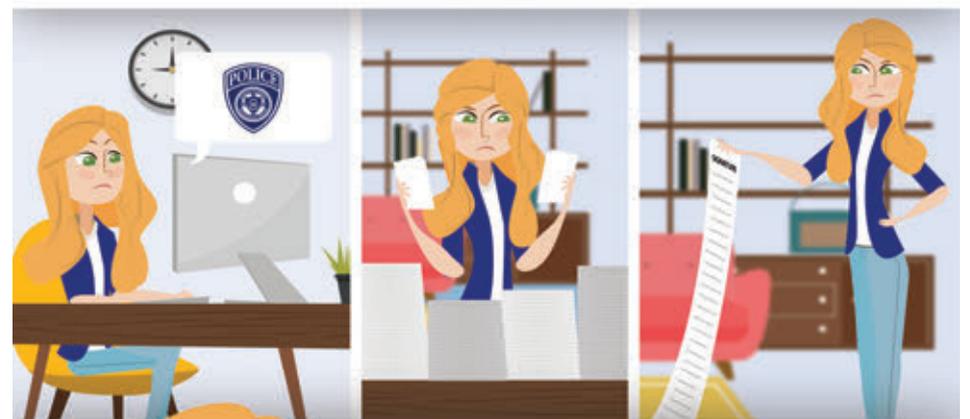
**JOB TESTS:** Education minister Adela Martinez Cacha (left) at a sports gala.

studying and tuition at private exam preparatory centres. And most contenders uphold temporary jobs to fund living and studying costs. Growing applicant numbers suggest the stability of a permanent state position is worth the effort for contenders.

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By **Matt Ford**

THE owner of an illegal fireworks business has been remanded in custody and charged with reckless homicide in the wake of a deadly explosion in northern Spain.

A Moroccan couple who left behind two children, aged 13 and eight, were killed and 37 people injured after a house packed with unlicensed rockets and other pyrotechnics exploded.

And while probing the fatal accident investigators unearthed two additional hidden storerooms containing more than 1.5 kilos of outlawed explosives, including gunpowder.

The huge blast on a residential estate in Paramos, Tui, near Pontevedra in Galicia, destroyed or damaged 60 surrounding homes.

It triggered a shockwave which smashed windows across an 800-metre radius, with flames sending a giant plume of toxic white smoke into the air.

Seven children were among those hurt, medics confirmed, while 200 residents were evacuated to a nearby sports centre.

"We thought it was the end of the world, everything was



Photo credit Vigo/RadioTui/Twitter

**SHELL SHOCKED:** Sixty homes were destroyed or damaged.

# Fireworks blast horror

## One held after explosion kills 2 and injures 37



burning," said one victim.

Another added: "The house fell in on us and flames shot through the door."

Firefighters and police offi-

cers with rescue dogs spent hours scouring the debris for bodies amid fears of more deaths, while the Red Cross set up a tent as a field hospital.



Vice President of the regional Xunta de Galicia, Alfonso Rueda, travelled to the scene and said in an interview that several wildfires sparked by the

blast were quickly brought under control.

The owner of the property, named locally as Francisco Gonzalez Lameiro, was physi-

cally assaulted by a neighbour who lost his home as he arrived to court yesterday (Wednesday), while onlookers chanted "scoundrel."

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy spoke with regional president Alberto Nuñez Feijoo before giving a televised speech during which he expressed "solidarity for the sad events that have happened in Tui," adding that "the government of Spain is at the disposal of Galicia for anything it needs."

And former Tui mayor Enrique Cabaleiro told Spanish media that the fireworks were previously stored in an unauthorised warehouse registered to a decades-old family company called La Gallega in nearby Baldrans, which he shut down "years ago."

The court order he signed came in the wake of earlier explosions at the firm's facilities in 1980 and 2005.

He added: "It appears the boss moved the fireworks to the ground floor of a relative's home after the facility was closed."

Detectives have failed to rule out further arrests as the enquiry continues.



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# Shunning of the bulls

## Thousands march in giant cruelty protest

by Joe Gerrard & Matt Ford

THOUSANDS of anti-bullfighting campaigners have taken to the streets of Madrid to protest against animal cruelty at Spanish festivals. In the Puerta del Sol square they threw red powder into the air to symbolise what they regard as unnecessary and cruel bloodshed, with more than 20,000 bulls and cows killed during bullfights and other celebrations each year. Organised by activist group Tauromaquia Es Violencia (Bullfighting Is Violence) and backed by more than 170 animal rights associations, around 40,000 people are estimated to have turned out for the march.

Spokesperson Laura Gonzalo claimed bullfighting is an outdated practice as she said: "We are demonstrating because society wants to change.



CREDIT: Partido Animalista, via Twitter

**'BULLFIGHTING IS VIOLENCE':** Campaigners threw red powder to symbolise bloodshed.

"We demand courage from politicians, we want them to start listening to us and to take steps to abolish bullfighting."

Juan Carlos Monedero, the co-founder of the far left Podemos party, also voiced his support and said bullfighting could no longer be considered a part of Spanish culture.

"We do not tolerate someone who mistreats a dog, why do we tolerate someone mistreating a bull?" he said.

It comes after distressing footage online of a Spanish

fighting bull collapsing in the street sparked outrage.

The disturbing clip shows the animal unable to support its own weight after being released during the traditional 'Bous al Carrer' bull-running celebration in Villareal, Valencia.

In the video, it struggles for a few steps before falling to the floor, where it repeatedly slams its horns into the tarmac as it writhes in apparent pain.

Onlookers then pull it to its knees by the tail but it quickly

slumps to the ground again.

The issue of bullfighting in Spain has become increasingly divisive over the years. Those in favour argue it is a part of Spanish culture and a way of life for those involved.

But campaigners say the sport is nothing more than cruelty towards defenceless animals.

## Thanks architects

ALMERIA'S mayor, Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco, has highlighted the 'leading role' of professional schools, including of quantity surveyors and architects, in designing the future of the city during celebrations at collegial headquarters.

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# Porn and bred

## Sex films 'my calling' says feminist star

By Matt Ford

A SPANISH adult film star raised as a feminist has defended pornography as a 'dream' career in a BBC documentary.

Paulita Pappel - born in Madrid but currently based in Berlin where she has become established as an icon of alt porn culture - said she loves the lifestyle associated with making sex films.

"You go somewhere, you have a great shoot on location with a great group of people, and you have amazing sex, then you get food, then you're being paid really well," she told BBC Three's 'What I Wish I Knew About Porn.'

She continued: "I think 'this is so gorgeous, why would I not want to do this?' It is a f\*\*\*ing dream. It was absolutely my calling to go into porn."

The self-confessed feminist argues that she is aiming to transform the traditionally macho industry by making it more 'authentic' for women.

"I don't want to live in a world where shooting porn has a negative impact,"

she said. "So if that's the way we're living, I am going to do porn and I am going to try and change that world."

"What I wish I'd known about porn from the very beginning is how empowering and wonderful it can feel personally."

The performer turned director also runs a website called Ersties, which showcases work by female film students and photographers.

"I always felt a huge fascination for porn but I was raised as a second-wave feminist, so I thought every kind of sex work, like pornography, was to enable the patriarchy to exploit women... I thought that was wrong," she added.

But when she decided to enter the film industry after starting out with webcam videos and a sex phone line she initially struggled.

"The people that I encountered did not give me the feeling that I was in control of everything that was happening, so I didn't feel safe enough to do it," she said.



**NAKED TRUTH: Paulita Pappel.**

"And that is a contradiction, like when we are talking about feminism or talking about the empowerment of women and sexuality does play a big role in our lives and that is what all kinds of systems have been oppressing."

'What I Wish I'd Known About Porn' can be seen on BBC Three's YouTube channel.

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GLOBAL CITIZENS: The Henley 2018 Passport index top and bottom five.

# Ticket to ride

## Spanish passport trumps UK

THE Spanish passport is now the third most-powerful in the world, according to a new report.

It comes as Jersey-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners published its annual passport index.

The listing ranks each country's passport based on how much visa-free travel it grants its holders. And Spain shared third place with

Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden and South Korea, all of which provides visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 187 countries. The UK, with 186 destinations, placed joint fourth alongside the United States, among others, although its position could be weakened in the wake of Brexit.

Japan maintained its grip on top spot with a record total of 189 des-

tinations, while Germany and Singapore were joint second with 188.

The two worst-rated countries were Afghanistan and Iraq, with only 30 countries accessible visa-free using their passports.

This year's index surveyed 199 countries.

and their passports' accessibility to 227 different nations.

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# Hotel blaze probe

## Brit mum feared she was dead

By Matt Ford

A BRITISH holidaymaker has spoken of how she feared for her life after a Magaluf hotel prank by four fellow Britons went horribly wrong.

Mum-of-two Kristina Emma, 28, from Newcastle Upon Tyne, said that she is "very very lucky to be alive" after fleeing her room at the BH Mallorca wearing a bikini when four drunken revellers allegedly set fire to the floor below.

Writing on Facebook, she added: 'I've never ran [sic] so fast in my life. My room is directly above this fire! Asleep in bed! Woke up to my room filled with smoke and flames and windows banging.'

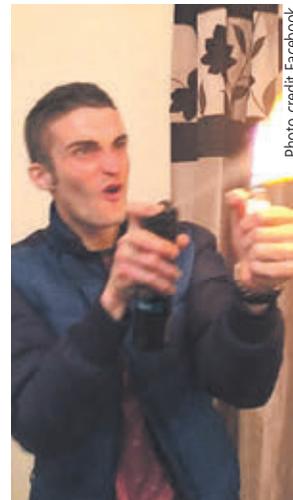
And in an interview with UK media she said: "The ground was so hot I thought the floor is going to fall through. I thought it was going to cave in. I feared for my life - I thought that was it."



'LUCKY TO BE ALIVE': Kristina Emma.

It comes after Georgia James and Lauren Smith, both 19, and 21 year olds James Brown and Brandon McCahill had their passports confiscated and were ordered to pay a €30,000 fine after reportedly sparking the blaze with an aerosol and cigarette lighter while trying to set fire to a sleeping friend's feet.

But it is believed they ignited



'JUST BEEN A LAD': Brandon McCahill.

a mattress, leading to the evacuation of more than 100 guests and causing an estimated €200,000-worth of damage.

Footage of McCahill using a lighter and aerosol as a makeshift flamethrower emerged online in the wake of the drama, but dad Lee McCahill, 47, defended his son as he said: "He's just been a lad."

Photo credit Facebook

## Police smash burgling ring

NATIONAL POLICE in Almeria have arrested four men and one woman believed to be members of a house burgling gang.

The five Georgian nationals are believed to be behind 14 burglaries in Almeria City.

Police involved in the investigation described the group as 'highly specialised' in breaking into properties and acted in a 'methodical and structured' manner to avoid being caught.

The alleged thieves only targeted homes which were empty at the time of the burglary and would mainly target residential areas in the old town which would be reportedly easier to escape from should the police have arrived.

One of the methods the group is believed to have used to break in to their target's home was using the 'swipe' technique - where a hard piece of plastic would be used to open the door leaving no signs of forced entry - or the 'bumping' technique. The latter involved having a master key made prior to breaking in and forcing it through the lock until it matched the grooves and unlocked the door.

Police seized numerous amounts of jewellery and electronic devices during raids in their homes and vehicles.

The accused now face charges for 14 counts of burglary and belonging to an organised crime group. All members have been held in prison.

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# Dirty cash scandal

by Staff Reporter

A FORMER treasurer of Spain's ruling People's Party (PP) called his 33-year prison sentence 'political' after he was jailed without bail.

Luis Barcenas, 60, who previously worked closely with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, was also fined €44 million after being found guilty of fraud, accepting bribes and money laundering.

But the former official told Spanish media he intends to appeal the charges.

And the party itself must pay €240,000 after judges at the country's highest criminal court ruled that it profited from an underhand kickbacks-for-contracts scheme.

Dubbed the Gurtel case - after the German word for belt, correa in Spanish - the enquiry was triggered by businessman Francisco Correa, 62, who

was probed for paying bribes to party officials between 1999 and 2006 in order to win public contracts.

Correa was sentenced to 51 years, while his close ally Pablo Crespo, 58, received 37 years and six months, although both men were already behind bars.

For their roles in the corrupt network Barcenas' wife Rosalia Iglesias will serve 15 years and Correa's ex-wife, Carmen Rodriguez Quijano 14 years and eight months.

Investigators believe that the jailing of Iglesias could spark further confessions about the party's internal finances from Barcenas.

Rajoy last year became the first serving Spanish leader to testify in a criminal trial when he was called to give evidence after serving as the PP's vice-secretary general at

the time.

He denied wrongdoing and claimed his role did not include party finances, before denying the existence of a slush fund used to pay illegal bonuses to senior officials.

But in a 1,687 page ruling, the court found 29 of 37 defendants guilty of crimes ranging from forgery and embezzlement to influence peddling.

It said Correa had designed 'an effective system of institutional corruption by manipulating the awarding of central, regional and local government contracts through his close and lasting relationship with influential [PP] members.'

The PP has confirmed it will appeal against its fine, and said in a statement: 'No member of the current leadership or past leaderships has been charged in relation to this case.'



JAILED: Luis Barcenas, left, Francisco Correa and Pablo Crespo.

## Crisis of confidence

LAWMAKERS in Spain's parliament are set to discuss and decide on the fate of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in a debate and vote of confidence today (Thursday) and tomorrow respectively.

The moves, triggered by the left-leaning opposition Partido Socialista (PSOE) come as Rajoy's conservative People's Party (PP) continued to reel from the fallout of the Gurtel case.

The ruling led to the introduction of a motion of no confidence, in the Spanish Parliament's Congress of Deputies on Friday.

PSOE leader Pedro Sanchez said if the no confidence motion passed and the PSOE ousted the PP his party would seek stability before calling national elections.

"The question that the 350 deputies have to ask is very simple: if after the sentence of the Gurtel plot, Mariano Rajoy can continue to be prime minister, yes or no," Sanchez said.

The PSOE's version of the no confidence motion would see Sanchez made prime minister thereby unseating Rajoy.

Sanchez's party currently has 84 seats in the 350-seat Congress of Deputies, Spain's lower house of parliament.

The motion will need the backing of 176 lawmakers to succeed, with the far left Podemos party's 47 members having said they will support it.

The popular centrist Ciudadanos has supported the minority PP government in parliamentary votes, but its leader Albert Rivera said it would walk away from the pact after calling for early elections.

UNDER FIRE: Mariano Rajoy will learn his fate tomorrow.



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# EWN Media Group at British Embassy to celebrate Royal Wedding

by John Smith

THE British Embassy in Spain joined in the celebration of the Royal Wedding between Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle by hosting a party in the residence of the British Ambassador to Spain Simon Manley.

Whilst the EWN Media Group headed by Michel and Steven Euesden were hosting a party for expatriate residents of the Costa del Sol, long-serving staff writer John Smith who has recently become more involved with *RTN* newspaper travelled to Madrid to attend the British Embassy Royal Wedding party.

Accompanied by his wife Ophelia who has spent more than 30 years working in British media and was a former presenter on Gibraltar TV, they were delighted to meet so many old friends who had also travelled to Madrid.

Through the award of a diploma, the Ambassador has acknowledged the invaluable work of community organisations throughout Spain who do so much for Britain and also picked out for recognition were established news outlets such as the *EWN Media Group*, *Costa Blanca News*, and *SUR in English* and this newspaper wishes to add its congratulations to its two peers.

The Ambassador Simon Manley was ever present making sure he chatted with all his guests and John was able to spend time talking to him about the video recording sent to British communities around Spain which had been inspired by the EWN Media Group wedding party.

With TV screens both inside and outside the residency, the 200-plus guests were assured of an opportunity to watch the wedding as it was transmitted by the BBC.

His daughter bravely sang the opening chorus of God Save the Queen to much applause and seen at the event were numerous visitors from Costa del Sol including Ali Meehan of Costa Women, Charmaine Arbouin, British Consul in Malaga and her charming daughter, a number of representatives of Talk Radio Europe and many others.

The Ambassador said "This wonderful event today illustrates the enormous breadth and depth of the contributions made by British people working with our local partners in almost every corner of Spain.

"For example, we have community groups that work with the elderly and the unwell, the Royal British Legion, church groups, community groups, British schools representing the 55,000 children who study in



Watching the wedding inside the residence.



The British Ambassador in Spain, Simon Manley.



Charmaine Arbouin, British Consul Malaga.



Left to right: Ophelia Smith with Elena Valdeon and Katy Reid of the British Embassy.



John Smith of EWN Media Group.

British schools in Spain, and of course, our local partners, from town halls and our Honorary Consuls.

"It has been an honour to meet such a huge range of inspirational people today, and celebrate this Royal Wedding together."

Simon Manley CMG is a career civil servant who joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1990 and has served in a number of different posts mainly within the FCO in London and on an overseas posting in New York to the United Nations.

He was appointed British Ambassador to Spain, one of the more important diplomatic postings, in 2013 and has played an important part in promoting British trade with the country as well as handling discussions with the Spanish government.

Due to the volume of British passport holders resident in Spain and the huge number of tourists, a number of regional offices have been set up around the country and these are known as British Consulates, managed

by Consuls such as Charmaine Arbouin who is based in Malaga, but has responsibility for the whole of Andalucia as well as the Canary Islands.

In many cases, the Consulate is the first port of call for those who fall foul of the law, lose their passports, are robbed or need advice on life in the country generally.

The FCO, with its main office just across the road from the Houses of Parliament and almost next door to Downing Street is responsible for representation of the UK throughout the world, appointing Ambassadors or in the case of Commonwealth Countries High Commissions and overseeing the implementation of government policy.

Britain enjoys a very close relationship with Spain and plays an important role in its economy, but does differ quite dramatically in its views of the status of Gibraltar which is to a great extent self-governing although the British government appoints a governor to work alongside and oversee the role of the elected government there.

*All present left proud to be British.*



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**Cabrera 349,950€**



**Ref: NW1112  
Beds: 3 Baths: 2.5 Villa**

Impressive two storey villa with private pool and stunning views across the valley. Built to a high standard, this property has numerous luxurious touches and would be ideal as a year-round home or holiday property.

**Mojacar 235,000€**



**Ref: NW1144  
Beds: 2 Baths: 1 Villa**

Pretty villa in great location close to beach. Recently refurbished, this property has many options as a year-round home or a great rental investment due to its proximity to the seafront and all amenities.

**Mojacar 139,950€**



**Ref: NW1102 Beds: 2 Baths: 1**

Pretty, single storey linked villa in quiet location yet within walking distance to amenities. Front and rear terraces plus roof terrace.

**Mojacar 285,000€**



**Ref: NW1058 Beds: 3 Baths: 2.5**

Lovely villa in quiet, elevated location with fantastic sea views, private pool and spacious terraces. Offers good value for money.

**Mojacar 119,950€**



**Ref: NW1135 Beds: 2 Baths: 1**

Lovely apartment on a front line complex with sea views, two terraces, communal pool and garage space.

**Mojacar 109,950€**



**Ref: NW1132 Beds: 2 Baths: 1**

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MOJACAR Town Hall is asking all residents who live here or intend to live here for more than six months of the year to register on the Padron.

They want you to do this because the number of people registered affects the money that the town receives from central government.

They also remind you that you need to be on the Padron to carry out procedures such as car registration, school enrolment and use health services and many other facilities.

It's free and easy to register. Simply bring an official document and proof of your local address to the town hall (Monday to Friday from 9am to 2pm).

*For more information or advice, call 950 615 009, email info@mojacar.es, or leave a message on the contact section of www.ayuntamiento.mojacar.es.*

# Stars in their eyes

THE Mirafactor grand final amateur singing contest recently took place hosted by Miraflores at Camping Los Gallardos.

The event was extremely well supported with a number of local professional artists in the audience. None of the contestants showed any stage nerves and were all extremely talented and worthy of their place in the final.

The four judges, Sammi Lee, Jack Law, Kay Frances and Stephen Gear, were all professional musicians and singers who gave their time for free and supported the show with an amazing performance each.

They judged the contestants on presentation, stage presence, vocal ability, versatility and potential.

The atmosphere on the night was full of fun, anticipation and excitement. At one point the stage was invaded with people dancing and enjoying the evening, the dance floor was packed during all the second performances.



Credit: Jackie Butcher

**STAND BY ME : Hilary Beard wooed the judges with songs by Ben E King and Nina Simone.**

The winners on the night were John FitzGerald, resident of Mojacar pueblo, in the men's category and Hilary Beard, resident of Los Gallardos, in the women's category.

The winners share all of the entrance money in addition to securing a paid gig at Miraflores or a 20-minute support act during a different professional gig.



Credit: Ian Watson

**READY, STEADY, GO! One of the racers at this year's Wacky Races Villaricos.**

## Wacky Races

THIS year's Wacky Races, Villaricos were held recently. The day offered the chance to race in addition to enjoying bouncy castles, a teddy-bear/toy

There were a range of races for both adults and children, including egg and spoon, musical chairs and relays. All the children who took part received a Wacky Races badge and bag.

Lucky Bar won the Tom Tannant trophy which was created in memory of their late race marshall who recently passed away. His family came

over from the UK. Entertainment was provided by four flamenco dancers, gymnasts, the Dusty Boots line dancers, and the village carnival dancers, Pena Fantasia.

The team would like to thank everyone who attended, those who raced and those who simply supported and the businesses who sponsored and those who donated raffle prizes.

So far, they are on target to beat last year's record of €1,400 raised. Much of this money will be used to support the village school.



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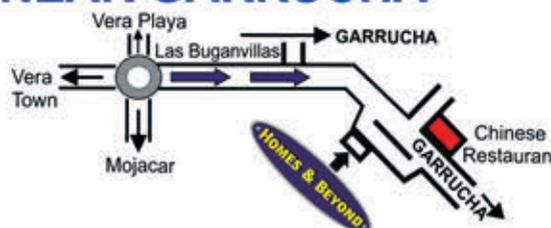
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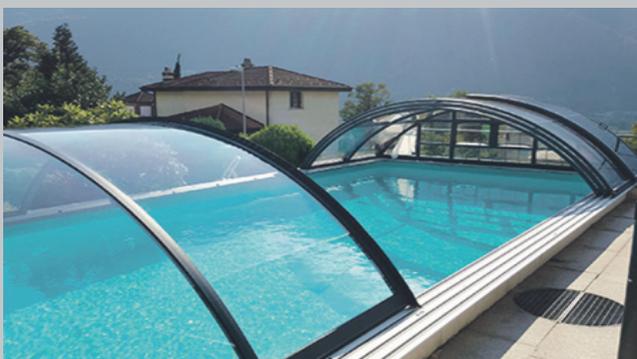


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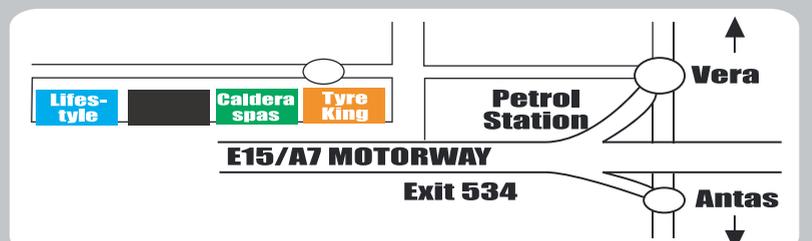
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**FINANCE AVAILABLE**



## STAT OF WEEK

€34bn The amount of structural funds - used to reduce regional disparities in income and wealth - Spain is set to receive from the European Commission between 2021 and 2027, after Brussels this week approved a 5 per cent hike.

## Online giant cops sexy nurse knock

A SPANISH union has urged online retailer Amazon to stop selling 'sexy nurse' outfits and medically-themed sex toys.

Satse, a syndicate acting on behalf of the nursing sector, has written to the e-commerce giant to express its outrage over its marketing of 'tightly-fitting costumes featuring plunging necklines and short skirts.'

According to an official statement, it believes the racy ensembles promote a 'sexist image of female nurses and a resort to stereotypes,' and is demanding all such products be removed from sale immediately.

## Brits abroad tip the scales

BRITISH holidaymakers over-tip by almost €10 a day, according to a new study.

And the excessive gratuities - typically amounting to €134 over a 14-day break - are being blamed on a failure to master local etiquette.

Among 3,000 sun-seekers quizzed by UK price comparison website *comparethemarket.com*, which carried out the research, more than one third admitted to lacking confidence when it comes to tipping abroad.

But while one quarter generously over-tipped on purpose, more than

by Matt Ford

one in 10 revealed they had been confronted by an irate local in the wake of a blunder.

Chris King, a travel expert at the online portal, said: "Heading on holiday should be a real highlight for everyone in need of a well-deserved break.

"However, it seems millions of Brits are frequently getting themselves tied up in currency conundrums and it's costing them their sanity."

He added: "We hope our latest

fact-checking tool will help out Brits abroad so they can check out the do's and don'ts before they jet off - saving their blushes in the process."

The website has created a series of tools and guides to help tourists tip the right amount after researchers found that four in 10 claimed it adds stress to their trip.

Less than a third of Britons knew you should leave a 10 per cent tip in Turkish restaurants, with only 16 per cent aware the same amount should be handed over to taxi drivers in South Africa.

## Spanish brands sink in top 100

JUST two Spanish brands are included in this year's 100 most valuable companies in the world.

Galicia-based fashion retailer Zara, valued at €26.9 billion, fell eight places to number 42, while telecommunications specialist Movistar, which owns O2, dropped to number 53 despite increasing its value to €22.8 billion.

The top three brands, according to the annual report by British PR company WPP, are internet giant Google, which topped the ranking with a value of €259.1 billion, tech firm Apple (€257.9 billion) and online retailer Amazon (€207.6 billion).



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## Soaring room prices check out for hotels



**SUITE DEAL:** Granada saw the biggest hike of 19.7 per cent.

THE average nightly price of hotel rooms in Spain continues to soar, reaching €94 in the first quarter of 2018.

This represents a year-on-year increase of 5.6 per cent, according to the latest Hotel Price Radar report by global hotel solutions provider HRS.

Andalucian city Granada has seen the biggest hike, with prices having shot up by

19.7 per cent, while in Alicante they rose by 8 per cent.

But in Barcelona and the El Arenal neighbourhood of Palma de Mallorca the cost of a room plunged by 1 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively.

Swiss city Zurich remains Europe's priciest destination with an average price of €170 per night, while London is second with €165.

## » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Banks for nothing

MORE than half of Spaniards do not understand 'basic financial concepts' including inflation and compound interest rates, with 63 per cent believing that a current account is the best way to save money, according to new Bank of Spain data.

## Tax to grind

FORMER Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, 74, will return to court on June 27 after admitting that he defrauded the Spanish tax office out of almost €6 million in unpaid income tax in 2008 and 2009.

## Wage fail

THE European Commission has in its 2018 list of recommendations to Spain slammed the widespread overuse of temporary employment contracts, which is 'among the highest in the EU' and 'hinders growth with lower salaries.'

## Delayed budget passed

EMBATTLED Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative Popular Party has had its new national budget narrowly passed by Spanish Parliament.

It comes after five Basque nationalist lawmakers made a last-minute U-turn, breaking an earlier vow to withdraw their support while the government remains in control of Cataluña.

The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) said in a statement it had 'decided, out of a sense of responsibility, to vote yes to the budget,' which will take effect in June after passing through the Senate, where Rajoy's party holds an absolute majority.

Its approval was viewed as a crucial test of strength for the minority government to survive until the next scheduled general election in 2020.

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\*Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International Money Transfer Index™ (IMTI™).

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# LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MAY 28

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,797.00	17.80	1.00	25,312.43
Associated British Foods	2,715.00	-31.00	-1.13	21,454.37
Admiral Group	1,998.75	21.25	1.07	5,592.25
Ashtead Group	2,330.00	-4.00	-0.17	11,377.58
Antofagasta	1,064.50	10.00	0.95	10,464.87
Aviva	532.00	3.20	0.61	21,399.31
AstraZeneca	5,450.00	-28.00	-0.51	68,751.78
BAE Systems	640.00	-3.20	-0.50	20,611.95
Barclays	204.50	-1.70	-0.82	35,120.04
British American Tobacco	3,851.50	-17.50	-0.45	87,158.81
Barratt Developments	558.00	-2.80	-0.50	5,617.60
Berkeley Group Holdings	4,207.50	-61.50	-1.44	5,638.60
British Land Co	688.00	2.20	0.32	6,669.66
BHP Billiton	1,732.00	36.80	2.17	36,200.91
Bunzl	2,336.50	37.50	1.63	7,642.99
BP	555.00	-0.10	-0.02	112,992.39
Burberry Group	1,987.50	-17.50	-0.87	8,240.11
BT Group	211.10	1.15	0.55	20,156.35
Coca-Cola HBC	2,676.00	3.00	0.11	9,683.67
Carnival	4,915.00	-20.00	-0.41	10,073.15
Centrica	145.05	0.40	0.28	8,107.69
Compass Group	1,585.00	-45.00	-2.76	25,488.37
Croda International	4,747.50	-32.50	-0.68	6,284.64
CRH	2,869.00	132.00	4.82	23,042.40
DCC	7,237.50	0.00	0.00	6,495.36
Diageo	2,749.50	-13.00	-0.47	67,551.48
Direct Line Insurance Group	374.40	1.80	0.48	5,097.13
Evrax	494.10	15.70	3.28	6,883.88
Experian	1,847.50	-12.50	-0.67	17,128.85
easyJet	1,730.00	-1.00	-0.06	6,822.05
Ferguson	5,840.00	24.00	0.41	14,301.64
Fresnillo	1,299.50	2.00	0.15	9,568.56
G4S	274.00	-7.10	-2.53	4,243.61
Glencore	378.50	1.00	0.26	54,323.57
GlaxoSmithKline	1,502.60	2.60	0.17	74,101.90
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,940.25	-29.25	-1.49	9,242.10
Halma	1,366.50	0.00	0.00	5,132.75
HSBC Holdings	734.00	1.20	0.16	146,522.23
International Consoltd Airs Gr	692.50	-8.70	-1.24	13,990.48
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,595.00	-292.00	-5.98	9,243.68
3i Group	985.75	3.95	0.40	9,586.99
Imperial Brands	2,782.00	27.00	0.98	26,332.68
Informa	781.60	-2.13	-0.27	6,272.33
Intertek Group	5,435.00	0.00	0.00	8,634.53
ITV	167.25	-0.70	-0.42	6,692.24
Just Eat	847.00	2.40	0.28	5,750.42
Johnson Matthey	3,507.00	87.00	2.54	6,715.61
Kingfisher	304.00	-3.10	-1.01	6,380.14
Land Securities Group	967.00	15.00	1.58	7,005.31
Legal & General Group	279.50	1.90	0.68	16,577.44

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.25	0.58	0.88	47,412.97
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,574.00	30.00	0.66	15,621.13
Micro Focus International	1,320.00	-29.50	-2.19	5,787.12
Medilnic International	679.10	45.90	7.25	4,538.47
Marks & Spencer Group	307.25	-3.45	-1.11	4,940.91
Mondi	2,100.00	18.00	0.86	7,671.66
Melrose	220.40	-20.40	-8.47	11,337.55
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	246.00	-0.20	-0.08	5,776.60
National Grid	880.00	0.00	0.00	29,530.86
NMC Health	3,613.00	-199.00	-5.22	7,818.59
Next	5,840.00	-22.00	-0.38	8,232.90
Old Mutual Group	218.55	-28.05	-11.37	12,070.51
Paddy Power Betfair	7,850.00	-1,230.00	-13.55	7,496.02
Prudential	1,885.00	-5.50	-0.29	48,478.84
Persimmon	2,850.00	9.00	0.32	8,729.02
Pearson	897.00	-9.80	-1.08	7,035.39
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,002.50	-25.50	-0.42	42,139.73
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	289.00	-0.70	-0.24	34,900.54
Royal Dutch Shell	2,582.50	23.50	0.92	119,433.60
RELX	1,643.50	-1.50	-0.09	17,154.73
Rio Tinto	4,240.00	-23.50	-0.55	56,417.95
Royal Mail	541.20	10.80	2.04	5,454.00
Rolls-Royce Group	857.50	14.10	1.67	15,797.55
Randgold Resources	5,871.00	113.00	1.96	5,469.53
RSA Insurance Group	670.00	6.20	0.93	6,840.26
Rentokil Initial	310.00	-32.10	-9.38	6,258.12
Sainsbury (J)	261.50	-56.40	-17.74	6,996.66
Schroders	3,539.00	169.00	5.01	7,567.23
Sage Group (The)	675.00	-5.60	-0.82	7,261.48
Segro	640.00	-10.00	-1.54	6,496.01
Shire	4,075.25	-58.25	-1.41	37,495.63
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,900.00	-208.00	-6.69	7,115.92
Sky	1,365.50	19.50	1.45	23,120.78
Standard Life Aberdeen	360.00	0.10	0.03	10,636.40
Smith (DS)	547.30	-12.10	-2.16	5,961.45
Smiths Group	1,716.00	-4.00	-0.23	6,775.36
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	530.00	17.00	3.31	7,199.05
Smith & Nephew	1,355.00	-4.00	-0.29	11,779.07
SSE	1,375.00	-46.50	-3.27	14,369.71
Standard Chartered	762.50	11.40	1.52	24,915.44
St James's Place	1,228.75	20.75	1.72	6,402.44
Severn Trent	2,050.00	-38.00	-1.82	4,810.14
Tesco	247.00	1.20	0.49	24,028.32
TUI AG	1,728.50	0.00	0.00	10,155.92
Taylor Wimpey	204.00	1.20	0.59	6,572.66
Unilever	4,175.00	-7.50	-0.18	51,038.41
United Utilities Group	816.00	0.60	0.07	5,415.56
Vodafone Group	195.10	0.06	0.03	51,981.14
WPP Group	1,287.50	10.00	0.78	16,088.31
Whitbread	4,360.00	104.00	2.44	7,583.82

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CLOSING PRICES MAY 28

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	199,030	-0.19%	-0,380	118,221,94
AMERICAN EXPRESS	101,1000	-0.89%	-0,9100	86,999,83
APPLE	188,580	+0.23%	0,430	926,896,72
BOEING CO	360,090	+0.30%	1,090	209,874,80
CATERPILLAR	155,850	-1.17%	-1,850	93,286,14
CHEVRON	122,19	-3.49%	-4,42	233,643,52
CISCO SYSTEMS	43,260	-0.71%	-0,310	208,357,61
COCA-COLA	42,40	+0.19%	0,08	180,423,13
DOWDUPONT	65,71	-1.01%	-0,67	152,545,31
EXXON MOBIL	78,71	-1.94%	-1,56	333,499,14
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,6300	+0.21%	0,0300	127,153,35
GOLDMAN SACHS	235,01	-0.46%	-1,09	88,778,86
HOME DEPOT	186,8500	-0.16%	-0,3000	215,643,44
IBM	143,64	-0.30%	-0,43	131,902,87
INTEL CORP	55,4400	+1.26%	0,6900	258,793,92
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	110,6600	-0.51%	-0,5700	377,010,95
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	121,4700	-0.64%	-0,7800	325,854,40
MC DONALD'S CORP	163,2100	+0.50%	0,8200	128,184,14
MERCK AND CO. NEW	59,09	-0.07%	-0,04	159,010,41
MICROSOFT	98,360	+0.05%	0,050	757,505,64
NIKE	72,25	+0.10%	0,07	92,751,58
PFIZER	35,6800	-0.59%	-0,2100	208,741,94
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	74,310	+0.73%	0,540	186,922,75
TRAVELERS CIES	131,03	+0.29%	0,38	35,431,26
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	127,03	-0.29%	-0,37	101,719,56
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	244,95	+0.91%	2,22	235,526,89
VERIZON COMMS	48,52	-0.25%	-0,12	200,603,58
VISA	131,28	-0.46%	-0,61	234,576,89
WAL-MART STORES	82,4600	-0.47%	-0,3900	243,579,48
WALT DISNEY CO	102,2000	+0.09%	0,0900	152,510,35

M - MILLION DOLLARS

# NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MAY 28

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
<b>Most Advanced</b>		
Shoe Carnival, Inc.	\$ 31.80	5.46 ▲ 20.73%
Melinta Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 6.25	0.95 ▲ 17.92%
ArQule, Inc.	\$ 5.15	0.62 ▲ 13.69%
Quality Systems, Inc.	\$ 16.99	1.94 ▲ 12.89%
Zai Lab Limited	\$ 24.69	2.50 ▲ 11.27%
OrthoPediatrics Corp.	\$ 21.53	2.08 ▲ 10.69%
Yangtze River Port and Logistics Limited	\$ 7.6075	0.6975 ▲ 10.09%
Cidara Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.95	0.525 ▲ 9.68%
Agilysys, Inc.	\$ 13.88	1.22 ▲ 9.64%
Cara Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 17.02	1.46 ▲ 9.38%
Aeglea BioTherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 10.62	0.90 ▲ 9.26%
<b>Most Declined</b>		
Hibbett Sports, Inc.	\$ 24.425	4.525 ▼ 15.63%
Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc.	\$ 24.53	3.49 ▼ 12.46%
Legacy Reserves LP	\$ 7.85	1.01 ▼ 11.40%
Accuray Incorporated	\$ 4.40	0.55 ▼ 11.11%
Legacy Reserves LP	\$ 9.34	1.095 ▼ 10.49%
Affirmed N.V.	\$ 2.20	0.25 ▼ 10.20%
Mammoth Energy Services, Inc.	\$ 31.15	2.71 ▼ 8.00%
Hawaiian Telcom Holdco, Inc.	\$ 26.57	2.14 ▼ 7.45%
Vital Therapies, Inc.	\$ 5.70	0.45 ▼ 7.32%
Novelion Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 4.07	0.31 ▼ 7.08%
Mitcham Industries, Inc.	\$ 3.70	0.27 ▼ 6.80%

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**Multi Asset Growth B EUR**

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£1.0654 .....

£0.0025

£1.3383 .....

£0.0065

£1.2205 .....

£0.0049

£1.5109 .....

£0.0094

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£0.0076

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Prices correct as at 23/05/2018



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# Are British police giving up on crime?

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT**

**OTHERS THINK IT**



WHAT on earth is going on with the British police force?

They continually gripe about being undermanned and ill equipped. They moan about being so weighed down with work they have been forced to downgrade 'risk assessment' of crimes to a ridiculous level and are constantly moaning that they simply 'can't cope' with the latest crime figures. As legitimate as these claims may be, our precious plod does seem to find the time to, dance around maypoles, thread their boots with rainbow laces and appear in a whole host of police reality programmes!

Well, whereas laces and prancing about may not be very time consuming, I can assure you reality programmes most certainly are. There are 11 cop shows running at the moment, from Cops in the Sky to the most recent, which concerns seizing criminal's assets (scraping the barrel comes to mind!).

Well I've done a number of reality programmes (including a few I would rather forget!), and I can assure you they take forever. Every five minutes you see on the screen can take hours to shoot. The retakes alone can be unbelievably time consuming. How can these 'overworked' rushed-off-their-feet officers of the



**COP OUT:** The BBC's Traffic Cops and (inset) a reveller grinds on a police officer during the Notting Hill Carnival.



law possibly find the time to be 'reality stars'?

Another thing these shows are inclined to do is eat into the respect the public should hold for its upholders of law and order. Any aura of mystique or invincibility is stripped away by these programmes, which often show the utter contempt a

small number of individuals have for the upholders of law and order.

With the wide publicity television creates, public order and criminal acts are then copied by other members of toerag society, who would normally be wary of the unknown out-

come their actions could bring.

One of the worst displays of contempt for the law I have ever seen was the disgraceful episode of the man at the Notting Hill Gate carnival who simulated a sex act on a WPC. Instead of arresting him there and then, the officer tried vainly to squirm away from him, looking for all the world like some embarrassed giggling young schoolgirl.

The whole unsavoury incident was captured on camera and received about a million hits on social media. No doubt this creep is still strutting around revelling in his new-found notoriety.

Mind you the fact that he was of ethnic origin meant they were probably too frightened to arrest him anyway (it's a culture thing ennit!?).

No, I'm sorry but respect for the law is obtained by solving crime and putting away the bad guys, not strutting around like jumped up, ego tripping American TV robocops. Let's all get back to the true reality. The fact that glamourising the police doesn't do one iota toward rooting out criminals. Posing on telly and signing autographs simply doesn't hack it. It's time the powers that be put a complete ban on all cop reality shows. Let's restrict their TV appearances to announcements of successful conclusions to crime investigations. Now THAT'S the way to earn respect!

*Keep the faith.*

*Love Leapy.*

[leapylee2002@gmail.com](mailto:leapylee2002@gmail.com)

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

## Advertising Feature

I WAS sitting in my office calmly discussing the collection of community management fees, the next thing I know I am embroiled in an International Art Fraud of massive proportions. It is strange how events take on a life of their own!

It all started last August when I was approached by an eminent art gallery in London, knowing we did a lot of work in Spain, seeking help to recover either payment of €500,000 give or take a few or, better still, could we recover various works of art sitting in a southern Spain art gallery - no names mentioned.

Of course visions of a fabulous fee crossed my eyes until I started to uncover a web of fraudulent art sales across northern and eastern Europe, Scandinavia and USA.

Works of art were being sold at least three times each, fraudulently certificated, payment arranged and the art never delivered. The perpetrators, living the life of luxury in eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Spain, in particular, seeming to sell magnificent sculpture at knock down prices.

As this soon became a matter for the international police authorities it was a shame that I could not use my skill of collection to gain a fee.

# No excuse to not pay community fees

It did however reinforce my experience of how easy it can sometimes be to relieve people of their hard earned money if it looks like a bargain can be had. It is no coincidence that the old adage that 'if it looks too good to be true - it is too good to be true' is so true.

I suppose it still does not help our communities collect overdue fees easily from those still stubbornly refusing to pay, for whatever reason, but it certainly was an interesting diversion from the usual arguments for non-payment. It did strengthen my resolve to reach compromises, settlements and the like from our usual suspects, even if only to make up the now non-existent fee I was getting starry eyed about from the London gallery.

In fact my stubbornness paid off this week, when a reluctant owner tried to use the new General Data



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Protection Regulation (GDPR) as an excuse, stating that the Community could not pass any private in-

formation to any third party without his permission. In fact he smugly warned the Administrator and LPL that we would all be committing a criminal offence in so doing. I soon educated him as to the interpretation of the regulation which certainly is not a charter for anyone to abrogate their responsibilities for payment.

More unfortunately it does highlight the fact that there are still some owners on communities that want to find any excuse not to pay their fees, but still feel comfortable enjoying the benefits and facilities offered by the Community.

Worse still the debt has built up over many years because of the reluctance by the Community to do anything about it. As time goes by addresses change, finances change and many debtors can become complacent and even bullish in re-

fusing to pay, looking for any excuse to try and support their position.

If it is helpful to anyone the GDPR states various reasons why third parties can use information if in the public interest, in the exercise of official authority, legitimate interests of those authorised to hold the data, so long as it does not infringe the rights or protection of the subject and/or lawful exemption.

In other words: so long as there is proven and legitimate reasons for a third party to use information there will not be a problem. As long as the third party proves that they are compliant within the various statutes and authorisations - LPL, as an example, being FCA authorised and regulated.

As usual there is tremendous hype that surrounds any new piece of legislation whether coming out of Europe or from the UK. It will settle down, but there is no reason for any awkward customer to use the GDPR as a legitimate excuse for non payment... debtors beware!

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**Advertising Feature**

# Whatever your exterior needs, Woodworks Direct are there to help

AS the weather is starting to heat up, it's time to think about the exterior of your property and Woodworks Direct SLU are ready to supply all of your garden and carport needs.

They don't just supply carports, gazebos, pergolas and sheds (plus more including dog kennels) but they manufacture everything as well, in their own workshop which is manned by expert craftsmen who have years of experience.

They now offer a new range of fencing and all weather composite decking but that's not all, if you need a garden-based office or summerhouse then Woodworks Direct SLU is ideally situated to look after all of your requirements.

Their showroom is situated in Abanilla on the border between Murcia and Alicante provinces, however, they supply to the whole of Alicante, Almeria, Costa Blanca and Murcia and can also install or supply ready for the customer to construct.

This is a company of long-standing which understands everything about shade and are more than happy to work to a budget and offer the best value in order to meet their customer's needs.

Whilst they do hold stock of ready to erect



## WOODWORKS DIRECT SLU: All manner of quality constructions are available.

items, the company also offers a design to order service and if you can't get to their showroom, the best way to get in touch is send an email with all your requirements, stating the area you live in and the size you require.

They can then send you their recommendations on how best to meet your needs together with a

quote, although a lot of information including some pricing is included on their very detailed website [www.woodworksdirect.com](http://www.woodworksdirect.com).

Normal trading hours are 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at Woodworks Direct SLU Casas de los Frailes, 11, Cañada Del Leña (los Gabrieles), Abanilla, Murcia but if an email is received after



hours or at the weekend, a response will be sent within a matter of hours.

To contact them email [info@woodworksdirect.com](mailto:info@woodworksdirect.com), call 966 195 522 or 649 540 016 and follow them on Facebook.

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By Matt Ford



# Apace in the sun!

## Brits lead surge in foreign buyers

BRITISH buyers have shrugged off Brexit fears to lead a new surge of property sales to foreigners in Spain. It comes as the first quarter of 2018 saw the most deals completed since 2014.

New data from the national Land Registry shows that sales shot up by 13.4 per cent from January to the end of March, with revenue rising to the highest quarterly total since late 2008.

And the number of overseas buyers rocketed by 13.2 per cent, according to the latest report by Spanish property registrars. British shoppers headed the ranking as they accounted for 14 per cent of foreign sales, with German and French nationals each representing 8 per cent.

Belgians were responsible for 7 per cent of overseas purchases, Swedes and Italians 6 per cent, Chinese 4 per

cent and Russians 3 per cent.

Demand from Bulgaria increased the most after sales soared by 16 per cent, with Morocco and the Ukraine also demonstrating sharp growth.

But the number of buyers from Switzerland plummeted by 15 per cent, and those from France 10 per cent. Mark Stucklin of Spanish Property Insight said that the Swiss plunge is not significant since the country only serves up around 150 sales per quarter.

"A small change in buyer numbers can deliver a high percentage change

and we can't read too much into one quarterly decline, though generally speaking sales are about 10 per cent down from 2016 when the Swiss Franc was incredibly strong against the Euro," he added.

But he believes the French nosedive could be of importance and blames the Catalan independence crisis for the slump.

"France has traditionally been the second biggest market, and a decline of 10 per cent is noteworthy," he said. "I suspect the answer has something to do

with the constitutional crisis in Catalonia, a Spanish region that borders with France, where the French have long been the biggest group of foreign buyers, with 43 per cent of the foreign market for second homes, according to the latest figures from the Association of Spanish Notaries."

The expert does not expect British expatriate strongholds to be affected, though, with the outlook generally positive since the figures do not map out where foreign buyers are concentrated.

"It is likely that all regions have seen an increase in buyers from abroad, with the possible exception of Cataluña," he concluded.

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# Batten down the hatches



**FORTIFIED:** Three forts are up for sale.

CREDIT: SOLENTFORTS.COM

**A**NYONE looking for seclusion on the high seas may be interested in a string of 19th century forts that have recently gone on the market for £11 million (€12.6 million).

The three sea fortifications, lying in the Solent between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, are currently being used as luxury hotels while one of

them is becoming a museum.

They were built in the late 18th century to ward off potential invading forces from France's Emperor Napoleon III, a descendent of Napoleon Bonaparte.

They were later made part of an anti-submarine barrier guarding the Solent from German U-boats in the Second World War.

## 'Historical charm'



**SHIP SHAPE:** Spitbank Fort costs €5.7 million.

SPITBANK FORT boasts eight bedroom suites, as well as a bar, hot pool, sauna and a roof deck which the owners Solent Forts said would be ideal for sunbathing.

The owners added it was packed with "historical charm" and "intrigue," all for a price of €5.7 million.

"The circular floor plan means you experience the world from a totally new perspective. With stunning panoramic views across the Solent and passing yachts in your sight, this is a tranquil setting," they said on their website.



**BON VOYAGE:** No Man's Fort has impressive ocean views.

## Pushing the boat out

NO MAN'S FORT is the largest of the three up for sale with a price tag of €5.7 million. It houses 22 rooms and suites which can sleep up to 44 guests and there is room for more than 200 people for events.

It also features its own onsite pub, the Lord Nelson, as well as a cabaret club, roof top fire pits and several tunnels currently used to play laser tag. Owners Solent Forts said it was Britain's most secluded alternative venue.

"With floor to ceiling windows for an unrivalled panoramic view of the fierce beauty and dramatic seascape, this really is the venue that pushes the boat out," they said.



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## Advertising Feature

# Obtaining Licences through Martinez de la Casa Architects



**ANTONIO MARTINEZ:**  
Founder of Martinez  
de la Casa Architects.

NEVER jump into licence expenses without being sure they will be issued. Here are five common reasons for the Council to reject a licence and can only be resolved using a simple Certificate of Antiquity/Retropective Licence if already done.

**1** Building work in plots that have already used the maximum build of square metres: If the property has already reached the maximum size allowed, no new licence will be issued.

**2** Plot under the minimum required size: No building work is allowed if the plot is under the minimum square metres required. This being the case no licence will be issued. Any shed, exterior built cupboard, semi-open kitchen and other covered buildings or works such as a carport or pools will need a retrospective licence if already done.

**3** Extensions violating the minimum re-

quired distance to the plot's boundaries: Permanent carports, or any kind of roofed buildings that are violating the minimum required distance to the plot's boundaries is a reason to decline a licence.

National planning laws for detached properties require a minimum distance between a window and a neighbour's boundary of two metres. There are however many variables.

**4** Closing in small existing gaps in the property. Most glass or bricked enclosed terraces and porches will not be allowed to be glazed in or transformed into interior spaces.

Spanish properties traditionally tend to have patios and courtyards. These semi-open spaces are easily closed-in, but the rules are not as easy. These works, however small you might consider them, are adding to the registered square metres

and often permissions are declined.

**5** Underbuilds are not allowed to be used for living accommodation: Underbuilds with living accommodations are never produced with the correct licences.

Martinez de la Casa Architects always recommend their clients enquire at the town hall if the licence will be possible before rushing into expenses for undertaking projects, employing architects etc.).

In case the building work has already been completed the document needed is a Certificate of Antiquity, also known as a Retrospective Licence, which can be obtained only if the building work has already been completed four years or more prior to August 20, 2014 in the Alicante area.

Once issued, this document acts as a licence, protecting the owner against possible sanctions from the town hall. It is highly recommended to avoid putting off potential

buyers due to the existence of illegal extensions to the property. It will also be needed on completion of the sale in order to update the property's description in Title Deeds & Land Registry.

Only properly qualified and registered Spanish Architects are permitted to issue Retrospective Licences, so if your solicitors are studying your case, ask them to contact Martinez de la Casa Architects to provide the Antiquity Certificate and they will make the whole process faster and easier.

The cost of an Antiquity Certificate/Retropective Licence for pools is €190 +IVA and extensions or complete properties only €270 +IVA. Discounts are available if you also require an Energy Performance Certificate (€121 IVA incl.), Habitation Licence (from €118 IVA incl., but Registration Tax not included) or any other of their services, done at the same time.

For all enquiries, or to arrange an appointment if you want to have your pool or extension certificate now and protect yourself against future law changes that may affect you, please call 665 810 411 or visit [www.martinezdelacasa.com](http://www.martinezdelacasa.com) to see an impressive list of nearly 200 client's testimonials

ROUND HILL capital management firm will build 135 homes on the Costa del Sol in 2019 in a €250 million scheme.

It will team up with Villarreal Torrico architecture. The award-winning company is a veteran on the coast having constructed three million metres squared of real estate over the last 40 years.

The buildings will take 18 months to build and form the second phase of the Palo Alto project in Marbella.

A total of 600 properties will be built in the Palo Alto area. Works will be staged in two phases and the total investment is valued at €250 million.

"The objective is to put maximum quality properties on the market," Round Hill said in a statement.

The apartments will each be between 100 and 180 metres square and have two to four bedrooms with

## Viva la revolution

### New homes to feature nanotechnology



PHOTO CREDITS PALO ALTO MARBELLA

**BREATHKING:** Rolling hills provide spectacular views.

"spectacular views" thanks to the way the plots' land lies, according to the firm.

"The designs' modernity and state-of-the-art technologies make the apartments stand out," it added.

Villarreal Torrico will apply nanotechnology paint to the inside walls, purifying the air, eliminating bacteria and mould and repelling dust.

It is the first time the 'revolutionary paint' will have been used, project architects confirmed.

Prices will start at €400,000 and reach €1 million.

SPAIN'S economy minister has admitted to organising a 'safer' fixed-rate mortgage for himself ahead of a predicted interest rate hike.

The comments were made during an interview on Spanish radio in which Roman Escolano told people to be careful when taking out variable-rate house loans.

"This is one of the most important

## Lend of an era?

decisions that anyone makes in their life from a financial point of view," the official said.

"It's a decision that affects you for many years and precisely for that reason I would urge caution."

The advice comes ahead of an ex-

pected rise in interest rates.

The European Central Bank (ECB) has been pumping money into markets to lower rates and give a much-needed boost to the crisis-stricken European economy, saving borrowers hundreds of Euros per month in

repayments.

But the ECB is expected to increase rates as early as next year now industry is stronger.

This could trouble millions of Spaniards who owe around €500 billion overall, much of which is due in floating-rate mortgage repayments racked up after the 2008 housing bubble burst.



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## Gorgeous villa near Huercal-Overa

VILLA JORGE (VH1326) is a recently decorated, refurbished and amazingly well maintained two bed, one bath villa with air conditioning and extending to 85m<sup>2</sup>, along with quality furniture which is also for sale.

Situated within a 415m<sup>2</sup> private garden in the popular village of Urcal just eight minute's drive to Huercal-Overa town with numerous shops, restaurants, hospital etc and 20 to 25 minutes drive to the coast at San Juan de Los Terreros.

Villa Jorge is an ideal main residence or lock up and leave holiday home. Of course, you are also saving a lot of money if you do not actually need three bedrooms. The property currently does not have a swimming pool but if you require one then this property is on Urban land and under the Huercal-Overa Town Hall, you can get permission for a swimming pool. Your solicitor will confirm this.

To the front of Villa Jorge is a



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covered porch / sitting / dining area looking out to the rear private garden. This leads into the open plan, light and airy living room with hot and cold air conditioning and log burning fireplace, dining room and fitted kitchen.

A corridor leads down to two double bedrooms both with built-in wardrobes and air conditioning which share a family shower room with large, modern walk-in shower. If another bath-

room is needed the villa can be easily extended and we can suggest many local, reputable builders.

Around the villa are easily maintained gardens mostly laid to gravel and tiled with a number of fruit trees and Mediterranean plants. There is also a wooden pergola-style car port, separate pergola and storage shed.

The villa benefits from mains electricity, water, internet and

satellite TV as well as hot and cold air conditioning and has ceiling fans.

Within a four-minute walk you can reach the shop, cafe/restaurant, bar, doctors, chemist and be on the A7 motorway. In less than 10 minutes you can drive to popular market town of Huercal-Overa (Monday and Thursday morning) with its award-winning hospital and numerous shops, restaurants, sporting and leisure facilities

and historic buildings.

The beaches at San Juan or Mojucar are within a 35 minute's drive and it is a one-hour drive to Almeria airport.

Voss Homes is a British family-run business with an office in the thriving, market town of Huercal-Overa. We focus on selling properties around Huercal-Overa, Zurgena, La Alfoquia and Taberno so look forward to helping you find your ideal property in Spain.

*For more information or to arrange a viewing please contact Voss Homes on 0034 950 616 827 or 0034 678 002 006 or visit our office in Huercal-Overa. We are just one kilometre off exit 553 of the A7 motorway, 100 metres from Lidl.*

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**S**ALES of homes costing more than €4 million have increased in 2017 compared to the previous year on the Costa del Sol.

It comes after the release of a report from Marbella's Panorama Properties.

Many of the best located homes built 20, 30 or more years ago are being sold to be demolished and rebuilt or be completely reformed, the firm's representative Christopher Clover said.

Works are sometimes carried out by specialised developers or otherwise by individuals.

Prices have spiked in Marbella's most sought-after locations where demand outweighed supply.

A concrete example is Puente Romana where prices have doubled from rock bottom prices in 2011 to now, Clover said.

A typical two-bedroomed apartment selling for €600,000 in 2011 would now go for €1.15 million on the so-called Golden Mile.

And a €375,000 apartment with one bedroom is currently

## Living the dream

### Luxury home sales rocket



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selling for €825,000, showing how in-demand these locations are, he added.

The profile of the average buyer is much lower than a decade ago at between 30 and 40 years-old.

There is a loyal market among German and Middle Eastern buyers

And purchases from French, Belgian and Nordic residents have also recovered since the crisis, Clover added.

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**Mojácar Playa Apartment**  
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LV748 **249,950 €**



**Mojácar Playa Townhouse**  
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LV745 **160,000 €**



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DV1454 **210,000 €**



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**TABERNO**

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- 4 bed, 3 bath Quality Country House
- 294m2 build, 48,000m2 of land
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- 3 mins drive to Taberno

**LA ALFOQUIA**

VH1320 €249,000 CEE F58 95



- Large 3 bed, 3 bath Quality Village Villa
- 178m2 build, 1,472m2 Garden
- 10m x 5m pool & many extras
- Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

**ZURGENA**

VH1321 €219,950 CEE TBC



- Large 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 1,300m2 garden, great views
- 10m x 4m pool & garage
- Zurgena area

**HUERCAL-OVERA**

VH1322 €499,000 CEE E33 15



- 5 bed, 6 bath Quality Country House
- 320m2 build, 13,895m2 plot
- Swimming pool & many extras
- 15 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1279 €139,995 CEE F225 8



- Large, 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- Edge of Village with pool
- 3,000m2 of land (1,000m fenced)
- Country Views & Walk to amenities

VH1170 €64,950 CEE F230 79



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- Full sunroof
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VH1288 €169,950 CEE TBC



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- 8m x 4m swimming pool
- Walk to bar / restaurant
- Zurgena area

VH1307 €189,950 CEE TBC



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- 5 bed, 2 bath plus 2 bed 1 bath
- 1,004m2 of land, swimming pool
- 12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa



PHOTO CREDITS WINKWORTH SPAIN

**LOFTY HEIGHTS:** The decadent property's pool is flanked by a luxuriant garden.

**O**NE of the most luxurious mansions on the Costa del Sol has gone on sale for €15.5 million.

The stunning Guadalmina beachfront property was built in 2016 and has never been lived in.

It boasts a Turkish bath, indoor pool, a mosaic floored rooftop solarium, jacuzzi, sauna, a games room, Italian marble floors with underfloor heating and a fireplace.

# Splash the cash

## €15.5m mansion on sale

The garage fits eight cars, but more can be parked on the 1.25-acre plot if it is not enough.

The constructors have made it easy for the new owner to make the final instalments to a wine cellar and cinema if they please.

There is a lift if the lucky buyer is feeling too tipsy to stumble up the winding staircase with marble banisters.

And it could accommodate on-site staff in the adjacent guest house, which has two bedrooms and a bath-

room.

The Ernest Palanco Arquitectura villa construction firm built the mansion in 2016.

It has been building luxurious properties in the Middle East for over a decade and "is well-known on the Costa del

Sol," Christopher Vent of Winkworth Spain said.

The kitchen and main living area are on the first floor. And the upper floor stages the main bedroom suite and four more en-suite boudoirs. All of them open out onto an expansive terrace with

views of the Mediterranean.

Outdoors, a tropical garden awaits and a pool sits overlooking the sea.

The eight-bedroomed mansion stands out from other mega properties for "the quality of its build, the size of the plot and of the property," the agent said.

It sits on 1.25 acres of land next to the sea and is only a five-minute drive to Puerto Banus, one of the world's glitziest ports.

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The house is maintained to a very high standard and is in impeccable condition, located in one of the most popular areas of Mojácar Playa with beautiful clean, sandy beaches, near the centre of the main tourist area and promenade with wide range of bars, restaurants, beach bars, shops and local bus services.

Build area 130 M2 + terrace 23 m2 + garden 20 m2. Energy Efficiency G 230.1 kWh/m2año y G 39.0 kgCO2/m2año.

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**PILLOWS IN A POD:** The jaw-dropping design.

# Hotel of the future



SPAIN is in the running to be the location for "the world's most futuristic looking hotel."

Its modular design will feature 42 multi-floored suites in 19-metre-tall luxury triangular pods.

Canada's WSP group engineers are working on the spaceship-like Tetra hotel with design pioneers from Innovation Imperative architecture group.

WSP has also worked on London's highest skyscraper - the Shard - and

Chelsea's Stamford bridge stadium.

The Canadian firm hopes for the space-age structures to be located in geographically stunning locations in keeping with their sustainable, carbon-neutral compositions.

Sites in Cape Verde, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, Portugal, Andorra, Hungary and the UK are also competing for the other-worldly hotel.

PHOTO CREDITS TWITTER/WSP IN THE UK

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We have expanded our offices in Mojacar by 40 M2 on the beach.

<p><b>Villa in Vera</b> VIP7577</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Bedrooms</li> <li>4 Bathrooms</li> <li>Stables and Arena</li> <li>Cattery</li> <li>Private Pool</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 267.61m<sup>2</sup> Build Size</li> <li>• 6,303.93m<sup>2</sup> Plot Size</li> <li>• <b>445,000€</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Villa in Mojacar</b> • VIP7468</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>• Private Pool</li> </ul> <p>El Cantal Area</p> <p><b>Price: 325,000€</b></p>	<p><b>Apartment in Desert Springs</b> • VIP7277</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Bedroom</li> <li>• 1 Bathroom</li> </ul> <p>On Golf Resort Good Rental Potential</p> <p><b>Price: 70,000€</b></p>	
	<p><b>Apartment in Vera Playa</b> • VIP7578</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 Bathrooms</li> </ul> <p>Build size 85m<sup>2</sup> 2 Terraces with 88m<sup>2</sup> combined</p> <p><b>Price: 115,000€</b></p>	<p><b>Apartment in Mojacar</b> • VIP7576</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>• Communal Pool</li> <li>• Childrens Play Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Price: 94,000€</b></p>	
<p><b>Apartment in Mojacar</b> • VIP7366</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 1 Bathroom</li> <li>• Walking Distance to beach</li> <li>• Communal Pool</li> </ul> <p><b>Price: 110,000€</b></p>	<p><b>Villa in Mojacar</b> • VIP7575</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>• Room for a Pool</li> <li>• Sea Views</li> </ul> <p><b>Price: 295,000€</b></p>	<p><b>Villa in Mojacar</b> • VIP7449</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 4 Bathrooms</li> <li>• Private Pool</li> </ul> <p>Over 400m<sup>2</sup> Build Size</p> <p><b>Price: 450,000€</b></p>	<p><b>Penthouse in Vera Playa</b> • VIP7579</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>• Communal Pool</li> </ul> <p>Al Andalus</p> <p><b>Price: 80,000€</b></p>

We are back from A Place in the Sun Live - Olympia London 2018 Thank you to all the staff and support at the show. It was excellent and a fantastic turnout.

Friday 2,001  
Saturday 3,600  
Sunday 2,900  
Total - 8,500 people

We have booked a lot of appointments and lots of lovely people are coming to visit the area for their first time. What we have learnt is the average coastal apartment budget is 150,000 GBP, Townhouse 200,000 GBP and Villa 400,000 GBP, there is a large demand for Inland Villas around Arboleas for 185,000 GBP. If you are considering selling, please contact VIP Almeria.

With a database of over 8,000 people who expressed an interest in purchasing a property in Almeria, we may already have that buyer for you. The property sales market is very active, and it is common place that all agents want a vendor's business. Many people feel comfortable knowing that we put ourselves in your shoes and will offer the benefits of what are advantages or disadvantages in a particular area. VIP Almeria are an Irish run company and 5 languages are spoken at our office as communication is important to us. When you become a VIP Almeria client, we work harder to produce targeted results and this is shown in our testimonials and referrals.

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## Make your holiday home work for you this summer

**Owning a holiday home in Spain gives you the scope to lounge like a local and soak up the sun whenever you like, but are you making the most of it during the rest of the year?**

Renting out your holiday home when you're not using it is a great way to cover your costs, accrue an additional income and ensure your property isn't shut up for long periods of time.

However, if you're using your bank to transfer the rental payments from Spain back to the UK you aren't maximising your potential earnings.

### Cut your currency costs

By moving the rental payments from your holiday home back to the UK using a bank you could be exposing yourself to poor exchange rates and transfer fees.

An easy way to make your money go further is by using a currency transfer provider who doesn't charge transfer fees, like Currencies Direct.

Currencies Direct will also help you secure an excellent exchange rate for your transfer so you get more for your money.

Even a seemingly small discrepancy in the exchange rate you use for your transfer

can have a big impact on how much you receive, particularly when you're making large or regular currency transfers.

For example, if you were charging €900 a month rent, it would be worth £738 at a EUR/GBP exchange rate of £0.82, but £783 at an exchange rate of £0.87.

That does not sound like much of a difference, but if you were renting out your property for 10 months of the year, you could be £450 better off just from getting a better exchange rate, with average additional savings of over £200 by avoiding transfer fees.

That's cash you could splash on making the most of your time in your Spanish retreat.

### How does it work?

If you're moving money to and from Spain, boosting your international transfers is simple.

With branches across Spain, an online service and an award-winning app, you can make currency transfers on your terms with Currencies Direct in four simple steps.

**Step 1.** Get in touch with a leading currency transfer provider and have a chat about your currency needs.

**Step 2.** Open a free account.

**Step 3.** Select the currency you want to buy and choose where you want to send it.

**Step 4.** Send your funds to your currency transfer provider – and they'll do the rest!

If you haven't actually purchased your Spanish holiday home yet and have a few million euros to spare, make sure you check out our next feature in Euro Weekly News, where we'll be exploring a stunning local property.

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

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Beautiful villa with solar heated pool & jacuzzi, set in an elevated position with fabulous valley views.

**Arboleas area** €95.000

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**Albox area** €186.000

**APF 2259 - Villa Siam**  
3 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms  
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**Arboleas area** €169.000

**APF 3458 - Villa Alegre (off plan)**  
4 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms  
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**Taberno area** €145.000

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# 'Extraordinary' Spanish homes

Four were showcased by the BBC

**F**OUR strange Spanish homes have made it onto the BBC's The World's Most Extraordinary Homes programme.

The first property is the almost invisible 'Rural House' belonging to Michelin star chef Fina Puigdevall.

She wanted a refuge from her hectic working life so she took 11 specially made steel boxes and buried them under a man-made ridge.

And if concealing it was not enough to evade peeping Toms, she put it metres from a farmer's manure pit.

The boxes are joined by a steel corridor with the master suite at one end and three other bedrooms at the other.

BBC presenter Caroline Quinn said: "It's aesthetically pleasing, but I imagine it can be a challenge to live with."

But the design was more popular with the Pritzker Architect Prize judges who awarded the property's designer Rafael Aranda its prestigious gong.

The famous chef who cooks in the nearby city of Otlot said: "I think it's a great idea that you enter the house below ground level. You never see cars, just nature," Puigdevall said.

"The smell is very important to me and the sound of the birds and when cows arrive in the morning you can hear them pulling up the grass in the field," she added.

The second building is a balancing act called Hemeroscopium House on the outskirts of Madrid.

It is made of seven giant concrete and steel beams plonked on top of each other in an upward spiral. Inside one of the hollowed-out beams is a swimming pool.

The only thing stopping it from tumbling down is a 20-tonne granite counterweight.

"It reminds me a little of Stonehenge," presenter Quinn said.

Three sisters are close - but not too close - in the third creation on a plot in



**TRANQUIL:** Chef Fina Puigdevall's underground 'Rural House.'



**BALANCING ACT:** The Hemeroscopium House.



**THREE'S A CROWD:** The 'House for Three Sisters' mini village.

southern Spain. The 'mini-village' is made up of three identical and separate houses linked by a shared courtyard where the families often dine together.

Maria, Rene and Manuka realised their dream of living together as one big family when they inherited their father's land in the town of Bullas.

The final residence is a ring-shaped dwelling nestled in a forest and looks like a spy headquarters. Nature is always at hand thanks to sliding glass doors which



**BLING RING:** Solo House 2.

quickly join living spaces with outdoors.

Solo House 2 is located in Matarranam, an area of north west Spain almost untouched by holidaymakers.

An arts project gave full creative control to the building's architects, who were set on the circular shape.

The home is on a hilltop plateau which gives owners of the 45-metre diameter ring full panoramic views. Its owner, Christian Bordaís, wanted to ignore ideas of how people are supposed to live.

BRITS are no longer scared by the Brexit effect as they buy more houses in Spain for the first time since the referendum.

British demand for Spanish property took a nose dive after compatriots voted for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union (EU) in

# Brits' boom time

## Buyers return as fears subside

2016.

House sales plummeted 23.6 per cent in the

second half of 2016 and another 16.1 per cent in the first semester of 2017.

Potential buyers were scared of a devaluing pound and political insecurity.

The British have been Spain's number one foreign real estate client for many years. And now the notary ministry's latest statistics show Brits are once again eyeing up the Spanish market. Trading with them grew 7.8 per cent in the second half of 2017.

But the green shoots do not mean Brexit has not left its mark on the market. The British bought almost a quarter of all Spanish properties sold to foreigners in 2015.

The figure is now just 14.3 per cent.



**NO BREXIT BOO HOO:** Housing demand has picked up.

The United Kingdom still leads the foreign pack, trailed by the French, Germans and Romanians with 8.4, 8.1 and 6.8 per cent of the foreign buyers' market respectively.

There was a spike in Ecuadorians and Portuguese buying up in Spain. They bought 250

per cent and 131.4 per cent more in 2016 than the year before.

Cataluña's illegal independence vote on October 1 also hurt foreign demand.

Transactions grew just 2.5 per cent during the second half of 2017 - at the heart of the crisis - but they grew 19.8 per cent in

the first half of the year.

The Cataluña crisis was not enough to stop foreign purchase growth at a national level, which hit 14.1 per cent year-on-year.

EU buyers bought two-thirds of the 49,553 dwellings sold in 2017, and the remainder went to non-EU residents.

Foreigners are also upping their budget and paying more per square metre than previously. They paid 5.7 per cent more on average compared to 2016.

And non-EU buyers are paying over €500 more than their EU counterparts for the same sized plots.

The trend started in 2014 when the 'Golden Visa' was introduced.

It grants residency to non-EU expatriates paying more than €500,000 per property.

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4 bed 2 bath  
10x5 pool, lovely views  
villa Arboleas

147,500€ | cla 7132



EXCLUSIVE TO CALIDA HOMES

3 bed 2 bath  
pool, roof solarium, views  
villa La Alfoquia

189,000€ | cla 7128



EXCLUSIVE TO CALIDA HOMES

3 bed 2 bath pool, outdoor  
kitchen, easy walk to village  
villa Arboleas

190,000€ | cla 7140



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stunning views

2018 has been a resounding success so far in terms of property sales with property prices starting to increase. Property in this area is still in popular demand with buyers from abroad and especially from the UK. Surprisingly Brexit is having little affect on Brits wanting to buy here. Due to record sales we are badly in need of new listings.

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villa Los Llanos

219,950€ | cla 7112



EXCLUSIVE TO CALIDA HOMES

3 bed 2 bath, pool,  
sep dining room, modern  
villa Arboleas

169,950€ | cla 7120



3 bed 2 bath villa  
swimming pool, easy walk to  
bars and restaurants

185,000€ | cla 7064



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3 bed 2 bath  
villa Los Carrascos

194,500€ | cla 6780



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3 bed 2 bath  
villa Los Torres

165,000€ | cla 7000



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199,000€ | cla 7133



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# Market days are dangerous times to visit

## Ric Polansky

*Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.*

BACK in 1970 you had your week's fun in Vera at the Saturday market. That adventure got you out of your daily routine and you could encounter new people and mingle with old friends. A total change of scenery.

Of course, the only reason you were at the market was for the shopping for the coming week, anything else sold there you didn't need or it didn't need you. Really beautiful shirts caught my eye, well worth one wearing.

Wash them once and the buttons came off and the size reduced so drastically you could never wear it again but your

children could. The quality of goods was a disappointment unless you were buying fruit.

One could stroll about the souk without a care and in any direction. But, the markets too have evolved. Now you pace in any direction at your own risk. A new invention has become week-end popular, the wheeled shopping cart. Just out of normal vision, unless you were a three-year-old. Nevertheless, not spotted you would take a tumble.

In modern colloquiums the deadly new danger is commonly referred to as the 'potato Porche.' These lethal contraptions come in various colours and sizes. They can be pushed ahead of the shopper thereby clearing a walking space in the crowds or stealthily pulled be-



hind one allowing any passer-by who is in a hurry and cutting behind the operator to take a spectacular fall embracing others on the way down.

Fabulous pandemonium created weekly so your shopping adventure can be as dangerous as humanly possible. Other than treading lightly and very cautiously and never being in a hurry, you might make it.

The market is a perilous place and best considered as a march through a snake infested jungle. Keep looking down for your own safety. The culprits pulling the carts fear nothing, least of all foreigners dressed funny wearing shorts. This modern market is to be in-

**POTATO PORCHE:** These trolleys caused fabulous pandemonium at the market.

spected and viewed as if passing through the Prado or Louvre. Proceed in absolute awe. Swivel your head about frequently so as to ascertain dangerous situations that might be creeping up on you and never be in a hurry.

In the good old days besides your purchase you were gifted large plastic bags for your buying comfort. These we all treasured and kept by the hundreds for further use but never did as we were always given more plastic wherever one ventured.

These shopping trolleys have conquered supermarkets too and sometimes can be seen parked in long lines chatting with each other and righteously bragging about how many they've tripped that day. One just doesn't go shopping without them. They are as important as taking money but far more dangerous for the taller casual and unsuspecting visitor.

## Cassandra Nash

*A weekly look*

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

WHY shouldn't Pablo Iglesias buy a rather nice €600,000 house in a rather nice area like Galapagar? Are he and his partner Irene Montero expected to live in a slum because Podemos sets out to represent the marginalised?

As it happens they are: Podemos politicians are supposed to live in conditions and neighbourhoods that resemble those of their voters and donate 40 per cent of their pay to the party.



**SOCIAL CLIMBER:** Pablo Iglesias is living among the well-heeled of society.

# How the other half lives

Iglesias and Montero comply with this obligation, but the Podemos supremo earns another €40,000 a year from television shows and royalties which immediately sets him apart from most of us.

Pablo Iglesias, like Iñigo Errejón, comes from a very comfortable background, so the Galapagar villa is the sort of home you'd expect him to buy, or you would if he hadn't condemned Hacienda minister Luis de Guindos for spending

€600,000 - there's a coincidence - on a penthouse flat.

Or if he hadn't once told an interviewer that he couldn't understand people who live in villas.

Still, the Communist nomenclature lived infinitely better than most of the USSR. Nicolas Maduro doesn't suffer the same privations as most Venezuelans and Jong Kim-Un doesn't live in the same misery as most North Koreans.

Podemos might have been created for voters fed up with the political caste system but it didn't take long for its leaders to join it.

## Let's party

RICARDO GONZALEZ is a Pamplona High Court judge who was a member of the tribunal which decreed that the gang rape of an 18-year-old girl by five men known as the Manada (Herd) was sexual abuse, not aggression.

In fact Gonzalez was all for acquitting them, and lamented that he feels 'persecuted' by the public for his carefully-considered and conscien-

tiously-deliberated opinion.

Gonzalez, it should be remembered, saw footage of the rape on the Manada's phones and pronounced that as far as he could see they were just having a good time and loads of fun. All of which raises the question of what sort of parties he goes to and what he regards as fun.

## Another one down

EDUARDO ZAPLANA was arrested for money laundering and bribery and held in custody while his home was searched.

Mayor of Benidorm between 1991 and 1994, he was the president of the Valencian Community president until 2002 when Jose Maria Aznar made him Minister of Labour. After Mariano Rajoy lost the 2004 general election he was the Partido Popular's parliamentary spokesman before walking through the revolving door into a Telefonía sinecure in 2008.

Zaplana supposedly salted away commissions on irregularly-awarded Valencian Community contracts, so it's the same old story of another big

## 'So there!' moment

MARIANO RAJOY is usually averse to taking action, but he does like to make a gesture, as he did by ignoring the inauguration of Quim Torra as Cataluña's president.

Admittedly Torra overplayed his hand by asking Madrid to send a low-profile representative instead of the vice-president Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, so a miffed Rajoy sent no-one at all.

Everyone knows that Torra is exiled Carles Puigdemont's frontman and he's going to ignore the law and the rules, but he was democratically chosen by parliament. It might have been a satisfying 'so there!' moment for Rajoy to ignore the inauguration, but it was a petulant reaction that did the Constitution no favours.

name sucked down into the quicksands of corruption. Surprise surprise? No: the only surprise is that the story took so long to emerge.

**TECH FOR  
THE TIMID**

# Swipe left or right for love

Terence Kennedy deciphers the online dating world for those who dare

A LARGE and hairy friend recently tried his luck with an online dating site. The first time they actually met he discovered that his soulmate lady-friend was an equally large and hairy man.

In a world where online dating now generates an astonishing €3 billion, 20 per cent of people admit they found their life partners online. As perhaps did another 20 per cent, but they're too embarrassed to say so.

Online dating has revolutionised the age-old process of finding a mate. At least in the 40 per cent of the world which doesn't believe in arranged marriages and yes, that statistic surprised me too. But as an Indian marriage broker I once interviewed explained so succinctly: 'Westerners fall in love then marry. We marry and love follows.'

There's a whole raft of jargon which means nothing to those of us whose dating dates back to a bygone era of dance-hall fumbles or simple serendipity.

**FINDING LOVE: 'There's an app for that'.**

'Swiping left or right,' for instance, will strike a chord with pretty much everyone below 40: it's the hallowed process of initially accepting or rejecting a potential mate in hugely-popular dating apps like Tinder, Grindr or Bumble. Tinder is the world's biggest dating app boasting 20 billion matches,

Grindr is geared largely towards gay and bisexual men, and Bumble is female-focused, 'where women make the first move.' So there.

Dating agencies have actually thrived in the West since the 1960s, but with more singles in the world now than ever before, it took the evolution of social media to

rocket it ever upwards.

It's not without its pitfalls, and not just the risk of falling for another large and hairy man. Apparently 53 per cent of users lie in their online dating profiles, more men are searching than women, and the desirability of female candidates peaks at the age of 26 where men peak at 48.

A fifth of women surveyed on one site confessed to using (much!) younger photos of themselves, and two-fifths of men admitted to lying about their jobs.

And yes, let's not beat about the bush, so to speak: lots of folks use online dating sites to find casual sex. A third of those women surveyed actually did the deed on their first online dating encounter.

I particularly relish what happened to one of the earliest online dating founders, a couple who laboured together long and hard to set up their site and then staged a trial run of the new system. It matched her with someone else, and she left him.

## Love actually

NEARLY one-fifth of older internet users surveyed (60+) said they have looked for love online. Love. Lust doesn't count.

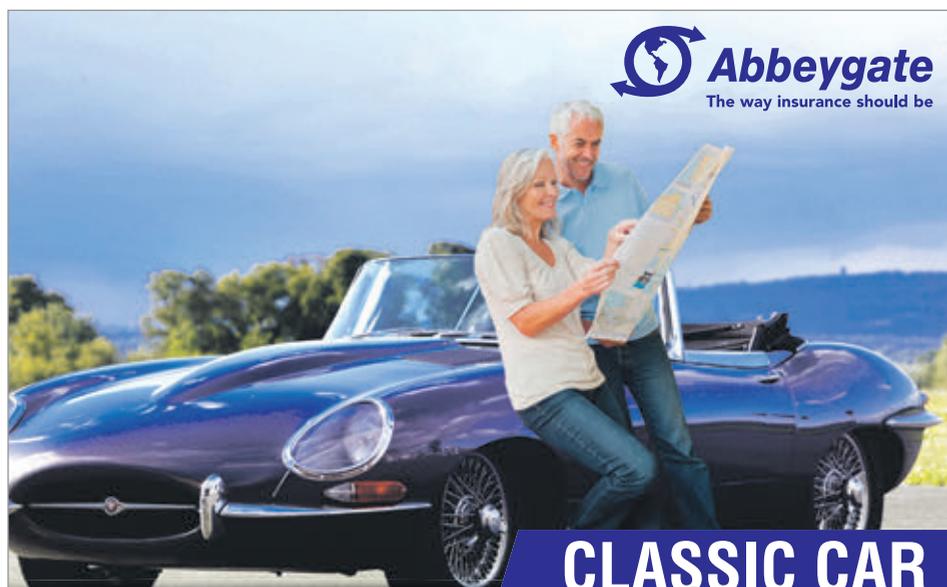
There are some do's and don'ts for those who haven't yet dabbled online. To list a few:

Be precise. Use good grammar. Don't boast. Keep the fibs to a minimum. Use a recent photo. Only give a mobile number. Tell someone where you are on first dates, and for heaven's sake stay off your phone during the actual encounter to avoid the impression that you're looking for someone better.

Be very, very aware of those euphemisms lurking in even the most attractive profiles.

'Forty-ish' probably means 49, 'fun' means annoying, 'outgoing' could well be loud and embarrassing, and 'emotionally secure' means medication is involved.

You have been warned.



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# Joke in a lift that doesn't go down well

**Nora Johnson**  
*Breaking Views*



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

HEARD about the sexism complaint recently filed at an academic conference in San Francisco? The one by Simona Sharoni, an American professor of women's and gender studies, against Richard Ned Lebow, a British professor of international political theory who, when asked which floor he wanted in a lift, replied: 'ladies' lingerie.'

There are at least two issues here. First off, the daft victim status those like Professor Sharoni adopt. Secondly, the potential she has to cause Professor Lebow to face an investigation, possibly a tribunal and/or lose his job. The first is amusing material for satire. The second is serious and really quite alarming.

I'd be really keen to know which part of 'ladies' lingerie' gave such pain and concern to super-snowflake Prof Sharoni? Was it 'lingerie'? Is this an offensive word because it implies (maybe) flimsy, frilly sort of stuff? And because the Prof appeared to think this sort of thing was, generally speaking, for ladies? Or was the offensive word 'ladies'? There are now zillions of genders, and I'm not sure that 'lady' is even one of them.

Whatever next! These silly women are throwing away the gains made over generations. No-one, man or woman, has a right not to be offended. And if you are offended by poor jokes, you have too little of real worth going on in your life. This culture in which everyone has to be a victim of something or someone is, psycho-



**WRONG FLOOR:** Just the mention of ladies lingerie causes upset to Simona Sharon (inset).

logically speaking, very unhealthy. Those who genuinely have been victimised need support to survive and work through it, not useless pity. Most are victims of nothing more than the fact that to live in society requires compromises with others.

Will there ever be an end to absurdities like this? Is this the future when we're all getting into driverless cars and asking robots to make us a cuppa? For any Just William fans amongst you out there, sometimes I just want to go the full Violet Elizabeth Bott, and queam and queam until I'm thick...

Anyway, please, Professor Lebow - don't apologise. Men's knitwear, anyone?

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

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

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

### Must they pay for new drains?

**Q.** Some of the residents on our urbanisation have received a demand for between €2,000 and €5,000 from the property developer. See the attached letter, which says the town hall has ordered the installation of two new pumping stations and a wastewater drain. Further, we will then have to apply to connect to this new system. We had no knowledge of this work being carried out; the first we knew about it was when we received the demand. Can you advise us of our legal position on this matter?

W M (Costa Blanca)

**A.** First, talk to your Community President for clarification. When the town

**David Searl**

*You and the Law in Spain*



hall provides services, they can legally require that necessary installations be made. No Community vote is required. The question is whether the original developer must pay for these because he did not provide them in the first place, or whether the property owners themselves must pay. You probably need a lawyer to defend your interests in this matter because it apparently does not affect your entire Community.

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

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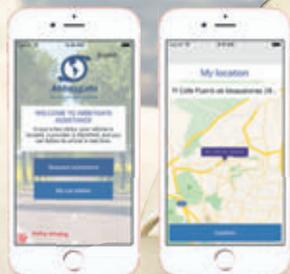
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## Good luck with it all!

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



WHEN Twitter recently asked me to update my terms of service, I did what any responsible grumpy old git would do - I accepted the new terms without reading them so I could get back to the next hand of poker. But when Facebook, Ryanair, Uber, PayPal, Linea Directa and basically every company I had an app for, or that I did stuff with, all started notifying me, with similar urgent language, I began to grow suspicious. And I wasn't alone.

My Mrs expressed her annoyance, and I am sure I am not the only one that wants to know: WHY? While a call for better data protection, in the light of Cambridge Analytica, is a good, albeit naïve guess (did you really think any sites would fix their shady practices THAT quickly?), the answer traces back to a decision made two years ago by the European Union.

In April 2016, after four years of debate, the European Parliament voted to approve a law called 'General Data Protection Regulation.' The law went into effect on May 25, 2018, hence why you've been flooded with notifications. Organisations that are non-compliant risk fines of up to 4 per cent of their annual

global turnover, or up to €20 million.

All of the reforms going into effect are designed to help us punters gain a greater level of control over our data, while offering more transparency through data collection. Here in layman's terms are a few that caught my eye:

1. Obtaining consent - the terms of consent must be clear. This means they can't stuff your terms and conditions with complex language designed to confuse their users. Consent must be easily given and freely withdrawn at any time.

2. Timely Breach Notification - if a security breach occurs, they have 72 hours to report the data breach to both their customers and any data controllers if their company is large enough to require a GDPR data controller. Failure to report breaches within this timeframe will lead to fines.

3. Right to be Forgotten - also known as the right to data deletion, once the original purpose or use of their customer's data has been realised, their customers have the right to request that they totally erase their personal data.

OK, so by now you have got bored with reading all this stuff as I have and will just sign it all anyway. Oh and by the way, included in all this you will be giving all your email suppliers - AOL, Yahoo, Gmail etc permission to read all your emails! Good luck with it all!

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
<b>31 MAY</b>	4:45pm Garden Rescue 5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Britain's Best Home Cook 10:00pm Ambulance 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News	5:30pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 6:15pm Antiques Road Trip 7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life 9:00pm Springwatch 10:00pm Million Pound Menu 11:00pm The League of Gentlemen	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Britain's Got Talent Live Show 10:00pm Coronation Street 10:30pm Britain's Got Talent 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it 10:00pm Humans 11:00pm First Dates	6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm All New Traffic Cops 9:00pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords 10:00pm Pompeii's Final Hours: New Evidence 11:00pm The World's Toughest Prison	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Live European Tour Golf 6:00pm Cricket 10:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:30am Live Women's Us Open Golf 2:00am Sky Sports News 3:00am Sky Sports News 4:00am Sky Sports News
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm The Button 10:00pm Have I Got News for You 10:30pm Tracey Breaks the News 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm The Button 10:00pm Have I Got News for You 10:30pm Tracey Breaks the News 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News	2:30pm ITV Racing Live 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Britain's Got Talent Live Show 10:00pm Coronation Street 10:30pm Britain's Got Talent 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm How to Get Fit Fast 10:00pm Gogglebox 11:00pm Friday Night Dinner 11:30pm High and Dry	6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan 9:00pm Terror in the Air: Flights Out of Control 10:00pm Pompeii's Final Hours: New Evidence 11:00pm Pompeii 12:00am 5 News	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Cricket 8:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:30am Live Us Women's Open Golf
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:20pm Celebrity Mastermind 6:50pm BBC News 7:00pm Regional News 7:03pm Weather 7:05pm Shrek 2 8:30pm Pointless 9:20pm Casualty 10:10pm All Round to Mrs Brown's 11:10pm BBC News 11:25pm Weather 11:30pm Meet the Fockers	3:30pm Second Chance Summer: Tuscany 4:30pm Love in the Countryside 5:30pm Flog It! 6:20pm Grammar Schools 7:20pm The Forest 7:50pm Dad's Army 8:20pm Ladies in Lavender 10:00pm Nothing Like a Dame 11:30pm All Girls Live at the Apollo	12:20pm Who's Doing the Dishes? 1:20pm ITV Lunchtime News 1:30pm Little Big Shots 2:30pm ITV Racing Live 6:00pm International Football: England v Nigeria Live 8:30pm Info not available 11:15pm International Football Highlights: England v Nigeria	3:55pm Four in a Bed 4:25pm A Place in the Sun 5:30pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it 6:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Iron Man 2 10:20pm Rugby Union 1:15am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	7:05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 7:55pm 5 News 8:00pm Cricket on 5 9:00pm Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family 10:00pm Elizabeth I: Death of a Dynasty 11:00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House 1:15am Super Casino	7:00am Rugby Archive 7:10am Rugby Union 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Cricket 10:30am Cricket 11:00am Cricket 8:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:00am Live Women's Us Open Golf
<b>SUNDAY</b>	5:00pm Points of View 5:15pm Songs of Praise 5:50pm Britain's Best Home Cook 6:50pm Pointless 7:35pm BBC News 7:50pm Regional News 7:55pm Weather 8:00pm Countryfile Royal Special 9:00pm Antiques Roadshow 10:00pm A Very English Scandal 11:00pm BBC News	4:00pm Rugby League Challenge Cup 6:30pm Flog It! 7:00pm Dragons' Den 8:00pm Million Pound Menu 9:00pm Journey in the Danger Zone: Iraq 10:00pm Frankie Goes to Russia 11:00pm Atlanta 11:20pm Atlanta 11:45pm Live at the Apollo	4:00pm Tenable 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase 7:00pm ITV Evening News 7:15pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm Info not available 11:00pm ITV News 11:20pm Info not available 1:10am Great Art	6:00pm Johnny English 7:35pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Escape to the Chateau 9:00pm Bake Off: The Professionals 10:00pm The Handmaid's Tale 11:15pm 8 Out of 10 Cats 12:15am Does Countdown Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 1:10am The Other Boleyn Girl	4:20pm Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 5:20pm Most Shocking Talent Show Moments 8:00pm Cricket on 5 8:55pm 5 News 9:00pm The Unstoppable Flying Scotsman 10:00pm The Flying Scotsman 11:00pm Top of the Box 95: The Best of Bad TV 12:55am	6:00am Sky Sports News 7:00am Sky Sports News 8:00am Rugby Union 9:50am Rugby Archive 10:00am Cricket 11:00am Cricket 8:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf Final Round 12:00am Live Women's Us Open Golf
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Panorama 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Have I Got a Bit More News for You	5:30pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 6:15pm Antiques Road Trip 7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Great American 9:00pm Railroad Journeys 9:00pm Springwatch 10:00pm Versailles 11:00pm QI	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Give it a Year 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Info not available 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food 9:30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody 11:00pm Gogglebox	3:20pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens 4:20pm Killer in Paradise 6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Cricket on 5 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm The Space Shuttle: Triumph and Tragedy	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Cricket 11:30am Cricket 8:30pm Info not available 9:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Info not available 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News
<b>TUESDAY</b>	4:45pm Garden Rescue 5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Our Girl 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Great American 9:00pm Railroad Journeys 10:00pm Springwatch 11:00pm Grammar Schools 11:30pm Later Live... with Jools Holland 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	3:00pm Judge Rinder 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 9:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Info not available 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Ackley Bridge 10:00pm Bride and Prejudice: The Bollywood Musical 11:00pm Hello Stranger	4:15pm Escaping Evil: Saving My Children 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan 9:00pm The Yorkshire Vet 10:00pm The Hotel Inspector 11:00pm Hot Body Hot Yoga	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Cricket 11:30am Cricket 7:30pm Cricket 8:00pm Info not available 9:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Info not available 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	4:00pm Flog It! 4:45pm Garden Rescue 5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 9:00pm The Truth About Carbs 10:00pm Who Do You Think You Are? 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip 7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Great American 9:00pm Railroad Journeys 10:00pm Springwatch 11:00pm Love in the Countryside 11:00pm Detectorists 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm To be Announced 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Great Rail 10:00pm 24 Hours in a and e 11:00pm Carry on Brussels 12:05am Gogglebox	3:15pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens 4:15pm Ring of Deception 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Moto GP Highlights 9:00pm Shop Smart, Save Money 10:00pm Rich House, Poor House 11:00pm The Reality TV Story 2:00am Super Casino	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:40am Live Anz Premiership Netball 11:30am Sky Sports News 12:00pm Rugby League 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Live RL One Day Cup 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Sky Sports News

# Turn out your attics! Scour your cupboards!

**Nick Horne** *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England

ON the rare occasions when a 'yangcai' porcelain comes to auction they are the subject of fierce competition.

A Famille-Rose porcelain bowl was sold at Sotheby's for €24.7 million in April of this year in Hong Kong. These so called 'yangcai' porcelain commissions were the very best that the Chinese Imperial kilns at Jingdezhen could produce. They were made as one of a kind items, sometimes in pairs, however never in large quantities.

The technique combined a new colour palette with western styled compositions. As well as their superior quality, 'yangcai' enamels were intended to create the most opulent and luxurious effects possible.

And a magnificent vase, rediscovered by chance in the attic of a French family home, was brought to Sotheby's Paris by its unsuspecting owners



**WORTH A POURTUNE:** The rare vase is expected to fetch at least half a million Euros.

in a shoe box. Sotheby's specialist Olivier Valmier opened the shoe box and was struck by its quality, research revealed the vase to be a unique example produced by the finest craftsmen of the time of the Qianlong Emperor. The vase is of exceptional rarity.

Imperial inventories of the 18th century mention

pairs of vases of this design only twice. One commissioned in 1765, the other in 1769.

The exquisite vase has a body encircled by a landscape with deer, cranes and pine trees, all symbols of health and longevity. A genuine painting on porcelain showing nine fallow deer and five cranes in a rocky landscape with a waterfall surrounded by pines and mist covered peaks.

Only one other similar vase with a slightly different subject matter and now in the Guimet museum in Paris is known.

This magnificent vase will be offered at

an auction on June 12, 2018 at Sotheby's Paris with an estimate currently of €500,000-€700,000.

Presenting the vase to the press last week, the chairman of Sotheby's Asian Art Europe and Americas Henry Howard-Sneyd pleaded, "Chinese art has been admired and collected across Europe for centuries, but the importance of certain pieces is occasionally lost over time. Given the huge appetite for Chinese art among today's collectors, now is the time to scour your homes and attics and to come to us with anything you might find!!"

# Shall we Split from being told how to think?



**TV COUCH CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

DID you catch the final episode of BBC1's drama *The Split* on Tuesday night? To summarise, Nicola Walker played Hannah Stern, a London-based divorce lawyer wanting to break the money hungry image of her contemporaries and practise with decency and honesty... haven't we been here before?

If you remember the cliché breakfast, power jacket and too high heels of episode one, you are probably a bigger fan than most, but there were some brilliantly written pieces too, Stephen Tompkinson and Meera Syal splitting for example.

Writer Abi Morgan did try and cover some challenging topics, the football ace and the glamour model who argued over a pre-nup, but for me the 'this is mid-week TV' language got in the way. I apologise in advance for what comes next, but



Photo credit: BBC/Channel 4

**CONTROVERSIAL:** *The Battle for Britain's Heroes*.

would anyone actually describe a pre-nup as something written by the head for when the heart has forgotten that it once loved - you are a glamour model love, ditch the bloke in shorts, shove the pre-nup down his socks and go find a guy who wants to be with you for better or worse.

The series ended with a run of events most of us could see coming a mile away and a wedding. Not sure about a second series, maybe move it to Sunday and stop playing it safe?

Maybe Hannah could hook up with the footballer and show him ex-

actly where that pre-nup should be shoved or maybe we should just accept that Tuesday, Wednesday and half of Thursday's TV is safe, lovely and wrapped up in a nice cup of tea and an iced bun?

Sticking with Tuesday's TV, if you want to make your blood boil search

out Channel 4's *The Battle for Britain's Heroes*, which aired on Tuesday this week. Afua Hirsch is our guide for this troll back through Britain's history to find fault. Afua is a writer and journalist. If you have heard of her (I hadn't) she recently had a spat with Piers Morgan about her own, personal views, about Winston Churchill. If there was ever a good way to publicise your own show Afua, a spat with

I'm swaying into Leapy territory here, but suggesting Churchill, Nelson and others should not be celebrated as British heroes probably crosses a line for most of us. You can see the show on Channel 4 Catch Up, but please have some rosehip tea somewhere close if you do.

Looking ahead, *ITV Racing Live* has coverage of The Derby from Epsom on Saturday afternoon. It's a classic.

I want to close with two look backs; firstly, Cornelia Frances died this week in Australia. Best known for her part in *Home & Away*, this Liver Bird also had parts in *Sons & Daughters*, *The Young Doctors* and was the host of the Aussie version of *The Weakest Link*. Thanks Cornelia.

Second, if you made it through the final *Peter Kay's Car Share* BBC1 Sunday, without crying, well done.

A little bit like *Benidorm* I can't quite believe the show has finished. Unlike *Benidorm*, *Car Share* can still command an audience in the millions, brilliant work Peter and Sian.

*Happy Viewing.*



**NOT SMITTEN:** *The Split*.

Piers will do just nicely.

Now, I'm risking people saying

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## MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' THERE GOES ANOTHER BRIT STAG PARTY! '

## YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



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

You are in a romantic mood but something is missing from the picture. It's not that you're feeling the need to have more than one string to your bow, it is more that you are tired of using the same old arrows. So, what is out there to fire your imagination? Something really new will not miss the mark with you.



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

Someone who has been unhelpful in the past suddenly steps forward. Could you have been wrong about them? Probably not. Keep a clear mind when with them. Saturn influences you to be more organised before a bout of indecision strikes.



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

This is a brilliant week for money and business. Mars is influencing you to be more up-front and practical in your approach. You may feel changes coming on that you would rather deny. Burying your head in the sand is not an option. Take the bull by the horns and you could be surprised at your success.



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

The influence of Venus and Jupiter brings you the influence and status that you deserve. It's not that you haven't worked towards it but now you start to see the benefits. There is an urge to improve your appearance and surroundings to fit in with the 'new you'.



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

You will see the lighter side of life this week when you discover that someone is holding a torch for you. You are flattered and vaguely interested. Your combination of intelligence and humour make you a delightful companion.



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

During the past few weeks you may have gained a different perspective on life. Your need for a close attachment and harmony in your life should not be underestimated or denied in the name of practicality.



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

There is much to be tackled this week, but you are wary of making full-on decisions. Taking things one step at a time is the best policy because it gives you space to consider the options. There is a restlessness about you that is hard to pinpoint. Perhaps you are feeling positive but have to hold fire because of others.



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

To be truly happy you need to build on your partnerships. Keep these in balance and everything else will fall into place. Life has taught you some rather harsh lessons recently. The upshot of that is you now feel more in control and more secure.



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

Energy levels go up and down and you seek to ration yours by not going all-out physically. It is still possible to be quite dynamic while planning. Indeed, your clear vision impresses a colleague. If you are due for promotion then some good news is likely. Blow your own trumpet rather than wait for others to do it for you.



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

There is an all-consuming need to see some reward for all your efforts. There will be those who will tell you that you need to push harder for success. Perhaps you need to be with more like-minded people. Certainly being with the wrong colleagues can bring your spirits down.



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

The changes affecting you for the past few weeks continue but you are now getting better at managing their direction. Someone wanting you to take a logical action should not be allowed to push you forward. When to act will be clear to you.



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

When needed you are sure to be positive this week. On a project, 'striking while the iron is hot' springs to mind. There is much fun to hand but it must be 'work first' at the moment. Some opportunities do not come twice and you need to be aware of them when they present themselves. Spend some quality time with your loved ones.

## Trivia from around the world

\*\*\* The Sea Organ in Zadar in Croatia is an experimental musical instrument played by waves going into tubes underneath it.

\*\*\* Tibet is known as the Earth's Third Pole, holding the largest amount of frozen fresh water reserves after the Arctic and Antarctic.

\*\*\* The Kaieteur Falls in Guyana is the world's largest single drop waterfall. It is 251 metres long and has an average water flow of 663 cubic metres a second.

\*\*\* The Dogon people in Mali have more than 75 different ritual dancing masks, with performances an important feature of ceremonies and celebrations.

\*\*\* Bahrain is connected to the Middle Eastern mainland by a 25-kilometre-long road bridge called the King Fahd Causeway.

\*\*\* Tourists visiting some villages in Fiji have to present a gift of kava to the local chief for the Sevu welcoming ceremony.



**NOVEL TAKE:** There is around 100 million bits of information in human DNA.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The late physicist Stephen Hawking calculated the amount of information in a human being's DNA is equivalent to around 50 novels. Professor Hawking also pointed out the rate of biological evolution in the human body is equivalent to about one bit of information a year whereas around 100 billion bits is created in books published per year.

### Women's wit

Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in."

*Sally Ride, astronaut*

### Famous quote

The world is not imperfect or slowly evolving along a path to perfection. No, it is perfect at every moment; every sin already carries grace in it."

*Herman Hesse, writer*

### World of English

Hunt-and-peck - Using one or two fingers to type on a keyboard.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
		Tuesday May 22	Friday May 25	Thursday May 24	Saturday May 26	
Saturday May 26	Saturday May 26	Tuesday May 22	Friday May 25	Thursday May 24	Saturday May 26	Sunday May 27
(9) (14) (19) (29) (39) (40)	(6) (15) (22) (30) (39) (45)	(1) (11) (37) (41) (48)	(13) (15) (16) (28) (41)	(1) (28) (31) (34) (35) (40)	(13) (26) (30) (35) (36) (39)	(3) (19) (20) (28) (30)
<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>
(3)	(16)	(8) (12)	(4) (5)	(46) (4)	(11) (0)	(3)
		EL MILLON: CXN55745		JOKER: 5 391 668	JOKER: 7 901 730	

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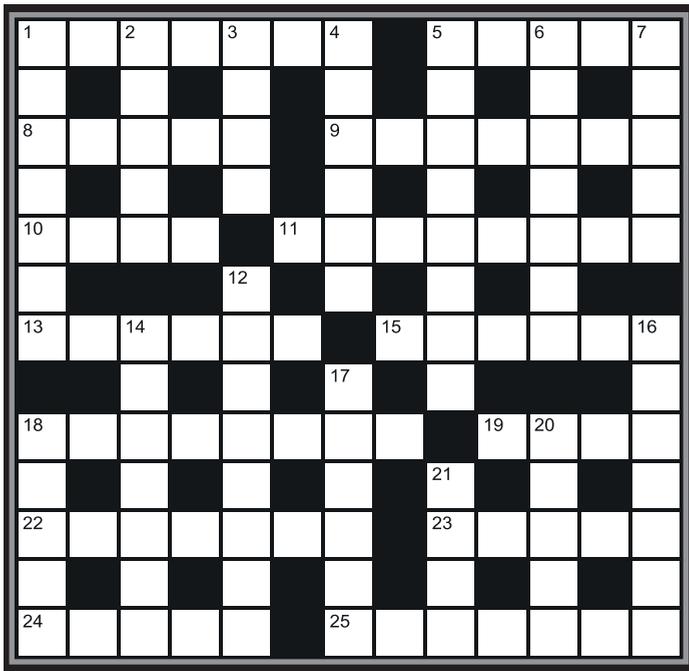
**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 More than one knave travels another way (7)
- 5 Brew some magic up pal (5)
- 8 Took a picture that included an animal (5)
- 9 A bird has swallowed her cigar (7)
- 10 The Spanish girl grows trees (4)
- 11 Unequalled lord? Not so much (8)
- 13 Discover star, zany jungle character (6)
- 15 Magnificent bird leaves US sporting occasion (6)
- 18 Players on holiday get shipwrecked (8)
- 19 Stir up dust in horse farm (4)
- 22 Regan gets a couple of rings about Herb (7)
- 23 Stand up for a wage increase (5)
- 24 Saltpetre is awfully inert (5)
- 25 Dicky sent son some poems (7)

**Down**

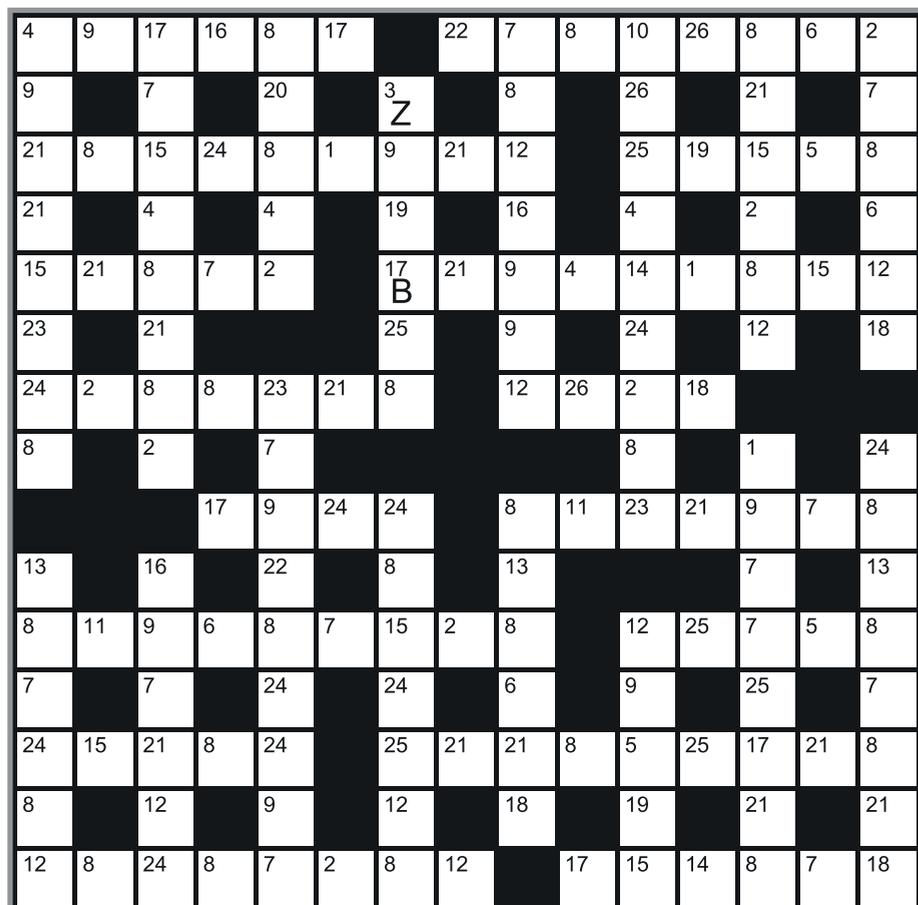
- 1 Extremely forceful, possibly not evil (7)
- 2 Kingdom in actual miles (5)
- 3 Correct some submitted items (4)
- 4 Football clubs' score is wrong (6)
- 5 Get rid of listening equipment concealed in sock (5,3)
- 6 Peer got alternative charge (7)
- 7 Singers in a special Tosca



- production (5)
- 12 Shell motor at full speed (8)
- 14 Admire characters in wire spectacles (7)
- 16 Persistently annoys burrowing creatures (7)
- 17 Celebrated fine morning round American (6)
- 18 Bird with new or old coin (5)
- 20 Commonplace tea ceremony (5)
- 21 Give notice of conflict over new leader (4)

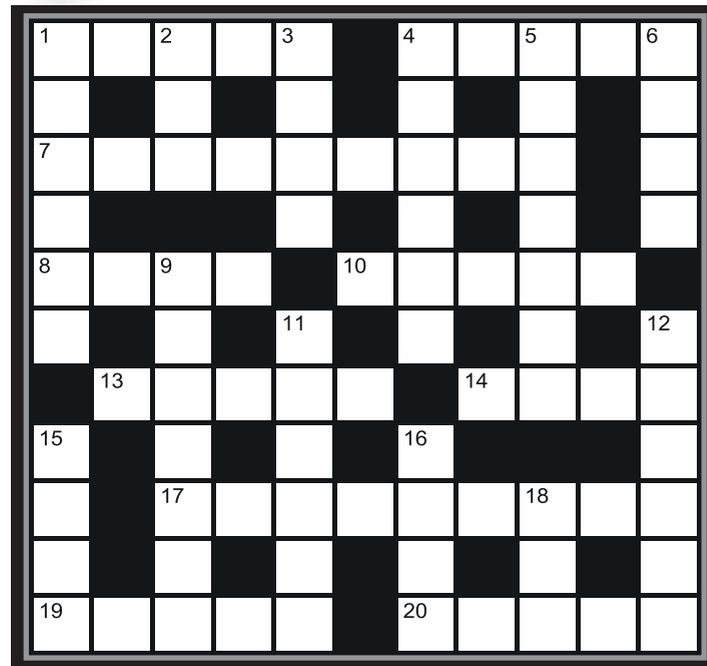
**Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents Z and 17 represents B, so fill in Z every time the figure 3 appears and B every time the figure 17 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 Teetotal (5)
- 4 Reject with contempt (5)
- 7 Stately (9)
- 8 Design on metal, glass, etc by eating out the lines with an acid (4)
- 10 Uninterested because of frequent exposure or indulgence (5)
- 13 Enthusiastic (5)
- 14 Capital of Norway (4)
- 17 Exactly alike (9)
- 19 Sugary (5)
- 20 Small and of little importance (5)

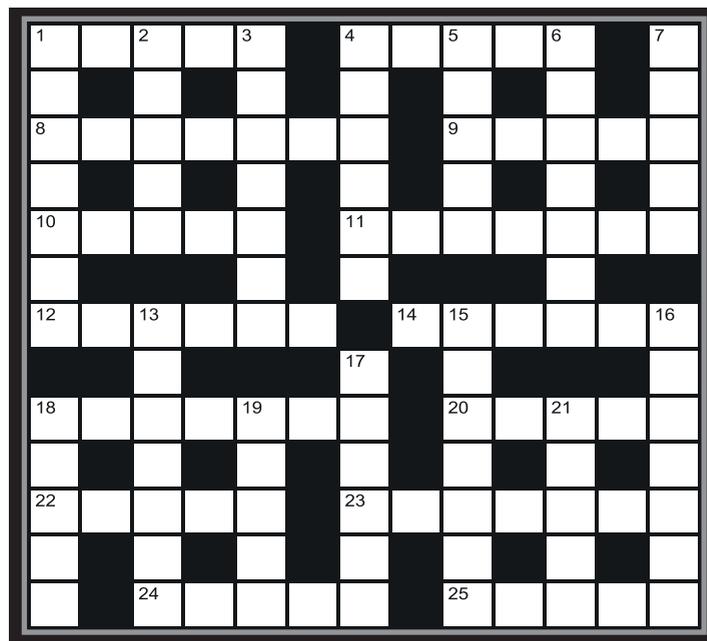
**Down**

- 1 Wet through and through (6)

- 2/18 Lion or tiger for example (3,3)
- 3 Irrecoverable state of devastation and destruction (4)
- 4 Any member of a ship's crew (6)
- 5 Disrobe (7)
- 6 To or at no great distance (4)
- 9 Wine cup used in the Christian Eucharist (7)
- 11 Win a victory over (6)
- 12 Rapid simultaneous discharge of firearms (6)
- 15 Utter obscenities or profanities (4)
- 16 Bring to a standstill (4)
- 18 See 2

**English - Spanish**

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



**Across**

- 1 Cuerdas (gruesas) (5)
- 4 Cap (hat) (5)
- 8 Advantage (7)
- 9 Afilado (5)
- 10 Fright (sudden fear) (5)
- 11 Alguien (7)
- 12 Detener (6)
- 14 Penknife (6)
- 18 Kiosk (7)
- 20 Ascenso (5)
- 22 Choose (5)
- 23 Platicos (para tazas) (7)
- 24 Jungle (5)
- 25 Support (backing) (5)

**Down**

- 1 Magazine (journal) (7)
- 2 Pineapples (5)
- 3 Estaciones (partes del año) (7)
- 4 To record (6)
- 5 Oxidado (5)
- 6 Poppy (7)
- 7 Pañal (5)
- 13 Pasas (8)
- 15 Width (7)
- 16 Bush (shrub) (7)
- 17 Poetry (6)
- 18 Reina (5)
- 19 Robar (5)
- 21 Unharmd (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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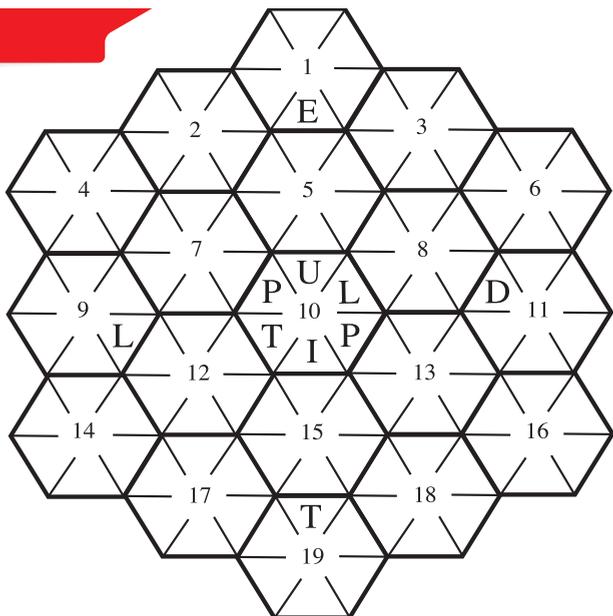
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## Hexagram

- ATTEND
- BROODY
- DOLLOP
- HOLLER
- HYPHEN
- IMPISH
- KOSHER
- LAVISH
- LEADEN
- ORPHAN
- POLITE
- PULPIT (10)
- SENIOR
- SHRUNK
- SLIVER
- SPOOKY
- THEIST
- TYRANT
- VELLUM



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

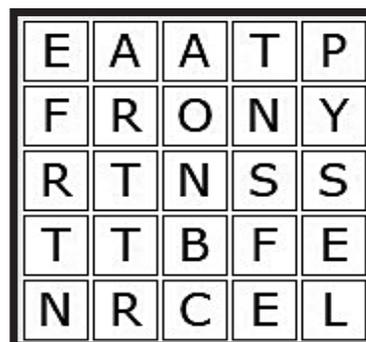
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Priory 2 Russia 3 Matrix 4 Sticky
- 5 Quorum 6 Silica 7 Squint 8 Clutch
- 9 Linkup 10 Umlaut 11 Within 12 Kitten
- 13 Impact 14 Around 15 Uplift 16 Incubi
- 17 Defray 18 Becalm 19 Aerial.

## Boggled

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

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



### TARGET:

- Average: 20
- Good: 28
- Very good: 40
- Excellent: 52

### SCORING:

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

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

firm fibre fire fireman rift rimier rime drift drib dime dimer dire damn dame dart darn darter tamer tamer tart tarn tanner brim bird batt batmen barn barmen barn barney bane banner imbrue mime mimer mire mien trad tram amir amid amen matt mart mane manner many rabid name namer embar emir urban urbane urea grad grab gram gran granny frat frame framer

## Nonagram

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



### TARGET:

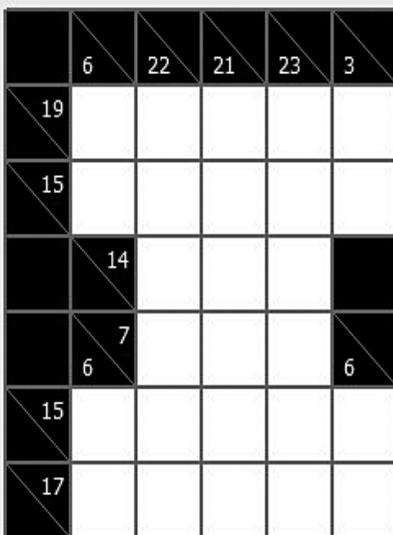
- Average: 8
- Good: 11
- Very good: 15
- Excellent: 20

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

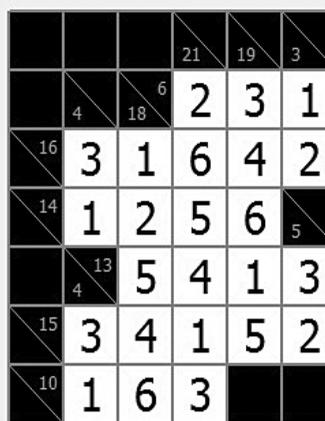
dele deli evil idle leer lied lire live reel riel rile veil veld vile delve devil elder elide elver idled idler levee lever lived liver livre revel riled viler delved delver drivle elided leered levied levier lieder reddle reeled relied relive revile riddle veiled deliver deviled levered relieve relived reveled reviled droveled relieved DELIVERED

## Kakuro

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



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### QUICK

- Across:** 1 Atlas, 3 Tepid, 6/18 Air gun, 8 Lenient, 9 Octet, 10 Bees, 13 Dank, 14 Begin, 17 Ominous, 19 Sweet, 20 Soggy.
- Down:** 1 Ajar, 2 Silver, 3 Tank, 4 Preceding, 5 Detest, 7 Reconcile, 11 Odious, 12 Versus, 15 Colt, 16 Envoy.

### CODE BREAKER

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

### CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Chorizo, 5 Guess, 8 Thief, 9 Desires, 10 Fielder, 11 Olive, 12 Arable, 14 Spared, 17 Goats, 19 Coaster, 21 Avarice, 22 Stall, 24 Stale, 25 Tidiest.
- Down:** 1 Cut, 2 Opine, 3 Infidel, 4 Orders, 5 Gusto, 6 Earlier, 7 Suspender, 10 Franglais, 13 Alabama, 15 Praised, 16 Accent, 18 Smite, 20 Trade, 23 Let.

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Nada más, 5 Press, 8 Nouns, 9 Repetir, 10 Catorce, 11 Sonar, 12 Contra, 14 Onions, 17 Atrás, 19 Arrears, 21 Afeitador, 22 Necks, 24 Apodo, 25 Amapola.
- Down:** 1 Nun, 2 Doubt, 3 Mostrar, 4 Screen, 5 Pipes, 6 Estanco, 7 Surprises, 10 Cucharada, 13 Noruego, 15 Naranja, 16 Patria, 18 Sitio, 20 Ancho, 23 Sea.

## App of the week



### AirMirror

An app which lets users remotely control other devices from their phone. It provides support to access family mobiles, as well as playing games on other hardware and includes a security camera feature to help guard against unwanted intrusions. Computers and smart TVs work with the app.

## QUIZ: KEEPING IT SIMPLE

1. According to the famous children's nursery rhyme, 'Simple Simon went a-fishing for to catch a...' what?
2. Charles III, also known as Charles the Simple or Charles the Straightforward, a member of the Carolingian dynasty, was the king of which country from 898 until 922?
3. 'Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated' is a famous quote by which Chinese philosopher?
4. Name any two of Simply Red's four UK Top Five hit singles?
5. Released in March 2001, Pure and Simple was the debut single for which band put together in the first ITV Popstars series?
6. Released in October 1991, Simply the Best was the first greatest hits compilation by which famous American singer?
7. 'Simple's is a catchphrase that has been used in an advertising campaign since 2009 for which price comparison website?

8. SMTP is an internet standard for electronic mail (email) transmission. What does SMTP stand for?
9. The current line-up of which Scottish rock band, formed in Glasgow in 1977, is Jim Kerr, Charlie Burchill, Ged Grimes, Sarah Brown, Gordy Goude, Cherisse Osei and Catherine AD?
10. Which American brothers wrote, edited, produced and directed the 1984 American neo-noir crime film Blood Simple?

Not a lot of people know that... Fort Simple was an American fort built in Topeka, Kansas, as a result of Major General Sterling Price's Missouri Raid in the late summer and autumn of 1864. Topeka had become the permanent capital of the State of Kansas in 1861, but no fortifications had been built to protect the city from guerrilla bands that roamed eastern Kansas.

### Answers:

1. WHALE
2. WEST FRANCIA (accept FRANCE) he was also king of Lotharingia from 911 until 922
3. CONFUCIUS
4. Any two from: HOLDING BACK THE YEARS (1986), IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW (1988), FAIRGROUND (1995) and ANGEL (1996)
5. HEARNSAY & TINA TURNER
6. COMPARE THE WEEKEND (accept COMPARE THE MARKET)
7. SIMPLE MAIL TRANSFER PROTOCOL
8. JOEL AND ETHAN COEN (COEN BROTHERS)

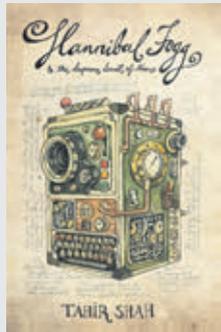
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Family heirloom

WILLIAM FOGG has just received a letter from a London law firm informing him that he is the sole heir to great-great-grandfather Hannibal.

His inheritance consists of one key for a door in Marrakesh. With curiosity getting the better of him, William sets out to follow a trail of clues left by his ancestor which takes him around the world.

He learns first that Hannibal, who he knew little of before, was a renowned Edwardian polymath later publicly discredited by the British establishment. He vanished on an expedition in northeast China in 1939.

William learns more than just facts about Hannibal. He soon finds his ancestor's life work consisted in discovering the deepest mysteries of humanity in Tahir Shah's Hannibal Fogg and The Supreme Secret of Man.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa de Almería

weather



SATURDAY



Malaga	Almeria	Bilbao	Madrid
Today: Max 27, Min 16-S	Today: Max 25, Min 17-S	Today: Max 19, Min 13-C	Today: Max 24, Min 13-C
Fri - 27 17-S	Fri - 25 18-S	Fri - 22 14-Sh	Fri - 26 14-C
Sat - 26 16-S	Sat - 27 19-C	Sat - 24 16-Sh	Sat - 27 15-S
Sun - 26 16-C	Sun - 26 18-C	Sun - 23 17-Sh	Sun - 24 14-Sh
Mon - 26 15-S	Mon - 25 18-C	Mon - 23 15-Sh	Mon - 23 13-C
Tues - 26 16-C	Tues - 24 18-C	Tues - 21 15-Sh	Tues - 23 14-C
Wed - 26 16-C	Wed - 25 18-S	Wed - 22 15-Sh	Wed - 23 14-C

Alicante	Benidorm	Mallorca	Barcelona
Today: Max 26, Min 18-S	Today: Max 24, Min 18-S	Today: Max 24, Min 16-C	Today: Max 22, Min 16-Sh
Fri - 26 18-S	Fri - 24 17-S	Fri - 24 16-C	Fri - 23 17-S
Sat - 26 18-C	Sat - 24 18-C	Sat - 25 17-S	Sat - 24 17-S
Sun - 27 19-C	Sun - 25 18-C	Sun - 26 16-S	Sun - 25 18-S
Mon - 26 18-S	Mon - 24 18-S	Mon - 25 18-C	Mon - 25 18-S
Tues - 26 18-C	Tues - 24 18-C	Tues - 25 17-C	Tues - 24 18-C
Wed - 24 18-Sh	Wed - 22 17-Sh	Wed - 24 17-S	Wed - 24 18-C

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

• Clint Eastwood, Actor; May 31, 88

The star of The Good, The Bad and The Ugly and Dirty Harry first became known for playing Rowdy Yates in the Rawhide TV series. He has since directed films such as Flags of Our Fathers, Letters from Iwo Jima, Million Dollar Baby and Gran Torino.

• Morgan Freeman, Actor; June 1, 81

Freeman was born in Memphis in the United States and turned down a drama scholarship at Jason State University to work as a radar mechanic in the US Air Force. He won plaudits for his roles in The Shawshank Redemption, The Dark Knight, Bruce Almighty and The Sum of All Fears.



Morgan Freeman.

• Sergio Aguero, Footballer; June 2, 30

The Manchester City striker joined the side in 2011 after playing for Atletico Madrid from 2006. Born in Buenos Aires in Argentina, he began his football career aged 15 at Independiente and later played for his country's national team and at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

• Kelly Jones, Musician; June 3, 44

The singer-songwriter and frontman of Stereophonics helped pen songs *Dakota*, *The Bartender* and *The Thief* and *Have a Nice Day*. He was born in Wales.

• Angelina Jolie, Actor; June 4, 43

Jolie was born in Los Angeles in the United States and dropped out of acting school at the age of 14. She later

landed the lead role as Lara Croft in Tomb Raider and went on to star alongside future husband Brad Pitt in *Mr & Mrs Smith* in 2005.

• Ona Carbonell, Swimmer; June 5, 28

Carbonell has taken home several medals in various international tournaments including the London Olympics in 2012. Born in Barcelona in Spain, she began synchronised swimming at the age of nine.

• Jason Isaacs, Actor; June 6, 55

The actor who played Lucius Malfoy in the Harry Potter film franchise was born in Liverpool in England and became involved in drama while at college. He played Michael Britten in the TV series *Awake* and featured alongside Mel Gibson in *The Patriot*.

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

Word Ladder

BUSY

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

YAWN

YAWN  
YARN  
BARN  
BURN  
BURY  
BUSY  
Solution

DVD

A new start



BILL PALET (J K Simmons) and his 17-year-old son Wes (Josh Wiggins) are mourning the death of their wife and mother respectively. In a bid to begin afresh, they decide to up sticks from their small town home and move to the city.

Soon Bill meets the compassionate and elegant teacher Carine Roussel (Julie Delpy) while Wes falls head over heels for the enigmatic but fierce Lacy Westman (Odeya Rush).

Bill and Wes begin to adjust to their new lives in *The Bachelors*.

This week in history

455 - Rome sacked

The Vandal army enters Rome and begins two weeks of plundering the city. It was one of the last defeats for the Romans before the final fall of the Western half of the empire in 476.

1215 - City falls

Zhongdu, modern-day Beijing, falls to the Mongol forces of Genghis Khan bringing the Battle of Zhongdu to an end. The fall of the city exposed the rest of eastern China to further conquests.

1669 - Last entry

Samuel Pepys writes in his diary for the final time due to increasingly poor eyesight. Pepys later became famous for his account of the Great Fire of London.

1783 - In flight

The montgolfiere, an early hot air balloon, is demonstrated in public for the first time by brothers Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier in Annonay in France.

1832 - June revolt

The June Rebellion breaks out in Paris against the rule of King Louis Philippe of France. It would later become immortalised in Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*.

1885 - Chief flees

Big Bear, the leader of the Cree tribe, escapes from the North-West Mounted Police in the last battle on Canadian soil.

1944 - Beach landings

Around 155,000 Allied troops begin their assault on the Normandy coastline in D-Day as part of Operation Overlord, their bid to liberate western Europe from Nazi occupation.

1967 - Album released

The Beatles release their record Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Critics praised their efforts viewing it as a successful marriage of popular culture and high art.

# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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

## Death in Benidorm may be due to Man of War

ON Monday May 21 my friends and I were sitting on Levante Beach, Benidorm when we noticed an incident.

An elderly man was brought ashore where lifeguards started to perform CPR, they worked so hard to save him for approximately 40 minutes, even after the ambulances arrived, but sadly it turned out to be in vain as he was eventually pronounced dead.

My heart went out to his wife who was present at the time. The Spanish lady was comforted by fellow bathers and eventually escorted from the beach with the female doctor who had arrived to tend to her husband.

I don't know if the man got in trouble whilst swimming in the water or had a heart attack but the coincidence was that we briefly left the beach to take refreshments after such a sad scene and on our return the red flag and the white one underneath it showing a jellyfish symbol were being flown.

We spoke to one of the lifeguards and everybody had been told to stay out of the water as jelly

### Estepona flowers put Marbella into the shade

**I MUST congratulate the mayor of Estepona Jose Maria Garcia for putting on an amazing array of flowers and plants when entering the town from every direction and in the town.**

**Together with all the sculptures and pedestrian streets with pots of geranium plants and beautiful promenade, the town has been transformed to a real alternative tourist spot to Marbella.**

**This has also encouraged a large amount of outside investment benefiting the town tremendously.**

**I think the current mayor of Marbella Angeles Muñoz should take a visit to Estepona to see what has happened and maybe she should**



Credit: Turista Inglesa Wikimedia

**ESTEPONA: Garden of the Costa del Sol.**

**invest similar funds to her town which is beginning to look a bit shabby.**

*Paul Wilkinson, Nueva Andalucia, Marbella*

fish had been spotted.

Whether or not this was just coincidence or it had something to do with the man's death I don't know.

*Robert Sanders, Benidorm*

### Good point

DEAR Leapy, I read your latest article with interest.

One thing that never seems to get a mention is that Ramadan generally starts just before GCSE exams start. Hardly fair on pupils is it, to be sent to school on an empty stomach and be expected to produce your best in an exam.

As far as I know the Catholic Church does not expect youngsters (or pensioners, come to that) to fast during Lent. Just a thought.

Keep up the good work.

*Valerie, Spain*

### Lucky escape

AT approximately 5pm on Monday May 21 a motorcyclist lost control and crashed along the road, close to the Mascarat Dental Clinic. Fortunately, next door to the dental clinic is the Altea Medical Centre which opened in May of last year.

Two of the nurses who were on duty in the clinic, rushed to the scene to assess and give emergency treatment to the rider. He was very badly injured and needed oxygen which was proved by the medical team.

The police arrived within a short time in order to close the road and secure the area. When the 112 ambulance arrived, the paramedics praised the Altea Medical Centre for saving the rider's life.

If it were not for the fast thinking nurses responding so efficiently and rapidly, and the fact that the accident took place directly outside the Centre, the final result could have been much worse.

*Barry White, Altea*

### Not forgotten

LEAPY, just a quick email after reading your latest tale in EWN. I wanted to tell you that you may have gone but are certainly NOT forgotten. I was listening to the Ken Bruce Show on the radio and one of the questions was... what kind of arrows did Leapy Lee sing about. Strangely I was reading your article at the time. Keeping the faith.

*Stew, Kent*

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com).

## Thousands call for an end to bullfighting

Anyone who says "it's part of Spanish culture" should understand that slavery was part of Western culture for centuries, it doesn't make it morally acceptable.

*Ian Grant*

Not allowing women to vote, cock fighting, badger baiting, slavery etc etc were all part of various cultures over time, but it was no reason to keep them. Killing bulls for fun and entertainment needs to be banned.

*Darren Leighton*

### Ryanair tops list of cheapest airlines

Yes always found it the cheapest! But alas also the most affected airline by French air strikes!!!!!! Been caught out three times!!!!!!

*Pam Jeffs*

Regularly fly with them to Alicante and some of the high season flights are Hen/Stag party vomit fests that make you sorry to be alive. I want to hate Ryanair but they do exactly what you'd expect for that price point. Look at it as a coach trip, have low expectations and be surprised when they

### Comments from EWN online

meet the dizzying heights of barely adequate.

*Martin Dwyer*

### Marbella to vote on laws banning rowdy tourists

Yep. Fine them! Nothing wrong with getting merry and having a good time... however drunks trashing the streets at 4am and waking up the locals is something else. Everyone likes a drink, nobody likes a drunk...

*Zara Mária*

The police need to be more present to give out the fines. I saw a shirtless Brit male on Friday being refused entry into El Corte Ingles. He made a fool of himself by standing up on a wall and started jeering and shouting in at the security man.

*Yvonne Kennedy Kinch*

### Bikini clad tourist lands in Mallorca airport

If it's an instant fine for walking the streets in Magaluf and Palma in beach gear, why allow it at the airport!! Put him back on the plane!

*Steve Pugh*

Send him home Spain and the Islands don't need this sort of tourist.

*Trisha Rodgers*

### Flight attendant breaks into dance

Could do with more entertainment on flights, brilliant.

*Susan Eaton*

Great to see a bit of humour and 'non robotic' customer service! Watch this space, his boss will see it and start charging passengers for it!!

*Steve Cracknell*

He was happy that there were no loud drunken Brits on board?

*Trish Martin*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM](http://WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM)

TO READ MORE

# Looking fabulous

IF your green eyes clash with your new hair colour and outfit for the weekend, don't fret!

The thought may never have crossed your mind - or your eyes - before, but you can buy coloured contact lenses to make sure that all colours work in harmony from top to toe.

Coloured contact lenses which have no prescription are known as cosmetic lenses and they come in many different colours and styles. Before you choose which pair to go for, have a think about what the event is and what look you want to achieve.

If you are simply seeking a subtle tone difference you can opt for a lens which complements the natural colour of your eyes. With such lenses, you can transform from a dark blue to a light blue, or from brown to hazel.

For a more dramatic transformation, go for opaque coloured lenses. These will hide your natural eye colour and give you the freedom to go wild and really draw attention to yourself. These fancy dress contact lenses will mean you can sparkle with rainbow eyes for pride or create the vampire look for a fancy dress party.

Remember that you need to look after both the lenses and your eyes. Even if you go for biweekly or monthly lenses, they must still be removed and disinfected on a daily basis.

**FRESH LOOK:** Create a new look by going from brown to blue.



# Up in flames

WITH the recent unfortunate news that a man was killed in the US by his exploding e-cigarette, many users of these devices are beginning to be concerned for their health.

Apparently the man who was killed was using a particular kind of vape pen, known as a mechanical mod, which is uncommon in the UK and Spain.

These mechanical mods do not use inner circuitry to regulate the voltage and have less built-in safety features than most e-cigarettes available here in Europe. Yet, there have still been reported e-cigarette related burns or fires in both the UK and Spain.

Since the incident, fire services in the UK have made it clear that it is not the e-cigarettes themselves that are unsafe, but the misuse of the lithium-ion batteries that power them.

They advise that you only ever use the actual charger that came with your vape pen and never leave it charging overnight, as you would your phone, for example. Also, don't use the vape pen whilst it's actually plugged in and charging.

If the batteries start to get hot, replace them. But don't modify the product in any way and don't use batteries which are damaged, leaking or wet.

You might be surprised to know that you shouldn't carry your vape pen in your pocket along with money and your keys as this can actually cause the device to short circuit and explode.

This advice might seem cumbersome or be slightly inconvenient but considering that an exploding e-cigarette can cause severe burns and injuries to your mouth, hands or legs, it's a little effort that's worth it.

# Making your face light up

THE great thing about makeup highlighters is that you can look radiant and glow without it seeming as though you've any make-up on at all.

To begin with, imagine a line running from the mid-

dle of your ear towards your lips and another running from the top of your ear to the outer corner of your eye. You will apply the highlighter between these two invisible lines. Simply take a make-up brush and sweep

the highlighting powder on before blending this in.

Then disguise any complexion or dark circles under your eyes by gently working into your skin an illuminating concealer. Follow this by blending some highlighter just under your eyebrows to achieve defined, bold eyebrows.

If you want your nose to look slightly slimmer then add a subtle highlight down its bridge, putting some ex-

tra on the tip of your nose to give it an instant lift.

These subtle additions can be complemented with some gentle eyeliner and a lip gloss to gently lift the whole face.

Remember, this advice is not one-size-fits-all. Some people prefer a more subtle radiant look, whilst others more stronger dominant features across the face. Only you will know the techniques which suit you best.



**RADIANT:** Subtly lift the features of your face by applying a make-up highlighter.

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# Hot in heels

**HIGH** heels can be a woman's - or a man's - best friend.

They can make the person wearing them look taller and more confident. But to walk in them successfully, you'll need to adopt these few simple steps.

You will notice that high heels tend to shorten your stride. Don't fight against this, take small and slow steps. The higher the heel, the shorter your stride will be. Also, don't bend your knees any more than you normally would.

When walking with heels, walk from heel to toe then slide your weight forward as if you were walking on tiptoe, and take the next step.

It can be difficult to main-

tain posture and keep straight when walking in heels. So, toss your shoulders back and align your head with your spine, keeping your chin parallel to the ground. Also, keep your legs together as much as possible.

Many people who chose to wear high heels do so to be more sensual, so it may be good to cross one foot in front of the other and add a little more hip movement. You can achieve this by walking on an imaginary invisible straight line.

But remember, no matter how beautiful you and your heels are, don't don them all the time. Wearing high heels too often can cause chronic foot and back pain.

**WALKING PROUD:** If you decide to don high heels remember to keep your chin raised.

## Targeted relief

PHYSIOTHERAPY is a good way to identify, correct and relieve acute or prolonged movement dysfunction caused by localised pain or as the result of an injury.

Whatever the origin, physiotherapy can help to resolve it. A good session will focus on relieving the pain, stabilising the injury and preventing it from getting any worse. The focus will then be on restoring movement and strength with the end goal of achieving the full recovery of the patient.

Remember, if you have developed localised muscle pain or have experienced an injury then leaving it untreated can mean that it can be very difficult to reverse in the future.

And don't forget, that in addition to alleviating pain and improving muscle strength and mobility, a physiotherapy session can also provide you with a greater sense of well-being.

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Update on food, drink, entertainments, what's on and weekly happenings

# Moors and Christians slug it out

THE annual Moors and Christians Festival takes place in Mojácar over the weekend commencing Friday June 8 until the Sunday.

Held in the pueblo and down on the beachfront, this year's event is expected to attract thousands of extra visitors to the town, with people flocking from across Europe to enjoy this colourful display of historical pageantry.

Men and women from all parts of the Mojácar community participate in the event, dressing in stunning cos-



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Mojácar

that evening there will be fireworks, music and salvos of shots announcing the arrival of troops at the gates.

Saturday sees much of the same although there will be processions to the beach and at 6pm the start of the horse parade followed by a jousting tournament and those taking part will be looking to win favours from local ladies in the form of handkerchiefs.

The troops will once again march through the town and there will be music, dancing and a fire show with everyone partying until dawn.

Sunday will be no less exciting with rifle brigades from both the Moors and Christians firing at each other and the event will finish with another grand parade featuring both sides who will enjoy the general fun and visitors are invited to dress up for the gala event which will feature a number of bands.

**THE WHOLE EVENT:** Is taken very seriously by the people of Mojácar.

tumes and bearing mock weapons, reminiscent of days gone by.

The much-anticipated event is a three-day party for visitors and those involved; each group of 'Moors or Christians' gather in their various 'camps', located around the village, where

music, food and drink is available every night.

Prior to the actual weekend, there will be a number of educational activities and workshops in order to ensure that the children of the town understand the historical importance which has inspired the festival.

At noon on Friday, the weekend starts early with the opening of the Medieval Market in the Plaza Nueva in the Pueblo where all types of different handicraft will be presented by sellers dressed in period costume.

There will be various parades through the town and



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**Eat Well  
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by Andrew Harding



# Thai green chicken curry



- 6 whole garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 whole chicken breast halves without skin, cubed
- 2 tablespoons oil; vegetable, sunflower or rapeseed NOT olive
- 1 packet Thai Green Curry Paste
- 2 chicken stock cubes, crumbled
- 1 whole aubergine, cubed
- 3 whole green pepper, chopped
- Red chilli peppers, optional
- Root ginger, optional
- 1 teaspoon sesame seed oil

1. Blend coconut milk with the coriander and put to one side.
2. Fry onions, garlic and chicken in the oil for two or three minutes until chicken sealed on all sides.
3. Add curry paste, fry for two more minutes and pour in the coconut milk/coriander mix.
4. Bring to a gentle simmer and add the stock cubes, aubergine, red and green peppers.
5. Add the optional finely chopped ginger and chilli peppers to taste. Simmer for 15 minutes until the aubergine is soft, add sesame seed oil.
6. Serve with rice or noodles.

put pineapple on their pizza and not mine, why should I be concerned?

Fusion food is a relatively new phenomenon and I don't have a problem with it either, provided it tastes and looks good. Certain combinations of ingredients should, in my view, be avoided. Olive oil has no place in any cuisine other than Southern European, but it can be used in Mexican at a push.

A couple of weeks ago my column contained a recipe for Thai Red Chicken Curry this week it is for:

**Thai green chicken curry with coriander**  
Serves 4  
1 tin coconut milk  
1 bunch coriander leaves, whole and washed  
2 whole onions, chopped

THIS week another Thai dish, for the purists among you this is my recipe and not a traditional Thai one.

I do have some issues with people who want their food as authentic as possible, because authenticity is not always as it would appear.

To give two examples, chilli peppers originated in Central America so should not feature in Indian, Thai and other Oriental cooking, but they do. You cannot get much more British than Fish and Chips, but the potatoes only became a worldwide staple after the Spanish conquered Peru in 1536.

The Spanish brought them to Europe after the conquest and their popularity grew after that. They became such a staple in Ireland, the Great Potato Famine of the 1840's killed one million people, a further million emigrated. Italian purists complain about pineapple on pizza, probably due to the fact it comes out of a tin, not because of its Brazilian origins. Personally, I think it is an abomination, but if someone wants to

**Tip:** A repetition of similar hints from the Thai Red Chicken Curry Recipe but use red chillis not too finely chopped to make identification and removal easier for those who do not like hot

curries. **Tip:** Avoid touching eyes after slicing chillis or ideally wear rubber gloves.

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## Classical guitar performance

A CLASSICAL guitar concert was held at the Adra Museum to mark the closing of the municipal guitar workshop.

The recital which was led by Miguel Rivera consisted of performances by the students at the workshop who delighted their families and friends with the high quality of their playing.

The entire course was clearly highly successful as these talented guitarists of different ages ran through a repertoire of a dozen different numbers.

Each year, the workshops which are promoted by the Adra Department of Culture bring together 12 local, many young, aspiring talents who wish to increase their skills with the guitar.

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Photo credits: blogspot/ceipvirgendelaliente

**PARCHED:** Year 6 students reading poetry.

# Water please sir

THE Virgen del Saliente infant and primary school is still without a proper drinking water supply as the summer months approach quickly.

Cracks in the school's water depository reportedly rendered it unusable. The school has been without water for more than two months now. And damages mean water could be at risk of contamination from external substances.

The situation is said to be seriously disrupting day-to-day functioning not only at Virgen del Saliente in Albox, but also at the nearby municipal nursery which depends on the same source.

The depository supplied water used for preparing lunchtime meals and a fountain in

the playground.

The Popular Party's (PP) Albox division is holding the town hall to account and requested it urgently repair damages valued at €700.

High temperatures make the situation increasingly unsustainable, the PP said.

The opposing party also complained about Albox's mayor Francisco Torrecillas who they claim 'refused' to repair the water unit.

"We hope for a quick solution to the problem so the town council's disregard for the matter does not endanger children's health," the PP said.

And the PP said it reserved the right to take legal action against the mayor for ignoring the law.

# Chencho cherished

## Distinguished diplomat recognised by the Institute of Almerian Studies

by Gregory Kirby

ONE of Spain's most decorated diplomats has received an honour from the Institute of Almerian Studies (IEA).

Almeria government's chamber was packed for the ceremony which saw Albox-born Inocencio Arias honoured.

Arias, 78 and popularly known as Chencho, held a distinguished line-up of senior diplomatic postings around the globe.

Arguably his most colourful posting was as Spain's ambassador to the United Nations in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war.

The Spanish government sacked Arias from his post for questioning the legitimacy of Spain's participation in the US-led invasion.

He later published memoirs outlining events at the UN security council prior to the Iraq invasion. Alias offers a rare



**FULL CAREER:** Distinguished diplomat Inocencio Arias.

Spanish and European perspective on a US-dominated Iraq war narrative in the book, describing for his readers American's ignorance of Europeans.

'Chencho' had a rounded working life serving as a professor of international relations at two of Madrid's top universities and the general director of Real Madrid football club.

The IEA also honoured Huerca-Overa artist, Carmen Pinteño. She is considered the best Almerian

painter of the 20th century.

"They deserve to receive the honorary recognition for their career paths," Almeria's provincial president Gabriel Amat said.

Amat, who is also the IEA's president, said it was an 'honour' to distinguish two magnificent people to whom Almeria will always be indebted.

The president also recognised the close ties both honorary Almerians have kept with the institute throughout its nearly 40 year-long existence.

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# Wi-Fi in the park



Photo credits: Twitter/Ayuntamiento Albox

**CONNECTED:** Albox's Plaza Mayor now has free Wi-Fi.

AUTHORITIES have installed free Wi-Fi in several key public spots in Albox meaning residents and visitors can now surf the net for free.

Web users accessed the free service in the town's squares for the first time this weekend. Connected sites include the Plaza Mayor, Plaza del Carmen, Plaza Andalucía, Plaza de San Antonio and Plaza de San Francisco.

The los Algarrobos and 'Fofó' parks are wired up too, as well as sites in neighbourhood areas like Plaza Cura Navarro de Las Pocicas.

Town mayor, Franciso Torrecillas said the new service would allow residents to access an 'infinite source of information' for free from several of Albox's new hubs.

Visitors to the town could use the connection to access tourist information from their devices, he added.

Torrecillas announced his wish to extend the connection to all of the town's plazas as well as the America Avenue and the Plaza del Llano de Los Olleres.

The mayor advised users to avoid exchanging private information like banking details on the public network.

After selecting the 'Wi-Fi ciudadanos (citizens)' in the devices' network options, surfers will be sent to an Ayuntamiento de Albox (Albox Town Hall) portal from where they can freely proceed to the internet.

# Age support raffle

AGE SUPPORT, Almanzora, which has a shop and welfare office in Albox, is fundraising for a domestic-type hospital bed to help carers with bed-bound partners.

To achieve this goal, the charity needs to raise €2,000 and Cathy, president of Age Support, said that there is a real need for the bed as the one the charity already has is in constant use and vital for those who are bed-bound.

Maggie, fundraiser for Age Support, has organised a raffle to go towards the bed appeal. Tickets are €1 each or five for €4. They are available at the Age Support shop, Bar Lepanto, Total Entertainment and Harrison's, which are all located along the Avenida Lepanto area in Albox.

Maggie is delighted that volunteers and local businesses have donated a good range of prizes including a food hamper, fish and chips for two at Bar Lepanto, a gift voucher for SOL yoga centre and a classic manicure or facial.



Credit: Age Support-Almanzora

**GRAB A BARGAIN:** Helen, one of the volunteers with some of the prizes.

If you would like to view the prizes on offer or purchase tickets, please visit the shop on the corner opposite the Peugeot garage near the Mercadona roundabout.

If you would like to donate any further prizes or make a cash donation towards the vital

resource of the hospital bed, then please either visit the shop or call in to Spanish Property Choice opposite Mercadona.

The raffle draw will take place on Saturday June 16, so you still have time to buy those tickets!

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# Pilgrims' access

ALMERIA'S provincial government has invested €45,000 in improving access to the El Saliente sanctuary, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the south

east of Spain.

Works consisted of paving 7,500 metres squared of road which leads to the entrance of the sanctuary from Albox's AL-7100 motorway.

And the improved access to the much-visited site came as part of an agreement between the provincial institution and Almeria's bishopric.

Presidential minister, Fernando Gimenez, said authorities were 'very satisfied' because the improvements will

be enjoyed by thousands of faithful pilgrims who visit the site, known as 'La Pequeña.'

The works make the entrance 'safer' and mark the end of a broader €280,000 investment on the site, Gimenez added.



**SMOOTH ARRIVAL:** The 'Pequeña' sanctuary in Albox.

## Industrial sites shot

APPLICATIONS to participate in the Seron mountain range's photographic Safari competition will close soon.

The 22nd edition of the celebration of top shots takes place on Friday (tomorrow), Saturday and Sunday.

"We are looking for shots ranging from industrial parks, blast furnaces, factories, water tanks, stone mills, silos, or gasometers to industry-altered scenery," Carmen Cuadrado, Seron's tourism minister announced.

Judges will value images and camerawork which demonstrate technique, beauty, emotions and sensations, Cuadrado added.

This year's competition - organised by Seron Town Council - merges with the International Photography Competition titled, 'The industrial Landscape: Unemotional Observer.'

Applications are open to hobby and professional photographers from around the world.



**SNAPPED:** An old gold mine in Rodalquilar Almeria.

Participants in the new edition of the Safari competition will be given free range for one photograph and have to follow a set theme for the second.

The best photographer will pocket €400 for the winning shot, followed by €300 and €200 for second and third place.

Interested photographers should visit [www.disfrutaseron.com](http://www.disfrutaseron.com) for the necessary information.

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## Shark hunter probe

A 51-YEAR-OLD man is being investigated after he allegedly caught a protected shark. The suspect posted a picture of himself holding the shortfin mako shark on social media.

And the image caught the attention of various wildlife associations who then reported the case to SEPRONA, the Guardia Civil's environment unit.

The sea creature, also known as the blue pointer, is a large mackerel shark and is capable of bursts of speed up to 68km/h. It can reach up to 4.45 metres in length and inhabits temperate and tropical seas worldwide.

It is classed as vulnerable by the UK's IUCN body, the world's main authority on the conservation status of species. It also features on Spain's wild and endangered species lists, making the alleged crime punishable by biodiversity laws.

The case is now in the hands of Almeria courts.

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**GRAEME TYRRELL**

NOW is the time to take precautions to protect the garden's ecology.

It is always wonderful to garden in spring, but before the start of summer the bugs begin to bite.

The garden paradise you created starts to look a bit frayed. Aphids proliferate and suck on the sap of your flower buds, snails seek out plants in the garden that you water, wasps become active to make venturing into the garden a risk, caterpillars munch on the leaves of your prized plants, bugs snip off your valued seedlings at ground level, it can all become a bit disappointing after the lush healthy growth in early spring.

Yet this is a part of the garden's ecology. Not all bugs and insects are detrimental, so do not go rushing off to find the insecticide to rid the garden of bugs. It may do more harm than good. Part of the ecology of a garden is that insects like aphids proliferate, but this is followed by ladybirds and other beneficial insects also increasing in number to obtain a natural control of the pests.

Many insecticides will kill the beneficial insects resulting in the need to constantly use insecticides to keep pest insects under control.

The best approach is to use mild natural methods locally to control the pests. Insects, such as aphids, can be eliminated

# Bugs begin to bite before summer



Credit: Dan Olsen Shutterstock

**NATURAL CONTROL: Lunch is served for the helpful ladybird.**

where they present a problem on your favourite plants. Simply spraying water can dislodge aphids, but add soap or make a garlic spray and you can rid your plants completely with minimal cost or danger to yourself or the environment as they are not toxic.

This method will minimise damage to the beneficial insects as you can just eliminate the aphids on the plants you wish to protect and let nature take care of the ones on other plants.

Wasps form part of the ecology to control many other insects such as caterpillars and beetle larvae and also play a part in the pollination of many

plants. That they sting makes them a danger, so managing them to reduce their danger is important.

Lures to specifically trap wasps are very useful to eliminate them in places where there are too many without harming the other beneficial insects.

The approach to eliminate all of the insects everywhere in a garden is well-known to adversely affect the ecology and bring about more plagues of damaging insects and deficiencies of beneficial insects that ultimately is more of a problem.

Much as we may be afraid of many pests, it is best to

learn about their function in a garden. I use the approach to control pests only on the most important plants using non-toxic methods.

I let caterpillars of butterflies feed on plants so that I

have the beauty of butterflies in the garden. I do this even with my roses, as the caterpillars are only there for a short season and the plants recover

well. Overall the garden benefits. It can be worth the sacrifice of some plants not always looking perfect if the garden has a healthier natural ecology.



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# Divorce and your dog

DIVORCE is a sad fact of life. These human problems can cause stress to dogs. A dog is a social animal bonded to a family routine and a way

of life. It relies on us for its mental, physical and emotional welfare.

When it comes to difficulties in relationships, the family pet is often the last to be

considered. Couples shouting and arguing with each other will affect the dog (and also the cat). Our blacker moods and tantrums can create nervous behaviour in dogs.

If I am called to a home where there is a dog howling, barking, being destructive, digging, house soiling or showing any signs of anxiety-related behaviour, where it is apparent that the dog has an inability to cope with life, I always ask if there has been a death, separation or a divorce.

Any of these could have triggered the problems which are a typical expression of ca-

nine anxiety. Another extreme behaviour pattern is for a dog to go to the bottom of the garden, as far away from the home as possible. It could stay close to walls. This often happens when a dog's instinct tells it that it is dying. In the wild, dogs leave their packs and go away to die.

If there is no known medical problem and a separation has taken place, then these behaviour patterns can also be considered an expression of extreme canine anxiety.

Dogs are creatures of habit, functioning to our timetable of wake-up, meals,

play, bed, etc. When faced with the upheaval that accompanies divorce, some dogs find it harder to accept a change of routine than others. This is especially so for the older dog, which more often than not may go rapidly downhill.

We have made the dog into a social animal. It is also a sensitive and silent watcher, able to pick up our vibes, react to changes in its schedule or environment or changes in atmosphere caused by arguments within the family.

Marching out in anger and slamming doors will cause

stress in a dog. The dog hears the shouting and feels the aggression and this can be frightening. Some owners aware of this will put their dog outside the room when they argue.

This can be another form of punishment for the dog. Sometimes a dog can have a positive influence. Divorce can cause behavioural changes in a child, from bursts of angry rebellion to periods of deep brooding silence. Dogs play a beneficial role, since a child can make the dog his best friend to be hugged, to be cried with, and to be told any secret, knowing his best friend will neither pass judgement nor tell anyone.



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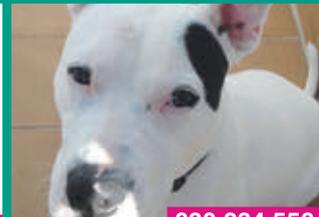




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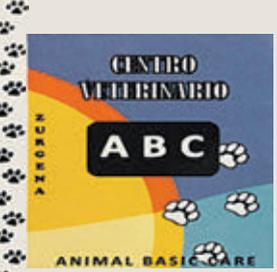
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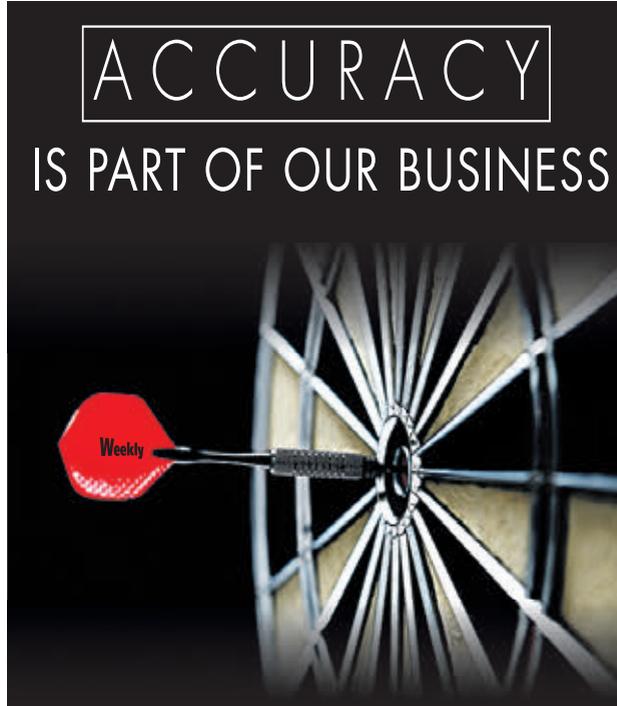


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**MOTORING FACT***The heaviest ever car is the Rolls-Royce Phantom Limelight, weighing in at an incredible 6,052 lbs.*

# MINI proves that it pays to share

MINI is launching a new app called MINI Sharing, where owners can give friends and family permission to open and start their car via a smartphone.

As part of a pilot project in Madrid, this personal form of car sharing is now being tested under everyday conditions.

The peer-to-peer sharing

trial is designed for a fleet of up to 500 vehicles, and owners of current MINI models produced since March 2018 will be invited to participate.

Vehicles will be equipped or retrofitted with a MINI Sharing Module, enabling access and the starting of the engine via a smartphone.

The trial will be an important marker to establish

whether the scheme can be rolled out globally by BMW Group, as part of its digital mobility services strategy.

With its increased commitment to the D-ACES (Design, Autonomous, Connected, Electrified and Services) topics, the company is playing a leading role in innovation.

Sebastian Mackensen, MI-



Credit: www.mini.es

**SMART MOVE:** MINI hopes to roll out the sharing model worldwide.

NI senior vice president, said:

“With MINI Sharing, we enable our customers in Spain to participate in the sharing economy. This new technology fits perfectly with our desirable cars and our innovative customer demographic.”

The initiative allows the vehicle owner to share their

MINI with up to 10 people of their choosing, with availability highlighted in the app’s inbuilt calendar function.

Guest drivers can use the app to make a reservation request and after the owner has given their consent, the location and directions to the vehicle are displayed on their phone.

Using a Bluetooth connection, the smartphone then becomes the car key, opening doors and starting the engine.

The MINI Sharing App records all the travel data required for billing, and drivers can transfer payments to the owner via PayPal based on a flat rate of €0.30 per kilometre.

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**ROAD TEST**

by Nick Fletcher

# Kia Stonic



IT is hard to think of a better blend of power and practicality than the Audi Avant RS4, a sporty estate model which can transport a chest of drawers while showing you what G-force you are experiencing!

Elegantly styled and beautifully built, the Avant RS4 can lay claim to being the best estate car in its class, embracing everyday domestic or business use with near-supercar performance.

The RS4's heart is a su-

perb 2.9-litre six-cylinder petrol unit with twin turbochargers delivering a hefty 444hp. The 0-100kph time is just 4.1 seconds, top speed limited to 250kph (155mph). Fuel economy is 11.3kpl (32.1mpg) combined and emissions 200g/km.

Power delivery is via a smooth eight-speed tiptronic gearbox, with permanent four-wheel drive.

The RS4 Avant is laden with too much equipment to

even shortlist, and prices start at €70,573 (£62,175). There are plenty of options too - my test model included larger alloy wheels, leather interior with heated front and rear seats, carbon inlays, upgraded technology features including a G-force indicator and a Dynamic Package which boosts top speed to 174 mph. All that took the price to €79,233 (£69,810).

The exterior of the Avant RS4 has subtle styling which still shows enough potent aspects to ensure its performance pedigree is evident - the vast air intakes and huge twin exhaust outlets for instance.

Underway, it feels eagerly fast and flexible, with a sporty undertone to refined urban driving and relaxing motorway cruising. Handling is beyond reproach, well-planted on twisty roads yet in city driving modes quiet and docile.

The premium cabin is superbly crafted with controls thoughtfully designed and located. Seating five adults with ease, the Avant has one of the largest boots in the sector, 505 litres, and with seats folded offers 1,500

litres of space. The tailgate is powered and has a low lip for easy loading.

This Audi has rivals, most notably from other German marques, but the RS 4 Avant's blend of blistering power and practicality, plus Audi's indefinable ultra-cool image puts it at the head of the pack.

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

**KIA STONIC:** Nippy performance, accurate steering and agile manners.

**STATS PANEL**

- **Model:** Kia Stonic
- **Engine:** 1.0 litre turbo-petrol
- **Transmission:** 6-speed manual
- **Performance:** 0-100 kph 9.9 seconds, top speed 185 kph (115 mph)
- **Economy:** 20 kpl (56.5 mpg)
- **Emissions:** 115 g/km

*Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.*

SERGIO RAMOS is not only a star footballer, he also has a world class car collection.

The Real Madrid captain boasts an impressive array of cars that total around €2.3 million, including luxury Porsches and Aston Martins.

Audis feature heavily, as does a stunning €191,000 Mercedes-AMG G 63, but the one he shows off most proudly to his 23.3 million Instagram followers is valued at just €9,700.

The four-time Champions League winner has revealed that he received a personalised Fiat 600 as a birthday present in March, and has been giv-

## Sergio Ramos shows off his fancy fleet

ing it preferential treatment ever since.

It is only fitting that a Los Blancos legend should have white cars too, and both are Porsches.

One is a 911 Carrera S, valued at around €162,000, and the other is a 977 Turbo S, also priced at €162,000.

As a father of three, Ramos also has a stylish family option in the form of the Audi RS6 Quattro, which features a four-litre V8 powerplant engine and can reach 596 bhp.

An elegant estate, it's worth €91,000, a snip for a man who earns €12 million a year.

A love for fast cars, and in particular Aston Martins, has seen Ramos jokingly labelled James Bond in Spain.

He even splurged €200,000 on a 5.9 litre DBS V12 Aston Martin, which was seen in the 2006 Bond film Casino Royale.

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# €1.6 million Harley is worth the ride

**BLUE BOMBSHELL:**  
The bike is as flashy as it gets.

Credit: Harley Davidson



A STUNNING new Harley-Davidson motorbike has been produced worth a cool €1.6 million, making it the most expensive in the world.

The one-off blue beauty has a diamond ring mounted on its fuel tank, and is covered in gold plating and mini diamonds.

It is the product of a collaboration between Swiss watchmaker, Carl F Bucherer and Harley-Davidson specialist, Bundnerbike.

The bike is modelled on the classic Harley-Davidson Softail Slim S, and took eight people a

total of 2,500 hours to complete.

Gold plating is spread across the brake and clutch levers, dials and throttle valves, while the engine is lit with heat-resistant LEDs.

The rider sits on a cowhide saddle while holding onto handgrips encrusted with diamonds, and the dazzling blue colour is created using a 'secret' technique.

On one side of the fuel tank is a Carl F Bucherer watch, which also acts as a winder to keep time while the bike is running.

On the other side of the tank is a 5.4 carat diamond ring under an armoured glass dome, ensuring

that the only thing to be stolen is a woman's heart.

The bike is on sale in Switzer-

land for €1.6 million and, if sold at the price, will make it the most expensive ever made.

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**Champions League Final**

# Bale shows Real class

GARETH BALE scored one of European football's great goals as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 to win their third successive Champions League title.

Jurgen Klopp's side suffered a huge blow with only half an hour played, as star player Mohamed Salah collided with Sergio Ramos and got his arm caught underneath him as they fell to ground.

The incident led to Salah being stretchered off with a dislocated shoulder and he is now a doubt for the World Cup with Egypt.

Liverpool keeper Loris Karius endured a game from one of his worst nightmares, gifting Karim Benzema the opening goal shortly after half time with a rushed pass out of hand.

The Reds recovered from the calamity to equalise through Sadio Mane, before Bale came off the bench to



Credit: GarethBale11/Twitter

**WONDER STRIKE: Gareth Bale's stunning goal set up Real Madrid's win.**

score a spectacular overhead kick and put Real 2-1 up after 64 minutes.

There was to be no comeback from a shell-shocked Liverpool this time, and Karius' misery was complete when he fumbled Bale's spec-

ulative 30-yard shot into the net in what should have been a routine save.

The result sealed Real's record 13th win in the competition, and their fourth in five seasons to give coach Zinedine Zidane his third triumph

in three years.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has now lost his third successive final since arriving at Anfield, having suffered defeats in the League Cup and Europa League finals of 2016.

**French Open Tennis**

# Norrie aims for slam

CAMERON NORRIE has gone into his first French Open full of confidence after breaking into the world's top 100 rankings.

The 22-year-old Briton reached the semi-finals of this week's Lyon Open, beating world number 10 and second seed John Isner along the way.

"I am at Roland Garros for the first time since the juniors and it was a little overwhelming just to see all the people there," said Norrie.

"It was completely packed and that's before the matches start. It's a great feeling to be around here."

Norrie reached the last four in Lyon without dropping a set but could not get past Gilles Simon, who was then edged out by Dominic Thiem in the final.

The British number three turned professional only 12 months ago after skipping his final year of studies in Texas, and was a Wimbledon wildcard last year.



Credit: British Tennis/Twitter

**ON THE RISE: Cameron Norrie is a bright prospect for British tennis.**

However, this will be the first time that Norrie's ranking has earned him an automatic place at a major, and he showed good potential on the

surface in the Davis Cup in February.

Norrie and Davis Cup teammate Kyle Edmund combined to win their first doubles title

at the Estoril Open in Portugal earlier this month.

"I think I have the game, the attitude and professionalism to get to the top," said Norrie.

## Transfer rumours

*Who is in, who is out, and who is most wanted in England and Spain?*

**Manchester United** are ready to make a €228 million move for Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, after the player's anger at not starting the Champions League final. (*Independent*)

**Liverpool** are to step up their search for a new goalkeeper with Roma's Brazil international Alisson and Jan Oblak of Atletico Madrid and Slovenia, among the main targets. (*Sun*)

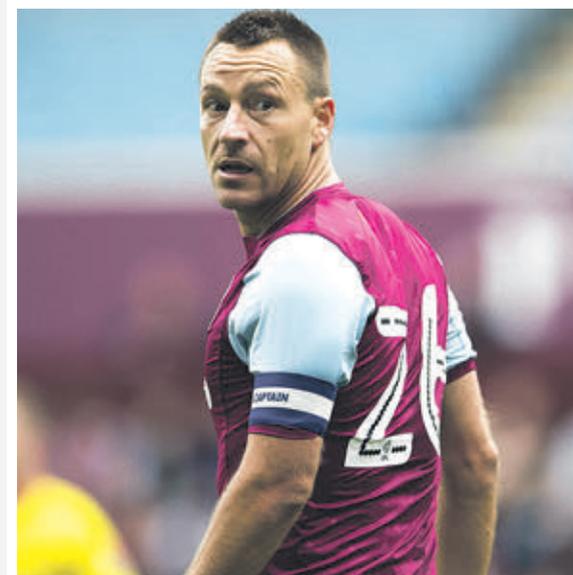
**Barcelona** are eyeing up a deal for Sevilla and France defender Clement Lenglet, who would provide back up for both Gerard Pique and Samuel Umtiti. (*Daily Mail*)

**Brighton** have agreed a deal to sign Deportivo La Coruna striker Florin Andone for an undisclosed fee on a five-year contract. (*BBC*)

**Manchester City** are ready to bid for Kylian Mbappe if financial fair play sanctions force Paris St-Germain to call off the permanent signing of the 19-year-old loanee from Monaco. (*Times*)

**Chelsea** might need to double their €4 million salary offer if they want ex-Napoli boss Maurizio Sarri to replace fellow Italian Antonio Conte as manager at Stamford Bridge. (*BBC*)

**Real Madrid** coach Zinedine Zidane has advised Florentino Perez not to bring Chelsea keeper Thibaut Courtois to the Bernabeu, and will continue to back Keylor Navas. (*Caught Offside*)

**GONE TERRY: John is to leave Aston Villa.**

**Aston Villa** defender John Terry, 37, will leave the club this summer after Steve Bruce's side lost Saturday's Championship play-off final. (*Telegraph*)

**Lionel Messi** has given his approval for Barcelona to move for Ajax youngster Justin Kluivert, if they fail to land Atletico Madrid forward Antoine Griezmann. (*Sky Sports*)

Former **Arsenal** boss Arsene Wenger is considering a return to Japan to resume his managerial career. (*Daily Mail*)

ENGLAND'S Justin Rose claimed his ninth PGA Tour title with a three-shot win at the Fort Worth Invitational, in Texas. He carded a six under-par closing round of 64 to finish with a 20 under total.

**TO READ MORE**

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

LEWIS HAMILTON and Fernando Alonso slammed the Monaco Grand Prix as 'not really racing' and 'the most boring race ever.'

Drivers were lapping several seconds slower than normal pace as part of team strategies to manage tyres and ensure only one pit stop was necessary.

Daniel Ricciardo was down on power for the majority of the race but bravely held off the challenge of Sebastian Vettel and Hamilton to take the chequered flag.

He was missing seventh and eighth gears but used all of his skill and race craft, while benefiting from the track's narrow twists and turns.

## Monaco: Drivers slam 'boring' race



Credit: redbullracing/twitter

**DANNY JOY:** Ricciardo celebrates his hard fought victory.

Hamilton said the race was "super-unexciting for everyone" and when it finished, I was like, "thank goodness."

The defending champion spent much of his race bemoaning his tyres, but managed to finish in third place behind Vettel.

Race-winner Daniel Ricciardo was relieved to be able to dictate a slower

pace on the tight circuit and said:

"I don't think we'll be able to maintain that kind of rhythm on a track like Montreal" (the next race).

Pirelli F1 boss Mario Isola said:

"We need to decide what we want. If they want to push, we will produce more consistent tyres, less sensitive to overheating."

## Vroom vroom Froome

CHRIS FROOME became the first Briton to win the Giro d'Italia as he coasted home in Sunday's professional stage in Rome.

The 33-year-old is the seventh man to complete a Grand Tour hat-trick after adding Italian success to the 2017 Vuelta and four Tour de France wins.

"For any cyclist this is the dream to have all three leaders' jerseys in the space of 10

months," Froome said.

Froome finished 46 seconds ahead of Dutch defending champion Tom Dumoulin in the overall standings.

Britain's Simon Yates, who led for most of the race and claimed three stage wins, finished 22nd in the general classification, with Ireland's Sam Bennett claiming the sprint finish for a third stage win of his own.

Froome's

victory also means he is only the third man, after legendary pair Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault, to hold cycling's three most prestigious stage races at the same time.

Although the rider remains dogged by an ongoing antidoping investigation, he said there should be 'no question at all' about the validity of his win, and is confident he will be cleared.



Photo credit team Sky/Twitter

**TAKING THE CHRIS:** Froome now holds all three Grand Tours.

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