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ISSUE No. 1710 | 12 - 18 April 2018

COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Gabriel Cruz investigation

THE court in Almeria overseeing the investigation into the death of eight-year-old Gabriel Cruz is set to hear the testimonies of 10 witnesses in the coming days.

Rafael Soriano, the judge in charge of the probe, has summoned four people to testify before the court this week. A further six are set to give statements on Thursday April 19.

Several relatives of the eight-year-old are among those summoned as is a Local Police officer. The ex-boyfriend of Ana Julia Quezada, the woman suspected by police of being responsible for the death, will also be called before the court.

In a separate development Angel Cruz and Patricia Ramirez, the boy's father and mother, said they disagreed with a petition in favour of revisable permanent prison sentences.

The petition was drawn up in the wake of Gabriel's death. It calls on the Spanish government to expand the number of crimes eligible for the penalty which could theoretically be used to imprison people found guilty of certain crimes indefinitely.

Speaking at a press conference in Nijar, Cruz and Ramirez said the case of their son should have nothing to do with the political debate surrounding the sentence.

Turn to page 2 »

High and dry

Drugs bound for Britain stopped by police



CREDIT: National Police

DRUGS BUST: Around eight tons of hashish were found hidden inside the trailer.

Police in Almeria have seized around eight tons of hashish hidden between flagstones and metal panels inside the trailer of a lorry.

Officers also arrested the driver of the vehicle who was carrying more than €177,000 in cash, according to reports.

The arrest was part of a wider operation against a group allegedly trafficking drugs from the south of Spain to other parts of Europe, including Britain.

Spain's National Police worked alongside the British National Crime Agency during

the probe into the ring.

The police forces began their investigation after receiving information that the group were shipping drugs around the continent concealed in packaging.

Officers searched the trailer of one vehicle on an industrial estate in Almeria which was

loaded with stone slabs and sheets of metal.

A total of 273 blocks of hashish were found hidden in the walls and floor of the trailer after it was completely dismantled. Police believe the trailer was bound for Europe before the search began.

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NEWS EXTRA**Animal activities**

THE Almeria Tourism Department's annual programme of ecology activities begins this weekend with the Animals in Peril: How to Act session for children taking place in San Jose.

Cruising in

ALMERIA City saw the arrival of the cruise liner Balmoral which docked in the city's port for a six-hour visit on Saturday at around 12pm with its 1,350 passengers and 510-strong crew.

Business aid

ALMERIA City Council has signed an agreement with AJE Almeria youth business organisation and the Cajamar banking group to set up an advisory service on taxes, data and other areas for young entrepreneurs in the area.

'Tormented'

Parents speak out as court quizzes witnesses

From Front page

Calls for the penalty to be expanded grew in the wake of the killing with a vote on it going through Parliament around the same time. The expansion of the sentence was later rejected.

Patricia Ramirez said at the press conference the fact that Gabriel had died hours after being taken was a comfort to them because it gave him no time to suffer.

"Every minute, hour and night we were tormented by thousands of thoughts about how Gabriel could be. We did not know if he had been kidnapped, if he was fed, cold, afraid or if he had been abused," Ramirez said.

A post mortem examination confirmed the eight-year-old had died between one and two hours after he was last seen leaving his grandmother's house in Las Hortichuelas, near Nijar.

Ana Julia Quezada, 43, remains in custody awaiting trial on murder charges. Esteban Hernandez Thiel, Quezada's lawyer, said: "I cannot go into more details but I understand that what is published accurately conveys what has been said."

Quezada was arrested after a Guardia Civil patrol allegedly found the body of Gabriel in the boot of her car.

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INVESTIGATION: Gabriel Cruz was buried in Almeria shortly after his body was found.

€ 15 million fraud bust

OFFICERS of the National Police have apprehended 43 people for a social security scam totalling more than € 15 million.

The fraudsters had been operating across Spain including in Barcelona, Madrid, Almeria, Malaga, Cadiz, Sevilla and Valencia.

Investigators reviewed 32 files and a variety of companies within which the criminal network had been working.

They established that the 43 detainees were allegedly responsible for crimes against social

security, benefits fraud, false documentation, money laundering and embezzlement.

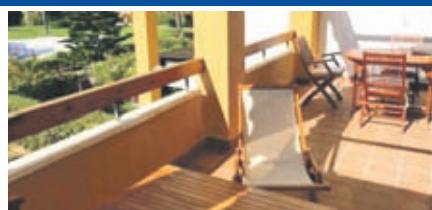
The operation began at the end of 2016 when several reports with accompanying documentation were sent by the General Treasury of the Social Security department, to the relevant section of the National Police.

In order to avoid paying large debts owed to the Treasury, the fraudsters used a range of evasion methods including the creation of fake companies to which the debts were transferred.

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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Official faces fraud trial

PROSECUTORS have requested seven years in prison for a former worker at an education centre in Almeria accused of embezzling thousands should he be found guilty. A jury will decide whether to convict the man who stands accused of defrauding the centre of more than €72,268 between 2008 and 2013.

Water decision

THE Junta de Andalucía's Agriculture spokesperson said around 18 billion litres of water has been made available to farmers in the Poniente area for irrigation in the past few months. Rodrigo Sanchez Haro added €43 million would be available in aid for the regeneration of wastewater treatment plants this year.

Cruz tribute

MORE than 1,300 people who took part in a running race in Almeria City wore pictures of little fish on their shirts in memory of murdered boy Gabriel Cruz. The V Argar Race was held to raise money for children with cancer and followed other sporting events organised in the city.

Farm thefts

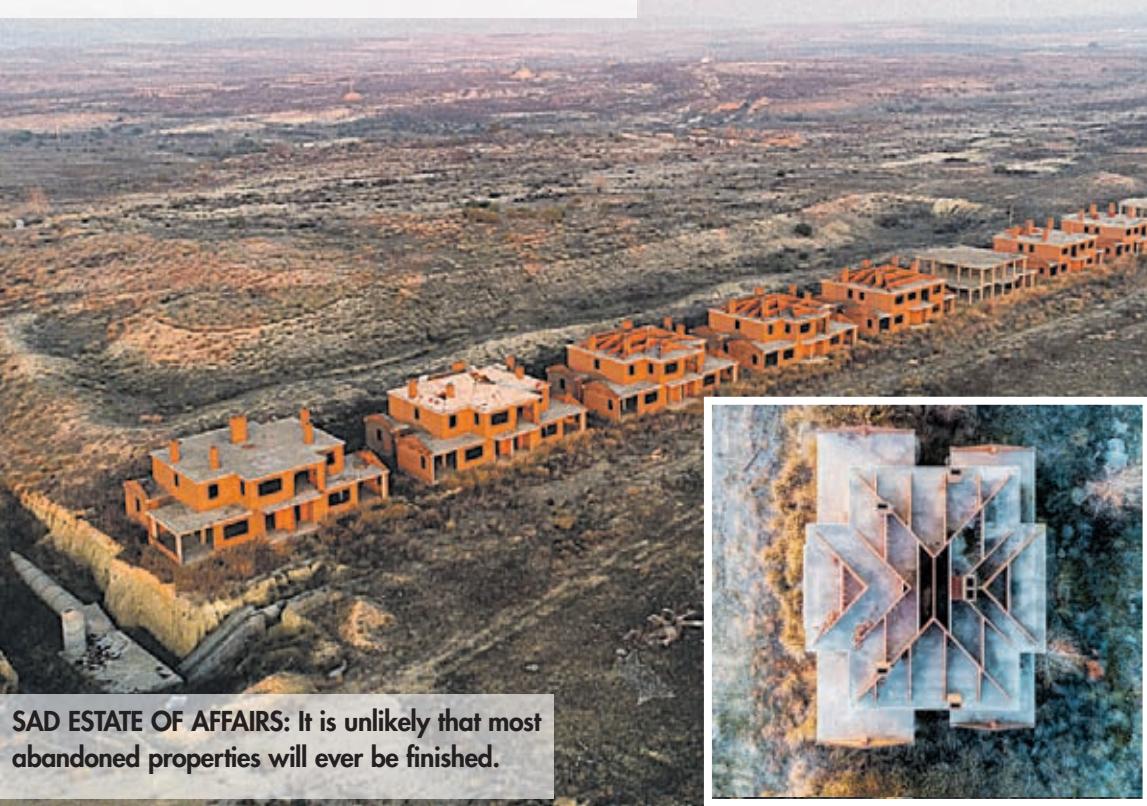
ALMERIA was second in Spain for the number of robberies carried out on farms in 2017, coming second to Valencia according to data. The Union of Unions, which represents farmers, has called on authorities to put a plan in place to control the delivery and sale of agricultural produce in response.

What a boar

A BOAR that wandered into the garden of a home in Huercal de Almeria has been captured by police following a call to the 112 emergency services line. The animal, which weighed between 50 and 60 kilograms, was shot with anesthetic darts after previous efforts to catch it failed.

Frozen in time

THE BIG PICTURE № 9



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



THERE are an estimated 3.4 million of them across Spain.

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

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

Over the course of 15 days he doc-

umented 12 developments in southern Spain.

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

But now they lie deserted.

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

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

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

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

Do you have news for us?

Email:
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or call 951 38 61 61 and ask for the EWN news team.

112

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1709 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 31 local stories.

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Photo credit: Markel Redondo/British Journal of Photography

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Awards:

2018 Professional Trajectory - Premios AEEPP XII edition
 2017 Best free publication in Spain - Premios AEEPP XI edition

2015 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall

2014 Diploma of Honour - Premios AEEPP

2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards

2010 I Love Marbella - Professionalism award

2005 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall

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Bottoms up



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

CORKS are popping for Spanish winemakers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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POLL OF THE WEEK

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

■ LAST WEEK'S POLL:

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

Yes **54%**

No **46%**

EWN online this week
222,480 Page views

TOP 5 stories

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



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

29,684 views 'Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun' heading to Costa del Sol

5,949 views Rain to soak Spain for the next week

3,535 views Kirsty Maxwell 'may have been victim of mistaken identity'

3,307 views Mum and daughter tied and beaten in violent break in

3,288 views Nine cyclists injured, one critically after car plows into them

*For week 2 - 9 April

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FROM EWN
ONLINE TURN TO
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CORRECTIONS

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, no-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected, Email:

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NEWS EXTRA**University survey**

THE University of Almeria is set to begin surveying around 1,400 of its students to find out their opinions on living in Almeria City, their knowledge of it and how they spend their free time.

Road works

THE Diputacion de Almeria began €80,000 works to improve the Calle Sacristy in Laroya this week, with the project set to see new paving put down as well as renovations to the road.

Charity sales

ALMERIA'S airport set up a market stall in its departure hall selling goods to raise money for the Spanish Association Against Cancer charity last Friday, as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Trumped up nature walk

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

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

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

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

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

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



DON THE SPOT:
Trump Jr in the
Spanish
wilderness.

Seething Thandie's airport headache



VENTING HER SPLEEN: Thandie Newton.

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

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

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

And the Westworld star took to Twit-

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

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

Beach ready



HOT MAMA:
Mum of four
Danielle.

Photo credit Donald Trump Jr/Instagram

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

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

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



She's
nuts!



Photo credit Lisa Appleton/Instagram

FORMER Big Brother star Lisa Appleton last

year revealed that she had splashed out more than €25,000 on cosmetic surgery to stop her "looking like a testicle."

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

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

Fit for a king

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

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

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



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NEWS EXTRA**Travel agents
on farm trip**

DUTCH travel agents who have won a photography competition have visited Almeria as part of their prize, with their pictures of the province being set to feature in future editions of Travelution.

Healthy talk

THE North Sanitary Area of Almeria held a meeting at the La Inmaculada Hospital in Huercal-Overa with the aim of giving the people there more of a say in the running of local health centres.

Well done

THE Diputacion de Almeria has handed the Golden Shield award to Almeria native Andres Garcia Lorca in recognition of his work as the government's sub-delegate in the province over the past six years.

Church plan

WORKS worth around €200,000 have begun to rebuild two walls which were damaged by recent rain in Ragol in order to protect a 16th century church, with repairs to nearby pipes and pavements also planned to be undertaken.

Solar savings

A FIELD of solar panels in Sierro will save the town an estimated 13,150 kilowatts of power per hour, according to the Diputacion de Almeria which is handling the €180,000 project to install them.

Food bid

THE University of Almeria has held a series of events as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations to promote Almeria's bid to be named the Food Capital of Spain in 2019.

THE Provincial Court of Almeria has sentenced a man to 19 years and eight months in prison for the murder of a young Moroccan woman.

Known as Tomas GR, the 30-year-old detainee, shot the 19-year-old victim in the

chest after breaking into her home in Oria, in March 2016.

Although the prosecution team argued that the crime was motivated by the race and Muslim religion of the victim, the court ruled that there was no evidence for

this being the case.

Tomas GR did admit to being "a murderer" in court, but said that he "did not point at anyone" when he fired, despite using a semi-automatic shotgun without a licence.

After he broke into the

house the detainee was going up the stairs when he was confronted by both the teenage woman and her younger sister.

When they told him that their mother was not in the house he turned to leave, but

as the elder sister followed him, he turned around and shot her.

Tomas GR, who had previous drugs-related convictions, is banned from communicating with or getting within 500 metres of the victim's family for 23 years.

20 year sentence for shotgun murderer

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Ex-girlfriend video conviction

A MAN on trial for secretly recording a video of his ex-girlfriend while she was being intimate with another man has been convicted for sharing it online.

The defendant was also found guilty of repeatedly threatening the woman over the WhatsApp messaging app.

The court heard the man secretly filmed the woman while she was with another man in the kitchen of the victim's bar in western Almeria.

The defendant then sent several messages to the woman between October 15 and 30, 2016 and shared the video in WhatsApp groups.

One message read: "You do not know what you have done and you do not know what is to come."

"Now you will cry and shame all your family. I will keep sending videos," the man went on to write on the app.



CREDIT: Google Maps

CONVICTED: The defendant was found guilty at the Criminal Court in Almeria.

The defendant also told his and the victim's 10-year old son that he was going to "kill" the woman, the court heard.

"I'm going to kill your mother before the Guardia Civil takes me," prosecutors

claimed he said.

The man has been sentenced to 40 days of community service, a daily fine of €6 for one month and is prohibited from contacting her for two years.

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Credit: Guardia Civil

FARM FELON: A Guardia Civil officer inspects a crime scene.

Livestock lifter caught out

AN experienced criminal who carried out a string of livestock robberies on farms in Almeria and Murcia, has been arrested by the Guardia Civil.

As part of Operation 'OVIS' police uncovered seven such thefts, but have not ruled out more arrests related to similar crimes.

Initial enquiries were based in the Guadalentín Valley re-

gion, but through their work police also learned that livestock robberies were occurring in country houses and public buildings.

The skill and speed of the raids, combined with the fact that the perpetrator left few clues or tracks behind, led police to realise that they were dealing with a seasoned criminal.

He had struck across Lorca, Puerto Lumbreras, Los Velez and Levante Almeria with surprising mobility, but five other people have also been either arrested or are being investigated.

The detainee is a 32 year-old Spaniard and resident of Puerto Lumbreras, and is now awaiting a court hearing.

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Worker death probe

A 39-YEAR-OLD worker who died in Adra after falling around six metres off a roof was wearing a helmet at the time, according to reports.

The man also wore a harness but it is believed that it was not attached when the fall occurred. It is unclear as to why this was the case.

Labour Inspectorate and Guardia Civil officers investigating the death have suggested the fall may have occurred after the worker stepped on a skylight. This remains a theory until the investigation is finished.

The accident is believed to

have taken place at around 12.20pm on Monday. The man was reportedly working on the roof to reinforce it so that rain would not fall onto a sports complex inside the building.

He then fell between six and seven metres to his death, according to reports.

The investigation is being undertaken to determine whether the man's employer is liable to face negligence charges.

Miguel Angel Tortosa, Almeria's territorial delegate for Employment, said these types of accidents were recurring in the province.

"Work undertaken in high places without safety measures is giving rise to a lot of accidents," he said.

Carmen Vidal, from the General de Trabajadores trade union (UGT), said more measures needed to be put in place to prevent such accidents.

Members of the UGT and the CCOO union demonstrated outside a union building over the death which is the first in Almeria this year.

There were 22 workplace deaths in the province last year, up from 14 in 2016 according to union data.



IN DEFENCE: Mr Matari explains the General State Budget.

PP defends its budget

THE deputy leader of the Partido Popular (PP) of Almeria, Juan Jose Matari, has attempted to justify the investments set out in the General State Budget for 2018.

While €1.5 billion has been allocated for the Almeria-Murcia high-speed railway, Mr Matari

has admitted that "this year Almeria will not have the level of investment that we would all like."

"We decided to tell the truth and not continue deceiving as the PSOE did for eight years with the Zapatero government, and which stopped this investment."

Mr Matari highlighted that the overall budget represents lower taxes for those on lower incomes.

He proposed raising the salary for public workers and the equalisation of salaries for the Guardia Civil, and National Police.

Also on the agenda was an increase in scholarships, lower university fees, and €4 billion for health, education and social policies across the autonomous communities.

Concluding, Mr Matari said that 8,500 jobs had been created in Almeria in the last year, and that unemployment had declined by 3,500 people.



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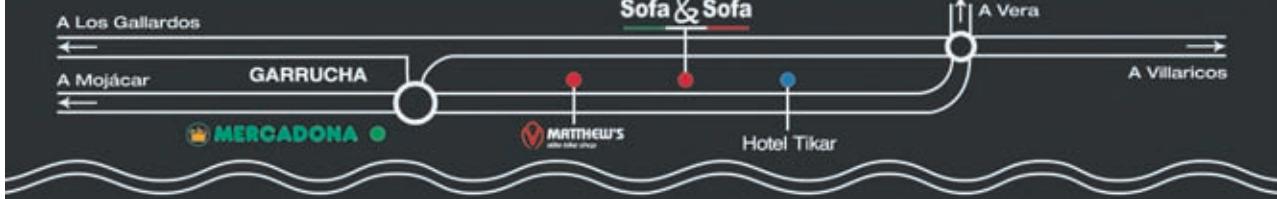
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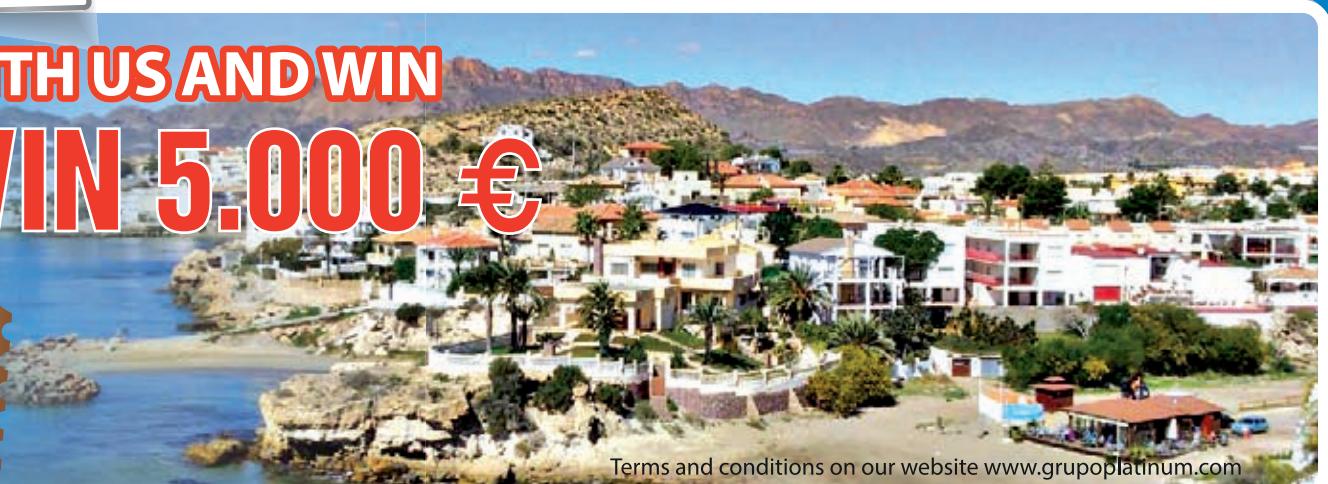
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NEWS EXTRA**Police age figures**

AROUND half of all Local Police workers in Almeria City are aged 50 or over, with a police union representative claiming the age levels impacted on work quality while calling for early retirement for officers.

Sowing seeds

THE Junta de Andalucía's Environment spokesperson joined students from the Cerro Milano secondary school to plant trees on the banks of the River Andarax near Alhama de Almeria as part of an ecological management programme.

Geoda grant

THE Diputación de Almería's President Gabriel Amat has signed a deal with Juan Pedro García, the mayor of Pulpí, to provide aid worth a total of more than €498,890 for the Geoda cave formation.

Drunk and disorderly

COMPLAINTS of vandalism and fights on the weekend have led the residents and local politicians to denounce Agudulce, Roquetas de Mar, as a 'lawless town.' In particular, the problem lies along the coast, especially around the 501 Shopping Centre, in an area known as Las Phases.

In the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings, hundreds of young revellers leave the clubs and bars and loiter around as they wait for public transport to start again at 7am in the morning.

Worse still are those who actually get into their car intoxicated and become a serious threat to themselves and to those around them.

In addition to the sounds of shouting and revelling, residents have to live with the aftermath of the weekend as they wake up to start their week surrounded by broken bottles, and cars which have been scrapped down the side.

Local residents complain that the situation has been going on for two years and



TROUBLE AHEAD: As the sun sets the noise levels rise.

that there hasn't been enough action by the Local Police.

They state that part of the problem is the fact that there is no police presence in the area between 5am and 7am.

And with summer just around the corner, local residents are worried that the situation is going to continue and, at worst, actually deteriorate.



IN WHEEL TROUBLE: An officer of the Guardia Civil inspects the scene.

Tyre slashing teenagers arrested

OFFICERS of the Guardia Civil have detained three teenage boys between 15 and 16 years old for allegedly slitting and puncturing several of the wheels of each car, and the times of each crime indicate that they were carried out in a burst.

The arrests took place at the end of March in Garrucha, after several individuals had registered complaints about attacks on their vehicles, which were parked on public roads.

Investigators established that the six incidents had the same trademark, where the vandals punctured or sliced several of the wheels of each car, and the times of each crime indicate that they were carried out in a burst.

After a range of interviews with eye witnesses and victims, police were able to identify and arrest the culprits.

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Robin & Sue



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When we had decided on our "dream home", the company were with us through all the legal necessities - solicitor, notary, opening bank accounts etc. connected with buying the property.

When we were in our home, Lianne, Danni and Jo, were still giving us lots of essential information for obtaining electricians, plumbers, internet providers etc.

Throughout the buying process, we felt totally confident in Almeria Homes and would not hesitate to recommend them to anyone looking to buy in the Albox, Almeria area.

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Xenon headlights, automatic beam light
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Armed and dangerous drugs gang opens fire on police



DRUGS HAUL: More than 6,000 kilos of hashish were impounded.

by Matt Ford

MORE than eight tonnes of hashish has been seized after drugs traffickers opened fire on a police patrol in southern Spain.

The giant haul was unearthed during raids on two properties in Cadiz.

Shots were fired at four officers who were patrolling the Botafuegos neighbourhood in Algeciras - notorious for its connections to drug trafficking - on foot.

The gunfire came from a nearby house, with some of the bullets landing close to

their feet.

The men immediately called for backup and armed units surrounded the property.

A negotiator then tried to talk to the gang members, who had barricaded themselves inside.

The move triggered a tense two-hour standoff which eventually saw four men held after they laid down their weapons.

Four loaded guns, including two pistols and two shotguns, two bulletproof vests and 2,500 kilos of hashish were found inside, investigators said in a statement.

It comes after an earlier inci-

dent saw more than 6,000 kilos of the drug impounded when a young man fled after he ran into a police patrol in La Linea de la Concepcion.

He was tracked down to a nearby garage, with several men escaping and one held when officers stormed the building.

The drugs were hidden in a secret compartment hidden under a shower and accessed using an elaborate hydraulic mechanism.

Police also took possession of a van carrying false licence plates that detectives believe was stolen in France.

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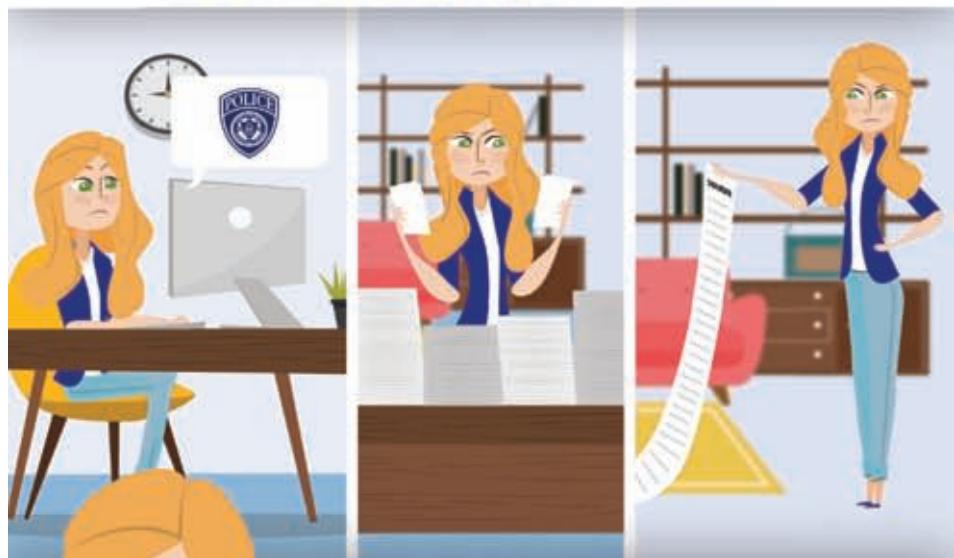
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Police find remains of missing female in car boot of her partner

POLICE in Spain, searching for a woman reported missing a month ago, have found 'biological remains,' believed to be of the woman, in the boot of her partner's car.

Zuni Adela Baez Mancuello had travelled from Paraguay to Spain on March 6 to see her boyfriend.

The 34-year-old woman went missing in Fuentidueña del Tajo in Madrid four weeks ago.



CREDIT: Guardia Civil

MISSING: Zuni Adela Baez Mancuello.

Police had sought the public's help to find the woman.

When she went missing the woman was described as 1.5-metres tall, thin, with a fair complexion and light brown hair.

She was wearing a dark sweater, grey trousers and a long grey coat and had a yellow suitcase and a beige bag.

Guardia Civil sources have not specified exactly what remains were found in the boot of the car.

Brit woman dies

A BRITISH woman who was reported missing in Portugal a month ago has been found dead in southern Spain.

Fiona Jack was reported missing in early March by concerned family and friends after failing to hear from her.

It is believed she had left a

campsites on March 4 in Tavira on the Algarve, where she had been staying over the winter.

Spain's Guardia Civil found the deceased in the town of Ayamonte in the province of Huelva, around 40km away.



MISSING FOR A MONTH: Fiona Jack was found in Ayamonte, Huelva.

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'Truly moved and touched'

THE family of a schoolboy, 10, who was killed in a suspected hit-and-run accident while on a family holiday in Spain has spoken for the first time since the accident.

Carter Carson, from Newtownabbey in County Antrim was on holiday with his father Stuart and his partner Claire when he was hit by a car in Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands.

The occupants of the red Alfa Romeo fled the scene and did not stop to offer assistance.

The little boy died from his injuries in the intensive care unit at hospital the following day.

Now the family has issued a statement, particularly thanking everyone who supported them after their tragic loss.

They said, "On Thursday, March 29 our world fell apart at the very beginning of what should have been a perfect family holiday.

"From just moments after



CREDIT: Guardia Civil

CARTER CARSON: And (inset) the red car allegedly involved in the fatal accident.

tragedy struck we had the help and support from so many people and this has continued throughout.

"We are now taking this opportunity to thank as many people as we possibly can that helped us through this traumatic time.

"We would like to start with firstly thanking the locals who first attended the scene helping to contact emergency services and comforting us as a family, the nurse from a

nearby health centre and the emergency services that attended the scene right through to the doctors and medical staff at the hospital nearby, right down to the reception staff who were working tirelessly to help save Carter and to keeping us informed every step of the way.

They went on, "A short time later, Carter had to be transferred to Santa Cruz for his treatment to continue in the ICU.

"We would like to thank the ambulance driver and the doctor who travelled with us.

"At the hospital we would like to thank the group of nurses, doctors and specialists who were on hand when we arrived right down to a mother in the waiting area of the ICU whose own little girl was ill, offered support and comfort.

"While we were trying to process the most devastating news that Carter would not pull through the police were working hard in the background with catching the culprits and we would like to thank them, the eyewitnesses and people of Tenerife for not only catching them but in such a short time period.

"Also we would like to thank the British Consulate, who have been with the family every step of the way.

"We can never thank all of these people enough for everything they have done for Carter and the Carson family.

"We are truly moved and touched."

After launching a public appeal for information Spain's Interior Minister confirmed two people were arrested over the hit-and-run.

Respected Spanish news agency EFE said 'two, unnamed British men' were being questioned by Spanish police over their involvement in the alleged hit-and-run incident.

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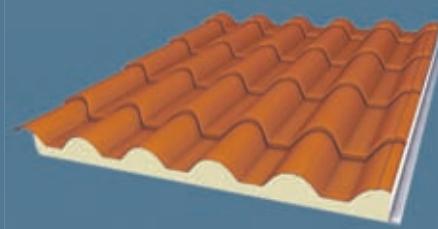
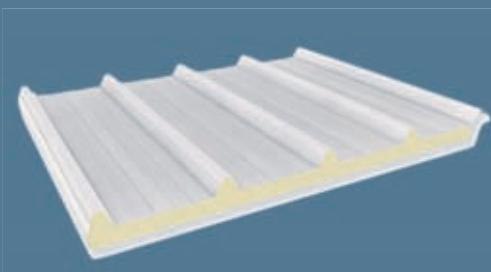
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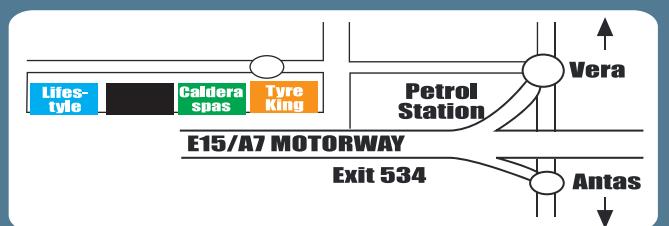


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Mother and grandfather face murder charges

POLICE in Spain have arrested the mother and grandfather of a new-born baby girl whose body was found in a rubbish bag at a recycling plant in southern Spain.

The naked body of the baby was found inside a rubbish bag on a conveyor belt by workers at the rubbish recycling plant in the town of Alhendin in Granada Province on January 16.

The police report alleges that the 56-year-old man, who has a police record, helped his daughter in childbirth at home and once the child was born threw her violently against the ground and killed her.

The autopsy showed that the baby was born alive and healthy, but that the body of the baby had a head injury and fractures.

After the body of the baby



BABY'S BODY: Found in rubbish bag on recycling centre conveyor belt.

was found, officers began an investigation to trace the mother. It took a major step forward when a woman called the National Police to warn of a young woman who was begging at a shopping centre in Granada.

When police interviewed the young woman and her partner, she let slip that she could be related to the deceased baby.

DNA samples were taken and it was confirmed she was the mother of the child.

Now officers are waiting to confirm if the other DNA sample found on the rubbish bag is that of the child's grandfather.

The partner of the woman has been ruled out of the investigations.

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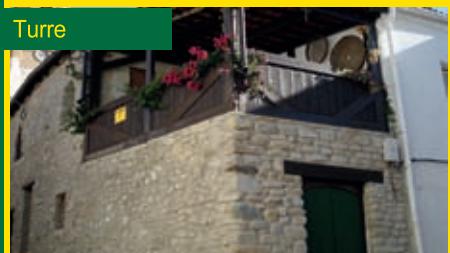
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South-facing 3 bed, 2 bath townhouse of 80m² on a plot of 98m² in a quiet residential area. Solarium. Sea & village views. Community pool

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A1335 135,000€



Mojácar Playa

Impressive 3 bed, 2 bath, penthouse golf apartment of 102m² plus terraces & solarium. Community pool & gym. Underground parking. Sea & golf views..

A1332 239,950€



Mojácar Playa

East facing 3 bed, 2 bath apartment of 119m² + terraces. Views of the sea & beautifully maintained gardens & pool in this front-line urbanisation.

A1336 169,000€



Mojácar Playa

Modern 2 bed, 2 bath, ground floor apartment of 62m² & terrace of 31m². Underground parking. Sea views. In walking distance of beach & amenities.

A951 120,000€



Mojácar Playa

2 bed, 1 bath, furnished penthouse apartment of 63m² + huge terrace of 43m² with fantastic sea views. Secure complex with community pool & gardens.

A1204 160,000€



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Top quality 3 bed, 2 bath, furnished ground floor apartment of 118m² with mountain & sea views. 3 community pools & gardens. Walking distance to the sea.

A1260 247,500€



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DV1428 255,000€



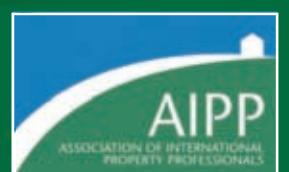
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Credit: William White

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Murder most marvellous

A COUPLE of weeks ago the Indalo Players performed their first matinee of The Speakeasy Murder at the Roof Garden in Parque Comercial.

Due to its success, they are hoping to perform this show again at the end of May in Albox.

The Indalo Players also made a recent return to the Miraflores Ballroom, where the audience really enjoyed all the fun, murder and mayhem. If you're lucky, there may be some tickets left for

the final performance in Le Magnifique tonight (Thursday).

They have a very exciting programme planned for next year and are seeking actors of all ages, in addition to help for back stage, front of house, publicity and logistics.

For more information contact Bill White on 671 810 819 or email williamwhite9552@aol.com.

A spring in their step

THE Association of the Third Age, 'Club Macenas Mojácar,' held their spring luncheon at the Hotel el Puntazo last Sunday.

Around 140 members enjoyed a full buffet followed by music and hours of dancing. The Club has members of almost a dozen nationalities and is open to any senior who is over 60 and lives in the Mojácar area (younger partners are eligible to join).

The Club offers many benefits such as free recreational and fitness activities, social evenings with live music, as well as discounted dinner dances, trips and holidays.

If you are eligible and wish to join, take your padrón and personal details to their office which is in the basement of the Centro de Usos Multiples in Mojácar on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 5pm to 7pm.



Credit: Silvia Carrasco Caparrós

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Edna Thirlaway celebrated her 93rd birthday at the event, with local councillor Anna Garcia.

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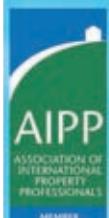
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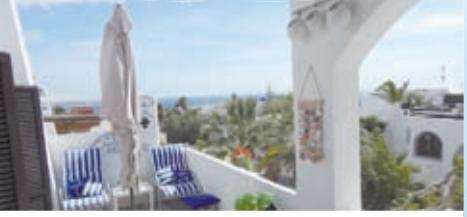
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TRADING BLOWS: Vassily Nebenzia made the comments at a meeting of the UN Security Council in New York.

'You'll be sorry'

■ RUSSIA'S United Nations ambassador has told his British counterpart his country was "playing with fire" over recent spy poisoning accusations. Vassily Nebenzia added during a 30-minute speech to the organisation's Security Council the British would be "sorry" after several Russian diplomats were expelled from London. Russia denies any involvement in the alleged poisoning of Sergei Skripal in Salisbury.

Putin cartel warning

■ PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has warned against the danger to the Russian economy from state-run companies creating monopolies in the country's economy. "Cartels are growing in high competition industries; entrepreneurial initiative and motivation to open a business are being undermined," he said.

World Cup screening

■ POLICE in Russia have been running background checks on volunteers for this year's FIFA World Cup to root out those with terror-

ist links. The efforts follow threats from various terror organisations to stage attacks during the tournament. Around 6,000 volunteers are expected to attend.

Telegram ban move

■ RUSSIAN regulators have set in motion efforts to block the Telegram messaging app 48 hours after its deadline to help the government decrypt user's messages expired. Roskomnadzor, the country's media watchdog, has moved to take the app down with a senior security official reporting attempts to plan 29 terror attacks were made on it in 2018.

France and Russia talks

■ RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has spoken over the phone with his French opposite number Emmanuel Macron on the situation in Syria. Decisions made at a recent summit between Russia, Turkey and Iran on the conflict and prospects for a political settlement were on the agenda, according to the Kremlin.

A fishy case

■ MOSCOW police launched an investigation after a man posing as a delivery driver made off with 13 tons worth of frozen fish worth around €90,434. Police said the shipment of fish remained undelivered to the customer in Nizhny Novgorod after the driver and truck carrying the cargo disappeared.

SMELLS FISHY: The 13 ton haul is believed to be worth around €90,434.





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Opel launches finance option

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

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

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

Quote of the Week

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



Fake degree row stirs new scandal



Photo credit PP/YouTube

SCHOLARS?: Cristina Cifuentes and Pablo Casado.

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

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

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

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

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

Expat papers shut down

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

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

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

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

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

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

Labour charges below par

by Joe Gerrard

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

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

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

Around 25 per cent of the

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

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

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

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

Fast Pensions nest egg debt

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

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

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

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

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 9

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|---|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Anglo American | 1,603.50 | -14.90 | -0.92 | 23,105.61 |
| Associated British Foods | 2,500.00 | 5.00 | 0.20 | 19,863.11 |
| Admiral Group | 1,847.50 | -33.00 | -1.75 | 5,337.60 |
| Ashtead Group | 1,959.50 | -17.00 | -0.86 | 9,729.45 |
| Antofagasta | 912.00 | -3.60 | -0.39 | 9,176.35 |
| Aviva | 487.50 | -1.30 | -0.27 | 19,607.12 |
| AstraZeneca | 4,890.00 | -100.50 | -2.01 | 63,418.14 |
| BAE Systems | 555.00 | -46.80 | -7.78 | 19,029.26 |
| Barclays | 208.50 | -1.05 | -0.50 | 36,289.43 |
| British American Tobacco | 4,315.00 | 4.00 | 0.09 | 98,305.89 |
| Barratt Developments | 545.50 | -4.30 | -0.78 | 5,508.24 |
| Berkeley Group Holdings (The) | 4,251.00 | 389.00 | 10.07 | 5,175.76 |
| British Land Co | 650.50 | 0.70 | 0.11 | 6,418.28 |
| BHP Billiton | 1,395.00 | 6.20 | 0.45 | 29,780.21 |
| Bunzl | 2,090.00 | -24.00 | -1.15 | 6,974.04 |
| BP | 498.00 | -0.40 | -0.08 | 99,750.09 |
| Burberry Group | 1,623.50 | -53.00 | -3.16 | 7,129.50 |
| BT Group | 226.50 | -8.05 | -3.43 | 23,043.62 |
| Coca-Cola HBC | 2,753.00 | 46.00 | 1.70 | 9,792.74 |
| Carnival | 4,635.00 | 11.00 | 0.24 | 9,582.91 |
| Centrica | 143.20 | 0.10 | 0.07 | 7,911.62 |
| Compass Group | 1,422.50 | -62.00 | -4.18 | 23,461.26 |
| Croda International | 4,621.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,109.55 |
| CRH | 2,404.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,509.19 |
| DCC | 6,555.00 | -90.00 | -1.35 | 5,817.27 |
| Diageo | 2,485.00 | -7.50 | -0.30 | 61,384.29 |
| Direct Line Insurance Group | 353.35 | 6.45 | 1.86 | 4,786.38 |
| Evraz | 435.00 | -15.50 | -3.44 | 6,449.97 |
| Experian | 1,511.25 | -23.25 | -1.52 | 14,176.16 |
| easyJet | 1,635.00 | -8.00 | -0.49 | 6,520.17 |
| Ferguson | 5,270.00 | -6.00 | -0.11 | 13,155.38 |
| Fresnillo | 1,276.50 | 34.50 | 2.78 | 9,273.81 |
| G4S | 242.25 | -8.25 | -3.29 | 3,889.85 |
| GKN | 436.00 | 13.30 | 3.15 | 7,289.60 |
| Glencore | 353.00 | 1.85 | 0.53 | 51,748.76 |
| GlaxoSmithKline | 1,417.00 | -5.60 | -0.39 | 70,417.27 |
| Hargreaves Lansdown | 1,649.50 | 3.88 | 0.24 | 7,892.66 |
| Halma | 1,182.00 | 18.00 | 1.55 | 4,460.79 |
| HSBC Holdings | 670.00 | 5.20 | 0.78 | 135,098.09 |
| International Consolidated Airlines Group | 620.00 | 4.40 | 0.71 | 12,589.53 |
| InterContinental Hotels Group | 4,310.00 | 20.00 | 0.47 | 8,246.48 |
| 3i Group | 878.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8,563.44 |
| Imperial Brands | 2,712.50 | 158.00 | 6.19 | 24,124.78 |
| Informa | 721.00 | -2.60 | -0.36 | 5,883.40 |
| Intertek Group | 4,669.00 | 11.00 | 0.24 | 7,506.39 |
| ITV | 147.25 | -0.85 | -0.57 | 5,885.15 |
| Just Eat | 688.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,659.77 |
| Johnson Matthey | 3,205.00 | -4.00 | -0.12 | 6,098.24 |
| Kingfisher | 295.50 | 0.70 | 0.24 | 6,396.03 |
| Land Securities Group | 952.50 | -1.20 | -0.13 | 7,059.44 |

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Legal & General Group | 263.50 | 1.80 | 0.69 | 15,546.34 |
| Lloyds Banking Group ORD | 66.00 | -0.32 | -0.48 | 47,739.29 |
| London Stock Exchange Grp | 4,246.50 | 28.50 | 0.68 | 14,396.51 |
| Micro Focus International | 1,464.00 | 335.50 | 29.73 | 4,770.77 |
| Mediclinic International | 684.20 | 115.20 | 20.25 | 4,219.98 |
| Marks & Spencer Group | 270.00 | 1.00 | 0.37 | 4,451.84 |
| Mondi | 1,885.50 | -31.00 | -1.62 | 7,056.53 |
| Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets | 224.10 | -0.12 | -0.06 | 5,295.95 |
| National Grid | 795.00 | -29.50 | -3.58 | 27,646.81 |
| NMC Health | 3,275.00 | -123.00 | -3.62 | 7,132.95 |
| Next | 4,765.00 | -6.00 | -0.13 | 6,875.93 |
| Old Mutual Group | 245.00 | 9.70 | 4.12 | 11,601.89 |
| Paddy Power Betfair | 6,970.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,919.15 |
| Prudential | 1,800.00 | 21.00 | 1.18 | 46,495.81 |
| Persimmon | 2,796.50 | 152.50 | 5.77 | 8,155.96 |
| Pearson | 737.00 | -4.00 | -0.54 | 5,722.19 |
| Reckitt Benckiser Group | 6,175.00 | -44.00 | -0.71 | 43,674.79 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Group | 254.00 | -7.00 | -2.68 | 31,505.49 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,350.00 | 27.00 | 1.16 | 107,274.17 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,347.50 | -15.50 | -0.66 | 88,880.40 |
| RELX | 1,477.50 | -40.50 | -2.67 | 15,991.99 |
| Rio Tinto | 3,595.00 | 35.00 | 0.98 | 48,778.75 |
| Royal Mail | 514.20 | -42.40 | -7.62 | 5,526.00 |
| Rolls-Royce Group | 860.00 | -8.00 | -0.92 | 16,080.25 |
| Randgold Resources | 5,615.00 | -43.00 | -0.76 | 5,257.57 |
| RSA Insurance Group | 644.00 | -8.40 | -1.29 | 6,584.54 |
| Rentokil Initial | 250.50 | -23.30 | -8.51 | 5,069.17 |
| Sainsbury (J) | 244.75 | -1.25 | -0.51 | 5,357.94 |
| Schroders | 3,124.00 | -32.00 | -1.01 | 7,239.50 |
| Sage Group (The) | 645.00 | -10.60 | -1.62 | 7,092.31 |
| Segro | 614.40 | 0.29 | 0.05 | 6,182.04 |
| Shire | 3,617.50 | -91.00 | -2.45 | 33,789.97 |
| Smurfit Kappa Group | 3,184.00 | 126.00 | 4.12 | 7,229.18 |
| Sky | 1,320.00 | 4.50 | 0.34 | 22,587.89 |
| Standard Life Aberdeen | 361.50 | -3.90 | -1.07 | 10,838.48 |
| Smith (DS) | 473.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,124.08 |
| Smiths Group | 1,541.75 | 48.25 | 3.23 | 5,908.58 |
| Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst | 433.00 | 2.00 | 0.46 | 6,092.16 |
| Smith & Nephew | 1,293.75 | -23.25 | -1.77 | 11,499.77 |
| SSE | 1,282.50 | -14.00 | -1.08 | 12,943.16 |
| Standard Chartered | 706.00 | -6.50 | -0.91 | 23,741.16 |
| St James's Place | 1,051.50 | -0.50 | -0.05 | 5,605.81 |
| Severn Trent | 1,883.00 | -2.00 | -0.11 | 4,389.97 |
| Tesco | 204.00 | -0.70 | -0.34 | 19,815.83 |
| TUI AG | 1,650.25 | 89.75 | 5.75 | 9,019.33 |
| Taylor Wimpey | 196.00 | 7.20 | 3.81 | 6,143.27 |
| Unilever | 4,022.50 | 8.50 | 0.21 | 49,646.37 |
| United Utilities Group | 723.00 | -1.80 | -0.25 | 4,830.50 |
| Vodafone Group | 203.50 | -0.50 | -0.25 | 54,325.20 |
| WPP Group | 1,115.00 | -47.50 | -4.09 | 14,414.67 |
| Whitbread | 3,710.00 | 23.00 | 0.62 | 6,764.74 |

Kleinwort Hambros Elite PCC Limited

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| DEALING PRICE | PRICE MOVEMENT |
|---------------|----------------|
| £0.9146 | -£0.0002 |

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR
Multi Asset Balanced B GBP
Multi Asset Balanced B EUR
Multi Asset Growth B GBP
Multi Asset Growth B EUR

| DEALING PRICE | PRICE MOVEMENT |
|---------------|----------------|
| £1.1354 | -£0.0016 |
| £1.0482 | -£0.0019 |
| £1.2860 | -£0.0010 |
| £1.1767 | -£0.0013 |
| £1.4182 | -£0.0014 |
| £1.3043 | -£0.0017 |

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| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE% | CHANGE | VOLUME(M) |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 3M | 212,250 | -2.94% | -6,420 | 126,220.81 |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS | 91,9100 | -2.43% | -2,290 | 79,080.84 |
| APPLE | 168,380 | -2.56% | -4,420 | 854,362.31 |
| BOEING CO | 326,120 | -3.06% | -10,280 | 191,570.22 |
| CATERPILLAR | 142,990 | -3.47% | -5,140 | 85,544.15 |
| CHEVRON | 114,76 | -2.16% | -2,5 | |



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Inditex group contributes 18 per cent of



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

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

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

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

of 42 per cent in the space of a year.

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

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

HSBC WHISTLEBLOWER FREED AFTER ARREST Swiss extradition demand

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

that it has submitted a formal extradition request.

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

In November last year HSBC Pri-

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

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

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

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

ADGP to open probe in wake of Cambridge Analytica row

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

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

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

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

Operator nets airwaves deal worth €600m

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

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

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

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

€8.4bn Bitcoin crackdown

CRYPTOCASH USED TO LAUNDER DRUG MONEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

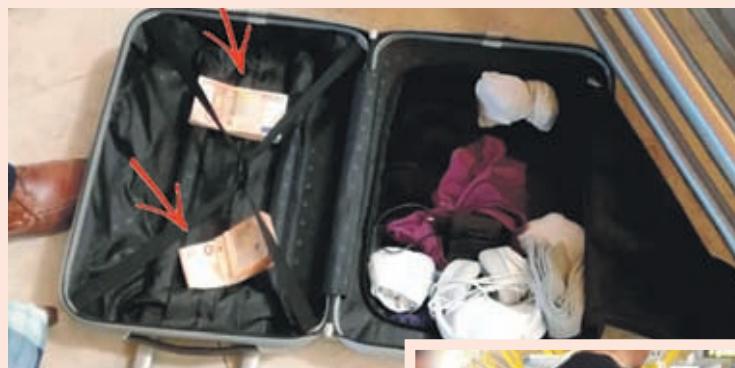


Photo credit: Guardia Civil

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Solar power to drive future of energy market

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

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

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

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

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



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How many more lives must be lost?



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

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

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

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



LONDON: Violence is on the increase.

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

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

Have we learned nothing from America,

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

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

I await the 'Slings and Arrows.'

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Keep the faith.

Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

Advertising Feature by Spanish Property Choice

Property of the week

**to sell at
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Home of distinction

ONE of the finest properties you will find in the Almeria Province with quite literally too many options to list, quality, luxury and priced to sell.

This is a large luxury villa which is just a two-minute drive from the beautiful historic village of Velez Blanco.

The villa has a stunning 11 metre x 5 metre swimming pool along with two stables, a large under build with room for six cars and this unique property is centrally located on a spacious 6,000 square metre plot of level usable land.

The villa has been constructed to an exceptionally high level throughout and has been built to British standards with quality insulation materials being used through the internal fabric of the house along with UPVC wood effect double glazed doors and windows throughout which are all fitted with super high quality Pilkington glass.

The entry to the plot is through



PURE LUXURY: Everything you need and much more.

electric wrought iron gates with an intercom system for visiting guests. The property has a set of double wooden entrance doors from a shaded entrance porch into the beautifully spacious hallway.

From the hallway, you have access to two individual sitting/reception rooms, the main lounge and the kitchen along with the high quality stairway which leads upstairs.

The main lounge room has a set of double glass panelled doors off the hallway and a bespoke Inglenook style fireplace with a gas

coal effect free standing fire.

There are two sets of French doors with views over the pool and terrace areas, a pre-installed surround sound system and Tudor style black beamed ceiling.

The top quality kitchen has a central island with high spec oven and ceramic hob with an extractor hood and the worktops are made from cream coloured Silestone. Along with this there are a good variety of wall and base storage units which are fitted with a built-in UK satellite TV and a DVD player. Also in this

area you will find a large built-in American style fridge freezer and a wine cooler system.

Open from the kitchen is the main dining room with an eight seater table and again there are French doors leading out onto the terrace overlooking the swimming pool area as well as the fantastic views of the surrounding countryside.

From the opposite side of the kitchen is the utility room which has granite worktops, a washing machine, a dishwasher, an oven with gas hob, an extractor hood and a

tumble drier.

Upstairs there are four good-sized double bedrooms, two with their own en-suite and there is also a separate family bathroom. All of these are fitted with high quality floor to ceiling ceramics and top quality bathroom fitments.

The swimming pool itself is an infinity style pool with a bar and storage room to the side and a BBQ room with a plancher and BBQ with an additional oven unit, a sink with hot and cold water boiler. Through an arched gateway there are two detached stables and a storage/tack room. In front of the stable is a large piece of gravelled flat land.

For more details about this property visit <https://www.spanishpropertychoice.com/> and to find out about Spanish Property Choice, the family-run estate agents who have regularly appeared on Channel 4's Sun, Sea and Selling Houses or +34 950 615 388.



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We are off to the Olympia soon!

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REF:A926 LOCATED IN ORIA 159,950€

This is an immaculate, high-quality, 3 bed, 2 bath single-storey, detached villa with private pool, garage, C/H, & all the additional features possible, situated in a fantastic location within walking distance of the charming, Spanish village of Oria, where you will find a number of amenities ranging from bars, restaurants, shops, supermarkets, banks and importantly a 24 hour medical centre with ambulance, as well as being around a 20 minute drive from the larger town of Albox. The property also boasts great views of the surrounding area thanks to its end position. Bargain!



REF:A922 LOCATED IN ARBOLEAS 159,950€

Located in a small much sought after urbanisation that is within walking distance of the local village centre which has all of the amenities that you will need for day to day living. This lovely family sized villa has many extras included in the asking price. The property has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, landscaped gardens, air con, private parking and is located in a cul de sac of just 12 other detached villas which comes with lovely views of the surrounding mountains & valley. The villa has been very well maintained both inside and out by the current owners. A must see villa!



REF:A905 LOCATED IN CANTORIA 169,995€

This is an immaculate, single-storey, detached villa with garage and private swimming pool, with fantastic views of the mountains, located within walking distance from the traditional Spanish village of Cantoria, which offers a number of amenities, including numerous bars, shops and more, as well as being within a 10 minute drive of other villages and towns like Albox. The property is also within a 45-minute drive of the coast. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, easily maintained gardens with lots of paved areas and a mix of fruit trees and shrubs. Priced to sell!



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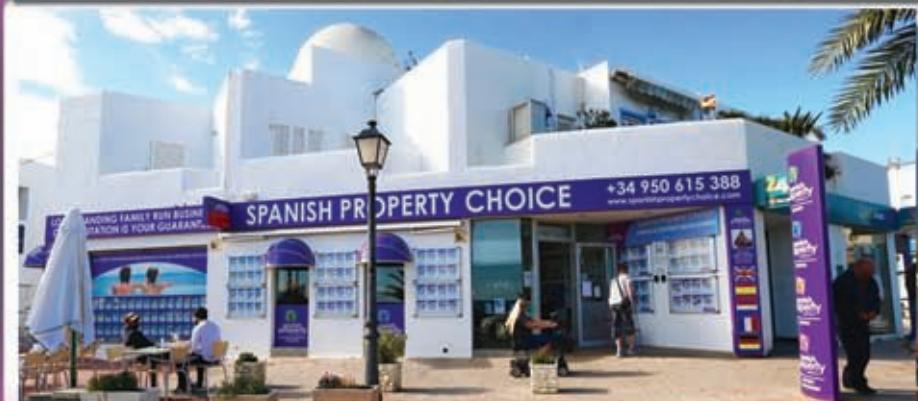
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Ref:A859 Oria 239,950€
6 bed, 6 bath Cortijo. EPC E



Ref:A914 Arboleas 189,950€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa EPC G-E



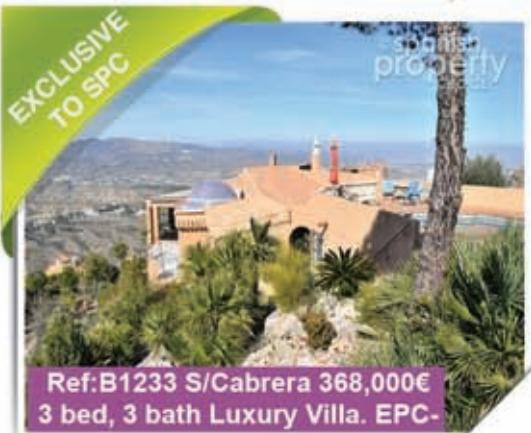
Ref:B1005 S/Cabrera 149,950€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa. EPC F-E



Ref:B992 Mojacar 160,000€
3 bed, 2 bath Duplex. EPC F



Ref:B948 V/D/Este 119.995€
3 bed, 2 bath Apartment. EPC E



Ref:B1233 S/Cabrera 368,000€
3 bed, 3 bath Luxury Villa. EPC-



Ref:B1157 Turre 350,000€
4 bed, 3 bath Luxury Villa. EPC E



Ref:A726 P/Lumbleras 309,950€
4 bed, 2 bath Luxury Villa. EPC F



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Advertising Feature by Voss Home**Property of the week****for****149,950 euros**

Renovated country house

CORTIJO JOAQUIN is a light, clean and airy, beautifully renovated 145m², country house with three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, many original features, swimming pool, private garden with fantastic country views and 6,361m² of land.

The house and garden is private and not overlooked but has neighbours within walking distance. Two minutes' drive to the village with a restaurant and five minutes' drive to Santa Maria village with a shop, restaurant, bar, doctors, chemist and school and 12 minutes' drive to Huercal-Overa town and 40 minutes' drive to the coast.

Ideal for someone wanting an impressive, traditional, rural but not remote, full of character, full time country residence or 'lock up and leave' holiday home with great rental potential. The property has mains water, electric, phone and internet connected and a high quality, circular 4.6m, above ground pool.

To the front of the property is a lovely covered porch seating area, ideal for



COUNTRY HOME: Has everything you need.

enjoying the warm evenings. This leads through a wooden, stable door into the open plan living room / dining room with rustic tiles, wooden ceiling beams, original fireplace with log burn-

ing stove. A separate, good sized, recently fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, shower room and under stairs storage.

Rustic tiled stairs lead up to the re-

cently refurbished vary large master bedroom with en-suite shower.

To the rear of the house is a gated courtyard with large utility / storage room and log shed and plenty of space for storing bikes etc.

In total there is land of approximately 6,361m² which is split into three areas. To the rear is hillside and open countryside with fantastic views and approximately 35 almond trees and two deposit tanks for extra water.

Around the house is a lovely, private fenced and gated driveway for four or five cars, garden area with established Mediterranean plants and fruit trees which are all illuminated at night and is looked after by an automated watering system.

There is an above ground, circular 4.6m swimming pool and impressive outdoor kitchen with built in BBQ / dining area with gas rings, running water, electricity points, fridge / freezer and views of the countryside.

Just below the house is the 'growing area' with two fields with mains irriga-

tion water and a deposit tank with a small variety of fruit trees. This area is ideal if you want to plant fruit and vegetables and keep chickens etc.

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

For more information or to arrange a viewing of Cortijo Joaquin ref VH1010 please contact Voss Homes on 0034 950 616 827 or 0034 678 002 006 or visit the office in Huercal-Overa. They are just 1km off exit 553 of the A7 motorway and 100m from Lidl.

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Have you been hacked?

Mike Senker

In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

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

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

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

I checked online and was shocked that this hacking was actually very serious as the data includes peoples' whereabouts, your exact location, and this could include military person-

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

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

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

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

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- Great views
- Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

ZURGENA

VH1234 €139,950 CEE E193 2



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HUERCAL-OVERA

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REDUCED



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VH1217 €89,950 CEE E190 32



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- Private garden
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VH1218 €279,950 CEE TBC



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- 1,558m² garden, pool & garage
- Walk to restaurant / bar
- Zurgena area

VH1231 €214,950 CEE E154 31



- Large 3 bed, 2 bath villa
- Plus 1 bed, 1 bath apartment
- 775m² garden & pool
- Walk to restaurant, bar shop, doctors
- 10 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

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HUERCAL-OVERA,
ZURGENA,
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- Modern, spacious style
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VH1288 €169,950 CEE TBC



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 8m x 4m swimming pool
- Walk to bar / restaurant
- Zurgena area

VH1081 €153,950 CEE TBC



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 747m² garden plus pool
- Walk to amenities
- 10 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

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

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

Nora is the author of popular psychological suspense and crime thrillers and a freelance journalist. To comment on any of the issues raised in her column, go to www.euroweeklynews.com/3.0.15/no-ra-johnson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo credit: Shutterstock/CliffRichard.com

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

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

So, another nail in the failing

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

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

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

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

To the ridiculous without going through the sublime...

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

All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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TECH FOR THE TIMID



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

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

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

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

Removable batteries peaked in the 90's and have been losing ground ever since. The recent debacle where

Assault and battery

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



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

Apple finally fessed-up to slowing down older iPhones as their batteries weakened, nudged the issue back to centre-stage.

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

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

I have an early Nexus tablet still ticking along on its original battery after five years and some 400

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

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

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

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

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

For battery or worse

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

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

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

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

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**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

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

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

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

Piers Morgan is still absent from *Good Morning Britain*. It seems that this week Eamonn Holmes (he has his own website you know, with a mas-

Missing presenters and a possible change of venue

**FABULOUS:** Christine Lampard.

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

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

So if the 'Piers' job description is to

**BREAKDOWN:
Ruti
Olajugbagbe.**

be dominating, arrogant and to generally talk over or down to the female presenters, then my money is on Mr

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

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

Fans of *First Dates*

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

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

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

Happy viewing.



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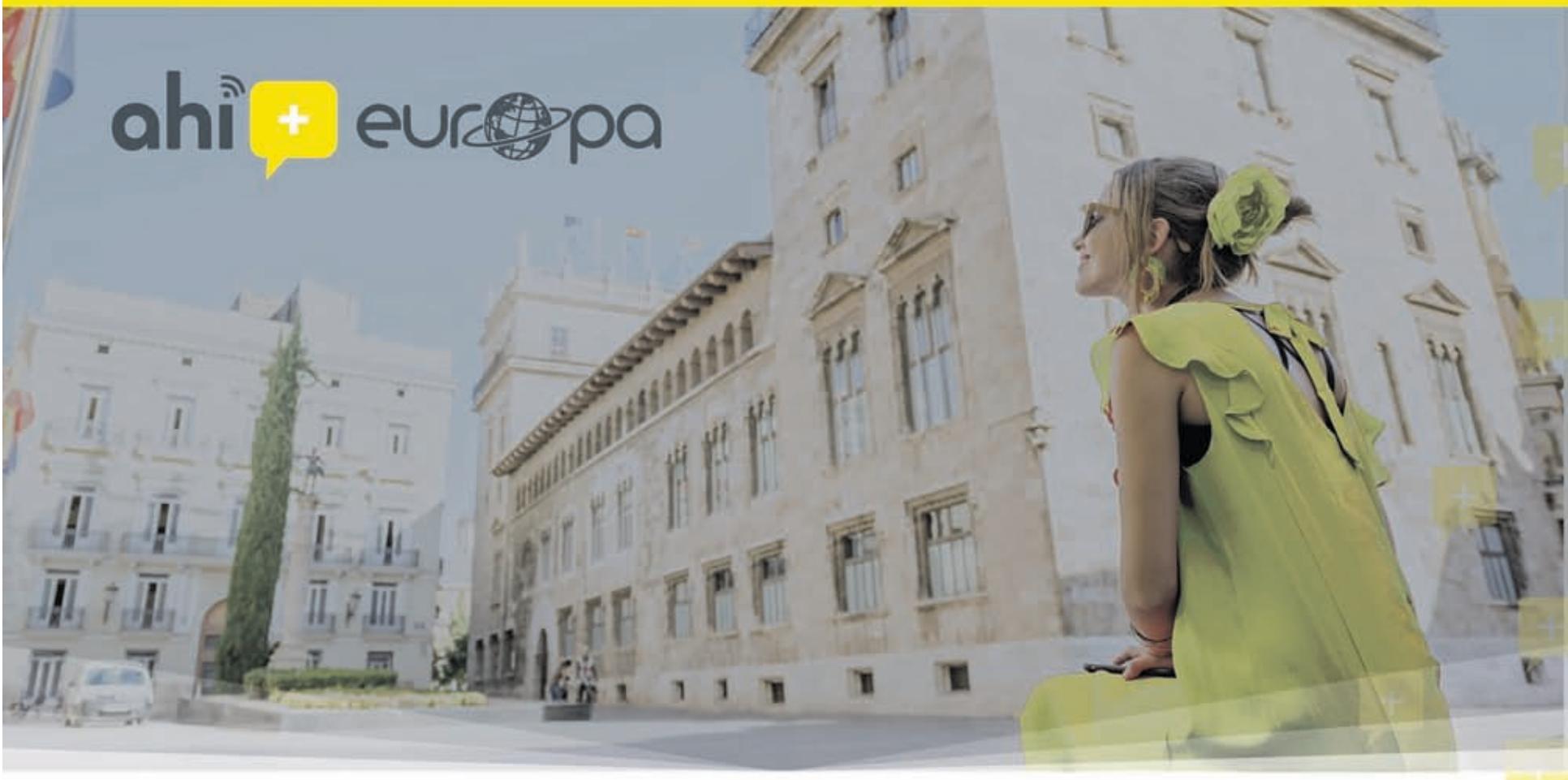
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Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*
Freelance correspondent, London, England

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



TOP GUN: The stunning bespoke interior.

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

The Vanquish Special Edition is finished in striking Eclat

Red, mirroring the livery of the Hawk jets and referencing the word 'Eclat,' the Red Arrows' motto.

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

trail feature on the side strake.

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

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

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

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

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

The last dance Up the riverbed of nowhere



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.

SHHH. It's a well kept family secret. Not that it has anything to really inform the world. I suppose it is quite normal to not be able to dance.

Furthermore, none of us, the male members of the clan ever wanted to learn. Never to be seen pirouetting about or caught eating quiche. I mean, sit back and look at the people thinking they are gyrating to the music and they actually look foolish.

Now, I can be damn foolish on my own and don't need music to make it more so. I was into long walks, especially in strange places. Seemed a lot more interesting than bouncing around a floor late at night and believing I had some mystical connection to the rhythm and flow of the universe.

Sunday was the walking day. Usually we didn't drive too far before coming upon some unexplored river bed that needed to be inspected. It was a family affair, wifey, children and dogs. Backpacks full of water, apples and crisps.

No maps as the journey's excitement was visiting true tierra incognito. Not a lot of wild life could be observed. The occasional Tortuga Mora and some lucky bird that had already learned not to chirp under any circumstances or risk being blown away by local hunters.

All in all they were peaceful walks filled with family chatter and a constant eye on the look out for a rogue javelin (wild boar). Now, they were particularly mean if they had young and were killer dangerous. Never saw any of them either; that was a good break.

Well one particular Sunday we strolled up the river bed nearest the Pueblo Marina. A full hours' stroll brought us into unknown territory. Unusual too as we encountered signs. Colmenas it read. I knew not the word nor did my wife or children. We pressed on and came across groups of tin boxes with even larger signs: Colmenas. Now those signs attracted me just like 'wet paint' would have.

I just had to know. I urged everyone to back up a few yards while I went on to inspect the mysterious writings. I hadn't but taken five more steps forward when a strange whirring sound came to my ears. It got louder and seem to have a grizzled feeling to my skin. Things were buzzing me, in my face,



BEE CAREFUL: You can get a nasty sting!

ears, in my hair, under my sunglasses and up my trouser leg.

I knew instantly that I had embarked on a journey two steps too far and with a painful resolution. Well I was jumping and waving my hands wildly, falling on the ground and rolling over and springing to my feet, brutal and wicked gyrations. Well my children thought this the funniest comic act old pops

had done and they roared with laughter. Being ridiculous didn't bother me at all. Not getting stung any more was my only concern.

All this frantic spinning and whirling seemed to ease the sharpened pain but didn't cure the embarrassment and remorse I was forced to endure the audience of my loving family.

It was my last dance as I remember.

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Motorhome owners are generally respectable

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Behind the times in La Cala

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

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

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

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

Dave, Turre



Photo Credit: Tyk/Wikimedia

| BEHIND TIME: The town hall in La Cala.

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

rately informed.
Time will tell how long this might take.

P Wardman, Mijas

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

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

Olivia Qualtrough, Mallorca

Tee'd off

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stephen Hamilton, Costa del Sol

Cover up!

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

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

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

Fred Calbern, El Faro

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.

Norwegian flies high in air transport world awards

Comments from EWN online

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

Robert Carter

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

Mark Rainey

Cyclist dies after horror crash

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

Paula Bush

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

Jay Ellis

Holiday hotel bookings down 25 per cent

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

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

Gordon Hulme

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

June N Maurice Johnson

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

Shaun McElhinney

Eric Bristow dies of heart attack

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

Mark Peake

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

Robert E Pearce

My mam's fave darts player, shocking news.

Elizabeth Burrows

Wow too young to die. RIP.

Stephen Kim Raymond

Fines of up to €30,000 for animal cruelty

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

Rosemary Harknett

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

Mary Naismith

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THURSDAY

BBC ONE**BBC TWO****ITV****CHANNEL 4****CHANNEL 5****sky sports main event**12
APRIL

5:30pm Flog It!

6:15pm Pointless

7:00pm BBC News at Six

7:30pm BBC London News

8:00pm The One Show

8:30pm EastEnders

9:00pm MasterChef

10:00pm Not Going Out

10:30pm Still Game

11:00pm BBC News at Ten

11:30pm BBC London News

12:45pm Dom on the Spot

1:15pm Bargain Hunt

2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018

6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

7:00pm Eggheads

7:30pm Today at the Games

9:00pm Living with the Brainy Bunch

10:00pm Civilisations

10:30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather

11:00pm Match of the Day

11:30pm Newsnight

7:25pm Party Election Broadcast

7:30pm ITV Evening News

8:00pm Emmerdale

8:30pm Tonight

9:00pm Emmerdale

9:30pm The Cruise: Sailing the Caribbean

10:00pm The Investigator: A British Crime Story

10:30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather

11:00pm Location, Location, Location

10:00pm Indian Summer School

11:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody

3:10pm Countdown

4:00pm A Place in the Sun

5:00pm Escape to the Chateau

6:00pm Four in a Bed

6:30pm Star Boot Sale

7:00pm The Simpsons

7:30pm Hollyoaks

8:00pm Channel 4 News

9:00pm Location, Location, Location

10:00pm Indian Summer School

11:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody

6:00pm 5 News at 5 Neighbours

6:30pm Home and Away

7:00pm 5 News Tonight

7:30pm Steve Backshall's Hedgehog Rescue

8:00pm Springtime on the Farm

9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

10:00pm Take it Away!

11:00pm Undercover: Nailing the Fraudsters

10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans

12:00pm Live European Tour Golf

2:00pm Live PGA Tour Featured Groups

4:00pm Live Indian Premier League

8:30pm Football

11:00pm The Debate - Live Sky Sports News

12:00am 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans

12:00pm 12:00pm Live European Tour Golf

2:00pm 2:00pm Live PGA Tour Featured Groups

4:00pm 4:00pm Live Indian Premier League

8:00pm 8:00pm Football

11:15pm 11:15pm The Debate - Live Premier League

12:15am 12:15am Greatest Games

FRIDAY

13
APRIL

4:45pm Money for Nothing

5:30pm Flog It!

6:15pm Pointless

7:00pm BBC News at Six

7:30pm BBC London News

8:00pm The One Show

8:30pm Sounds Like Friday Night

9:00pm EastEnders

9:30pm MasterChef

10:30pm Have I Got News for You

11:00pm BBC News at Ten

12:45pm Dom on the Spot

1:15pm Bargain Hunt

2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018

6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

7:00pm Eggheads

7:30pm Today at the Games

9:00pm Coronation Street

10:00pm Love Your Garden

11:00pm Coronation Street

10:00pm Lethal Weapon

11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather

11:00pm Episodes

3:00pm ITV Racing

4:00pm The Chase

5:00pm ITV News London

6:00pm 2018

7:00pm ITV Evening News

8:00pm Emmerdale

9:00pm Coronation Street

10:00pm I Don't Like Mondays

11:00pm Gogglebox

11:00pm Lee and Dean

11:35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats

4:00pm A Place in the Sun

5:00pm Escape to the Chateau

6:00pm Four in a Bed

7:00pm Star Boot Sale

8:00pm The Simpsons

9:00pm Hollyoaks

10:00pm Channel 4 News

11:00pm I Don't Like Mondays

12:00pm Will and Grace

11:00pm Will and Grace

4:20pm Patient Killer

5:00pm 5 News at 5

6:00pm Neighbours

7:00pm Home and Away

8:00pm 5 News Tonight

9:00pm The Gadget Show

10:00pm Springtime on the Farm

11:00pm Jane McDonald: My Life Story

12:00pm Will and Grace

11:30pm Will and Grace

11:00am Good Morning Sports Fans

12:00pm Live European Tour Golf

2:00pm Live PGA Tour Featured Groups

4:00pm Live Indian Premier League

8:00pm Football

11:15pm The Debate - Live Premier League

12:15am Greatest Games

SATURDAY

14
APRIL

7:00pm Doodlebugs

7:15pm Ready or Not

7:45pm BBC News

7:55pm Regional News

8:00pm Weather

8:05pm Pointless

8:55pm Who Dares Wins

9:35pm Casualty

10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys

11:00pm BBC News

11:15pm Weather

6:30pm Living with the Brainy Bunch

7:00pm Today at the Games

9:00pm The Forest

10:00pm Dad's Army

10:00pm Gettys: The World's Richest Art Dynasty

11:15pm Who Dares Wins

12:45pm Commonwealth Games 2018

1:15pm 2018

10:45pm ITV News

11:15pm Swingers

12:45am Civilisations

7:15pm ITV Evening News

7:25pm Regional News and Weather

5:30pm Ninja Warrior UK

6:35pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule

9:00pm Britain's Got Talent

10:25pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show

10:45pm ITV News

11:10pm Legally Blonde

3:30pm Car S.O.S.

4:30pm The Restoration Man

5:00pm A Place in the Sun

6:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

7:30pm Channel 4 News

8:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters

9:00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns

10:00pm Thor

11:15am Big Game

3:30pm Live Aviva Premiership

4:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

5:00pm 5 News

6:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

7:00pm The Secret Life of Owls

8:00pm Qe2: The Worlds Greatest Cruise Ship

9:00pm 5 News

10:00pm Football on 5

11:00pm Football on 5

1:00pm Football

4:15pm Rugby Union

6:30pm Football

8:30pm Nissan Match

11:30pm Choice

12:00pm Sky Sports News

1:00am Sky Sports News

2:00am Sky Sports News

3:00am Sky Sports News

4:00am Sky Sports News

MONDAY

15
APRIL

5:30pm Flog It!

6:15pm Pointless

7:00pm BBC News

7:30pm Regional News

8:00pm The One Show

8:30pm Nightmare Pets SOS

9:00pm EastEnders

9:30pm Panorama

10:00pm DIY SOS The Big Build

11:00pm BBC News

11:20pm Regional News

5:15pm Tigers About the House

6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

7:00pm Eggheads

7:30

MADDOKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' JUST FEEL THAT WARM SUN - IT'S SO COLD IN BRITAIN OUR PASSPORTS ARE TURNING BLUE! '

Trivia from around the world

*** More than 40 per cent of the population of Greece live in the capital city of Athens. Its population stood at 10,000 in 1834 and rose to 3.7 million by 2016.

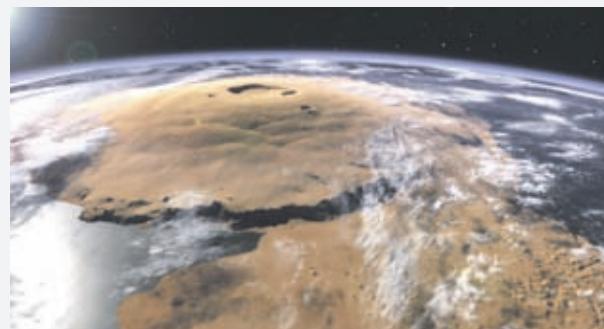
*** Robots have been used in South Korea as prison guards, teachers and to patrol the border with North Korea.

*** Argentina sent a pregnant woman to Antarctica in 1977 in a bid to claim a portion of the continent. Her baby boy became the first known person born there.

*** Farmers in Tanzania throw condoms with chilli powder in them at elephants who stray onto their fields.

*** People living in Oman are not allowed to spend more than 10 per cent of their monthly income on alcohol.

*** There are more kangaroos living in Australia than there are people, according to recent data.



BIGGEST MOUNTAIN: Astronomers spotted Olympus Mons on the surface of Mars as early as the 19th century.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mars is home to the largest known mountain on a planet in our solar system. At almost 25 kilometres high and around 600 kilometres across, Olympus Mons covers an area equivalent to much of France. It is about two and half times taller than Mount Everest.

Women's wit

Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning."

Gloria Steinem, activist



Famous quote

Men do change, and change comes like a little wind that ruffles the curtains at dawn, and it comes like the stealthy perfume of wildflowers hidden in the grass." John Steinbeck, writer

World of English

Mumpsimus - a custom or notion that is held although it has shown to be unreasonable.

| UK NATIONAL LOTTERY | IRISH LOTTO | EURO MILLIONS | | LA PRIMITIVA | | EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| Saturday April 7 | Saturday April 7 | Tuesday April 3 | Friday April 6 | Thursday April 5 | Saturday April 7 | Sunday April 8 |
| (1) (4) | (4) (18) | (3) (8) | (1) (29) | (11) (16) | (24) (25) | (22) (23) |
| (31) (33) | (30) (35) | (16) (40) | (33) (45) | (23) (31) | (34) (40) | (30) (31) |
| (52) (55) | (40) (45) | (43) (47) | (47) (45) | (47) (49) | (41) (43) | (33) (31) |
| BONUS BALL | BONUS BALL | LUCKY STARS | LUCKY STARS | REINTEGRO | REINTEGRO | REINTEGRO |
| (13) | (34) | (5) (8) | (4) (8) | (26) (0) | (6) (4) | (9) |
| EL MILLON: BFM50511 | | | | JOKER: 4 836 875 | | |

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

Don't allow an open-ended offer to muddle your mind. There is no need for an immediate decision and this may be too soon for a positive move. A sense of urgency may be put down to practical reasons when, in fact, it is no such thing.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Are things going swimmingly? Good. Maybe you had forgotten how to have real fun.

Remember when you were a child? Life was so simple. Relax and be that child again. If some old fogey accuses you of being silly, feel sorry for them.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Awkward situations usually bring out the best in you and this week proves that. In the longer term, you will be grateful to those making things difficult now.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Get out in the fresh air as much as possible and be kind to your body. You may have neglected yourself because you have been such a busy bee of late. What about a trip to the seaside or a walk in the hills? Maybe a trip to the local cocktail bar is more your style! Whatever puts a spring in your step will be good.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

A fleeting meeting stirs feelings that you thought were dead.

This could be good if it reminds you of how life can be, or bad if it makes you think of missed opportunities. It is never too late to make a fresh start. Why not go on that painting holiday or stamp-collecting weekend? Pole dancing anyone?



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

Someone really has rattled your tree, but try to refrain from throwing coconuts on their head. It is much more effective to be charming and get them confused.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Are you feeling that you have been dealt a rough hand? Consider this: there are some who are not dealt a hand at all. Many are missing those few cards that mean they are never really in with a chance. Instead of lurking on the shady side, walk out into the sun.



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

A chance remark opens a can of worms. Trying to get them back in could turn out to be very messy. We all open our mouth and put our foot in it sometime. However, overreacting won't help. You will need help with something this week.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Someone who is usually quite the opposite to you will surprise with an offer. Although you are naturally suspicious, give them the benefit of the doubt. Leopards do not change their spots but they are capable of behaving for the bigger good.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

An intimate meeting is less exciting than anticipated. This should not bother you because time could yet change that. You need to be in the right place at the right time, so don't give up hope, just have a little patience. A change of plans will be more beneficial than irksome, at least in the longer term.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

While counting your pennies, also count your blessings. Money can be a big problem or merely an irritation but the lack of it must be kept in perspective. You are right to think twice about accepting something that seems to be for nothing.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

The goat in you is keen to find pastures new. It isn't a nibble that is needed at the moment, but a feast. Accepting anything less would be a mistake because someone is watching your reaction to an offer.

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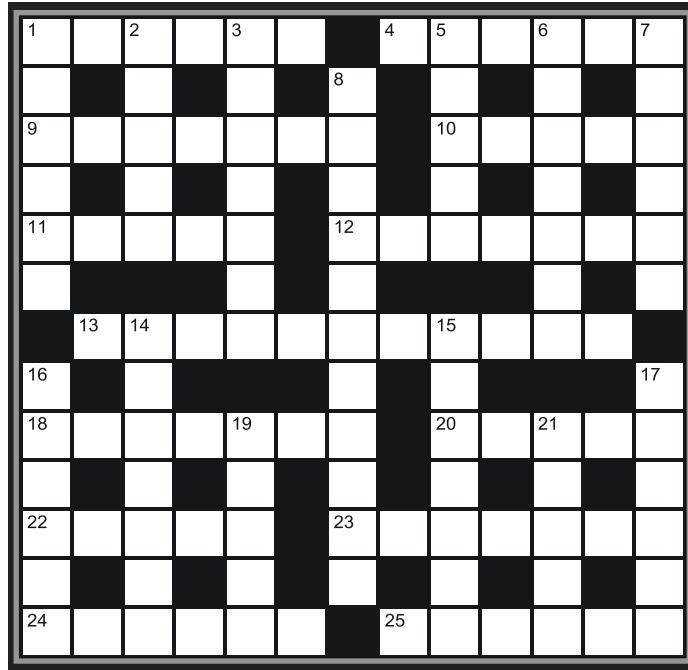
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TIME

Cryptic

Across

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

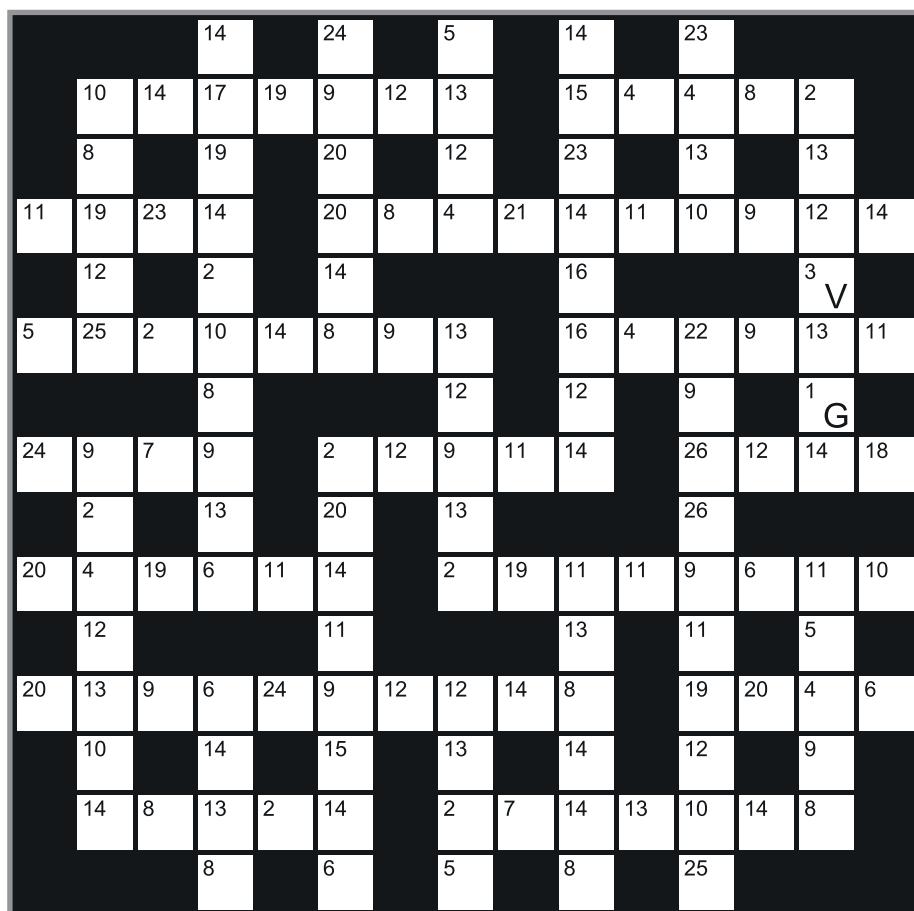


Down

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

Code Breaker

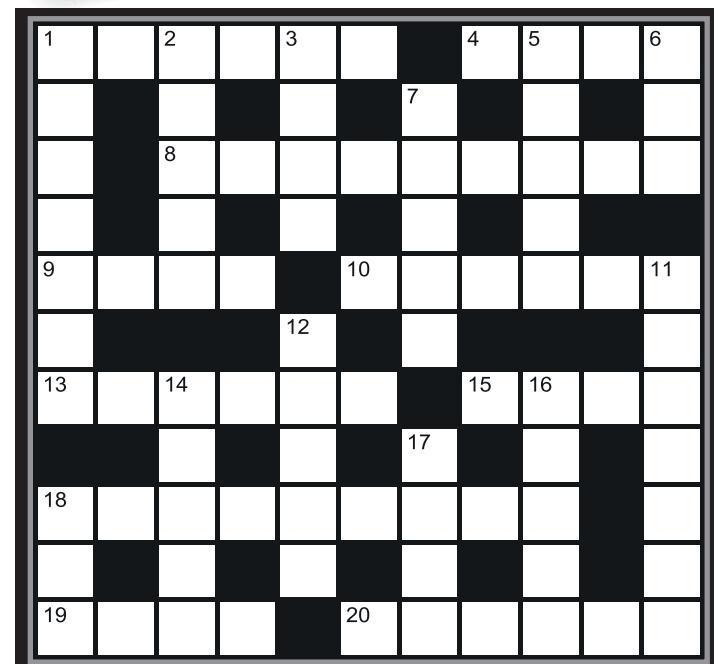
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents G and 3 represents V, so fill in G every time the figure 1 appears and V every time the figure 3 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

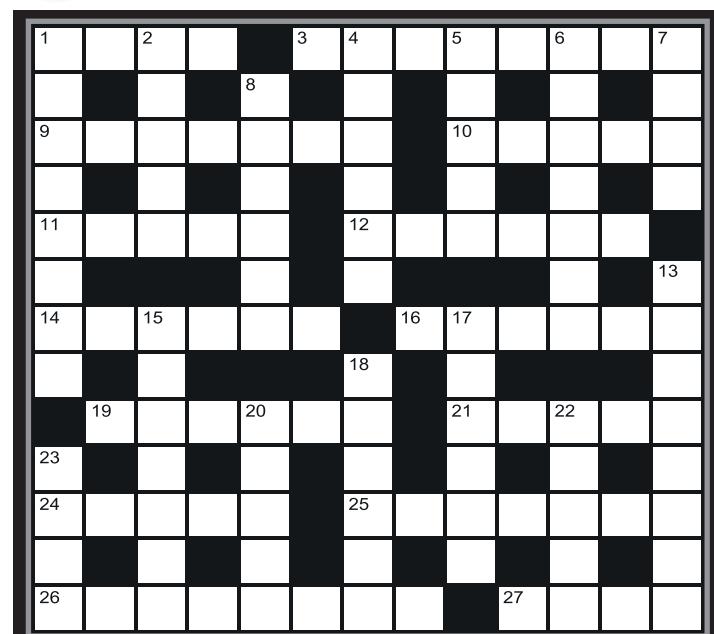
- 1 Like a cat (6)
- 2 Depart (5)
- 3 Close at hand (4)
- 4 Worry unnecessarily or excessively (4)
- 5 Jewish spiritual leader (5)
- 6/18 Begin round of gold (3,3)
- 7 Dull and cheerless (5)
- 10 Medical instrument used to inject or withdraw fluids (7)
- 11 Hydrophobia (6)
- 12 Next after or below the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

Down

- 1 Marked by extreme anger (7)

English - Spanish

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



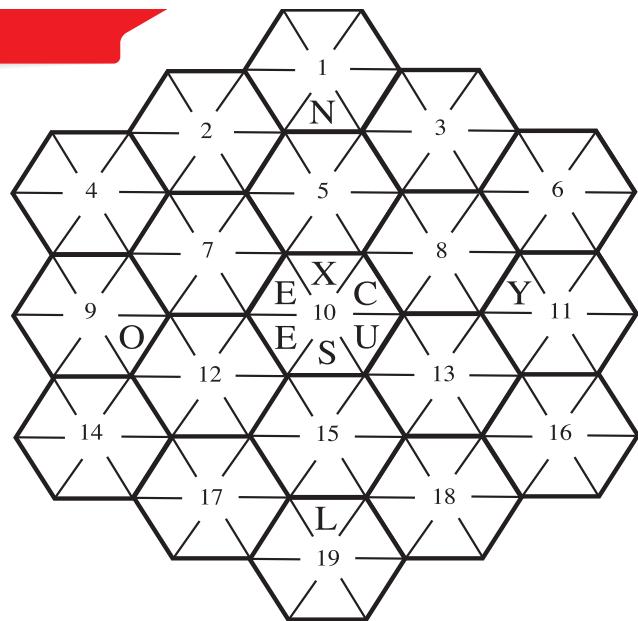
Across

- 1 Faja (de tela) (4)
- 2 Tijeras (8)
- 3 Swing (child's) (8)
- 4 Ensalada (5)
- 5 Naranja (6)
- 6 Plástico (7)
- 7 Choque (5)
- 8 Cider (5)
- 9 Huéspedes (6)
- 10 Eight (4)
- 11 Corner (inside) (6)
- 12 Tin (ore) (6)
- 13 Por casualidad (2,6)
- 14 Nervioso (7)
- 15 Third (fraction) (6)
- 16 Lapel (6)
- 17 Museum (5)
- 18 Manzana (fruta) (5)
- 19 Appointment (with client, bank manager etc) (4)
- 20 Alcanzar (5)
- 21 Planchas (utensilios) (5)
- 22 Hornet (7)
- 23 Tan pronto como (2,4,2)
- 24 Boss (4)

Down

Hexagram

BOSSES
BOVINE
DIESEL
EXCUSE (10)
EYEFUL
FAULTY
FINITE
INDOOR
INVENT
LAPTOP
POLLEN
SCANTY
SHALOM
SNOOPY
SOFTEN
SOLEMN
STYLED
SYNTAX
TYPHUS



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 (EXCUSE) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Oracle 2 Payout 3 Towhee 4 Abduct
5 Myrtle 6 Eschew 7 Comply 8 Wobble
9 Bounty 10 Pebble 11 Embryo
12 Foible 13 Flabby 14 Memoir
15 Flaunt 16 Frugal 17 Erotic 18 Sullen
19 Insult.

Nonogram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonogram 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:**

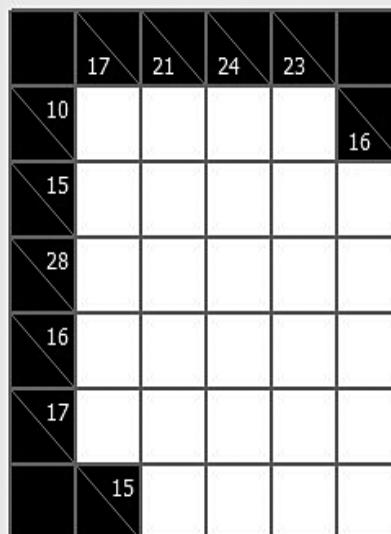
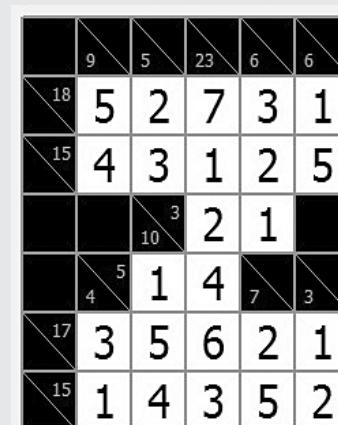
- Average: 12
- Good: 17
- Very good: 24
- Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

acne cafe caff cane cant cent ciao cite coat coif
coin cone cote face fact foci icon nice once otic
taco actin antic canoe canto cento coati conte
enact facet ocean tonic action affect atonic cation
coffin confit enatic infect noetic notice octane
officeaconite caffeine faction AFFECTION

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****QUICK****Across:**

- 1 Oversight, 5 Femur, 7 Tutor,
9 Sane, 10 Dawdle,
12 Sermon, 13 Colt, 15 Allot,
16 Arson, 18 Irritated.
- 2 Sort, 3 Gateau, 4 Correct,
6 Mongrel, 8 Tedious,
9 Sustain, 11 Doctor, 14 Fast,
17/1 Nod off.

CODE BREAKER

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**CRYPTIC****Across:**

- 1 Sitter, 4 Deport, 9 Artisan, 10 Clear,
11 Fame, 12 Capriole, 14 Scoop,
16 Moose, 20 Election, 21 Able, 24 Deter,
25 Spatial, 26 Darker, 27 Client.

Down:

- 1 Staffa, 2 Totem, 3 Ease, 5 Escargot,
6 Ocelots, 7 Target, 8 Knead,
13 Nocturne, 15 Creator, 17 Mended,
18 Copse, 19 Merlot, 22 Baize, 23 Fail.

ENGLISH-SPANISH**Across:**

- 7 Hombro, 8 Amable, 9 Joke,
10 Necklace, 11 Acuario, 13 Creer,
15 Multa, 17 Monster, 20 Bedrooms,
21 Beso, 23 Harina, 24 Seesaw.

Down:

- 1 Bobo, 2 Abuela, 3 Toenail, 4 Match,
5 Bailar, 6 Black eye, 12 Chuletas,
14 Possess, 16 Turnip, 18 Sobres,
19 Royal, 22 Slap.

App of the week**Cookpad**

An app which connects users to a variety of recipes including starters, mains and desserts made by fellow home cooks. It provides a social environment to search for and save recipes, as well as to publish them and upload photos of the finished result.

Answers:

1. MC HAMMER, 2. Timmy MALLETT, 3. Julie Driscoll with Brian AUGER and The Trinity, 4. CHOPPER, 5. Miami VICE, 6. The Texas CHAIN SAW Massacre, 7. GIMLET, 8. The PLOUGH, 9. MACE, 10. SLEDGEHAMMER

QUIZ: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

1. Born in California in March 1962, Stanley Kirk Burrell is the real name of which American hip hop recording artist, dancer, record producer and entrepreneur?
2. Known for his striking visual style, colourful glasses and loud shirts, which English TV broadcaster has presented *Wide Awake Club* (1984–1988), *Wacaday* (1985–1992), *Utterly Brilliant* (1989–1991) and *The Beeps* (since 2007)?
3. This *Wheel's on Fire* was a UK Top Five hit single in 1968 for which progressive jazz/rock band?
4. What was the nickname of the former English footballer who played for Chelsea in the 1960s and 1970s Ron Harris?
5. Which 1908s American television crime drama series starred Don Johnson as James 'Sonny' Crockett and Philip Michael Thomas as Ricardo 'Rico' Tubbs?
6. Which 1974 American horror film directed by Tobe Hooper, follows a group of friends who fall victim to a family

- of cannibals while on their way to visit an old homestead?
7. Which cocktail is typically made of two parts gin (or vodka), one part lime juice and soda?
8. Which prominent formation of seven stars in the constellation Ursa Major is known as the Big Dipper in the US?
9. Which spice is made from the dried fleshy covering of the nutmeg seed?
10. 'You could have a steam train if you'd just lay down your tracks' is the first line of which 1986 UK Top Four hit by Peter Gabriel?

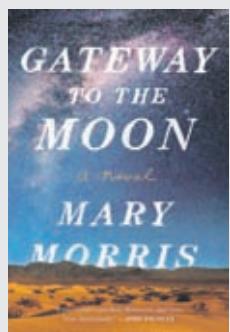
Not a lot of people know that... around 35,000 BC, Homo sapiens discovered the benefits of the application of rotary tools. This would have rudimentarily consisted of a pointed rock being spun between the hands to bore a hole through another material.

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He finds himself working for the Rothstein's, a Jewish family new to the area. The matriarch, Rachel, is a frustrated artist who has just moved from New York. Miguel soon begins to notice similarities between their customs and those of his family.

Gateway to the Moon explores the fortunes of a family, its town and their shared history.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa de Almería weather



| Malaga | | Almeria | | Bilbao | | Madrid | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 9-Sh | | TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 12-Cl | | TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 8-Sh | | TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 8-Sh | |
| Fri - 16 | 9 - Sh | Fri - 16 | 11 - Cl | Fri - 16 | 9 - Sh | Fri - 16 | 9 - Sh |
| Sat - 20 | 10 - S | Sat - 18 | 12 - S | Sat - 18 | 10 - C | Sat - 18 | 10 - C |
| Sun - 21 | 11 - S | Sun - 19 | 13 - S | Sun - 21 | 11 - C | Sun - 21 | 11 - C |
| Mon - 23 | 13 - S | Mon - 20 | 14 - S | Mon - 20 | 11 - C | Mon - 20 | 11 - C |
| Tues - 24 | 13 - S | Tues - 22 | 15 - C | Tues - 24 | 12 - C | Tues - 24 | 12 - C |
| Wed - 23 | 13 - S | Wed - 23 | 15 - S | Wed - 24 | 13 - C | Wed - 24 | 13 - C |

| Alicante | | Benidorm | | Mallorca | | Barcelona | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 12-C | | TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 12-C | | TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 11-S | | TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 10-C | |
| Fri - 18 | 12 - Sh | Fri - 16 | 12 - Sh | Fri - 18 | 11 - Sh | Fri - 15 | 11 - Sh |
| Sat - 19 | 12 - C | Sat - 18 | 12 - C | Sat - 18 | 11 - Sh | Sat - 17 | 10 - Sh |
| Sun - 22 | 13 - S | Sun - 21 | 13 - S | Sun - 20 | 11 - C | Sun - 20 | 11 - C |
| Mon - 23 | 13 - C | Mon - 22 | 14 - C | Mon - 21 | 12 - S | Mon - 20 | 11 - S |
| Tues - 23 | 14 - C | Tues - 21 | 14 - C | Tues - 21 | 12 - S | Tues - 20 | 11 - S |
| Wed - 23 | 14 - C | Wed - 20 | 14 - C | Wed - 22 | 12 - S | Wed - 20 | 12 - 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

- David Letterman, TV Host; April 12, 71
- Carles Puyol, Footballer; April 13, 40
- Robert Carlyle, Actor; April 14, 57

Puyol began his club career at Barcelona in 1999 before going on to captain it for around a decade. He scored the winning header against Germany in the semi finals of the 2010 World Cup. Puyol grew up in Cataluña and first played as a goalkeeper before moving to defence.

Born in Maryhill, Scotland, Carlyle dropped out of



Emma Watson.

secondary school when he was 16 and worked as a painter with his father. He later went on to land a role in Trainspotting and played Gaz in the 1997 film The Full Monty. He has also featured in Angela's Ashes and 28 Weeks Later.

• Emma Watson, Actor; April 15, 28

Watson shot to fame after landing the part of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter film series. She is also an outspoken women's rights campaigner.

• Benedict XVI, Pope; April 16, 91

Born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger in Marktl, Germany, the Catholic priest rose through the ranks of the church and became Pope in 2005. He became the first Pope since the

1400s to resign when he stood down in 2013 to make way for the current Pope Francis.

• Victoria Beckham, Singer; April 17, 44

The former member of the girl group The Spice Girls performed as Posh Spice and had several top-10 UK hits with the band and as a solo artist. She later married footballer David Beckham and the couple have four children.

• David Tennant, Actor; April 18, 47

Tennant played the 10th Doctor in the BBC series Doctor Who and also landed the role of Kilgrave in the series Jessica Jones. Born in Bathgate, Scotland, he was inspired by the show Doctor Who to go into acting and later won a National Television Award for his performance in it.

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

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

Word Ladder

FATE

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

PEST

FATE
FACT (FAST)
FACE
PAST
PEST

'Oh, hi
Mark!'



TOMMY WISEAU (James Franco) and Greg Sestero (Dave Franco) are two down-and-out aspiring actors living in Los Angeles in the late '90s.

When Tommy decides to write, direct and star in his own film The Room, Greg is roped in to play the support character despite his career prospects improving. But it doesn't take long for things to start unravelling.

Based on true events, The Disaster Artist lifts the lid on the story of the best worst film ever made.

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Slap on some cream

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

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

Even if your skin tans easily, don't think you don't need sun protection. Skin turning brown is actually a sign of sun damage, even if there is no redness or peeling. It does this as a way of trying to protect itself because

the UV rays are damaging living cells. And don't shy away from using a high sun protection factor. Even SPF 50 only blocks up to 98 per cent of UV radiation.

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

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

CREAM YOURSELF: Be careful to avoid your eyes.

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Damage limitation

WHETHER you're on holiday or are one of the Costa's expatriates, it can be tempting to have that second or third drink as the evenings begin to become longer.

However, you don't want to lose a valuable day of your holiday - or an important day off work - simply because you got carried away. With that in mind, here are some suggestions to achieve a pain free morning after the night before.

Try to have a good meal before you take a drink or two. If you can, have a meal that includes carbohydrates (such as pasta or rice) or fats as these will help slow down the body's absorption of alcohol. One little-known secret is to take a spoonful of olive oil or prickly pear extract beforehand. Also, avoid dark-coloured drinks if you've found these to be particularly harsh on you.

In between your drinks, have a glass of water or non-fizzy soft drink.

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Shake up your muscles

WITH summer drawing ever closer, many people are starting to think about getting lean and muscular to swagger with confidence along the seafront.

Of course, in addition to watching your diet and attending the gym as much as possible, there are other things you can do - or rather take - to help you achieve your goals. And all you need is some protein powder, a shaker bottle and some water.

Protein supplements are an ever-popular option that can improve lean body mass and muscle strength. Fundamentally, they are shakes that consist of whey protein, although milk, soy, casein, egg, hemp, rice, and pea protein powders are also popular. Taken after a strenuous workout, protein shakes deliver amino acids to muscle cells and help them to recover. In addition to this, they manufacture hormones, enzymes, cellular messengers, nucleic acids and immune-system components, so they can be very beneficial for the body as a whole. Without adequate protein, our bodies can't put together the structures that make up every cell, tissue, and organ in our body, nor

can it generate the substances needed for cardiovascular function, muscle contraction, growth, and healing. Absorbing enough protein is important as without an adequate amount our muscles wouldn't heal up as quickly, which could lead to overtraining your muscle and causing injury.

Downing a protein shake is an easy way to get your protein if you work a full time job and don't always have time to prepare meals. However, do bear in mind that protein shakes can only make a small contribution. You will also need to train properly and eat right to get the results you're after.

PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS:
Down a protein shake after a sweaty session.



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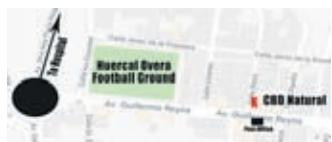
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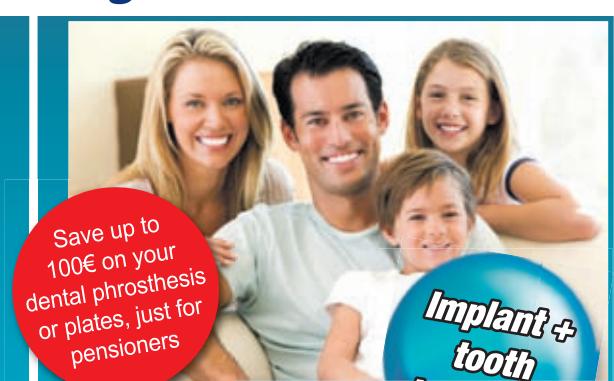
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8th annual world gathering of Tunas

TOMORROW and Saturday see the arrival of groups of Tunas from around Spain to Mojácar to take part in their world gathering.

Don't worry, the town won't see numbers of beached large fish as in Spanish a tuna is also a group of university students in traditional university dress who play old style, mainly stringed, instruments and sing serenades.

The tradition originated in Spain and Portugal in the 13th century as a means for students to earn money or food but nowadays it has become both a get together for historical enactment and also still a means of parting diners from their change.

On Friday the official welcome will take place at the Pueblo Indalo Hotel on Mojácar Playa and then different groups will perform from 9pm all over the town.

Saturday sees a performance by different groups at the Parque Comercial shopping centre from noon, then at 6pm there will be what is promoted as a spectacular musical Parade from the Plaza de la Iglesia to the Plaza Nueva, Mojácar Pueblo.

Finally at 8pm, the groups chosen as world



TUNAS: Music of the past performed today.

champions will perform at the Centro de Usos Multiples in Mojácar Pueblo.

All of the performances are completely free of charge and the council invites everyone to visit the pueblo to see the various plazas specially decorated for the occasion and to enjoy the unique festival atmosphere.

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Beware, the Walking Dead are back on the streets

AN avalanche of the undead will erupt to attack the town of Huercal de Almeria on Saturday, May 12.

When there's no more room in Hell so the dead will walk and attack anyone they meet turning them into zombies. They will attack without mercy from 11pm, with a whole series of races, attacks and terror in which, everyone who wants to survive, must put aside all their fears and become a master of flight and survival.

In reality this is an alternative leisure experience called 'Events Zombies LZD' and throughout the night, those taking part will divided between zombies and survivors, travelling the main streets of Huercal and face a series of tests, until those still alive are evacuated.

The objective of the game is that the survivors evade the zombies, master the tests and find the vaccines that will help them survive. The first to finish all the tests and to arrive will be the winner.

This series of events which cover the country aims to be recognised as the best 'real game' in Spain and is suitable for all ages between 10 and 99 although any player under 14 must be accompanied by an adult



BE SCARED: Be very scared.

(aged over 18) at all times.

In addition, those under 18 must carry an authorisation signed by the parents with a photocopy of the ID of the father, mother or guardian who signs.

To find out more, download the authorisation sheet or book a ticket (€15 for zombies and between €22 and €35 for survivors depending on how early you book), visit the organiser's website <http://www.lastdayzombie.com>.

Strawberry Fields Forever in Almeria

IN 1966, John Lennon and his wife Cynthia spent six weeks in Almeria whilst he was involved in the filming of How I Won the War.

During that time, he wandered into the garden of a large house at that time known as Casa Santa Isabel and it was here that he was inspired to record his first version of Strawberry Fields Forever.

In fact he went on to record seven different versions which were originally released as part of a bootleg album where the seven versions were named the 'Santa Isabel demos.'

Actors who are believed to have stayed there, before the building and grounds were allowed to fall into disrepair, were Clint Eastwood and Brigitte Bardot but following lobbying by journalist, Adolfo Iglesias and the association 'John Lennon Almeria Forev-



ALMERIA CITY: The John Lennon statue.

er' it was restored by the Almeria Council and is now a film museum Casa del Cine which is open to the public at Camino Romero, nº 1 04009 Almeria.

The gardens themselves have been restored and are well worth a visit, even if they are not as wild as they were when the former Beatle was there.

Beauty and the Beast

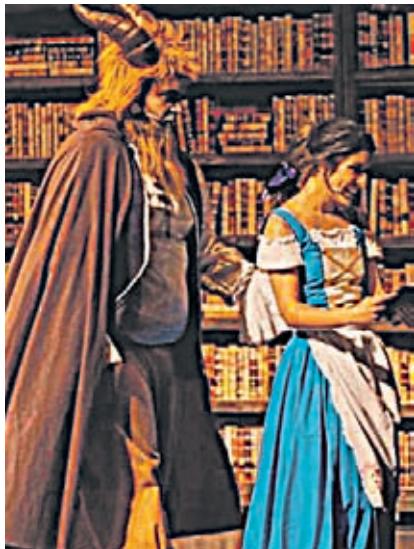
OFTEN music and imagination can transcend language and this may well be the case for youngsters who are taken to see the musical Beauty and the Beast.

It may be performed in Spanish, but so many children know the story from the 1991 Disney cartoon on which the musical is based that they will be swept away by the magic when it visits the Maestro Padilla in Almeria City this Sunday.

Taken from a French fairy tale written in the 18th century, the show tells the story of a young prince who is transformed into a horrible beast as punishment for his cruel and selfish behaviour and the story of a beautiful girl named Bella whom the Beast imprisons in his castle in exchange for her father's freedom.

To become human again, the prince must win Bella's love before it's too late.

Tickets for the 90-minute show cost



A SCENE: The musical with Bella and the Beast.

from €15 to €25 and are available from the theatre website: www.flowte.me.

Harmony of Springtime

THE Rose Singers will be presenting their spring concert titled Harmony of Springtime on Thursday April 26 and Friday April 27.

The programme of songs, sung in harmony by this local ladies choir, will put the warmth of spring in your step and bring a bright smile of sunshine on your face.

The Thursday concert starts at 7.30pm at the new-

ly refurbished Miraflores Restaurant, Camping Los Gallardos and on Friday the performance commences at 3pm in the Hotel Parador, Mojácar Playa.

A raffle will be held at both events with proceeds going to PAWS Cat Neutering.

Tickets cost €8 and can be bought in advance from a number of shops and also available on the door, through choir members and

by messaging the Rose Singers, Mojácar Facebook page.

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Romani culture celebrated

THE Cuevas de Almanzora local council joined celebrations for International Romani Day.

The congregation started from the Plaza de la Constitución and ended at the Plaza 'Juanito el Gitano, el Anticuario.' The event also included a performance from Flamenco group, Sacramonte, directed by Alberto Funes.

The day celebrates Romani culture and seeks to raise awareness of Romani issues.

Melchora Caparros, the social services councillor who attended the event, said that, "The Romani people form a substantial part of Spain and Europe and of their communities, to which they have belonged to for centuries."



ROMANI REJOICE: Romani girls showcase their culture.

Roundabout works underway

THE Albox Council have started work on a new roundabout located at a critical intersection in Albox. The development aims to increase road safety and calm traffic at this heavily congested point in an area known as 'La Venta.'

Francisco Torrecillas, Albox's mayor, emphasised the importance of the works, stating, "there have been various traffic accident at this point in recent years, including some of a serious nature."

The council predicts that the development will be completed by the end of this month.

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Credit: Facebook, Biblioteca Villaespesa

LOVING LITERATURE: The Francisco Villaespesa library will host the events.

Literature world comes to Albox

THE Francisco Villaespesa public library has organised a series of cultural activities, as announced by Councillor for Culture, Alfredo Valdivia.

There will be meetings with authors, book workshops, a literary tour, theatre for the family, poetry celebrations and an exhibition centred on the novel Fabulous Women by Mar de

los Ríos (who is from Almería).

The exhibition will include portraits of universal heroines and watercolours of scenes from the novel painted by members of the Association of Watercolours.

In addition to the novel Fabulous Women, the library will be presenting eight other popu-

lar Spanish books.

Mr Valdivia also commented that a programme of events will shortly be revealed for Book Week (April 20-28), traditionally held to mark International Book Day on April 23.

Author Pedro Antonio Soler will be leading a literary tour that will go through Purchena, Oria, Fines, and Albox.

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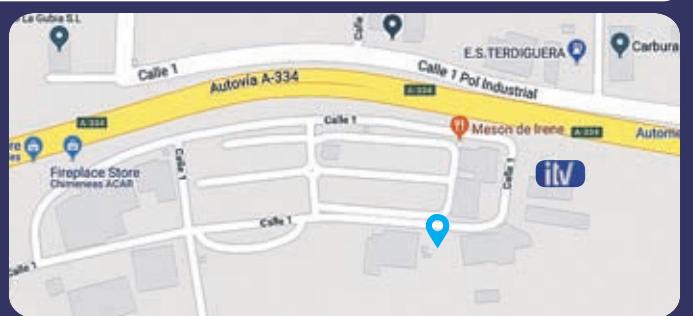
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Authorities visit restoration works

OFFICIALS from the Diputacion de Almeria have visited works currently being undertaken to give access to the El Saliente.

The €45,000 project comes as part of an agreement signed between the authority and local church officials.

A further €280,000 has also been invested in maintenance works to the AL-7100 road which leads to El Saliente, according to a statement from the Diputacion.

Oscar Liria, the authority's development spokesperson, said the current



CREDIT: Diputacion de Almeria

WORKS VISIT: Officials came to Albox to see the work being done to improve access to the site.

works and those undertaken from 2016 onwards amounted to a total invest-

ment of €325,000 for the area.

"The paving of the access

road to El Saliente is a sign of close co-ordination between the different areas of the Diputacion," he said.

"It is also the result of a fruitful collaboration between the authority, Albox City Council and the Diocese," he added.

The Monastery of El Saliente, in the Sierra de las Estancias, has been a national heritage site since 1992.

It was built in 1769 and covers a total area of around 3,000 square metres. Its icon of the Virgin of the Salient is popular with visitors and worshippers.

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

by Benjamin Park

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

Dubbed 'The One', the giant mansion is based on the hill tops of Bel Air and has panoramic views of the City of Angels, while the Pacific Ocean can also be seen from the property.

It is expected to have 20 bedrooms, 30 bathrooms and a parking garage big enough to hold 30 cars, while it will also house several amenities.

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

White House, has a 100,000 square-foot floor plan and will also include a moat, a night-club with its own VIP room, a 45-seat IMAX movie theatre, a four-lane bowling alley, a beauty salon, a casino and between four and seven swimming pools.

The architect behind the project is Hollywood designer Paul McClean who has a

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

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

ga-mansion is likely to be the only one of its kind.

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



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



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

Housing hope remains in top cities

SPAIN'S property success story of recent years is well known and some may feel that an affordable purchase is al-

ready beyond them.

However, with good timing and luck there are still great value properties available

across Spain, just waiting for the eagle-eyed buyer to pounce.

■ Malaga

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

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

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

■ Madrid

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

Yet there is no doubt that Madrid has benefited from the political crisis in Cataluña,

and new developments are emerging all around.

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

■ Barcelona

The independence issue hit Barcelona's economy hard, with companies moving out.

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

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

■ Valencia

Valencia has emerged out of its recessionary trough to account for 13 per cent of all new-build sales.

Splashing the cash!

FOREIGN investors reportedly spent more than €30 billion in Spanish real estate last year.

According to reports, the volume of foreign cash splashed on Spanish property grew by 0.7 per cent in 2017, totalling €31.1 billion.

The sky-high figures equate to 25.6 per cent more than the average volume of investments over the past five years and are the highest numbers since 2008.

Despite the record real estate figures, according to Spain's Economy Ministry, the volume of net spending decreased by 12.3 per cent to €24.5 billion. Reports suggest that the most active investors in Spain in 2017 were residents of Luxembourg, who forked out an estimated €5 billion in real estate, ahead of Germans and Britons, who splurged €3 billion apiece.

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The kitchen garden, a quality extension of the food pantry

GRAEME TYRRELL

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

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

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

No matter whether you live in an apartment or on a farm you can grow at least a few of your favourite fresh herbs and some of the compact vegetables that you love to use regularly.

My mother grew tomatoes in her living room by a sunlit corner window and had abundant crops. It was a great point of interest and can look as attractive as many other indoor



Credit: Thierry Shutterstock

A KITCHEN GARDEN: Can supply your five a day.

plants.

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

special place just for its purpose.

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

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

A kitchen garden can be grown in

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

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

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

Remove the lower leaves, pinch out the soft tip and dip two-thirds of this cutting in-

Proper propagation

to some hormone rooting powder.

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

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

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

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

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

The new plant will be an identical clone of the parent plant, producing new versions of your favourite flowers for years to come.

IDEAL START: Plant the softwood in moist soil.



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IF you're lucky enough to have a home out here in the Spanish sun then you may have already considered installing solar panels in a bid to save money on bills, become more environmentally friendly, or a little bit of both.

Solar power had something of a renaissance back in the early 1990s when it was seen as something of a revolution and the way of the future. There were serious problems though, which held solar back and discouraged people from taking the leap. For starters, solar panels require quite a large investment at around €5-10,000 for installation costs.

Today, however, there is a variety of flexible financing plans and government incentives that could see your panels become profitable in just a few years.

With energy savings of around 50 per cent, panels can also add significant value to your property.

Technology has also come a long way from the old image of a home cast



SHINING EXAMPLE: Technology has come a long way.

Sunny delight

Is solar power right for you?

in brutalist panels that only work on sunny days. Nowadays tech developments have led to a new generation of solar collectors which take up a minimal amount of space, look

stylish, and are incredibly efficient, working even on cloudy days and employing conservation systems for energy over the evening.

If you're considering solar power for your home,

make sure that you get up on all the relevant information, from possible subsidies to any restrictions on your property so you are sure to get the best value for your money.

Wall garden ideas



WALL GARDEN: Uses as little space as possible.

VERTICAL gardens are a very useful resource for those who would like to grow plants (or herbs, or vegetables) on their balconies or terraces while using as little space as possible.

There are various options to house your vertical garden, from expensive ready-made frames and planters to cheap or even free recycled ones you can make yourself.

Old wooden pallets can be fixed to the wall and plant pots incorporated, or for even less hassle screw old guttering to the wall and plant directly into it. All sorts of bits of wood can be attached to the wall and various types of hooks used to hang plant pots from them.

For those who would rather not have their vertical garden right up against the wall, an old ladder is another good option. Either lean a ladder against a wall and place plant pots on the steps, or for a novel approach place an old step ladder in the middle of a terrace and hang plants from either side to create a pyramid of greenery.

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BLUEBERRIES are considered one of the healthiest fruits around, chock full of anti-oxidants and low in sugar. Caught at the right time, they're also delicious, with a plump juicy exquisiteness and incredible versatility that has pies, cakes and sauces named after this punchy blue delight.

But let's face it, blueberries are shockingly expensive. You're often faced with a bitter choice of paying over €3 for a decent organic pack, or less for some disappointing rejects only good

until the end of the day. Well without further ado, here's a quick run-down on how you can avoid being ripped off and enjoy a fresh batch of blueberries for your morning porridge every day.

First, blueberries need to grow in an acidic pH zone of 4.5-5.5 so if you have alkaline soil then it'll be best to cultivate yours in a pot or container. You can control the pH level by using organic acid fertiliser (blood or cottonseed meal are perfect) and be sure to top up the acidity levels with a small helping of fertiliser every month. Consider it your blueberry rent.

Use a large pot of around 18 inches and also ensure that your blueberries get full sun for at least six to eight hours. Blueberry plants love company so be sure to grow at least three plants close together and preferably of different varieties as they will bear fruit at different times and extend your blueberry season. Finally remember that since blueberries are so delicious, you'll likely have a few hungry competitors on the horizon. A light net or sheeting a few weeks before the blueberries are ripe will help protect them.

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**David
THE Dogman**

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

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

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

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

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

Most vets will examine the dog on a table. So train your dog by lifting it onto a suitable table to get it used to the idea. Hold the dog in a comfortable position for a few seconds, praising and reassuring, then give it a tit-bit and gently lift it off. Never let a dog jump off the table by itself. Put a mat or cover on the table so that it is not slippery.

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

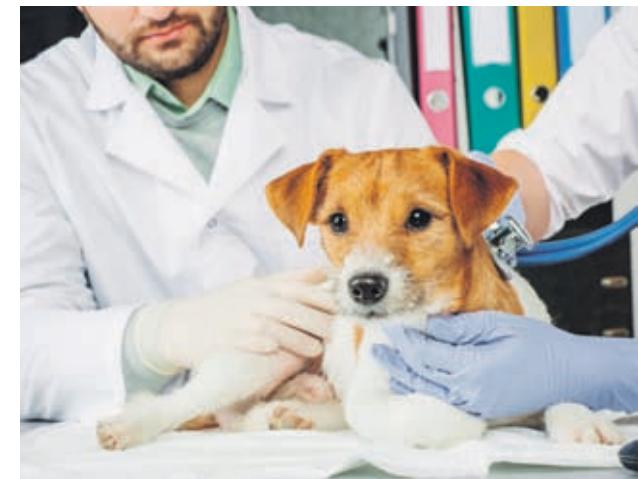
include giving pills or liquid medicine (or ally), applying ointments to eyes, ears and skin, giving eye or ear drops. Again, if the dog has been accustomed to being handled, all these tasks will be a lot easier. Pills can be disguised inside a small piece of butter, margarine or cheese.

Do not give dogs any medicine unless prescribed by a vet. Never accept advice from unqualified people including pet shop staff, dog breeders, dog trainers, behaviourists and the person a friend knows who had

a dog with the same sort of symptoms.

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

After surgery, it can be a problem to get a dog to rest and recuperate, especially if there



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

are other dogs in the house. As soon as a dog starts feeling better, it will want to return to normal activity. Supervision and crating are the only answers while remembering that, unlike humans, sick dogs do not want to be pampered.

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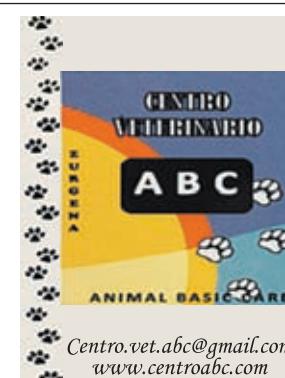
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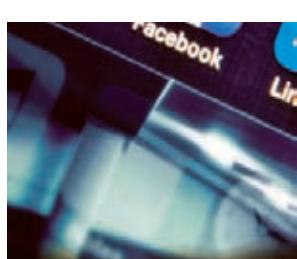
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“ Millions of drivers don't know the actual sequence of traffic lights. More than 10 per cent think that a single amber light is followed by a green signal.

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

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

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

Gamer's dream!

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

This most recent addition to the electric supercar mar-

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

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

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



SEAT joins electric bandwagon

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

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

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

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

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ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

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

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

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

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

Auris prices start at €23,020 (£20,155) though the Design Bi-Tone model has higher specification and costs €26,902 (£23,555). Features include auto air-conditioning, power windows, auto lights and wipers, front and rear parking sensors, touch-screen, DAB radio/CD player, Bluetooth and rear

Toyota Auris Hybrid

view camera. There is also plenty of safety kit including a pre-collision system, lane departure warning and road sign assist.

On the move, the Auris is smooth, quiet, composed and refined. At low speeds

and over short distances, the car can be driven on electric power alone. When there is insufficient power in the battery, the Auris automatically uses the petrol engine, a simple no-fuss system.

You get most benefit from the system in urban traffic, though the Auris is a comfortable motorway cruiser too. It's a smart-looking all-rounder with good family practicality. A roomy four seater - five at

a squeeze - it has a large 435-litre boot, expandable to 1,200 litres by folding the rear seats.

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

with buttons close to hand and clearly labelled.

As diesel cars arewaning in popularity hybrid sales are already rising and the common-sense plus-points of the Auris underline why.

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

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La Liga Preview

Barca march on

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

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

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

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

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

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

above the luckless Mala-ga.

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

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

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

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

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

**Premier League preview**

City head to London in title hunt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Milner's curling effort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

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

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

**Premier League 2017/18 TABLE**

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

Resolute Reed claims Masters title

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



72 COSTA DE ALMERÍA

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

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By Benjamin Park

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

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

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

World Rugby orders emergency qualification review

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

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

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

A World Rugby statement said: "World Rugby was deeply concerned about the circumstances surrounding the Bel-



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

gium versus Spain Rugby Europe Championship match, a match that was decisive in the context of Rugby World Cup 2019 qualification.

"Specifically, concerns related

to the process and perception of Rugby Europe's appointment of a match' official team that was not neutral in the context of qualification and failing to act on Spain's concerns in respect of

the appointment.

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

best interests of the game.

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

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

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