

**Friday, December 31**

# *ON THIS DAY*



▲ **1999:** Russian president Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his immediate resignation and appointing premier Vladimir Putin as acting president

**1514:** Belgian anatomist Andreas Vesalius was born

**1938:** The first breath tests for car drivers were introduced in the U.S.

**1992:** The European Single Market came into being at midnight

**2009:** Iceland's parliament approved plans to repay 3.8bn euros (\$5bn) to the UK and Dutch governments, who partially compensated savers when the Icesave online bank failed