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Tourist rental showdown

By *Matthew Elliott*

New legislation governing holiday rentals is proposing to ban people letting out single rooms to tourists. The controversial law, still at the draft stage, also has Palma residents fearing their city will be transformed beyond recognition.

The government has been under pressure from the hotel lobby to clamp down on tourist rentals. Hoteliers dislike people earning tax-free income on the side and the authorities are not averse to levying extra taxes.

A new law has been a long time coming but already the draft is causing a furore. Local people who made money renting out a room or two to tourists will risk incurring huge

finances. Those using accommodation platforms such as Airbnb would have to rent out the whole property to one group of tourists paying under one bill.

However, even the mere acknowledgement that properties can be rented out to tourists has Palma's federation of residents' associations up in arms. Federation president Joan Forteza would like the renting out of homes in communal buildings to be expressly forbidden.

He argues that the prospect of profiting from the lucrative tourist market will lead to investors manipulating the city's property market. Buy-to-let landlords would snap up entire buildings, convert them into tourist-friendly apartments and rent them out at high rates.



PALMA: Residents fear city will be transformed.

Local young people and families would be kicked off the property ladder and forced to move out of the city to find cheaper rents. Forteza doesn't want Palma to become a mini-Barcelona, where locals are

pushed out by landlords lured in by the prospect of making money from tourists.

The bill is still subject to parliamentary approval, and there will surely be plenty of debate before it becomes law.

See us on page 22



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LOCAL NEWS

Local is best

THE 1643 (December 29 - January 4) issue of the Mallorca Euro Weekly News contained no less than 31 local news items, demonstrating once again our dedication and commitment to delivering the news that matters most to you, our readers, in each of our six editions. Nobody does it better!

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In flagrante

GUARDIA CIVIL officers finally arrested two Spanish serial thieves responsible for a spate of robberies across the island. The pair had targeted dozens of homes, shops and cars, chiefly in

Calvia where at least 10 businesses were broken into. Considered part of a wider criminal gang, the two were caught red-handed as they packed stolen goods into a stolen car.

Picturesque pueblo

FORNALUTX has the honour of being considered one of the most beautiful villages on planet Spain by the International Atlantic Fair held in the Canary Islands. Mountainous and renowned for its natural scenery, Fornalutx officially joined a cast of picturesque pueblos from across Spain, forming part of a gallery of the 57 most beautiful villages in the country.

FORK ATTACK:
Young man threatened his girlfriend.

Man sets car on fire

By Matthew Elliott

A FURIOUS young man threatened to kill his girlfriend and her father after setting her car on fire. The dramatic attack took place early in the morning on New Year's Day in Palma.

The 27-year-old was dumped by his girlfriend, 21, on the phone at around 7am. Flying into a rage he stormed round to her Binissalem home and demanded to talk. When she refused he went to sleep in her car, having been earlier lent the keys.

When she got into the car later, he surprised her, locked the doors and grabbed the

wheel, screeching the car to a halt. She managed to escape at a set of traffic lights and fled on foot.

Soon after he sent her a photo of her burning car and asked to meet her in Palma to return her possessions. Oddly enough she agreed and, by noon, they were arguing once again on a bar terrace.

With no regard for the many witnesses, he wielded his fork, screaming that he would kill her and her father. The girl fled downstairs and the police quickly arrived, eventually subduing the maniac after a tense stand-off.



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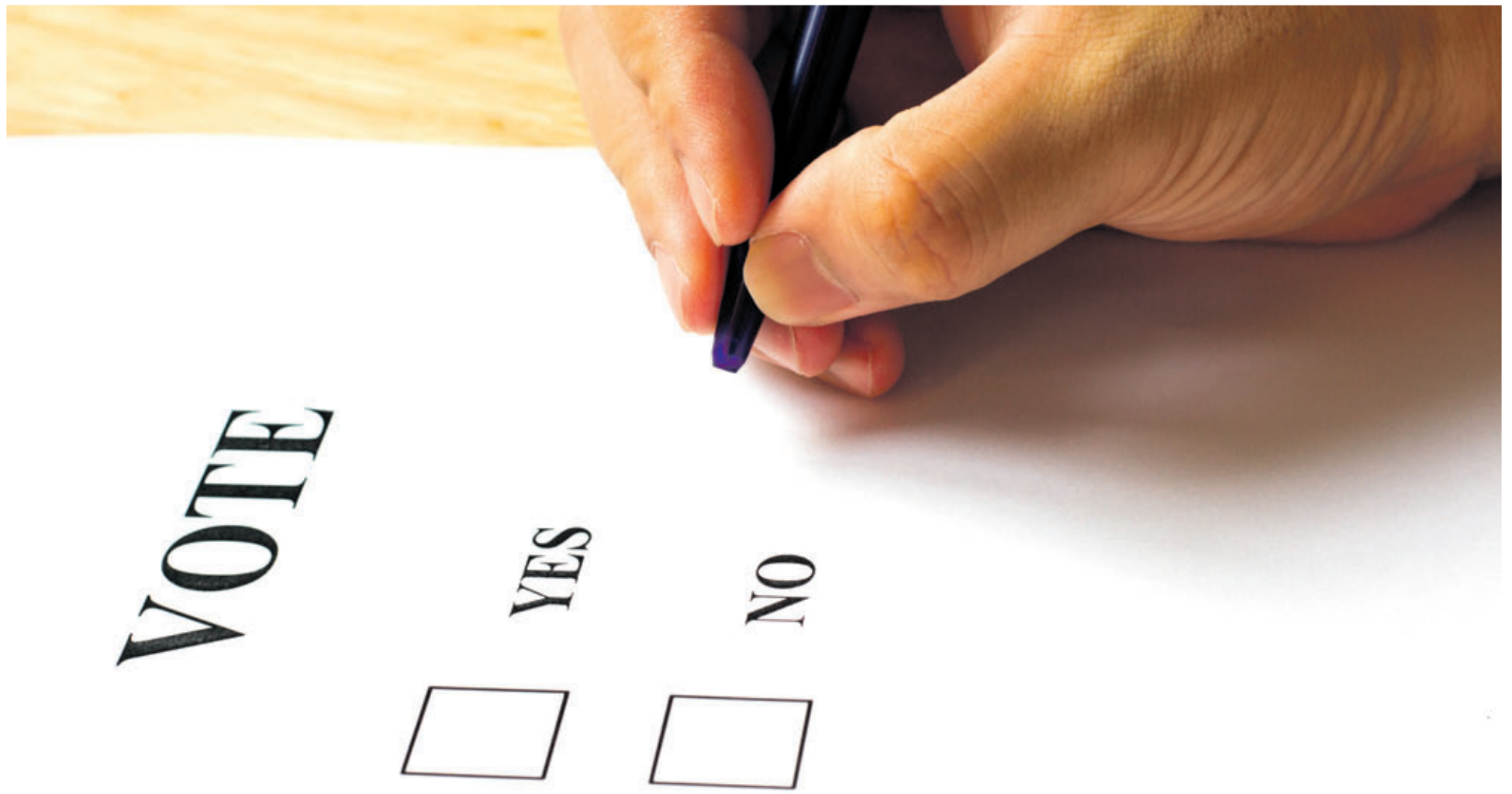
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FEATURED NEWS

Pressing a button... or making your mark



ONLINE VOTING: There have been calls to have this option for the 2020 general election.

IT had to happen but there can't be many of us who ever thought it would.

In the world's most advanced democracy there appears to be evidence of cyber groups entering the electoral fray in an attempt to influence the outcome.

Thirty-five Russian diplomats and their families ended up packing their belongings in a hurry and leaving the US. They were given just 72 hours to get out of town.

President Obama ordered the expulsions in retaliation for attempts to hack the US Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. Hacking, American security officials say, that was carried out by state-sponsored players and the state was Russia.

Will Donald Trump allow those self-same diplomats back? It's hard to believe that he would. But the issue of cyber attackers attempting to influence an actual election seems to have caught everyone by surprise. There was always a feeling that such groups may be capable of stealing millions of dollars/euros/pounds in elaborate viral raids, but getting involved in hacking an election? That seemed to be a step too far.

In the US the question has been asked: was Hillary Clinton's defeat in states that used electronic voting real, or could hackers have been at work?

Perhaps the question should have been: how is it that anyone really thought they'd be able to keep these groups out?

“ The stubby pencil and piece of paper that you put your cross on in the ballot box is actually more secure than anything which is electronic.”

Did the 'experts' think the hackers are only interested in money and stealing the millions of private identity files kept by such giants as Yahoo?

This threat to the voting systems of advanced democracies will not go away even if we employ fingerprint scanners, iris scanners and all the other bio-security measures under the sun.

Which brings us back to the humble polling booth, a piece of paper with the names of the candidates on it and your common or garden pencil to make your mark.

The former head of MI6 has now entered the fray: a man who surely knows better than most just what the hackers can do.

Sir John Sawers doesn't say voting by your phone or computer shouldn't be part of the future when it comes to exercising your democratic rights. But in an interview with the BBC he says: "The more things that go online, the more susceptible you are to cyber attacks."

When the American computer expert Edward Snowden fled the West and went to Russia, it was revealed the US National Security Agency collects information on something like one billion people. If it is true the mind boggles. And the collection of all that information involves fair means and foul. Everybody knew it, but to say it in public was another thing.

In the UK there has already been one call for online voting to be an option for everyone in time for the general election in 2020. That's not very far off. It would be naive to think the UK doesn't have the sort of enemies who'd

like to throw a spanner in that works. Which brings us to the alternative: paper and pencil.

There have been issues of vote rigging and ballot box fraud in the UK but they have always been extremely limited and the culprits have usually been swiftly stamped on.

As Sawers says "the stubby pencil and piece of paper that you put your cross on in the ballot box is actually much more secure than anything which is electronic."

Perhaps this is one area where the incessant rush to embrace all things technological should be reined in. An election in which the hackers are found to have played a part, even if a very small one, would send shockwaves round the world.

It may sound old fashioned to say, but "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." There isn't very much about the world of politics at the moment that endears it to its electorates, particularly those, like the UK, that aren't forced by law to vote or face a penalty. Leaving us with the feeling we're participating in a process that's at least democratic, by trailing to the polling booth and making your mark, even if you're not happy about the outcome, isn't too much to ask is it?

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Reckless killer confesses

By Matthew Elliott

IVA EMILOVA, the young Bulgarian woman who became public enemy number one after killing three people through dangerous driving, has accepted a four-year prison sentence for her crimes.

The 22-year-old confessed to the facts during her December trial, admitting to reckless homicide, reckless driving, and driving while high on drugs. Her trial was expected to last several days but was finished in 30 minutes when she confessed.

Emilova will also be banned from the roads for six years and was ordered to pay almost €1 million to the victims and families.

Three people were killed and a motorcyclist severely injured when Emilova lost control of her high-end BMW while steaming across the MA-1 at Portals Nous at 170kph on April 16, 2016.

Aged 21 at the time she was found to be under the influence of cocaine, ecstasy, marihuana, alcohol and psychotropics. She had arrived in Mallorca from Germany only



IVA EMILOVA: Killed three people through dangerous driving.

a few days before, was not even qualified to drive, and had recently posted messages online showing off her new car.

At the trial Emilova expressed her re-

morse and apologised to the families in attendance, but was told by one relative that her four year punishment was nothing compared to their grief.

Father finally found

THE father of three boys who were found living in a Palma flat with their dead mother has finally been found. The tragic case shocked Spain when it was revealed they had been with her body for days before getting help.

The boys, aged 5, 10, 11, were taken into hospital on December 20 for

observation. They have since been released and now social services are talking with the father to see whether he is capable of looking after them.

The family are African immigrants and it is understood that the boys hadn't attended school in months before their mother's death.

Bank holiday diary

SPAIN will have a total of 12 national bank holidays in 2017: January 2, the Monday after New Year's Day, the Three Kings' holiday on January 6, Good Friday on April 14, Worker's Day on May 1, the Assumption of Mary on August 15, Spanish National Day on October 12, All Saint's Day on November 1, Constitution Day on December 6, December 8 for the Immaculate Conception and Christmas Day on December 25.

The regions will all have additional holidays, and the Balearic Islands will celebrate their Regional Day on Wednesday March 1, as well as Maundy Thursday on April 13 and Easter Monday on April 17.

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Simon Firth
Matt Ford
John Smith

Cartoonist:
Peter Maddocks

Proof:
Maureen Doninger
Susan Peacock

Web:
Jose Valentin

Design:
Beatriz Barroso
Eugenia Manteca
Marcos Poyastro
Jonatan Jové
Larissa Beck

CONTACT DETAILS OF HEAD OFFICE

Casa de la Prensa
Calle Moscatel 10, P-62,
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Immigrant gamble seriously backfires



MALLORCA COAST: A huge manhunt got underway following discovery of their boat.

By Matthew Elliott

POLICE have ordered the immediate extradition of nine of the 13 immigrants who snuck into Mallorca via the Lluçmajor coastline on New Year's Day. A huge manhunt got underway following the discovery of their boat and all were rounded up by the following afternoon.

Helicopters were dispatched and the operation is still open as

it remains unclear exactly how many people landed. Just three such vessels arrived in Lluçmajor in 2016, but many more are expected this year.

Since then 10 have gone through the justice system and found guilty of breaching immigration laws. A further three are minors who will receive special treatment, while doctors are performing tests on one detainee to determine his age.

All 13 are Algerian nationals and one was hospitalised with hypothermia after landing. The nine facing extradition have been escorted to an immigrant detention centre in Barcelona where they will be kept for up to 60 days before being sent home.

The centres have a history of violence and rioting and see some unfortunate migrants thrown indiscriminately in cells with hardened criminals.

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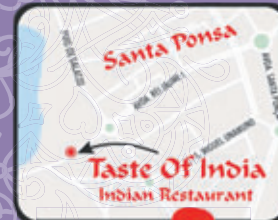
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OUR VIEW

A New Year hope

IT seems that 2016 has been an incredibly bad year for the death of musicians and celebrities around the world and every loss has been very painful for their fans.

For some reason, musicians appear to attract the loyalist fans and this past year has seen some real heroes pass on, although they leave the legacy of their music as well as a good potential for new profit for their record companies.

What we sometimes overlook is that the death of every person be they famous or unheard of invariably leaves grieving relatives and a hole in a family dynamic.

All death is difficult to cope with, but sudden and unexpected death is in many ways the most difficult for the family to handle whilst

those who die from long and painful illnesses are often considered to have had a merciful release despite the fact that the family will mourn their passing.

As 2016 dies and 2017 is born, we hope the world will become a safer place and death whilst inevitable will not suddenly strike indiscriminately and the massacre of so many innocents in Syria and Yemen will come to an end so people can return to their normal lives and enjoy a peaceful period with their families.

At the end of the day, there is little any of us can do to resolve these dreadful situations but sometimes we just need to count our blessings as life here in Spain continues to be safe and mainly comfortable.

Now we want to hear your views.
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Citizens have their say to improve community

CALVIA citizens are currently voting on a series of measures designed to improve their local community. The deadline for citizens to vote has been extended until January 20 and invites public participation on three key issues.

Chief among them is an animal welfare campaign that would seek to control cat colonies using sterilisation. Funds have also been requested to inform residents over how to treat the colonies, and for better conditions in local kennels for stray dogs.

Also on the cards is a new night bus along the promenade which would discourage drink-driving among young people out partying. It would be subsidised and help locals feel secure on the roads.

Another novel idea is creating a skatepark event to attract young rollerbladers and skateboarders to the area for public competitions to promote sport and healthy living.

Crop calamity avoided

DESPITE twice as much rain falling in 24 hours as was expected in a month, crops across Mallorca have fortunately survived the December deluge.

The first official analysis of the aftermath found little im-

pact on farmland, although there was some infrastructural damage.

Investigators visited farms from Campos and Porreres to Lluçmajor and Felanitx and declared there will no losses in the fruit harvest. Storms on the mainland meanwhile have reversed years of hard work and seen crop yields drop by more than half.

Damage to motors, irrigation, roads and walls is reported but, by and large, Mallorca seems to have escaped a worse case agricultural scenario and topped up its reservoirs at the same time.



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Home truths from Civil Service leader



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

CIVIL SERVANTS in the UK who are not allowed to speak directly to members of the press on personal matters were less than pleased when the Prime Minister criticised them in early December.

She took the opportunity in an article written for *The Spectator* magazine to complain that senior civil servants didn't brief ministers adequately and had a tendency to say what they thought their minister's wanted to hear rather than give them an accurate summary of events.

In this article she made it clear that she wanted to know facts as well as opinions and then she and other politicians could make the actual decisions.

Now however David Penman general secretary of the FDA union (formerly The Association of First Division Civil Servants) has spoken out to alert Mrs May to what the bulk of his 19,000 members are thinking with regards to Brexit.



DIFFICULT OPERATION: For Brexit Joint Ministerial Committee.

He believes that the prime minister has decided to pretend that there will be no significant problems with handling Britain's exit from the European Union when the fact of the matter, as far as his union is concerned, is that the staff won't be able to cope.

Mr Penman added that anyone who had the audacity to warn that the timing would be long and complex was vilified by the government and accused of ignoring the wishes of the people.

According to the union supremo only two

ministries have received additional staffing whilst all of the others were being left to cope with implementing all of the legal requirements of Brexit without any additional resource.

In his opinion, and that of his members who are the most senior civil servants, the government is going to have to postpone a number of its new initiatives and plans if it wishes to complete the Brexit operation within two years.

The fact is that the Home Office is going to have to implement 1,200 EU laws which will

become British law and Defra (The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) which manages Britain's farmers and fishing fleets will have to handle 400 new laws and explain their contents to users who will suddenly lose a number of grants.

Although not a civil servant, Mr Penman seems quite prepared to pass on apparently unpalatable truths to the prime minister who may have preferred that she and the country at large had not heard them!



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GERMANS are the most technologically savvy of Palma's free Wi-Fi users with more than half of connected devices, ahead of the Brits in second and Spanish third.

Knight rider

VOLKSWAGEN has been ordered to pay €500 to a Mallorcan customer whose car had 'deceptive software' claiming it was more environmentally friendly than in reality.

Jihadi joke

A PAIR of Palma pranksters were arrested for calling up the hotel they worked at and issuing a hoax bomb threat. Police tactical teams didn't see the funny side.

British residents in Spain awarded honours by The Queen in New Year Honours List 2017

TWO British residents in Spain have been awarded honours by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year Honours List 2017.

Liz Parry, former Editor of *SUR in English*, an English-language newspaper in Southern Spain, and resident in Malaga Province, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her services to British nationals living in Andalusia.

Roger Cooke, latterly President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain and resident in Madrid, has been appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to British business in Spain and British-Spanish trade and investment.

Honours lists are published twice a year, on the Queen's official birthday in June and at New Year, and recognise extraordinary achievement and service to the UK. Following a nomination process, an honours committee reviews all the submitted nominations. The Queen then awards the honour.

In the cases of Ms Parry and Mr Cooke, their outstanding



AWARDED HONOURS: Liz Parry (top) and Roger Cooke.

achievements ensured they stood out amongst the many nominations received for this year's Honours list.

The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, said: "I am delighted the achievements of Liz Parry and Roger Cooke have been recognised by Her Majesty in this way, whether it be Liz through her distinguished journalism and promotion of Brits' integration into Spanish society,



or Roger and his leadership of the British Chamber, our principal partner in strengthening a €46 billion bilateral commercial relationship."

Reacting to the news of her award, Liz Parry said: "I am delighted and proud to have been awarded this medal for service to British residents in our international community! It came as a complete surprise and I don't know who nominated me, but I would like them to know that I am honoured and grateful."

Roger Cooke, similarly surprised, said: "I am delighted to receive this award and that a contribution to Anglo-Spanish trade has been recognised at a time when this is so important to both countries' economic wealth and to their citizens. As always there is a team effort behind this success and it would not have been achieved without the great support of the team at the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain."



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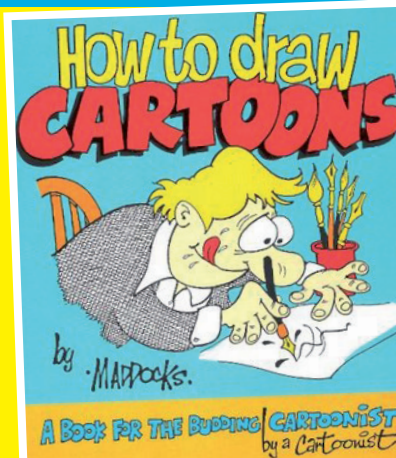
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Couple's drunken spat

POLICE pounced on a drunk couple fighting one another in a Palma park. The pair were arguing in public when the Spanish woman, in an advanced state of inebriation, pulled a knife on her erstwhile lover.

She threatened the Uruguayan man and anyone who tried to intervene with the blade. People eventually

managed to take the knife away from her but her boyfriend then pushed her over a small bridge.

Police were soon on the scene and arrested both of them, first taking her to hospital with cuts and alcohol poisoning. She was charged with assault and making threats, while man is accused of gender violence.

The great gas rip-off

MALLORCA and the Balearic Islands are cursed with the most expensive petrol in Spain. The region boasts the highest prices, with or without taxes, for diesel and unleaded petrol 95.

Unleaded petrol averages at €1.245 per litre whereas in Castilla y Leon the pump will clock just €1.146. The findings were made by a national commission on competition and date average prices in October 2016. The highest average prices were found at BP stations, closely followed by Cepsa and Repsol.



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NO PAPERWORK: For highly endangered animals.

Monkey business

By Matthew Elliott

A PALMA zoo faces prosecution over its possession of a

group of highly endangered animals without the proper paperwork. Guardia Civil officers acting on a tip-off carried out two inspections of the S'Aranjassa zoo and also found that five mongooses had managed to escape.

The zoo had no permission to hold the mongooses, or the three turtles, two kinkajous and one capuchin monkey which were still there.

The missing mongooses made their escape in Octo-

“The zoo had no permission to hold the mongooses, turtles, or capuchin monkey.”

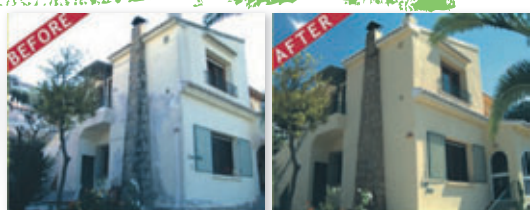
ber, giving them almost a three month head start on the government environmental squad charged with capturing them.

Meanwhile the monkey, a tree-dwelling, frog-catching, half-metre high New World native, will be escorted to the Natura Park. A special permit is needed to look after primates, especially capuchins, considered one of the most intelligent animals on the planet, even understanding the concept of money.

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PAPERWORK: Make sure you follow the correct procedures.

Register a vehicle in Spain correctly

REGISTERING a non-Spanish vehicle in Spain is a complex and potentially costly procedure. However, you may be exempt from Spanish registration tax by getting Spanish number plates within one month of entering the country. But to do this, you need to become a resident. Linea Directa has been insuring expat drivers in Spain for over a decade and understands all the steps involved. Below we outline this process.

STEP 1: OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

This is a statement by the car's manufacturer that it conforms to EU regulations. You will need the car's chassis number to complete this straightforward process online at www.eurococ.eu/en/certificate_of_conformity. The charges for this service will vary according to type of vehicle, make and country of first registration.

STEP 2: CURRENT LOG BOOK

The vehicle's original log book showing your name as the owner, the vehicle's age and a valid UK address. You will also need the bill of sale for the car.

STEP 3: RESIDENCY IN SPAIN

The Spanish residency certificate (Certificado de Empadronamiento) is your official proof of residency in Spain. Your local town hall can provide you with this doc-

ument. You will need to take your passport and proof of Spanish address (rental contract, contract to purchase or property deeds).

STEP 4: OBTAINING A SPANISH MOT CERTIFICATE

All vehicles over four years old must be roadworthy and clearly display a valid ITV sticker. The ITV (Vehicle Technical Inspection) must be tested at an authorised centre, just as for an MOT test. You can find out the location of your nearest ITV centre on DGT website (equivalent to the DVLA). You can also call your local centre to make a booking. If the centre is busy, especially pre-summer, this can save a lot of time. The cost can vary but generally is around 40€ for petrol-engine cars and 56€ for diesel-engine cars.

Step 5: OBTAINING A SPANISH EQUIVALENT OF A TAX DISC

The Spanish Tax Agency can provide your vehicle with a valid 'tax disc' for Spain, which must be carried in the car when in use. You will need to complete the relevant form online and pay the amount according to your car's tax band.

You can carry out all these procedures yourself or you can seek the assistance of an accountant to do this for you.

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Advertising Feature

No reaction by euro

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

THE European Commission said on Thursday that it would approve the Italian government's cash injection for the troubled lender Monte Paschi di Siena. It is not a bailout (for that would be prohibited by EU rules) it is 'liquidity support' to tide it over a difficult patch. Investors had been fairly confident that, true to form, the EU would be able to cobble together a rescue for the bank so there was no reaction by the euro.

Coincidentally, hours after the rescue was announced the euro leapt 1.5% higher before settling back. The move was driven by 'algorithmic' computerised trading models when the euro moved up through US\$1.05. It contributed to a weekly gain of one and a quarter US cents for the euro and it was up by two and a third cents against sterling. For calendar 2016 as a whole the euro is up by 14% against the pound and it is -3.5% lower against the US dollar.

USD weekly currency update

Despite the dollar's Trump-inspired bull run its performance in calendar 2016 has only been a little better than average among the dozen most actively-traded currencies. It is up by 25 1/2 cents against the pound, 17.1%, and it is just four cents higher against the euro, 3.6%. Over the week the dollar is a cent firmer against sterling and a cent

and a quarter lower against the euro.

With the Christmas weekend getting in the way, a seasonally thin market and a shortage of tradable economic data there was little to stoke the dollar's fire. Its sole bit of excitement came on Thursday night when it slumped -1.5% against the euro. The downward spike (or more accurately the euro's upward spike) appeared to have been caused by computerised trading models, which leapt in to buy the euro when it broke up through \$1.05. There was no follow-through and within a few hours the move was neutralised.

CAD weekly currency update

The Canadian dollar did marginally better than Britain's pound but that was small consolation out at the back of the pack. Both were down by -0.7% against the US dollar and by -2% against the euro. Looking at calendar 2016 as a whole the Loonie had a rather better result. It strengthened by 2 US cents, 2.9%, and took an eye-watering 40 cents off sterling. Needless to say, the pound was the biggest loser among the major currencies.

Around the Christmas weekend and ahead of the New Year break there was only a single Canadian economic statistic and it was not a helpful one for the Loonie. Gross domestic product shrank by -0.3% in October. Investors had

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is Moneycorp's Account Manager for Mallorca

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not been expecting much - the forecast was for zero growth - but the figure raised the possibility that growth for the fourth quarter as a whole could also be negative.

AUD weekly currency update

The Christmas break took two days out of what was always going to be a tedious week in the FX market. With many participants also taking three days' holiday, turnover was modest and liquidity thin. The only Australian economic statistics were for private sector credit in November. It increased by 0.5% on the month to a level



5.4% higher than a year earlier.

There were no prizes for the Aussie dollar, which lost a fifth of a US cent on the week. It picked up three quarters of a cent against sterling but most of the other major currencies picked up more. In calendar 2016 as a whole the Australian dollar lost three quarters of a US cent and strengthened by just over 33 cents against the pound. Sterling was the out-and-out loser, falling by an average of -17.6% against the other dozen most actively-traded currencies.

NZD weekly currency update

The NZ dollar's performance for the week as a whole was slightly below average, in that the majority of major currencies did better than the Kiwi. It did however add a third of a US cent and picked up two and a quarter cents against the pound. Looking at 2016 as a whole shows the Kiwi in a better light. It strengthened by a net 1.6% against the US dollar and added 40 cents against sterling, 18.5%. It almost goes without saying that the pound was the year's weakest performer. It fell by an average of -17.6% against the other dozen most actively-traded currencies.

As for economic data, New Zealand is never the most prolific ecostat generator and in the last seven days precisely none were released.

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Delays for island without blood

A LOCAL animal rights charity has condemned the government for doing nothing to prevent cruelty and torture despite having ample resources. Mallorca Sense Sang (Mallorca Without Blood) has denounced the fact that an animal welfare bill has been

collecting dust in parliament for more than 450 days.

The anti-bullfighting group lamented how the spectacles have continued across Mallorca in defiance of new regulations due to a lack of political will to enforce the

law. They claim that promises have been repeatedly broken and say courage is needed to transform Mallorca into a more civilised society.

In spring 2016 Mallorca Sense Sang organised a petition signed by more than

150,000 people across the island calling for an end to bullfighting. A law condemning all animal cruelty was later passed by the Balearic Parliament but has yet to take effect due to delays and possible constitutional issues.

Street terrors

MANACOR police nabbed four teenagers suspected of violently robbing nine elderly women. The youngsters targeted women in their 80's walking alone and would snatch their purses and valuables, taking them by surprise.

Aged between 15 and 16 they're minors in the eyes of the law, but old enough to cause harm. They have been reported to the juvenile prosecutor.

Traffic anarchy

TRAFFIC fines issued by Soller police haven't been processed for months. Many offenders, including drink drivers have so far gotten off scot-free as the wheels of bureaucracy grind to a halt.

A lingering vacancy for the role of municipal fine auditor has led to two months worth of paperwork stacking up.

The police union, furious that all their officers' painstaking work has gone to waste, described the situation as 'very serious.'

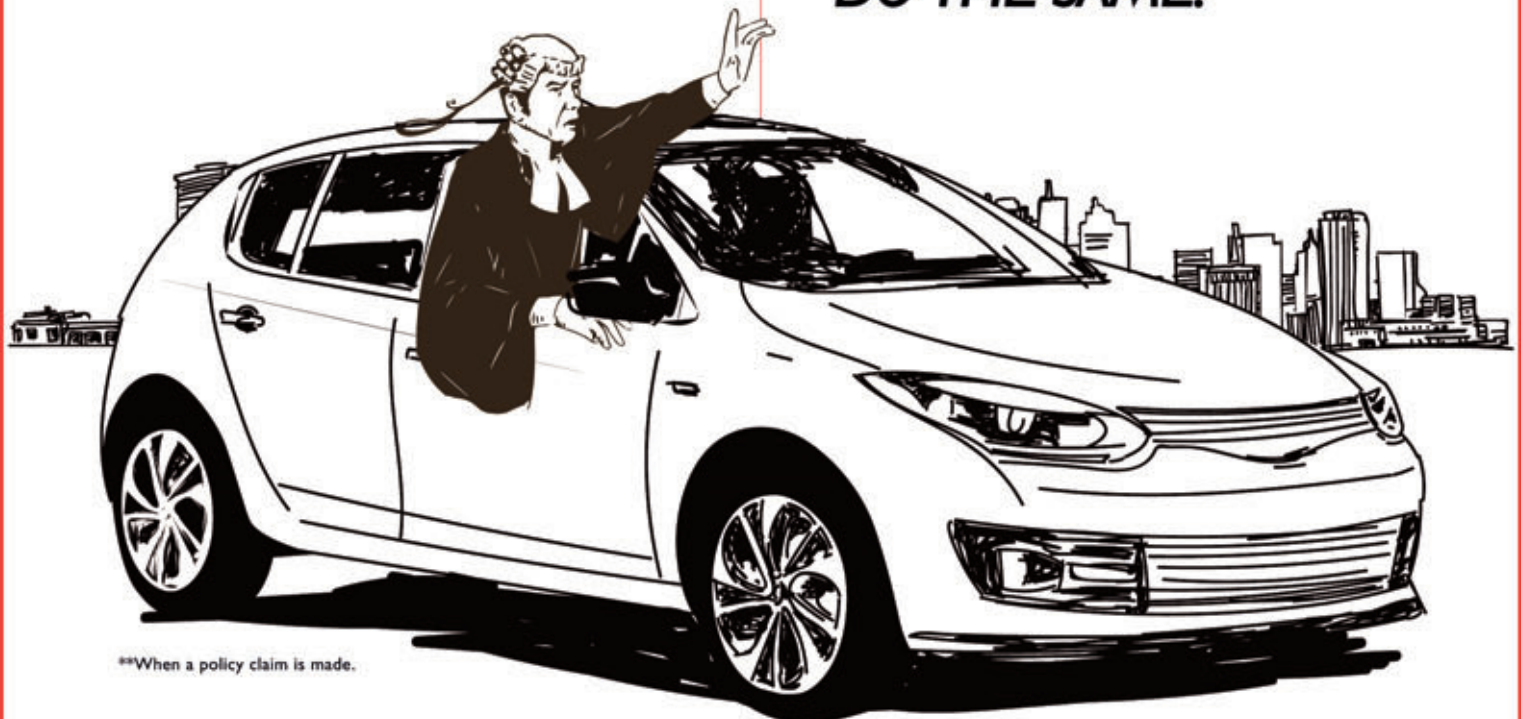
Officers on the beat feel they have little authority over drivers guilty of minor infractions and even drug possession. Unless it's a crime worthy of a prison sentence, they see little point in pursuing the case.

The union president claims to have begged Mayor Jaume Servera for help but to no avail. Enrique Vivas said they are even considering filing a court complaint against the council for time wasting.

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Mayhem and malarkey

YOUNG Mallorcans wreaked havoc on the island's very own 'Fools Day.' Eggs and bricks were thrown, churches ransacked, toilet paper strewn and inflatable dolls let loose as the pranksters celebrated Dia de los Inocentes.

Although the day commemorates the massacre of innocent newborns as King Herod went on a search and destroy mission for the baby Jesus, it is celebrated in a much lighter way by the Hispanic world. Across Spain different communities have wild and wacky traditions, usually involving young people, facepaint and eggs.

In Vilafranca one group stole the holy cross from a local church. A video then went online depicting them wearing balaclavas demanding a ransom in return for the sacred ornament. Across Mallorca others drenched police cars in egg yolk, hung condoms near churches, and spun toilet paper webs around theatres.

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From playground to the courtroom

PARENTS of the young girl savagely attacked at a Palma school have filed a criminal complaint against the principal and two teachers.

Seven students were suspended after the eight-year-old was hospitalised in the October bullying incident which made national headlines.

Her parents accuse headmistress Anselm Turmeda and two teachers of criminal negligence, leading to their daughter suffering such severe injuries.

Son Espases emergency paediatric ward confirmed she had sustained a haematoma, head and abdominal trauma, scratches and a pelvis injury.

They are furious that

the school did not think to take her to hospital, claiming she had only 'minor injuries' and forcing a delay of hours before she was treated.

There is also a claim that some teachers were present in the playground when the attack took place but failed to intervene.

Since then her mother has revealed that her daughter had been forced to move school, was psychologically traumatised and unable to go out in the Son Roca neighbourhood for fear of reprisal. She claims to have received threats advising her to drop the complaints.

The attackers themselves are back at school and immune from prosecution as all are minors.



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Salaries should be reduced

Expansion trail for BP

By John Smith

IN A newly published research document from the Lancaster University Management School, the link between salaries and bonuses paid to company directors and a company's financial performance in the UK is described as being 'negligible.'

Salaries of these executives have increased by an average of 82 per cent during the past 11 years although return on capital increased by just 1 per cent!

£1.9 billion
(€2.23 billion)

is the average salary of a CEO of a stock market quoted company in the UK.

In November of this year, Prime Minister Theresa May said that it planned to make companies explain as well as justify large salaries for their executives and at one stage, it was suggested that she would also encourage worker participation on company boards although this seems to have been diluted recently.

To some extent, having discovered that UK company directors' pay can be as much as 50 per cent more than their European counterparts, corporate investors and

shareholders are not waiting for the government to act and have already rejected pay rises for executives in Anglo American, BP and Smith & Nephew with more expected in the future.

One well-respected investment manager has criticised the greed of company executives, accusing many of them for helping to cause the financial crisis, but still acting as if they had a divine right to increase their salaries whilst planning to reduce staff or their salaries.

DUE to the anticipated long term rise in oil prices, BP is back on the investment trail and has just announced that it will be purchasing 543 service stations in Australia for a cost of €1.3 billion.

The deal is Woolworth's which will then allow it to team up with the supermarket to trial 200 convenience stores at the new stations in a strategy that has worked well in the UK, where with partner Marks and Spencer both companies have seen an increase in turnover.

Quote of the Week

Being out of what is a pretty unsuccessful European Union - particularly in the economic sense - gives us opportunities as well as obviously great political difficulties." Lord King former Governor of the Bank of England on Brexit.



Spain grabs tax from Monaco



Photo Credit: Marcos Mesa Sam Wordley Shutterstock

James Rodriguez was sold to Real Madrid.

By John Smith

THE Football Leaks release of information continues with news that French football team Monaco has had to agree to pay a large amount of tax to the Spanish government based on profits from transfers.

According to the official view of the Spanish government, Monaco is considered to be a tax haven and as such levies 19 per cent tax on any profit made from the sale of anything (including people) into Spain.

It appears therefore that the total amount involved comes to €11.7 million based on the purchase and sale of Colombian Captain James Rodriguez who they bought from Porto for €45 million and then sold to Real Madrid for a reported €80 million just one year later.

Also adding to the financial pot were profits on the sale of Belgian player Yannick Carrasco to Atletico Madrid and the Tunisian Aymen Abdennour to Valencia.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Tobacco hikes

THE decision by the Spanish government to increase duty on cigarettes and tobacco has seen price increases of between 5c and 20c depending on the brands involved but this may simply encourage more tobacco smuggling.

Credit cards

WITH an expensive Christmas and much reported alcohol consumption in the UK, uSwitch a comparison website has reported that large numbers of people are looking to defray payment of interest on credit cards by moving their accounts to take advantage of interest free options.

Bitcoin value

DESPITE the fact that Bitcoin supplies can be relatively easily hacked and they are not popular with the majority of governments due to the fact that they are a currency which can be used by criminals, they keep increasing in value and are close to the €900 ceiling for a single coin.

Workers beware of the chatbot

ACCORDING to Barcelona development company Inbenta, by 2020, there are unlikely to be any more call centres manned by humans as all such jobs will be taken by chatbots.

The word is short for chat robot, a computer program that simulates human conversation, or chat, through artificial intelligence. Although at

the moment, chatbots used for these purposes are typically limited to conversations regarding a specialised purpose, so the ability of the chatbot will expand with it.

Naturally, this programme can respond 24 hours a day and doesn't have maternity leave or need an HR department.

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AstraZeneca	4,344.00	-93.50	-2.11	56,003.83
BAE Systems	583.25	-8.25	-1.39	18,895.59
Babcock International Group	881.50	-71.50	-7.50	4,780.42
Barclays	221.73	-1.72	-0.77	37,711.57
British American Tobacco	4,523.25	-98.25	-2.13	85,695.78
Barratt Developments	461.20	-1.20	-0.26	4,669.80
British Land Co	624.50	-5.00	-0.79	6,471.43
BHP Billiton	1,293.25	-13.25	-1.01	27,478.05
Bunzl	2,109.00	22.00	1.05	7,003.63
BP	504.80	-4.80	-0.94	99,540.45
Burberry Group	1,471.50	-25.50	-1.70	6,532.83
BT Group	363.95	-2.95	-0.80	36,938.52
Coca-Cola HBC	1,770.00	38.00	2.19	6,288.48
Carnival	4,102.50	-22.50	-0.55	8,893.92
Centrica	217.15	-16.95	-7.24	12,786.09
Compass Group	1,475.50	-25.50	-1.70	24,331.23
Capita Group (The)	508.25	-22.75	-4.28	3,485.81
Croda International	3,151.50	-44.50	-1.39	4,176.30
CRH	2,565.00	-265.00	-9.36	23,159.41
Convatec Group Ord 10p Wi	232.90	-1.10	-0.47	4,585.96
Dixons Carphone	324.30	-30.30	-8.54	4,021.72
DCC	6,020.00	-20.00	-0.33	5,410.37
Diageo	2,082.50	-27.50	-1.30	52,864.69
Direct Line Insurance Group	346.55	-22.85	-6.19	5,049.00
Experian	1,557.50	-16.50	-1.05	14,893.61
easyJet	997.50	-7.50	-0.75	3,980.03
Fresnillo	1,200.50	-20.50	-1.68	9,019.58
GKN	328.35	-3.35	-1.01	5,642.33
Glencore	274.00	-3.35	-1.21	39,657.51
GlaxoSmithKline	1,543.50	-18.50	-1.18	76,719.25
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,852.50	-40.50	-2.14	4,455.96
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,208.50	-4.50	-0.37	5,762.97
Hammers	560.50	-12.50	-2.18	4,465.65
HSBC Holdings	649.95	-6.95	-1.06	129,166.97
International Consolidatd Air	437.95	-2.95	-0.67	9,400.03
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,638.00	55.00	1.54	7,077.05
3i Group	702.50	7.50	1.08	6,775.31
Imperial Brands	3,518.75	-23.75	-0.67	34,024.65
Informa	630.00	-50.00	-7.35	5,599.11
Intu Properties	280.55	4.00	1.44	3,757.53
Intertek Group	3,481.00	49.00	1.43	5,538.79
ITV	201.70	-4.70	-2.28	8,211.84
Johnson Matthey	2,941.00	-241.00	-7.57	6,150.49
Kingfisher	342.65	-7.65	-2.18	7,790.42

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	1,040.50	-25.50	-2.39	8,294.74
Legal & General Group	244.80	-2.80	-1.13	14,808.78
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	61.26	-1.25	-2.00	44,808.43
London Stock Exchange Grp	2,914.00	59.00	2.07	10,001.25
Micro Focus International	2,171.50	16.00	0.74	4,959.66
Mediclinic International	771.00	-2.00	-0.26	5,698.90
Merlin Entertainments	447.65	2.90	0.65	4,527.46
Marks & Spencer Group	349.00	-1.00	-0.29	5,704.40
Mondi	1,666.00	1.00	0.06	8,084.47
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	229.10	-1.60	-0.69	5,371.50
National Grid	945.30	-6.30	-0.66	35,657.07
Next	4,944.00	-39.00	-0.78	7,270.48
Old Mutual Group	200.15	-7.15	-3.45	10,091.42
Provident Financial	2,838.00	44.00	1.57	4,141.67
Paddy Power Betfair	8,775.00	55.00	0.63	7,322.88
Prudential	1,588.75	-38.75	-2.38	41,671.74
Persimmon	1,738.00	-38.00	-2.14	5,384.51
Pearson	811.75	-6.75	-0.82	6,729.07
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,724.50	-161.50	-2.35	48,019.60
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	223.05	-1.55	-0.69	26,448.40
Royal Dutch Shell	2,171.25	-71.25	-3.18	99,495.32
Royal Dutch Shell	2,327.25	-26.75	-1.14	88,318.58
RELX	1,434.50	-14.50	-1.00	15,695.04
Rio Tinto	3,134.25	-24.25	-0.77	43,306.43
Royal Mail	460.50	5.00	1.09	4,571.00
Rolls-Royce Group	667.00	-1.00	-0.15	12,466.98
Randgold Resources	6,362.50	-52.50	-0.82	6,012.91
RSA Insurance Group	584.25	6.50	1.12	5,907.18
Sainsbury (J)	247.70	-1.60	-0.64	5,467.07
Schroders	2,749.00	-249.00	-8.31	6,737.73
Sage Group (The)	650.25	-4.75	-0.73	7,112.10
Shire	4,627.00	-57.00	-1.22	41,887.39
Smurfit Kappa Group	1,884.00	-4.00	-0.21	4,462.22
Sky	858.25	-132.75	-13.40	17,001.08
Standard Life	356.50	-15.50	-4.17	7,317.49
Smiths Group	1,283.00	-133.00	-9.39	5,579.28
Smith & Nephew	1,199.50	-21.50	-1.76	10,609.21
SSE	1,553.00	-10.00	-0.64	15,817.21
Standard Chartered	653.85	-9.75	-1.47	21,405.16
St James's Place	907.00	-107.00	-10.55	5,295.79
Severn Trent	2,189.00	-33.00	-1.49	5,364.03
Tesco	205.18	-1.67	-0.81	16,872.17
TUI AG	1,163.00	21.00	1.84	6,703.98
Taylor Wimpey	153.40	-0.10	-0.07	5,001.93
Unilever	3,271.25	-21.25	-0.65	42,219.40
United Utilities Group	895.50	-5.50	-0.61	6,188.14
Vodafone Group	198.93	-0.92	-0.46	53,340.94
Wolseley	4,726.00	-236.00	-4.76	12,532.60
Worldpay Group	269.90	2.40	0.90	5,350.00
WPP Group	1,803.00	-13.00	-0.72	23,076.48
Whitbread	3,683.00	-93.00	-2.46	6,841.08

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CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 2

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	178.57	0.09%	0.16	107m
AMERICAN EXPRESS	74.08	0.22%	0.16	67M
APPLE	115.82	-0.78%	-0.91	616M
BOEING CO	155.68	-0.01%	-0.01	95M
CATERPILLAR	92.74	-0.59%	-0.55	54M
CHEVRON	117.7	-0.10%	-0.12	221M
CISCO SYSTEMS	30.22	-0.79%	-0.24	151M
COCA-COLA	41.46	-0.34%	-0.14	178M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	73.4	-0.56%	-0.41	63M
EXXON MOBIL	90.26	-0.10%	-0.09	373M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	31.6	-0.35%	-0.11	278M
GOLDMAN SACHS	239.45	0.53%	1.27	95M
HOME DEPOT	134.08	-0.75%	-1.02	163M
IBM	165.99	-0.37%	-0.61	157M
INTEL CORP	36.27	-1.06%	-0.39	171M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	86.29	0.47%	0.4	307M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	115.21	-0.24%	-0.28	312M
MC DONALD'S CORP	121.72	-0.87%	-1.07	101M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	58.87	-0.29%	-0.17	161M
MICROSOFT	62.14	-1.21%	-0.76	483M
NIKE	50.83	-0.45%	-0.23	67M
PFIZER	32.48	-0.03%	-0.01	196M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	84.08	-0.32%	-0.27	224M
TRAVELERS CIES	122.42	0.11%	0.13	34M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	109.62	-0.84%	-0.93	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	160.04	-0.62%	-1	152M
VERIZON COMMS	53.38	-0.67%	-0.36	216M
VISA	78.02	-0.40%	-0.31	144M
WAL-MART STORES	69.12	-0.20%	-0.14	211M
WALT DISNEY CO	104.22	-0.33%	-0.34	165M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 2

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
ImmunoGen, Inc.	\$ 2.04	0.46 ▲ 29.11%
Oncobiologics, Inc.	\$ 3.01	0.51 ▲ 20.40%
United Security Bancshares	\$ 7.75	1 ▲ 14.81%
Fulgent Genetics, Inc.	\$ 11.57	1.38 ▲ 13.54%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 8.29	0.91 ▲ 12.33%
Nabriva Therapeutics AG	\$ 5.96	0.61 ▲ 11.40%
Health Insurance Innovations, Inc.	\$ 17.85	1.80 ▲ 11.21%
Conifer Holdings, Inc.	\$ 8.15	0.75 ▲ 10.14%
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 4.90	0.45 ▲ 10.11%
Lonestar Resources US Inc.	\$ 8.54	0.78 ▲ 10.05%
Catabasis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 3.61	0.30 ▲ 9.06%
Most Declined		
Opko Health, Inc.	\$ 9.30	2.16 ▼ 18.85%
MediWound Ltd.	\$ 4.5792	0.5208 ▼ 10.21%
XOMA Corporation	\$ 4.22	0.37 ▼ 8.06%
ALJ Regional Holdings, Inc.	\$ 4.39	0.37 ▼ 7.77%
Ever-Glory International Group, Inc.	\$ 2.05	0.15 ▼ 6.82%
Immune Design Corp.	\$ 5.50	0.40 ▼ 6.78%
Corium International, Inc.	\$ 4.06	0.29 ▼ 6.67%
Lawson Products, Inc.	\$ 23.80	1.70 ▼ 6.67%
Zions Bancorporation	\$ 8.65	0.60 ▼ 6.49%
Neos Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.85	0.40 ▼ 6.40%
Prima BioMed Ltd	\$ 2.34	0.16 ▼ 6.40%

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Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

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 EUR Currency B
 Multi Asset Conservative B GBP
 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

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 €0.9663 -€0.0002
 £1.1308 £0.0055
 €1.0679 €0.0050
 £1.2500 £0.0075
 €1.1709 €0.0069
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Price Movement

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We are in the midst of volatile times

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



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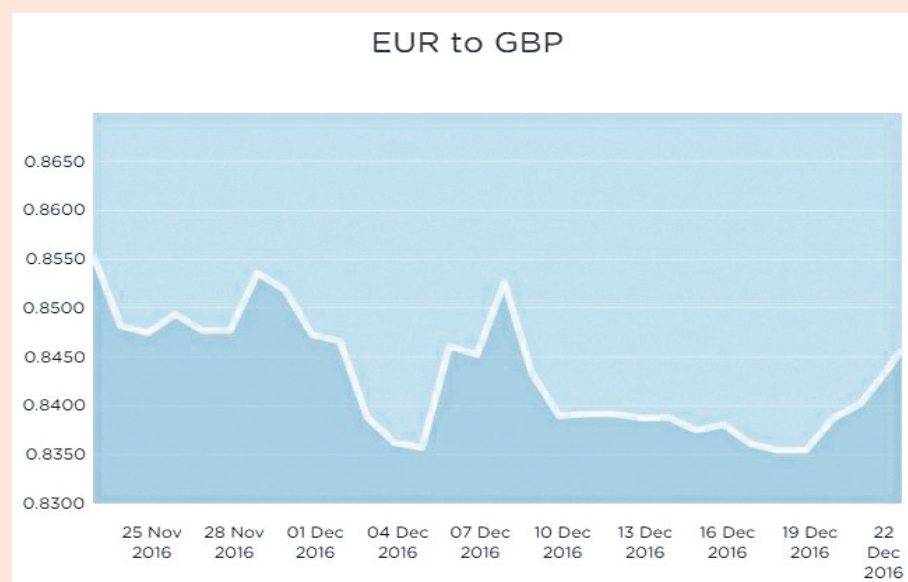
Contact me at euoweekly@currenciesdirect.com

WITH the UK electing to leave the EU, Matteo Renzi's crushing referendum defeat in the Italian referendum and the ECB choosing to expand its QE programme, we are in the midst of volatile times.

Seeing ranges between 1.10 and 1.20 over the last quarter, the market has clearly reacted heavily to the political turmoil erupting throughout Europe. On June 23, the UK announced a majority vote in favour of leaving the EU - on this day we saw a high of 1.30 before plummeting over 10 per cent within the two weeks that followed.

A lot of speculation has followed... will the pound recover before the year is out? Where will it be trading against the majors next year in comparison to where it has been? Will it fall further?

The truth is, there is such a lack of reliable information available and so much contradiction that it's been nigh impossible for any establishment to forecast a market analysis that isn't par-



ROCKY END: To 2016, with little visibility into the future currency prices.

tial to remaining fairly vague.

As of yet, it looks like we'll be sitting on our hands until March 2017 when Article 50 is (supposedly) finally going to be triggered in order for Britain to leave the EU in March 2019, immediately ahead of the next European Parliament elections. For now, the key focus has been hedg-

ing any potential further threat that lies within these plans for the future.

In terms of the ECB, they've made the decision to scale down its monthly purchases from €80bn to €60bn to ensure policy continuity, sending a clear signal there is a limit to how far the ECB's Quantitative Easing programme can

run and how high their balance sheet can grow beyond 2017, before it runs into hard technical and political constraints. They've effectively chosen to pump more money into the Eurozone economy until the end of next year, and longer if needed while maintaining a steady and controlled approach by lessening the monthly amounts and extended the overall time-scale of the plan.

The prospects of tapered monthly purchases and lower-for-longer negative yields means the ECB's reflation channels have shifted in favour of a weaker euro and higher equity markets, with negative discount rates and a cheaper exchange rate. I think it's safe to say that the ECB are certainly looking to take a short-term currency hit while focusing on their long-term plan to improve the state of the Eurozone economy which we could expect to see beginning to reflect going into 2018, should everything go to plan.

With that all said, it's going to be a rocky end to 2016 with little visibility into the future currency prices until at least Q1 2017 on the majors - Hence all of the corporate risk hedging. We stand to see The Bank of England looking further into inflation, tension between EU members and retaliation to the threat of terrorism.

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US law firms accused of poor cyber security

By John Smith

WHENEVER there is a takeover of one company by another, lawyers are invariably involved in drawing up contracts, heads of agreement and due diligence documents.

American prosecutors have discovered that a trio of bright Chinese hackers made a fortune by taking advantage of the very poor cyber security in many law firms and having gained easy access to numerous sites, they simply discovered information concerning a number of takeovers.

Having found out which companies were in merger and acquisition talks, they were able to purchase stocks in advance of public announcements and it is alleged that they made in excess of \$4 million (€3.8 million) in profits.

Of the three men involved who are all from Macau, one has been arrested by Hong Kong police and will be extradited to the USA to face charges of conspiracy, insider trading, wire fraud and computer intrusion, whilst the other two although identified have not been found and there appears to have been no direct request to the Macau authorities to assist.

This revelation of a new target for cyber intruders has come as something of a wake-up call for corporate America and US State Attorney Preet Bharara who is prosecuting the case has warned law firms that they will continue to be vulnerable not only from external hacking



US STATE ATTORNEY: Preet Bharara (centre) is prosecuting the current case.

but from internal manipulation unless their security is considerably improved.

According to the *New York Times* the trio had successfully hit seven different lawyers' firms during 2015 and had 'attacked' their sites and e-mail servers on more than 100,000 occasions with their profits coming from information concerning at least two major takeovers.

With accusations of the Russian government trying to influence the result of the latest Presidential Election through cyber manipulation and almost daily announcements of major banks and servers being hacked, it is possible that the activities that have been discovered are just the tip of an iceberg which could be more dangerous to interna-

tional economies than ever imagined.

It is not just computers in offices that are at risk, with the increase of available information on tablet and Android smart phones, these are also becoming a major target for malware and hacking especially with the proliferation of apps from banks which allow for the payment of goods and services.

Trump advisor says relocations are inevitable



CHIEF OF TRADE: Billionaire businessman Wilbur Ross with Donald Trump.

By Matthew Elliott

THE man who will be responsible for negotiating a free trade deal between Britain and the US has encouraged other countries to take advantage of the UK's post-Brexit vulnerability.

Billionaire businessman Wilbur Ross will be Donald Trump's chief of trade in the president-elect's new administration. He has said it was 'inevitable' that there would be 'relocations' and has urged Cyprus, Germany and Ireland to take full advantage of the volatility.

The investor, who will play a key role in determining the nature of Britain's transatlantic relations, described Brexit as a 'God-given opportunity' for London's financial rivals while addressing Cypriot bankers.

The revelations come amid a stream of developments related to Britain's post-Brexit trade prospects.

Ireland's future position as

the only English-speaking country in the EU has reportedly seen more than 100 top companies inquire about relocating from London to Dublin.

The man in charge of attracting foreign investment to the Republic has claimed to have received a huge increase in interest from financial services companies keen to maintain access to the European market.

Head of the Irish Industrial Development Agency, Martin Shanahan, said that Ireland is particularly attractive to Asian and American companies. Especially those looking for a European base with access to the single market, proximity to the UK that speaks the language of business and has low corporation taxes.

That places Ireland in prime position to make the most of Britain's likely withdrawal from the single market.

However if the former governor of the Bank of England is correct, Brexit could be positive

for both the UK and Ireland.

Speaking to Radio 4 on Boxing Day, Lord King said that the UK could soon take advantage of 'real opportunities' to sign trade deals with other countries outside of the EU.

"Being out of what is a pretty unsuccessful European Union - particularly in the economic sense - gives us opportunities as well as obviously great political difficulties," he told the programme.

"I think there are real question marks about whether it makes sense to remain in the customs union.

"Clearly if we do that we cannot make our own trade deals with other countries."

In the meantime, the Spanish National Council for Market Values is offering an advice service to British companies that want to invest in Spain but are scared of the bureaucracy and will supply English speaking advisors to explain Spanish laws and legal requirements.

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The world is well rid of this man

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



HOW typical of that petulant pill-lock Obama to make Trump's accession to the White House as difficult as possible.

Why didn't he just leave the decisions as to what action to take against Russia to the new administration? Why? Because he wants to throw that final rattle out of the pram, that's why. The fact that his favourite white Nanny didn't win the election meant that the country was also delivering its verdict on his own pathetic Islamic sympathising regime.

And what a limp wrist 'retaliation' it turned out to be. The expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats, just before Christmas, merely resulted in disrupting a few family lives and ruining their holidays. Yeah. Nice one Obama. That really showed 'em who was boss. I wonder how many Iranians he

would have expelled just before Eid!?! And what a wonderful reaction Putin had to this final effort to deliver as much infantile nastiness as possible.

In true leadership fashion, not only did he not retaliate with the tit-for-tat childish nonsense Obama was no doubt expecting, he actually extended greetings and invitations to American diplomats and their families to join the Russian people in their celebrations and attend their Christmas and New Year shows at the Kremlin!

“Onward and upward everyone, stay healthy, positive and above ground.”

I'd like to have been a fly on the wall when Obama and his equally arrogant missus heard that one. I can hear the toys hitting the bedroom wall from here. No, the world is well rid of this man, who to my mind posed a



serious threat to the safety of the West.

I know many have been sucked in by his apparent striving for world peace and unity, but I think that under all the rhetoric lurked an ulterior motive that, thank the Lord, with the demise of his chosen successor, will now be destroyed and consigned to the bin of dubious leaders, where it well and truly belongs.

Onward and upward everyone. Stay healthy. Stay positive. Stay above ground. And whatever ya do.

*Always Keep the Faith
love Leapy
leapylee2002@gmail.com*

Barack Obama.

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for next 7 days

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Sat - 15 7 C	Tues - 15 7 CI		Sat - 10 -3 S	Tues - 10 -3 S	
Sun - 16 6 CI	Wed - 15 7 C		Sun - 11 -3 S	Wed - 10 -2 C	
Almeria			Malaga		
TODAY: SUNNY MAX 19C, MIN 10C			TODAY: SUNNY MAX 20C, MIN 11C		
Fri - 15 9 C	Mon - 17 8 CI		Fri - 16 9 C	Mon - 16 7 CI	
Sat - 16 8 CI	Tues - 17 8 C		Sat - 16 8 CI	Tues - 16 7 C	
Sun - 17 8 S	Wed - 16 9 CI		Sun - 16 6 C	Wed - 16 6 C	
Barcelona			Mallorca		
TODAY: SUNNY MAX 12C, MIN 5C			TODAY: SUNNY MAX 14C, MIN 5C		
Fri - 10 3 C	Mon - 13 4 S		Fri - 14 4 C	Mon - 15 5 S	
Sat - 13 3 C	Tues - 12 3 CI		Sat - 15 5 CI	Tues - 15 5 C	
Sun - 13 3 S	Wed - 12 2 CI		Sun - 16 4 S	Wed - 15 5 C	
Benidorm			Murcia		
TODAY: SUNNY MAX 17C, MIN 9C			TODAY: SUNNY MAX 17C, MIN 9C		
Fri - 14 8 C	Mon - 15 8 S		Fri - 15 6 C	Mon - 15 4 S	
Sat - 15 7 CI	Tues - 14 7 CI		Sat - 15 4 C	Tues - 15 5 CI	
Sun - 16 8 S	Wed - 15 6 C		Sun - 15 3 S	Wed - 15 5 CI	

S Sun, CI Clear, F Fog, C Cloudy, Sh Showers, Sn Snow, Th Thunder
Euro Weekly News accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the weather forecasts which are supplied by a third party.

YOUR STARS

AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)

When it comes to throwing wobblers, please don't. It is so important this week to stay cool and unruffled. Change nothing that you can avoid changing. Even having discussions about change can set your nerves jangling. What is needed now is a comfort blanket and someone to put it around you.

PISCES ♓ (February 20 - March 20)

This month, there is much to be celebrated. So much has happened in the latter part of last year. Certainly, congratulations are in order. When you have made such an effort and are rewarded for it, the satisfaction level is high. Be aware, though, that someone close also needs to feel that there is progress.

ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)

The importance of making the right choices is clear to you. Where to begin seems to be a sticking point. Starting by taking away the things you really do not want is essential. Be practical and logical. This is not a time for sentiment or muddled thinking. Although you will need patience in abundance as the week

CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)

You are in for a bit of a bumpy ride this week. Some things will go well but other outcomes can be quirky. People change their minds, technology doesn't work, phone calls don't come. Be assured, however, that if you keep your sense of the absurd it could all be quite amusing.

progresses, take one thing at a time.

TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)

Although you have the feeling that younger members of the family are not interested in your point of view, this is far off the mark. They, in their inexperience, may not know how best to approach you in this regard. Getting out family photos or starting a family tree with them can be both entertaining and fascinating. Altogether, this week is for the generations to come together and find a common cause. Teenagers seeking answers should ask grandparents.

GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)

The prospect of travel sets you thinking. Have you been spending too much time considering others? Should you take steps now to get time alone then these plans cannot be changed. This will save any discussions as to how or when. Taking charge of your own time is liberating. Someone has to make the decisions, why not you?

CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)

With the best will in the world it is only

possible to spend money once. We are all guilty of trying to get over this truth, but it never works. Have patience when looking to improve your possessions. There are more pressing needs and these, in the long run, prove more satisfying. Should you be thinking of taking on a commitment, have clear ideas of how it will be managed.

LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)

Going over old ground is counter-productive. There is nothing to be gained from repeating methods that did not work in the past. If it is not possible to find a fresh approach then seek the opinions of others. You do not need experience of a situation to be able to come up with a useful idea. Staying in the same old rut has not served you in the past and will not do so now. Get a few days away and it will help to free your thoughts.

VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)

Getting together with others to entertain is sure to be successful after the sixteenth. Before that there may be some irritations, particularly with people who refuse to be positive and make decisions. Those moving house or going on a journey need a lot of patience, and forward planning is

essential. Do not assume that all will go according to plan. Having been forewarned, you will have plan B ready. Take a suggestion to make fast money with a pinch of salt.

LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)

This is an important week for both your physical health and your mental well-being. Because of things beyond your control, you may have let your diet or exercise slip. Having sorted out any problems that side-tracked you, there is a need to be particularly strong. There is no soft option when it comes to self-control but the rewards are amazing.

SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)

This is a week to let yourself be heard. Be it writing letters, sending emails, making phone calls or making conversation, you must express yourself. Being honest and outspoken need not mean upsetting people. Think of the way that a child gets its point over. Eye contact, simple speech, humour, a smile: all will help to oil the wheels of achievement.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)

Having problems with that new computer? Fallen foul of the new mobile phone? That wouldn't be surprising this week. As you are prone to mistakes and misunderstandings, try not to tackle anything vital. Be sure to get plenty of sleep and fresh air. Someone who is supposed to help you proves more of an irritation than a saviour, and you may wish that you had stuck with the manual. This is a week to try to keep life simple.

Nonagram

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



letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case B) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.

TARGET:

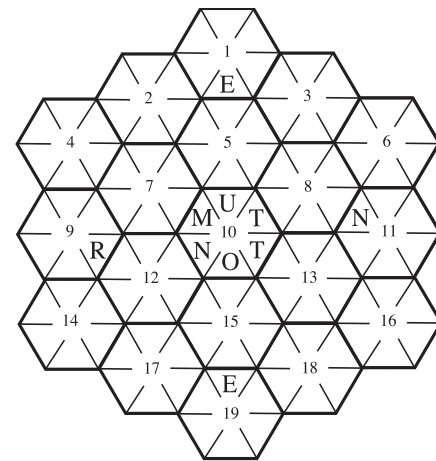
- Average: 14 • Good: 19
- Very good: 28 • Excellent: 36

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

acme ahem amah amen came camp game gamp hemp mace mage mana mane mean mega name champ mange encamp manage chapman chapmen CHAMPAGNE

Hexagram

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



- DECREE
- DEPICT
- FORMIC
- GORGON
- HURLEY
- INVITE
- LOITER
- MUTTON (10)
- RESIST
- SCREEN
- SERVER
- SHELVE
- SHERRY
- SPRINT
- STRIFE
- THRONE
- TINGLE
- TOILET
- TWENTY

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Specie 2 Demean 3 Tissue 4 Tallow 5 Impish 6 Jumble 7 Icicle 8 Nestle 9 Chapel 10 Cheers 11 Blonde 12 Chisel 13 Tendon 14 Vacate 15 Teeter 16 Patron 17 Wealth 18 Rotten 19 Teethe.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday December 31



BONUS BALL



IRISH LOTTO

Saturday December 31



BONUS BALL



EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday December 27



LUCKY STARS



Friday December 30



LUCKY STARS



LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday December 31



REINTEGRO



EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 1



REINTEGRO



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

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

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



Crossword

page

Enjoy filling in the following puzzles and check the answers in next week's edition

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

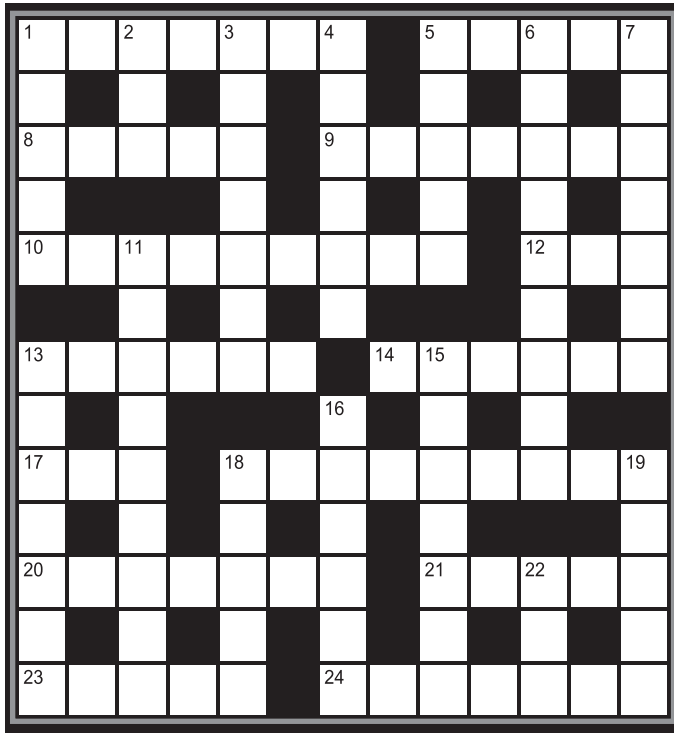
Cryptic

Across

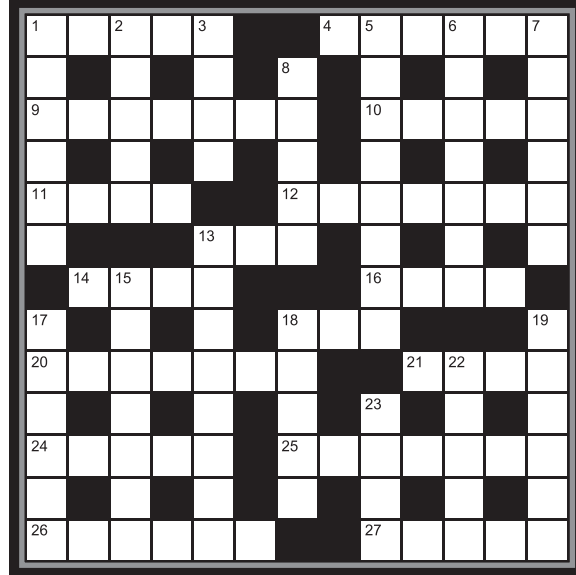
- 1 Fish left around here in France, more for Will (7)
- 5 Amazing girl? (5)
- 8 Mabel arranged a leisurely walk (5)
- 9 Difficulty returning cover to Jane Austen book (7)
- 10 I'm sure ten became insurgents (9)
- 12 Film location in middle of Ossetia (3)
- 13 Remained sober, so we hear (6)
- 14 Characters of Rebecca in America turn into a mad person (6)
- 17 A parliamentarian has power (3)
- 18 It's very common to stop framing Capone (9)
- 20 Long article on measure of rope (7)
- 21 Crowd in hydro-vehicle (5)
- 23 Temporary police force that left post-haste (5)
- 24 Indicated a negative time in legal document (7)

Down

- 1 Allegation about mail dispute (5)
- 2 Spot the bad back (3)
- 3 Absolve church holding lists (7)
- 4 Women with many strange ideas (6)
- 5 A leg's easily broken in such winds (5)
- 6 It's a crime to ruin the peace agreement (9)
- 7 'Stretchy', the Spanish cat, is hiding (7)
- 11 Netting the head of state's paraphernalia (9)
- 13 All cops cook this seafood delicacy (7)
- 15 A pop group on leave (7)
- 16 Looked after dented fiddle (6)
- 18 The spot to find fish, one hears (5)
- 19 Walk on part in first reading (5)
- 22 Not at home in the youth centre (3)



Quick



Across

- 1 Cutting (5)
- 4 Like better (6)
- 9 Stop holding on to (7)
- 10 Neck wrap (5)
- 11 Information about recent and important events (4)
- 12 Dash together (7)
- 13 Feline (3)
- 14 American tramp (4)
- 16 Any long and difficult trip (4)
- 18 Falsehood (3)
- 20 Brief look (7)
- 21 Small island (4)
- 24 On your own (5)
- 25 Outside or upper layer (7)
- 26 Makes up for (6)
- 27 Fraudulent (5)

Down

- 1 At peace (6)
- 2 Permit (5)
- 3 Highest point (4)
- 5 Determined (8)
- 6 Easily broken, damaged or destroyed (7)
- 7 Automatic response (6)
- 8 Respond to (5)
- 13 Having all necessary qualities (8)
- 15 Lengthy South American river (7)
- 17 Large American lizard (6)
- 18 Smallest in amount (5)
- 19 Defies authority (6)
- 22 Informal language (5)
- 23 Informal term for a meal (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Wiser, 4 Washer, 9 Sterner,
- 10 Strut, 11 Ears, 12 Service,
- 13 Apt, 14 Grin, 16 Easy, 18 Bid,
- 20 Decline, 21 Vote, 24 Rondo,
- 25 Cheroot, 26 Disney, 27 Swell.

Down:

- 1 Wasted, 2 Smear, 3 Reno,
- 5 Absorbed, 6 Harries, 7 Rotten,
- 8 Tryst, 13 Antidote, 15 Recants,
- 17 Adored, 18 Bench, 19 Rental,
- 22 Ozone, 23 Keys.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Standard, 7 Speak, 8 Available,
- 9 Rat, 10 Lend, 11 Rested,
- 13 Betray, 14 Boring, 17 Scream,
- 18 Give, 20 Eat, 22 Examining,
- 23 Turns, 24 Tadpoles.

Down:

- 1 Small, 2 Against, 3 Dull,
- 4 Robber, 5 Weird, 6 Skating,
- 7 Section, 12 Marries, 13 Beneath,
- 15 Initial, 16 Banana, 17 Stare,
- 19 Edges, 21 Limp.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

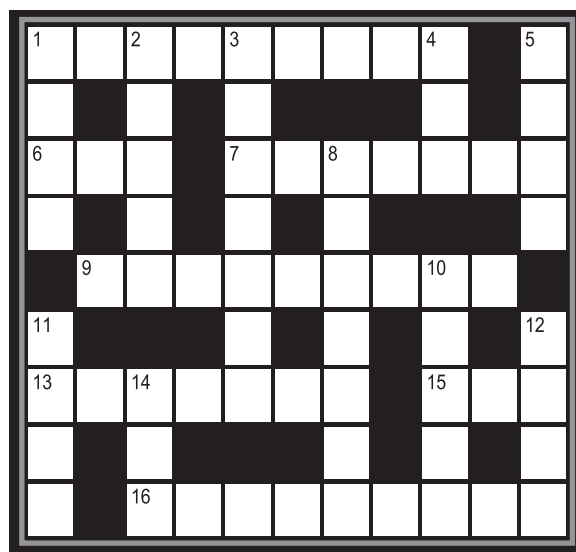
- 1 Aceite, 3 Util, 7 Lip,
- 9 Relleno, 10 Mariposas,
- 13 Rhubarb, 14 Lie, 15 Peso,
- 16 Cansar.

Down:

- 1 Aula, 2 Terminar, 4 Toenail,
- 5 Leon, 6 Alfombra, 8 Peanuts,
- 11 Drip, 12 Leer.

English - Spanish

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



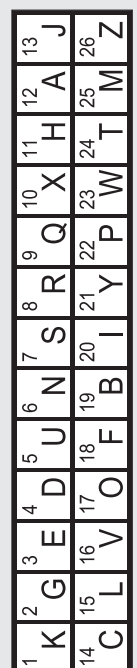
Across

- 1 Gemelos (de camisa) (9)
- 6 Ver (persona, objeto) (3)
- 7 Streams (brooks) (7)
- 9 Orquesta (9)
- 13 Happiness (cheerfulness) (7)
- 15 Aunt (3)
- 16 Peligroso (9)

Down

- 1 House (4)
- 2 To fry (5)
- 3 Cuero (piel) (7)
- 4 I am (3)
- 5 Weight (4)
- 8 Rescue (7)
- 10 Rhythm (5)
- 11 Glass (drinking) (4)
- 12 Aficionados (de equipo, grupo) (4)
- 14 Final (de ceremonia, vida, aventura, guerra) (3)

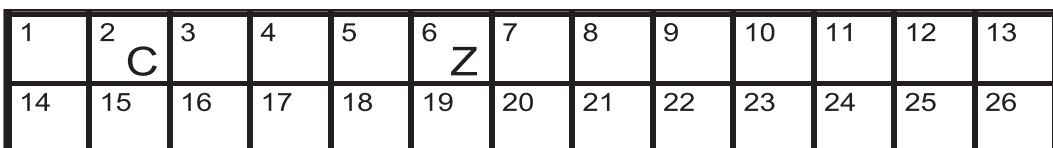
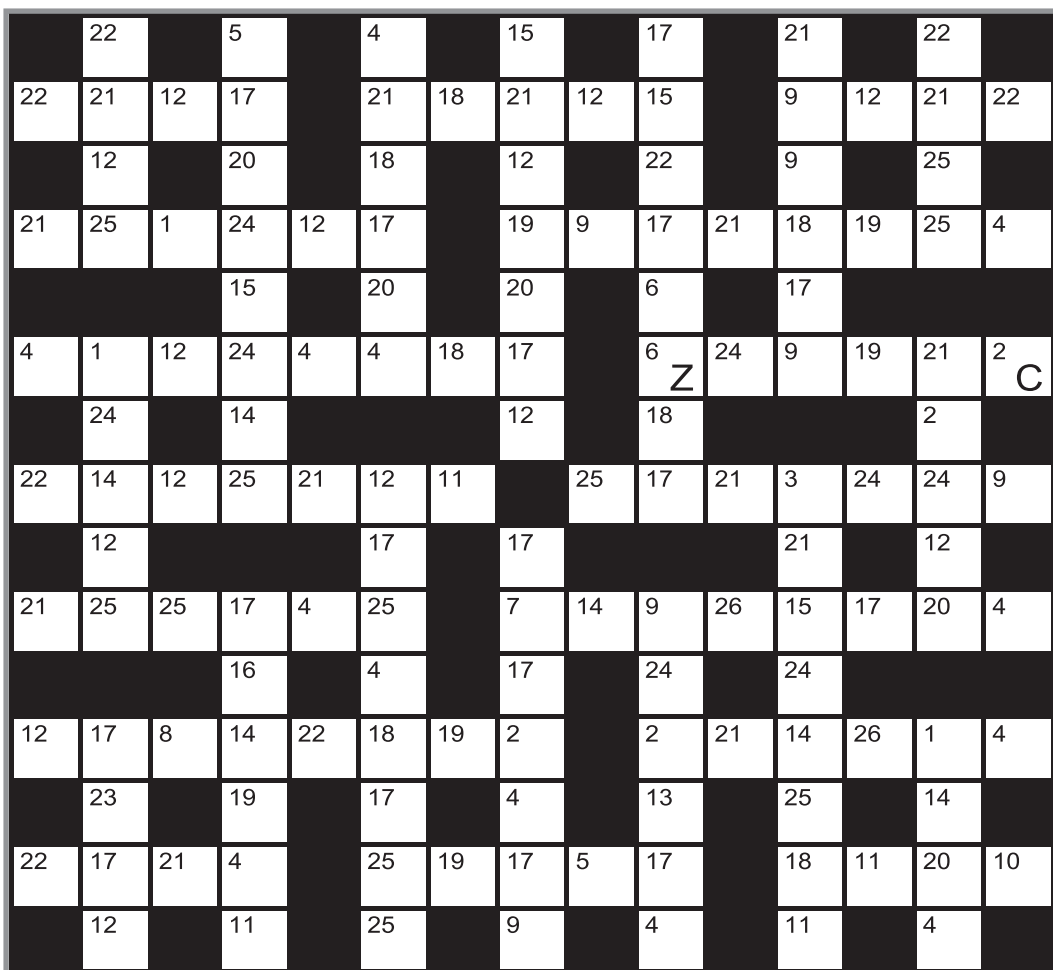
CODE BREAKER



Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet.

In this week's puzzle, 2 represents C and 6 represents Z, so fill in C every time the figure 2 appears and Z every time the figure 6 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.

Code Breaker



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
05 JANUARY	7:30pm BBC London News	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm ITV News London	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:00pm Premier League Review
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	8:00pm Barclays Premier League World Football
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun	8:30pm Barclays Premier League World Football
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge	9:00pm Save Money	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	11:00pm Barclays Premier League World Football
	10:00pm Death in Paradise	10:00pm Yellowstone	10:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm The Restoration Man Ep1	11:00pm Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink	11:30pm Premier League Review
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm Mock the Week	11:00pm ITV News London	10:00pm Spies	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:30am La Liga Show	
11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:30pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories	11:00pm 60 Days in Jail			
11:45pm Die Hard with a Vengeance	12:15am The Last Kingdom	12:40am Tipping Point	11:55pm A Very British Brothel			
1:45am Weather for the Week Ahead			1:00am The World's Greatest Spy Movies			
FRIDAY	5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	9:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:00pm Barclays Premier League World Football
	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Big Dreams Small Spaces	9:30pm Coronation Street	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	8:00pm Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3	7:30pm Spanish Football Gold
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	9:00pm Mastermind	10:00pm The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	7:40pm The Fantasy Football Club Football
	7:30pm BBC London News	9:30pm Only Connect	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	7:30pm Hollyoaks	10:00pm Lip Sync Battle UK	8:40pm Spanish Football Gold
	8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes	11:30pm ITV News London	8:00pm Channel 4 News	11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	11:00pm The Fantasy Football Club Football
8:30pm Match of the Day Live	11:00pm QI	11:40pm Fishing Impossible	8:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	12:05am Brother's Bit on the Side	12:00am Barclays Premier League World Football	
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	12:10am The Wine Show	9:00pm Big Fat Quiz of Everything	1:00am Super Casino		
11:25pm BBC London News	12:05am The Last Kingdom		10:00pm First Dates Hotel			
11:35pm Graham Norton's Big Red Chair			12:05am			
12:25am Uncle						
SATURDAY	6:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise	6:45pm ITV News and Weather	12:15pm The Simpsons	10:55am The Fairly Odd Parents	6:50pm Super Rugby Gold
	6:40pm Celebrity Mastermind	8:30pm Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney	7:00pm You've Been Framed! Unchained!	12:45pm A New Life in the Sun	11:30am The Hotel Inspector	7:00pm NFL
	7:10pm Pointless	9:30pm Dad's Army	8:00pm Ninja Warrior UK	1:45pm Darts	3:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	7:10pm NFL
	8:00pm Let it Shine	10:00pm Bowie - The Last Five Years	9:00pm The Voice UK	6:30pm Speed with Guy Martin	7:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles	7:20pm NFL
	9:25pm Casualty	11:30pm The Man Who Fell to Earth	10:35pm Through the Keyhole	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:05pm NCIS: Los Angeles	7:30pm NFL
10:15pm Taboo	1:45am Walkabout	11:30pm ITV News and Weather	Includes sport and weather.	9:00pm NCIS	8:30pm NFL	
11:10pm BBC News		11:45pm Jaws 4: The Revenge	10:00pm Ride Along	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	9:30pm NFL	
11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights		1:25am Jackpot247	11:55pm The Mechanic	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	10:30pm Live NFL	
1:00am The Double			1:45am Derren Brown	11:00pm Sex Tape	2:00am Live NFL	
				12:00am 5 News Weekend	5:30am Premier League Legends	
SUNDAY	4:35pm Match of the Day Live	6:15pm Yellowstone	6:15pm ITV News and Weather	10:30am Sunday Brunch	6:35pm 5 News Weekend	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	7:05pm BBC News	7:15pm Ski Sunday	6:30pm Unbelievable	1:30pm Darts	6:40pm Legally Blonde	3:30pm Premier League Legends
	7:20pm BBC London News	8:00pm School Swap	8:00pm Moments Caught on Camera	6:30pm Find it, Fix it, Flog it	7:25pm Along Came Polly	4:00pm Sporting Triumphs
	7:30pm Countryfile	9:00pm Dragons' Den	7:30pm Dance Dance Dance	7:15pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud	4:15pm Sporting Triumphs
	8:30pm Antiques Roadshow	10:00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise	9:00pm Endeavour	7:30pm Britain's Wildest Weather 2016	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	4:30pm NFL Highlights
9:30pm Still Open All Hours	11:00pm A Most Violent Year	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	9:00pm Walking the Americas	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	5:30pm NFL Highlights	
10:00pm Sherlock	1:00am QI XL	11:15pm Robson Crusoe: A Surprising Adventure	10:00pm The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1	11:00pm Celebrity Botched Up Bodies	6:30pm Live NFL	
11:30pm BBC News	1:45am Countryfile	12:10am Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	12:20am Big Fat Quiz of Everything	12:05am The BAFTA Britannia Awards 2016	10:30pm Live NFL	
11:50pm BBC London News	2:45am Holby City				2:30am Darts Gold	
12:00am Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights	3:40am This is BBC Two					
MONDAY	7:30pm BBC London News	8:00pm Match of the Day	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	7:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:00pm The One Show	8:30pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:30pm Fake Britain	9:00pm University Challenge	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Deep-Sea Super Predator	8:00pm Sporting Triumphs
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm An Island Parish	9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Extreme Sea Monsters	8:15pm Sporting Triumphs
	9:30pm Panorama	10:00pm Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney	9:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm The Health Detectives	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	8:40pm To be Announced
10:00pm Silent Witness	11:00pm Insert Name Here	10:00pm The Halcyon	9:30pm Food Unwrapped	11:00pm The Week We Went Wild	11:15pm Scottish Football Round Up	
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm The Undateables	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	11:30pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17	
11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am Bowie - The Last Five Years	11:40pm Through the Keyhole	11:00pm First Dates Hotel	1:05am Tattoo Disasters	12:00am More Than a Game	
11:45pm Class		12:40am The Chase	12:05am Tattoo Fixers			
1:15am Graham Norton's Big Red Chair			1:10am Spies			
TUESDAY	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	7:30pm ITV Evening News	1:05pm Darts	4:15pm Dangerous Lessons	7:15pm Football Gold
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	5 News at 5	7:30pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends	8:30pm The Money Saving Good Health Show	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	8:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge	9:00pm Islands of Australia	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	8:30pm Live EFL Cup Semi-Final
	9:00pm Holby City	10:00pm Our Dancing Town	10:00pm Sugar Free Farm	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	11:15pm La Liga World
10:00pm Silent Witness	11:00pm Revolting	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well	8:00pm To B&B the Best	11:45pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17	
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm Wilderness Walks with Ray Mears	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	9:00pm A New Life in Oz	12:15am Sporting Triumphs	
11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am NFL	12:10am Trawlermen Tales	11:00pm This is Us	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother		
11:45pm The War on Loan Sharks			11:55pm The Undateables	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side		
12:35am Italy's Invisible Cities			1:00am Bodysockers			
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	7:30pm ITV Evening News	1:05pm Darts	6:30pm Neighbours	7:00pm Barclays Premier League World Football
	7:30pm BBC London News	8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	7:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	8:00pm EFL Cup Highlights
	9:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	10:00pm Hospital	9:00pm Midsomer Murders	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Bloody Tales of the Tower	8:30pm Live EFL Cup Semi-Final
	10:00pm Italy's Invisible Cities	11:00pm Common Sense	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:00pm Barclays Premier League World Football
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm Unbelievable	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	11:30pm Boxing Gold	
11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am Our Dancing Town	12:40am Moments Caught on Camera	10:00pm No Offence	11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:00am Great Sporting Moments	
11:45pm A Question of Sport	1:15am Alan Bennett's Diaries	1:30am It's Not Rocket Science	11:00pm 19 Kids and Counting	11:45pm Football on 5		
12:15am Parkinson's: The Funny Side	2:15am Muslims Like Us	4:00am 1000 Heartbeats	11:55pm Finding My Twin Stranger	1:00am Bellator MMA's Greatest Hits Volume 1		
12:45am The Other Man			1:10am Live From Abbey Road Classics			

LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters for Your Say should be emailed to yoursay@euoweeklynews.com or make your comments straight on our website: www.euoweeklynews.com

Cowboy builders come to Spain

LAST May I approached a kitchen business to find a reliable expert to lay a laminate floor in my villa. After an agreed quote this so-called expert carried out the work but within four weeks it had failed. After some trouble I managed to contact him through the kitchen business.

He returned to carry out repairs to the new floor at further cost to myself! In October the flooring developed further faults and since then I have called him five times and texted three times, but 'Yes' you've guessed it, 'No Reply'!

So I approached the kitchen business who first recommended this 'expert' to see if they would help to contact him but 'Yes' you've guessed it correctly again, 'two emails with no further replies from them'! I was advised to employ Spanish contractors but felt supportive towards Brits trying to run a business in another country!

I now have to employ another contractor to carry out repairs at further costs. We all know the pitfalls of being ripped off with poor workmanship, promises and lack of responsibilities towards those that pay good money to help keep them in business!!

My experience is a warning to others!

R J Gammon, Alicante

Weapons testing

THE testing of armaments has been going on from the beginning of time!

According to reports in the newspapers, Russia has tested '162 types of modern armaments during the campaign in Syria.'

What is their ambition, to be the sole superpower? Some 80 years ago Nazi-Germany aimed at world dominance and certainly some testing was needed: aerial warfare was crucial.

Hitler's support of Franco gave the Luftwaffe the opportunity and Guernica paid the price and was destroyed.

At the Nuremberg trials Hermann Goring testified that "The Spanish Civil War gave me an opportunity to put my young air force to the test and a means for my men to gain experience."

» Photographs for possible publication should be sent by email with a full caption to: photonews@euoweeklynews.com



TRAIN TRAVEL: Nationalisation could win an awful lot of votes.

Reasonable rail fares?

“ I GO to the UK fairly often and when I do I am forced to travel around by train. These journeys are relatively infrequent so I do not feel I am being taken advantage of by the cost.

But I do remember being a professional commuter and having to put up with dirty, uncomfortable trains that were late and too full. Is it beyond the wit of

man to run a train service that provides a level of comfort at a reasonable price? I am a fan of the West Coast main line run by Virgin. Virgin isn't big enough to take over the whole network. I know it's been said before, but in my opinion nationalising the rail service would win a political party an awful lot of votes.

D Smith, Marbella

That ambition brought Germany to its knees.

Leif Krogstad, Palma Nova

Meaningless death?

I AM too young to remember young men of conviction going to fight Franco's forces in the Spain of the 1930s.

Many died and everyone knows their efforts were ultimately futile. Why though are young men going to fight against Daesh in Syria?

For the same reasons?

I don't know, but it is all over the internet that a chef from Sussex appears to have been killed leaving his family with a tragedy

on their hands.

Did his sacrifice achieve anything at all?

Kate, by email

Brexit blues

LIKE most people I intend to tough it out and see what happens. Spain is my home now and to be honest I do not feel I have much in common with those who voted to leave the EU.

Maybe they don't care about people like me. One thing that does worry me is the number of EU citizens in the UK who say they have been subjected to abuse, just because they're not from the UK.

Almost all of them are holding down proper jobs and paying their

taxes. And some are doing jobs I know that Brits wouldn't want to do.

One Spanish paper featured a young teacher who has returned from the UK because he said the atmosphere has changed. It is very sad when a teacher feels that strongly.

Roy L, Almeria

Planet plea

THE election of Donald Trump made me happy at first, someone who will shake up the system.

But I can't be the only person who's worried he doesn't seem to think mankind has much impact on his environment. Drilling for oil and gas in some of the world's last wildernesses doesn't seem the

answer to me.

I don't see much evidence of people taking the environment seriously in Spain.

But if we don't take care the consequences will be severe and human lives will be lost.

Will that make people sit up and think?

Ellie T, by email

Honours compromised

WHY are we still giving honours to people who supply political parties with the most money?

I'm all for recognising the great and the good, but they have to deserve it. Knighthoods for civil servants nobody has heard of, gongs for cronies and even giving a knighthood to a sportsman when they're still young? None of that seems right to me.

Honours should rightly be for those who give service to their communities and there are plenty of these people. I worked with one for many years.

Maybe the system needs another review!

P Richards

Fond farewell

ON the subject of people we lost in 2016, I would like to remember Alan Rickman.

He died of pancreatic cancer in January and is a great loss. He appeared, at least in public, to be a very unselfish man who was not bowled over by stardom. I watched the Harry Potter films and I'm too old for them, just because he was such a lovely actor. A great loss to all of us.

Frank T, Benalmadena

WHEN YOU WRITE

All letters, whether by email or post, should carry the writer's postal address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Letters may also be edited.

Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on: www.euoweeklynews.com

9 hours and I have the hump

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



'HAPPY New Year to you both' was the message I woke up to on New Year's Day. It was one of many that I had received on WhatsApp over the last few days. 'So what?' you may ask. Well, the difference with this one was it was just from a telephone number.

There was no name which meant this person was not in my contacts. I stared at it for a while and then decided the best way to deal with it was to politely respond by saying, 'Happy New Year to you too, but who is this?' Back comes the response ... 'it's Peter.'

Mystery solved you may think. Nothing is ever that simple with me as I still haven't got a clue who Peter is. Oh and to make matters worse it's an English number. Then the phone goes and the mystery number comes up. It's a WhatsApp call. 'Hello Michael? It's me Peter.' 'Sorry, Peter who?' 'Hello Michael.' 'Hello Peter.' Now we can't hear each other and he hangs up. I call back but there's no answer. I send a message and there's no answer and no blue ticks. So now I have got the raving hump and we are only

nine hours into 2017 which has to be a record even for me. Good start. I'm peed off. Peter has obviously got the raving hump with me and will never speak to me again. Hey ho, off we go - another year under way.

I got a lovely poem from a reader called John Stevens about dodgy hosepipes. It is really good and I enjoyed it as I have one of the said hosepipes. It's the type that expands when you turn it on and contracts when you turn it off. His poem is all about how they split. Anyway nice poem, as I said, and I was going to read it on the radio. I also thought how unlucky he and his friends were as mine was fine... until today!

I don't have a tap on my balcony but do have lots of plants so I had a tap fixed under the sink in the bathroom. I then attach the hose and take it through the bedroom on to the terrace. Guess what happened today? IT SPLIT! Water was gushing everywhere. Rugs were soaked, the floor was soaked and it was an absolute disaster. How can it happen? What makes it split? John, did you ever find out what causes it? Is it the sun?

So before lunch on January 1, I've managed to get the hump with someone, whose only transgression was to wish me a Happy New Year, and flood my bedroom. You couldn't make this stuff up. Email me at mikesenker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Paperwork needed

AS part of the series, we answer some common driving questions and keep you updated on the latest driving and road news kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



IT is basic knowledge to know as soon as you get your car and start driving in Spain, but still many are not fully aware of what documents they should be carrying in the vehicle with them.

It is compulsory to carry certain documents with you in your vehicle and these include:

The ITV card. This is the official document that relates to the technical inspection of the vehicle, or the ITV. Once your vehicle is four years old it will have to undergo this mandatory test and the vehicle will then be issued with the ITV report detailing what happened during the inspection. This report must also be carried in the vehicle.

Permiso de Circulacion. The Permiso de Circulacion is similar to a log book for the vehicle which contains information such as the number plate and vehicle owner.

Insurance Policy. Despite some being led

to believe otherwise, carrying the insurance policy details in the vehicle is not compulsory by law as the information is contained on a central computer, however, in the case of an accident, it is advisable to have the paperwork to hand.

European Accident Agreement. Again, this is not compulsory, but it is advisable to carry a European Accident form as it will help you ensure data is recorded correctly in the event of an accident. They are available in various languages and are all laid out the same making it easier to deal with it if different nationalities are involved in an accident.

It is also not compulsory to carry the information relating to the annual SUMA tax paid on the vehicle.

For the documents you carry, they must be the originals not photocopies. The only copy allowed are those that are stamped and certified by an official notary.

For more news and articles visit www.n332.es or search N332 on Facebook.

Reducing the size of our pool

Q. I recently wrote to you regarding the reduction of our Community swimming pool. I showed your response to our Administrators but they refuse to accept that we only need a simple majority vote and insist that, because the pool is part of the original structure, there must be 100 per cent agreement by attendees at the meeting. Where can I find the legislation that makes this clear? Is it in the Horizontal Law? If so, which section?

S.K. (Costa del Sol)

A. The requirement for a unanimous vote is set out in Article 17, paragraph 6, of the Law of Horizontal Property. It says that any change which modifies the original Constitutional Title or Statutes requires a unanimous vote. It would be most unusual

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



for the exact size of the swimming pool to be registered here. Nevertheless, it is possi-

ble, and so would require a unanimous vote in order to change its measurements. In any case, most lawyers prefer to see a unanimous vote for any major change, even when it is not strictly necessary. This may explain your Administrator's insistence.

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



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Advertising feature

New Year's resolution - will you keep yours?

THIS week, millions of people will be making a promise to do an act of self-improvement from New Year's Day 2017.

But where did the tradition of making a New Year's resolution originate?

The idea can be traced back to the Babylonians who promised their gods that they would repay their debts and return borrowed objects. The Romans made promises to the god Janus, (after whom the month of January is named) and Medieval Knights took the 'Peacock Vow' to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry.

Today many religions observe periods of atonement by reflecting upon wrongdoings over the year and seeking forgiveness. The concept of a resolution, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

Between 1940 and 2000 the number of American adults forming New Year's resolutions increased from 25 per cent to 45 per cent. Making a resolution actually improves the rate of success tenfold when compared to those who choose not to make resolutions. The most popular resolutions are to improve physical well-being by eating healthy food, losing weight, exercising more, stopping smoking, and drinking less alcohol. Sadly however,



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nearly 90 per cent of our resolutions fail.

The Mayo Clinic recently stated that "Hundreds of fad diets, weight-loss programmes and outright scams promise quick and easy weight loss. However, the foundation of successful weight loss remains a healthy, calorie-controlled diet combined with increased physical activity. For successful, long-term weight loss,

you must make permanent changes in your lifestyle and health habits."

Having originated in 1984 Cambridge Weight Plan is certainly not a fad. By combining a balanced, scientifically proven, calorie controlled diet, with increased activity, our range of weight loss programmes are flexible enough to fit in with your own

lifestyle. With the one-to-one support from your very own Cambridge Weight Plan Consultant we will support and train you on how to successfully lose weight and keep it off.

You can choose the complete meal replacement option, or opt for one of our programmes that include healthy eating alongside meal replacements. More often than not our Cambridge Weight Plan Consultants have lost weight on the Plan, so they know exactly what you are going through.

It is easy to find a Consultant, simply contact us on 952 586 324, by email on info@cambridgeweightplan.es or via Facebook or our website: www.cambridgeweightplan.es for a list of Consultants who cover your area. It is then up to you to make that next step, and change your life forever!

At Cambridge Weight Plan we have been successfully helping people to achieve their New Year's resolution to lose weight for over 30 years. Trust experience and make us your choice partner for your 2017 resolution to lose weight and get healthy.

www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/weight-loss/in-depth/weight-loss/art-20047752



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Concern over antibiotic use

A STUDY has found that Spanish children are being prescribed more antibiotics than many other countries.

The study was carried out by the Foundation for the Promotion of Sanitary and Biomedical Research of the Region of Valencia (FIS-ABIO), which is attached to the Department of Health, together with a consortium of German, Italian, Norwegian, Korean and American scientists.

They followed more than 74 million children from birth to 18 between 2008 and 2012 in what the Valencian Government is calling the first and longest study ever carried out on antibiotic use between countries.

The results suggested that in the first two years of life, Spanish youngsters were being given up to 50 per cent more antibiotics than the Germans and Americans. The study found South Korea most frequently prescribed antibiotics followed by Italy and Spain, with Norway the lowest.

“

Over use of antibiotics can make youngsters become resistant.

The concern is that over use of antibiotics can make youngsters become resistant to them and inappropriate use can lead to more problems.

FISABIO warned there needs to be more social awareness on the use of antibiotics in Spain and paediatricians should be the first to act by reducing the number of prescriptions issued.



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Some tips for a healthy new year



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

HEALTH is a very important matter which everyone should keep in mind, and it is very much influenced by our lifestyle. There are a series of measures which can be taken to help us feel better and noticeably improve our health for a healthier 2017. These are the main points we should concentrate on to improve our health:

1. Diet: the saying "we are what we eat" is very true. Following a balanced diet which is rich in fruit and vegetables and limits meat, especially red meat, favouring fish instead will help us to maintain an optimal state of health as it helps reduce the amount of 'bad' fat and sugars we eat. All of this is included in the Mediterranean diet, which has been proven to be the healthiest.

2. Physical exercise: to keep our bodies fit and help out mental health, it is vital to carry out moderate daily physical exercise. An example of exercise would be walking or jogging for 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the person's level of fitness, every day or at least five days per week.

3. Avoid tobacco and alcohol: tobacco is ex-

remely toxic and should be avoided in all its forms. Regarding alcohol, it is healthy to drink one or two glasses of red wine per day, but stronger alcoholic drinks should be saved for special occasions.

4. Avoid being overweight/obese: if we follow a healthy diet and maintain a good level of physical exercise, we will manage to keep our weight under control and stay healthy, reducing our risk of suffering diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or heart attacks among other things. Staying at a healthy weight also avoids putting excess strain on our joints.

5. Control stress: it has been proven that people who are subjected to a lot of stress, either at work or in their personal lives, suffer worse health and are at risk of serious illnesses. Stressful situations should be avoided as much as possible.

6. Sleep: decent sleep is essential to strengthen the body and mind. Avoid heavy meals, alcohol and stressful situations before bedtime to ensure a good night's sleep.

If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to:
jefemedico@helicrossanitarios.com

Have a dental check carried out before scuba-diving

COULD scuba-diving be damaging your teeth?

It may be a favoured holiday pastime for many, but a study has found that around four in 10 people who dive suffer dental problems afterwards such as jaw pain and broken fillers.

This is believed to be caused by the fluctuations in pressure underwater that can lead to air pockets in the roots of teeth causing

a condition known as 'tooth squeeze.' This can become painful for those with cavities, broken or temporary fillings or an abscess. This, combined with some divers clenching their teeth against the mouthpiece can cause damage especially as in many cases the regulator is not the correct size for a diver.

The study looked at the more in-experienced

who dive for recreational fun rather than professionals or those who do it for a living.

The report, published in the British Dental Journal, concluded that recreational divers should consider consulting their dentist before scuba-diving.

SCUBA-DIVING:
Many people suffer dental problems.



Stay on trend this year

ANOTHER new year and another new healthy food fad. Move over coconut water and kale, top nutritionists are already predicting what will be helping you lose weight in 2017...

Jackfruit

From the same family as the fig, mulberry and breadfruit, the jackfruit is sometimes also known as jakfruit or simply jack. Young jackfruit isn't sweet as it is harvested before the sugars develop, but the fully ripened fruit has a similar texture of a banana. Studies have shown it has anti-inflammatory properties and the seeds are a good source of Vitamin C and antioxidants, that can help to prevent cell damage.

Plant water

Coconut water now has a new friend in the form of cactus plant water which is being tipped to be a big seller in 2017. It is believed to help fight high cholesterol levels and is even reported to help cure hangovers and prevent them if drunk before a night on the town.

Poke bowls

A poke bowl is a traditional Hawaiian dish consisting of a raw fish salad often served in a sushi dish but has now migrated to the mainland and is be-

coming more and more popular with entire restaurants being devoted to them. They combine raw fish such as tuna and salmon with fresh vegetables into super-nutritious meals full

of good fats. It is recommended to eat at least one portion of foods rich in Omega 3 each week and poke bowls are a good source of this as well as staying bang on trend.

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Colombians visit Palma

UP and coming Colombian group Morat will be undertaking a short tour of Spain and will be appearing at the Trui Teatre in Palma on March 3.

Having spent much of 2016 living in Madrid whilst they were recording their first album 'On love and its side effects,' the band has attracted a great deal of interest in Spain but have also found some fame in the USA which has such a large Latino population.

With a quadruple platinum album and nominations in the Latin Grammy Awards, as well as wins for Best New Group in a number of other Latin polls which follow their single release in 2015 with Mexican superstar Paulina Rubio, they are tipped as being likely to have a long and successful career.

Tickets for the concert which starts at 9pm on Friday March 3 cost €24 for general entry or €35 for VIP access plus booking fee and are available from the box office or the theatre website www.truiteatre.es.

Welcome the Three Kings



Photo Credit Nito Shutterstock

THE THREE KINGS: Towns and villages around the Island take part in the celebrations.

By John Smith

JANUARY 5 is a very big day for children around Spain as the Three Kings arrive in towns all over the country and Mallorca is no different with no less than 71 parades, some large and some small announced,

with towns and villages around the Island taking part in the celebrations.

Although more people are beginning to celebrate Christmas Eve by handing out gifts from Santa Claus, the arrival of the Magi with their Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh still

triggers the most excitement with traditional gifts of toys to children although under the strict eye of health and safety, sweets are not thrown at the crowds as much as they used to be and in some parades, they are now handed out by designated officials.

Legendary Band visits

NOW in their 21st year, the Basque band La Oreja de Van Gogh (The Ear of Van Gogh) were for several years one of the most popular pop/rock bands in Spain, but they took something of a step back when their original vocalist Amaia Montero left in 2007, but they soon recovered and continued to play around Spain and South America on a regular basis.

Now, without an album for five years despite their continued popularity, they are returning to the stage with a huge tour which starts in Spain and then flies to the USA and ends in Argentina via Puerto Rico.

With the sale of more than eight million albums, a clutch of Grammy, MTV and other awards and numerous platinum discs, they are finding time to visit Mallorca on February 4, just a few days after they play to an already sold out crowd in Madrid.

Tickets for the concert at the Palma Auditorium which starts at 9pm range in price from €25 to €48 and with stunning replacement singer Leire Martínez in control of the vocals, the evening should be an exciting evening to remember for all.

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Grease the Musical



Photo Credit: Ben Sutherland flickr

Baroque music concert

EVERYONE enjoys a free concert and on January 7 at 7.30pm, the talented quintet Ensemble Tramuntana will be appearing at the Auditorium Sa Maniga in Sant Llorenç des Cardassar.

This versatile group directed by Barry Sargent

consists of two violins, a cello, double bass and baroque guitar and they will be presenting a selection of different Italian and German Baroque pieces by a wide range of composers including Bach, Telemann and Vivaldi.

Frozen in Mallorca

EVERY young girl (as well as some who are not so young) loves the Disney cartoon Frozen and even though it is presented in Catalan, a stage performance will be visiting a number of towns in Mallorca.

With 12 live actors interpreting the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale of the Snow Queen the show will last 75

minutes and all singing is live although the soundtrack is pre-recorded.

This is not a simple copy of the Disney production but a completely new musical composed by James Carreras and is accompanied by special 3D effects and lighting to help make the presentation even more enjoyable for a young audience.

All performances start at 6pm to ensure that the children are not kept up too late and the January dates are Porreres Auditorium January 7, Alcudia Auditorium January 8 and Sa Maniga auditorium January 28.

For details of ticket costs and availability, please contact each of the venues directly.

BACK WITH A BANG: Grease is the word at Palma Auditorium.

By John Smith

GREASE the musical is back with a bang and will be presented by Baleartmusic at the Palma Auditorium for a three-night run from January 20 to 22.

A stage musical long before it hit the silver screen starring

John Travolta as Dany Zuko and Olivia Newton John as the initially shy Sandy, this look at the teenage lifestyle of the 1950s featuring the T-Birds and the Pink Ladies includes a number of songs which were part of the soundtrack to our lives.

Now 45 years old, the musi-

cal still remains fresh and enduring and with 31 performers on stage, audiences are promised a lively and enjoyable romp back into the days when men greased back their hair and women wore petticoats.

Tickets cost €32 and can be obtained via the Auditorium website.

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The good, the bad and the bizarre of 2016

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views



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

HAVE you recovered yet? No, not from your annual boozathon, but from 2016. What a year for pollsters, pundits, bookies getting it wrong! First, Brexit, then Donald Trump. Yes, if only Michael Fish (remember him?) had been plying his trade last year, he'd have looked bang-on.

It's too early to say where 2016 will rank in modern world history compared with, say, 1914 and 1939. But it was undoubtedly the most dramatic moment in British politics since the Second World War. Plus, the USA elected a president who publicly admitted he gropes women, doesn't pay taxes and, reportedly, summarised his future Republican supporters thus in *People Magazine*: "they believe anything... I could lie and they'd still eat it up." I mean, what do

you have to do to be unelectable?

Add that to the deaths of so many celebrities, and it's difficult to see how 2017 could be any more 'surprising.' But then, consider what'll be happening. The Supreme Court ruling, the triggering of Article 50, Trump's inauguration, the French and German elections, Russian and Chinese expansionism, the next inevitable terrorist attack and our response to it. Maybe we're heading for more of the same - 2016 Mark II?

As wishes for 2017 go, mine are pretty modest. Of course, a complete end to war, disease and famine.

But if I can't have that, maybe I can have something a little easier to achieve: an open, grown-up and serious debate about the future of the NHS (not helped by recent news of foreign patients running up £30m of unpaid NHS bills in one year) and of the Government's foreign aid spending target of 0.7 per cent of GDP (despite some worthwhile projects, enormous sums of taxpayers' money are currently wasted and would be surely

better allocated to hard-pressed defence, healthcare and education).

And as for the Brexit/Trump aspect: yes, who knows what the future holds, but there's been worse: the Blitz, for example.

For some, 2016 is set to take its place alongside 9/11, 24/7 and 360 as numerical descriptors that become words.

So, 2016: never again, please! *Nora Johnson's psychological/suspense crime thrillers 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.com) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.*



DONALD TRUMP: Publicly admitted he doesn't pay taxes.

PHOTO a.katz/Shutterstock.com

How to make the most of your year ahead

Sally Trotman



www.sallytrotman.com

Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.

WHAT would you like to create in 2017? Find out how you can make the most of the year ahead with your Astrology, Numerology and Tarot Forecast for the New Year...

Astrology: Begin anew

Sun in Capricorn: With the new moon in this earthy sign at the end of last month guiding you, start the year by making practical plans. Begin with a spring clean (it is never too early to declutter!) and finish the month by taking action towards new goals for the year ahead. With the darkest part of winter now behind you, this is the time to embrace the light, feeling a sense of freedom and anticipation as the New Year begins.

Get in tune with the moon: The full moon in Cancer on January 12 brings the focus to your home life. Are there any changes you would like to make to your home to make this a more nurturing and comfortable place?



BEGIN ANEW:
Start the year by
making practical plans.

Perhaps it is time to redecorate, change the furniture or brighten your living space in some way. This watery sign is encouraging you to look at what you really need in order to look after yourself. On January 28 the new moon in Aquarius will help you to expand your vision. Aim high under the influence of this sign and work out your most important vision for the year ahead. What do you really want to do this year? Ask yourself this question on the eve of this new moon, and then boldly move forward with your plans.

Numerology: It's all about you!

Number 1: Numbers are symbols which carry energy and the influence of this number in January reminds you to focus on what you want. Worry is a form of negative prayer, so watch your thoughts. The number one also brings the focus back to yourself. It can be easy to hide behind the needs of others in order to forget your own dreams, but actually you have a responsibility to yourself to follow your heart!

Chose something you have been thinking about doing for some time

and take action this month towards this goal. Be bold and fearless - the universe will reward you for your actions!

The Tarot: Create the life you desire and deserve

The first card in the major arcana Tarot deck is The Magician. The man depicted on this card has everything at his disposal. You have all the talents to create what you want this year and by staying focused on what is important to you, opportunities will present themselves as you

move through the year with faith and confidence.

Talk to friends about your plans, do something every day towards your goal and then go with the flow of life. This year is bringing you the chance to know yourself better and to courageously move forward, so seize the moment and make the most of every day!

Create your best year yet!

Would you like to discover how you can make the most of the unique numbers and astrological placements based on your date of birth so that you can make 2017 your best year yet? Sally Trotman can help you to make the best choices for you in the New Year, based on your date of birth, by looking at your Numerology, Astrology and associated Tarot cards for the year ahead.

I also offer compatibility reports, looking at the unique connection between you and your partner, helping you to understand the strengths and challenges within your relationship. Readings are available via Skype or email. Contact Sally by email at sally.trotman@btinternet.com or visit www.sallytrotman.com to book in.

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BARCELONA: Increasing the number of luxury homes.

Terrific year lies ahead

By Matthew Elliott

THE year 2017 is set to be the one where the Spanish property market finally consolidated the astounding gains of recent years and embraced a new model of stability and sustainability.

House prices are expected to see strong growth of around 6 per cent, surpassing the just over 3 per cent seen in 2016. Barcelona and Madrid are set to

become major hotspots on the luxury and commercial scenes. While the Costas and Islands are set to attract even more foreign buyers than ever before.

That all bodes well for homeowners across Spain, or anyone interested in buying a property. Especially as the country has learned the lessons of the past and the market has adapted to become more dynamic, transparent and open to foreign citizens.

Optimism has also taken root in the tremendous volume of information requests in different online portals like Kyero, bolstered by Spain's frequent appearances on British television shows, including A Place in the Sun and Love Island.

Already in 2016, foreign buyers accounted for some 20 per cent of transactions in the Spanish property market. If the forecasts are anything to go by, that percentage is set to jump even higher this year.

SPAIN may be finally getting with the programme when it comes to providing much needed accessible housing for elderly and disabled people.

A pioneering accessible home, specifically designed for people with reduced mobility, has just finished a tour across the nation. The three-month journey through 15 Spanish cities allowed roughly 30,000 people to see the ac-

An accessible abode

cessible home of the future with their own eyes.

Everything from bathroom design to faucets, floor material, corridor width, bed height, windows, drawers and doorbells is adapted specially for the homeowner. More importantly designs are flexible, meaning the slightest of

changes can make winter a little easier to bear.

The home marks the entry into the property market of new architectural companies and opportunities and a growing wave of mobility-friendly homes. It has taken a surprisingly long time, especially as

there is such a strong demand across Spain and in expat communities.

It is thought that more than half of the estimated 3.25 million disabled people have serious trouble moving around their own homes.

More startling is the fact less than a quarter of homes are considered accessible to the disabled. Fortunately, that looks set to change soon.

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Ever heard of Lluçmajor? Nice town in the south eastern part of Mallorca, very well communicated with Palma and offering some of the most interesting coast sites on the island.

Ref 3052, Lluçmajor, 280,000€

MUST BE SEEN! Beautiful completely reformed townhouse with small garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace and American kitchen. Air con warm & cold. living area 215m².



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

Semi-detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with American kitchen, garden and roof terrace. 75m² living area.



Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

Townhouse with 40m² courtyard. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, toilet, lounge, kitchen/diner, garage, 230m² living area.



Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

Apartment with views to the sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, laundry room, large balcony, parking place, community pool. Living area 80m².



Ref 3031, Cala Pi, 170,000€

Semi detached chalet with views to the country. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, laundryroom. Living area 105m² and garden of 110m².



Various building plots with building permission in Vallgornera. Frontline from 600,000€ and third line from 95,000€, around Lluçmajor and Algaida from 110,000€.



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This luxurious, modern country house newly built stands on a plot of 15,000 sqm, only a few km away from the beach Es Trenc. The property has a living space of 250 sqm distributed into two floors. On the ground floor there are: a spacious living/ dining room with nice chimney, a big and modern kitchen with laundry, two bedrooms and two bathrooms (one of them en suite). From the living/ dining area you have access to a covered terrace of 80 sqm and to a pool of 10x5 sqm. The perfect place to spend time with your friends and family. The upper floor consists of two further bedrooms and one bathroom. This house is newly built and its highlight are very spacious rooms and big covered exterior zone. The country house is situated between Campos and the beautiful beach Es Trenc, you reach the airport within 25 minutes.



Your Hermann Köppler



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A favourite for thousands of years

By Graeme Tyrrell

WINTER is truly upon us with the days short to find time in the garden. At least watering is no longer the issue as it is in summer. A good way to reduce your time in the vegetable garden is to plant perennial plants that will produce for several years.

A favourite for thousands of years in the Mediterranean is the artichoke. It is well recorded in Greek and Roman times in medical journals for digestive problems, including lack of libido and is included in Greek mythology, with the artichoke originating from the exploits of the greek god Zeus.

The botanical name is *Cynara scolymus* from which *cynara* is a derivative of the Greek name for artichoke, *ky-nara*, and *scolymus* indicates it is a thistle.

It is thought to have been evolved through cultivation of the Cardoon, as artichokes do not occur naturally in the wild. The Cardoon is a thistle type vegetable and the stem of the leaf is used as the edible part. Cardoon has

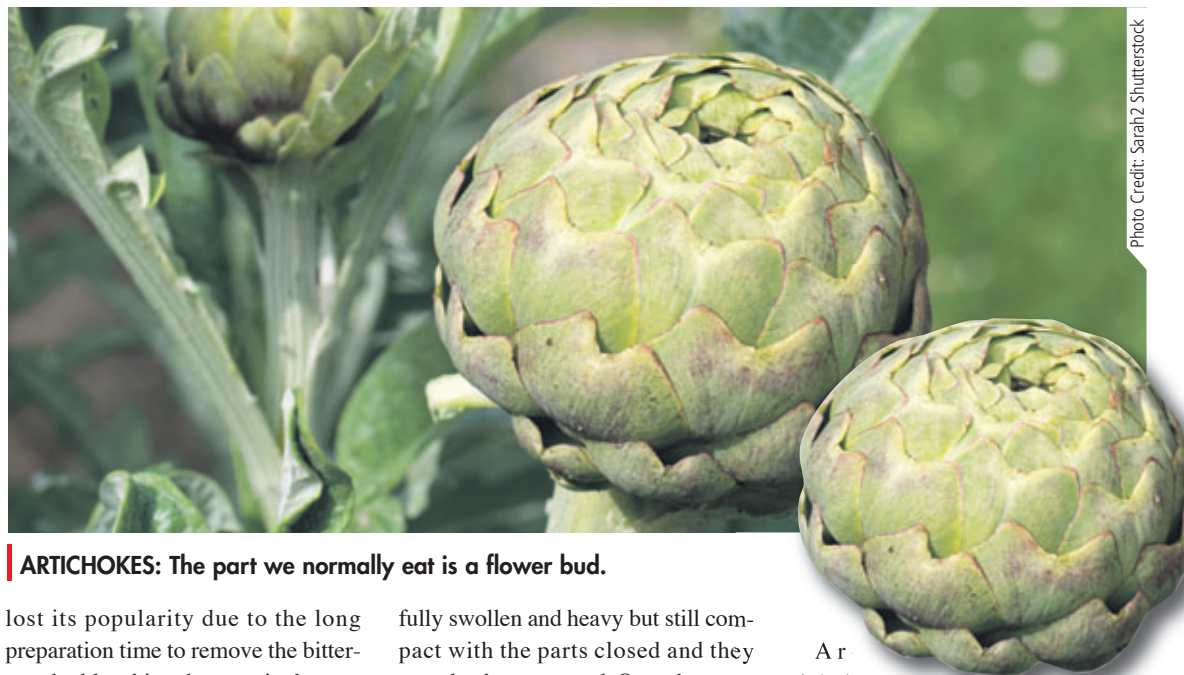


Photo Credit: Sarah2 Shutterstock

ARTICHOKES: The part we normally eat is a flower bud.

lost its popularity due to the long preparation time to remove the bitterness by blanching the stem in the garden and extra time to peel and cook despite its delicious taste and ease of growing in warm climates.

The artichoke part we normally eat is, like capers, a flower bud. They are ready when the flower receptacle is

fully swollen and heavy but still compact with the parts closed and they squeak when squeezed. Once they start to open or separate they become inedible but they will form a large spectacular mauve/purple thistle like flower. They are sometimes grown just for their attractive foliage and flowers as a border or feature plant.

Artichokes grow well with good soil preparation placed about a metre apart and will produce well for around five years before needing to be dug up and divided to gain maximum benefit. Division is the removal of small offshoots that form on

the main root stem that allow a continuous supply of new plants to replace the old ones or to give to friends.

If the tips of the artichoke buds start to show browning tips when forming, it is an indication the plant has passed its premium quality produce time and should be replaced.

They prefer soil that is a sandy loam but adding compost to the natural soils in Spain and fertilising with nutrients high in potash will assist with bud formation.

If you grow artichoke plants, the stem of the leaf, called bracts or chard can also be eaten like the cardoon, so its use is not limited to the buds. Artichoke chard is not generally available in shops but is delicious when prepared using traditional recipes from Sicily and regions of Italy and Spain.

It can be a welcome addition to your Mediterranean fare along with capers and olives and your traditionally Spanish artichoke omelette, barbecued artichoke with a sauté of olive oil with garlic or paella with artichoke.

Some top kitchen trends for 2017

IF you're thinking of renovating your kitchen, there are a variety of new trends which are set to be favourites this year.

Industrial style

Practical kitchen areas with

an industrial style are becoming all the range as a change to modern fitted kitchens. Their key elements combine exposed features including exposed brick walls and beams with understated cabi-

nets, metallic appliances and exposed pipes.

Modern but classic

Those old favourites, Shaker kitchens, are still all the rage and can be combined

with country-style accessories or high-tech gadgetry for effect.

For a modern take on the traditional style, use plain wood and pale paint to lighten the effect. Whereas in the

past Shaker units could be pricey, there are now versions available for all budgets.

A brightly coloured kitchen range between the light coloured cabinets will create an eye-catching focal point,

while the rest of your appliances should be integrated behind doors.

Bold and brave

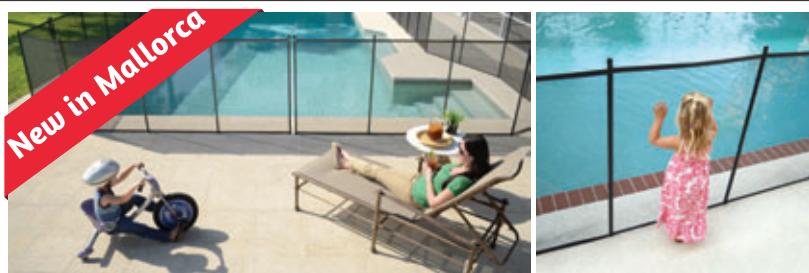
Playing it safe is out of fashion. Bold, brave colours are the latest way of saying it with your kitchen and there is a wide range of tones, patterns and textures on the market.

Dulux's Colour of the Year for 2017 is denim, and blues and greys are still in favour although darker shades are coming into fashion.

Those not quite ready to go all the way can opt for more traditional toned cabinet doors and add splashes of bold colour in tiles or work surfaces, or by adding the odd coloured door.

Sleek chic

Those in search for something chic and streamlined have an endless range of high-gloss finishes for a modern look. Clean lines, handle-free doors and lots of hidden storage space to hide clutter and keep everything slick and tidy.



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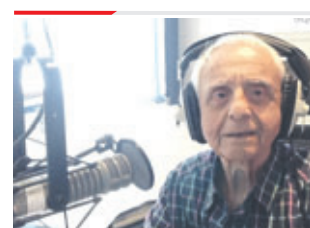
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IT is essential that all dogs are regularly inoculated and wormed, that is; inoculations and boosters every year, worming treatments every three months. The only effective worming products are available from your vets.

Many pet owners encounter problems at the vet. The dogs and cats do not like to be examined. From an early age make it a pleasant experience for your pet to be handled and examined by different people. Always do this while you are present to reassure and reward the dog with praise and 'titbits.' Only ask sensible people, who are used to dogs to assist you with this exercise.

Some if not most vets prefer to examine their patients on a table. So if you have a dog that can be lifted onto a suitable table, get the dog used to being put on the table. Hold him in a comfortable position for a few

seconds, praising him and reassuring him, then give him a 'tit-bit' and gently lift him off.

Never let a dog jump off the table by himself. If you use a table make sure a mat or cover is placed on it so that it is not slippery for the dog. There is no quicker way to make a dog hate being picked up and put on a table than to place it on a slippery surface.

Administering prescribed treatments:

Often following a visit to your vet you will be required to continue a course of treatment at home. This can include: giving pills or liquid medicine (orally); applying ointments to eyes, ears and skin; giving eye or ear drops.

The only reason dogs object to taking medicine is that they are not used to being handled. It is kinder to prepare your dog to the best of your ability for the occasion when this will probably arise. This is best done by training your dog to allow you to handle it and examine any part of its body under any circumstances without any resistance from your dog.

Pills can often be given by disguising the pill inside a little piece of butter, margarine or cheese. There are many 'Do Not's' associated with this sort of training, all of which are common sense.

Do not give dogs any medicine unless specifically prescribed for that dog by a vet. If

in doubt about your dog's health, consult a vet, never take advice from unqualified people; this includes pet shops, dog breeders, dog trainers, behaviourists and the person a friend knows who had a dog with the same sort of symptoms.

Do not put anything in your dog's ear. Look, don't poke! Report discharges or smells to your vet. Do not put any drops or ointment into your dog's eyes. Consult your vet. Do not interfere with any lumps, bumps, wounds, cysts, rashes or anything else on your dog's body. Consult your vet.

Spaniel Doc loves the beach

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COCKER SPANIELS as a breed are known to have friendly, and loyal temperaments. They can be a little ditzy too over their human families. Doc is very much an only dog, and gets very possessive and jealous in the company of other dogs. He particularly loves being at home or the beach at Fuengirola.

Once a year his family go on holiday to visit family back in England. At that time he used to stay with family friends, and once he went to a kennels that had been recommended to the family.

When they returned he had lost his voice, it simply didn't suit him. He missed his family and spent the three weeks howling for them for as long as his voice lasted. Then they decided to try to find suitable house-sitters.

They joined *HouseSitMatch.com* as homeowners and posted an advert online for the dates of their next holiday. They've been finding petsitters this way ever

since. It seems to work for them and Doc is happy because he can stay at home, near the beach - his favourite place - and he awaits his family's return in the company of friendly sitters who love to play with him...

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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“On the Corvette Z06: “As something to live with every day, I’d rather have bird flu.”

Some might say...



Motoring shorts

An electric rip-off

A REPORT found that British electric car-owners are paying well over the odds to recharge their batteries. Some of the new public charging stations charge upwards of €15 for an hour of driving, making it far more expensive than refuelling with petrol or diesel.

The problem is a lack of consistency. Some points are free, others dirt cheap, and some eye-wateringly expensive. There are now thousands of public points across the UK and the government is planning to establish pricing control.

Once something of an oddity, electric cars are now quite commonplace on British streets and even motorways. By the end of 2018 estimates place the likely number at over 100,000, up from only around 3,000 just five years ago.

A fierce fighting bull

By Matthew Elliott

A GRAND tour celebrating 50 years of the Lamborghini Miura somewhat surprisingly finished up on an Andalusian farm. After 12 months of touring Europe’s glamour spots, from Monte Carlo to Madrid, the tour rolled to a stop at a renowned but off-the-beaten track bull-breeding farm in the Spanish hinterlands.

It would be surprising if not for the interesting fact that Miura is actually the word used to describe a fierce fighting bull from the famous ranch. The farm is owned by the sons of a man who inspired the great Ferruccio Lamborghini to call his new model the Miura and make 50 years of motoring history while he was at it.

Produced between 1966 and 1973 the Miura was the fastest production car in history when first unleashed in the new sports car era. It was one of the first cars to trailblaze the mid-engined



FITTING FINISH: At an Andalusian farm.

two-seat layout and became a global phenomenon after starring in the opening credits to The Italian Job in 1969.

As well as the grand tour, 2016 also saw the release of the Aventador Miura Homage. The Miura bulls of Andalusia

are said to be intelligent, fierce, and overwhelmingly powerful. A fitting name then if ever there was one.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Toyota Verso Design

TOYOTA'S Verso MPV is built in Europe and designed specifically for the European market, and since its launch in 2002 more than 700,000 have been sold.

Over the years, the MPV market has become more crowded and high-demand for these versatile family vehicles means models are frequently revised and upgraded to help stay with the pack leaders.

The Toyota Verso is among the latest to be refreshed, with a revamped interior, upgraded multimedia system and addition of a new 1.6 diesel engine choice. Prices start at £17,995 (€21,338) for an entry level 1.6 petrol version, though most buyers opt for the diesel which offers better fuel economy -

62.8 mpg combined. However, my recent test model featured a 147 hp 1.8 petrol engine with CVT auto gearbox and in mid-range Design trim costs £24,205 (€28,696).

You get a lot of kit for the money, with highlights including cruise control, dual-zone climate control, DAB radio, Bluetooth, on-board connectivity, sat-nav, rear view camera, 17 inch alloys, and a wealth of safety

features including collision warning, auto emergency braking and lane departure warning.

The Verso is compact by MPV standards which means it is easier to park, yet there is still plenty of space for five occupants, though space in the third row of this seven-seater is really just for children. Boot space is good at 440 litres in five-seat mode, and can be boosted to 1,009 litres with both rows of seats down. Flat-fold rear seats aid practicality, and the middle row

of seats slides to vary load space or leg-room, a useful feature.

The Verso is attractively styled, looking good from all angles, and while the dashboard is conventionally laid out for functionality, the overall appearance is pleasing and the seating very comfortable.

Underway, the Verso is relaxing to drive and handles reassuringly on faster roads. It cruises well on motorway trips and the suspension set up ensures good ride comfort. The CVT transmission on the test model was smooth and seamless and a boon in city traffic.

This latest Verso may not be biggest in the class nor the most economical, but it does have big-plus points in Toyota built-quality, reliability and strong resale values - all important factors for would-be MPV buyers.



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Nautical nirvana

THE London Boat Show takes place from Friday January 6 until Sunday January 15 at the ExCel arena, located in the heart of the capital's Royal Dock.

As usual, the massive 10-day event will showcase the latest trends, developments and products in boating and watersports from around the globe, with a number of debuts expected.

Over 500 exhibitors are scheduled to display their wares, and the show also features talks by nautical experts and celebrities including Olympic medallist Saskia Clark and record-breaking yachtswoman Dee Caffari.

The show's popular state will return by popular demand, and will this year be hosted by Sky Sports presenter Alec Wilkinson, who will introduce the diverse line-up of fashion shows, talks, panel discussions and live music performances.

A new addition is the Dream Lodge Marina, where visitors can check out moored



BOAT SHOW: Over 500 exhibitors are scheduled to display their wares.

yachts first hand and sample some fantastic food and drink.

Next to the marina will be the Watersports Park and Boating Lake, where kayaking, zorbing and other physical activities will be available, as well as a bar for those less-inclined.

Managing Director at British Marine Boat Shows,

Murray Ellis, said: "We already have a number of leading global brands as well as world product launches confirmed for January's 63rd London Boat Show, with more exhibitors signing up every day. With some great attractions including the Show's Stage, providing live entertainment, and the pool

area where visitors can have a go at a number of on-the-water activities, this year's show is set to be yet another exciting event."

Advance tickets are available from www.londonboatshow.com, with each adult receiving concessions for two children under the age of 15 to enter free of charge.

Boat of the year 2016 is named

BOATING magazine has named its boat of the year for 2016.

According to its experts, the boat that tops more than 100 others is the Regal 29 OBX.

Its tech group tested nearly 140 boats throughout the year seeking high standards in performance and style, safety, technology and innovation.

The Regal 29 OBX is the only day boat to offer twin outboard power. It's a smooth and

luxurious experience, according to the magazine, that will launch a new era in the bowrider category.

In every area it exceeded expectations leaving the judging panel unable to find a comparable boat. They admit they "couldn't find a directly comparable boat to suggest... as an alternative."

The magazine points out the 29 OBX meets or exceeds standards imposed by the American Boat and Yacht Council.



REGAL 29 OBX: The only day boat to offer twin outboard power.

Vendée Race update

VENDÉE RACE management report Armel Le Cléac'h is leading, just over 200 miles ahead of Briton Alex Thomson.

They should reach the equator by Friday or Saturday but Thomson has been slowed by lighter winds, they report. In third place is Jérémie Beyou, 400 miles adrift of Thomson. Catalan sailor Didac Costa has suffered a torn mainsail and gave this message: "It was a

clear tear and needed to be repaired, as it could have spread. But just as I wanted to do that a squall arrived with the wind getting up to 40 knots.

“ The Vendée Globe starts with 29 skippers from 10 countries.

"I brought the mainsail down and over the past few hours have been waiting for the low to move off to allow

me to begin repairs." The Vendée Globe 2016-2017 is the eighth competition starting with 29 skippers from 10 countries and lasts three months.



AMERICAN WARSHIP: Can reach a speed of more than 30 knots per hour.

Monterey back

AN American warship docked in Palma port to rest its laurels for a few days. The navy cruiser Monterey arrived on New Year's Eve and set sail across the Atlantic on January 4.

The 173 metre-long vessel weighs a maximum of 9,516 tons and is a regular guest to Mallorca along with sister ships the Philippine Sea, Vella Gulf and Hue City. It can reach a speed of more than 30 knots per hour and is equipped with the state-of-

the-art Aegis combat system, which can down enemy ballistic missiles from a great distance.

Monterey can launch Tomahawk missiles and harpoons, and carry two fighting helicopters on board together with 370 crew members. It is named after the Battle of Monterey in 1846 which saw the northern Mexican army defeated by thousands of American volunteers and Texanrangers.

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JOSE MOURINHO is thought to be content with his striking line-up and should be after Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his 17th goal of the season.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

An exciting year ahead

By Matthew Elliott

WITH no World Cup, Olympics or European Championships 2017 may be a slightly quieter year than the barnstorming 2016, but the sporting calendar holds plenty of promise.

Tennis will hold the first major event with the Australian Open kicking off down under on January 16.

Andy Murray may have been awarded a Knighthood and be the world No 1, but he'll have his hands full with Novak Djokovic. The Serb is the defending champion and has won a record six titles in Melbourne.

In the women's game Angelique

Kerber will be looking to hold on to the title. The German became world No 1 in September and won a silver medal at the Olympics.

Wimbledon fans will be sharing airwaves with avid cyclists as the Grand Slam runs alongside the Tour de France in early July.

Golfers will look forward to the Masters, held this year in Augusta from April 3-9. The US Open is in Wisconsin this year from June 15-18, while the British Open is at Southport's Royal Birkside Golf Club from July 20-23.



In

the rugby world the English women's team will be stamp their authority on the game by defending their title at the 2017 World Cup, held in Ireland from August 3-16. Games will be played both north and south of the border.

Other miscellaneous sporting highlights across the year will include the Super Bowl in Houston, Texas on February 5, Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria from March 3 and the Confederations Cup, held in Russia from June 17.

Key dates for the calendar include the Grand National on April 8, Kentucky Derby on May 6, FA Cup final on May 27, and Champions League final on June 3.

On April 29 there could be a new unified world heavyweight champion when British Olympic

Wimbledon fans will share the airwaves with avid cyclists.

gold-medallist Anthony Joshua takes on Wladimir Klitschcko, the Ukrainian former champ known as Dr Steelhammer.

The two Goliaths will fight in front of at least 80,000 buying fans at Wembley Stadium in what is set to be one of the biggest bouts ever staged on British soil.

ANDY MURRAY: Will have his hands full playing Novak Djokovic.



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