

Child sex charges 'Fraud couple' deny child sex abuse claims

By Simon Firth

A Spanish couple accused of fraud after raising nearly €1 million by claiming their young daughter has a rare genetic condition, now face further legal action.

Fernando Blanco, the father of the girl, who is now 15 and is staving with family in Mallorca, is to face a probe into alleged child pornography offences after explicit images were found on a computer.

The girl's parents are said to be "shocked and offended" by the claim, according to their lawyer, Alberto Martin.

"We have not seen the files or the photographs," he told reporters.

But the presiding judge reportedly said new evidence "clearly shows that the accused (the father) sexually exploited their child."

Police and computer experts are said to be sifting through 13 USB pen drives, seven memory cards and

three computer hard drives. The couple are due to appear in court again on Friday in connection with allegations of child pornography and sexual exploitation charges.

While the mother, Margarita Grau, is currently on bail, Blanco has been held in custody.

The family came to prominence after being accused of fraud over their daughter's

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genetic condition, TTD, which can cause intellectual disability and lead to early death.

After fundraising began in 2008 they were said to have amassed €918,000 in donations which it is claimed they used for their "personal enjoyment."

The father told a Catalonia court it was used to travel overseas to see experts in the

hope of finding effective treatment.

But prosecutors point to luxury items in the family home, including a new car, watches and expensive electronic equipment as evidence of "large scale fraud.'

Blanco, it has been revealed, served a jail term for defrauding a previous employer.



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LOCAL NEWS

Garage goes up

FIVE people were injured after flames erupted from a Palma garage, damaging another and the first two floors of the building above. A mechanic had been working on a car mid-morning when the blaze started. It quickly spread due to the amount of flammable material he had stockpiled and the situation spun out of control.

Health risk

SEVERAL neighbourhoods of Palma regularly exceed recommended levels of air pollution, including Plaza de las Columnas, Miquel Dolc and Abu Yahya, according to the results of a study conducted last summer. The council have thus approved the installation of several fixed monitoring stations to keep an eye on the issue and decide how best to deal with it.

Hazardous hike

A WOMAN was injured and had to be airlifted from the Sierra de Tramontana mountains after she fell from a footpath and plunged five metres into the Almadra gulley, close to Pas Llis. The hiker suffered a broken wrist plus several minor injuries, with the mountain rescue branch of the Mallorcan fire brigade coming to the rescue.

Glacial grip set to descend on islands

By Matt Ford

AN icy cold front is on a collision course with Mallorca and the other Balearics and is expected to bring snow, freezing winds and rough seas to the islands throughout the weekend, according to Spain's state meteorological agency, AEMET.

The agency also confirmed that January is set to be the chilliest in the last decade, and one of the coldest for the last 30 years.

The wintry weather is due to start on Friday 13, with the cold front passing through the western Mediterranean due to the position of the anticyclone to the northwest of the Spanish peninsula and an area of low pressure in central Europe moving towards Italy.

Strong to very strong winds are forecast as is snowfall at altitudes as low as 300 metres above sea level, although the majority is expected to be dumped on the mountains of northern

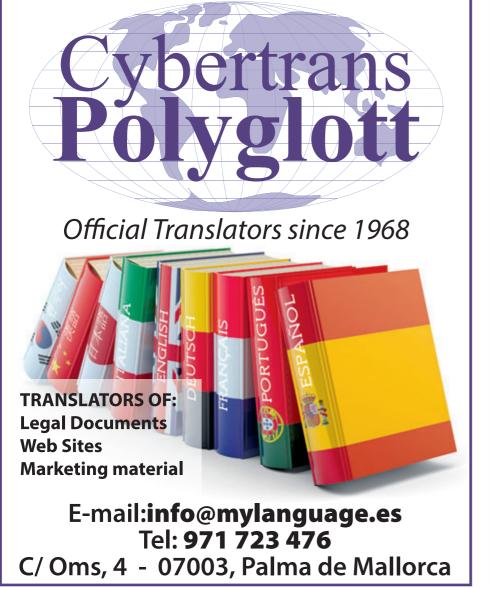


ROUGH SEAS: Are predicted with high waves several metres in height.

Spain.

The sea is expected to be unpredictable until Monday, with waves measuring several metres in height probable and yellow or orange alerts likely to be deployed.

Readers are advised to take care during the inclement weather, which is set to be followed by a cold, but dry period.





NEWS www.euroweeklynews.com



GREATER PROMOTION: Is required of the need to learn the English language.

Speak English or be ready to learn'

By Simon Firth

MIGRANTS to the UK must learn English or take language classes when they arrive.

Speaking English is key to "full participation in our society and economy" and a "prerequisite for meaning-ful engagement with British people."

Those are the findings of an all-party group of MPs and peers, chaired by the Labour MP Chuka Umunna.

This is a thorny issue. The speed with which accusations of racism are banded about when it comes to even discussing this often make it too difficult to raise. It has effectively halted national debate in the UK.

But the findings of this group follow a wider review into the integration of minorities in the UK.

Dame Louise Casey was asked to look at the issue by the then PM David Cameron and his home secretary, now PM, Theresa May.

She found that "mistrust, anxiety and prejudice" arise in a society where "communities live separately, with fewer interactions between people from different backgrounds."

Governments had been guilty of a "failure of collective, consistent and persistent will to do something about it or give it the priority it deserves at both a national and local level."

Attempts to boost the integration of ethnic communities in the UK, she described as "saris, samosas and steel drums for the already well-intentioned."

Immigrants, she says, could be encouraged to em-

There are lots of other competing issues in the UK, not least the divisions in society caused by Brexit, but doing nothing shouldn't be an option."

brace British values by taking an "integration oath;" there must be greater promotion of the need to learn the English language and young people of different ethnic backgrounds should be encouraged to mix more.

Women too, she says, are being "held back by regressive cultural practices".

Casey turned her gaze on many communities in the UK but highlighted the feelings of Muslims who resent being blamed for terror attacks and extremism which then leads to feelings of hostility, mistrust and suspicion.

Some ethnic minority communities had religious and cultural practices that were "deeply regressive" and faced little or no challenge in the UK, she said.

If Casey's report is kicked into the long grass be-

cause it's seen as disturbing the waters it will be a badly missed opportunity. There are lots of other competing issues in the UK, not least the divisions in society caused by Brexit, but doing nothing shouldn't be an option.

Britain is not a tinderbox, we all know that. But neither is it at ease with itself at the moment.

There are tensions over immigration and plenty of groups willing to capitalise on them.

Poles have been attacked in Cambridgeshire and north Yorkshire; Spaniards have been attacked in London. The list is a long one. But in these particularly brutal cases the victims spoke English. That isn't enough for certain groups – it never was and never will be.

But easing the wider tensions over immigration which have come to the surface again because of, or in spite of Brexit, by being able to speak English or being willing to learn, has to be a front line policy.

When the UK formally leaves the EU, in March 2019 if it takes two years, the government intends to cut the numbers of new immigrants.

But making access to the English language easier for them and the many communities who are already there has to be a priority.

It won't just be a case of putting on more classes at night school. Maybe an integration oath is a step too far but not being able to speak English leads to exclusion. And exclusion leads to mistrust and fear. It's as simple as that.

Your papers, your views

Our readers have been expressing their views about whether immigrants should learn English to have an understanding of British values. Here are a few comments from the web story and Facebook some of which have had to be cut due to size. We are always happy to hear from everyone.

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Not a word

ANYONE moving to another country should try to learn that country's language. Some people in the UK have been here over 40 years and still don't speak a word of English.

June Whitehouse

No knee jerk

NOTE it's from the all party committee on social integration and therefore cannot be dismissed in a knee jerk reaction as 'right wing xenophobia"'by the usual chorus of leftists. *Chris Collier*

French Farage

SAME in France, loads of Brits can't speak French! Even Farage, after more than 20 years as an MEP in France and Belgium, he still can't speak any French!!

David Etheridge

Same rules

SPAIN don't supply interpreters at taxpayers' expense like the UK. If you need to discuss important stuff, you bring an interpreter. All the UK has to do is adopt the same rule.

Ken Blakeman

Very simple

IN Spain official forms are in Spanish. If you need translation you find someone yourself. Education, health, signposts and everything else is in Spanish. Why? Because this is Spain. Very simple. The rules were clear when we all came to live here. The UK has allowed this to go on for at least a generation too long, and the results are clear for all to see.

PetMac

Need practice

LEARNING the language is not enough, you need to be able to practise which means interacting and making friends with locals. This is much easier if someone works but in the UK many of the women don't. Annie

NDEX

>> News 1 - 16

>> Featured News 3

Finance 17 - 22

>> Stocks 18

>> Leapy Lee 23

>> Time Out 24 - 25

>> Daily TV 26

> Letters 27

Holiday death to the the termination of terminatio of termination of terminatio of termination of termination

By Matthew Elliott

A MALLORCAN mother was killed and her partner and baby daughter injured when a driver jumped several red lights and smashed into their car in Almeria.

The 23-year-old driver was at the wheel of a BMW X5 which was doing more than 100km/h when it hit the couple's car.

The woman was killed almost instantly in the impact. The motorist then fled on foot but was arrested several hours later.

Police say he is a Romanian national who needed hospital treatment for minor injuries. He was due to make a first appearance before a court on Wednesday.

The dead woman was 36 years old and from Manacor in Mallorca. Her partner, a 32-year-old Guardia Civil officer, is from Almeria and suffered head injuries in the collision which took place on Sunday. The couple were apparently on holiday.

Debris from the accident was strewn across the area and injured another couple who were in a third vehicle.

After attending the accident in Almeria City an operation was launched to find the driver and stop him leaving the area. The man, named only as FB, was

TRAGIC DEATH: The young mothe died almost instantly.

picked up after the car was traced to a family member. He was treated in hospital and tested for the effects of drugs and alcohol

A police

spokesman said the man will face charges relating to the woman's death and also for leaving the scene of an accident.

>> Health & Beauty 30 - 31

> Social Scene 32 - 33

>Property 37 - 39

>> Homes & Gardens 40

> Pets 41

> Classifieds 42 - 43

>> Motoring 44

>> Boats 46

>> Sport 48

Husband's botched murder-suicide

PROSECUTORS are demanding a 15-year prison sentence for a man accused of trying to shoot his wife before turning the gun on himself and botching a suicide attempt.

The Palma resident had flown into a rage when his wife presented him with divorce papers. He spent several years harassing her, following her to work and eventually using intimidation tactics to get her to change her mind.

At the climax of his campaign of terror she was terrified

of being alone. It all came to a head in the spring of 2015 when he hid in the bar she worked in with a loaded shotgun and launched a surprise attack when the bar was closed.

He fired one shot at her but missed. He then turned the gun on himself but it went off prematurely and he shot himself in the right armpit. The defendant, named as Fernando in court documents, is charged with attempted murder, possession of a deadly weapon and intimidation.



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January sale fever

By Matthew Elliott

JANUARY sales got officially underway across Mallorca with a rare Sunday opening and local shops hoping to recover their losses after disappointing December sales figures

Fan Mallorca, El Corte Ingles and the Porto Pi Mall were packed to the rafters with steamed up shoppers determined to make the most of the post-Epiphany discount extravaganza.

Though it is still too early to tell, sales are expected to be particularly good for small and medium-sized businesses, which have been struggling to hold their own against the advent of mega-malls global and corporate giants.

Unlike the Christmas sales which punt plenty of gifts and gadgets, the January fever is centred almost exclusively around clothes and footwear.

With the cold front finally arriving and discounts of up to 80 per cent in some places, almost all of the thousands of shoppers were out

gear. The winter

sales continue until February 28, with increasingly impressive discounts on offer as they progress.

JANUARY SALES: Offering discounts of up to 80 per cent.





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Beggar is likely to be 'gang member'

THE beggar you see outside the entrance to your local supermarket is just as likely to be part of an organised gang.

Who is allowed to beg and where they can go, and crucially, what happens to the money they are given, is often controlled.

In the case of Palma those who are on the streets asking for money are said to be in the control of Romanians.

The problem is evident in many European cities. Dutch police were said to have identified four criminal gangs behind the exploitation of mainly Roma children.

An international investigation has been taking place into the alleged exploitation of some 300 children, some of them operating in Spain.

Spanish police carried out a raid in Barcelona last year in which six children were found and returned to the care of social services in Holland. At the time they were unable to locate another eight children.

Police say control of the beggars in Palma who are adults, is such that it is difficult to track down who is behind it and how they could be brought before the court to face charges of human trafficking.

It is not known how much money they make each day but most are believed to come from the same ethnic group.



OUR VIEW Coming up Trumps

ON January 19, the world will see the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States amongst pomp, ceremony and controversy.

There is no question Donald Trump's win caught many by surprise and has divided the country more than any American election in recent memory but time will tell whether he turns out to be a complete disaster or an astute businessman who can actually make a difference.

Despite having a problem in thinking through what he says, there is no doubt he is a shrewd individual who has made a fortune and also seems to have had no problem in closing companies down, with six of them going bankrupt.

Hillary Clinton, herself Americ

bastion of honest business, did have one very clever observation on 'The Donald' when she said he had written a number of books on business but they all finished at Chapter 11 (the US equivalent of liquidation).

accused of being far from a

He seems to be a bully with quite thin skin, jumping into tweets over silly criticisms with equally silly responses which hopefully he learns to stop as he beds in.

The good news is he's friends with Russia but the bad news is he's winding up China. one of the few countries that appears to have any influence over North Korea.

What we have to hope is his good traits will outweigh his bad ones and he doesn't create a new wall between America and Europe.

Now we want to hear your views. YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION www.euroweeklynews.com

Airport costs

DESPITE Mallorca appearing to be one of the most successful holiday destinations in Spain for attracting overseas tourists, local transport minister Marcos Pons has suggested there should be a 2.6 per cent reduction in airport charges for the next five years.

He believes such an action, whilst reducing profits for the airport operator AENA - which has already offered to freeze operating costs for that period - will ensure Mallorca continues to remain an attractive destination for tourists.

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Police shake up of drink-driving

PALMA police will stop indiscriminately arresting everyone who is found guilty of drink driving. The move will bring the Mallorcan force in line with mainland policies and help save valuable police resources.

Drivers who are over the limit but haven't recklessly endangered anyone may be simply issued a fine and penalty on their licence.

It will be depend on the discretion of officers, who

will consider whether they have an accurate address for the offender so the fine will

> Car keys will be confiscated and drivers will have to collect them from the station when sober."

definitely be paid. Their car keys will be confiscated and drivers will have to collect them from the station when sober. The move comes as police struggle with the sheer paperwork involved in arresting every single offender, including those just a fraction over the limit.

Anyone acting aggressively towards officers, or who has presented a real danger to the public will, however, be taken into custody.



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Another one bites the dust



By John Smith

THE man who warned the government a trade deal with the EU might take 10 years to sort out has gone. This was one who jumped, he wasn't pushed.

Sir Ivan Rogers was the UK's ambassador to the EU and has left eight months before he was due to.

His 'goodbye note' is being seen by commentators as evidence that Downing Street has not been listening to his advice. In it he told colleagues they must "challenge muddled thinking and... never be afraid to speak truth to power."

He also said "serious multilateral negotiating experience is in short supply in Whitehall" when it is not missing from those in the European Council or European Commission.

Those who opposed the UK leaving the EU have been quick to pounce on the departure of Rogers, seeing it as evidence, according to Lib Dem leader Tim Farron, that the PM was "marching ahead without a plan or even a clue."



EU AMBASSADOR: Sir Ivan Rogers has left eight months before he was due to.

The right wing press predictably attacked him, one paper describing him as the 'arrogant merchant of gloom.' A 'senior political source' supposedly said Rogers had "presided over the negotiations before the referendum which were an utter failure."

Leave EU chairman Arron Banks said he was "far too much of a pessimist and yet another of the establishment's pro-EU old guard. He has at least done the honourable thing." His replacement is a former UK ambassador to Russia, Sir Tim Barrow.

The appointment was described as part of a concerted fightback against the claims of so-called muddled thinking.

But it did not please former UKIP leader Nigel Farage who tweeted: 'Good to see that the government have replaced a knighted career diplomat with... a knighted career diplomat.'

EU is being undermined

OUTGOING EU president, the German Martin Schulz, who may be moving into Germany's domestic political arena, has admitted the future stability of the EU is being undermined.

In an attack on national political leaders he said they had failed to explain to their electorates why powers had been transferred to Brussels. He accused them of failing to speak up for the European ideal.

But he also admitted some of the politicians currently working for the EU had become disconnected from the ordinary man in the street.

By only taking notice of life in Brussels it could "make you believe that Brussels life is the reality of people in Europe." The rush to embrace the countries of Eastern Europe, he admitted, had underestimated the difficulties of integration.

But he said if Europe had not enlarged the number of member states it would have faced "deep uncertainty" and "possibly a fear of war" given Russia's current stance towards the West.

His interview was given to the Europa group of newspapers.





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All along the watchtower

WATCHTOWERS across Mallorca were illuminated in a coordinated spectacle designed to draw attention to the plight of refugees. The great lighting up took place on Saturday January 7 and was a joint effort between a local school and Amnesty International.

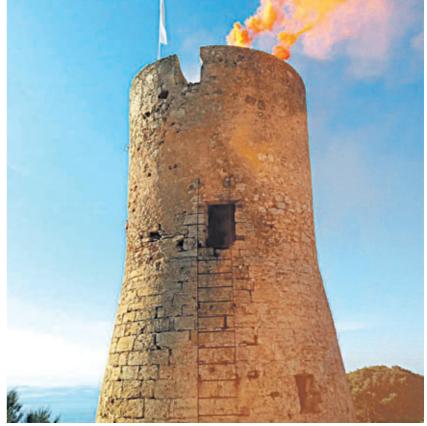
Lighting the watchtowers was meant to be symbolic. They were historically used for defensive purposes but instead 'lit the way for people fleeing war, violence and misery' according to the official statement.

Saturday's ceremony took place in two parts. At 1pm smoke emerged from the watchtowers, followed by fires at 5pm. Almost 40 watchtowers were involved, including the Castell de Alaro, Puig de Sant Salvador and Castell de Bellver.

The endeavour was part of Amnesty's 'I Welcome' campaign aimed at shaming European governments into action. The group is demanding that the human rights of the millions of refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean be recognised.

A damning statement suggested that the lack of response to the humanitarian tragedy has 'made us all passive witnesses, if not directly complicit in the deaths of thousands of people at sea.'

Mallorcans have taken a more practical approach and used the event as a good excuse to bring the watchtowers back into



LOCAL WATCHTOWERS: Were illuminated in a coordinated spectacle.

public life. Politicians hope to repeat the spectacle for other occasions in the future. The smoke and fire also paid homage to the great physician, astronomer and mathematician from Manacor, Joan Binimelis, who died 400 years ago.

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Police bag the latest transport



LOCAL POLICE: Have received 12 new patrol cars to add to their fleet.

PALMA'S Local Police force has been handed a New Year's boost with the addition of 12 new patrol cars to their fleet.

The shiny, state-of-the-art vehicles are specially equipped for the transport of detainees and represent a whopping €300,000 investment. The city mayor, Jose Hila, presented the new cars on Tuesday, January 10, and was keen to highlight that under his leadership city hall have spent more than €1.5 million on improvements to police resources.

"The new cars have a security cabin adapted for the transfer of detainees and comply with the strict 'Euro4' air pollution regulations," he said. "This means they consume less and have improved brakes to increase safety."

Later this month the force expect to receive 30 new motorcycles and two vans.



New routes from airport

TOURISTS and travellers arriving at Palma Airport are to be given a choice of five new bus routes to take them to the island's main holiday centres.

The new services will start operating from May when the influx of tourists hots up and continue to operate until October.

Minister Marc Pons revealed the plans saying several companies had been persuaded to operate the service and no expenditure of public money was involved.

The five new routes aim to connect the airport with major resorts including Magaluf, Cala Millor-s'Illot and la de Platja d'Alcúdia.

Ticket prices have not been finalised yet and the operation will not run as a 24-hour service.

Taxi operators may lose some income, admitted Pons who said agreement from all sides was not absolutely necessary, but the service was in the best interests of the island as a whole.

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Team Sky are preparing for Oz

SOME of the world's finest team cyclists are making the best of the warm weather in Mallorca.

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Boss Sir Dave Brailsford said the team can be trusted 100 per cent, according to comments made to the BBC.

The former performance director of British Cycling was responding to ques-

tions raised since hackers released medical records relating to Sir Bradley Wiggins.

The team's season begins with the Tour Down Under which starts in Australia on 17 January.

Flu flare-up

By Matthew Elliott

THE most severe wave of winter flu has arrived in Mallorca a month earlier than usual. It comes as public health officials warn that vaccinations have dropped this year, particularly among elderly citizens.

Fortunately the more favourable Balearic climate has spared Mallorcans from the flu epidemic sweeping the mainland. As it stands almost 64 out of every 100,000 Balearic residents have been struck down with the virus, compared to 138 across Spain.

So far more than two

dozen people have been hospitalised on the island with severe symptoms and doctors are lamenting that this season's public vaccination campaign is behind schedule.

The first stage of the campaign ended in late November and saw 44 per cent of the target population (around 90,000 people) vaccinated, significantly below the target of 51 per cent.

The elderly and chronically unwell are now being urged to get vaccinated if they haven't already, while the authorities work on a new campaign.

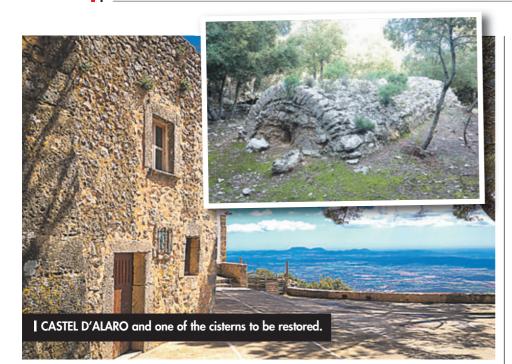
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Roman legacy lives on

By Matthew Elliott

ONE of Mallorca's most spectacular heritage sites will be renovated after more than seven years of delay. The Castell d'Alaro water cisterns in Puig will be properly restored after an archaeological team makes a full assessment of what needs to be done.

The network of five covered

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cisterns is a hugely important hydraulic feature on the island. but it is the site's renowned architecture and long history that draws the most visitors.

The complex is based around the only rock castle in Mallorca, which is 822 metres high and was built well over 1,000 years ago.

The site was even fortified by the Romans and later used as a defensive fortress by the Moors

With military, civilian and religious elements from vastly different civilisations, the ruins hold an astonishing variety of archaeological gems. The castle management has been waiting on the much-needed repairs since 2010, but has been constantly thwarted by postponements.



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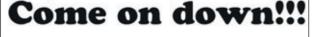
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Coffee morning for volunteers

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The group is looking for help from people with skills in graphic design, marketing, events organisation, befriending, listening, collecting donations or simply helping to spread the word. If you can offer any of these skills, or more, then please consider joining the team.

Pop into the volunteer coffee morning for a chat and talk to other volunteers with no obligation. This will take place on Friday February 10 from 9.30am until 12.30 pm at The Boathouse, Paseo Maritimo, Palma. For more information call *661 080 101* or email *info @cancersupportmallorca.com.*



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Owners' nightmare of savvy squatters

LAWYERS are warning that Mallorcan residents are not properly protected from the antics of increasingly sophisticated squatters. Helpless homeowners face incredibly difficult legal challenges trying to get rid of home invaders who occupy their property.

One judge has claimed it is not a crime to occupy another person's 'abandoned' property, while a couple were arrested for breaking into their own home to kick out a squatter.

Past laws which allowed for a quick civil eviction of squatters have been relaxed. Now criminality has to be proven for the wheels of justice to begin turning or homeowners face a complex process that can take more than half a year to see results.

Even if convicted of trespassing, squatters typically face meek prison sentences of two to three months, which are usually suspended and pose no real deterrent.

Many of the properties taken over are owned by banks, which rarely even realise there's a problem until months have passed. Unfortunately this has a knock-on effect on homeowners, who are facing more aggressive and organised squatter syndicates.

Rural and coastal homes owned by foreigners and wealthy citizens are often targeted for ransom. Squatters invade while the owners are absent and demand a one-off payment, which often works out cheaper than a year's worth of legal fees.

While they wait for the law to settle, many Mallorcans are now being forced to buy special defensive doors and hire private security guards to protect against the squatting threat.



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 FINANCE
 12 - 18 January 2017
 Mallorca EWN 17

 business & legal
 STAT OF WEEK
 6 - the number of restaurants Jamie Oliver claims he has been forced to close due to Brexit.

Car sales hit record high

Bv Matthew Elliott

MORE new cars were sold in the UK last year than ever before. Figures in for 2016 show that a staggering 2.69 million new cars were registered, making Britain one of the strongest motoring markets in the world.

The volume represents an increase of 2 per cent on 2015, but analysts believe Britain has hit 'peak car' and that 2017 will witness a drop of between 5 and 7 per cent.

The car bubble comes courtesy of high consumer confidence, low-in-

2.69 million

The record breaking number of new cars registered in the UK in 2016.

terest financing and a diverse range of models according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

pent-up frustration among consumers desperate for a new car, but thwarted by the recession years from 2007-2011

But not everyone is convinced that the numbers are accurate. Some analysts note that the 2.69 million figure includes cars sold to dealerships, making the number of individual buyers significantly lower.

In fact the number of private and business registrations actually declined by around 1 per cent.

There are also concerns for the future, particularly over what Brexit will mean for the industry. Almost nine out of 10 new cars purchased in the UK are imported, despite British production enjoying its own miniboom

Car prices are beginning to rise and the devaluation of the pound following the referendum has already notched them up by almost 3 per cent.

The evergreen Ford Fiesta was the most popular new car in Britain with 120,525 registrations, while the number of eco-friendly vehicles rose by 22 per cent.

Next warning for 2017

SHARES in British High Street stalwart Next have plummeted by more than 14 per cent as the clothes retailer endured a hugely disappointing Christmas season. Chief executive Simon Wolfson has warned that the firm faces a tough 2017 and claimed that the wider clothing industry was in for a hard run as consumer preferences change.

Next performed poorly in both Boxing Day and January sales and also saw a major drop in gift vouchers. Wolfson, a prominent Brexit campaigner, claims that consumers are today favouring more 'experiential' spending, focused on leisure activities.

But many shareholders are unconvinced and believe that Next is simply not connecting with the public. The results have, however, sent a chill down the High Street, which is hugely concerned about the potential impact of Brexit and a possibly devalued pound forcing them to raise prices.

It is also thought to reflect years of

Quote of the Week Being out of what is a preny unsuccessful as well as obviously great politic cal difficulties." Lord King former Governor of the Bank of England on Brexit. » BUSINESS EXTRA

Britain's man in Brussels



SIR TIM BARROW: To be the top EU diplomat.

THERESA MAY resisted calls to install a hard-nosed Brexiteer as the country's top EU diplomat, instead choosing the practicalminded Sir Tim Barrow, a former ambassador to Moscow, for the role

Barrow replaces Sir Ivan Rogers, who resigned on January 3 after being savaged by proleave campaigners for suggesting a formal Brexit settlement may take up to a decade to finalise.

The government has been keen to trumpet the quick appointment of Barrow as evidence that they are well prepared for the looming Brexit negotiations, expected to begin in March.

But EU officials reportedly sense anxiety in the hastiness of the decision. A discord between the civil service and executive has been suggested, while Rogers himself claimed that Britain lacked a competent negotiating team and a coherent strategy.

Described as a 'quintessential diplomat' and a 'seasoned negotiator' Sir Barrow's private position on Brexit is unknown, but he is considered capable of getting stuck into the role, rather than bringing an air of 'doom and gloom' as his predecessor was accused of.

Naturally not everyone was happy with the appointment.

Apple has hit a Chinese firewall

Fat cats

BRITISH FTSE 100 bosses earn more than €1,000 per hour on average. From a Monday morning to Wednesday lunchtime they will take home more than the average worker will net for a full year, earning roughly 129 times more than their employees.

Solar solution

CHINA is set to invest more than €300 billion into renewable energy. The world's biggest energy consumer is turning away from coal towards nuclear, wind, solar and hydro power. China generates more solar energy than any other country but is still consumed by smog.

Sexist pricing

TESCO has slashed the price of women's razors on the high street after campaigners argued women pay over the odds for toiletries. A study found that women were charged on average 37 per cent more than men for similar goods.



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The broadsheet believes it is being given the run around by Chinese authorities, who have banned

APPLE has folded to Chinese pressure and with-

drawn the New York Times from its App Store.

Both the English and Chinese downloads of the

American newspaper were taken out in December

due to a 'violation of local regulations.'

access to the NYT website since 2012. Competitors, including the Washington Post, are still available on the China App Store, but the country has a long history of online censorship.

The Great Firewall of China blocks access to a wide variety of western sites, including Facebook and occasionally Google.

Being out of what is a pretty unsuccessful European Union - particularly in

www.euroweeklynews.com

LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 9											
	ICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Сна	NET VOL							
Anglo American	1,155.00	20.00	1.76	16,055.68	L						
Associated British Foods	2,660.00		0.19	21,256.45							
Admiral Group	1,975.50		7.95	5,197.96	ļ						
Ashtead Group	1,596.00		0.25	7,992.60	ļ						
Antofagasta	696.00	2.00	0.29	6,896.07	1						
Aviva	490.00		0.23	19,901.38	Ĩ						
AstraZeneca	4,547.50		-0.07	57,559.84							
BAE Systems	594.50		-1.74	18,658.95	Í						
Babcock International Group	1,040.00		10.70	4,830.98	Ī						
Barclays	229.00		-2.66	39,448.02	1						
British American Tobacco	4,585.00		0.24		1						
				85,388.16	1						
Barratt Developments	492.00		-0.38	5,009.53							
British Land Co	635.75		-0.12	6,461.34	F						
BHP Billiton	1,320.00		0.23	27,805.43	Ē						
Bunzl	0.00		0.00	6,987.34	Ē						
BP	513.00		-0.29	100,761.60							
Burberry Group	1,457.50		-1.05	6,378.70							
BT Group	382.00		-0.66	38,281.50	<u>F</u>						
Coca-Cola HBC	900.00	-1,789.00	-100.00	6,422.82							
Carnival	4,167.50	-21.50	-0.51	9,028.20	<u> </u>						
Centrica	228.00	-5.50	-2.36	12,804.74	F						
Compass Group	1,465.00	7.00	0.48	24,021.01	F						
Capita Group (The)	520.00	4.50	0.87	3,469.13	F						
Croda International	1,500.00	-3,248.00	-100.00	4,300.99	F						
CRH	1,300.00	-2,767.00	-100.00	22,965.83							
Convatec Group Ord 10p Wi	0.00		0.00	4,744.03	F						
Dixons Carphone	348.00	10.20	3.02	3,928.53	F F						
DCC	3,000.00	-6,210.00	-100.00	5,596.78	F						
Diageo	2,130.00		-0.63	53,731.05							
Direct Line Insurance Group	161.70		-100.00	5,032.50							
Experian	1,580.00		0.70	14,822.14							
easyJet	1,056.50		-0.24	4,190.55							
Fresnillo	1,355.00		0.44	10,301.77							
GKN	331.50	0.10	0.03	5,698.91							
Glencore	287.50		-0.33	41,867.10							
GlaxoSmithKline	1,585.00		0.09	77,751.59							
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2,000.00		4.38	4,647.92							
Hargreaves Lansdown	600.00		-100.00	6,094.99							
Hammers	568.00	-3.00	-0.53	4,517.21							
HSBC Holdings	661.50	-7.50	-1.12	131,411.92							
International Consolidatd Air	469.50		0.62	9,923.79							
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,700.00	34.00	0.93	7,339.75							
3i Group	305.00		-100.00	7,028.29							
Imperial Brands	3,530.00		-0.24	33,943.16							
Informa											
	290.00		-100.00	5,660.92							
Intu Properties	0.00		0.00	3,780.56	1						
Intertek Group	2,000.00		-100.00	5,546.86	<u> </u>						
ITV	203.50		-0.97	8,235.99	1						
Johnson Matthey	3,145.00		-0.47	6,082.76	<u> </u>						
Kingfisher	345.00	0.40	0.12	7,700.69	\						

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Standard Life 361.50 -2.50 -0.69 7,187.31					
Smiths Group 575.00 -1,444.00 -100.00 5,634.67					
Smith & Nephew 1,212.50 0.50 0.04 10,684.81					
SSE 1,525.00 -15.00 -0.97 15,636.08					
Standard Chartered 690.00 -5.70 -0.82 22,669.50					
St James's Place 400.00 -1,060.00 -100.00 5,538.57					
Severn Trent 2,205.50 -9.50 -0.43 5,316.71	-				
Tesco 198.25 -1.25 -0.63 16,271.34			-1.25	-0.63	
TULAG 0.00 0.00 0.00 6,874.22	TUI AG				
Taylor Wimpey 177.75 9.25 5.49 5,530.85	Taylor Wimpey		9.25	5.49	5,530.85
Unilever 3,285.00 -9.00 -0.27 42,341.33					
United Utilities Group 897.50 0.50 0.06 6,137.00					
Vodafone Group 209.50 -1.85 -0.88 55,749.80					
Wolseley 2,400.00 -4,985.00 -100.00 12,548.33					
Worldpay Group 150.00 -281.10 -100.00 5,562.00					
WPP Group 1,815.00 -25.00 -1.36 23,409.07					
Whitbread 3,899.00 -42.00 -1.07 7,147.06					

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Company	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	178,230	+0,29%	0,520	107M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	75,4700	+0,20%	0,1500	69M
APPLE	117,910	+1,11%	1,300	629M
BOEING CO	159,100	+0,25%	0,390	98M
CATERPILLAR	93,040	+0,04%	0,040	54M
CHEVRON	116,84	-0,40%	-0,47	220M
CISCO SYSTEMS	30,230	+0,20%	0,060	152M
COCA-COLA	41,74	-0,02%	-0,01	180M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	73,3800	-0,58%	-0,4300	63M
EXXON MOBIL	88,50	-0,06%	-0,05	367M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	31,6100	+0,29%	0,0900	280M
Goldman sachs	244,90	+1,48%	3,58	97M
HOME DEPOT	133,5300	-0,28%	-0,3700	163M
BM	169,53	+0,49%	0,83	161M
NTEL CORP	36,4800	+0,36%	0,1300	173M
I.P.MORGAN CHASE	86,1200	+0,01%	0,0100	308M
IOHNSON & JOHNSON	116,3000	-0,48%	-0,5600	316M
MC DONALD'S CORP	120,7600	+0,89%	1,0600	100M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	60,27	+0,27%	0,16	166M
VICROSOFT	62,840	+0,87%	0,540	489M
NIKE	53,91	+1,60%	0,85	72M
PFIZER	33,4800	-0,39%	-0,1300	203M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	85,030	-0,04%	-0,030	227M
TRAVELERS CIES	118,27	-0,05%	-0,06	33M
JNITED TECHNOLOGIE	112,55	+1,08%	1,20	92M
JNITEDHEALTH GROUP	162,41	+0,14%	0,23	154M
VERIZON COMMS	53,26	-2,53%	-1,38	216M
VISA	82,21	+1,38%	1,12	152M
NAL-MART STORES	68,2600	-1,37%	-0,9500	209M
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NASDAQ Closing Prices January 9

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.	\$ 2.9332	0.6532 🛦 28.65%
Zafgen, Inc.	\$ 4.18	0.83 🛦 24.78%
Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 40.05	5.90 🛦 17.28%
Quotient Limited	\$ 6.27	0.88 🛦 16.33%
Cempra, Inc.	\$ 3.75	0.50 🛦 15.38%
Fulgent Genetics, Inc.	\$ 13.04	1.54 🔺 13.39%
Calithera Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 4.45	0.50 🛦 12.66%
KalVista Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 7.4495	0.7295 🛦 10.86%
Arotech Corporation	\$ 4.65	0.45 🛦 10.71%
Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc	\$ 2.36	0.22 🛦 10.28%
Gridsum Holding Inc.	\$ 11.06	0.91 ▲ 8.97%
Most Declined		
Avinger, Inc.	\$ 3.30	0.60 ▼ 15.38%
Stein Mart, Inc.	\$ 4.51	0.75 ▼ 14.26%
Apollo Endosurgery, Inc.	\$ 17.31	2.0906 ▼ 10.78%
Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.38	0.40 ▼ 10.58%
ICU Medical, Inc.	\$ 131.875	15.475 ▼ 10.50%
Eagle Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 75.17	7.03 ▼ 8.55%
Depomed, Inc.	\$ 19.17	1.75 ▼ 8.37%
NII Holdings, Inc.	\$ 2.75	0.25 ▼ 8.33%
Sears Holdings Corporation	\$ 9.56	0.83 ▼ 7.99%
Endologix, Inc.	\$ 5.705	0.485 ▼ 7.84%
MaxPoint Interactive, Inc.	\$ 5.64	0.46 ▼ 7.54%

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Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B EUR Currency B Multi Asset Conservative B GB Multi Asset Conservative B EU Multi Asset Balanced B GBP Multi Asset Balanced B EUR Multi Asset Growth B GBP Multi Asset Growth B EUR

PRICE	Movement
€0.9783	 €0.0028
£0.9464	 £0.0001

Price

	ds	DEALING PRICE	Price Movement
EUR €1.0676€0.0003 P £1.2520£0.0020 R €1.1723€0.0014 £1.3626£0.0031			
R €1.1723€0.0014 £1.3626£0.0031			
	P R		

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Spain finishes the year strongly

By Matthew Elliott

A LONG overdue turnaround in employment numbers and increased household spending means Spain's economic growth in 2016 may have exceeded expectations.

More workers were hired by Spanish firms last year than at any other time since the recession. The economy is estimated to have grown by more than the 3.2 per cent predicted last January, establishing itself as one of the fastest growing in Europe.

Even if the 3.2 per cent growth target is not bettered, Spain will still clock up growth that is easily double the eurozone average. This is despite (some might say due to) the country lacking a central government for more than 10 months.

Foreigners also made a substantial contribution, with tourists and guests spending more than \notin 73 billion in Spain in the 11 months from January to November 2016. That is already some \notin 5.6 billion more than the total amount spent in 2015.

As always, British travellers contributed the largest share at around 21 per cent of the total (\notin 15.3 billion).

But it is the sharp rise in employment figures that will be the most welcome development for Madrid. The number of registered employees leapt by 540,655 across the year, while the number of unemployed fell by 390,534, the largest drop in recorded history.

The recession hit Spain hard on many fronts but the loss of almost four million jobs during its



EMPLOYMENT FIGURES: Will be a most welcome development for Madrid.

toughest spell has been its enduring legacy for millions of Spanish families. Entering 2017 almost two million of those jobs have been recovered. Clearly there is a long way to go, but Spain is certainly on the right track. The next employment battle will be over the terms and conditions of worker contracts. Countless thousands of the new jobs created are based on short-term temporary contracts with very little in the way of rights or benefits. Seasonal employment is also a pivotal issue. But the tourist industry is expected to make a huge drive this year to attract guests during autumn and winter, attempting to kill two birds with one stone.

Credit card debt warning for the UK

By Matthew Elliott

DEBT experts have warned that UK households are caught in the grip of a credit boom reminiscent of the levels seen just before the financial crash in 2008.

Unsecured consumer credit increased

by 10.8 per cent in 2016 according to Bank of England figures that run until November.

The British public now owes a staggering £192.2 (€225) billion after credit boomed at the fastest rate in over a decade. The previous consumer credit debt peak in Britain was £208 (€243) billion just before the banks crashed in late 2008.

Credit cards, second mortgages and car loans are all considered unsecured credit, with plastic payments now accounting for some £66.7 (€78) billion of the total.

Eager to attract new customers in an era of reduced public confidence in the markets, credit card companies have been offering 0 per cent interest rate deals as competition ratchets up a notch.

Millions of people are now using credit cards to pay for shopping, and other regular expenses, rather than saving them for seasonal or luxury purchases.

With both borrowing and lending higher than at any point since the crisis, debt charities are calling on the government to take action to prevent people being suddenly exposed to wider economic changes.

Unemployment is rising and 2017 is expected to offer the first true glimpse of what a post-Brexit economy may look like, as the fall in sterling seen since the referendum has a practical impact.

One debt charity, StepChange, claims to have received more than 300,000 calls for help in just six months. They point out that a job loss, or hefty bill, can knock a family off a cliff as one missed payment results in extreme penalty charges and the beginning of a vicious cycle.

The charity is now asking the government to establish a 'breathing space' scheme which would offer legal protection from harsh penalties in return for agreeing to a manageable payment schedule.

CREDIT CARDS: Are considered unsecured credit.

British economy finishes strongly

By Matthew Elliott

THE Bank of England's chief economist has admitted a huge disconnect between the dire predictions of financial experts and the facts on the ground as the British economy finished 2016 strongly.

Andy Haldane said that it was a 'fair cop' to criticise economists. He even compared their off kilter predictions to Michael Fish's notorious 1987 weather forecast when he dismissed hurricane warnings just before one of the greatest storms to ever batter the UK.

Haldane offered the modest excuse that contemporary economic models were not able to cope with 'irrational behaviour' among consumers. But the Bank of England now faces redoubled criticism from many Brexiters who sensed bias in the BoE's predictions of a dramatic slowdown.

Predictions for 2017 are now expected to be revised upwards as the momentum continues well into the New Year.

Britain's services sector polished off a hat-trick of solid performances from the manufacturing and construction industries.

The sector, which includes transport, hotels and banks, grew at the fastest pace seen in 17 months in December as the wider economy grew 0.5 per cent in the year's final quarter. The news was in stark contrast to pessimistic predictions from many forecasters who warned that growth would grind to a standstill as the financial ramifications of the Brexit vote began to hit home.

Predictions for 2017 are now expected to be revised upwards as the momentum continues well into the New Year. British exporters are also optimistic over the prospects of a Donald Trump presidency as the ty-coon is expected to cut taxes and crank up the American economy.

The Bank of England had cut interest rates to an all-time low of 0.25 per cent in August in a move to bolster confidence and keep people spending. At the time the BoE stressed that a further cut may soon be needed but, given the 2016 data, now the smart money would be on a fractional rise.



ANDY HALDANE: Chief Economist of the Bank of England.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad



MANY UK expatriates living in Spain own properties in the UK and have pensions and investments in the UK. They rely on their UK assets to maintain their lifestyles (and those of their families) in Spain. If they can no longer manage their affairs in the UK due to a loss of mental capacity, it can cause many difficulties.

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

The best way to avoid the legal and practical difficulties that can occur with the loss of mental capacity is to plan for it in advance by drawing up a document called a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' ('LPA').



POWER OF ATTORNEY: A legal document that enables someone to act on your behalf.

What is an LPA?

An LPA is a legal document that enables you to appoint one or more attorneys to act for you when you are no longer able to act for yourself. Your attorney can be a professional, such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

There are two types of LPA: 'Health and Welfare' or 'Property and Financial Affairs'

An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity. It is therefore important to make one while you are in good health.

Why should you get an LPA?

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

If you lose your mental capacity and do not have an LPA, then your family (or the authorities) will have no choice but to make an application to the Court of Protection to appoint a 'deputy' to look after your affairs, which can be time consuming and costly.

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain? Unfortunately there is no international type of LPA which is guaranteed to work in both the UK and Spain.

The advice we give to our clients at Stone King, is that if you have assets in both Spain and the UK, your only safe option is to appoint attorneys in both jurisdictions.

If you would like to discuss LPAs contact Charlotte Macdonald or Dan Harris at Stone King LLP by email international@stoneking.co.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1225 337599.



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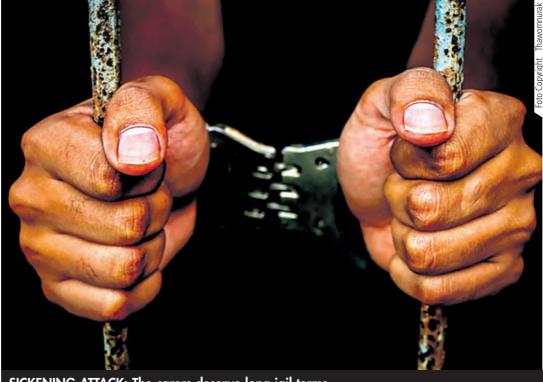
The danger of even more racism

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT OTHERS THINK IT

I'M sure we were all thoroughly sickened by the attack on a defenceless patient by the four black care workers in America this week. These animals unleashed an assault on this young, mentally impaired white man, that truly defies the imagination.

To add insult to his horrific ordeal, this evil quartet actually videoed their actions and published it on social media. Let's hope this scum get all they deserve and, if found guilty, find themselves gazing through bars for some considerable time.

What interested me was the overall reaction of the white communities. Basically this consisted of expressions of disgust and disbelief, followed by the calm trust that the law will take its course and justice ultimately be served. The difference here of course is that, had the positions



SICKENING ATTACK: The carers deserve long jail terms.

been reversed, and the attack perpetrated by four white workers on a defenceless black person, there would have been screams of racism, marches and possible rioting throughout the country. Why is that? Why are some black people so quick to blame white people for their misforThese actions create the very real danger of turning even more people into racists.

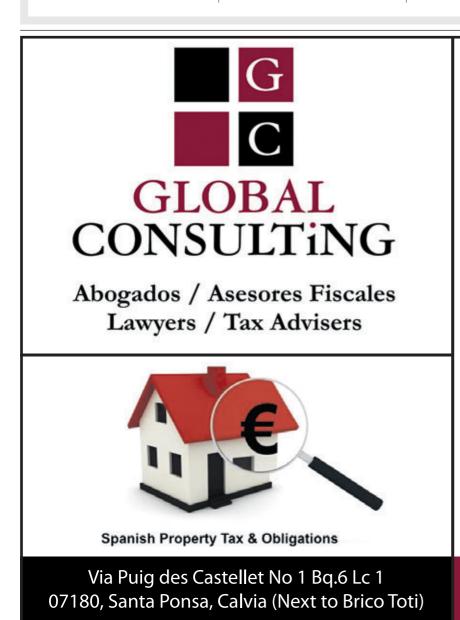
tunes and so-called social injustices? I have never considered myself a racist but to my mind, these hysterical and often violent reactions, are, in fact, racism in its most serious form: precisely what the demonstrations are supposed to be protesting against.

Makes no sense to me, in fact to my mind, these actions create the very real danger of turning even more people into racists.

I think it is high time black communities began looking inward for solutions to their problems, instead of constantly blaming outside white influences for their shortcomings.

Please peruse this piece carefully before releasing the expected slings and arrows. Thanks. *Keep the Faith Love Leapy*

leapylee2002@gmail.com



Are you a Non-Resident Property owner in Spain?

Have you received a letter from the Spanish Tax office recently?

If you are a non-resident property owner in Spain, and you have received a letter you need to respond urgently, however, you should be aware that even if you have not received any notification from the Spanish tax authorities, you may in the near future. Therefore, we recommend you address this situation as soon as possible by submitting all obligatory Income Tax returns for non-residents.

2015 taxes must be declared and paid before the end of 2016.

Spanish tax law requires that non-resident owners of property in Spain have to pay Spanish income tax even if they have no Spanish earnings for example, rental income or bank interest.

If you wish to receive an information sheet regarding non-resident tax email to **info@gcmca.es**, alternatively, you can telephone the office and we will discuss your requirements with you.

T. +34 971 694 044 email: info@gcmca.es www.gcmca.es

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Word Ladder

CITE **NEWS**

YOUR

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) It is difficult to avoid repeating mistakes made in the past. Your

approach to certain situations has

t changed and therein lies the

problem. Someone who blames you for a mistake shows ignorance

(February 20 - March 20) Who is trying to push you into a corner? Maybe it is being done so

from you? Appear to take pressure lightly and not give in to an

irritation. There is some jealousy

this week but refuse to be drawn

(March 21 - April 20) A rather slow start to the week leads you to feel bored but be

assured that the weekend will be far from dull. A recent conversation or correspondence with an old friend leads to

into petty matters ..

ARIES

subtly that you have not even noticed. Who wants a decision

but that does not make it less

upsetting

PISCES

Move from the start word (CITE) to the end word (NEWS) in the same number of steps as there are runas on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time. SWEN SWEN SIEN

STEN (ST3S) STUN **STIN** STTS (BITS) CUTS SITE (BITE) CUTE CITE CITE vointios JO

Maddocks' view on life MATTOC 'NO DOUBT ABOUT IT - BREXIT HAS PUT YEARS

ON YOU, DEAR!

CAPRICORN **1** (December 22 - January 20)

The need to plan ahead is frustrating when you know exactly what ought to be going on. Patience is something that you need to cultivate, or you risk upsetting someone close. Spending time with a colleague makes you realise how good things could be, but a lot of effort is involved. Pushing ahead does not guarantee results.

unexpected contact. TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Everything on the home front is emphasised and there will be a flurry of activity. Get others involved in any changes. Work in the garden or painting is much more enjoyable and half the work if you enlist the help of someone you get on well with

GEMINI X

(May 22 - June 21) When discussing a holiday with others, be aware that agreement is not always easily met. Although vou are not inclined to compromise, it is necessary to go with the majority decision. Patience is thin on the ground at the moment, but try not to over-

(June 22 - July 23) After the 24th it is much easier to see the path ahead. This is particularly true of a financial situation, so there's no sense in

fussing until you understand what needs to be done. Someone who has in the past been unco-operative is more flexible. You wonder at this and try to see an ulterior motive, but it is most likely that they have seen the error of their past actions. Is it possible for you to take them on trust?

(July 24 - August 23) Your attention is needed on more than one front, and some decisions are at odds with your personal thoughts and attitudes. Being reminded that 'business is business' does nothing to relieve your conscience. You may have to upset someone by telling the truth, which may affect your longer-term finances but do you really have any choice?

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 23) Are you willing to take a risk on someone who has let you down before? Looking into their recent past is likely to tip the balance. What you find shows clearly if

there has been a change of heart on their part or if they are trying to pull the wool over your eyes

(September 24 - October 23) A disagreement with a friend upsets you but is short-lived. To avoid such a situation in the future, look at how you should have dealt with it. There is always something to know that guides us to a better position. It will make you smile that someone has taken you for a fool because you have the last laugh.

SCORPION, (October 24 - November 22) A great feeling of joy comes over you more than once in the week ahead. Your inner child has been set free, and this is likely to be because of recent restrictions, which are now lifted. Do not feel guilty about this because it is a choice that will serve you well in the future. Right now, things may seem like a bit of an effort for small reward.

SAGITTARIUS 🗡 (November 23 - December 21) Travel arrangements may have to be changed at the last minute. Do not fret, however, because success is more likely at the end of the month During a dream, or when reading a book, an idea comes to you. Can this really make a difference to your future? You may need to act quickly to start a new project but progress will require patience.

for next 7 days Weather Madrid Alicante 10 10 10 9 -1 C -3 C -3 C 18 8 **CI** 15 6 **C** 15 5 **S** Mon - 14 6 S Tues - 14 6 Cl Wed - 13 6 Sh Fri -Fri -Sat -Mon -Tues - 8 Wed - 9 Sat -Sun -Sun -Almeria Malaga 19 17 16 19 15 16 мін 9 15 15 15 8 S 6 Cl 5 S Mon -Tues -Wed -S C S 6 S 6 S 7 C Mon Sat -Sun -6 5 Sat -Sun -Tues · Wed · Mallorca Barcelona 2 C 2 C 1 C 4 Cl 4 Sh 3 C 11 11 11 13 12 12 Fri 14 12 13 Mon Mon Sat -Sun -Tues -Wed -0 0 Tues -Wed -Sun -Benidorm Murcia $\begin{matrix} \text{Max} & \text{Min} \\ 18 & 6 & \textbf{S} \\ 15 & 4 & \textbf{CI} \\ 14 & 4 & \textbf{S} \end{matrix}$ Mon - 14 Tues - 14 Wed - 14 Fri -Sat -Sun -18 15 15 8 17 5 C C S 48 🗡 ، CI Clear, F Fog

欎

Th Thunder Sh Showers, Sn Snow, Euro Weekly News accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the weather forecasts which are supplied by a third party.

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 N) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are

not allowed. TARGET:

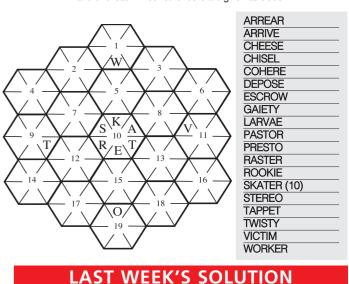
• Average: 12 • Good: 16 • Very good: 24 • Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

abet baht bait bane bang bare barn bate bath bean bear beat bent berg beta beth bier bing bite brae brag bran brat brig brit garb gibe grab herb bairn barge bathe began begat begin being berth bhang bight binge birth biter brain brant brent brine bring giber habit rehab tribe banger banter baring barite bather bating bertha breath bright graben henbit bathing bearing beating benight berating berthing brighten rebating BREATHING

exagra

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



1 Server 2 Loiter 3 Sherry 4 Strife 5 Hurley 6 Gorgon 7 Formic 8 Throne 9 Decree 10 Mutton 11 Tingle 12 Sprint 13 Invite 14 Depict 15 Toilet 16 Twenty 17 Resist 18 Shelve 19 Screen

R	UK NATIONAL Lottery	IRISH LOTTO	EURO N	IILLIONS	LA PRIMITIVA	EL GORDO DE La primitiva
	Saturday January 7	Saturday January 7	Tuesday January 3	Friday January 6	Saturday January 7	Sunday January 8
JTE	(8) (16) (33) (36) (45) (51)	 33 36 39 42 45 47 	(19) (23) (27) (34) (49)	(10) (14) (18) (21) (49)	12 28 32 33 36 49	(12) (38) (41) (43) (53)
	BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	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.



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

CANCER 😳



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Across

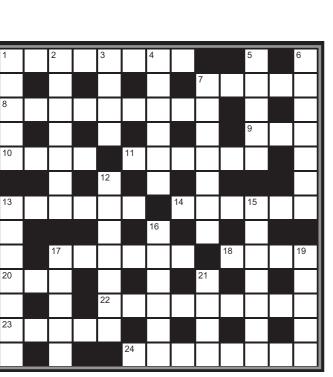
Revealing story of Swiss resistance (8)
 Shut down kiosk (5)
 Sound vibration could be on a screen (9)
 Loud noise from Aladdin's cave (3)

- 10 Cleansing routine for city in Somerset (4)
 11 A long bench? It's for the birds (6)
 13 Inclined to use five hundred poles (6)
 14 New treat made for gossip (6)
 17 Island off Atlanta I wanted to be in (6)
 18 Understands temporary quarters (4)
 20 Pair of characters from The Network (3)
 22 I get armed lunatic and left the country (9)
 23 Direction shown by nurse housing rebel leader (5)
 24 Imperfect start to Football Association's little
- league I began last Easter (8)

Down

- 1 Pound found in a bathrobe (5)
- 2 Lion has eaten terrible shot in African country (7)
- 3 Distinctive flavour of old Chinese dynasty (4) 4 Maybe Nigel has right to stay behind (6)
- 5 Praises lads about turn (5)
- 6 Record turns up under rifle (7)
- 7 Marines organised an advanced course (7) 12 Just tired me out (7)
- **13** Figure it's about time for Bill (7)
- **15** But win tenant new type of washing machine (4,3)
- 16 Capital kind of strong paper (6)
- 17 One who drags behind a tall structure (5)
- **19** Plant at the southern border (5)**21** Unwritten letters from Balmoral Castle (4)
- 21 Unwritten letters from Balmoral Castle (4)

Code Breaker



page

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents Z and 22 represents P, so fill in Z every time the figure 4 appears and P every time the figure 22 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.

23	11	20	13	11	7	19		11	10	22	23	11	7	7
11		13		7		23		25		11		5		11
7	18	15	22	7	18	1	22	11		23	11	1	16	19
9		4		11		8		16		18		19		19
5	9	4	11	12	8	11		19	23	1	22 P	11	⁴ Z	11
3		15		16		14				22				11
11	24	16	11	11	14	15	12	8		7	16	1	12	7
		1				1		15				16		
7	1	5	7	1		12	15	8	18	19	18	1	2	6
22				19				1		23		14		15
11	24	1	5	19	11	14		2	18	11	23	11	15	12
16		5		11		13		1		1		10		7
15	14	15	9	10		16	1	19	11	16	18	15	7	10
11	_	17	_	22		18	_	19	_	5		16	_	1
7	2	15	21	19	5	26		7	19	11	22	7	9	12

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



Down

(5)

1 Large evergreen, coniferous tree

3 Hawaiian stringed instrument (7)

4 Free or grant immunity from (6)

13 Heavily built motor vehicles (7)

2 Japanese fish dish (5)

5 Have in common (5)

7 Testifier (7)

16 Method (6)

18 Each (5)

6 Moving about aimlessly (7)

12 Long, tapering flag (7)

15 Acetylsalicylic acid (7)

21 Slanderous defamation (5)

20 Expel a tenant (5)

Across

e.

linea directa

Enjoy filling in the following puzzles and check the answers

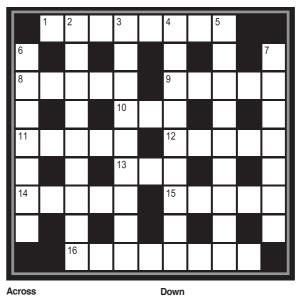
in next week's edition

902 123 309

- Manner of dressing (7)
 Metal fastening device (5)
 Argue about (7)
 Make fit or suitable (5)
 Lift up (5)
 Definite (7)
 Portable platform for storing or stacking goods (6)
 Canal boats (6)
 Canal boats (6)
 Conlid's room for a baby (7)
 Exert a pushing force upon (5)
 Come into existence (5)
 White ant (7)
 Flavoursome (5)
 Exerture (7)
- 25 Frightening creature (7)

English - Spanish

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



2 Olives (9)

6 Inglés (7)

7 Swords (7)

4 Employer (9)

3 El más grasiento (9)

5 Globe artichoke (9)

Actoss 1 Hosepipe (8) 8 Sobrina (5) 9 Paquetes (de cigarrillos) (5) 10 Todo (en su totalidad) (3) 11 Tin cans (5) 12 Gum (anatomical) (5) 13 Departure (3) 14 Desde entonces (5) 15 Drug (estupefaciente, medicamento) (5) 16 Sábado (8)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

Across:

1 Codicil, 5 Grace, 8 Amble, 9 Dilemma, 10 Mutineers, 12 Set, 13 Stayed, 14 Maniac, 17 Amp, 18 Prevalent, 20 Lanyard, 21 Drove, 23 Posse, 24 Denoted.

Down:

Claim, 2 Dab, 3 Cleanse,
 Ladies, 5 Gales, 6 Armistice,
 Flastic, 11 Trappings, 13 Scallop,
 15 Abandon, 16 Tended, 18 Place,
 19 Tread, 22 Out.

QUICK

Across:

1 Sharp, 4 Prefer, 9 Release, 10 Scarf, 11 News, 12 Collide, 13 Cat, 14 Hobo, 16 Trek, 18 Lie, 20 Gimpse, 21 Isle, 24 Alone, 25 Surface, 26 Atones, 27 Bogus.

Down:

Serene, 2 Allow, 3 Peak,
 Resolute, 6 Fragile, 7 Reflex,
 React, 13 Complete, 15 Orinoco,
 Iguana, 18 Least, 19 Rebels,
 Slang, 23 Grub.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

1 Cufflinks, 6 See, 7 Arroyos, 9 Orchestra, 13 Alegria, 15 Tia, 16 Dangerous.

Down:

1 Casa, 2 Freir, 3 Leather, 4 Soy, 5 Peso, 8 Rescate, 10 Ritmo, 11 Vaso, 12 Fans, 14 End.

CODE BREAKER



GOOD NEWS FORYOUR CAR 902 123 309 🛍 inter directa

HURSDAY	BBBONE	BECTWO	itv	CHANNEL 4		sky SPORTS
12 January	6:15pmPointless7:00pmBBC News at Six7:30pmBBC London News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmEastEnders9:00pmSpy in the Wild10:00pmDeath in Paradise11:00pmBBC News at Ten11:30pmBBC London News11:45pmQuestion Time12:45amThis Week	 8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends 9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge 10:00pm Age 8 and Wanting a Sex Change 11:00pm The Premier League Show 11:30pm Newsnight 12:15am The Last Kingdom 11:5am The Last Kingdom 	8:30pmYour Pound: What's It Worth? Tonight9:00pmEmmerdale9:30pmThe Cruise10:00pmUnforgotten11:00pmITV News at Ten and Weather11:30pmITV News London11:40pmPiers Morgan's Life Stories12:40amTipping Point	1:00pmChannel 4 News Summary1:05pmDarts7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News9:00pmThe Restoration Man10:00pmSpies11:00pm60 Days in Jail11:55pm24 Hours in A and E1:00amKinky Britain	7:00pmHome and Away7:30pm5 News Tonight8:00pmNightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords9:00pmBargain Loving Brits in the Sun10:00pmCelebrity Big Brother11:00pmGet Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink12:05amCelebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	6:30pm 7:00pm 8arclays Premier League World 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 7:30pm Formier League Match Pack 8:30pm 11:15pm 7remier League Match Pack 11:45pm La Liga Show 12:15am
FRIDAY 13 JANUARY	8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmA Question of Sport9:00pmEastEnders9:30pmRoom 10110:00pmNot Going Out10:30pmMrs. Brown's Boys11:00pmBBC News at Ten11:25pmBBC London News11:35pmThe Graham Norton Show12:25amUncle12:55amThe NFL Show	7:30pmGreat British Railway Journeys8:00pmBig Dreams Small Spaces9:00pmMastermind9:30pmOnly Connect10:00pmWorld's Most Extraordinary Homes11:00pmQI11:30pmNewsnight12:05amThe Last Kingdom	8:30pmCoronation Street9:00pmBest Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury9:30pmCoronation Street10:00pmTina and Bobby11:00pmITV News at Ten and Weather11:30pmITV News London11:40pmFishing Impossible The Wine Show	1:05pmDarts7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News9:00pmJamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast10:00pm8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown11:00pmAlan Carr Yap, Yap!12:05amFirst Dates Hotel1:10amSexy Beast	7:00pmHome and Away7:30pm5 News Tonight8:00pmPenguin A and E with Lorraine Kelly9:00pmDogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 310:00pmCelebrity Big Brother11:30pmLip Sync Battle UK11:30pmCelebrity Big Brother12:05amCelebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	6:00pm Boxing Gold 6:30pm Barclays Premier League World 7:00pm The Fantasy Footba Club 8:00pm Football 11:15pm The Fantasy Footba Club 12:15am Barclays Premier League Preview
ATURDAY 14 January	6:20pm 6:30pmBBC News Regional News6:35pm 6:35pmWeather6:40pm 7:10pmCelebrity Mastermind7:10pm 9:25pmPointless8:00pm 9:25pmLet it Shine9:25pm 10:15pm 11:10pmCasualty11:10pm 11:30pm 1:05amBBC News11:30pm 1:05amMatch of the Day	 7:30pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise 8:30pm Britain's Ancient Capital : Secrets of Orkney 9:30pm Dad's Army 10:00pm Imagine 11:40pm On the Waterfront 1:25am Lay the Favourite 7:55am This is BBC Two 	6:45pmITV News and Weather7:00pmBrits Launch8:00pmNinja Warrior UK9:00pmThe Voice UK10:30pmThrough the Keyhole11:30pmITV News and Weather11:45pmTerminator 2: Judgment Day2:15amJackpot247	12:55pmRamsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA1:55pmJamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast3:00pmDarts7:30pmChannel 4 News8:00pmPenelope Keith's Hidden Villages9:00pmGreat Canal Journeys10:00pmOblivion12:30amImmortals	6:25pmKittens Make You Laugh Out Loud7:20pmNCIS: Los Angeles8:05pmNCIS: Los Angeles9:00pmNCIS9:55pm5 News10:00pmFootball on 511:00pmFootball on 511:30pmCelebrity Big Brother12:30amLip Sync Battle UK1:00amSuper Casino	6:15pmFootball9:00pmEFL Goals9:30pmNissan Game of th Day11:30pmNissan Match Choi12:30amPI: Match TBA Highlights1:00amPI: Match TBA Highlights1:30amPremier League Highlights
SUNDAY 15 JANUARY	7:05pm BBC News 7:20pm Regional News 7:25pm Weather 7:30pm Countryfile 8:30pm Antiques Roadshow Holocaust Memorial Special 9:30pm Still Open All Hours 10:00pm Sherlock 11:40pm BBC News 12:00am Regional News	1:15pmMOTD2 Extra2:00pmMasters Snooker6:15pmYellowstone7:15pmSki Sunday8:00pmCity in the Sky9:00pmDragons' Den10:00pmThailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise11:00pmMatch of the Day 211:50pmQI XL12:30amSnooker	6:30pmThe Chase Celebrity Special7:30pmDance Dance Dance9:00pmEndeavour11:00pmITV News and Weather11:15pmPeston on Sunday12:15amBrits Launch1:15amJackpot2474:00amChopping Block Nightscreen	2:50pmSt. Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold4:55pmChannel 4 News5:15pmDarts9:00pmWalking the Americas10:00pmBad Neighbours11:55pm8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown12:55amHanna	5:45pm You've Got Mail 8:00pm Now That's Funny! 9:00pm Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:05pm Celebrity Bothed Up Bodies 12:05am The Roast of Donald Trump 1:35am Impractical Jokers UK	11:30am Goals on Sunday 1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday Live Nissan Super 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday Live Nissan Super 8:00pm EFL Goals 8:30pm Football 11:00pm Football 11:30pm Football 11:30pm Football 12:00am Football
MONDAY 16 January	7:30pmRegional News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmInside Out9:00pmEastEnders9:30pmPanorama10:00pmSilent Witness11:00pmBBC News11:30pmRegional News11:40pmWeather11:45pmClass12:30amClass	6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys Bitish Railway 8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends University Challenge 9:00pm Insert Name Here 11:00pm Insert Name Here 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show Oronation Street 10:00pm The Halcyon 11:00pm TV News at Ten and Weather Through the Keyhole 12:40am The Chase 1:40am Jackpot247	5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News Summary Summary 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm The Undateables 11:00pm First Dates Hotel 12:05am Tattoo Fixers	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm World's Biggest Beast 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm The Week We Went Wild 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	7:30pm Premier League 11 Club 8:00pm Soccer AM: The Ba Bits 2016/17 8:30pm Football 11:00pm Premier League Legends 11:30pm Premier League Legends 11:30pm Great Sporting Moments
TUESDAY 17 January	7:00pmBBC News7:30pmRegional News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmEastEnders9:00pmMatch of the Day Live11:00pmBBC News11:30pmRegional News11:40pmWeather11:45pmStacey on the Frontline: Girls, Guns and Isis12:30amItaly's Invisible Cities	7:00pmEggheads Great British Railway Journeys7:30pmGreat British Railway Journeys8:00pmRick Stein's Long Weekends9:00pmGreat Interior Design Challenge10:00pmOur Dancing Town Revolting11:30pmNewsnight Weather	7:30pm 8:00pmITV Evening News Emmerdale8:30pmEmmerdale8:30pmThe Money Saving Good Health Show Islands of Australia9:00pm 10:00pmSugar Free Farm ITV News at Ten and Weather11:40pmWilderness Walks with Ray Mears12:10amTrawlermen Tales	7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News Summary9:00pmHow to Lose Weight Well10:00pm24 Hours in A and E11:00pmThis is US Ep7: The Best Washing Machine in the Whole World11:55pmThe Undateables1:00amBodyshockers	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm To B&B the Best 9:00pm A New Life in Oz 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	8:15pm La Liga Goals 8:30pm Soccerex: Footbal Festival 9:00pm Fight Night 11:00pm La Liga World 11:30pm Sottish Football Round Up 11:45pm La Liga Goals 12:00am Premier League Review 1:00am More Than a Gar
/EDNESDAY 18 January	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:57pm BBC News and Regional News 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Silent Witness 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC News at Ten 11:45pm A Question of Sport 12:15am Film 2017	6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends 9:00pm Great Interior Design Challenge 10:00pm Hospital 11:00pm Common Sense 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Midsomer Murders 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and 11:40pm Joanna Lumley's Japan 12:40am It's Not Rocket	5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Location, Location, Location 10:00pm No Offence 11:00pm Britain's Benefit Tenants 12:05am Live From Abbey Road Classics States	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Bloody Tales of the Tower 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Dors 10:00pm 11:00pm In Therapy 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side 1:05am Sex Pod	7:30pm Spanish Football Gold 8:00pm Barclays Premier League World 8:30pm Premier League Legends 8:55pm Live Coppa Italia 11:00pm Barclays Premier League World 11:30pm Spanish Football (Spanish Football (12:00am 12:30am Sporting Maverick

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LETTERS YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

Read up on the safety of drones

WHETHER you love or hate drones, I urge you to look at our government's consultation questions regarding drone safety for 'leisure' users (small drones) on www.gov.uk.

It is very easy to complete and you do not need qualifications of any kind. It is open to every member of the public and you do not have to be a drone user. You have until March 15 to respond and you must enter vour name and email address. It took me, a complete novice, 15 minutes.

Currently users of small drones are unregistered in the UK and there is no way to find who is responsible when they are being used in the wrong way and in the wrong areas. This is our chance to participate with proposed changes to the few existing drone laws.

Search on www.gov.uk - Benefits of drones to the UK economy.

The bottom of the screen has the 'Respond Online' choice, but I would advise you to view Page 50 of the first document 'Unlocking the UK's high tech economy...' as it lists a summary of the relevant questions.

After reading these you have a choice as to whether you participate or not. Pages one to 49 contain lots of drone information which I, as a nondrone user, found very interesting. Ann Paterson, Didcot

English lessons

ISN'T it common sense to say you should either speak English before you arrive in the UK or be willing to learn when you get there? It's not racist to say that if you don't speak the language and you're not willing to learn then you get a ghetto effect.

At least if you have a grasp of the language then a country's culture and values become more obvious. Having said that, we have to admit there are large parts of some cities in the UK where English is spoken and understood, but you feel another set of values prevail altogether.

Jane by email

Leapy Logic

AFTER a fabulously ignorant, ill-informed and misleading assault on the character of British MPs, Mr Lee launches into a hymn of praise for the ongoing Trump plan to hand over the >>> Photographs for possible publication should be sent by email with a full caption to: photonews@euroweeklynews.com



WORRYING REPORTS: No wonder we are a nation of overweight people.

Sugar ills of today

Accusing Obama of childish and

spiteful behaviour is a bit rich com-

ing from your contributor. Obama

will go down as one of the better

American presidents. His reluctance

to throw away more of his soldiers'

lives in the Middle East, unlike his

predecessor, is plainly what gets up Mr Lee's nose. Obama was elected

on a ticket to bring the troops home,

He famously does not commit his

country to involvement in 'stupid

stuff.' He has taken his country from

the brink of catastrophe eight years

ago to solid economic recovery;

halved unemployment; saved the

American motor industry; brought af-

fordable health care to 20 million

Americans and brought justice to Bin

Laden. He legitimised same sex mar-

riage which should smooth the path-

way to a blissful union between your

contributor and The Donald ('Let's

make America grope again!').

and that, largely, is what he's done.

SUGAR has never been that important to me, but I know I'm taking it in whether I want to or not in most foods today. At least I try not to consume too much of the white stuff. But I worry about reports that children are getting breakfast cereals with high amounts of sugar.

running of the United States to a cab-

According to Leapy Logic, a knack

for lining your pockets whilst paying

zero tax - just the sort of behaviour

he deplores in our MPs - is the very

qualification needed by America's

administration in waiting. In previous

administrations the bar for political

err... compromise was set by Vice

President Cheney's awarding the un-

tendered contract for reconstruction

in Iraq to Halliburton, a company of

world is well rid of this man' exceed-

ed even the gravity defving logic of

the previous rant. In his vitriolic at-

tack on Barack Obama, Mr Lee

seems to think a president of the US

should not respond to an attack on his

country aimed at the very process of

democracy. The validity of the intelli-

gence is beyond dispute by all but the

President Elect, whose motives for

denial are too obvious to state.

But this week's column titled 'The

which he was former CEO.

inet of wealthy business tycoons.

I've seen packets of six cakes for £1. What goodness is going to be in those?? No wonder we are a nation of overweight people. The sight of young children stuffing themselves with crisps and pop is sad but it's the parents who must do more to stop it.

KL, Fuengirola

but he'll have to get past Vladimir first. Keep your geiger counter in your pocket, Leapy!

Anthony Jones, Torrevieja

Self-drive

WHO on earth would think driverless cars are anything but a tragedy waiting to happen? Having just watched a documentary I can happily say you are not getting me in one of those. Driverless trains might be something you could get used to, but a mixture of manual and driverless cars on the road? Frightening prospect.

David C by email

Fat Cats

WHEN I worked for a medium-sized company we knew the boss was earning a much bigger salary than the rest of us. You expect that, but it's a bit

worrving when your boss by lunchtime has made what you make in a year. Fat Cats was a phrase we saw a lot in the papers a few years ago. But when David Cameron and George Osborne talked about austerity you never really thought the bosses were joining in. It seems the gap is getting wider and I can certainly say it doesn't do anything for staff morale.

Jean. Benidorm

Bitter taste

IT'S MORE than 'about time' to get rid of our antiquated, obsolete, and most importantly, unfair system of electing our US President. For the fifth time in US history, last November 8, American voters 'elected' the candidate who did not 'win' a majority of the 'popular vote,' Donald Trump.

The 'Official Loser,' Hillary Clinton, received, according to the final recount, 2,800,000 MORE votes nationwide than the 'Winner.' Donald Trump. To add insult to injury for frustrated Clinton voters, knowing that 'The Donald,' practically a 'selfdeclared' misogamist, anti-African-American, and anti-Hispanic, has now been officially elected our next President, leaves us frustrated voters with more than just 'a bitter taste in our mouths!'

Ask Al Gore, another recent victim of our unjust and nonsensical 'Electoral College System,' when in the 2000 Presidential Elections, the Democratic candidate 'Loser' received 543,895 MORE votes than 'The Winner,' Republican George W Bush.

Now 'The Dreaded Donald' will take office I daresay many Americans 'await' his arrival with much fear and trepidation: what price will we pay for not having 'deep-sixed' our obsolete and unjust 'Electoral College System' about 150 years ago, when historians say it did make some sense then as a means of avoiding more power for 'Slave States.'

Richard M McBride, Benidorm

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.euroweeklynews.com

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Mr Lee plainly wants his babies,

TV is just full of reality crap

Mike Senker



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

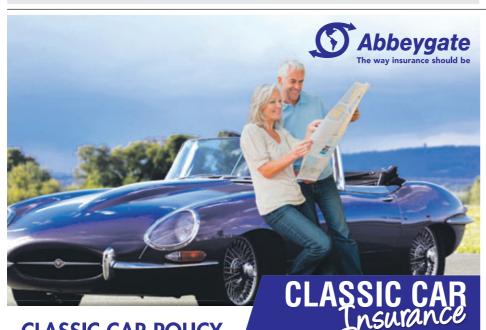
VERY pleased that Three Kings has come and gone so we can now stop walking around wishing everybody, even bloody strangers, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can also dispense with the post-holiday questioning: "How was your Christmas?" "Get anything nice?" "Did you do anything nice New Year's Eve?" My reply as usual, "Nah just had a quiet one." Meaning - we went to the local Indian restaurant, were the only two in there, out by 8 and then watched telly.

And that's because I think most of the places are a rip-off as I don't drink and don't dance because the old legs don't allow it. Then at midnight it started - the fireworks. My poor dog shot up on the couch and sat there in my arms shaking for the next hour. I'm also trying to remember the last time I ate something that wasn't on a cling-filmed plate in the fridge.

Watching TV on Three King's night or the UK's Twelfth Night, so technically the tree and decorations should have just come down; I was amazed to see an advert for Cadbury's Crème Eggs! By my reckoning that's about 14 weeks to go. Bit too soon don't you think? Mrs S is still munching her way through her selection box. Mind you, I went into Iceland the other day and they had birthday cakes in there and my birthday isn't till July! Talking about telly, all the junk stuff is back on like Celebrity Big Brother where a bunch of Z-list nobodies pee each other off for a month while we watch them disintegrate in front of our very eyes.

Then we have The Voice, now on ITV. I love watching people singing their hearts out to the back of chairs. At least this season the chairs don't turn round if nobody wants them and the judges don't have to explain. The singer can just walk off the stage in tears ... now that's entertainment! There is also a new show with Gary Barlow called 'Let it Shine' which I watched. Mrs S loves all this stuff and I have to tell you it's embarrassing. It's not a TV show, it's pathetic. If Mr B wants to put a show on in the West End of London just do some casting. There is only so much reality stuff that can be pedalled out in the name of entertainment. I must have 150 channels on my TV and at prime time on a Saturday night that's the best they can come up with. I flick through all the channels and yeah there are a few old movies and some sport, but the rest is reality crap. Cooking, buying houses, dancing mums, pregnant teenagers and if I want to look at an embarrassing body I'll look in the mirror!

Back on Talk Radio Europe on the 13th at 11.30am. Phone in and have a grump or email me on mikesenker@gmail.com.



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LEGALLY SPEAKING Smoking in cars

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.



THE Guardia Civil Traffico team in Torrevieja has reported an increased amount of enquiries from drivers asking if it is illegal to smoke in cars in Spain.

Currently, no, it is not illegal.

The confusion seems to occur for two reasons. The first is related to the law preventing anything interfering with the act of driving, with some saying if a driver was smoking, this could lead to a distraction.

The second factor relates to a law re-

lating to smoking in a car with children inside with some countries, including the UK, making this illegal. This law came into force in October 2015 in England and Wales and last month in Scotland meaning no one can smoke in a vehicle carrying children.

However in Spain, currently such a law does not exist, so whilst legally you are free to smoke whilst driving, it is never recommended for the health risk and as it can pose a distraction.

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

What exactly is a proxy vote?

I am not able to attend the coming Annual General Meeting of my Community of Property Owners, but I am told that I can assign my vote to another person, who will cast my vote at the meeting. Do I need to specify how I want him to vote on the different proposals, or must I just trust him? How does it work?

S D (Costa del Sol)

Spain's Law of Horizontal Property says that a Community member can attend the AGM and vote either in person or by representation. Most Communities have a printed form on which you enter your details and those of the person to whom you assign your vote



but any written authorisation will serve. You sign the form and give it to your Administrator or President. Your proxy holder then becomes

you in the meeting. Your proxy holder does not have to be a member of your Community. You can instruct him to vote in a certain way, but the proxy holder is not bound by this. The idea is that new information may come to light at the meeting and the vote needs to be changed.

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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Iron deficiency could be the reason behind your fatigue

MORE than a quarter of women of working age in the UK suffer from iron deficiencies. Almost half of young girls aged between 11 and 18 also fall short of the necessary intake of the nutrient, leading to feelings of tiredness and exhaustion.

Iron is an important component of haemoglobin, which is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body. Without enough iron there is not enough healthy oxygen-carrying red blood cells leading to feelings of fatigue. Women in their childbearing years are most likely to suffer from an iron deficiency because of the loss of blood during menstruation and pregnant women should increase their intake as the baby takes its mother's iron.

Another reason why women are more likely to have deficiencies in iron is due to their healthier eating habits. Traditionally women eat less red meat than men which is rich in iron and swapping red



IRON DEFICIENCY: Help boost your intake by eating more red meat.

meat for chicken, fish and vegetarian options lowers iron intake

So how can you tell if you may be suffering from iron deficiencies? Fatigue

Feeling tired, weak and sluggish is the most common sign as your body is having trouble carrying oxygen around your body, affecting energy levels.

Follow us on Facebook

Frequent infections

Iron plays a key role in a healthy immune system, so lower levels can leave you susceptible to more infections. Pale skin

Haemoglobin gives skin its nice healthy, rosy colour, so low levels can cause the skin to become lighter, so look for changes in your skin tone.

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Lack of oxygen can cause muscles to enlarge and become painful, but this is only visibly noticeable in the tongue. Look also for cracks on the side of the mouth.

12 - 18 January 2017 TO READ MORE

Hair loss

Iron deficiency, especially when it develops into anaemia, can cause hair loss as the hair follicles go into a resting stage and more hair than normal falls out.

Help boost your iron intake by eating more red meat and the proteins in meat are also believed to enhance iron uptake from vegetables, so combine your steak with spinach and you'll be boosting the iron considerably. Try drinking orange juice with your meat as a study showed that 100ml of orange juice, which has around 40-50mg of ascorbic acid, increased iron absorption from a meal by 181 per cent.

You can also speak to your pharmacist about taking iron supplements.

Monthly moods could be in your genes

SCIENTISTS believe they have found a gene that makes woman angry and moody during their menstrual cvcle.

Around 85 per cent of women experience PMS, but, for up to 5 per cent of them, these symptoms can be more severe and related to a condition called premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) which scientists say is due to a gene.

A study was carried out by the National Institutes of Health in the US and researchers said it shows that women with PMDD have differences in their molecular apparatus with PMDD being a disorder related to the cellular response to oestrogen and progesterone.



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Ask The

Doctor Helicopteros

Do you snore while asleep?



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

SNORING is a condition by which some people make a rattling or snorting sound when they sleep. The noise derives from the soft palate and tissue in the mouth, nose or throat vibrating, and some people may snore loudly every night.

tain a healthy weight, don't

drink excessively, quit

smoking, avoid using sleep-

ing pills, sleep on your side

and always try to sleep

around the same time. If

these don't work and a per-

son is diagnosed with sleep

apnoea they can opt to use a

breathing apparatus to help

manage the symptoms. In

extreme cases a person may

require surgery to rectify the

• What if lifestyle

If basic measures don't

work then it is important to

go and see a sleep specialist

• Does everyone who

People who suffer from

sleep apnoea tend to snore,

but also have difficulties

breathing, chest pains, day-

time fatigue... etc. If you

are experiencing any of

these systems you must see

a sleep specialist and take a

test that measures how often

you stop breathing in your

sleep and the overall quality

of your sleep.

snores have sleep apnoea?

changes don't work?

for professional advice.

problem.

• Why do some people snore? What are the most common causes?

There are many factors that can cause people to snore. Some are directly related to a person's respiratory system but the way we sleep and unhealthy habits can also influence a person's snoring. Obesity, smoking, drinking, jaw deformities, nasal blockages, inadequate sleeping positions and suffering from sleep apnoea are some of the main reasons we snore.

• Can it be a health warning signal?

The most serious problem that snoring can point to is sleep apnoea, which can have adverse effects on a person's health as it can increase, among other things, the chance of cardiovascular problems.

• How can you stop snoring? Are there medical treatments or is it simply a question of changing your lifestyle?

Some of the ways to try and stop snoring is to main-

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

Watching out for bronchitis in infants

BRONCHITIS is the most frequent cause of hospitalisation in youngsters under the age of one in Spain.

It is more prolific when the temperatures drop and affects mostly infants being a viral infection of the lower respiratory tract system. This becomes inflamed and narrowed so air passage is difficult and whilst it can occur in older children and adults, in babies under the age of three months, it can be particularly serious in the young respiratory and cardiac system.

So how can you spot the signs? Bronchitis starts initially as a cold with coughing, a fever and signs of respiratory distress. In babies they may struggle to feed and show laboured breathing. Hospitalisation is often necessary with the infant put on oxygen and further bouts of bronchitis are not uncommon in youngsters.

BRONCHITIS: Watch for the signs.

A Mediterranean diet may offer brain gain

EATING a Mediterranean diet may reduce brain shrinkage in older adults, according to scientists. The human brain naturally shrinks with age, but a study in which 401 people in their 70's were followed found that those who stuck most closely to a classic Mediterranean diet suffered significantly less brain shrinkage over a three-year period. A typical Mediterranean diet comprises high amounts of vegetables, fruit, olive oil, pulses and cereal grains, with moderate amounts of fish, dairy products and wine, and small amounts of red meat and poul-

"As we age, the brain shrinks and we lose brain cells, which can affect learning and memory," says lead researcher Michelle Luciano from the University of Edinburgh. "This study adds to the body of evidence that suggests the Mediterranean diet has a positive impact on brain health." The differences in shrinkage were measured via brain scans, and other studies have found

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that being overweight appears to increase the rate of shrinkage.



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Specialist help too far away

MORE than 10 million children in America live too far from specialist paediatric anaesthesiologists if they need emergency surgery.

These anaesthesiologists specialise in sedating and monitoring children during surgery and small children needing more serious medical care should be treated by these paediatric specialists according to new guidelines from the American College of Surgeons.

However, millions live in rural areas of the country and are more than 50 miles away from such doctors leaving families faced with the choice of travelling long distances or using the services of more local general anaesthesiologists.

According to records, there were just over 4,000 paediatric anaesthesiologists in the US in 2015.

In celebration of Saint Anthony

By John Smith

THE town of Sa Pobla is going to be very busy from January 13 to January 17 in the run up to and the celebration of the Sant Antoni Fiesta.

The actual feast only takes place on January 16 and 17 but as those are weekdays, the town intends to party all over the preceding weekend as locals and visitors enjoy watching and remembering a number of traditional celebrations and attend a number of different concerts.

Unlucky for some, but lucky for many, Friday 13 sees the start of festivities at 5pm when there will be a parade to celebrate local farming achievements and this will end with a barbecue in the Plaça Major. The evening continues with an exhibition on the well-known 'Demons' as well as children's celebrations and finishing with music, although there will be a charge for the concert.

Saturday starts earlier at 11am with a parade of 'Big Heads' and the opening of an exhibition telling the story of Sant Antoni who was a hermit for much of his life in the



FIESTA TIME: Fire demons tempting Sant Antoni.

deserts of Egypt and is the Patron Saint of Animals, particularly pigs which is why he is often referred to in Mallorca as Sant Antoni del Porquet.

The day will continue with hu-

man towers, pipers, drummers, dragons, more giants and demons and after a 10pm concert by Orquestrina Trama, the fires will be lit and the demons and dragons will be roaming the streets accompanied by a band of drummers.

Sunday will be a little more reverent as those who have spent a late night enjoying the demons will be able to watch traditional folk dancing and attend a special musical event about the women who worked in the Albufera wetlands followed by musical chants by two choirs in honour of the saint.

12 - 18 January 2017 TO READ MORE

> Monday sees the departure of the demons with a procession through the streets as the evening of the Fiesta approaches. There will be more processions, a Compline service at the church, fireworks and music.

> Finally as the Fiesta begins to calm down, there will be a mass to not only celebrate the saint but to bless the animals of the town which can be quite a chaotic occasion depending on the mood and variety of animals that turn up.

> There are similar events in other towns throughout Mallorca all run on similar lines with demons, giants and dragons although in some celebrations floats depicting the life and times of the saint will be paraded through town on the actual feast day following the mass and blessing.

> The Sa Pobla fiesta is likely to be the biggest and most popular, although it must be remembered that when thousands of people turn up for such an event, parking and security can be difficult.



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GLENN MILLER: His music is still popular with people of all ages.

betting in the swing

PENN

ANE

Breakfasts

By John Smith

ALTHOUGH no one knows what really happened to band leader Glenn Miller whose aircraft went down over the English Channel in 1944, his music continues and is still popular with people of all ages.

There will be a concert take place of American Swing at the Palma Auditorium on Friday January 27 which will feature the Original Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Irresistible Andrews Sisters and jive ballet from

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the Lindy Hoppers.

This concert recreates the music of an entire era with such classics as In the Mood. American Patrol, Chattanooga Choo Choo and Moonlight Serenade as well as songs such as the Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.

The orchestra which is made up of some exceptional musicians has crossed the world and has paid tribute to the great trombonist and band leader for a number of years plays just one night in Palma at 9pm on January 27 with tickets costing €42 per person.

Feeling the blues

THE long established blues band from Mallorca, Big Yuyu will be playing in Palma on Saturday January 21 at the Blue Jazz Club in the Hotel Saratoga.

The band has played a number of successful gigs around Europe including Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Admission is free 15 minutes before each performance and the only stipulation will be that drinks cost €2 more than normal on performance night, although diners in the restaurant will be admitted from 9pm.

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Food, wine and friends

with Garry Waite

IRSTLY may I wish all our readers a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I am very pleased to be asked

by Steven and Michel to contribute on a regular basis to this illustrious periodical. I shall be drawing on the experiences and knowledge of friends and colleagues in an attempt to bring you informative and entertaining articles about food, wine, people and anything to do with the world of Gastronomy.

I will also be drawing on my knowledge and experiences as a prolific project manager and consultant to offer advice to anyone who needs it regarding the opening and operating of any type of catering operation. Some questions I will be able to answer in this column, other problems may be better faced on a one-to-one basis, but feel free to contact me either way.

Last year saw the passing of many great actors, singers and icons of the entertainment world. But the culinary world also lost some famous faces. Not all of them will be known to all of our readers but the people here contributed no less to their craft, and provided pleasure to thousands, than some of their more famous theatrical counterparts.

Chef Benoit Violier was the proprietor of Restaurant Hotel de Ville in Crissier near the Swiss city of Lausanne. The restaurant was voted the Finest in the World by La Liste, a French initiative, launched in 2015 in which an international jury ranks the world's top 1,000 restaurants (he was the first recipient, Spain's El Celler de Can Roca was voted 6th).

The holder of the greatest accolade of three Michelin stars this 44-year-old was found shot to death in an apparent suicide on January 31, 2016. It was alleged, although vehemently denied by his colleagues and directors of the hotel, that he had lost more than €1 million in a type of ponzi scheme involving high priced fine wines.

Great success does not always bring great happiness.

Legendary chef and author Michel Richard died on the morning of Saturday August 12. He was 68 and died from complications from a previous stroke.

Since the 1980s, Richard built a catalogue of restaurants that blended American and French cuisine. He garnered national acclaim with his flagship fine-dining American eatery, Citronelle, in Washington DC's Georgetown neighbourhood and later Central Michel Richard.

Born in Brittany, France, Richard was an adept pastry chef who began his bakery apprenticeship at age 14. Three years later Richard moved to Paris where he worked at Maison Lenotre under famed French pastry chef Gaston Lenôtre. In April 1974, Lenotre sent 20-year-old Richard to help open Chateau France in New York. Though the restaurant and pastry shop was short-lived, the experience marked a turning point and encouraged Richard to stay in America. France's loss and the USA's gain!

On a slightly different note, the creator of the Big Mac, one of the most popular fast foods in the world, died on November 30, 2016 aged 98. Jim Delligatti was a McDonald's franchisee who came up with the idea in 1967 because he said customers wanted a bigger sandwich.

His invention was almost rejected by McDonald's, which was happy that its traditional meals – a hamburger, fries and a milkshake – were selling well. The firm relented, but while it says it has since sold billions of the sandwiches, it admits Delligatti never received a penny in royalties.

The McDonald's franchisee, whose full name was Michael James Delligatti, invented the burger while running his restaurant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was later said to have eaten at least one Big Mac every week for decades. (Living until 98... maybe the Big Mac has healthy connotations that we have not been told about!).

When the burger turned 40, Mc-Donald's estimated it was selling 550 million Big Macs a year. The company admitted that they had never paid Delligatti royalties for it. In an interview once he joked that he got a dollar a piece for every one sold!! But soon retracted, jokingly saying that he would have been happy with one 10th of a cent!! But he got nothing.

Closer to home, one of the best known culinary figures of the past 20 odd years on the Costa del Sol, San Pedro legend Albert Benisty, passed away at the age of 63 in September 2016

The former Michelin-star chef suffered from a heart attack, only hours after completing a shift at his well known Albert y Simon restaurant in San Pedro, near Marbella.

Born in Morocco in 1953 Albert Benisty's destiny was to become a great chef and at the age of 15 he started that long walk to success by training in Sweden.

He returned to Marbella in the 1980s to work at his parents well-known restaurant Casa David. Then taking control with his brother Simon they eventually opened Le Souflée where they gained a Michelin star in 1987 (only the second restaurant in Andalucia to achieve the accolade at that time)

He was the Coast's Dani Garcia of the time and maintained a loyal following which continues today, in his sad absence, in the hands of his brother and his children Deborah and David who continue his great work as chefs in their father's kitchen.

In the problem corner section I hope to be able to help newcomers to our area, or indeed to Spain and perhaps more importantly, to our industry. If you would like to ask for my help, send me an email. But here is one question I frequently get asked:

'I am opening a new restaurant and I am concerned about getting the right staff. I have been in Spain only a few months and this is my first business here. Any advice?'

You don't say whether you have been in the hospitality industry in your home country, but for the sake of reply I will assume that you have not.

Opening any business in a foreign country is always a difficult process but a restaurant is fraught with more problems than most.

If you are not a chef then the selection of someone to run the kitchen is the most important decision you will make. Most successful small operations are when the proprietor is the chef or at least can move into the kitchen in the event of a fall out or problem with the chef! It depends on what style of restaurant you wish to open. Once you have decided the style then you can ask people in the industry if they know of any chef's that would suit your criteria.

Firstly talk to the candidate about your concept and ask him/her to design a small menu that he/she would put on if they were opening their own restaurant. This will give you an idea of their capabilities. No matter who has recommended them, after interviewing them and, if you are happy with them, check references.

In all the years I have been in Spain

only one person has ever asked me for references for staff that have worked for me. I have seen staff that I have fired working for other people and causing the same problems. Nobody would take on someone in their home country without checking references so don't do it here!!

Look for stability in the applicant. How long has he been here? Why did he leave his last job? How long was he working there? Has he got a wife/girlfriend/resident partner? If the applicant is Spanish he should be able to communicate in your language if you don't speak Spanish. Likewise if the applicant is not Spanish they should have a knowledge of Spanish even if it is only sufficient to deal with suppliers.

Above all monitor the kitchen, take stock monthly, check invoices against actual purchases and above all ensure the kitchen is kept clean.

Any staff working in the hospitality industry needs to hold a food handlers certificate. This is carried out by your local authority and is a simple Q&A that most people pass without problems.

GARRY WAITE: Will offer advice to anyone who needs it.

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PROPERTY

Guiding you step by step without the jargon

THE idea of starting a new life in Spain has been a dream for many. However, we all have heard of that dream turning into a nightmare. The key to preventing this disastrous scenario is to be aware of all the risks and pitfalls so that they can be avoided but where can this information be found.

Anthony I Foster has lived in Spain for 35 years. He was a partner in an estate agents where he met many who were in search of the idyllic Iberian lifestyle and he was able to successfully steer them in the right direction.

To help this process be a smooth transition Anthony decided to write The Complete Guide To Buying A Property In Spain which was first published in 1994. As laws and taxes change Anthony updates his work and the guide is now in its 12th edition.

The layout of the book ensures a no-nonsense critique on the step by step journey to property purchases and sales without difficult jargon and ambiguity. It is an easy and informative read allowing those unfamiliar with Spanish protocols and laws to ensure that every step of the process is clearly understood

The guide also gives invaluable information regarding mortgages, Spanish driving licences, Power of Attorney, business premises, wills and inheritance tax

In all. Anthony has carefully and clearly written a most useful handbook which takes the unsure newcomer to the level of savvy homeowner allowing the Spanish dream to begin.

The Complete Guide To Buying A Property In Spain (12th Edition) is available in paperback or as an e-book from *www.amazon.co.uk*.

Alternatively from Anthony's office in C/Granada, 23 Pasaje Granada Local 3, Nerja 29780.

ROPERT Anthony I. Foster 'This guide is the property buyer's best friend in Spain' Spain Magazine COMPLETELY UPDATED IN 2016 WITH KEY LAW AND TAX CHANGES MADE SINCE 2014 BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES

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Markets skating on thin ice

By Matthew Elliott

TWO major financial institutions have sounded a warning bell over fears that several key property markets could overheat and collapse. Both Barclays and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have painted a stark picture of the potential threat.

A recent OECD report has identified Sweden and Canada as the unlikely candidates facing the greatest risk of a housing crash in 2017.

Extremely high and artificially inflated prices of both residential and commercial



holds

SWEDISH MARKET: At risk of collapsing.

properties is the culprit.

House prices in Canada have practically doubled since the year 2000, while Sweden was aptly described as 'skating on thin ice.'

Economists worry that the rapid rise is courting an abrupt correction that could affect millions of house-

Barclays has drawn up a

similar chart of the European countries it perceives as running the greatest risk of sudden fall. It bases its findings on the European Systemic Risk Board's (ESRB) findings

The figures indicate that Sweden and Luxembourg have the most fragile bubbles, closely followed by the UK, Austria, Belgium and Finland.

All countries have received an official warning from the ESRB. Spain has one of the lowest risk levels on the chart, faring far better than Germany, Ireland and France.

Spain is a global property hotspot

NON-EU residents are expected to form an integral part of the ever growing demand for a place in the sun.

Last year foreign buyers accounted for about a fifth of all transactions. A fast-growing economy, value for money, and booming international demand could see further increases in 2017.

Middle-eastern and Asian buyers are increasingly looking at Spain, es-

pecially given the situation in London, where buying property no longer offers guaranteed healthy returns.

Low-cost flights from Barcelona to New York and California promised by IAG and Norwegian could be a game changer. Spain is already a popular tourist destination for Americans and better travel links may see many look upon the country as a potential home away from home.



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



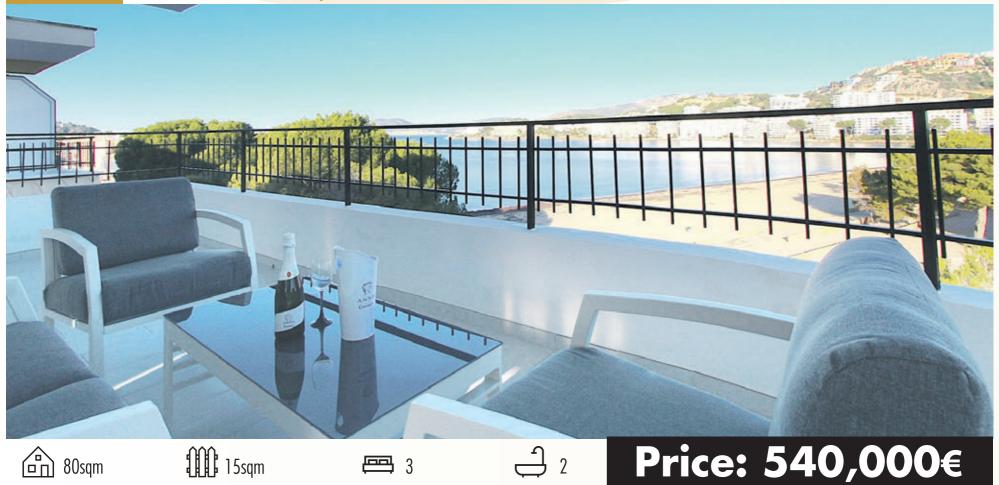


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The ancient art of bonsai

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By Graeme Tyrrell

BONSAI is an ancient art and craft of creating a landscape in miniature in a shallow pot or container. The tradition of bonsai includes careful placement of stones. mosses, lichens, soil mixture and other materials using highly refined methods of care to reduce a trees growth to appear as a full sized tree in proportion to the rest of the the features in the bonsai container. The word bon-sai means planted tray (shallow container).

It is a great way to enjoy gardening using artistic garden design skills. Through attention to detail using so many different materials, such as beach shells, hollowed logs, naturally occurring stones, and a huge variety of pottery designed especially for bonsai plants, a miniature garden is developed.

The tradition of miniature

KITCHEN cupboard doors tend to accumulate greasy residue and, worse still, fingerprints which can make them look terrible. Plus, using cleaning products which need rinsing off afterwards can leave water marks and make the results of our efforts less than perfect.

To avoid this and remove grease quickly and

MINI **GARDEN:** Create a bonsai

landscapes goes back thousands of years. Their care was a part of eastern meditation practice in temples and they were considered valuable gifts by royalty in Asia. The Japanese developed the concept of miniaturising trees with various methods as a Buddhist practice including Zen gardening. A bonsai had special importance as people were able to take their garden with them or Bonsai is a wonderful challenge of patience and discipline.

present them as a gift or family heirloom. Creating a bonsai can be as easy or complicated as you like. Basically you need a

Photo Credit: Mick Harper Shutterstock.

shallow container, free draining quality soil mixture and a suitable longlived tree with small leaves to allow proportion to the container

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The selection of the tree should take into consideration the climate it will grow. A tree that grows easily in the natural environment where you are will generally do best, unless you plan to have the bonsai in a controlled environment. If the tree is an outdoor plant it will not do well indoors for very long. Tropical trees such as ficus that are used as indoor plants are a better choice if you plan to have your bonsai indoors.

Maintaining a bonsai requires detailed care to re-

move excess leaves, branches and roots to maintain proportion. Wiring and clamping can also be used to shape the tree into the desired form to suit the landscape concept.

Watering application is different to most houseplants due to the smaller soil volume requiring more frequent application. Simple watering devices can be used to ensure constant watering supply.

They also need supplementary nutrient application to maintain health but not too much to stimulate excess growth. Very light or diluted applications are required frequently. A minimal amount of slow release fertiliser and weak liquid fertiliser in the water supply is a good solution.

So if you have an artistic flare for gardening, bonsai is a wonderful challenge of patience and discipline with long-lasting benefit. Established plants are readily available and, while needing a little more care to maintain, they provide a fascinating focal point to feature on your balcony, patio or terrace.

Quick and easy kitchen cleaning

easily, look for a specific cleaner which does not need to be rinsed off. This leads to better results and also saves time as all we have to do is spray

it on then rub with a soft, dry cloth to remove dirt

To save even more time and effort and make

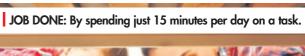
sure your kitchen is always impeccable, clean doors and outsides of cabinets after cooking before the grease and dirt has time to stick.

The power of 15 mins PRODUCTIVITY experts swear by dividing big tasks into small steps to simplify them and

this mindset is also ideal for those who are too busy to spend hours cleaning and tidying at home but wish they could get on top of everything.

In just 15 minutes per day, it is possible to get the clean, organised house you have always wanted with very little effort, time management coaches insist. All you need is a timer.

Dedicating just a quarter of an hour per day to a task will help you realise how long it really takes to get things done. You may well be putting off a certain, seemingly huge task, thinking you will never find the time





to get it done all at once. Yet if you set your mind to dedicating just 15 minutes to it, you could well find that within a couple of days it is done and dusted.

You may have been wishing for weeks that you could find an hour and a half to clear out and clean the guest bedroom. Start today and give it 15 minutes, concentrating on one small area.

Do the same tomorrow, and the next day, and in under a week you will have done the lot!

It may take a while to see noticeable results on a larger scale but with so little effort required there really is no reason not to give it a go. After all, everyone can find 15 minutes per day no matter how busy their routine may be.



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Dogs and cats: pettinginduced aggression



PETS PAGE

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MANY cats will purr like a well-oiled motor when stroked, and many dogs will put their head forward for petting. However some will suddenly turn on the person. My own dog Sheba appears most friendly but I have to tell people to leave her alone, after a few pats she will turn aggressive.

Sense and Sensitivity: This curious behaviour that some cats and dogs display is called petting-induced aggression. Behaviourists are familiar with this feline and canine quirk.

The cat acts affectionately, rubbing against the person and purring, but responds with painful swipes and bites should the person attempt to touch them. Some cats will endure a number of pats before reacting, while others, will stand for only one or two before striking out. Behaviourists often refer to these animals as 'two-or-three-stroke' cat or dog.

While we don't understand exactly why some dogs and cats are so intolerant of touch, one hypothesis is that they experience the same phenomenon that we do when we are touched repeatedly in one spot on our bodies. Imagine that someone is massaging your back and they absent-mindedly continue to rub one specific area over and over again. It feels good at first, but after a while, the touch becomes

irritating We humans might simply

ask the person to stop but our pets are more demonstrative in their communication. One more pat, and gotcha! Unfortunately, simply stroking the pet on a different part of their body each time isn't sufficient. It's as if the cat or dog has become sensitised all over.

Watch for certain signs how to avoid the consequences of a dog or cat's irritability. Most cats, when annoyed, will flatten their ears and swish their tail back and forth Often the skin along their sides and back will ripple. While it may be too late by the time these signs

are present, it is best to freeze momentarily and then calmly and cautiously lift ones hand away from the cat.

Sometimes the cessation of movement will prompt a dog or cat to move away, or they may at least refrain from attacking.

The Light Touch: Teaching pets to enjoy being touched entails daily counter-conditioning sessions. The objective is to link being touched with something pets consider supremely delightful. Most cats and dogs love cheese. so it is best to stroke the pet once, then feed a tiny amount of cheese. When the cheese has gone, stroke again, then feed. Repeat the stroke/cheese association no more than 10 times in one sitting, fewer if the pet showed even a hint of irritability.

After one week, one can occasionally stroke the pet twice before feeding the cheese. After another week,

gradually building tolerance, until the cat or dog becomes a two-stroke pet. By the third week, they should allow the occasional three strokes before receiving cheese. And by the end of the fourth week, most pets can become a threestroke pet.

With patience and perseverance, pets can become a six-stroke pet. Pets can learn to enjoy the tactile contact.

> WATCH FOR SIGNS: To avoid the consequences of a dog or cat's irritability.

Barry loves Flea

WHEN homeowner Susan returns to the UK for holidays she worries about what to do with her dogs. Barry and Flea in particular are small dogs, a little anxious because of their rescue history but above all they are great companions and are always seen together.

Barry, a young Chihuahua, loves to challenge Flea, to tease her and nip at her heels. Flea is more relaxed, and perhaps because she is more mature tolerates Barry's friendly needling, but in actual fact she rather likes his attentions. They enjoy each other's company so much that they appear inseparable. They have only to hear tyre tracks on the road outside their gate and off they swoop to chase the sound of the car across the length of the property.

They see the hens emerging from their coup each morning in the garden and off they trot to check on the flock. It's a great team, and they evidently love their life at home. So when their owner Susan plans a holiday she always prefers to have house-sitters at home, following her routine with the dogs and hens. It means that after her holiday she returns worry free, with a knowledge that Barry and Flea will be safe and contented at home in her absence.



FRIENDS FOREVER: Barry and Flea.

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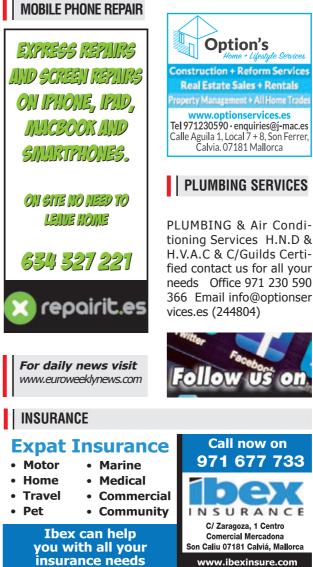
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On the McLaren MP4-12C "the first thing I would like to know is why they've named it after a fax machine." Some might say...

Faraday Future takes off

By Matthew Elliott

roads in 2018 and

can

hit

BILLED as a 'new species' of car, Faraday Future officially launched their new electric sedan which goes faster than a Ferrari and is capable of learning. The FF 91 debuted in Las Vegas, will be on the

60mph from a dead stop in just 2.39 seconds.

That puts it in elite company, faster than both the Tesla record and the Ferrari LaFerrari. In fact it would be the

second fastest production vehicle ever made - only the Porsche 918 Spyder has hit 60mph in under 2.3 seconds. Boasting 1,050 hp, the FF 91 unlocks itself by recognising the driver's face and adapts to their personalities and preferences.

It can even be ordered to park itself. That claim led to some chuckles, however, when billionaire Chinese investor Jia Yeuting was invited on stage to try it out.

Murphy's Law intervened and the FF 91 refused to budge, forcing Faraday's vice-president to crack a joke (and doubtlessly fire an unfortunate technician).

FARADAY FUTURE: New electric sedan.



a century the best-selling car in Sweden was not a Volvo. Recently released figures for 2016 show that the ubiquitous Volkswagen Golf outstripped Volvo's biggest sellers the V70 and V90 combined.

MOTORING

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Motoring shorts

Beetles'

It's reportedly the first time since 1962 that the home favourite hasn't produced Sweden's most popular new car. Back then Ringo Starr had just joined The Beatles and a Volkswagen Beetle was topping Sweden's sales charts.

Between them Volvo and Volkswagen dominate the Swedish market, with only Toyota and Skoda slipping in as honourable mentions. Volvo has almost a century of history in Sweden since the first model rolled off a Gothenburg production line in 1927.

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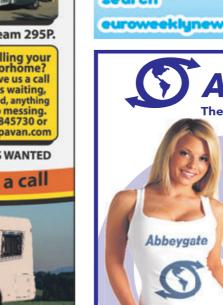
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Centre stage for new revolutions

THE Consumer Electrics Show (CES) took place in Las Vegas from January 5-8, and as usual there were stacks of new revolutions in the automotive industry on display, with electric and autonomous developments taking centre stage.

BMW brought its future cockpit to the event, showcasing its latest 'virtual touchscreen' technology, which offers a 'free-floating display' operated by finger gestures.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles revealed their latest electric and autonomous concept at the show. The 'Portal' vehicle is focused on flexibility and comfort and is heavily biased towards 'millenials.'

Ford showed off an autonomous hybrid version of their popular Mondeo saloon, which is called the Fusion stateside, while Honda revealed an artificial intelligence 'emotion engine' which powers a 'co-operative mobility ecosystem' rather than a car (it's a car).

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America's Cup defence and BMW

By John Smith

THE BMW Group has an ongoing relationship with the Oracle Team USA which is competing for its third America's Cup triumph in Bermuda in June of this year.

BMW is the Defender's Technology Partner and supports the design team with engineering know-how from the world of automobile manufacturing. Dr Robertson handed over an innovative steering wheel that optimises the demanding steering of the high-tech catamarans, enabling them to 'fly' more steadily.

Now that the boats are capable of 'flying,' they need a completely different kind of steering system. The same BMW engineers that design the BMW Motorsport race car steering wheels developed the lightweight, intuitive steering wheel for Oracle Team USA, which helps the team chase valuable seconds as they defend the America's Cup in June.

"The America's Cup Class catamarans are unbelievably fast on the foils. However, controlling and steering these yachts is very complex," said Jimmy Spithill, skipper of Oracle Team USA. "This steering wheel is an optimal solution for adjusting the rudder and foils. I am thrilled with the new system developed by the BMW race engineers, as the yacht that can 'fly' the longest has the best chance of winning the race."



| HANDING OVER: The steering wheel that optimises the demanding steering of the high-tech catamarans.

The AC50 catamarans appear to soar weightlessly above the water on their foils. However, what may seem effortless is actually the result of a constant adjustment of the foils in the water.

In order to allow the yacht to 'fly' without respite, the helmsman must adjust the angle of

This steering wheel is an optimal solution for adjusting the rudder and foils." the dagger board foil and rudder foil on a second-by-second basis to suit the course, wind, speed and position of the opposition.

To pull off all this at virtually the same time, he needs an intelligent and intuitive steering module, which works with absolute precision, similar to a steering wheel in a racing car.

Round Britain 2017

AFTER setting the record for making the fastest solo navigation of the globe, Ellen MacArthur was made a Dame and after retiring from yachting she set up the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

Each year 2,800 young people in the UK finish treatment. Happily survival rates are increasing, but studies show teens and young adults remain vulnerable post-treatment because it comes at a time of rapid social and emotional development.

To give young people the best chance to go on to achieve their future goals and ambitions, the first step is rebuilding confidence and reestablishing self-belief.

She has therefore just announced Round Britain 2017 and in order to help more young people in recovery from cancer in the long-term, the voyage aims to increase national awareness by visiting towns and cities around the UK during the four-month endeavour.



DAME ELLEN: Announcing Round Britain 2017.

treatment.

Dame Ellen MacArthur

said when announcing the

project "Round Britain is

about a lot more than sailing -

They are going Round Britain this summer and 100 young people who have all sailed with the Trust in recovery from cancer, will be involved in this extraordinary 2,000-mile sailing relay challenge.

Throughout May to September, the Trust's 44ft voyage yacht, Moonspray, will visit over 60 coastal towns and cities with five different young people joining the crew for each leg and her crew will also visit cancer people still in recovery and discussing possibilities after endence of those involved bringing back into focus positive options which have been unimaginable during treatment."

For more information and to help this vitally important challenge visit www.ellen macarthurcancertrust.org/rou nd-britain-2017.

London Boat Show

ALTHOUGH the initial number of visitors appeared to be slightly down, sales were reported to be high by many of the exhibitors at the London Boat Show which runs until January 15.

Certainly plenty of visitors turned up to see Absolutely Fabulous star and much loved personality Joanna Lumley launch the show from the Sunseeker stand in the company of the boys from Jack Pack the swing band who competed in Britain's Got Talent.

This is the first of the major international boat shows of the year and it certainly sets the standard for others with its many exhibitors, entertainments and activities designed not just for those wanting to buy large vessels but for families enjoying a day out and those with smaller budgets.

JOANNA LUMLEY: At the launch with Jack Pack.







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TO READ MORE

It was my best year so far. The trophy for Portugal was amazing. I was so happy and of course I cannot forget the Champions League and the Club World Cup.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

Football sees Manchester v Merseyside

Tony Matthews

International Sports

A former player and now the world's most prolific author of football books with al-most 150 published since 1975, Tony is al-so the sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio and lives on La Pilica in the Sierra Cabrera Mountains overlooking Turre. Costa de Almeria

Football summary

ONCE again, football has taken centre stage as Chelsea's 13-match winning run came to a stuttering end at Tottenham; Brighton replaced Newcastle at the top of the Championship; Celtic beat Rangers in the Auld Firm derby; managers in new jobs include Marco Silva (Hull), Paul Clement (Swansea) and Alan Smith (Notts County); the first big transfers of 2017 saw Aston Villa's Rudy Gestede join Middlesbrough for £6.5m and Wilfred Ndidi move from Genk to Leicester for £6m; FC Chapecoense (Brazil) are recruiting 20 new players (remember all but three of the

Christmas Colombian air crash) and six PL clubs crashed out of the FA Cup last weekend with Millwall causing the biggest upset by beating Bournemouth 3-0. Derby won at WBA, Wolves (who handed Morgan Gibbs-White, aged 16, his debut) ko'd Stoke and fourth tier Plymouth drew with Liverpool who fielded their youngest team ever, while Brentford, Huddersfield (4-0 v Port Vale). Manchester City (5-0 at West Ham), holders Manchester United (4-0 v Reading) and 10man Chelsea (4-1 v Peterborough) gained the biggest victories as Arsenal scraped through 2-1 at Preston.

team were killed in the pre-

Plucky non-League sides Sutton (v AFC Wimbledon) and Lincoln (at Ipswich) both earned replays, but Barrow. Stourbridge and Eastleigh lost.

The FA Cup 4th round draw has produced some intriguing ties including Spurs v Wycombe Wanderers, Derby y Leicester, holders Manchester

United v Wigan, Crystal Palace or Bolton v Manchester City, Plymouth or Liverpool v Wolves and Chelsea v Brentford. Games January 27 to 30.

Other sport

Michael van Gerwen won the World Darts tournament at Ally Pally ... Sir Andy Murray's 28-match winning run has come to an end – beaten by his arch-enemy Novak Djokovic in the Qatar Open... Scot Laura Muir has broken Liz McColgan's 25-year-old British 5.000m indoor record by 14 seconds... Dylan Hartley will captain England's rugby team in the Six Nations...Tiger Woods competes in his first golf tournament of 2017 at Torrey Pines in two weeks time... and Virat Kohli has replaced M S Dhoni as India's cricket captain for the forthcoming ODI and T20 series against England (from January 15).

Soccer Diary On Tuesday, Manchester

United - 4-0 FAC winners over Reading last Saturday when Wayne Rooney equalled Bobby Charlton's club record of 249 goals - met Hull City and last night Liverpool visited Southampton in League Cup semi-final first leg ties.

The Premiership matches this weekend include two Manchester-Mersevside clashes -Everton (7th) v Manchester City (4th) and Manchester United (6th) v Liverpool (2nd). Reigning champions Leicester (15th) play table-toppers Chelsea, Swansea (19th) meet Arsenal (5th), Tottenham (3rd) take on WBA (8th) in the early kick-off, and Crystal Palace (17th) visit West Ham (13th).

Top Championship games are Brentford-Newcastle, Leeds-Derby, Preston-Brighton and a Midlands battle involving

Bolton v Swindon and Walsall v Sheffield United while in FL2, we have Barnet v leaders Doncaster, Carlisle v Morecambe and Plymouth v Stevenage

Tonight, La Liga leaders Real Madrid, fresh from a 5-0 win over Granada and now unbeaten in 39 matches - a Spanish record they share with Barcelona - play the return leg of their Copa Del Rey last 16 tie against Sevilla, having won the first 3-0. The last time Real lost was 2-0 away to Wolfsburg in the Champions League in April 2016. Tonight sees the start of a hectic schedule for Zinedine Zindane's Real team who could play 21 matches in 11 weeks. Atletico Madrid met Barcelona, also in the Copa del Rey, last night.

Tomorrow is the opening games of the 14th Copa Centroamericano in Panama and the first matches in the Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon.

Championships taking place right now:

Group games in World Junior and U18 Ice Hockey here in Spain.

The 40th UK BDO World Darts at the Lakeside Club.

SPORT

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Women's World Ice Hockey in Belfast.

Men's World Handball in France

Men's Indoor Junior Super Six Field Hockey in Nottingham.

World Indoor Bowls in Switzerland.

Short Track Speed Skating in Italy. NB: On Monday, January 16,

the Australia Tennis Open starts in Melbourne.

Stop Whingeing!

PL managers including Mourinho, Guardiola, Klopp and Wenger, continually moan about the number of games their teams have to play in such a short period of time.

Well how about this... back in April 1912, without a huge squad, West Bromwich Albion completed 12 matches in 26 days including an FA Cup semi-final, the FA Cup final and FA Cup final replay.

Wolves and Aston Villa. Pick of the FL1 fixtures are

