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Demonised

Lawyer's plea over abuse pictures probe

By Simon Firth

PHOTOGRAPHS taken of a young girl with a genetic condition whose parents could face sex abuse charges, were designed to monitor changes in her skin colour, a judge has been told.

The lawyer for Fernando Blanco and Margarita Grau denied the pictures were sexual in nature.

His clients, said Alberto Martin, should not be "demonised and burned in a bonfire" by the force of public opinion.

Any allegations against them should be proven in a court of

law, he told reporters.

The couple have been in the headlines over claims they raised nearly €920,000 to fund urgent medical treatment for their daughter's genetic condition.

She is said to have TTD which has been linked to intellectual impairment and can lead to early death.

But after fundraising began in 2008 the couple apparently amassed €918,000 in donations.

In a trial last year they were accused of using this money to fund a lavish lifestyle from the proceeds of

the public's generosity.

Martin said there was "no truth" in claims that the pictures were pornographic or sexually explicit in relation to the girl who is currently staying with relatives in Mallorca.

He said the parents could not remember taking the pictures but had answered the questions of the presiding judge who would now make a judgement.

Linking the issue of the pictures to the fraud proceedings against the couple, was unfair, said Martin

Fernando Blanco has now returned to prison where he is being held.



Photo by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FERNANDO BLANCO: Denied the pictures were sexual in nature.

See us on page 22



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LOCAL NEWS

Stamped out

AN unseasonal forest fire broke out in Miner Petit, Pollensa, on Sunday January 15, with at least 15 hectares of land burnt to a crisp.

The blaze was brought under control by Monday morning, with a team from the Balearic Nature Institute joining firefighters and officers from the environmental ministry, civil protection, and Local Police in battling through the night.

Regulating rentals

HOTELS are applying continued pressure to residents renting rooms or properties to tourists, and the Spanish government has now agreed that a state regulation preventing 'uncontrolled' leasing.

The comments came from Tourism Secretary Matilde Asian following a half-hour meeting with some of the Balearics' most powerful hoteliers, who met with her at the Fitur event in Madrid.

Predator pile up

HUNTERS and farmers in the Sa Marina area of Lluçmajor have expressed their concern that the local "food chain has broken down," noting an increased number of feathered predators such as kites, hawks and eagles in the area. Rabbits and partridges have almost disappeared, while ravens are also being blamed for an increased number of dead tortoises.

Palma installs BBQs for start of festivities

PALMA Council is installing around 200 barbecues, including a number for vegetarians and vegans, for the Sant Sebastia 'Reveta.'

According to a Palma Council spokesperson, the Department for Infrastructure is setting up the barbecues in different squares and areas which have requested them.

In concert areas there are more than 70 stands to grill meat and some 'vegan barbecues' will also be set up.


More than 17 tonnes of firewood and some 250 tonnes of sand have been purchased for the bonfires, or 'Foguerons,' as well as 180 bags of coal - each weighing 20kg - for the barbecues.

Close to 200 different associations, including neighbourhood watch areas and care homes, had asked for deliveries in time for the start of the festivities on Thursday January 19.

The sites will be available until January, 29 with the council estimating a further 800 barbecues could be distributed over the coming month of festivities.




BBQ SITES: Firewood, sand and bags of coal have been purchased.



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FEATURED NEWS

The big pensions 'freeze'



STATE PENSION: Today, this is nearly twice what it was in 1998.

UK pensioners living in the EU must not accept 'frozen pensions,' says Nigel Nelson, chairman of the non-profit International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP) - www.pensionjustice.org.

Today there are nearly half a million UK pensioners living in the EU, as the table shows.

If you add in the other countries making up the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) and Switzerland, this total increases to nearly 490,000. This article is about three types of UK State Pension erosion:

- Erosion caused by the UK leaving the EU (Brexit)
- Decline in the value of the Euro (€)
- Impact of inflation in the EU.

Erosion caused by the UK leaving the EU

The UK government uprates the UK State Pension annually based on the 'triple lock' policy (raising it by whichever is the higher: inflation, average earnings or 2.5 per cent), but it is only in countries where they are 'legally obliged' to do this and this has been the case for over 70 years.

Today, this means that pensioners living in the UK, the EU and a number of disparate countries around the world receive the annual increase. So, if you live in the US, you will receive the annual increase.

However, if you live just across the border in Canada, then you don't re-

NUMBER OF UK PENSIONERS LIVING IN THE EU			
Country	Country Total	Country	Country Total
Ireland	135,040	Poland	2,700
Spain	108,010	Finland	1,550
France	65,470	Bulgaria	1,100
Germany	42,680	Hungary	870
Italy	37,410	The Czech Republic	640
Cyprus	18,840	Luxembourg	590
Netherlands	12,900	Republic of Croatia	590
Portugal	10,460	Republic of Lithuania	450
Malta	6,390	The Slovak Republic	330
Greece	5,910	Republic of Slovenia	300
Sweden	5,590	Republic of Latvia	240
Belgium	5,430	Romania	160
Austria	5,400	Republic of Estonia	90
Denmark	3,370		
TOTAL:			472,510

UK PENSIONERS: Almost half a million live in the EU.

ceive an increase. Live in the Philippines and you receive the annual increase; live in Commonwealth countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa and you don't.

In fact, there are over half a million UK pensioners living in over 120 countries who do not receive the annual increase - this is known as the

UK 'frozen' pension policy.

When the UK leaves the EU, the 'do nothing' option (ie there will be no specific provision made within the exit negotiations) means that the UK will no longer be 'legally obliged' to pay the annual UK State Pension increase to pensioners living in the EU.

Over a period of 20 years *The Telegraph* has estimated that this could

leave pensioners £50,000 poorer.

For a frozen pensioner who retired between April 1998 and March 1999 on a 'full' UK State Pension (i.e with the maximum number of contribution years), they are £25,000 poorer compared to their peers living in the UK.

Today, the UK state pension is nearly twice what it was in 1998 so the figure reported in *The Telegraph* would seem to be accurate.

The ICBP has been working for years to try to persuade the UK government to end this discriminatory practice of pension 'freezing.' We are very concerned that the UK government will see the annual increase to the State Pension for pensioners living in the EU as an opportunity to save money as part of the Brexit negotiations.

The cost to annually increase UK state pensions in the EU will be £46.6 million. If you are concerned that your UK State Pension will become 'frozen,' then go to www.pensionjustice.org/petitions and sign their petition and make your voice heard!

Decline in the exchange rate - GBP to EUR

All UK State Pensions are payable in GBP and the pensioners are liable for the variations in exchange rates.

Most pensioners are spenders and not savers, so they cannot afford to wait for a better exchange rate - they take the exchange rate available on

the day that the UK state pension payment is made.

In fact, the pension can be paid in the currency of the country where the pensioner is living.

Impact of inflation in the EU

For those UK pensioners who will be on a fixed, 'frozen' pension, not only will they be receiving fewer Euros, but they will have less spending power each year because of inflation. Whilst inflation today is lower than it was in the 1990s, it is still running at nearly 2 per cent.

Whilst two of the factors above are beyond our control - exchange rates and inflation - 'frozen' pensions are something that we can try to influence.

You can help... it is incumbent upon every UK state pensioner to make sure that their voice is heard by:

- Writing to the MP who represents the town or city that you last lived in the UK

- Writing to your MEP

- Signing any petitions that are raised - ours is at www.pensionjustice.org/petitions

- Donate to lobby groups like ours to help fight the battle in the UK Parliament - www.pensionjustice.org/donate

- Joining social media groups like 'Protect European Pensions' (Facebook) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ProtectEuropeanPensions/>

With your help we can make a difference!!

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TOURISM FAIR: This year sees a special emphasis on sustainable tourism.

World tourism focuses on Madrid

By Simon Firth

REPRESENTATIVES from almost every Spanish region, city and many towns, are in Madrid for this year's International Tourism Fair (Fitur).

On until January 22 at the Feria de Madrid, this year sees a special emphasis on sustainable tourism.

Marbella has its own stand, in addition to that of the Costa del Sol, showcasing some of the upcoming tourism highlights for the coming season including the presentation of new hiking trails and the Cueta-Marbella-

Solmarina Regatta. Minister for Tourism, Javier Porcuna, was also due to meet the Russian Ambassador to Spain.

This is the market place to be seen in and where all those working in tourism can meet up with like-minded professionals in the trade.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the annual event, now in its 37th year, but they are restricted to Saturday and Sunday.

A fair of this size not only brings together all those working in the industry, but also acts as a showcase for new services, new

technologies and the latest trends.

For Madrid alone, the fair represents potential revenue of more than €200 million, according to the organisers, UNWTO.

They also point to the presence of more than 9,000 exhibiting companies as evidence of the strength of the sector.

To emphasise the importance of Fitur, more than 20 ministers for tourism from all over Africa are there debating the opportunities the sector can bring to the continent.

Tourism in the Middle East will also come under the spotlight in the hope of fostering and sustaining growth in this sector.

CULTURE is set to be the defining attraction of the Costa del Sol as tourist chiefs hope to emphasise it's stunning cuisine and history to complement the abundant beaches and sunshine.

Top representatives from the golf and global tourism industries joined chefs, mayors and local celebrities to discuss

Costa del Cultura

“The number of people visiting Malaga has tripled.”

the future of the Costa del Sol at a glitzy dinner during the Fitur event.

Tourism head Elias Bendo told entrepreneurs, hotel chains, and flight operators that the number of people visiting Malaga has tripled from

400,000 in 2003 to over 1.2 million in 2016.

He firmly believes that the Costa del Sol can cement itself as one of the leading destinations, not just in Europe, but across the globe. More guests from America, Russia and China are arriving than ever before, many even buying homes.

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Taxis in turmoil

TAXI drivers are set to launch protests over the decision to add new tourist bus routes connecting Palma airport to resorts dotted across Mallorca.

The taxi union views the five proposed seasonal services as a direct threat to the livelihoods of more than 2,000 drivers.

They consider the routes unnecessary and estimate that they could slash collective profits by up to 25 per cent. Drivers also claim to charge tariffs between a fifth and a third less than tourists encounter at mainland airports.

Such arguments appear to have fallen on deaf ears. Balearic transport minister Marc Pons seems determined to go ahead with the plans, believing the economic impact of attracting more tourists outweighs the union's concerns.

Snowstorms wreak havoc on the roads

By Matthew Elliott

SNOWFALL across Mallorca forced the closure of seven highways and key access routes to the Tramuntana mountains on Tuesday, January 17. The mercury plummeted to minus five and snow blankets 10cm thick were recorded. More than 30 schools were forced to suspend classes.

The MA-10 was closed from the ses Barques viewpoint to Pollensa, as was the MA-2130 from Caimari to Lluc courtesy of heavy snow. The MA-2140 leading to the Lluc monastery, MA-11A, MA-1110 and MA-10 linking Fornalutx to Pollensa were all temporarily shut down.

In Valldemossa, around 300 cars were trapped for more than three hours due to snow on the road, which was eventually cleared by a snowplough.

The traditional Beneides de Sant Antoni celebrations were postponed in Manacor, Muro, Sineu, Maria, Santa Maria and Alaro, among others.

Warnings were issued to all drivers,



SNOWY CONDITIONS: Forced the closure of several routes.

particularly those in mountainous areas, to take special care, and remained in place until the extreme conditions softened.

While 32 schools suspended classes, many of them under emergency orders on Wednesday January 18 as snowfall turned into heavy rain, wild winds with gusts exceeding 100kph and hailstorms battered the island.

A degree of normality had returned by 5.30pm on Wednesday, with only the road connecting Bunyola and Orient remaining closed, while much of the snow had melted as rain washed it away.

Temperatures are forecast to remain chilly heading into the weekend, although rain and high waves are expected to persist.

NEWS EXTRA

Influenza island

THE flu rate across the Balearics has almost doubled in just a week. There are now 112 cases per 100,000 people, compared to under 64 cases at the start of 2017.

Bermuda triangle

NINE vehicles were involved in four accidents on the Inca highway in just one afternoon. Six people picked up injuries, luckily none were serious.

Stone's throw

A YOUNG man accused of attempted homicide for throwing rocks onto moving cars from a bridge on the MA-13 road has denied all charges.

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Storm drain project to cost €1m

ENGINEERS are to refurbish a massive storm drain almost 4km long at a cost of nearly €1 million.

It is the first time the Platja de Palma structure has undergone such work since it was brought into operation in the 1990s.

The drain, when working optimally, is designed to carry excess rain and flood water to prevent any discharge directly into the sea.

Although some maintenance work was carried out last year it was halted before reaching the end of the drain.

During periods of heavy rainfall engineers realised that even minor blockages can prevent efficient working and that sand is retained in the tunnel.

If this impedes the flow of water and bacteria build up then odours and poor water quality become an issue.

The contract has been awarded to Emaya which is hoping to complete the work before the tourist season begins.

One of the challenges will be to construct new conduits for the water to allow "better access for both engineers and vehicles," a spokesman said.

“ During heavy rain, even minor blockages can prevent efficient working and sand is retained in the tunnel.

These should mean cleaning of the structure is improved and allow water to drain fully instead of standing.

OUR VIEW

Help always needed

IT was very encouraging to see various councils around Spain took it upon themselves to try to make sure no children in their area went without any presents over the holiday period.

In Fuengirola alone, the council spent just over €11,000 to give 385 children a toy and also assisted in buying food for a large number of families. Madrid issued a directive that if any child had not received a gift by January 6 then the council should be informed.

Add to this the generous individuals and groups who operated food banks and donated gifts to underprivileged children and there's no doubt their combined work was greatly appreciated.

Hopefully this generosity will not finish now the festive season has passed as it

continues to be important for individuals to do their bit to help those worse off.

Everyone has different preferences. If you can support your local animal charity by giving time or financial support that's great.

Despite tremendous steps forward in medical discoveries, there is still need for cancer care and a whole range of diverse children's illnesses. Add to this the need for family respite and age care as well as long established charities like the Red Cross, Lions and Royal British Legion and the choice is incredibly wide.

At *Euro Weekly News* we try to publicise charity fundraising. Anyone looking to raise awareness is welcome to contact us and where possible we will promote their activities.

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SOLLER tram.



Photo by Barry Lewis Wikimedia

Great year enjoyed by Soller Railroad

By John Smith

THE Soller Railroad Company has experienced a bumper 2016 thanks in part to the ever increasing number of tourists visiting Mallorca it has reported.

Combined train and tram journeys saw just under two million single passenger journeys which is an increase of 9 per cent over the previous year, but the majority of journeys continue to be by rail, although tram journeys are not that far behind.

What makes these results memorable is the fact that the rail link between Soller and Palma went out of service at the beginning of Novem-

ber, one month earlier than usual, in order to allow for increased maintenance work to be undertaken.

The service will not be fully reopened until February 6 when remedial work in the tunnel at Serra d'Alfàbia is due to be completed, but this downtime has allowed engineers and technicians to not only undertake maintenance work on locomotives and coaches, but to introduce a new digital traction system.

Tram services to the Palma Port are particularly popular with visitors and this reinforces the importance of the tourist traveller to the company.

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New hate crimes hotline launched



NEW HOTLINE: The initiative is part of the council's equality drive.

A HATE crimes hotline has been launched in Palma.

To go with the new number there is also an email address - stop.odi@pol.palma.es - which can be used to report such crimes.

The initiative is part of the council's equality drive and aims to give victims the ability to report the offences given that the authorities accept they are not notified about most of them.

Mayor of Palma, José Hila helped to launch the hotline along with chief of police Josep Palouzie and councillor Angelica Pastor who has

responsibility for public safety.

Crimes based on such criteria as race, religion, disability and sexual orientation are only reported in about 20 per cent of cases, it is estimated.

Anyone using the hotline will be giving details of the crime to civilian workers at the town hall and they will then make the decision to pass the allegations onto the Local Police or National Police.

Those convicted of a hate crime under current legislation can face up to two years in jail.

The hotline number is 650 781 644.

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Four main decisions regarding Brexit



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THERESA MAY the British Prime Minister made her much leaked speech on her plans for Brexit at a press conference on January 17 with much of the content appearing to be in accord with the recent recommendations of the Commons Brexit committee.

There was nothing particularly unexpected in the speech which lasted some 40 minutes but there was confirmation of a number of definite decisions made by the government which will affect the tone and result of proposed negotiations.

The four main points of her speech, and therefore her position as Article 50 is implemented, are as follows:

- Britain will not remain members of the single market;
- Parliament will be allowed to vote on a final Brexit deal;
- Britain will leave the customs union but will be looking for a special deal;
- She will argue that there could be an extended



Photo Credit: Jay Allen Crown Copyright

MRS MAY: May have already 'bagged a deal' with Bill English, New Zealand PM.

transitional period that may need negotiation.

One piece of immediate positive news is that the pound strengthened against the euro during the speech.

In a clear warning to the leaders of the 27 states with whom she will have to negotiate, she stated that if they tried to make this a punitive deal then she would rather leave EU without a trade deal than accept a bad deal which could mean the UK

could consider adopting a revised economic model. The inference therefore was such a model may result in significant corporate tax reductions to encourage international business back to the UK.

In her speech, she made it clear that the British public made the referendum decision with their "eyes open" and it is her job to implement their wish for a "brighter future" by creating a Global Britain with the UK remaining a "good friend and

neighbour" to the EU but "reaching out" beyond its borders to other continents.

The British government doesn't want to see the EU split or unravel but recognises that the UK has been an awkward partner for the Union. Mrs May said "We seek a new and equal partnership between an independent, self-governing, Global Britain and our friends and allies in the EU."

She wants to give "as much certainty as possible" which is why the government will adopt EU law in the great repeal bill. Parliament will then decide what laws it wants to change.

The overall theme of her speech was there will be no half measures and Britain although hoping to retain a good relationship with the EU whilst continuing to exchange information on matters of security, needs to be separated.

One area that is important covers the border between Northern Ireland and Eire and she hopes and expects to be able to come to an agreement which will allow continued freedom of movement across that border.

The devolved assemblies will not be ignored and they will continue to have control over many aspects of their own destinies with some returned powers resting with Westminster and others being transferred to the assemblies.

Stating she is not there just to supply media headlines, the feeling generally is she has released as much information as she intends and will now 'keep her powder dry' until the formal negotiations begin.

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Menu 2 food tasting for 2 people

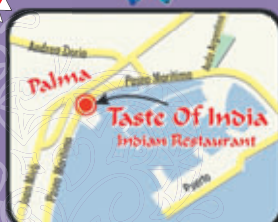
Mixed starters
Main course:
Chicken, lamb and beef
Pilau rice and naan
Bottle of wine
Beer or soft drinks
Dessert and coffee or infusion

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Menu 3 food tasting for 4 people

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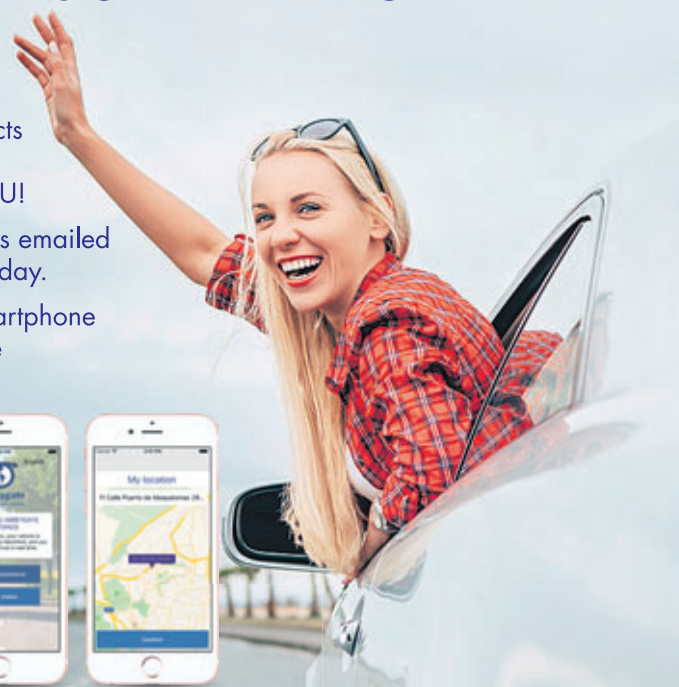
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LOW COST: Airline has been in financial difficulty.

Air Berlin reduces staffing in Mallorca

By John Smith

DESPITE the fact that Air Berlin has been the airline bringing in the largest number of passengers to Palma Son Sant Joan airport and has its own dedicated terminal, it intends to reduce its staffing level even more.

The airline has been in financial difficulty for a number of years so has steadily reduced its fleet as well as its staff and indeed has announced that in 2017, it will

pass a number of routes in southern Europe to its former subsidiary Austrian airline Niki (originally founded by Formula 1 driver Niki Lauda).

Now it has announced that it intends to reduce its Palma staffing by 55 employees and intends to cut the working hours of those staff remaining with cuts depending on time of year and flight schedules.

Effectively, the company will cease to have any significance staff presence in Mallorca although the unions will

fight the decision, but it may well be that it even gives up its routes and resigns from the race with other low cost airlines who are increasing their aircraft presence such as easyJet, Eurowings, Norwegian and Ryanair.

It is of course possible however that new owners of Niki and minority shareholders in Air Berlin, the UAE airline Etihad will agree that Niki should expand to take over a number of the Spanish routes including Palma.

NEWS EXTRA

Road horror

TWO men were killed in a traffic accident on the Arta road early on January 17 when a truck and car met each other in a head-on collision.

Furniture fire

FIREFIGHTERS extinguished a huge blaze at a Port d'Alcudia hotel at dawn on January 17. It had started among old furniture and mattresses. Fortunately no one was injured.

Bulldozer tragedy

A WORKMAN tragically died after being trapped underneath the bulldozer he was operating. The incident occurred on January 16 on the road to S'Aranjassa.



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Ruthless gangmasters



TWO BEGGARS: Were tricked into believing they had secured lucrative jobs.

By Matthew Elliott

TWO Bulgarian beggars forced into servitude by a ruthless human trafficking gang shopped their captors to Palma police. The men arrived voluntarily at the station to make their horrifying claims. Their evidence led to the arrest of two gangmasters, also Bulgarian.

The pair had allegedly been tricked into believing that they

were leaving a small Bulgarian village to secure relatively lucrative jobs in Spain picking oranges.

One arrived in Mallorca in October 2016, the other in December, and both were immediately forced onto the streets to beg around Santa Ponsa and Palma. Unless they returned with at least 100 they were savagely beaten with iron rods. In the evenings they were held overnight in squalid conditions

alongside other hostages.

Fortunately they were able to identify a vehicle driven by their captors to police. Officers stopped and searched the car finding dozens of plastic bags with €390 worth of coins stashed under the wheels.

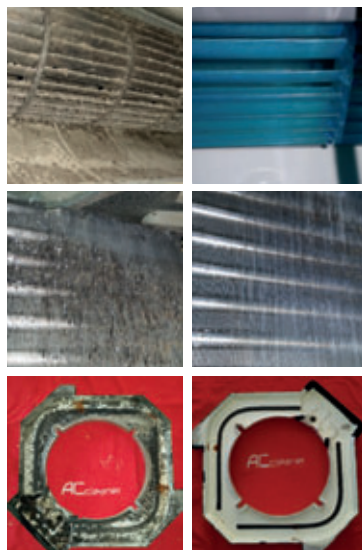
Raiding their homes, police found other victims of the scam, one of whom was forced into homosexual prostitution, anabolic steroids and weapons.



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Bad weather calls halt to festivals

EVENTS planned for the traditional Beneides festivities which had to be postponed because of the poor weather will now take place at the weekend.

As snow arrived in many areas the decision was taken to suspend many

events and stage them on either Saturday or Sunday.

Apart from the cold, it was thought any floats pulled by horses would be unsafe if surfaces began to get slippery.

The hope is that the weather will improve for the weekend enabling participants and spectators alike to celebrate.

The events in Muro will now take place on Sunday along with those in Manacor.

Horses buried and cats shot



MEAN OWNER:
Allegedly mistreated staff and animals.

ACCORDING to a report released by the National Police, officers investigating the activities of a Palma-based owner of a riding club discovered sufficient evidence to allow them to arrest him on suspicion of a number of crimes.

He allegedly bullied, mistreated and underpaid employees, making them work longer hours than normal, paid very low salaries and refused to allow them to take statutory holidays and they were too scared of losing their jobs to complain. It also transpired he was too mean to employ vets when horses fell ill but required staff to dispense medicine and in the event that a horse died, it was simply buried without any of the authorities being notified.

It was also alleged he enjoyed shooting stray and farm cats using a shotgun as he considered there were too many on his property.

PETER MADDOCKS

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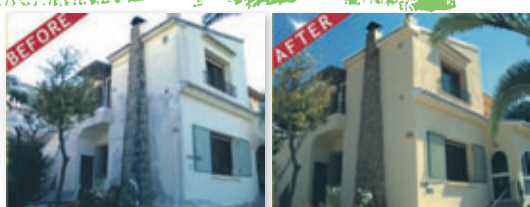
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Advertising Feature

Euro in the middle

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

An ordinary week for the Euro kept it in the middle of the bunch as investors' attention was focused elsewhere. The economic data from Euro-roland were broadly positive, with confidence and output measures mostly exceeding forecast. Unemployment in the Eurozone as a whole was unchanged at 9.8% while in Greece it remained well into double figures at 23.1%.

The real headlines were being made in Britain and the States. Britain's Prime Minister said people who thought the country could keep "bits of EU membership" were missing the point that it "would be leaving." Germany's Prime Minister said much the same thing the following day. America's President-elect held an anarchic press conference, during which no mention was made of the stimulus measures that investors had been banking on. Consequently the Euro added a third of a US cent and strengthened by two and a half cents against Sterling.

USD weekly currency update

The highlight - or at any rate the focus - of the Dollar's week was Donald Trump's press conference on Wednesday, his first and only as President-elect. For supporters of the Dollar it was a sobering affair, revolving mainly around Mr Trump's alleged business and leisure interests.

There was no mention of the stimulative tax and spending measures upon which they had been pinning their hopes. The Dollar lost a third of a cent to the Euro.

It gained two and a quarter cents against the pound, which took three palpable hits from two Prime Ministers. Last Sunday Theresa May said Britain cannot keep "bits" of the EU (such as the single market) when it leaves. The following day Germany's Angela Merkel said much the same thing. Then on Thursday Sterling fell again when Downing Street announced that Ms May will be making a speech about Brexit on Tuesday.

CAD weekly currency update

It was a good week for the Canadian Dollar, which was strengthened slightly, on average, against the other dozen most actively-traded currencies. It added two thirds of a US cent and went up by four and a quarter cents against Sterling. Most of the heavy lifting was done last Friday, as a result of some strong Canadian employment figures and an unexpected trade surplus, and on Monday after Britain's Prime Minister appeared to rule out remaining within the EU single market.

Germany's Prime Minister echoed her words the following day, making a 'hard' Brexit look even more likely.

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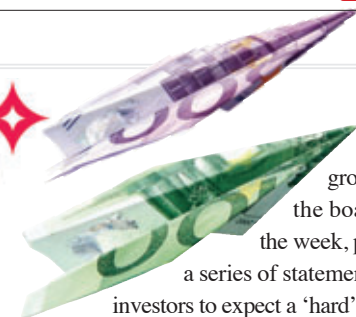
She can be contacted on
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A press conference held by the US President-elect dented the Greenback's prospects when it focused mainly on Mr Trump's alleged business and leisure interests and on miscellaneous threats to commerce and the media. There was no mention of the stimulative tax cuts and public spending that had enthused buyers at the end of 2016.

AUD weekly currency update

The Australian Dollar was the week's strongest performer by a comfortable margin of 0.5%. It added more than one and a half US cents and went up by six and a half cents - almost 4% - against Sterling. Its progress against Sterling was relatively steady. The Pound lost



ground across the board during the week, pursued by a series of statements that led investors to expect a 'hard' Brexit and departure from the EU single market. Theresa May and Germany's Angela Merkel both gave that impression and the Pound took another hit when Downing Street announced on Thursday that Ms May would be addressing the subject next Tuesday.

The US Dollar's particular problem was president-elect Donald Trump's press conference, which focused on his business interests and unsubstantiated allegations about his leisure habits. No mention was made of the stimulative tax cuts and public spending that buyers of the US Dollar had been banking on.

NZD weekly currency update

The NZ Dollar took second place for the week behind the Australian Dollar. In both cases it was the goings-on elsewhere that allowed them to move ahead. The Kiwi picked up almost one US cent and strengthened by five and a quarter cents against Sterling - 3%. Its gains against the Greenback were mainly the result of an awkward press conference held by US President-elect Donald Trump.

Sterling's problem was a growing concern that the coming Brexit will be a 'hard' one, involving departure from the single market. Britain's Prime Minister fed that fear, as did her opposite number in Berlin.



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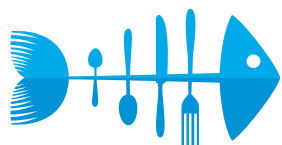
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Gangsters busted

GUARDIA Civil officers arrested 14 members of an organised drugs trafficking gang operating in Palma during an intense police operation. More than 100 officers simultaneously barged into 10 homes across the city in the wee hours of the morning.

Alongside 12 Moroccans and two Spaniards, police seized one kilo of cocaine, a half kilo of marihuana, and €18,000 in hard cash. They also confiscated eight high-end vehicles, jewels, mobile phones and televisions.

Inca's Europa Park set to be improved

By John Smith

WITH a budget of €70,000 the Inca Council has decided to take action to improve the facilities in its second largest open space, Europa Park.

Residents have complained about the way in which the children's playground has been allowed to deteriorate and workers will repair the damaged equipment, fence in the area in order to keep animals out

and make access easier for the disabled and parents with pushchairs and prams.

There will also be work undertaken to improve general access to the park from Calle Tirant lo Blanc and plans are in hand to improve lighting, litter bins and even introduce better soil so that this important green space can provide an oasis of calm for residents rather than just act as a break between the industrial estate and the rest of the town.



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Snail salesman

ENVIRONMENTAL officers are investigating allegations that a species of snail unique to the Balearics is on sale through a website in an unidentified European country. The offer is illegal as harvesting the endangered snail threatens its very existence, a worrying loss for native wildlife.

The website reportedly offers collectors the chance to purchase the snails for a considerable price. They are sent in specialised packaging after being hunted across Mallorca and the islands.

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Road safety works begin

REINFORCEMENT works on the MA-3460 at Alcudia Port and the MA-3470 to Murterar have begun in earnest. A roundabout will be built at the intersection between the two routes as road officials strive to improve safety.

More than 5,000km of road will be better asphalted while drainage pipes will be installed to protect against flooding. Work is expected to take upwards of three months with a budget just north of €1.2 million.

There will be inconvenience for traffic but passage is guaranteed. The two stretches of road carry tens of thousands of vehicles each day but the intersection has a worryingly high accident rate.



CATALAN: To be promoted in new pilot project.

Linguistic self-esteem

CATALAN will be promoted in a new pilot project designed to bolster the linguistic self-esteem among native speakers of the Romance language. Funded by the Institute for Culture and Heritage, the scheme begins in February at five educational centres across Palma.

Courses will stress Catalan culture and hope to normalise the language, which often plays second fiddle to

Castilian Spanish, in the public domain.

Catalan speakers across the Balearics and also in Valencia have often complained that it is difficult to access basic public and political services in their mother tongue. There are roughly five million speakers in the country, chiefly in Catalonia where Catalan takes precedence over Spanish.

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RBS faces another hurdle

By John Smith

THERE seems to be a certain irony in the fact the RBS (The Royal Bank of Scotland) which is 73 per cent owned by the British government is likely to be fined an extremely large amount of money by the US government.

The whole problem revolves around its involvement in what is known as the sub-prime market in the USA where it acted recklessly alongside plenty of other national and international banks.

**\$10 billion
(€9.5 billion)**
as a fine from the US government would probably be seen as a reasonable amount for RBS to have to pay.
More could be problematical.

Barclays has decided not to settle with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and is going to court to argue that as they were only a small play-

er in this market they should not pay huge fines and that the DOJ has favoured US banks, fining them far less than foreign banks.

It seemed that Deutsche Bank could have gone under when it was threatened with a \$14 billion (€13.3 billion) fine and then settled at \$7.2 billion (€6.85 billion) with the company still intact.

By the time that a decision is made with RBS, there will be a change of president as well as director of the DOJ, so it will be something of a tight rope walk as the British government lobbies on behalf of the bank whilst the Americans look to make as much money as possible.

Bank bail-out cost

ACCORDING to a report issued by the Spanish Court of Auditors on January 10, the actual provision made for the cost of 'bailing out' the banks in the period of 2009 to 2015 is recorded as €122.122 billion.

This figure does not take into account potential income which could be raised from the probable sale of shares in banks held by the government, which includes Bankia and BMN and the actual amount actually expended is the slightly less eye watering €60.718 billion at the end of 2015.

Time will tell whether either figure will reduce depending on market fluctuations.

Quote of the Week

Signs are appearing... that the weaker pound is benefiting the economy, especially in terms of rising goods exports."

Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit



Five year Brexit



XAVIER ROLET: Head of the London Stock Exchange.

By John Smith

AS the UK moves closer to the final triggering of Article 50, so different committees in Parliament continue to interview senior businessmen asking their opinion on the future and how the economy is likely to cope with Brexit.

In the latest round of enquiries, the Treasury Select Committee interviewed a number of influential financial figures, one of whom was Xavier Rolet the head of the London

Stock Exchange.

In his statement, he warned that a two-year negotiation was likely to be far too short and that Britain faced a massive desertion of financial jobs from the City of London to other EU member states unless sensible and clear agreements could be made.

To this end therefore, he recommended that Mrs May should look for a five-year rather than two-year exit plan, especially as so many stock sales were made in euros.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

More in work

UNEMPLOYMENT continues to reduce in Spain and the 2016 figure was down by 9.5 per cent compared to 2015 according to the ministry of labour with 3.7 million still out of work, but many of the newly employed are on short term contracts.

Malta teasers

AS the EU's smallest member Malta takes over the presidency, a group of MEPs has accused it of being a tax haven, helping multinational companies avoid payment of more than €14 billion in tax which should have been paid to member states.

Increased turnover

RESULTS from Sainsbury's during Christmas week have surprised analysts by showing an increase in turnover rather than the expected drop, which in turn has led to a healthy growth in the share price thanks in part to the takeover of the Argos Group.

Tourism is still important

GIVING a hint as to the results of the most popular holiday destinations in the world (due to be announced on January 17), the United Nations World Tourism Organisation has revealed that Spain's figure was 10 per cent up on 2015.

With just under 75 million visitors, tourism brought an estimated €60 billion to the country, some of which will have been thanks to the reduction in visitors to Turkey caused by security fears.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 16

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
3i Group PLC	724.50	-1.00	725.00	54.83
Admiral Group PLC	1765.00	-10.00	1774.00	7.82
Anglo American PLC	1367.75	38.00	1329.50	423.32
Antofagasta PLC	741.00	16.00	725.00	151.44
Ashtead Group PLC	1623.00	23.00	1600.00	72.96
Associated British Foods PLC	2579.50	-1.00	2580.00	11.43
AstraZeneca PLC	4650.25	41.00	4609.00	75.78
Aviva PLC	483.10	-6.10	489.10	249.65
Babcock International Group...	951.50	-3.00	954.00	34.27
BAE Systems PLC	611.00	-0.50	611.50	258.94
Barclays PLC	232.22	-3.05	235.25	1,976.23
Barratt Developments PLC	509.25	-6.50	516.00	415.80
BHP Billiton PLC	1488.75	34.50	1454.50	403.74
BP PLC	516.95	-1.20	518.00	940.82
British American Tobacco PLC	4747.25	17.50	4729.50	84.37
British Land Co PLC	614.00	-4.50	618.00	104.38
BT Group PLC	390.07	-1.60	391.75	362.59
Bunzl PLC	2138.00	1.00	2136.00	14.82
Burberry Group PLC	1629.50	18.00	1611.00	137.70
Capita PLC	510.00	-5.50	515.50	85.22
Carnival PLC	4251.00	8.00	4242.00	16.29
Centrica PLC	232.05	1.80	230.20	256.38
Coca-Cola HBC AG	1801.00	1.00	1802.00	9.85
Compass Group PLC	1469.00	9.00	1460.00	87.25
ConvaTec Group PLC	240.65	0.90	239.70	10.24
CRH PLC	2887.50	12.00	2878.00	21.65
Croda International PLC	3340.00	0.00	3338.00	5.74
DCC PLC	6122.50	5.00	6120.00	2.75
Diageo PLC	2207.50	10.00	2197.50	162.23
Direct Line Insurance Group...	347.50	-0.90	348.60	134.43
Dixons Carphone PLC	348.85	-2.30	350.90	106.22
easylet PLC	1022.50	-13.00	1036.00	190.22
Experian PLC	1609.00	8.00	1601.00	58.69
Fresnillo PLC	1453.50	40.00	1413.00	100.51
GKN PLC	343.35	2.10	341.30	174.46
GlaxoSmithKline PLC	1593.00	7.00	1585.50	491.91
Glencore PLC	323.57	6.71	316.70	3,272.24
Hammerson PLC	559.75	-4.50	564.00	27.41
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	1279.00	1.00	1277.00	19.69
Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC	1900.00	4.00	1896.00	4.50
HSBC Holdings PLC	679.05	1.10	678.00	617.40
Imperial Brands PLC	3617.75	27.00	3590.00	70.37
Informa PLC	694.25	0.50	693.50	42.61
InterContinental Hotels Gro...	3767.50	10.00	3759.00	16.30
International Consolidated ...	481.05	-7.80	488.70	383.44
Intertek Group PLC	3551.00	4.00	3547.00	6.87
Intu Properties PLC	276.90	-1.80	278.80	21.33
ITV PLC	207.40	-1.40	208.60	599.24
Johnson Matthey PLC	3255.00	7.00	3248.00	19.18
Kingfisher PLC	351.40	-1.50	353.00	139.99

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group PLC	1007.00	-13.00	1020.00	37.43
Legal & General Group PLC	246.75	-1.90	248.70	393.18
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	65.33	-0.69	66.04	10,165.96
London Stock Exchange Group...	2936.50	3.00	2933.00	4.94
Marks & Spencer Group PLC	340.35	1.29	339.10	372.04
Mediclinic International PLC	800.25	8.50	792.00	17.92
Merlin Entertainments PLC	480.50	1.40	479.00	32.20
Micro Focus International PLC	2156.00	-1.00	2157.00	7.59
Mondi PLC	1772.50	5.00	1768.00	25.46
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets PLC	240.75	-1.20	241.90	338.14
National Grid PLC	960.30	3.60	956.90	260.81
Next PLC	4032.00	-9.00	4042.00	27.36
Old Mutual PLC	213.70	1.10	212.50	240.78
Paddy Power Betfair PLC	8597.50	-50.00	8645.00	.87
Pearson PLC	813.75	-3.00	817.00	65.46
Persimmon PLC	1973.00	-24.00	1997.00	33.16
Provident Financial PLC	2833.00	-12.00	2844.00	5.50
Prudential PLC	1600.25	-11.50	1612.50	68.91
Randgold Resources Ltd	6865.00	150.00	6710.00	34.71
Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	6878.50	34.00	6845.00	35.38
RELX PLC	1472.00	7.00	1464.00	87.84
Rio Tinto PLC	3494.50	76.50	3417.50	181.26
Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	663.75	2.50	661.50	108.43
Royal Bank of Scotland Grou...	217.15	-3.90	221.10	749.78
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	2382.75	5.50	2377.50	160.60
Royal Mail PLC	443.85	-3.60	447.40	138.13
RSA Insurance Group PLC	579.50	-1.00	580.50	27.51
Sage Group (The) PLC	676.50	2.00	674.50	24.39
Sainsbury (J) PLC	262.45	-1.90	264.60	276.41
Schroders PLC	3042.50	-2.00	3047.00	2.23
Severn Trent PLC	2215.00	0.00	2215.00	24.48
Shire PLC	4685.00	22.00	4661.50	70.40
Sky PLC	993.25	1.00	992.00	83.57
Smith & Nephew PLC	1243.50	8.00	1236.00	125.17
Smiths Group PLC	1533.00	6.00	1526.00	15.57
Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	2150.00	22.00	2129.00	10.33
SSE PLC	1558.50	4.00	1553.00	87.12
Standard Chartered PLC	719.75	1.20	718.50	144.01
Standard Life PLC	353.20	-3.50	357.10	92.58
St James's Place PLC	1076.50	-9.70	1085.00	58.05
Taylor Wimpey PLC	171.30	-1.20	172.60	597.70
Tesco PLC	204.25	-2.14	206.00	640.52
TUI AG	1134.00	-5.00	1141.00	36.23
Unilever PLC	3410.00	25.50	3383.00	75.70
United Utilities Group PLC	896.00	6.00	890.00	49.02
Vodafone Group PLC	212.62	-2.05	214.70	2,247.45
Whitbread PLC	4078.00	-14.00	4093.00	17.54
Wolseley PLC	4986.00	-11.00	4996.00	29.39
Worldpay Group PLC	291.65	-1.10	292.60	80.23
WPP PLC	1896.50	9.00	1888.00	117.16

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CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 16

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	177,390	-0,03%	-0,050	106M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	76,6200	-0,34%	-0,2600	70M
APPLE	119,040	-0,18%	-0,210	625M
BOEING CO	158,830	+0,34%	0,540	98M
CATERPILLAR	94,480	+0,52%	0,490	55M
CHEVRON	116,38	+0,19%	0,22	219M
CISCO SYSTEMS	30,070	+0,10%	0,030	151M
COCA-COLA	40,88	-0,17%	-0,07	176M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	73,6000	-0,69%	-0,5100	64M
EXXON MOBIL	86,35	+0,01%	0,01	357M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	31,3600	-0,10%	-0,0300	277M
GOLDMAN SACHS	244,30	+0,19%	0,46	96M
HOME DEPOT	135,0400	-0,02%	-0,0300	164M
IBM	167,34	-0,36%	-0,61	159M
INTEL CORP	36,7900	+0,22%	0,0800	173M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	86,7000	+0,53%	0,4600	309M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	114,6000	-0,02%	-0,0200	311M
MC DONALD'S CORP	121,5000	-0,49%	-0,6000	100M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,34	+0,21%	0,13	171M
MICROSOFT	62,700	+0,14%	0,090	486M
NIKE	52,92	+0,99%	0,52	69M
Pfizer	32,5200	-0,25%	-0,0800	196M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	84,010	+0,20%	0,170	224M
TRAVELERS CIES	117,05	+0,26%	0,30	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	110,22	-0,54%	-0,60	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	161,80	-0,34%	-0,56	153M
VERIZON COMMS	52,55	-0,25%	-0,13	214M
VISA	81,17	-0,25%	-0,20	150M
WAL-MART STORES	67,1300	-1,24%	-0,8400	206M
WALT DISNEY CO	108,0600	+0,49%	0,5300	171M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 16

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
DexCom, Inc.	\$ 85.13	17.52 ▲ 25.91%
Telenav, Inc.	\$ 8.05	1.05 ▲ 15%
Celyad SA	\$ 21.6588	2.6588 ▲ 13.99%
Achaogen, Inc.	\$ 17.96	2.15 ▲ 13.60%
Atlanticus Holdings Corporation	\$ 3.068	0.342 ▲ 12.55%
Sangamo Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.40	0.45 ▲ 11.39%
Century Aluminum Company	\$ 11.52	1.16 ▲ 11.20%
Immune Design Corp.	\$ 6.25	0.60 ▲ 10.62%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.05	0.29 ▲ 10.51%
Diana Containerships Inc.	\$ 2.96	0.28 ▲ 10.45%
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 5.60	0.50 ▲ 9.80%
Most Declined		
Inventure Foods, Inc.	\$ 6.36	0.92 ▼ 12.64%
Zogenix, Inc.	\$ 10.35	1.15 ▼ 10%
1st Constitution Bancorp (NJ)	\$ 17.45	1.60 ▼ 8.40%
Fenix Parts, Inc.	\$ 2.70	0.20 ▼ 6.90%
Olympic Steel, Inc.	\$ 24.53	1.69 ▼ 6.45%
HomeStreet, Inc.	\$ 29.10	1.85 ▼ 5.98%
Inseego Corp.	\$ 2.87	0.18 ▼ 5.90%
Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.	\$ 28.22	1.64 ▼ 5.49%
Novan, Inc.	\$ 22.69	1.31 ▼ 5.46%
ReWalk Robotics Ltd	\$ 2.60	0.15 ▼ 5.45%
Roka Bioscience, Inc.	\$ 4.72	0.26 ▼ 5.22%

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Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

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€0.9468 €0.0004

Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

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

DEALING PRICE

€0.9859.....-€0.0002
€0.9659.....-€0.0002
£1.1395..... £0.0085
€1.0749..... €0.0073
£1.2661..... £0.0141
€1.1846..... €0.0123
£1.3846..... £0.0220
€1.3023..... €0.0195

Price Movement

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

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Machines could take over the future

By John Smith

EVER since the Jewish religion introduced the concept of the Golem in the Middle Ages, a mud statue brought to life but without a soul, mankind has believed that human replicas could eventually be animated and created with intelligence.

“It is anticipated that call centres manned by humans will disappear within next 10 years.

The word Robot was first introduced to the world in 1920 in a play and since then, the concept of a mechanical being has been expanded to include Android (human robot) and Cyborg (man-machine hybrid).

Popular culture abounds with references to these man-created machines and robotics have been used in industry for many years now, but the European Parliament is worried that as they become more human in form and thought, their existence



Photo Credit: Wilyam Bradberry Shutterstock

NEW LAWS: To be created, just in case robots take over.

should be covered by law.

MEPs have therefore been presented with a report which recognises that there is a new revolution in robotics and artificial intelligence and therefore laws should be passed before it is too late to regularise their production and ‘lives.’

In essence the reports suggests that the parliament needs to decide whether there is such a thing as an ‘electronic person’ and if so what rights if any they should be given. In addition, MEPs are recommended to instruct manufacturers to come up with an easy way to termi-

nate the robots ‘life’ if necessary.

In his 1950 novel ‘I Robot,’ science fiction writer Isaac Asimov created the three laws of robotics which were built into the brains of all robots and these are:

‘A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a

human being to come to harm.’

‘A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.’

‘A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.’

It is possible that these ‘laws’ will be part of any new EU legislation especially as artificial intelligence becomes more than a jerky white plastic robot playing chess and humanoid androids start to take over work from human beings.

It is already anticipated that call centres manned by humans will disappear within the next 10 years or so and as we enter the ‘Brave New World,’ the EU wants to ensure that it does not become a dystopian nightmare as seen in ‘The Terminator’ and ‘The Matrix.’

It is however unlikely that legislators will be brave enough to stop the inevitable job losses that will occur when big business is able to use artificially intelligent creations which don’t have unions, lunch breaks, wage demands, holidays or maternity leave.

Enjoy free coffee and pay for your time

By John Smith

TWO major developments have caused some problems for High Street operators and a Russian entrepreneur may just have found the answer.

When the coffee revolution saw the expansion of companies such as Starbucks, Costa Coffee and even McCafe across Europe, it created a whole new generation of baristas and customers but this coincided with the growth of home working for many.

Rather than hang around in the house, individuals with their lap tops started to congregate in these coffee shops to take advantage of the trendy interiors, good coffee, warm surroundings and free WiFi.

The problem that arises is that these individuals take up space and unless they are keeping the corporate coffee cup loaded, are not generating the sort of profits that these international (and even independents) need to keep in business.

A few years ago, a Russian poet turned businessman Ivan Mitin expanded a poetry group which met in bars and cafés in Moscow so that it had a regular meeting place called the Treehouse.

At that time, he relied on donations to ensure that he was able to secure the room on a regular basis but having decided that this was a somewhat precarious situation he came up with the idea of charging people to attend.

As this went so well he expanded the concept and created Ziferblat which means Clockface in



MEETING PLACE: Visitors use the Manchester room.

both German and Russian with the concept that people would pay by the minute to use a room as a café and meeting place but all food and drink would be free.

So successful was this concept that he soon found himself opening a number of these rooms around Russia and in 2014 opened his first Ziferblat in London.

Very simply visitors receive a clock when they

arrive and pay 3p (4c) per minute whilst using the room. There are no waiters but guests can make themselves tea and coffee, have biscuits and cakes and use the free WiFi whilst chatting with friends or sitting at their laptops working.

Unlike a coffee shop, the laid back atmosphere encourages people to talk to each other and there is background music as well as occasional performances by local musicians with artists often wel-

come to hang their work on the walls.

Whilst this wouldn’t suit everyone, the concept is such that it has expanded within the UK to Liverpool and Manchester and other sites where rents are not too high will be developed.

As the business continues to develop so, it will no doubt head for popular cities with trendy student populations such as Amsterdam and Barcelona.

Photo Credit: Ziferblat UK

Bitcoin, the world's strongest currency

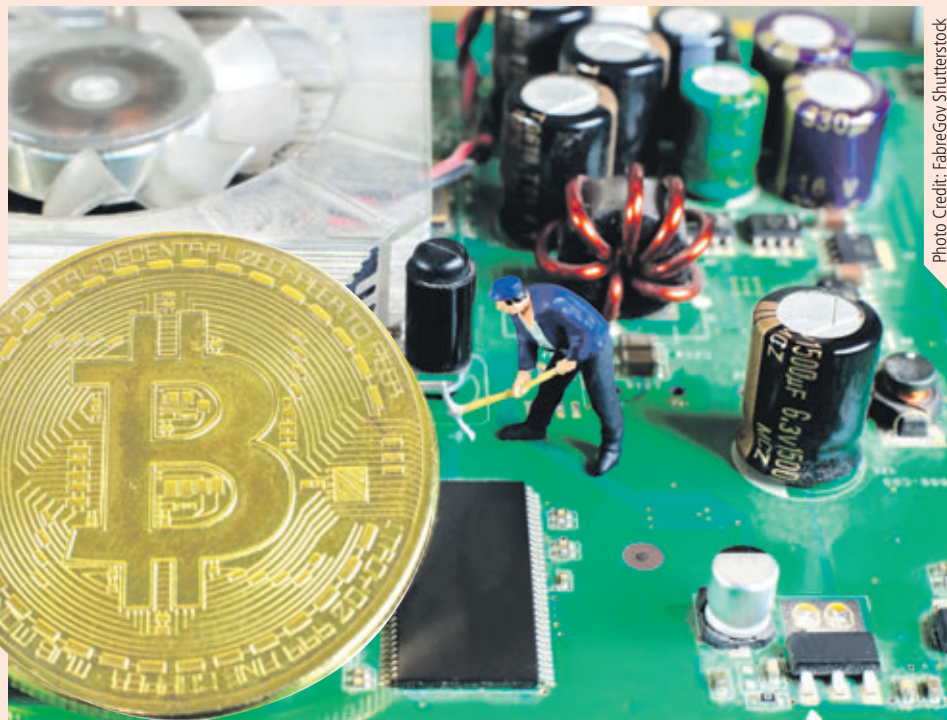


Photo Credit: FabreGov Shutterstock

WEB HELD: Mining for Bitcoins.

By John Smith

FOR those who have heard the name but don't understand the meaning, a Bitcoin is an imaginary currency supposedly created by a Japanese genius several years ago which can be used instead of traditional currency.

There are an estimated 15 million Bitcoins in existence at the moment, but the amount grows each day as more coins are 'mined'!

The act of 'mining' involves a computer solving a difficult mathematical problem and every time the problem is solved a number of new Bitcoins are created with a proportion going to the problem solver.

There are a number of Bitcoin factories with numerous computers linked together to solve the problem as quickly as possible, thus generating more of the web held coins for the problem solver.

All of the Bitcoins are web held in Bitcoin wallets and they are traded for hard cash so that demand and availability

dictates the value of an individual Bitcoin, but the price is surprisingly high and the record cost of a single Bitcoin was set early in January 2017 at \$1,129 (€1,144).

The reason that this form of artificial currency is so expensive is that it is completely uncontrolled by any government and it is therefore an ideal way of hiding income and moving worth around the world.

It is alleged that many major international drug deals are paid for in Bitcoins and those wanting to transfer undeclared profits out of their country of residence also turn to Bitcoins.

Without question, there has been a steady increase in the value of this 'imaginary currency' especially as different countries impose export restrictions on funds as well as cracking down on tax avoidance.

Years ago, airline tickets were a good way of getting money out of a country, so someone in the UK could purchase a ticket giving them first class flights from Lagos to London, return Concorde

flights to New York and then return tickets to Lagos for half the price of the normal Concorde fare.

The concept was simple as the Nigerian purchaser of the original ticket paid in Naira and he in turn was then paid in Sterling into a foreign bank account and the Lagos-London-Lagos legs were just thrown away.

Recently, there has been a great demand from China for Bitcoins where wealthy individuals have been using them to get round exchange control, but as the Chinese authorities have announced they will be investigating this whole matter, the Bitcoin market saw a drop in a few days of \$369 (€346) per coin due to nervousness in that market.

When one considers that at the beginning of 2011, a single Bitcoin was worth just €1, anyone who invested in them then has seen an incredible growth in value and the currency is likely to continue to have worth, as long as there are those who don't enjoy financial transparency.

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I NEVER chose to be a nonconformist. Sitting here at 77 years of age (already not conforming to three score and 10!) it is now painfully obvious that choosing to remain within our society as an 'antisocial,' was, at the very least, going to be difficult and certainly not make you the winner of many popularity contests.

Of course, at the outset you don't know who, or even what you are. As a new manifestation you simply go with the flow. There is no set beginning to non-conformity, it is something that just happens. There does however become a point when the choice has to be made. You either drop out or stay in.

Well I chose to stay in. Although, through my spiritual leanings, I was offered a host of escapes, i.e. hippie communes, becoming a Tibetan monk, taking

the junkie route, membership of numerous cults, including the highly dangerous Scientology and all of its pathetic offshoots specifically designed to control the weak.

I knew that to have any chance of influencing events in a society I didn't agree with, I had to stay a

“ Egotistical multi-millionaires of the Angelina Jolie and Bono ilk wander between mud huts trying to make us all feel bad.”

part of it. Politics would have been an obvious choice I suppose, but unfortunately, in my day, to enter into the political arena you had to either be a total conformist, a complete hypocrite, or an 'old boy' (no change there then!)

So I chose Showbiz. Ha! The most hypocritical occupation of them all. Typical examples of this

are the egotistical multi-millionaires of the Angelina Jolie and Bono ilk, wandering between mud huts, trying to make us all feel bad and responsible for the ills of the world, before scurrying back to their existence of cosseted grandeur and luxury.

For heaven's sake give us all a break and stick to your lives of fantasy, where you all belong.

One thing non-conformity does achieve however is a relentless thickening of the skin, so keep those letters coming. The more derogatory they are, the more chance you have of being published!

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- PACT
- FACE
- FACT



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Sat - 12 6 Sh	Tues - 15 8 C	Sat - 9 -2 C	Tues - 10 2 C
Sun - 13 5 Cl	Wed - 16 10 C	Sun - 9 -3 C	Wed - 12 4 Sh
Almeria		Malaga	
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Sat - 14 6 Cl	Tues - 17 8 Cl	Sat - 14 5 Cl	Tues - 17 8 Cl
Sun - 14 5 C	Wed - 18 10 Sh	Sun - 14 5 Sh	Wed - 17 9 Sh
Barcelona		Mallorca	
TODAY: CLEAR MAX 10C, MIN 6C		TODAY: SHOWERS MAX 12C, MIN 6C	
Fri - 12 6 Sh	Mon - 13 3 C	Fri - 12 6 Sh	Mon - 14 6 C
Sat - 12 3 Cl	Tues - 13 4 Sh	Sat - 13 5 C	Tues - 15 6 Cl
Sun - 12 3 Sh	Wed - 15 5 S	Sun - 13 5 Sh	Wed - 16 7 Cl
Benidorm		Murcia	
TODAY: SHOWERS MAX 10C, MIN 8C		TODAY: SHOWERS MAX 9C, MIN 5C	
Fri - 12 6 Sh	Mon - 14 9 C	Fri - 11 4 Sh	Mon - 14 4 C
Sat - 12 8 Sh	Tues - 15 8 C	Sat - 12 4 Sh	Tues - 16 6 Cl
Sun - 14 6 C	Wed - 16 9 C	Sun - 13 3 C	Wed - 17 7 Sh

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

YOUR STARS

PISCES ♋ (February 20 - March 20)
An exciting invitation may set tongues wagging and make a loved one jealous. You, meanwhile, are quite bemused by the whole thing. What comes out of this week is that you are of considerable value to others. The mere thought of you not being around sends ripples through your social circle.

ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)
Being asked to take on a new and demanding task this week may see you wishing that you had been less visible. However, don't think of the hard work involved but rather the brilliant outcome. You will be popular.

TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)
An interest in technology is not something new to you. What is great, though, is that the penny has suddenly dropped. This week sees you understanding more and wanting to know more. This is good for both your work and social life.

AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)
This being a family oriented week, much of it may be spent getting together with relatives and going over old times. Perhaps you are compiling a photo album for older members of the family or vice versa.

GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)
An urge to get moving must mean that spring is round the corner. Certainly, you are questioning where you want to be in the months ahead. A house move or work placement may be on your mind. At what seems to be an unsettled time, decisions need to be made and worked towards.

CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)
Be aware that not everyone is willing to work as hard as you. When approached by someone wanting you to trust them, be sure of their motives. Do what you feel is right but remain firmly in control, especially financially. It may not be the time to make a particular move, although others think that it is. There's no problem with discussing things and talking them through. Keep up your healthy habits because you need lots of energy, especially at the weekend.

LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)
Social demands are made, but try to

shuffle them to the weekend. Be diplomatic or someone close could become irritated. Keep an eye on the small print because something fundamental may have changed in a long-standing arrangement. Suddenly, at the weekend, you are thrust into the limelight.

VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)
Be aware that leopards do not change their spots, they merely hide them. Those who demand your trust need a cool checking out and don't be afraid to say 'no' as and when necessary. Finances are well aspected this week with a new idea proving both worthwhile in terms of your time and profitable.

LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)
Career and home are in disharmony but a bit of compromise soon sorts things out. You don't like playing the 'bad guy,' but honesty is also important to you. Speaking your mind can be liberating although, initially, you may

see it as a nuisance and embarrassing. A meeting at the weekend is both confusing and disarming.

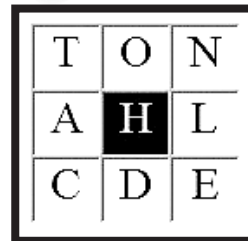
SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)
Someone with a larger-than-life imagination makes you smile but that was not their intention. Try to be diplomatic and steer them in a different direction. Some feelings of loneliness will not be assuaged by working more. Perhaps it is time to consider taking on a pet or giving a current pet more attention.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)
Sometimes, you find it hard to do things just for the pure enjoyment of it. Realise that not everything has to have a purpose or a profit. Look round this week and seek out something that will please your senses and bring a smile to your lips. Make this a week when you live for the moment and give full rein to your imagination.

CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)
Contact with a less than ideal situation makes you realise just how lucky you are. It has been clear that the weeks are changeable and your situation at the moment far from settled. Pity those whose day-to-day life is completely predictable. As someone who values an element of challenge, it is enjoyable to know that unexpected times are ahead.

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 H) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.

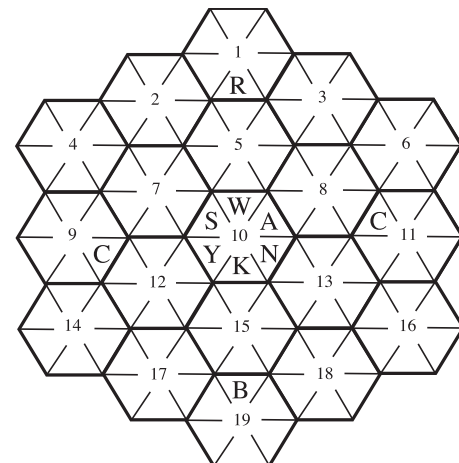
- TARGET:
• Average: 16 • Good: 22
• Very good: 32 • Excellent: 42

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

coin cone enol glen gone gown icon lien limn line ling lino lion loin lone long mien mine mown nice noil omen once wine wing wino cling clone clown coign genic gnome incog lemon limen lingo melon mince mince owing wince women coigne coming cowing cowmen gnomie income legion lowing mewing mingle mowing oilmen wigeon cowlng genomic meowing mewling WELCOMING

Hexagram

The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells MUST BE THE SAME. The letters in the words must be written CLOCKWISE. The word in cell 10 (SWANKY) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.



- BLANCH
- BROKEN
- CEREAL
- COYOTE
- ENTIRE
- ESTEEM
- GARAGE
- HEARTY
- HEREBY
- HEROIC
- LINEAR
- OCTANT
- POETIC
- POSSUM
- RABIES
- REASON
- SWANKY (10)
- TRACER
- WARREN

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Escrow 2 Cohere 3 Rookie 4 Chisel 5 Worker 6 Gaiety 7 Cheese 8 Arrive 9 Victim 10 Skater 11 Larvae 12 Raster 13 Stereo 14 Twisty 15 Presto 16 Arrear 17 Tappet 18 Pastor 19 Depose.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA	EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday January 14	Saturday January 14	Tuesday January 10	Friday January 13	Saturday January 14	Sunday January 15
14 19 21 36 53 54	2 4 11 22 25 34	2 11 29 35 44	3 7 16 26 50	2 3 6 10 25 43	3 21 31 39 46
BONUS BALL 33	BONUS BALL 7	LUCKY STARS 4 9	LUCKY STARS 4 7	REINTEGRO 42 7	REINTEGRO 2

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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



Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

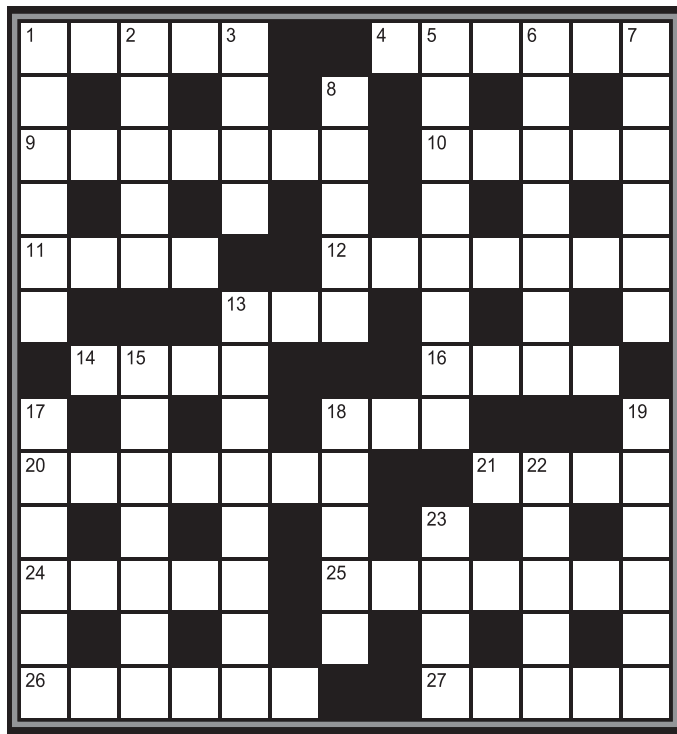
Cryptic

Across

- 1 After time the ceremony becomes commonplace (5)
- 4 Damages found around oriental women's quarters (6)
- 9 Lose hope when praised by mistake (7)
- 10 Hard to falsify ID (5)
- 11 Neckwear connections (4)
- 12 Eve rang about score (7)
- 13 Address that's somewhat undesirable (3)
- 14 Be against tuba coming back (4)
- 16 Bob's the head and Don's upset (4)
- 18 Mark is hiding in the torpedo tube (3)
- 20 Lack of sailor ruined scene (7)
- 21 I would have the French not working (4)
- 24 Part of a similar variety of grub (5)
- 25 Gland is real and damaged (7)
- 26 Cleaned up the fire residue within a day (6)
- 27 A political group get together (5)

Down

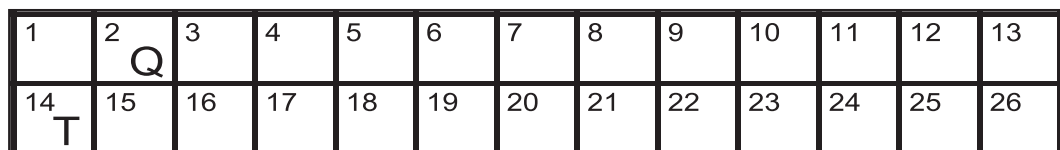
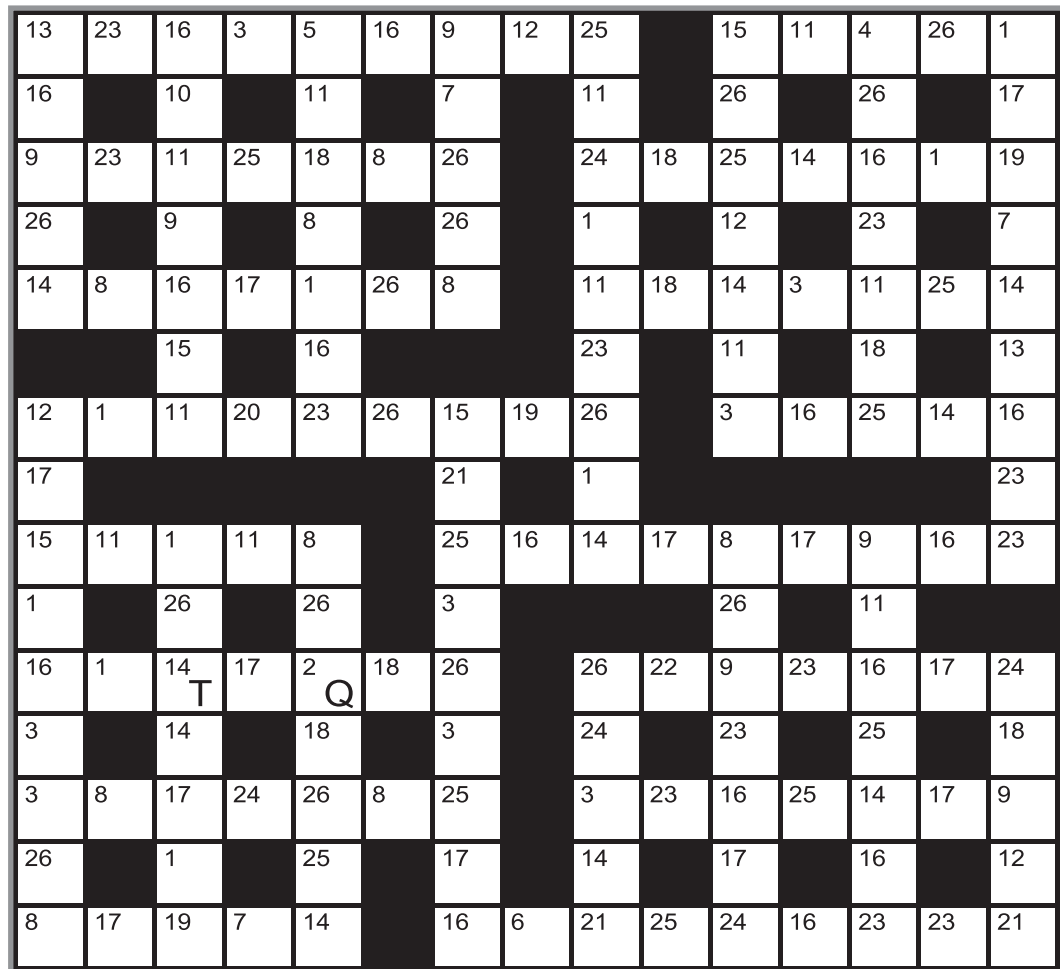
- 1 Up to now, Dorothy has come back and dined (2,4)
- 2 An edition for the children (5)
- 3 Biblical character in Roget's Thesaurus (4)
- 5 Proud of tarragon rum (8)
- 6 Part of UK named Glenda incorrectly (7)
- 7 Drenched lair is covered by grass (6)
- 8 Rider out to get less wet (5)
- 13 Goat seen running around, but that was a long time ago (5,3)
- 15 They write about street eateries (7)
- 17 Indulge in some Mountain Dew, all owned by me (6)
- 18 Hold up the Spanish about 24 hours (5)



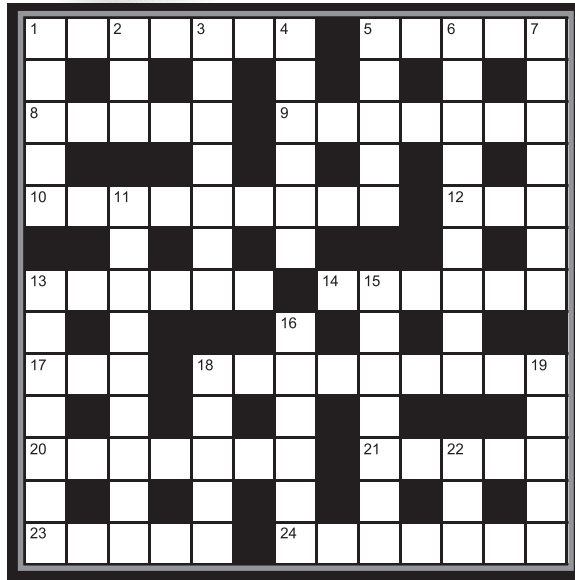
- 19 Show again what happened about the act (6)
- 22 Princess ran up to get foreign currency (5)
- 23 Stumble when making a journey (4)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 2 represents Q and 14 represents T, so fill in Q every time the figure 2 appears and T every time the figure 14 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.

Code Breaker



Quick



Across

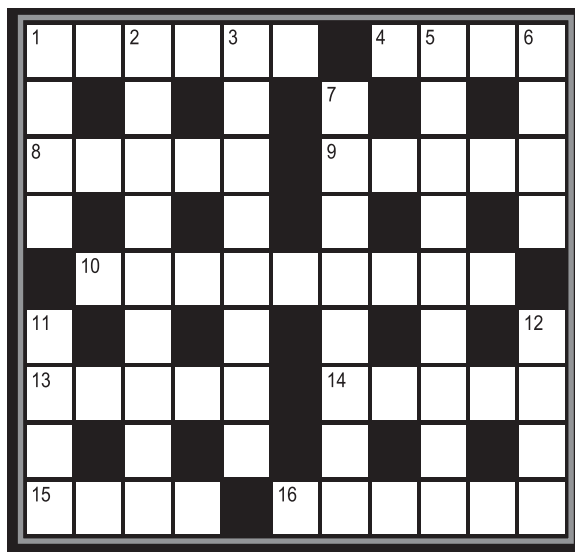
- 1 Marked by distress (7)
- 5 Treaties (5)
- 8 Take without the owner's consent (5)
- 9 Duplicate (7)
- 10 Day immediately before today (9)
- 12 Short sleep (3)
- 13 Pleasantly odd (6)
- 14 Come into view (6)
- 17 Large Australian flightless bird (3)
- 18 Inclined to drowsiness (9)
- 20 Request information about (7)
- 21 Not elaborate or elaborated (5)
- 23 Small, lightly-sweetened cake (5)
- 24 Liable to sudden unpredictable change (7)

Down

- 1 Overcrowded or cluttered with detail (5)
- 2 Chopping tool (3)
- 3 Large sailing vessel (7)
- 4 Speech of violent denunciation (6)
- 5 Young dog (5)
- 6 Customers collectively (9)
- 7 Flee (7)
- 11 Existing state of affairs (6,3)
- 13 Asks for information (7)
- 15 Succeed in material terms (7)
- 16 Block passage through (6)
- 18 Grab hold of (5)
- 19 Loose fitting garment (5)
- 22 Fitting (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Escalera de mano (6)
- 4 Trampa (para cazar) (4)
- 8 Manzana (fruta) (5)
- 9 Fright (sudden fear) (5)
- 10 Sillones (9)
- 13 Corteza (de pan) (5)
- 14 Tails (of birds, horses, fishes, planes) (5)
- 15 Obedecer (4)
- 16 Alcades (6)

Down

- 1 Mentiroso (4)
- 2 Partida (9)
- 3 Army (8)
- 5 Rake (9)
- 6 Pobre (persona, familia, barrio) (4)
- 7 Frost (8)
- 11 Eight (4)
- 12 Bears (animals) (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Telltale, 7 Stall, 8 Resonance, 9 Din, 10 Bath, 11 Pewits, 13 Sloped, 14 Natter, 17 Taiwan, 18 Digs, 20 Two, 22 Emigrated, 23 Trend, 24 Fallible.

Down:

- 1 Throb, 2 Lesotho, 3 Tang, 4 Linger, 5 Lauds, 6 Plunder, 7 Seminar, 12 Merited, 13 Statute, 15 Twin tub, 16 Manila, 17 Tower, 19 Sedge, 21 Oral.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Costume, 5 Screw, 8 Dispute, 9 Adapt, 10 Raise, 11 Precise, 12 Pallet, 14 Barges, 17 Nursery, 19 Press, 22 Arise, 23 Terminate, 24 Tasty, 25 Monster.

Down:

- 1 Cedar, 2 Sushi, 3 Ukulele, 4 Exempt, 5 Share, 6 Roaming, 7 Witness, 12 Pennant, 13 Lorries, 15 Aspirin, 16 System, 18 Every, 20 Evict, 21 Smear.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Manguera, 8 Niece, 9 Packs, 10 All, 11 Latas, 12 Encia, 13 Ida, 14 Since, 15 Droga, 16 Saturday.

Down:

- 2 Aceitunas, 3 Greasiest, 4 Empleador, 5 Alcachofa, 6 English, 7 Espadas.

CODE BREAKER



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
19 JANUARY	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Masters Snooker	8:00pm Emmerdale	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	7:30pm Premier League Legends
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	8:30pm The Premier League Show	8:30pm President Trump	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	8:30pm Football Gold
	7:30pm BBC London News	9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge	9:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	8:45pm Ino Not Available
	8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm Horizon	9:30pm The Cruise	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun	8:55pm Football
	8:30pm EastEnders	11:00pm Jack Dee's Inauguration Helpdesk	10:00pm Unforgotten	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	11:00pm Premier League Match Pack
	9:00pm Spy in the Wild	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm The Restoration Man	11:00pm Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink	11:30pm La Liga Show
	10:00pm Death in Paradise	12:15am Masters Snooker Highlights	11:30pm ITV News London	10:00pm Spies	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:00am Premier League Match Pack
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten		11:45pm The Late Debate	11:00pm 60 Days in Jail		12:30am Barclays Premier League World
	11:30pm BBC London News		12:15am Piers Morgan's Life Stories	11:55pm 24 Hours in A and E		
	11:45pm Question Time			1:00am Britain's Benefit Tenants		
12:45am This Week						
FRIDAY 20 JANUARY	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm Emmerdale	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Football Gold
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Masters Snooker	8:30pm Coronation Street	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	6:00pm Barclays Premier League Preview
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	9:00pm Mastermind	9:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Penguin A and E with Lorraine Kelly	6:30pm Premier League Legends
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm Only Connect	9:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud 2	7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club
	9:30pm Room 101	10:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes	10:00pm Tina and Bobby	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	8:00pm Football
	10:00pm EastEnders	11:00pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	11:00pm Lip Sync Battle UK	11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview
	10:30pm Not Going Out	12:05am Masters Snooker Highlights	11:30pm ITV News London	10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten		11:40pm Fishing Impossible	11:00pm Lee Mack		12:45am Football Gold
	11:25pm BBC London News		12:10am The Wine Show	12:05am First Dates Hotel		
	11:35pm The Graham Norton Show					
12:25am Uncle						
SATURDAY 21 JANUARY	6:25pm Weather	2:00pm Talking Pictures	6:45pm ITV News and Weather	3:30pm Come Dine with Me	12:35pm Escape to Victory	1:00pm Football
	6:30pm Who Dares Wins	2:30pm Bundle of Joy	7:00pm You've Been Framed!	4:30pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	2:50pm Police Interceptors	4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
	7:10pm Pointless	4:05pm Tennis	8:00pm Ninja Warrior UK	5:15pm Location, Location, Location	3:20pm The Yorkshire Vet	6:15pm Football
	8:00pm Let it Shine	5:30pm Masters Snooker	9:00pm The Voice UK	7:10pm Grand Designs	7:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles	9:00pm EFL Goals
	9:25pm Casualty	6:30pm Only Connect	10:30pm Through the Keyhole	7:40pm Channel 4 News	8:05pm NCIS: Los Angeles	9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day
	10:15pm Taboo	7:00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise	11:30pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm Snow White and the Huntsman	9:00pm NCIS	11:30pm Nissan Match Choice
	11:10pm BBC News	8:00pm Snooker	11:45pm I Am Legend	11:00pm The Other Woman	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	12:30am Info Not Available
	11:25pm Weather	11:30pm Looper	1:30am Jackpot247	12:10am The Watch	10:00pm Football on 5	1:00am PI: Match TBA
	11:30pm Match of the Day	1:20am Snooker	Join the presenters live and play roulette on your telly		11:00pm Football on 5	1:00am PI Match Highlights
	12:55am The NFL Show				11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother	
1:25am Paycheck				12:35am Lip Sync Battle UK		
SUNDAY 22 JANUARY	7:25pm Weather	9:30am The Edible Garden	6:15pm ITV News and Weather	6:50pm The Day After Tomorrow	4:00pm George of the Jungle	12:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:30pm Countryfile	10:00am Countryfile	7:00pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Walking the Americas	5:45pm Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud	3:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	8:30pm Still Open All Hours	11:00am Saturday Kitchen	8:30pm The Chase: Celebrity Special	10:00pm Homeland	7:30pm The Adele Story	5:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	9:00pm Call the Midwife	12:30pm Talking Snooker	9:00pm Dance Dance Dance	11:05pm Trainspotting	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	8:00pm Transfer Centre
	10:00pm Apple Tree Yard	1:15pm MOTD2 Extra	9:00pm Endeavour	12:55am The 90s: Ten Years That Changed the World	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	8:30pm Live NFL
	11:00pm BBC News	2:00pm Masters Snooker	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	2:20am How to Lose Weight Well	11:00pm Celebrity Botched Up Bodies	12:00am Live NFL
	11:20pm Regional News	6:15pm Tennis	11:15pm Peston on Sunday		12:05am Just Go with it	3:30am PI Match Highlights
	11:25pm Weather	7:15pm Ski Sunday	12:15am The Cube			4:00am PI Match Highlights
	11:30pm Match of the Day 2	8:00pm Masters Snooker	1:15am Jackpot247			
	12:40am A Question of Sport	12:00am QI XL				
MONDAY 23 JANUARY	7:30pm Regional News	6:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	8:40pm Football
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	10:40pm Spanish Football Gold
	8:30pm Inside Out	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	11:00pm Scottish Football Round Up Show
	9:00pm EastEnders	8:00pm An Island Parish	9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm World's Biggest Beasts	11:15pm Football Gold
	9:30pm Panorama	8:30pm University Challenge	9:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Police Interceptors	11:30pm Premier League Legends
	10:00pm Silent Witness	9:00pm Winterwatch	10:00pm The Halcyon	9:00pm Dispatches	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	12:00am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Horizon	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:30pm Food Unwrapped	11:00pm My Mum's Hotter Than Me!	
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Insert Name Here	11:40pm Through the Keyhole	10:00pm The Undateables	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	12:40am The Chase	11:00pm First Dates Hotel		
	11:45pm Class	12:10am Weather		12:05am Tattoo Fixers		
12:30am Class						
TUESDAY 24 JANUARY	8:00pm The One Show	6:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	4:15pm Stolen Child	7:00pm Premier League Review
	8:30pm EastEnders	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News at 5	8:00pm Transfer Centre
	9:00pm Holby City	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys	9:00pm Martin Clunes: Islands of Australia	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	8:30pm Info Not Available
	10:00pm Silent Witness	8:00pm Put Your Money	10:00pm Sugar Free Farm	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	8:40pm Live Coppa Italia
	11:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Where Your Mouth Is	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	10:40pm Info Not Available
	11:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Winterwatch	11:40pm Wilderness Walks with Ray Mears	9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well	8:00pm Police Interceptors	11:00pm La Liga World
	11:40pm Weather	10:00pm Our Dancing Town	12:10am The Investigator	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	9:00pm Info Not Available	11:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	11:45pm Brainwashing	11:00pm Revolting	1:05am Jackpot247	11:00pm Case 39	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	12:00am Premier League Review
	12:35am Call Security	11:30pm Newsnight		12:05am This is Us	11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter!	
		12:10am Weather			12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY	6:15pm Pointless	5:45pm Tennis	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:00pm 5 News at 5	5:00pm EFL Cup Highlights
	7:00pm BBC News	6:30pm Flog It!	8:00pm Coronation Street	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	6:00pm Premier League Review
	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm The National	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	7:00pm EFL Cup Highlights
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys	11:00pm Television Awards 2017	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	8:00pm Transfer Centre
	9:00pm Who Do You Think You Are?	8:00pm Put Your Money	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm The Concorde Air Disaster	8:30pm Live EFL Cup Semi-Final
	10:00pm Italy's Invisible Cities	9:00pm Where Your Mouth Is	11:45pm Joanna Lumley's Japan	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:15pm Barclays Premier League World
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Winterwatch	12:45am It's Not Rocket Science	10:00pm No Offence	10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother	11:45pm Football Gold
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Hospital	1:40am Jackpot247	11:00pm Women Who Kill	11:00pm In Therapy	12:00am Premier League Review
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Common Sense	4:00am 1000 Heartbeats	12:05am 24 Hours in A and E	12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	
	11:45pm A Question of Sport	12:10am Weather				
12:15am Film 2017						

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

Online voting is real democracy

IMAGINE my disappointment on reading your report on online voting. It was just another way of keeping the same representative system, of choosing which tribe to argue with each other and strut around Westminster. In a digital world we have the opportunity to really democratise politics.

We can be voting for policies, politicians should become the executive that carries out our demands.

This direct democracy would give me the chance to vote for no renewal of Trident, a very expensive policy. It might well be that most voted to keep it, but I could live with that. It would be the choice of the people.

I would want to vote for full people-owned NHS. Again perhaps most people would want public-private partnerships. That again would be their choice. At least I had had my say.

There is actually little difference between the Tory options that you rush off to vote for and even less when they are in power. I don't care which tribe of clowns carries out our directions. Transition would be difficult. Many people are still not online. Perhaps they would still have to visit a polling station to fill in their policy choices. It would not have to happen in one day only. I think more people would take part. They would be much closer to making a difference.

Julian Turner, Malaga

Transport appeal

WE sent a letter to be published in February 2014 regarding the trenet service to Denia. We suggested that a spur could be considered to provide a stop beside the Marina Alta Hospital near La Xara.

Unfortunately there appeared to be no interest. Once again, this week, we had an appointment at the hospital and saw how beneficial a stop could be there. Parking spaces are limited and side roads are choked with vehicles. Anyone without a car has to rely on friends/family, or pay for a taxi.

Using the bus from Denia station to and from the hospital is not an ideal alternative.

We note that there appears to be money available to re-route the tracks on the outskirts of Benidorm



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

RESCUE CENTRES: Are struggling to get dogs adopted into forever homes.

Dog lovers need info

“ I HAVE just read in your newspaper regarding 3,000 dumped dogs and rescue centres struggling to get sufficient dogs adopted into forever homes. My husband and I spend the winters in Spain. We have always had dogs who travelled with us. After losing our last Yorkie we began looking in Spain for a little dog as we felt lost without one. We now have a female Yorkie from a centre near Malaga who has been with us three years. The resident vet there helped with all the formal documents and she happily travels with us between the UK and Spain.

However we feel that not enough publicity is given to make more people aware of the problem, also definitely

not enough is done to advertise events such as one recently where dogs for adoption were on display and stalls were available to purchase items or give a donation. It took us two hours to find where it was located.

We only found out about it from a notice in Spanish on a tree trunk in Benalmadena. We mentioned this to a Spanish gentleman running a stall and he said that was probably why they hadn't had a good turnout. We noticed we were the only English people there. I have asked around amongst dog loving expats who confirm they had not known of events until after they happened.

Barbara Nicholas

to make a stop beside the bus station. We consider this a very sensible move since buses and taxis provide a better service there than the main Benidorm station. (We regularly use the trenet from Teulada.)

It would be really encouraging if someone in authority would consider our proposal at the present time while the track is being upgraded on this stretch.

The stop beside the Marina Baixa hospital, south of Benidorm, is extremely convenient and well used. A stop to serve the Marina Alta would surely be as well used, and encourage people to 'leave the car at home and use public transport.'

Lorna Ross

Much missed

GRAHAM TAYLOR was probably not as popular as he should have been with the average England fan. But his heart was in the right place.

There was no doubt about that. I well remember listening to him as a pundit on a Saturday on Radio 5. I also remember him talking about FIFA and its cash-in-a-paper-bag culture, cash that he refused.

My condolences to his family. He will be much missed as a character in the game and applauding his

memory at every ground in the UK is a fitting tribute.

David P, email.

Snow flakes

I HAVE friends from northern Europe who laugh at me when they hear that back in the UK we are struggling with a bit of snow. I have to admit they are right and that's the annoying thing. If you have it all the time you can put resources into preparing for it. But we don't seem to do that in the UK.

Also I find it embarrassing to see all the coverage in the media. My friends laugh at too - it's as if the world was

going to end. If it is bad then it's bad, but keep a bit of perspective.

Dave, Benalmadena

False impression

LEAPY, is your plaintive cry about 'slings and arrows' at the end of your latest item (*issue 1645, January 12 - 18*) merely a response to the two letters entitled 'Leapy Logic' and 'Bitter Taste'?

The two letters mentioned above serve to contrast your narrow, unbalanced views on President Obama with your obvious hero-worship of President-elect Trump - a deeply flawed man by most standards of common sense. Now you make sweeping comments on the causes of racism, based on one dreadful assault on a man with educational needs. You falsely call the four perpetrators 'care workers.'

This is very mysterious when they were actually drug and alcohol fuelled thugs holding him hostage! There was never any suggestion they might be his care workers. Where do you get your news from? The Trump Foundation? Your emphasis on their skin-colour has nothing to do with it. Their live-streaming of the abuse to millions of people on social media was the REAL reason for the size of the public response!

You would have done better to focus your wrath on the darker aspects of social media when mixed with drugs, alcohol and violence than to use it as an excuse for ill thought through comments on racism - of much lesser importance in this case. Sometimes skin-colour is a factor, Leapy, sometimes not. Picking out this particular angle over all the others creates at best a false impression about racism and at worst provokes unjustified hatred of black people in general. By doing so, you fuel racism yourself. What a surprise!

Brian Eagleson, Mojacar

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

It's not my dog that's howling

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I GOT an email recently from Bryan and it's about a subject I've had a problem with myself. It concerns the owners of dogs that leave them at home all day on their own. Now, if they left them indoors it wouldn't be a problem, but in our case and Bryan's too, we live in an apartment and these dog owners leave them on the terrace and the poor pooches don't like it, so they decide to let everyone know they don't. The way they do this is by crying and wailing or barking.

Now, this is not the dog's fault. It is the selfish owner and to compound the problem the owner, when told about the problem, declares no, their dog is as good as gold and wouldn't disturb anybody. 'Err, yes it does.' 'No it doesn't.' So what do you do about it?

Well in our case we taped the dog crying and then played it back to its owner so she didn't have an argument or so we thought. She then said what did we want her to do? She had to go out to work all day and didn't get home until late in the evening. Whilst we appreciate she had to work, the community couldn't put up with the distressing noise and it most certainly was not fair on the dog.

Eventually the lady moved so the problem went, but it can be terrible and in Bryan's case he doesn't seem to be getting any help from the police which is pretty strange because all you should have to do is get a few of you and go and denounce the offender. So I wish him good luck.

I quite often get asked how I manage to write these grumpy columns every week. Well I tell you it's actually easy to do. You know why? It's because I have reached an age where I am allowed to be peed off by the things that used to not bother me because I had more important things to do, like earn a living and feed the kids. Now all I have is time and the trouble with doing nothing is you don't know when you have finished.

So my day consists of me deciding what bit of nothing I should do next. It can take me an hour to get dressed because I can't stand for more than a few seconds so I have stop and sit all the time. But once I'm up and out and getting on with my non-busy days there are always situations which raise the grump levels! I've been getting some great emails regarding things that make other people grumpy. A lot of them are in the form of poems which is actually very clever, so please keep them coming. If you see me out and about stop and say hello. It's nice when that happens to be honest and it stops me being grumpy. Email me mikesenker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Motorhomes - can they park or camp?

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.



OPENING SKYLIGHTS: Is not an activity that falls into the category of camping.

DEBATES often arise about where motorhomes and camper vans can park. Whilst many town halls have introduced their own legislation, the law is quite clear and in Spain it states that motorhomes and campers are not allowed to 'camp' on the street.

However, what defines 'camping' and what is a vehicle which is simply 'parked'?

The law states that if certain actions are performed, the vehicle is considered to be camping and should do so in an authorised place. These include emitting noise, such as using a generator; extending sun blinds and shades; vehicle stabilisers deployed; emptying or dis-

posing of fluids; using exterior furniture and side or 'swing' windows opened.

There are activities that can be performed whilst stopped which do not fall into the category of camping: occupants being inside the vehicle eating or sleeping; opening the skylight or rooftop window; using wheel chocks on an incline and turning the wheels so they are secured against the kerb.

If the vehicle is correctly and legally parked, these activities can be carried out and will not be classed as camping. Motorhomes have a legal right to park anywhere other vehicles are allowed to as long as not 'camping.'

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

Can they renew residence?

Q. *IN 2006 we went to Alicante and applied for the old style ID card 'residencia.' Of course they were only valid for five years and in 2011 we were unsure about staying in Spain so we let it lapse. Now we have decided to stay so we need to renew. Can we just exchange the old card for the new paper type or do we need to go through the whole process again? If so, what documents do we need?*

C A (Costa Blanca)

A. NO, you cannot exchange your expired permit for a new residence document. You must make a new application.

As EU citizens, you will get the paper document of Certificate of Residence of EU Citizen in Spain. As of

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



2012, the requirements have been stiffened. You will need to show proof of income, either by having a job or being

self-employed, and show that you are registered for Social Security payments. You will need proof of medical insurance as well.

If you are a pensioner with the right to transfer your medical care to Spain, this should be sufficient.

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

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TO READ MORE

Sugar is causing a dental crisis amongst youngsters in the UK

SUGAR. The deadly sin that some experts say can be just as addictive as smoking or drugs. Whether you are indulging in sweets and cakes, or are falling victim to hidden sugars found in cereals and sauces, many of us are having too much of it and children are particularly at risk.

Figures in the UK say more and more children are having to be admitted to hospital to have rotten teeth taken out with sugar being blamed.

A report said nearly 41,000 youngsters had teeth taken out in hospital in 2015/16, some 11 per cent more than four years ago. These operations were carried out at a cost of around £35.6 million.

The chairman of the British Dental Association, said the millions spent on child tooth extractions in hospitals was emblematic of the government's disinterest in oral health and more must be done to prevent tooth decay. It is hoped the government's sugar tax will go some way to cutting the sugar consumption that leads to tooth decay.

Public Health England recently warned children consume half their daily recom-



ROTTEN TEETH: Some experts say sugar can be just as addictive as smoking or drugs.

mended sugar intake even before they go to school with many having almost three teaspoons of sugar at breakfast time with cereals often being the cause of high amounts of sugar.

The government recommends youngsters aged four to six have no more than 19g, or five teaspoons of sugar a day and seven to

10-year-olds should consume no more than 24g, around six teaspoons.

Sugary soft drinks should also be limited as children aged 11-18 get 40 per cent of their added sugars from drinks. UK youngsters are amongst the biggest consumers of soft drinks in Europe with 40 per cent of 11-15 year-olds drinking them daily.

Stay married to help prevent broken bones

COULD being married help prevent broken bones? Researchers in Spain believe it could. They carried out a study and reported that elderly men were 50 per cent less likely to fracture a hip if they are married, while elderly married women cut their risk by 30 per cent. They believe the reason behind this could be that elderly people who live with their partners are more likely to care for each other and are less likely to be malnourished or depressed, making them less frail.

Previous studies have also shown that those

with dementia were more likely to suffer a fall.

“ Those who live with their partners are more likely to care for each other.

The original study was carried out by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Zaragoza in Spain and analysed the medical and psychiatric histories of around 4,800 adults over the age of 55 in Zaragoza.



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ELDERLY PEOPLE: Are less likely to be malnourished or depressed.



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Constant back pain What are the most common causes of back pain?



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

BACK pain can be caused by many different things, but some of the most common causes are inflammation of muscles and tendons or damage to vertebra caused by an injury, prolonged bad posture or lifting excess weight for example. It can also sometimes be caused by inflammation of internal organs such as the kidneys, intestines, liver, etc.

• Many people say their doctor tells them to buy a new mattress when they have back pain. Why?

Mattresses are very important for joint and muscle health, including the lower back area, and to get a good night's sleep. A mattress which is too hard or too soft can be harmful as they can force the spine into a position which puts stress on muscles and vertebra.

• If it turns out not to be the mattress, what can we do to avoid back pain?

There are lots of things that can be done to improve back pain. While the pain is at its worst we should rest, avoid forced postures or lifting heavy items, take anti-inflammatories and muscle relaxers if necessary and see a physiotherapist.

• Can back pain be a sign of a serious problem that requires surgery?

Sometimes back pain, es-

pecially if it lasts a long time, can be a symptom of serious spinal problems occasionally requiring surgery to solve the problem.

• What's the best way to ease the pain? Do I need to take medication?

The best way to ease the pain is to rest, avoid putting strain on the back and applying heat to the affected area. If this doesn't improve matters there are anti-inflammatory creams, pain killers and muscle relaxers which will all help.

• Is there any type of exercise to prevent back pain and spinal problems?

Moderate daily exercise such as walking or swimming combined with specific exercises to strengthen back muscles, avoiding being overweight and avoiding adopting unnatural positions or lifting heavy weights are the best ways to prevent back problems.

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

Conjoined twins die too soon

CONJOINED twins who made the headlines recently have tragically passed away before any treatment could be conducted.

It is believed that they shared all of their major internal organs, but had their own heads and brains.

The hospital in Mexico where they were born confirmed they had passed away, but said the mother was in good health.

Siamese, or conjoined twins, occur in around one in 100,000 pregnancies. Around 40 to 60 per cent of conjoined twins are stillborn, and around 35 per cent survive for just a day.

Ask the Optician: Ski Eye Care

By Andrés Román Romero, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Santa Ponsa

DURING the ski season I receive lots of questions about eye care so I've put together the most commonly asked questions to allow everyone to enjoy the sun safely on the slopes this season.

■ **Why are my eyes more at risk when I'm skiing?** The atmosphere on the slopes is very clear and the reflection of sunlight on the slopes is very strong. These two factors combine to be potentially damaging to the eyes and could lead to long term effects.

■ **How does this affect my eyes?** Although people know how important it is to keep skin protected from the sun, few realise how damaging UV rays can be to the eyes. The UVB rays can irritate the surface of the eye, causing a painful form of sunburn of the eye (called photokeratitis). You may not even be aware whilst out in the snow, as the effects can take six to 12

hours to develop. Long-term exposure to UVB can cause cataracts and even ocular tumours.

■ **How can I protect my eyes whilst out on the slopes?** All you need is good sunglasses, but make sure you choose the right ones. Always read the label carefully and choose the maximum protection factor available. Remember that eyes will be exposed to high levels of UV even if it's not sunny. Choosing sunglasses without the right protection could damage the eye by causing the pupil to dilate, increasing the amount of UV light filtering into the eyes, so always keep this in mind when selecting your eyewear.

Specsavers Opticas is currently offering free eye tests. Specsavers Opticas is located in Santa Ponsa, Avda Rei Jaume 1, 117, Locales 14 and 15, Santa Ponsa, 07180, Mallorca. Call 871 964331 or visit www.specsavers.es to make an appointment.

Brits aren't top of the charts for their drinking

BRITS have a reputation for liking a drink or two, but Britain is not the booziest nation and in fact, ranked number 17 in the world according to a study.

Vouchercloud.com used data from the World Health Organisation relating to 2010 to 2015 to plot the world map charting alcohol consumption and listed Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania as being the highest drinking nations in the world. Moldovans drink an average of 17.4 litres of pure alcohol per year per person, followed by 17.1 litres in Belarus and 16.2 in Lithuania.

The UK ranked 17th consuming an average of 11.6 litres per person per year which is the equivalent of around 119 bottles of wine or 408 pints of lager. Spain was listed at number 33 with 10.6 litres.

Australians were named as the 10th most excessive drinkers whilst the United States doesn't even make the top 20, coming in at number 49.



ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:
Britain is not the worst.

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TO READ MORE

Free screenings in Palma

By John Smith

AS part of the celebration of the fiesta of Sant Sebastià de Palma the city will once again offer free screenings of a number of films directly related to the world of music, from biopics to cult films and tributes to leading figures.

January 22 sees the documentary *Little Girl Blue* - released in 2015 - covering the life and untimely death of the legendary American singer Janis Joplin who like Amy Winehouse so many years later, managed to create a trail of chaos and confusion despite her incredible voice.

Well-known American rock artist Cat Power who herself is no stranger to controversy narrates the story.

This is followed on January 29 by another documentary, *Twenty Feet from Stardom* - released in 2013 - which is a tribute to the backing singers who help to create the sound on stage and recordings of some of the biggest stars in music, yet receive very little credit for their important work.

These two films will be presented at 6pm in the Teatre Municipal Catalina Valls Palma.



Photo Credit: Adam Jones flickr

Janis Joplin at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Classical music in the Balearics

THE Symphony Orchestra of the Balearics continues its season of classical presentations at the Auditorium in Palma with each performance starting at 8pm and costing €22 or €32 depending on seats chosen although there are also discounted season tickets.

On January 26, head conductor Pablo Mielgo, with Julian Rachlin as violin soloist and the participation of Acadèmia Simfònica present *Libertadores*, by Óscar Navarro; *Concerto for viola*, by Béla Bartók; and Sym-

phony no 10, by Dmitri Shostakovich.

On February 16 directed by the Israeli conductor Asher Fisch and accompanied by mezzo-soprano Stefanie Irány the orchestra will present *Symphony no 4*, by Gustav Mahler amongst others.

Closing February performances, Pablo Mielgo, with Christopher Park as piano soloist and the Acadèmia Simfònica present Robert Schumann's *Piano Concerto* and other pieces on February 23.

'Little top' visits

THE award winning *Circ Bover* will be bringing its micro-show *Es Cirquet* to the Placa Vella in Pollensa on Saturday January 21 with four separate performances. Ideal for children, the five metre 'little top' which has the capacity to hold 50 people will offer a 25-minute feast of magic, juggling and clowns during four free shows.

The performances are scheduled to run at 10.15am, 11.00am, 11.45am and 12.30pm. Visit <http://www.circbover.com/>.



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Mallorca Live Festival

THE second Indie music festival Mallorca Live will be held in the former car park of the Aquapark in Magaluf on May 12 and 13 according to the Calvia Council.

Last year's highly successful festival was held in the Palma Son Fusteret showground attracting 10,000 visitors, but this change of venue should fit well with young tourists who visit the tourist area of Magaluf.

Although no acts have been announced as yet, organisers promise that there will be a range of Spanish and international performers not only playing Indie rock, but a mixture of hip-hop and dance and a number of other genres and entertainments will also be included.

Striking art in Marratxí

By John Smith

BORN in Tarragona but resident in Germany, contemporary artist Ivan Montaña presents an overview of his 20-year career at the Cultural Centre S'Escorxador in Marratxí until February 2.

Combining both commercial and personal art, he uses modern pop culture, comics, music and even random images collected from the street to inspire his works and he has been exhibited in a number of galleries throughout Europe.

Recognising that pure art does not always allow the artist to earn a decent living, he opened his own graphic design studio Karacter in 2000 so that he can combine his love of art in more than one direction.

This interesting and eclectic collection entitled 'Welcome to my Jungle' is open to the public on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6pm to 8pm.

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MasterChef talents

with Garry Waite

As a semi-frequent watcher of food programmes such as MasterChef I do still get impressed with some of the contestants.

Even after having spent a life time watching and promoting good food, I step back in awe at some of the talent that now exists, especially considering I came from that traditional school of classic food, but have spent my life living and encouraging, modern creative food. The last programme I watched was last year's Professional Master Chef. I was firstly impressed by the young female contestants. (not being sexist!!) They were young, talented and competitive, a great tribute to the kitchens in which they have been trained and those that trained them.

► **THE WINNER** of MasterChef 2016 was Gary Maclean a 45-year-old Chef/Lecturer in Glasgow. Now, I worked in Glasgow in the early 70's and I can assure you there were no Chefs like Gary around, even in four star hotels in which I was working!

As we all know, there is that age old expression 'those that can't do - teach!!' But let me tell you this did not apply to this guy. His creativity, work ethic and conduct were beyond reproach. He kept his cool and dignity throughout what was a very pressurised competition. Congratulations to him and all the others that took part. As Marcus Waring (holder of two Michelin Stars) said, "Gary soaked up every little bit of this competition. He's lived the Master Chef dream. He's a major talent, he's grown incredibly well, and he's a gentleman of the kitchen."

Wait until he returns to his college - the teacher is not just a teacher anymore, he will be a true inspiration!

► **BUT**, and hence the purpose of this introduction, I am watching junior MasterChef America. Now we all know how confident (and precocious) the Americans can be, especially the kids!! However it has been eye opening to see kids from the age of nine preparing and presenting dishes of such a high standard. From many walks and areas of life some of these kids are amazing.

Once such young aspiring cook (the series call them 'home cooks?') when asked how often he cooked, informed head judge Gordon Ramsay that he cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner for his family every day!! The saddest thing is when they are eliminated (it is after all a competition!) everyone becomes very emotional, even (this one) the viewer!!



Gary Maclean: Won MasterChef 2016.

Oscar Jefferson: Reached semi-final.

► **THEN** we have another four foot culinary star in Oscar Jefferson. At eight years of age he reached the semi final of the Spanish version of the super MasterChef franchise. But he broke down in tears when his attempt to recreate his Grandfather Michael Jefferson's traditional British comfort food of Fish and Chips fell short of the mark. Oscar (the name Jefferson was used in the programme to avoid confusion with the Spanish name of Oscar) was comforted by one of the female judges. He got the cooking of the fish wrong, spilt his tartare sauce and ran out of time. The Spanish public fell in love with him and he has done more to cement the special Spanish/ British relationship than most.

The inconsolable Oscar was re-assured by his grandfather (who came over from the UK to surprise him) not to worry as it is only cooking, not life and death!! Something our Michelin star chefs should learn!! Although I know how they feel!!! But as always there is a bonus. The young aspiring ended up on ITV's Good Morning

with Phil Schofield and Holly Willoughby with old colleague Phil Vickery - showing how to cook Fish and Chips!! By the way Phil, use beer rather than fizzy water - makes it special!!

► **WATCHING** these programmes takes me back to my beginnings. Over the years I have often been asked where my interest in food began. I used to reply that when I was 14 and was looking for a holiday job, my Mother suggested that I try and find a job in a hotel, as I apparently loved helping my parents with dinner parties and stuff!

I did just that, and as a kid started working at the iconic (at the time) Grand Spa Hotel in Clifton, Bristol. But over the years, I realised that for some unknown - and never to be determined - reason I actually used to get up early (6.00am) at my boarding school in Exeter, Devon and go down into the kitchen to help the Headmaster's wife prepare 70 breakfasts for an array of spotty seven to 13 year olds!

Haute Cuisine and fine dining it certainly wasn't! But memories still abound (my grandmother made me a white 'chef's jacket') and I remember cutting toast listening to BBC's morning radio 4!! (highly exiting for a 10-year-old!) Maybe the American kids aren't the only precocious ones!!

► **A GOOD FRIEND** of mine, who writes an exceptionally interesting and informative wine and gastronomy column for another local newspaper, and I, have had a long running discussion about the oft over used expression 'Michelin Star Chef.' He, correctly in some ways, claims that there is no such thing as a Michelin Starred Chef!! He has reason in his argument, but! - Although the much coveted star (or stars) is awarded to the establishment, it is because of the endeavours of the Chef and his team.

Any establishment that is a recipient acknowledges that without the Chef they could not have achieved the acco-

I AM reminded of the quote from the great British Chef and holder of three Michelin Stars, Marco Pierre White. When he was being interviewed by a young foodie journalist, while he was chopping onions, the young scribe asked 'does chopping onions make you cry?' he replied.....

“My dear girl, the only time a Michelin Star Chef cries is when he loses his star - or gains another.”

lude: The fact of the matter is the award is given to the establishment (and it's Chef) because if the Chef leaves, then the Star is suspended and the new Chef has to earn the kudos anew! When said departing Chef leaves for pastures new he takes with him ONLY his reputation as a Michelin starred chef and he, like his previous establishment, has to prove in his new operation, that he is worthy of his ranking!

► **I HAVE KNOWN** and worked with a few 'Michelin Starred Chefs,' one of them tragically passed away at the age of 59 in 2015. Chris Oakes was one of the nicest guys you could hope to meet.

A great Chef, and a real gent in the kitchen too. He gained a star at the Castle Hotel in Taunton, UK and then left to open his own business OAKES of STROUD (Gloucester, UK). In the first year he gained his first Michelin star for that establishment. The following year he gained his second. That became the straw that broke the camel's back.

As anyone who lives/lived in that area knows it was not, at the time, the centre of gastronomic excellence and it proved too much to sustain for the young talented chef who ended up selling his restaurant and getting divorced at the same time! A bi-product of the pressures of our profession. I had not seen Chris since leaving the UK in 1986 and was so pleased that I managed to catch up with him during his first visit to Marbella and have lunch together at Funky Tapas in the year of his passing. He had spent the last few years as Executive Chef at Trinity College Cambridge. He along with many other colleagues is sadly missed.

On that note, I will bid you farewell until next week and should aspiring restaurateurs need some help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A toast to Good Food, Good Wine and Good friends.

Garry Waite is a well-known foodie and restaurateur as well as a Hospitality Management Consultant. If you are contemplating setting up an operation in Spain, or indeed having problems with an existing project contact him on garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com.



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Fabulous news on all fronts

By Matthew Elliott

LAST year was a spectacular one for Spain's booming hotel industry as the residential property market shed the last relics of recession. Total investment in Spanish hotels reached an astronomical €2.15 billion in 2016, the second highest year of the decade after 2015.

International investors interested in new and ever more luxurious hotel complexes across Spain are behind the financing surge. Four and five-star hotels are specifically desirable for foreign companies which are expected to

increase their Spanish investment portfolios in 2017.

On the residential property front the number of so-called 'unsellable homes' is rapidly dwindling.

“ The total number of homes sold in 2016 rose by over a quarter.”

These are homes that were built during the boom years pre-2007 and have been incredibly difficult to sell off since, due to the recession but also

often their location and style.

Yet from a peak of 650,000 unsaleable homes in 2009, there are now just over 300,000. In 2016 the number fell by 20 per cent and that feat is expected to be repeated this year.

Huge swathes of the country, particularly around the Costas, now no longer have any unsellable homes, while they once seemed destined to be permanently inked on the landscape.

The good news comes as the total number of homes sold in 2016 rose by over a quarter to around 445,000. The volume is expected to top the magic half million mark this year.

FOREIGN COMPANIES: Are expected to increase their Spanish investment portfolios in 2017.



IT took a while to gather pace but in 2016 the Spanish government's golden visa scheme finally took off, celebrated with a flourish of Chinese second-home buyers.

The number of Chinese citizens investing in Spanish property rose by 75 per cent last year, contributing €469 million to the state in 666 real estate transactions by November.

In the first 10 months of 2016, the government raked in over €1.7 billion from non-EU foreign nationals eager to invest at least €500,000 in Spanish properties in exchange for a permanent visa.

The Chinese, who largely favour Barcelona and Madrid, topped the contribution list ahead of the Russians who ploughed in €480 million, chiefly along the Costas.

Catalonia gold rush



THRIVING CITIES: Barcelona and Madrid are benefiting from the golden visa scheme.

Barcelona's property market in particular is flourishing under the golden visa scheme. Foreign buyers now account for over 15 per cent of the

market, with the Chinese outspending British and French investors to claim top spot.

Wealthy Chinese are drawn to Spain for a variety of fac-

tors. Climate, major cities, standard of living and visa-free travel across Europe are hugely important.

“ Barcelona's property market in particular is flourishing under the golden visa scheme.”

A key reason, however, is the value for money that Spain represents. Similar visa schemes are offered in other European countries but none offer quite the same combination of pricing, stability and investment prospects that Spain can.

A new record set

PREDICTIONS that 2017 will mark the beginning of the end for skyrocketing UK house prices didn't stop a new all-time high being set in December. Average house prices rose by almost £4,000 (€4,600) in the last month of the year, the highest monthly increase since the Brexit vote.

The average British home finished the year valued at £222,484 (€256,848), marking an annual rise of 6.5 per cent, down on 2015 but still a markedly strong performance. The biggest increases were seen in greater London with Luton and Dagenham clocking average prices almost 20 per cent

higher than in December 2015.

Experts still expect the momentum to slow down this year, with prices anticipated to increase a more modest 1 to 4 per cent as economy slows and spending power diminishes.

One looming difficulty is the continuing divergence of property prices and wage increases. Prices are going up at roughly five times the rate of average earnings, an untenable situation that will soon contribute to reduced buyer demand.

Tenants face the same problem with average rents even outside of uber expensive London now reaching £750 (€865) per month.

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Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



Ref 3031, Cala Pi, 170,000€

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



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





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THERE are plenty of tricks and hacks which can help turn a chaotic, disorganised home into an oasis of calm and tidiness. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to get organised this year, these tips can help you get off to a good start.

- **Twice the space:** Wardrobes apparently crammed to overflowing can be quickly improved by using ring-pulls from drinks cans to double capacity. Simply hang the pull from the handle of one coat hanger and loop the handle of another through the bottom ring.

- **If you don't use it, lose it:** Books you've read and won't read again, old phones, clothes you never wear... stop hoarding and get rid of the lot! There are plenty of charities which

Home organising hacks

would be grateful for your discards.

- **That knife drawer:** there are two questions you need to ask yourself, to decide whether to keep or bin all the knives and gadgets lurking at the back. Has it been more than a month since you used it? Do you have something else that works better? If you answer yes to both, it's time to get rid of it.

- **Orderly laundry:** Rolling towels up instead of folding

them will make it easier to remove one from the cupboard without creasing or dragging out the rest. Sheet sets can be easily kept together by folding and storing each inside one of its pillow cases.

These are just a few little areas which can be quickly and easily organised. If you embrace the attitude and sort out one little bit at a time, within a few weeks you too can have the organised, tidy home you want.

Garden water features are a Spanish tradition

By Graeme Tyrrell

WATER features in a garden landscape have been a treasured element since ancient times. The oldest known landscape design named the Sennuferu Garden, discovered in an Egyptian tomb dated circa 1400 BC, included ponds as water features.

Water features add an ambience of tranquillity, fluidity and contrast to hard landscaping as well as a variety of practical uses. Initially the ponds were for water storage, allowing easy access to water for use in the house, irrigation for the garden, a water source for animals, fish ponds and a refreshing way to cool off.

Ponds, fountains and water channels have been an integrated part of Spanish landscape gardens for centuries. The influence of the Persian, Roman, Moors, British and European Renaissance and Baroque gardens are all apparent in Spain.

Most traditional water features in Spain tend to be formal in design rather

WATER FEATURE: Adds an ambience of tranquillity and contrast.



Photo by Diane Webb Shutterstock

than a replica nature design, such as in Japanese gardens. The influence of the early church decorating fonts or springs as holy basins and sacred grottos has added to the formality of water design features in Spain.

Today a garden design is not complete without a water feature of some kind. Other than for water use in the house, water features can serve similar purposes to ancient days. Swimming pools are included in gardens all over Spain and serve not only as a place to swim but also as a water feature in the

garden when well-placed and designed.

Natural filtration swimming pools with aquatic plants are gaining popularity in some gardens. Water can be added from the natural rainfall when channelled into the pool and overflow directed into the garden or water storage for the garden.

Adding a pond to the garden allows inclusion of a water garden with a range of aquatic plants to add variety to the soil based plants. A pond provides water to attract frogs, dragonflies, ter-rapins, birds and can be the garden's

cooling element in summer. Creating waterfalls and placing fountains also gives the relaxing sound of water movement.

Of course a pond requires good design and maintenance to provide its benefits. Clean water rather than most treated tap water needs to be used to fill it and the water must not become stagnant. A sustainable ecology to retain water quality has to be developed in the design to minimise maintenance disasters. Water should be recycled to prevent wastage and overflow directed to benefit the garden.

Fortunately there is a range of pumps and filters available that can assist in creating a perfect pond or fountain that can become a fascinating focal point in the garden. Decorating a pond with solar lights and lanterns allows a pond to be enjoyed day and night. If you have a confined space, there are plenty of table top fountains and self-contained ornaments with flowing water that can be added to enhance the quality of your garden space indoors or outdoors.

More plants in your life

PLANTS are not just pretty things to have about the house, they have also been found to have health benefits which shouldn't be overlooked. If you have always avoided houseplants, here are a few reasons you should change your tune today:

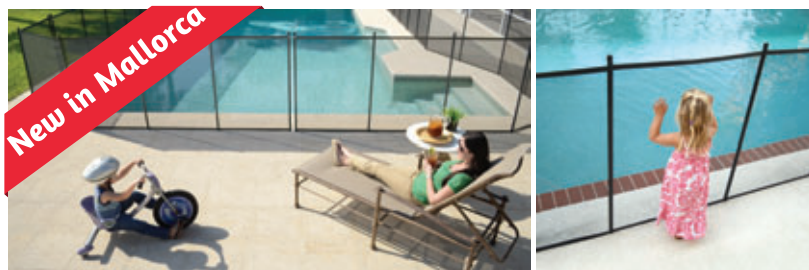
- **They can help you relax.** Gazing at the purple petals of an African Violet has been found to stimulate adrenaline liberation, raise energy levels and increase oxygen flow to the brain, helping you relax.

- **They are natural humidifiers.** Instead of buying humidifiers to combat dry air in winter, dot some ferns about the house. They literally sweat humidity into the air.

- **They reduce allergies.** Spider plants are perfect for those prone to sneezes and snuffles. Their leaves absorb allergens and dust and in two days can remove up to 90 per cent of toxins from a room.

- **They clean the air.** A NASA study found that ivy is the king of air-cleaning houseplants and absorbs more formaldehyde from the air than any other plant tested.

- **They boost concentration and creativity.** A study by the Royal College of Agriculture found that students' attention increased by 70 per cent when they were in a room which contained plants.



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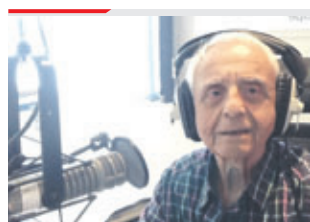


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“It is vital to ensure dogs trained and supplied to families are right for them.”

mannered obedient pet.

The dog should have been well socialised prior to training and should have been trained in a variety of venues and different situations, slowly learning what will be expected of it in its future role, as a pet, companion and protector.

Once a dog has been matched to its new owner, specific training in different environments can be tailored for that particular dog to fulfill a client's exact requirements.

In America, the term K9 bodyguard is sometimes used to describe a personal protection dog and I have also seen them described as 24/7 security with fur, however I always refer to them as my dog, my pet, my friend, my protector, as they are pets first and foremost.

Over the years I have trained and supplied many protection dogs to people from all walks of life. Some people not originally understanding the benefits of owning such a dog and others

who through bad experience of crime, sometimes violent, felt a need for increased personal security.

Many of the dogs that I was (I am now retired) able to supply and train were sold to families with children thus dispelling another myth that trained dogs and children cannot be mixed.

It is essential to advise clients as to what type of dog would be suitable for their requirements and to try and match a trained dog with the right family or individual. It is vital to ensure that dogs trained and supplied to families are the right dog for them, their family and their lifestyle.

Once the match is made, training the future owner and their family how to correctly handle their new dog so they are able to communicate the correct commands and are shown how to work the dog in different ways and in varying situations, is essential.

This training is as important as the initial training received by the dog and should never be skipped as it is a valuable time for the early bonding to occur and if mistakes are made by the new handler, they are made whilst under supervision and can be quickly rectified.

MANY people are under the impression that a correctly trained personal protection dog is no different to a security dog, guard dog or stereotypical scampy dog, this could not be further from the truth.

A well-trained personal protection dog should be of a bold and confident nature, sociable and accepting of people that pose no threat to its owner, owner's family or property.

This dog should have the ability to accompany its owner to the office, out in the car, shopping, or even on a boat. In all of these situations the dog should remain stable, alert and obedient, as a personal protection dog's first role should be that of a well-

Owner of rescued cats prefers pet-sitting in their own home

A NUMBER of the members of HouseSit-Match, whether they are home pet owners or house-sitters, tell us how they are moved by the plight of stray cats and dogs left to scavenge in the streets of southern Spain.

More times than I would care to count, I have been asked to find sympathetic and experienced house and pet-sitters who would be willing to care for such pets, rescued from the alleys and byways and now living in the homes of these caring pet owners. The animals are given a safe and comfortable shelter, they are fed and cared for. Once they are fit and have recovered from their ailments the animals are rehomed.

Teresa is one such pet owner. Apart from her own five cats (most of which she rescued and rehabilitated) she continues to collect abandoned cats and with the help of the local vets and her family she nurses them back to health and then finds caring homes for them.

Naturally she prefers to keep the animals at home when she travels away from home. The cats are beginning to find stability and strength, staying at home where they are comfortable helps them to build trust in humans. We find house and pet-sitters for Teresa



COMFY CATS: In their own home.

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What's in a name

CHOOSING a name for a new pet is an important decision, especially for dogs as you may have to yell it in public quite often for many years to come!

As with human names, fashions change and trends seem to influence choices. An American pet-sitter and dog walker website, *Rover.com*, has come up with a list of the most popular dog names in 2016 and surprisingly six of them coincide with the year's top baby names!

For male dogs, the firm favourite was Max, followed in order by Charlie, Buddy, Cooper and Jack while for females the top choices were Bella, Lucy, Daisy, Lola and Luna.

The study also revealed that pop culture influences 53 per cent of all dog owners and three quarters of millennials when it comes to choosing a name. References to X-Files, Pokemon Go, Harry Potter and Game of Thrones all increased in popularity over the year.

Food and drink also continue to inspire, yet snacks and alcohol (Taffy, Twix, Brandy and

Whisky) seemed more popular than past healthy choices such as Peaches for some reason.

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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“On the Porsche Cayenne: “Honestly I’ve seen more attractive gangrenous wounds than this. It has the sex appeal of a camel with gingivitis.” Some might say...



Motoring shorts

Detroit’s
motor show

AMERICA’S Motor City kicked off the 2017 motoring year with its hotly anticipated motor show. Hundreds of thousands of people attended to see the fastest, weirdest, most innovative cars set to hit the market this year.

Generating the most buzz was Volkswagen’s camper-van concept aptly named the I.D. Buzz. The electric, autonomous van replicates the iconic 60’s microbus but is clearly just a concept at this stage.

What will be on sale this year is the new Volkswagen Tiguan Allspace and a spectacular new Lexus LS with a hydrogen fuel-cell option that was perhaps the show’s most dramatic entrance.

Mercedes brought their new AMG GT C with a top speed of 197mph, while Porsche doubled down on its 911 with a GTS version boasting a seven-speed manual option.

British car awards 2017

By Matthew Elliott

THE UK Car of the Year awards are almost in, with winners just announced in every category and the overall winner to be declared in February. Decided by 27 top British motoring journalists, the awards give a valuable industry insight into what’s hot and what’s not.

Best luxury car was the Rolls

Royce Dawn, a decadently opulent convertible version of the Wraith Coupe. Best coupe award went to the Porsche 718 Cayman, which may soon overtake even the esteemed 911.

Porsche hit a double with its 718 Boxster named best sports car, now boasting a flat-four turbo engine. But Mercedes managed the double too. It’s

27

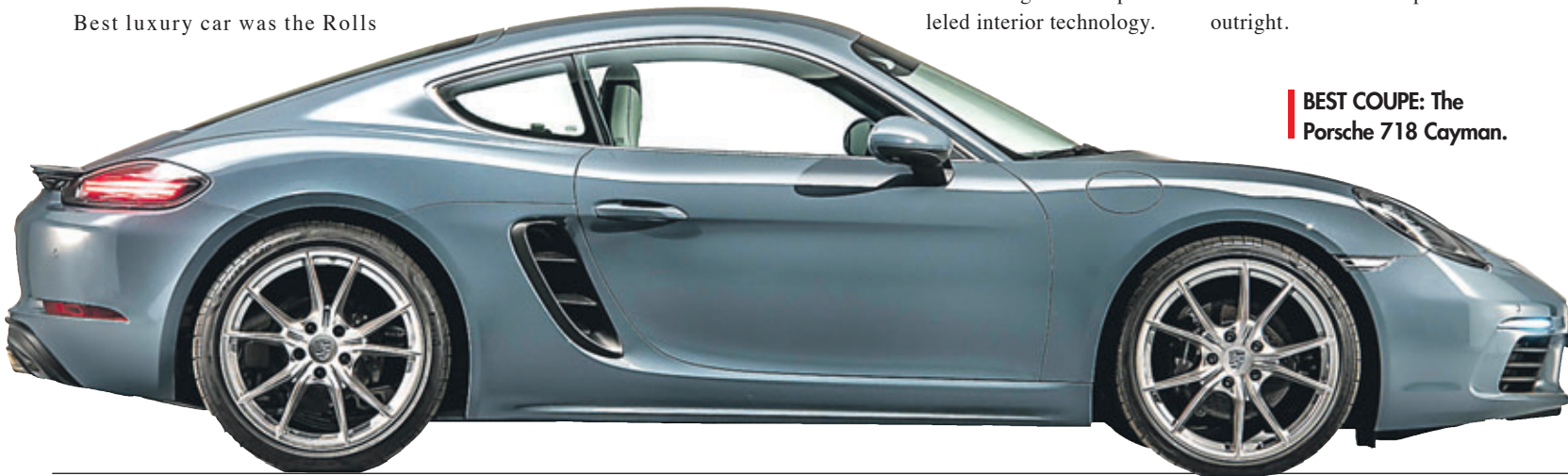
top British motoring journalists decided the award winners.

two-door S-Class Cabriolet won best cabriolet, while the E-Class was awarded best executive car courtesy of its sleek design and unparalleled interior technology.

Other standouts were the Jaguar F-Pace which won best large crossover and the Volvo V90, awarded best estate car as the Swedish manufacturer sets its sights on the luxury market.

Considered the favourite to steal the overall best car of the year award is the impressive new Ford Focus RS. The 2017 model was launched to rave reviews and won best performance car outright.

BEST COUPE: The Porsche 718 Cayman.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Infiniti Q30 Premium Tech is
a head turner

INFINITI was introduced in 2008 as a stand-alone luxury marque from the Nissan stable and it offers cars which are charismatically designed and beautifully built, and are a stylish alternative to the long-established premium German brands.

For many, Infiniti may be a car brand which is still under the radar, but that situation is changing rapidly as sales begin to gain significant momentum in Europe, China and the USA.

The Q30 is a good entry to the Infiniti stable, a five seater sporty-looking hatchback models start at £20,550 (€24,311). There are petrol and diesel options and five trim levels.

It competes in a sector which includes the BMW 1 Series, the Mercedes A Class and the Audi A3 and many would argue the Q30 has a much more distinc-

tive appearance.

Its bold stylised grille, sleek headlights and large badge make a strong statement. Each time my Q30 Premium Tech test model, costing £31,180 (€36,887), was parked, people came to take a closer look, and most admirers guessed the price at around £50,000 (€59,177).

134

miles per hour is the top speed of this week’s test car.

My test car had the 168 hp 2.2 diesel engine with a six-speed auto gearbox. Top speed is 134 mph and the 0-60 mph time a nippy 8.5 seconds. Even so, fuel economy is very good –



57.6
mpg combined.

Ride quality is superb, arguably best in class, and it feels smooth and effortless to drive, with the dual-clutch auto transmission seamless with the gear changes. Handling characteristics are composed and reassuring though the Q30 isn’t the most agile and fun in its class.

The cabin has a luxury feel, with quality materials and a nice understated premium look. The front seats are especially comfortable and the rear seats will take three adults although head and legroom is a little compromised. Bootspace is good at 440 litres and can be increased by dropping the split-

BEAUTIFULLY BUILT: It’s a stylish and creditable rival.

fold rear seats, though they do not go completely flat.

Standard kit on the Premium Tech version includes dual-zone climate control, leather upholstery, wood inserts, powered front seats, front and rear parking sensors, rear view camera, 7-inch touchscreen, radio/CD Bluetooth, adaptive brake assist, lane departure warning, 18 inch alloys wheels, auto lights and wipers and cruise control.

A creditable rival and more of a head turner than most.

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ALL ABOARD: Visitors to the show included HRH the Princess Royal and her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence.

London Boat Show a success

By John Smith

THE 2017 London Boat Show, which acts as something as a barometer for the financial value of boating in the year ahead, drew to a close amongst a backdrop of world launches, celebrities and strong sales being reported.

The UK boating industry is said to be worth around £3 billion (€3.45 billion) per annum and all indications were that despite fears over Brexit and the strength of the pound, the market

does continue to be strong, especially as overseas buyers can get better value for their spend.

As far as visitors were concerned, the fact that six out of the eight days were disrupted by snow, attendance was down by just 5 per cent over last year which was considered to be a very positive result and the event provided a unique insight into the most sought-after products and upcoming trends for the year ahead.

With over 100 boat and product launches including 18 World, two European, 43 UK and

37 Show debuts plus 47 new exhibitors for 2017, this year's show welcomed exhibitors, buyers and visitors from all over the world.

Unprecedented levels of disruption across the travel networks coupled with snow affecting six out of the first eight days of the show, had an unavoidable effect on visitor numbers. Despite being 5 per cent down on visitor numbers across the 10 days, the show continued to provide excellent business opportunities for exhibitors at the start of the New Year.

There were a number of celebrity guests from various walks of life including HRH the Princess Royal and her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence who spent some time at the show viewing many of the exhibits and taking an interest in the charitable side of sailing.

All in all this bodes well for the hobby and the business of boating with future shows due throughout Asia, Europe and North America with major shows due in both Barcelona and Mallorca later in the year.

Around the world in less than 80 days

WITH very little distance to go for the leaders, it looks as if Armel Le Cléac'h in Banque Populaire VIII is going to win the Vendée Globe round the world race although Brit Alex Thomson was just 35 nautical miles behind him after 74 days of non-stop sailing.

His lead is not unassailable as both skippers have had to sail further north than originally expected due to the arrival of an anticyclone and as the wind speeds change, so the last 400-odd nautical miles could see either boat make a sprint to the finish.

There have been 11 sailors drop out for a range of reasons and plucky solo Spanish entry



NO CONTENDER: Spain's Didac Costa is still sailing for his own pride.

Didac Costa is still going but languishes in 15th place, more than 7,000 nautical miles behind the leaders, so he is really sailing for his pride rather

than in any hope of finishing anywhere near the front.

The race is a remarkable test of skill, stamina and yacht design but regard-

less of the difficulties and dangers faced, there are always competitors ready to take part in what is one of the most exciting races in the yachting world.



THE BEST: Voted for by berth holders.

Marina of the Year Awards

THE UK based Yacht Harbour Association (THYA), a group association within membership organisation British Marine, recently announced the winners of its prestigious Marina of the Year Awards.

Now in its fourth year, the awards, sponsored by GJW, recognise the best of over 160 Gold Anchor accredited marinas from round the world. The winning marinas are voted for by their berth holders in the UK Coastal, UK Inland, International and Superyacht categories.

The Marina of the Year 2017 winners and runners up were:

UK Coastal Marina of the Year 2017 (over 250 berths)

Winner: Largs Yacht Haven

Runner-up: MDL Torquay Marina

UK Coastal Marina of the Year 2017 (under 250 berths)

Winner: Poole Quay Boat Haven

Runner-up: Portavadie Marina

UK Inland Marina of the Year 2017

Winner: Church Minshull Aqueduct Marina

Runner-up: MDL Windsor Marina

International Marina of the Year 2017

Winner: Karpaz Gate Marina (Northern Cyprus)

Runner-up: Royal Cork Yacht Club (Ireland)

Superyacht Marina of the year 2017

Winner: IGY Isle de Sol (St Maarten)

Runner-up: Talise Pavilion Marina (Dubai)

No winners from Spain this year but who knows what the future will bring?

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"With this policy change we are helpless," said Chinese billionaire club owner Shu Yuhui, responding to the new only three foreigners ruling.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

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Wins for Arsenal, Spurs and Everton

Tony Matthews



International Sports

A former player and now the world's most prolific author of football books with almost 150 published since 1975, Tony is also the sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio and lives on La Pillica in the Sierra Cabrera Mountains overlooking Turre.

Costa de Almeria

Looking ahead:

WE'RE now into the sixth month of the 2016-17 season and checking various league tables I feel there will be tight finishes in at least eight of them - the Premiership (despite Chelsea's current advantage), the Championship, Leagues 1 and 2, the National League and in the top flights in France, Germany and Italy. Celtic are well clear in the SPL, Hibs, Livingston and Forfar all look strong in the other three Scottish Divisions and Real Madrid seem in control of La Liga.

The African Cup of Nations is underway and ties this week include Cameroon v Guinea Bissau, Congo DR v Morocco,

hosts Gabon v Burkina Faso, Ghana v Uganda, Mali v Egypt and Senegal v Zimbabwe.

Several FA Cup third round replays took place on Tuesday and last night, among them non-League Sutton United at AFC Wimbledon and Lincoln City v Ipswich, plus Burnley v Sunderland, Crystal Palace v Bolton, Newcastle v Birmingham, Plymouth v Liverpool and Southampton v Norwich.

The top Premiership games on Saturday feature Liverpool versus Swansea (who last Saturday afternoon crashed 4-0 at home to Arsenal), Manchester City (who were battered 4-0 by Everton five days ago) versus Spurs (fresh from a 4-0 home win over WBA courtesy of Harry Kane's hat-trick) and Stoke against Manchester United who's eight-match winning run came to an end last Sunday against the Reds from Anfield).

Twenty-four hours later, it's Arsenal against Burnley, Chelsea versus Hull City and Southampton against inconsis-

tent Leicester City, who crashed 3-0 at home to Antonio Conte's team last Saturday.

Second-placed Brighton play Sheffield Wednesday in the Championship tomorrow night and on Saturday/Sunday it's two of the league's founder members Aston Villa v PNE, a Yorkshire showdown between Barnsley and Leeds, Derby County v Reading, Hudders-

field v Ipswich, leaders Newcastle United v Rotherham, out-of-form Norwich City v Wolves and QPR versus Fulham in a London derby.

In the Scottish Cup fourth round non-league Bonnyrigg Rose and Formantine United will be aiming to cause upset against Hibs and Partick Thistle respectively, likewise Albion Rovers against Celtic.

We have the second legs of the League Cup semi-finals next week with Liverpool (a goal down) playing Southampton on Wednesday January 26 and Manchester United (2-0 up) visiting Hull 24 hours later. Wembley stages the final on February 26.

Kevin Nolan has taken charge at Notts County, the club's 50th managerial change in 50 years; Justin Edinburgh is Northampton's new boss, John Sheridan is back as Oldham's manager and Chris Humphries has moved in at Chesterfield.

Round up:

The Australian Open tennis championships are underway in Melbourne where GB have high hopes with Sir Andy Murray and Johanna Konta who last week warmed up by lifting the Sydney International trophy with victory over Agnieszka Radwanska. Dan Evans (singles) and Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares (doubles) lost in their respective finals.

Rugby Union's European

Cup continues this weekend with Montpellier v Northampton tomorrow; Leicester v Glasgow, Munster v Racing 92, Saracens v Toulonnaise and Ulster v Bordeaux on Saturday and Zebre v Wasps, Sunday.

Former football manager of Lincoln, Watford, Aston Villa, Wolves and England, Graham Taylor (aged 72) and jockey Brian Fletcher (69), three-time Grand National winner, twice on Red Rum, both sadly died last week. RIP.

GB Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson has injured himself in a freak fall off the parallel bars.

Sam Sunderland has become the first Brit to win the Dakar Car Rally.

Justin Thomas (USA) posted the lowest 36-hole score in PGA history when carding a 123 in Hawaii. He then equalled the world record for 54 holes (188).

Holder Ronnie O'Sullivan is favourite to win a record seventh UK Masters snooker title which is underway in London.

DID YOU KNOW?

THIS is what an unnamed Chinese football club has offered Chelsea's Diego Costa:

- £30m a year salary
- £2.5m a month
- £576,900 a week
- £82,191 a day
- £3,424 an hour
- £57 a minute
- 95p a second

Players on higher wages: Carlos Tevez (Shanghai Shenhua) and Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid) both earn £31.98m a year and Lionel Messi (Barcelona) is paid £34.95m per annum.



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