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

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Seized

Illegal gun workshops closed



ILLEGAL WEAPONS: Some of the haul seized in Spain.

By John Smith

Nearly 50 people, several of them from Almeria, have been arrested in a crack-down on a Europe-wide trade in illegal weapons.

The arrests were part of a massive operation involving police forces from 10 other European countries which saw 245 people taken into custody.

They are accused of tak-

ing part in the re-engineering of deactivated weapons, mainly from Eastern Europe, to make them useable again so they could be sold.

Some would be bought by criminal gangs, while others could easily have found their way to jihadist groups, according to the Guardia Civil.

Police seized a total of 664 firearms along with hand grenades, silencers

and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

At one stage four illicit weapons 'factories' were raided while officers also shut down the operation of internet-based gun shops.

Where the guns obtained from Eastern Europe had missing parts these would be re-engineered in the specialist workshops.

Police said such weapons are particularly difficult to

trace and track when used in crimes.

The arrests in Spain were carried out all over the country but included Alicante, Almeria, Barcelona, Cordoba, Granada, Jaen, Malaga, Murcia and Sevilla.

The operation, code-named Bosphorus, took place over several months, and also included the seizure of two entire marihuana plantations.

Freezing fiasco

THREE people whose car got stuck in the snow in the Sierra de Maria hills near Velez-Blanco had to be rescued at the weekend. Emergency services activated Local Police, Guardia Civil, Civil Protection, the fire brigade and paramedics after the trio, who were stuck in a one-metre high pile of snow, sent their coordinates via WhatsApp.

» See page 3

Daylight robbery

FOUR men and a teenaged boy have been arrested suspected of at least 14 burglaries at farms in Almeria and Murcia. Officers searched a van in Huerca-Overa

and found 70 sacks of fertiliser along with gloves, torches and tools. The suspects were unable to explain how they had acquired the goods.

» See page 5

All white now

NORMALITY is gradually returning to the province after days of chaos caused by snow and freezing temperatures. Schools across northern Alme-

ria closed as roads became blocked and power cut out, forcing provincial council employees out in force with snow ploughs.

» See page 6

Conk chomper

A MAN has been jailed for five years for biting part of another man's nose off.

The victim tried to break up a fight between the defendant and his brother-in-law at a fair in Las Norias, Huerca-Overa, but was rewarded by being grabbed round the neck and having the end of his nose torn off.

» See page 21

Safe and sound

A WOMAN believed to have fallen down a 10-metre embankment has been rescued by the Guardia Civil in Cantoria. The 35-year-old woman was reported missing by her partner, who explained that she had got out of their car on the A-334 road during an argument and disappeared.

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HOMES & BEYOND

KITCHENS FURNITURE PACKAGES

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LOCAL NEWS

Dirty cash

THE Guardia Civil have arrested a 45-year-old resident of Monovar on suspicion of fraud after he was caught carrying 650 counterfeit bank notes worth €41,950. After the money

was found in his car, the suspect attempted to claim that he used the false cash for advertising, but a quick check of his records showed that he had previous convictions for fraud.

Burned to death

AN 80-year-old man died in a fire at his home in Dalias on Monday, with emergency services arriving too late to save him. The blaze erupted in the dining room and did not spread to other parts of the house, leading the Local Police branch to open an investigation as to the cause and circumstances.

Lock and key

AN Almerian man who threatened his wife and two children with a gun on numerous occasions, and subjected the former to years of abuse has been jailed for five years. Prosecutors spoke of how the accused created a 'climate of terror' in his family home, repeatedly telling them that he would end their lives should they step out of line.

A new year begins

By Eleanor Hawkins

ALTHOUGH it adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1912, the Chinese New Year, one of the most important events of the year for the Chinese community, is still calculated using the ancient Chinese lunar calendar.

Falling on the second new moon after winter solstice, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year and this month, the Year of the Rooster and 4,715th year of the traditional Chinese calendar begins on January 28.

The new year sees a long period of festivities which last until the Festival of the Lanterns on the 15th day of the new month. Traditionally the Chinese sweep their houses with old brooms which are then thrown away for luck, and pending tasks and debts must whenever possible be dealt with before the beginning of a new year.

In Spain, given the large Chinese community which has taken up residence in the country, the new year is honoured in many places with parties, fireworks and various events. In Madrid, for example, City Hall organises almost two weeks' worth of events centred around the celebrations. Things kick off on January 28 with a street parade and last until February 12, which will see traditional Chinese customs displayed at Plaza de España.



CHINESE NEW YEAR:
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Body found in the sea

THE body of an 83-year-old man was found floating in the sea off Almeria City seafront promenade on Saturday morning.

The body was spotted by people out on a leisure boat at 9am and the Guardia Civil's maritime service was alerted.

As there were no obvious signs of violence, the death is suspected to have been accidental.

Guilty as charged

A MAN from Pechina who was tried for manslaughter last week has admitted to the crime and accepted a five-year jail sentence.

The defendant was to be tried by a jury accused of beating the owner of a bar to death following an argument, but reached an agreement with the public and private prosecutions.

He admitted that the other man died after he battered him with a metal lock.

Alongside the jail sentence, the judge has awarded €60,000 in damages to the deceased's family.

Pickled pilot

LOCAL POLICE arrested a drunk and reckless driver who hit three or four cars before crashing into the front of a building in Almeria City.

The owner of one of the damaged vehicles alerted the police at 9.30am, reporting that a car was speeding along the boulevard bouncing off obstacles on its way.

Eventually the car hit the front of a block of flats on Plaza Antonio de Torres. The 41-year-old driver from Madrid was found to have been drinking and was arrested for alleged reckless driving.

Ferreted out

ENVIRONMENTAL officers have confiscated six nets and a ferret from a man in Huercal-Overa, who was using the animal to catch rabbits.

Although this type of hunting, which consists of placing nets over the entrances to warrens before sending a ferret down to flush rabbits out, is permitted in certain cases, the owner had no documentation whatsoever.

Environmental Delegate Antonio

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 1

Despite the at times Arctic-like temperatures in recent days, last year was the hottest since world records began in 1880. And local weather is set to change more up to the year 2100 than it has in the last 10,000 years, according to experts.

Things are hotting up

TEMPERATURES in Spain could increase up to 5°C by 2080, with 30 per cent of the country becoming a desert should the most severe predictions play out.

Climate change has already warmed Spain 1.3°C in the last century, 0.3°C more than the global average. As a result, parts of the Bay of Biscay coastline could become submerged by the end of this century.

September 6 was the hottest day in Spain last year with 45.4°C recorded in Cordoba and 38 provinces experienced temperatures above 40°C. Meanwhile, 21.4°C in Cuenca on December 26, 2016 was the hottest for the



month in Spain since national records began in 1955.

In the future, extreme summers and heat waves are likely to become four times as common.

8 AT-A-GLANCE SURPRISES

- Rainfall in Spain could decrease 10-20 per cent over the next 30 years, with water shortages affecting up to 60 per cent of residents.
- Spain's tourism industry could suffer if it becomes too hot to comfortably visit during summer.
- The Pyrenees lost 75 per cent of their glacial ice from 1980 - 2012.
- Spring in Spain has moved forward two weeks in the last 30 years, with almond trees now blossoming in late January.
- Large wildfires are expected to increase.
- Olive and grape production will be hit if Spain warms by over 4°C.



CONCERNS: Higher temperatures could hit olive productions and lead to a more arid landscape.



- Spain lost 15 per cent of its fresh water resources between 1996 and 2005.
- With half of the EU's biodiversity found in Spain, 70 per cent of its species will need saving as the climate warms.

Martinez explained that private individuals who intend to control rabbit population to avoid damage to farm produce or irrigation systems must obtain authorisation under the 2003 Wild Flora and Fauna of Andalucia Law.

Named and shamed

ALMERIA has been dealt a blow by TripAdvisor travel website users, who have given the province the

lowest marks in Andalucia.

Although users gave accommodation, restaurants and leisure activities good marks and reviews, the province in general was given an average of 4.07 out of five.

Andalucia as a whole was given an average mark of 4.20 out of five, the second best rating in Spain beaten only by the Canary Islands with 4.21.

Within the region, the best province was Cordoba with a mark of 4.27, followed by Sevilla with 4.23, Malaga and Cadiz with 4.21, Granada with

4.20, Jaen with 4.16, Huelva with 4.11 and finally Almeria.

Reaching out

ALMERIA will be taking in four of a group of 55 refugees, 36 from Syria and 19 from Iraq, who the Ministry of the Interior has announced will be arriving in Spain shortly.

Under the European relocation programme, Spain must take in more than 17,000 refugees by September this year.

So far, Spain has accepted 1,034 international asylum seekers, 745 of whom have come from Greece and Italy and 289 from refugee camps in Lebanon and Turkey.

Coming to the rescue

THREE people whose car got stuck in the snow in the Sierra de Maria hills near Velez-Blanco had to be rescued at the weekend.

Emergency services activated Local Police, Guardia Civil, Civil Protection, the fire brigade and paramedics after the three, who were stuck in a one-metre high pile of snow, sent their coordinates via WhatsApp at 5pm.

The first vehicle, belonging to the local council,

which attempted to reach the stranded group also got stuck in the snow.

Eventually at 11.30pm two snow-ploughs managed to reach the car and rescue the three, who were cold but in good health.

Although the emergency services coordination centre had contacted rescue teams from Granada in case their assistance was required, this turned out not to be the case.

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Postscript to ponder

75.3m

SPAIN attracted more foreign tourists than ever in 2016, smashing the previous record set in 2015 by almost 10 per cent. In 2002 the figures stood at 51.7 million.

Love-struck pensioner nods off

A PENSIONER taking part in a popular Spanish dating show fell asleep while the programme was live on air. The hapless contestant had taken a sleeping pill to stave off nerves and instead of finding love, she ended up falling asleep.

The presenter of Canal Sur's Andalucía-based show asked technicians to turn off the lights when the show had finished, leaving this particular sleeping beauty still in slumberland. The woman, known as Eloisa and from Almería, was then told the footage had been seen by around three million people.

Presenter Juan Y Medio was on hand to help wake her up, but Eloisa is still without a partner.

Radioactive

SPAIN'S intention to stockpile nuclear waste less than 100 miles from the Portuguese border has angered its neighbour.

The plant is to be built at the Almarez complex, but Portugal has filed a complaint with Brussels.

It claims it should have been consulted when 'transborder' issues potentially affect the environment and says this was not done.



Postcard from

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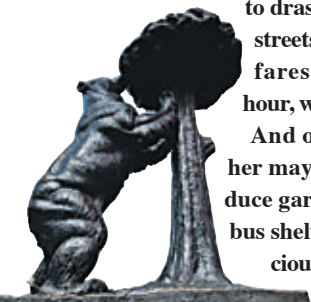


WHILE many motorists refuse to use the metro and continue to drive on the city's main and frequently clogged roads, Mayor Manuela Carmena wants to ban all vehicles from many main streets by 2019.

With her term of office due to end in two years' time she is keen to drastically reduce the pollution levels in streets that at present are daily thoroughfares for thousands of vehicles every hour, with the Gran Vía one of the busiest. And other changes are also planned as her mayoral hope is to additionally introduce garden areas on the tops of buses and bus shelters as a boost to her aims to "deliciously pedestrianise" the capital.

Statistics reveal that the city of 3.2 million boasts one car for every two citizens. Given its high ground location, vehicle fumes are in part blamed for the smog that can grip it during winter months, affecting daily life for tens of thousands of families.

While the mayor's schemes have been criticised and even ridiculed by some, around 2,000 people die annually in Madrid from the effects of polluted air.



Underground arms stash

WEAPONS including machine guns, pistols and thousands of rounds of ammunition have been seized in the Basque country.

Police uncovered a sophisticated underground workshop where arms were reconditioned before being sold to criminal gangs.

The haul is estimated to be worth €10 million on the black market.

Topless tumult

A TOPLESS female protester grabbed a waxwork of US President Donald Trump by the testicles in a protest in Madrid.

The woman rushed past security guards, grabbed the statue and shouted "grab patriarchy by the balls."

Her statement was a reference to a leaked recording of President Trump when he spoke about grabbing women by a part of their anatomy.

Cop reborn

ONE of the most enduring characters in Spanish fiction and equally famous on television is set to reappear on the nation's screens. The original creator of much-loved Detective Pepe Carvalho, novelist Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, died 13 years ago.

Now Carvalho is set to make another appearance with the publication next year of a new novel which will be televised. Poet and writer Carlos Zanón is the man charged with reigniting Spain's love for the iconic detective.

Birthdays

• **Marc Gasol, Professional Basketball Player, January 29, 32**

Born in Barcelona the 7-foot-1-inch tall titan plays in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Memphis Grizzlies and also for the Spanish national basketball team. He has two silver Olympic medals under his belt as well as two EuroBasket titles, EuroBasket bronze medal and a FIBA World Cup title.

• **Ellen DeGeneres, TV Host/Actress, January 26, 59**

Very funny and entertaining she hosts her own successful show named The Ellen DeGeneres Show. She has also had acting roles in the sitcom Ellen and films such as EDtv and Mr Wrong and voiced the character of Dory in Disney's Finding Nemo. In 2008 she married fellow actress and model Portia de Rossi.

• **Nick Mason, Drummer, January 27, 73**

English musician who was the drummer with rock band Pink Floyd and the only member of the band to feature on every single Pink Floyd album. A self-confessed petrolhead he owns and races classic cars and wrote the book Into the Red in 1998 about them. He competes in motor racing events like the 24 Hours of Le Mans and is also a qualified pilot.

• **Jessica Ennis-Hill, Athlete, January 28, 31**

The face of the 2012 London Olympics she went on to win the Heptathlon gold medal at the event with a sensational performance. She set a new British and Commonwealth record with her score of 6,955 points and also broke the British record for the heptathlon 100 metres.

• **Gene Hackman, Actor, January 30, 87**

Retired American actor whose career spanned five decades and won him three Golden Globes and two BAFTAs. He has starred in many film greats such as Bonnie and Clyde, The French Connection, Crimson Tide, Enemy of the State with his final appearance in the film Welcome to Mooseport in 2004.

• **John Lydon, Actor, January 31, 61**

Otherwise known as Johnny Rotten he was the lead vocalist of the riotous punk rock band the Sex Pistols. The controversial group had hits including Anarchy in the UK and God Save the Queen and were never far from media attention.

€14,200 'to kill a husband'

A MAN accused of hiring a professional hit-man to kill the husband of his partner has been arrested by police in southern Spain.

Acting on information from Interpol and police in Bolivia, officers swooped on their target in Algeciras.

The man is wanted in connection with a murder in 2014 when the then husband of his current partner was shot dead in Santa Cruz. South American police claim the hit-man received \$15,000 (€ 14,200) to carry out the killing and are now seeking his extradition.

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Ranch raiders rumbled

By Eleanor Hawkins

FOUR men and a teenage boy have been arrested suspected of being behind at least 14 burglaries at farms in Almeria and Murcia.

The Guardia Civil reported that the arrests were made after the presence of a suspicious van was reported near a farm in Antas. A check point was set up at an exit of the A7 motorway which officers suspected the van would take, and a dramatic chase ensued when a van passed through and failed to stop.

Eventually officers managed to stop the van in Huerca-Overa and inspect the inside, where they found 70 sacks of fertiliser along with gloves, torches and tools.

The suspects were unable to explain how they had acquired the goods or



FERTILISER: Seventy sacks were found in a van.

provide proof of purchase, the officers reported.

A search of the home of one of the men led to discovery of many other tools, sacks of chemical products and other items

which police investigators said matched those reported stolen from two farms in Puerto Lumbreras (Murcia), one in Antas, two in Pulpí, three in Vera and six in Huerca-Overa.

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Snow joke!



BIG FREEZE: Brought chaos for many but joy for some.

By Eleanor Hawkins

NORMALITY is gradually returning to the province after days of chaos caused by snow and freezing temperatures.

Schools across northern Almería closed as roads became blocked and power cut out, forcing provincial council employees out in force with snow ploughs.

Mountain passes and roads at high levels remained closed, leaving scientists at the Calar Alto observatory stranded with their telescopes to wait for the snow to melt.

With orange alerts in place in many places over the weekend, some were jumping for joy as those hoping to see the snow rushed to book at rural accommodation. In Laroya in the Almanzora area, for example, every single bed available had been booked for the weekend



SNOWY SCENES: In Puerto de la Ragua.

by Friday, local mayor Dolores Moreno reported. "People are still phoning looking for somewhere to stay but everywhere is full," Moreno said.

Municipal workers were kept busy clearing snow, which in some cases had reached depths

of 50 centimetres, from access roads and entrances in preparation for snow-seeking visitors.

In Velez Rubio locals were pleased to see visitors. Mayor Antonio Cabrera explained, "tourism is the life of the village and the snow is a blessing."

OUR VIEW

Looking forward

NOW that we have a general idea of Theresa May's strategy for handling the matter of Brexit and the EU's immediate response it is clear that what she wants and expects could be quite difficult to achieve.

Anyone who has gone through a personal divorce knows how awkward the other party can be and in this case Britain is divorcing not only a huge federalist organisation which wants to look after its own best interests but also 27 spouses.

Whilst there will be any number of points to discuss, the two most important and probably the greatest hurdles will be over Britain's intention to control immigration and to leave the customs union.

From a point of view of expatriates in Spain, we certainly don't want to be thrown out with the dishwater and sincerely hope that our position (and by definition those of EU nationals in the UK) is made clear as soon as is possible so that we can prepare for the future.

From a purely parochial point of view, those receiving British pensions will also be hoping that sterling doesn't take a further beating as the final divorce approaches.

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NEWS EXTRA

Bonfires
and fines

ENVIRONMENTAL officers have fined 20 people in Nijar, Carboneras and Almería for lighting unauthorised bonfires and burning forbidden items which could pose serious health and safety risks, including a fridge.

More people

ALMERIA Province had a total of 704,297 residents registered on January 1, 2016, 0.4 per cent more than a year beforehand, according to a new report from the National Statistics Institute.

Beach work

WORK, with a €600,000 budget is to start this month to repair beaches between Pulpí and Adra damaged by the storms at the end of last year.

Jail for wrong house burglar

A MAN who beat up and threatened the owner of the wrong house has been jailed for nine years after admitting to his crimes.

The defendant owned up to having accosted a man on his way into his home in Almería and pointed a gun at him while accompanying him inside. Once there, the attacker covered his victim's head and beat him up, de-

manding to know where the safe was. Failing to achieve an answer, the burglar tied his victim's wrists and ankles, forced him into the bath, opened the taps and threatened to throw in an electrical appliance.

As the victim continued to insist he did not have a safe, the defendant went to search the house himself and eventually returned to admit he had got the wrong

house. He left the man in the bath and fled with €2,000 in cash, a wedding ring and a mobile phone.

Although the Public Prosecutor had initially requested a 13-year jail sentence, an agreement was finally reached and the defendant accepted five years for kidnapping and violent theft, two years for causing injury and two years for illegal weapon possession plus a fine.

Stowaways caught by
National Police

By Simon Firth

MORE than 500 people, many of them minors, have been caught in the last month trying to get into Spain as stowaways from the North African ports of Ceuta and Melilla.

They were found hiding in both passenger and cargo ships and often in extremely hazardous locations, according to National Police.

Increased vehicle and lorry checks were carried out along with a tightening of security

throughout the port areas especially prior to shipment.

Police said the ships were mainly chosen by the stowaways if they were going to Málaga, Almería and Motril.

Some of them were found hiding under trucks, in cargo waiting to be unloaded and even climbing the mooring lines.

Others tried to swim into loading areas which police described as particularly dangerous.



STOWAWAYS: Ships were chosen if going to Málaga, Almería and Motril.

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Desert destroyer makes debut

By Eleanor Hawkins

TABERNAS Desert was chosen as the perfect backdrop for the worldwide presentation of Ducati's new motorbike, the Scrambler Desert Sled.

Altogether 90 specialised journalists from all over Europe, Japan and the US are visiting Fort Bravo in three groups to discover and test the new motorbike, with the presentation including a 75 kilometre trip through the desert and Filabres Almahilla.

Almería Provincial

Council stressed the importance of the launch, explaining that it will allow journalists from all over the world to discover the province's attractions. "We're

proud that Ducati has joined the list of important brands which have chosen Almería to present their products," said second deputy head of the council Angel Escobar.

NEW MOTORBIKE: The Scrambler Desert Sled.



Harm to heritage

FOUR people have been called to declare before a judge in relation to investigations into the drilling of holes in the walls of Almería City's Alcazaba historical monument.

Around 20 holes were drilled in the wall of a patio within the fortress, a BIC (cultural heritage asset of interest) during erection of scaffolding before the celebration of an event last summer, leading the Friends of the Alcazaba association to press for investigations to determine responsibilities.

The judge in charge of investigations has now ordered security guards, employees and managers of the scaffolding company to give statements in court on February 10.

The court will be seeking to determine whether the damage caused to the monument could constitute a crime under articles 332 or 334 of the Penal Code, which can lead to jail sentences of between six months and two years.

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Los Gallardos - 87,500€ (ref: HNON)
2(3) beds • 2 baths • Build: 83m²

Located on the residential urbanization of Huerta Nueva, the property is suitable for full time living with well proportioned internal and external living areas, excellent local amenities & services.



Los Gallardos - 105,000€ (ref: HNCSC)
3 beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 150m² • Build: 68m²

Fully furnished and equipped south facing property with good internal & external living spaces. 2 beds / 1 bath on the ground level & 1 bedroom with ½ bath on the first floor.



Los Gallardos - 94,950€ (ref: HNAR)
2 beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 125m² • Build: 83m²

A fully furnished 2 bedroom house on a small community. Open plan living area, covered terrace, gardens, solarium, allocated off-road parking and communal swimming pool.



Los Gallardos - 189,000€ (ref: HNHM)
3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 438m² • Build: 120m²

This property offers generous internal living space and zoned external areas for the swimming pool, gardens, terraces & parking. Set in a quiet location with uninterrupted views.



Los Gallardos - 89,950€ (ref: HNNJ)
2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 95m²

A superbly presented penthouse property situated on the Huerta Nueva urbanization, 1km from the village of Los Gallardos. Extended living space and roof top solarium with great views.



Los Gallardos - 109,950€ (ref: HNJJ)
3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 253m² • Build: 81m²

Semi-detached bungalow with well proportioned internal & external living spaces. This is an unfurnished property with air conditioning installed throughout, underground parking and communal pool.



Los Gallardos - 115,000€ (ref: LGHZ)
4 beds • 2 baths • Build 103m² • Garage: 18m²

A mid-terrace two storey property with private garage. Benefits terraces, courtyard, air conditioning, well maintained and is being sold fully furnished. Short walk to all amenities.



Los Gallardos - 199,500€ (ref: HNVG)
3 beds • 2½ baths • Plot: 500m² • Build: 150m²

A fully furnished & well equipped two storey detached property with 8x4m swimming pool. Generous outside space, large covered terrace and ample parking. Available for immediate occupation.



Los Gallardos - 109,950€ (ref: HNAZG)
2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 93m²

Larger than average penthouse apartment with east and west facing aspects, terraces, solarium with views of Mojácar Pueblo, communal swimming pool and off-road parking.



Los Gallardos - 119,000€ (ref: HNCPC)
4 beds • 3 baths • Plot: 163m² • Build: 75m²

Fully furnished and equipped property with generous internal & external living spaces. 3 beds/2 baths on the ground level & self-contained 1 bed/1 bath on the first floor. Open to offers.



Los Gallardos from 119,950€ (ref: HNRM2)
3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 195m² • Build: 104m²

Semi-detached furnished property with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, terraces, solarium & off-road parking. Fully equipped & well maintained to a high specification on desirable development.



Los Gallardos - 245,000€ (ref: HNVS2)
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3 bedroom villa with private pool, terraces, solarium, air conditioning, mains gas, off road parking for multiple vehicles, maintained to a high standard and is being sold fully furnished.



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Hotel woes continue



NEVER-ENDING: The building is considered to be an eyesore.

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE never-ending story of the Algarrobo case continues as now Carboneras Council has appealed the TSJA Andalusian High Court's decision regarding land planning.

The TSJA determined that all of the 2008 plan for the

area was legal apart from the section related to the Algarrobo area, which had been placed under special protection in the previous plan of 1994.

Now the National High Court has agreed to study the appeal and will have to make a decision of its own regarding the site of the controver-

sial 411-bedroom, 20-storey hotel built by Azata.

While ecologists and many members of the public consider the building to be an eyesore and have been waiting for years for it to be demolished, locals look upon it as a possible source of income, hence battles over its legality continue



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Smart and safe app

NIJAR Council intends to continue working to improve its mobile app this year with particular emphasis on safety and the sea.

Launched in June 2016, 'Nijar app' includes all sorts of information on the town for locals and visitors and this year will include detailed reports on the state of the sea and beaches, Tourism councillor Alexis Pineda explained.

The app will include information on how to react if caught by currents, a common problem off the beaches in Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park which cause many drownings each year.

The app has been designed for both iOS and Android devices and is available as a free download from the App Store from iTunes and Google Play, respectively.

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TRAVEL FAIR: Promotional videos were launched to attract tourists.

Films star at Fitur

By Eleanor Hawkins

CARBONERAS and Garrucha both chose to launch promotional videos at Fitur 2017 travel fair in Madrid to attract tourists.

While last year Carboneras chose to film its spectacular beaches for its video, this year Mayor Salvador Hernandez explained that the focus was also on culture, heritage, infrastructures, sports and tourist attractions.

Hernandez thanked Almeria Provincial Council for helping local towns and villages pre-

sent their attractions at the fair, the most important in Spain.

Javier Aureliano Garcia, provincial deputy head, said "Carboneras is one of the three municipalities within in which one of our jewels, Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park, falls and it is also one of the destinations which attract the most tourists to the province."

Garrucha meanwhile chose a famous face, that of locally born flamenco dancer Anabel Veloso, to promote its attractions. The village's video

stresses the sea and beaches, the locals' joie de vivre, the light, the important places, the peace and quiet and the food, with the red prawn as the star of the show, local mayor Maria Lopez explained.

The video was created by Mediterraneo Cinema and was chosen to present Garrucha, which attended Fitur for the first time this year as part of its first Tourism Plan, which also includes a tapas route, a late night shopping night, a tourism app for smartphones and a new website.

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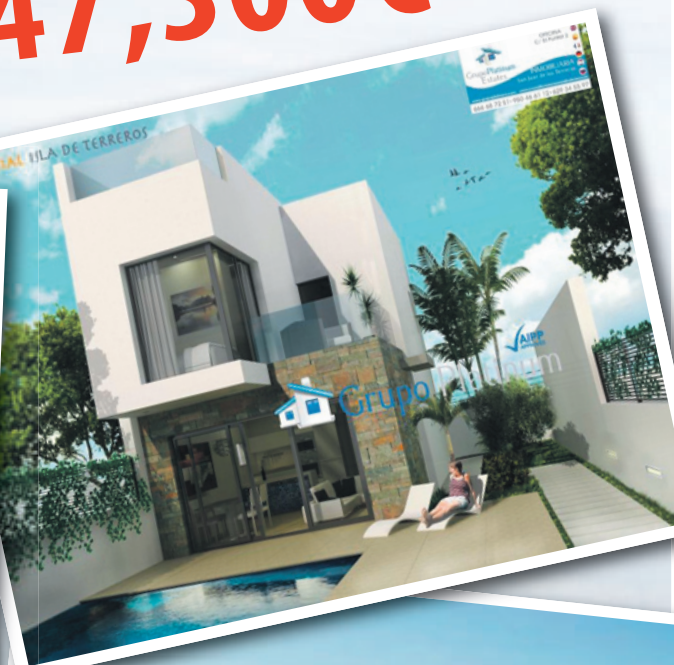
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Captain trial date set

A DATE has been set for the trial of two 19-year-old men accused of captaining a dinghy of migrants intercepted off Almería's coast.

The Public Prosecutor will be requesting six-year jail sentences for the two, believed to have charged Africans €500 each to board the dinghy, at the trial set to start on June 7 at the provincial courts.

The prosecution has stressed the dinghy was too small for the number of passengers on board and had no life jackets, lights or safety equipment. Rescued 34 nautical miles from Mesa Roldan by the Guardia Civil the passengers said they had feared for their lives.




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Spanish exports record growth in 2016



ALL-TIME HIGH: For Spanish exports.

Photo by Hxdyl Shutterstock

By John Smith

THERE was some positive financial news as the Spanish government announced that the value of exports had hit an all-time high and the trade deficit had shrunk by 27.1 per cent in the period January to November 2016.

As imports fell by 0.9 per cent to €250.11 billion in the period under review, the trade deficit fell to €16.1 billion in one of the best years since 1977, beaten only by the result in 2013.

The positive performance of Spanish exports between January and November is

in contrast to that of Spain's neighbours. In the Eurozone, exports increased slightly (0.2 per cent) while in the European Union as a whole exports shrank by 0.6 per cent.

Exports were up in Germany (0.8 per cent) and Italy (0.7 per cent), but less so than in Spain, and were down in France (-1.8 per cent) and the United Kingdom (-1.5 per cent), with figures for the USA (-4 per cent), China (-6.4 per cent), and Japan (-8.5 per cent) being far worse.

Main improvements in exports were seen in capital goods, the automotive sector, and food, drink and tobacco, although

growth of imports was also seen in the same sectors.

Exports to the EU which amount to 66.5 per cent of all exports grew by 4 per cent whilst sales to other countries throughout the world saw some falls although Canada, China, Hong Kong and Morocco saw significant and welcome increases.

Spain's trade surplus with the EU stood at €1.71 billion in November 2016 compared to €554 million in November 2015 but the trade deficit with non-EU countries increased by 23 per cent over the November 2015 results to €2.96 billion.



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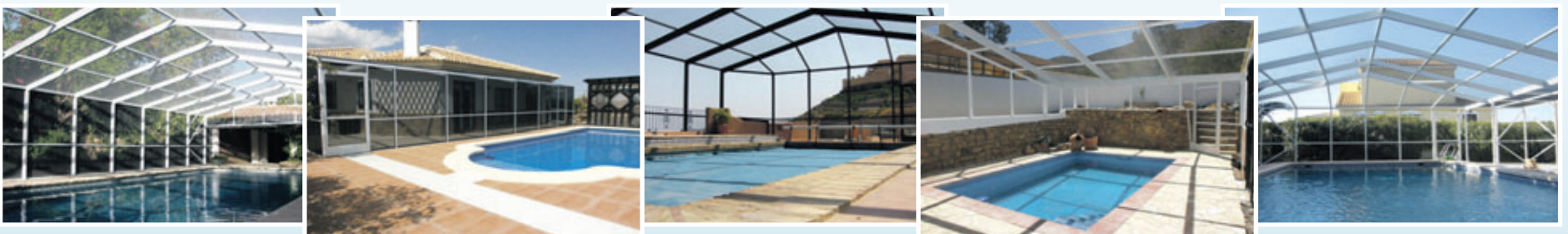
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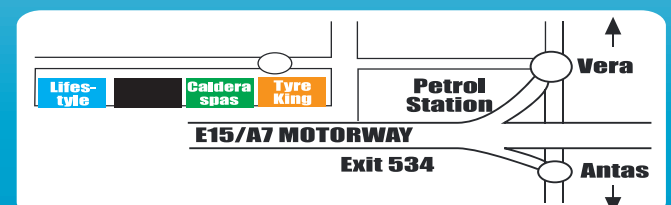
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Surprise find in the sky

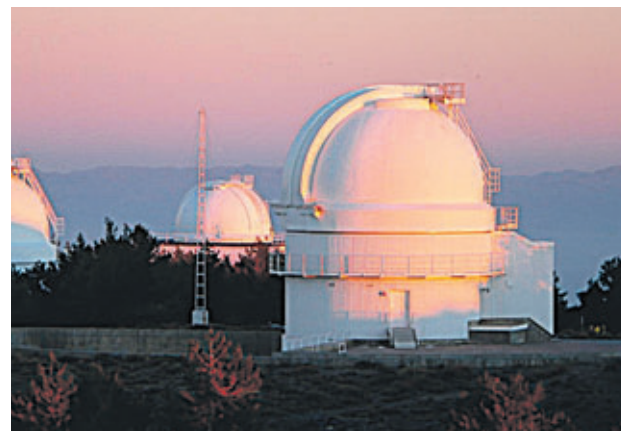
By Eleanor Hawkins

RESEARCHERS at Calar Alto astronomy centre in Gergal have seen stars forming in a type of galaxy where previously this wasn't thought to happen.

The Califa Project underway at the observatory has allowed astronomers to see 'very faint arms where stars are forming' within three elliptical galaxies.

"Elliptical galaxies are massive and stars were thought to have stopped forming in them millions of years ago. However, an international team of astronomers has found a very faint structure in three nearby elliptical galaxies which is similar to the arms of spiral galaxies where forming stars are housed," the observatory said.

"We currently believe that stars are formed in large spiral galaxies, so we were surprised



ICALAR ALTO: Discovery made by the Califa Project.

to spot similar traits in elliptical galaxies where, in theory, stars are not formed," said Jean Michel Gomes, an investigator from the Oporto Astrophysics and Space Sciences Institute.

The discovery was made thanks to the Califa Project, developed at Calar Alto, which employs a technique known as 3D spectroscopy to chart entire

galaxies and draw up maps of their different properties, such as the age of the stars, speed and chemical composition.

What remains unclear at this point is whether the outbreaks of growth observed are the final signs of life in dying galaxies or a rejuvenation process caused by interaction with smaller galaxies, astronomers said.

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Joking comments failed to amuse

ALL political parties, except his own, have demanded Partido Popular senator for Almería Eugenio Gonzálvez's resignation in light of some controversial comments

recorded on video.

The politician, who has a spotless career of decades and was the mayor of Gador until last year, is seen and heard in the recording stating

"Do what I did, step back into the shade and keep on giving orders but let the d***heads do the work!"

The video, recorded on a mobile phone as part of a family birthday

message for a friend, has been taken completely out of context and used against him, Gonzálvez complained after publicly apologising for his words.

"It was a private, sarcastic joke for a friend whose 65th birthday it was," the politician explained after the video was made public on social media.

Warning system required

MORE surveillance and coordination is required in gender violence cases, the authorities have said in light of the recent death of a woman in Huerca de Almería.

Equality and Social Policies delegate for the Junta de Andalucía regional government, María José Sánchez Rubio, announced the need for a system to keep track of previous offenders and warn their future partners of the dangers.

In the case of the alleged Almería killer, who the victim had a short relationship with before her death, the suspect has a history of sentences for threats and violence towards other women going back to 2007 and other sentences for fraud.

Sánchez Rubio said: "People who have been found guilty of previous crimes can be stopped from attacking again. The Almería victim had no idea of these previous cases. Without a surveillance and coordination system it is almost impossible to alert possible partners of the risks."

This, the delegate said, was in fact one of the matters discussed at the last meeting of the Andalusian Gender Violence Observatory. "We must find whatever mechanism works to ensure the police, the courts and society in general are aware of the identity of past offenders. This type of system is used for other criminals such as paedophiles and needs to be created for those who attack women too," she stressed.

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Trial by jury

A MAN suspected of killing his 45-day-old baby in Nijar last summer will be tried by jury, an Almeria judge has decided.

Court sources reported the judge in charge of the city's number one Violence against Women court had decided 35-year-old Hicham BB would be tried by a jury for the alleged crimes of murder, causing injuries, cruelty and making threats.

The baby died of head injuries after an extremely violent attack in July 2016 and the

mother was treated for injuries and told the police her husband had beaten her regularly.

A manhunt was launched for the defendant, the baby's Moroccan father, who the police suspected would try to leave the country. The province was put in lockdown as surveillance was mounted on all public transport and members of the public were asked to look out for the suspect and report any sightings.

Eventually the Guardia Civil tracked him down six days after the baby's death.

Nose biter jailed

By Eleanor Hawkins

A MAN has been jailed for five years for biting part of another man's nose off.

The victim tried to break up a fight between the defendant and his brother-in-law at a fair in Las Norias, Huercal-Overa, but was rewarded by being grabbed round the neck and having the end of his nose torn off.

After viewing recordings of

the incident and hearing the defendant's version of events, an Almeria Provincial Court found him guilty of causing injury to others. Along with the jail sentence, the judge issued a restraining order banning him from going within 300 metres of or contacting his victim for 12 years. He must also pay €58,347 in damages.

Although the defence asked for the influence of drugs and alcohol to be considered a

mitigating circumstance, claiming the defendant's mental capacities were affected, the judge rejected this.

He did, however, consider the man's previous criminal record to be an aggravating circumstance upon issuing the sentence.

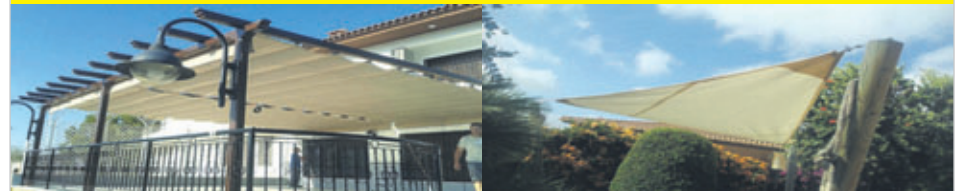
The victim has so far had two operations and spent 17 days in hospital to repair the damage and is likely to require further surgery in the future.

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Supreme Court confirms parliament must be consulted over Article 50



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THE Supreme Court has rejected the government appeal against the High Court decision requiring that parliament should vote on the triggering of Article 50 of the Lisbon agreement by eight votes to three on January 24.

In summing up the decision made by the majority of 11 Supreme Court judges, Lord Neuberger explained that the overall view was that whilst the government could make decisions of this sort under most circumstances, on this occasion, as the rights of the British people would be affected, that parliament must have a say.

In addition, the judges unanimously agreed that in the case of the devolved assemblies, there was no obligation to allow them to add their approval as this was a decision to be made by the government of the



Photo by The Supreme Court

SUPREME COURT JUDGES: Decided parliament must have a say.

“The overall view was that whilst the government could make decisions of this sort under most circumstances, on this occasion parliament must have a say.”

United Kingdom, supported or rejected by members of parliament representing all of the UK voters.

The immediate response from the Attorney General on behalf of the government was that it was disappointed with the decision but would comply with the ruling.

As Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announced that he had no intention of voting against the decision to implement Article 50, there seems little likelihood of the government being defeated.

‘My new Maggie’ to meet with Trump

ALTHOUGH much was made of the fact that Prime Minister Theresa May was the 10th leader to be called after Donald Trump won the US presidential election, she has turned the tables and will be the first major world leader to meet him as president when she travels to Washington on January 27.

Whilst she was quick to explain to interviewer Andrew Marr on BBC TV that she would be confronting him on a number of matters including NATO, treatment of women and his policies with regards to Muslims and other minorities as well as Syria and terrorism, there is little doubt that a trade agreement will be uppermost in her mind.

Having suffered the embarrassment of losing the government’s appeal to the Supreme Court and being told in no uncertain terms by the European Union that she can’t pick and choose what she wants from any future negotiations on immigration and trade, she needs to be able to show that Britain can stand alone.

President Trump has sent Mrs May (who he refers to as ‘my new Maggie’) an indication that he wants the relationship between America and Britain to be as close as it was under the Reagan administration and that he would be happy to put a new trade deal in place quickly.

Unfortunately for Mrs May, under current EU rules, EU countries cannot make separate trade deals with non-EU countries so whilst she may be able to thrash out the terms, she can’t actually implement the agreement until Britain leaves or EU rules are changed.

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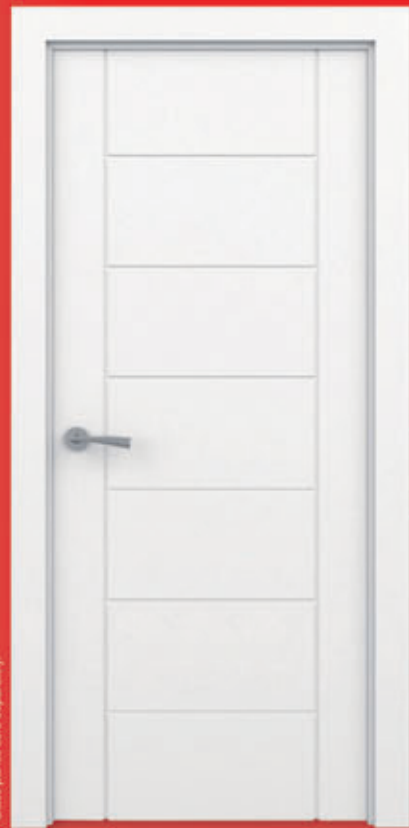
THE SUNDAY TIMES

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FACE forthcoming AGM and quiz night

FACE (Fundraising in Arboleas, Caring for Everyone) will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Hostel Meson in Arboleas at 10am on Friday February 3.

If you would like to find out more about this charity and the work they are trying to achieve then this is the perfect time to meet all the members of the committee.

There will be some changes this year, as the inaugural president, Adele Wrigglesworth, who has been the team leader since the inception of FACE, will be standing down as president, due to personal commitments. However she will remain with FACE as a member of the FACE committee. This means the appointment of a new president needs to be made. Dependent on who is appointed it may be necessary to appoint other officers to the FACE committee.

Over the years FACE has provided a great deal of support to various organisations in the Almanzora Valley and beyond. It is always pleased to welcome people who may be interested in assisting this dedicated band of fundraisers in the future.



QUIZ NIGHT: There will be prizes for the winners and also a raffle.

On Tuesday February 14 FACE will be holding a St Valentine's Day quiz night at Bar Kubatin in Arboleas. The quiz master will be committee member Zoe West. Teams may have up to six members and the cost of entry will be €2.50 per team mem-

ber. The number of teams will be limited. There will be prizes for the winners and there will also be a raffle. For entry forms please see one of the committee members or contact FACE at face.charity@hotmail.com. Visit www.face-charity.com.

Upcoming events for PAWS-PATAS

ON Wednesday February 1 PAWS-PATAS will host its third First Wednesday event that will feature three extremely important, determined and resourceful woman. Sue Elmer, Karen Polansky and Janet Franklin will be inviting the audience to ask them questions about their involvement in starting PAWS-PATAS.

The charity cares for abused and abandoned animals and continues to find 'forever homes' for them in Spain, Holland and the UK. Sue initiated the very first shelter 28 years ago when she managed to get free land from Vera Town Hall.

Karen, who came on board to assist, has continued to do so over the many years and is now the president of PAWS-PATAS.

Janet is one of the longest serving volunteers who has worked at the shelter. Over the years she has been the treasurer, organised fundraising events and she continues to do all the paperwork and transport

organisation to get the animals to their 'forever homes.'

At this interesting and informative event there will also be a clothes sale, fun auction, raffle, bingo, stalls and lots of fun too.

The charity will also host a treasure hunt to raise money for their cat neutering programme on Sunday February 12 at 10.30am. It promises to be a great day out that will be full of fun as the teams, in their cars, solve the easy to follow clues. Entry costs €10 per car (max four passengers), will include burgers, hot dogs and drinks at the finish and there will be a prize for the winning car.

Who will be the first to find the secret final destination?

Please register by 1pm on Friday February 10 for the treasure hunt by calling 603 587 805 or 634 348 017.

For more information contact www.paws-patas.org or find them on Facebook.



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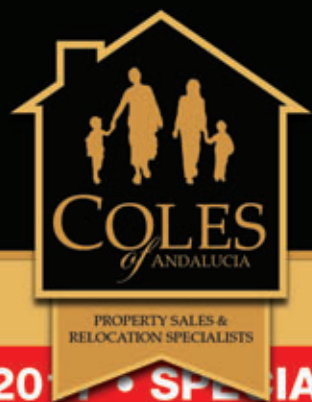
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Royal British Legion, meetings in Mojacar

AT the branch meeting on January 20 held at San Bernabe, Mojacar Playa, the president presented Marion Gunther with a certificate of appreciation for her long service and hard work as membership secretary.

This was the first coffee morning meeting and the group plans to continue having their second meeting of the month, which is held on the third Thursday of the month, as a coffee/lunch meeting.

The branch meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Centre of Multi Uses (Artisan Centre), Mojacar Pueblo at 11.15am and all are welcome to attend.

Diary dates for February are:

- Thursday February 2 at 11.15am: branch meeting with guest speaker Val Carrington.
- Friday February 3 at



THANK YOU: In appreciation of Marion's long service.

7.30pm: Fish 'n' chip supper and quiz at Beachcomber, Mojacar Playa.

- Thursday February 16 at 11.15am: branch social

meeting and/or lunch.

Any queries or to book a table for the quiz event please contact Christine on 697 887 362.

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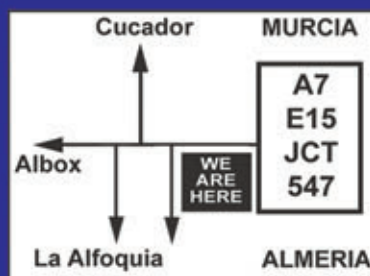
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RUSSIAN PRESS



Skyline dining room



PANORAMIC VISTA: At this restaurant on the 85th floor of a Moscow skyscraper.

A NEW restaurant offers breathtaking views of the Moscow skyline. Ruski has opened on the 85th floor of one of the city's highest skyscrapers and serves up mouth-watering classic Russian dishes alongside the panoramic vista. There is an eight-metre-tall oven and even an ice rink on the terrace.

Round trip

FOOTBALL hooligans convicted of rioting during the 2016 European Championships in France have returned home to Russia. Two men had been imprisoned for their role in the violence, largely against English fans, and were expected to serve two years. Dozens of other Russian ultras were deported at the time.

Boar hands

AN Irkutsk man was filmed freeing three wild boars from an ice hole using only his bare hands. The strongman managed to raise them from the icy depths by their ears but was bitten by the third boar before they all scarpered into the nearby forest.

Asylum artist

RADICAL Russian artist Pyotr Pavlensky has fled to France and claimed political asylum. The artist claims he is being set up on sexual as-

sault charges that could see him face 10 years in prison. He is known for nailing his scrotum to Red Square, wrapping himself in barbed wire and sewing his lips together.

Chilly cats

VOLUNTEERS across Moscow are banding together to rescue stray animals from the city's biting cold. Thousands of cats and dogs have suffered temperatures below minus 15 with very little food.

Now some of lucky ones are even on the chubby side.

Sherlock scoobied

THE BBC is investigating how the final episode of hit show Sherlock was leaked online, allegedly by Russian operatives, 24 hours before it reached British living rooms. Russia's internet watchdog is now demanding that all pirated versions be taken down but it is a little late.

Spy games

EDWARD SNOWDEN, the fugitive American who exposed the gathering of private correspondence by intelligence agencies, will be allowed to stay in Russia for a few more years. The former CIA contractor arrived in Moscow from Hong Kong in 2013 after having his passport revoked by the US government.

**SNOWDEN:
Passport was
revoked.**



EU on the Spanish deficit

By John Smith

A REPORT from the European Commission stated that Spain's budget for 2017 appeared to be in accord with EU rules concerning budget deficit, but it needs to be aware that it may need to take additional action if required.

As has been much publicised, Spain amongst other members has regularly missed deficit targets and risked significant fines or withdrawal of financial support unless it took drastic action to

bring the economy into line with EU expectations.

Part of the ongoing problem was blamed on the lack of a government for so long, but now that the Partido Popular has been

accepted to lead a minority administration, it is expected that it will take steps to rectify the situation.

The economy is currently one of the healthiest in the Union but it is

anticipated that the 2017 deficit will be 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) - which is the difference between government income and expenditure - against a budget of 3.1 per cent and the forecast for 2018 is currently 2.8 per cent against a budget of 2.2 per cent.

In order to reach these figures, the government has been forced to make a number of major expenditure cuts as well as requiring businesses to pay certain taxes such as IVA much earlier.

€1,166 billion

is the estimated debt that the Spanish government will carry forward at the end of 2017.

Airline safety

AIR INDIA has announced that it plans to introduce women only seating sections on a number of its flights due to an increasing number of complaints concerning unwelcomed attention, sometimes physical from male passengers in adjacent seats.

The airline will wherever possible set aside the first six rows in the economy section for women travelling alone or in groups.

At the same time, Korean Air have reacted to criticism that it was unable to restrain an unruly passenger by inviting the world's media to visit a training event where airline staff were instructed on the use of Tasers.

Quote of the Week

"I am pro-sensible trade, not trade that is to the disadvantage of the American worker and to the American manufacturing community." Wilbur Ross, new commerce secretary in the Trump administration on protectionism.



Car production on the increase



Photo Credit: Kike Fernandez Shutterstock

NEW CARS: Contribute to the Spanish economy.

By John Smith

WHILST there is every reason to be pleased with results of car manufacture in Spain in 2016 which is up 5.6 per cent over the previous year, the manufacturers association ANFAC warns that Brexit may depress future results.

With just under 2.9 million vehicles produced together with 1.9 million engines and 1.73 million gear boxes, the situation was very good for the car industry

which contributes a significant amount to the Spanish economy as more than 80 per cent of its production is exported.

Brexit fears however have already hurt the sector in the latter part of the year as the fall in the value of the pound has increased sales prices in the UK and if Britain takes a protectionist stance following Brexit, then it may become more difficult and more expensive for the Spanish industry to remain in that market.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Vegemite returns

ICONIC and possibly addictive yeast food brand Vegemite will return to Australian ownership after several years of foreign ownership as Bega Cheese agreed to buy a range of well-known food brands in a deal worth €322 million.

Wage reductions

IT is calculated that once inflation is taken into consideration together with loss of certain long service and expenses benefits that of all civil servants, teachers and university professors have seen the largest drop in their personal income.

Building No 3

AS part of what appears to be an investment strategy in Madrid, British company Princeton Investments plc has purchased its third building in the city, this time from Telefonica for €25 million, with the intention of expanding further within Spain.

Bank staff leaving London

ON the day after Theresa May's Brexit speech, the heads of two international banks, HSBC and USB each announced that they intended to move about 1,000 jobs in their European investment divisions out of London.

HSBC expects to resite its staff in Paris whilst USB is most likely to move its people to Frankfurt, both cities being in the forefront of those trying to poach finance jobs from London post Brexit.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 23

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,291.00	1.50	0.12	18,257.20
Associated British Foods	2,866.00	344.00	13.64	20,464.78
Admiral Group	825.00	-1,733.00	-100.00	4,924.98
Ashtead Group	1,595.00	20.00	1.27	7,837.84
Antofagasta	735.00	-27.00	-3.54	7,418.57
Aviva	477.50	4.20	0.89	19,344.96
AstraZeneca	4,425.50	107.00	2.48	56,536.78
BAE Systems	600.50	0.00	0.00	19,119.46
Babcock International Group	1,095.00	159.50	17.05	4,722.27
Bardays	229.25	1.85	0.81	38,727.08
British American Tobacco	4,782.50	22.50	0.47	88,259.46
Barratt Developments	275.00	-494.60	-100.00	5,090.09
British Land Co	570.00	-20.50	-3.47	6,131.84
BHP Billiton	1,452.50	12.50	0.87	30,551.12
Bunzl	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,138.36
BP	492.00	-6.35	-1.27	97,226.27
Burberry Group	1,706.00	54.00	3.27	7,319.06
BT Group	388.00	0.85	0.22	37,649.12
Coca-Cola HBC	925.00	-1,821.00	-100.00	6,584.74
Carnival	1,950.00	-4,168.00	-100.00	9,030.36
Centrica	228.00	0.00	0.00	12,612.64
Compass Group	1,425.50	17.50	1.24	23,280.29
Capita Group (The)	487.50	-26.00	-5.06	3,345.71
Croda International	1,651.00	-3,370.00	-100.00	4,396.80
CRH	1,375.00	-2,836.00	-100.00	23,248.94
Convatec Group Ord 10pWi	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,718.66
Dixons Carphone	337.50	-7.50	-2.17	4,020.72
DCC	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,365.98
Diageo	2,145.50	-6.50	-0.30	54,410.55
Direct Line Insurance Group	161.70	-345.30	-100.00	4,774.00
Experian	758.00	-1,539.00	-100.00	14,489.97
easyJet	1,050.00	6.00	0.57	4,134.94
Fresnillo	1,445.50	43.50	3.10	10,301.77
GKN	336.50	-6.50	-1.90	5,863.50
Glencore	315.50	-2.85	-0.90	45,501.78
GlaxoSmithKline	1,540.00	-6.50	-0.42	76,254.01
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,925.00	-13.00	-0.67	4,662.32
Hargreaves Lansdown	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,265.75
Hammerson	543.50	-0.50	-0.09	4,334.78
HSBC Holdings	682.00	3.60	0.53	134,948.02
International Consolidated Air	482.50	-10.90	-2.21	10,398.77
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,725.00	-25.00	-0.67	7,430.60
3i Group	350.00	-708.00	-100.00	6,916.43
Imperial Brands	3,595.00	-6.00	-0.17	34,106.14
Informa	290.00	-666.00	-100.00	5,524.95
Intu Properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,729.07
Intertek Group	2,000.00	-3,457.00	-100.00	5,613.03
ITV	187.50	-14.00	-6.95	8,191.71
Johnson Matthey	3,095.00	-47.00	-1.50	6,100.17
Kingfisher	352.50	8.90	2.59	7,838.90

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	993.00	8.50	0.86	7,812.41
Legal & General Group	240.75	2.25	0.94	14,350.72
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	64.50	-0.57	-0.88	46,207.36
London Stock Exchange Grp	2,770.00	-279.00	-9.15	10,544.22
Micro Focus International	1,025.00	-2,120.00	-100.00	4,882.84
Mediclinic International	788.75	-0.75	-0.09	5,846.34
Merlin Entertainments	250.00	-481.40	-100.00	4,883.00
Marks & Spencer Group	350.00	12.80	3.80	5,577.69
Mondi	1,050.00	-1,789.00	-100.00	8,565.17
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	212.00	-28.00	-11.67	5,630.83
National Grid	947.50	9.50	1.01	35,179.13
Next	4,034.00	114.00	2.91	5,873.44
Old Mutual Group	209.00	0.60	0.29	10,318.36
Provident Financial	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,168.58
Paddy Power Betfair	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,216.76
Prudential	1,576.75	28.25	1.82	40,058.08
Persimmon	1,983.50	51.50	2.67	6,031.14
Pearson	609.00	20.00	3.40	4,838.22
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,825.00	0.00	0.00	48,137.24
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	220.50	-0.40	-0.18	26,022.78
Royal Dutch Shell	2,245.50	22.50	1.01	97,812.34
Royal Dutch Shell	2,306.00	-10.00	-0.43	86,164.92
RELX	1,310.50	-114.50	-8.04	15,399.47
Rio Tinto	3,450.00	-50.69	-1.47	47,548.21
Royal Mail	423.75	9.75	2.36	4,225.00
Rolls-Royce Group	695.00	6.50	0.94	12,917.55
Randgold Resources	6,675.00	-40.00	-0.60	6,272.01
RSA Insurance Group	290.00	-565.50	-100.00	5,760.49
Sainsbury (J)	245.00	-17.70	-6.74	5,860.72
Schroders	1,550.00	-2,987.00	-100.00	6,739.99
Sage Group (The)	338.00	-643.50	-100.00	6,945.20
Shire	4,541.00	148.00	3.37	40,539.90
Smurfit Kappa Group	1,100.00	-2,181.00	-100.00	4,937.27
Sky	993.50	-5.50	-0.55	17,172.98
Standard Life	367.50	16.40	4.67	7,013.17
Smiths Group	575.00	-1,490.00	-100.00	5,899.60
Smith & Nephew	629.50	-1,205.00	-100.00	10,589.46
SSE	1,540.00	34.00	2.26	15,332.46
Standard Chartered	700.00	-52.90	-7.03	24,567.57
St James's Place	400.00	-1,060.00	-100.00	5,554.39
Severn Trent	2,300.00	90.00	4.07	5,268.06
Tesco	196.30	-2.00	-1.01	16,561.83
TUI AG	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,639.40
Taylor Wimpey	169.00	1.40	0.84	5,543.11
Unilever	3,335.00	-26.00	-0.77	42,873.96
United Utilities Group	880.50	-14.50	-1.62	6,130.18
Vodafone Group	206.50	0.45	0.22	54,859.59
Wolseley	4,925.00	-12.00	-0.24	12,462.35
Worldpay Group	140.50	-285.70	-100.00	5,748.00
WPP Group	1,852.50	9.50	0.52	23,708.61
Whitbread	4,025.00	-95.00	-2.31	7,458.52

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CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 23

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	178,490	-0,11%	-0,190	107M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	76,2000	-0,64%	-0,4900	69M
APPLE	120,000	+0,18%	0,220	630M
BOEING CO	159,530	+0,33%	0,530	98M
CATERPILLAR	94,580	+1,29%	1,200	55M
CHEVRON	115,60	+0,02%	0,02	217M
CISCO SYSTEMS	30,100	+0,40%	0,120	150M
COCA-COLA	41,32	+0,44%	0,18	177M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	73,0300	+0,11%	0,0800	63M
EXXON MOBIL	85,89	+1,37%	1,16	354M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	30,5300	-2,18%	-0,6800	268M
GOLDMAN SACHS	232,20	+0,34%	0,79	92M
HOME DEPOT	135,6000	+0,16%	0,2100	165M
IBM	170,55	+2,24%	3,74	161M
INTEL CORP	36,9400	+1,01%	0,3700	173M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	83,6700	+0,44%	0,3700	298M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	114,1500	-0,04%	-0,0500	310M
MC DONALD'S CORP	122,2600	+0,07%	0,0800	101M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,53	+3,65%	2,20	172M
MICROSOFT	62,740	+0,71%	0,440	486M
NIKE	53,20	+0,51%	0,27	70M
PFIZER	31,7700	+0,22%	0,0700	192M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	87,450	+3,25%	2,750	233M
TRAVELERS CIES	118,02	+0,03%	0,03	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	110,79	+0,05%	0,06	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	158,66	-0,03%	-0,04	150M
VERIZON COMMS	52,72	+0,69%	0,36	214M
VISA	81,84	+0,13%	0,11	151M
WAL-MART STORES	67,1800	-0,65%	-0,4400	206M
WALT DISNEY CO	107,6600	+0,35%	0,3800	170M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 23

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Eagle Bulk Shipping Inc.	\$ 6.85	0.80 ▲ 13.22%
Rightside Group, Ltd.	\$ 9.21	1.07 ▲ 13.14%
Skyworks Solutions, Inc.	\$ 88.67	10.21 ▲ 13.01%
Hydrogenics Corporation	\$ 5.40	0.55 ▲ 11.34%
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 2.65	0.25 ▲ 10.42%
PC-Tel, Inc.	\$ 5.70	0.52 ▲ 10.04%
Vanguard Natural Resources LLC	\$ 3.10	0.28 ▲ 9.93%
Star Bulk Carriers Corp.	\$ 9.06	0.78 ▲ 9.42%
Preferred Bank	\$ 53.98	4.49 ▲ 9.07%
Aralez Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 4.40	0.34 ▲ 8.37%
CPI Card Group Inc.	\$ 4.60	0.35 ▲ 8.24%
Most Declined		
Catabasis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 4.50	0.47 ▼ 9.46%
Puma Biotechnology Inc	\$ 32.25	3.25 ▼ 9.15%
Aptevo Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 2.35	0.23 ▼ 8.91%
Avinger, Inc.	\$ 2.35	0.20 ▼ 7.84%
Synergy Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 5.91	0.50 ▼ 7.80%
Sangamo Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.65	0.30 ▼ 7.59%
VelocityShares Daily 2x VIX Short Term ETN	\$ 6.21	0.51 ▼ 7.59%
Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc.	\$ 19.4377	1.5422 ▼ 7.35%
Achaogen, Inc.	\$ 17.55	1.29 ▼ 6.85%
Clearside Biomedical, Inc.	\$ 7.69	0.53 ▼ 6.45%
Atlantic American Corporation	\$ 3.75	0.25 ▼ 6.25%

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EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£0.9856.....

€0.9656.....

£1.1361.....

£1.0714.....

£1.2611.....

£1.1795.....

£1.3762.....

£1.2940.....

Price Movement

-£0.0003

-€0.0003

-£0.0034

-£0.0035

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World Economic Forum in Davos

By John Smith

WHILST many conspiracy theorists comment on the fact that the World Economic Forum meeting held in Davos, Switzerland each year is a front for a small group dominating the world, there is no doubt that it attracts politicians from every continent.

“The Forum engages businesses in projects and initiatives to address industry, regional and systemic issues.”

In its own words, “the Forum provides a platform for the world’s 1,000 leading companies to shape a better future. As a membership organisation, the Forum engages businesses in projects and initiatives - online and offline - to address industry, regional and systemic issues.”

To some extent therefore there is little doubt that this organisation does help to shape future decisions as the members contribute so much to the economies of so many countries and



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: Theresa May speaking in Davos.

whilst there are any number of public speeches and meetings, it would be naive to assume that no other deals take place in private.

This year saw the first visit from a Chinese leader as Xi Jinping addressed members with a thinly veiled message for President Elect Trump

about the dangers of a potential trade war and the advantages of globalisation.

Theresa May rushed over to Davos following her Brexit speech at Lancaster House and explained her view of the future for Britain, Europe and the rest of the world and warned

multinational organisations that they need to pay more tax to ensure fairer treatment for individuals.

As far as she is concerned, she believes “It is essential for business to show leadership - to show that in this globalised world, everyone is playing by the same rules.” In addition, she

wants them to forget short term profits and invest in helping individuals and the community for the long term.

This view agrees with that of Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund who has also called for fairer treatment for individuals where big business uses globalisation to reduce its tax obligations to the detriment of the economies of a number of countries.

Mrs May has also indicated that she intends to make Britain a world leader in free trade, although it would appear that she will be unable to negotiate any of these trade deals until such time as Britain has physically left the European Union, by which time there could well be less than one year before a new General Election in the UK.

Davos is an important event which also highlights the fact that so few women are involved in the forum that rules have been introduced (and sometimes ignored) that each member company should bring one woman for every four men who attend, whilst every organised discussion should have at least one woman on the panel.

Rolls-Royce agrees massive bribery fine

By John Smith

ROLLS-ROYCE HOLDINGS PLC which is responsible for the production of engines for the aeronautical industry has issued a public apology and agreed to pay fines totalling £671 million (€771 million) to Britain, Brazil and the USA.

This deal which is being made under the Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DFA) will save them from a number of proposed criminal prosecutions for what it admits was endemic bribery in order to win contracts over an extended period.

The main bulk of the fine, £479 million (€550 million) will be paid to the British government with a further £141 million (€162 million) being paid to the US Department of Justice, with the balance being paid to Brazil.

Introduction of the DFA system in the UK is relatively recent and this is without doubt the largest agreed settlement ever reached in Britain, but it is fairly common in the USA and has been in regular use with regards to agreed fines for banks who acted improperly in the run up and subsequent to the financial problems of 2008.

Sources suggest that the decision to reach these agreements now was in part due to fears that the new President might have been tempted to instruct the DOJ to take an even tougher stance

The investigation by the UK Serious Fraud Office (SFO) started in 2012 when certain information concerning the use of bribes to obtain business for the company was brought to its attention.



BA aircraft with a Rolls-Royce engine.

As investigations proceeded and with the full cooperation of what was effectively a new management team, it became clear that bribery was almost the norm rather than the exception for several years, with payments amounting to as much as \$36 million (€34 million) being paid to ensure that contracts were obtained.

In some cases, the company ‘turned a blind eye’ to bribes being made by agents or intermediaries whilst in other cases it was complicit in the actual payments which were alleged to have been made to companies in Angola, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Russia and Thailand.

The current management of the company will continue to give the SFO access to documents even though they have reportedly examined 30 million already and

this agreement is seen as something of a triumph for the department which has seen many investigations fall down in the past.

Although the company, which is no longer associated with the car manufacturer owned by BMW, is safe from prosecution, the Crown Prosecution Service will be considering whether there is sufficient evidence to bring criminal prosecutions against any individuals involved at the time.

Manchester United makes a fortune to top revenue table

By John Smith

THEY may be out of the Champions League this year but Manchester United have topped the revenue league table prepared annually by financial consultants Deloitte for the first time in 12 years.

If anyone doubts the value of top class football teams then the 10 most successful clubs earned €5.228 billion between them with five of the top 10 coming from the Premier League.

For the last 11 years, Real Madrid has been the most financially successful club followed by Barcelona with Manchester United in third place but this year, with income of €689 million, the British club has pushed Los Blancos (Real Madrid) to third position with Barcelona pipping them to second place by just €100,000.

Every club in the top 10 has seen an increase in income for 2015-2016, with the average in-



MANCHESTER UNITED: Increased profits are generated through tickets sales and TV rights.

crease being 12 per cent.

Although many smaller clubs around Europe are finding it difficult to generate sufficient income, those who are at the top consistently generate increased profits through tickets sales, TV rights and most importantly merchandising.

Deloitte forecasts that the next season could see another turnaround as United will not be in the Champions League, will face increased pressure on salaries and transfer fees due to continued Chinese expansion and may well also suffer from a weaker pound.

A very important part of the revenue stream for the Manchester club has been in respect of commercial and merchandising deals which have seen an additional €100 million in income, but other clubs are likely to learn from the Manchester United lesson.

Super Rich

THE international charity Oxfam has released a report to tie in with the World Economic Forum in Davos that states that eight men own as much wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity.

The report entitled 'An economy for the 99 per cent' suggests that the gap between the rich and the poor is actually getting greater and that the super rich, both corporate and individuals are using their wealth to screen themselves from paying taxes, for influencing politicians and driving down wages.

Whilst all of the eight richest people in the world are men and the majority come from the USA, there is one Spaniard, Amancio Ortega of Inditex and a Mexican, Carlos Slim.

Previously it was thought that the major wealth of the planet was held by 62 individuals, but this figure has been drastically reappraised following new data concerning poverty levels in China and India, both of which boast many millionaires although millions of people exist on meagre daily incomes.

Oxfam is calling on business leaders to play their part in building a human economy by ensuring their businesses pay a living wage and individuals around the globe can join the campaign at www.evenitup.org.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity.

What is an LPA?

An LPA is a legal document that enables you to appoint one or more attor-

neys to act for you when you are no longer able to act for yourself.

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

Unfortunately there is no international type of LPA which is guaranteed to work in both the UK and Spain.

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

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



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LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
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HOPEFULLY the cry of 'Donald Duck' won't be heard issuing from the lips of the new president's bodyguards for a while.

Although many of the dissenters would love to see the red spot appear between Mr Trump's eyes, I for one am delighted to see this largely unknown entity emerge as the leader of the free world. I found his inauguration speech particularly invigorating.

And you know why? Because, despite the waffling and his somewhat blustery style of delivery, you can't help feeling that he's speaking from the heart.

Gone were the old empty political cliches and lies, that glibly pour from the lips of the career politicians - irrespective of which party they represent.

In its place we heard a man, not bought by campaign backers, who use their puppet politicians



DONALD TRUMP: Used his own finances to attain his position.

as a means to their own ends, but a man who used his own finances to attain his position and who owes no allegiance to those powerful companies and countries that manipulate and influence the

limp-wristed leaders of our so called democratic societies. And the biggest plus of all?

He's a businessman. I've lost track of the amount of times this blurb has reflected that this planet

is a business. To be a successful and fair place for all its inhabitants it must be run by business people, with boards of directors and decision makers, that have only the sweet smell of overall

“

Despite the waffling, you can't help feeling that he's speaking from the heart.

success to give them the enthusiasm and impetuosity to make our world a better place.

Well I for one, despite the vitriolic reactions I have received from a number of people! Can't wait to see what Corporation Trump has in store for planet Earth. Coupled with the freedom we are about to experience by casting off the shackles of the now mortally wounded, ego-riddled EU, I think the future we are about to experience is probably the most exciting thing that has happened to the human race since the conquest of space. Bring it on.

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RESALES | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Hidden charges on my bills

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WELL Trump is now the President of the USA... I could finish the article there really. Never mind. God bless America - or as it is now - God help America and the rest of the World really. OK on with the more serious stuff of me being grumpy! Mrs S goes to the bank to pay a friend's community fees.

They live in the UK and, don't ask me why, but they transfer money to us so that when it's paid they get a receipt. Anyway in she goes and the girl behind the counter looks at the paper and asks if she wants to put a reference in. Mrs S says yes and adds the name of our friend. The girl then says that will be another three euros please. What? Why? 'Admin charge', she said. 'What, to type in a name?'

'Yes,' well 'Si' actually as Mrs S speaks Spanish. 'Ok don't put it in.' So she didn't and wasn't charged. What a lot of nonsense. How many times have you been in a bank and the person in front of you is there forever and it finally gets to your turn and then a colleague comes over with a query and you are left standing there like a muppet. I feel sometimes it's like 'If you bloody customers didn't keep coming in I could get on with my work!'

But this did make me think about other charges that have ticked me off recently. I got a message from my phone company saying I had used up all my Data and I could get more for two euros. I called them and said OK.

Then she said for three euros I could get an even better deal, so I said OK cancel the two euro one and please send me a text confirming because of problems I've had before. She said OK and did just that. Of course, when I got my bill, both charges were on there and I now have to get my two euros back. It's not the money, it's the principle, but as you all know by now I don't have anything better to do.

Here's a good one. When I was on a visit to the USA I was in hotel and ordered some coffee as there was no coffee maker in the room. When I looked at the bill I had to sign, on it is a \$5 'tray charge.' 'Can I have the coffee without the tray?' 'No.' 'Do I now own the tray?' 'No.'

I will now add that to the other cons in hotels like charging for parking and the 'free' looking bottle of water on the table in the room that turns out to cost \$8. How about the cover charge in restaurants which I've been told is for the bread etc. Don't bring me what appears to be free bread then charge me for it. If I want bread I'll order it and gladly pay for it. Don't stick hidden charges on my bills! OK?

On Talk Radio Europe on January 27. Have a listen and call in or email me mike senker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

The DGT joins Waze

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.



A SAFER COMMUTE: Now that the DGT has joined Waze.

SPAIN has joined up with Waze, a traffic information and planning application, aimed at improving road safety and information.

Waze was designed to try to get other motorists to share information on the road conditions, making more people aware of issues such as delays or any obstructions in the road. By connecting drivers to one another, they help people create local driving communities that work together to improve the quality of everyone's daily driving. It could helping them avoid the frustration of sitting in traffic, or save them time on their regular commute by showing them another route.

Waze works by typing in your destination address and the app remains open contributing traffic and other road data. Users can share details on accidents or poor weather conditions, giving other drivers a 'heads-up.'

Now, as the DGT joins Waze's 'Connected Citizens Programme' it puts Spain in line with other traffic authorities such as Transport for London, ASFA (French Highways) as well the authorities in New York and Barcelona who are already part of the group. The DGT will be able to freely exchange traffic data through Waze to improve traffic management and safety, hopefully reaching a wider audience.

The initiative is part of the DGT's commitment to move towards advanced traffic management models, using real-time data. It is hoped this will help create smarter management in the Traffic Management Centres to improve the flow of traffic and safety.

Download the app by searching for Waze in the app or play store. Remember drivers cannot touch devices when driving. Pull over to report problems or get a passenger to do it.

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

Can he use UK licence?

Q. I HAVE lived in Spain for two years and have 'residencia.'

However, I have not changed my driving licence and I have heard that I would lose some entitlements, such as being able to drive a 7.5 tonne lorry, and my full motorcycle licence. Is this correct?

Also, I have two cars in the UK, that are insured with a UK licence. I regularly return to the UK, so a change would make my insurance invalid.

I am also told that I can register my UK licence with Trafico and continue to use the licence. Is that possible?

R O (Costa del Sol)

A. LET'S keep it simple. If you are a citizen of the European Union and you take up official residence in Spain, you may continue to use your home-country licence to drive in Spain until this licence expires.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



Before then, you must exchange your UK licence for a Spanish permit, registered to

your address in Spain. You may need to talk with Trafico in advance to see how your entitlements transfer. You will have to change your UK insurance at that time. No, you cannot register your UK licence and continue to use it in Spain.

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

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Could Blair pick up the Brexodus baton?

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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

THIS week I was planning to write about the post-neoclassical endogenous growth theory. Quite brief. Provocative. And thrilling. You'd have loved it. Trust me. I'm a journo... Never mind!

But then something happened. My blood pressure started rising rapidly. And not in a good way. After weeks of depressing news about Trump, Putin, Corbyn, who again emerges from the woodwork? Yes, you guessed: Tony Blair.

And reports he is said to have met an Oscar-winning film producer to discuss making a documentary about his life. Although Blair's spokesman said he received many such requests but had agreed to none, according to a source: "They were really keen on the idea. It just ticks all the boxes."

Intriguingly, we can only

guess what form a possible documentary could take. For some, it could be 'LA LA Land,' the movie sequel, where Tony and Cherie write their own fantasy screenplay, find God and dance and sing their way through numerous properties until they locate a bank.

For others, a kind of Bible Story: how an 'ordinary guy' feels the hand of history on his shoulder, is 'instructed' to topple ruthless tyrants and overcome all manner of evil and, finally, a legend in his own mind, ends up living in countless country piles.

We can only guess, too, what Blair, a staunch Europhile who has dropped heavy hints about returning to politics, makes of Theresa May's 12-

point plan (her '12 Commandments' or 'Brexodus'). One thing's certain, though. He'd love her job.

Which reminds me: according to Tom Bower (Tony Blair's biographer), when Blair became PM, he realised he hadn't read enough history, so asked Roy Jenkins, his mentor, for advice. Jenkins sent him five books, four

written by himself. "The only one we know he read is the biography of Gladstone," Bower recalls. "Unfortunately, the lesson he seems to have taken from it is that it's possible to return as PM time and again until the age of 84."

Help! Given all last year's 'surprises' (Trump, Brexit etc) who knows what the future might still hold for the UK electorate?

Nora Johnson's psychological/suspense crime thrillers 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.com) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.



Tony Blair. |

Photo by 360b

Advertising feature

Christina Sharp

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PERHAPS an unusual suggestion in the midst of the UK's recent Southern Rail strike misery, but why not try a luxury train journey as an elegant and relaxing alternative for your next holiday? For those who prefer to keep their feet firmly on the ground it beats flying and it's definitely a cut above joining the masses in the airport departure lounge.

Rail cruising is a perfect way to take in the landscape and culture of your surroundings whilst indulging in the on-board splendour of your chosen train. And with travel companies competing to offer the most unique and luxurious trips, you are in for an unforgettable experience that will leave you chuffed to bits...

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trip to Venice, Paris and Verona. Or venture further afield with the Blue Train traversing South Africa, or the Rocky Mountaineer through the majestic Canadian Rockies.

There are many other options with a variety of companies offering bespoke packages, so take a look at the Luxury Train Club, Belmond, or Abercrombie & Kent for some ideas.

If you decide to splash out on a trip, do remember to buy a reliable travel insurance policy to cover unforeseen mishaps while you are away. You can get great cover with Globelink's Comprehensive Single Trip policy for as little as £23.96 (one adult aged 51-65yrs travelling in Europe for eight days) and be covered for up to £10,000,000 emergency medical and repatriation expenses, up to £3,000 for your baggage and £4,000 if you have to cancel or cut short your trip, plus many other benefits. Wherever you chose to travel, visit the FCO website on health and safety abroad, www.gov.uk/travelaware. It could invalidate your travel insurance if you go against their advice. This week, following political unrest in Gambia, the FCO are advising against all but essential travel to Gambia, so the website is a good place to help make an informed choice about where to travel.

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Cold days - when swearing is music to my ears!

Ric Polansky

Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.

THE words hadn't left my mouth but one nano second when dad leaped up and hit me. He would have knocked me clearly to China but two chairs and the sink got in the way. While my eyes were reviewing the situation my mother jumped into the fracas and my siblings bounded into the room anxious to see me receive my just desserts.

"Where the hell did you learn to talk that way?" he roared. His words had resonance as he never swore nor generally clocked me while sitting at the table. All the eyes of the family were upon me, their minds spinning so loudly I could hear their cerebral windings and ticking.

I sat up and tried to remain as casual as possible, as if I had total rationale. "The birds taught me those words, good eh?"

"But," he started screaming again like a

mad man: "you mean you walk around outside and those tiny brown sparrows fly up to you and give you cuss words to say?" Now that was stupid, I had never heard sparrows chirp let alone add to my growing vocabulary. "No dad, not those birds, the pretty ones, the colourful ones. The ones with the beautiful feathers at the zoo."

Now that confused him even more, and suspecting I was speaking in ghost tongues his frenzied eyes darted about looking for the stray baseball bat to clear up the confusion. Just then, my mother spoke and saved me. "Now Vic, I read about that in the paper and it did happen." Dad just stood there with his mouth agape. All my siblings were grimacing and disappointed not to witness me getting knocked to Timbuktu.

Pops refused to sit back down and was still looking for that instrument of death to punish me further. Then mother started speaking: "Remember that horrific blizzard we had in early December that closed all the roads and shut the schools? Well, in the zoo they had no warming facilities to keep the



COLD WEATHER: 'I am a safe haven of linguistic debilitation.'

exotic birds warm. Finally it was decided to store them all in the boiler room of the heating plant, which apparently was the warmest place in the complex. Problem solved for the birds staying alive, but apparently no one took under consideration that that very place is where all the workers also ate their lunches. It was warm and away from onlooking administrative eyes. So, when the birds started mimicking the eating habits of the men, those very same workers got their revenge

by teaching the birds, all of their common language and swear words. The last I heard was that the aviary was still closed. He must have gotten in there some way."

Her 'get out of jail' oration saved me and I bolted for the great outdoors before cross examination.

So, when it is bitterly cold again, look me up. I am a safe haven of linguistic debilitation. You can blaspheme all you want. Hell, I don't give a damn.

Some great ideas and teamwork can make miracles happen!

Guest Columnist

Today: Peter Hughes



GREAT ideas and inventions often become viable only with time, dedication and the help of other people. The progress made when putting our heads together can be extraordinary. We have gone from steam engine to self-driving electric Tesla cars in just a couple of centuries.

When we combine ideas with resources we can generate new possibilities that can be barely otherwise imagined. Let's say if someone has some land, people have spare time to plant trees, this then can produce fruit and new incomes. Scaled up, this increases healthy, home-grown produce and so there are less imported goods.

Like many great ideas, crowdfunding was innovated in the UK. It's a



TESLA electric car.

Photo by Taina Sohlman

good way for innovators and 'crowdfunders' to work together. The idea caught on quickly, supported by social media and began assisting projects to get help.

Investors scan projects in technology, music, environment or community, find projects that resonate and then fund them. The investor com-

municates directly with the inventor. Together with incentives for participating, including the feel good factor, as people cooperate, miracles start to happen.

In 2012, crowdfunding raised \$3 billion for charities and projects. In 2015, the figure was more than 10 times that amount! Crowdfunding took many

progressive steps to reach the heights it's reached today and it has the potential to go even further.

A more connected community can empower answers to today's problems, no matter how complex. Linking ideas and funding can generate improvements and benefits for all of us. It does relate to charity, yet it al-

so produces worthwhile investment opportunities, beyond monetary value alone.

Back in the 90's, a group of friends and I wanted to save a rain forest. With only a phone and a fax and minimal funds we were fortunate when a local newspaper joined us. The project expanded and many people working together helped preserve the ecologically valuable land and establish a small national park.

The partnership between the people and the media made the dream a reality. Sharing an idea and teamwork combined, can make it feasible.

Britain and the EU are in talks discussing the exit of the UK from the EU. Where this all goes in future we do not yet know. However what we can be sure of is that teamwork can help produce answers that can benefit us all.

A few hours searching crowdfunding projects makes a day very well spent.

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26 JANUARY	<div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Spy in the Wild</div> <div>10:00pm Death in Paradise</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:45pm Question Time</div> <div>12:45am This Week</div>	<div>6:00pm Tennis</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys</div> <div>8:00pm Put Your Money</div> <div>9:00pm Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>10:00pm Winterwatch 2017</div> <div>11:00pm The Cult Next Door</div> <div>11:30pm Mock the Week</div> <div>11:45pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:15am Horizon</div>	<div>8:30pm Keep, Chuck or Clean? Tonight</div> <div>9:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:30pm The Cruise</div> <div>10:00pm Unforgotten</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>11:40pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories</div> <div>12:40am Tipping Point</div>	<div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm The Restoration Man</div> <div>10:00pm Spies</div> <div>11:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?</div> <div>12:00am 60 Days in Jail</div>	<div>8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords</div> <div>9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div> <div>11:45pm Football on 5</div> <div>1:00am Super Casino</div>	<div>6:30pm Barclays Premier League World</div> <div>7:00pm EFL Cup Highlights</div> <div>7:30pm Barclays Premier League World</div> <div>8:00pm Transfer Centre</div> <div>8:30pm Live EFL Cup Semi-Final</div> <div>11:15pm La Liga Show</div> <div>11:45pm Barclays Premier League World</div> <div>12:15am Football Gold</div>
FRIDAY	<div>4:45pm Royal Recipes</div> <div>5:30pm Antiques Road Trip</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Match of the Day Live</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:25pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:35pm The Graham Norton Show</div> <div>12:25am Uncle</div>	<div>7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys</div> <div>8:00pm Only Connect</div> <div>8:30pm Eurovision: You Decide</div> <div>10:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes</div> <div>11:00pm QI</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:05am Further Back in Time for Dinner</div>	<div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Tina and Bobby</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>11:40pm Fishing Impossible</div> <div>12:10am The Wine Show</div>	<div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast</div> <div>10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats</div> <div>11:00pm Does Countdown</div> <div>12:05am The Last Leg</div> <div>1:05am First Dates Hotel</div> <div>1:05am Virtually Famous</div>	<div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Police Interceptors</div> <div>9:00pm Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm Lip Sync Battle UK</div> <div>11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div>	<div>8:00pm Transfer Centre</div> <div>8:30pm Spanish Football Gold</div> <div>8:40pm Football</div> <div>10:40pm Carl Frampton: Fighter of 2016</div> <div>10:55pm Football Gold</div> <div>11:00pm La Liga Show</div> <div>11:30pm EFL Cup Highlights</div> <div>12:00am The Fantasy Football Club</div>
SATURDAY	<div>6:10pm BBC News</div> <div>6:20pm BBC London News</div> <div>6:30pm Who Dares Wins</div> <div>7:10pm Pointless</div> <div>8:00pm Let it Shine</div> <div>9:25pm Casualty</div> <div>10:15pm Taboo</div> <div>11:10pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights</div> <div>12:50am The NFL Show</div>	<div>5:55pm University Challenge</div> <div>6:25pm Only Connect</div> <div>6:55pm Finding Neverland</div> <div>8:30pm Britain's Ancient Capital : Secrets of Orkney</div> <div>9:30pm Dad's Army</div> <div>10:00pm Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence</div> <div>11:20pm The Sapphires</div> <div>1:00am Bowls</div>	<div>6:45pm ITV News and Weather</div> <div>7:00pm You've Been Framed! King-Size!</div> <div>8:00pm Ninja Warrior UK</div> <div>9:00pm The Voice UK</div> <div>10:30pm Through the Keyhole</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News and Weather</div> <div>11:45pm Cliffhanger</div> <div>1:50am Jackpot247</div>	<div>5:30pm Location, Location, Location</div> <div>6:30pm Grand Designs</div> <div>7:30pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>8:00pm Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages</div> <div>9:00pm Great Canal Journeys</div> <div>10:00pm The Monuments Men</div> <div>12:20am 127 Hours</div>	<div>5:00pm The Yorkshire Vet</div> <div>6:00pm The Yorkshire Vet</div> <div>7:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords</div> <div>8:00pm NCIS: Los Angeles</div> <div>9:00pm NCIS</div> <div>9:55pm 5 News</div> <div>10:00pm Football on 5</div> <div>11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>12:00am In Therapy</div> <div>1:05am Super Casino</div>	<div>8:40pm Football</div> <div>10:40pm Spanish Football Gold</div> <div>10:50pm Spanish Football Gold</div> <div>11:00pm Boxing Gold</div> <div>11:30pm Boxing Gold</div> <div>11:45pm Carl Frampton: Fighter of 2016</div> <div>12:00am Football Gold</div>
SUNDAY	<div>7:30pm Countryfile</div> <div>8:30pm Still Open All Hours</div> <div>9:00pm Call the Midwife</div> <div>10:00pm Apple Tree Yard</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:20pm Regional News</div> <div>11:25pm Weather</div> <div>11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights</div> <div>12:30am The Teen Who Tried to Kill Trump</div>	<div>3:00pm Bowls</div> <div>6:15pm Yellowstone</div> <div>7:15pm Ski Sunday</div> <div>8:00pm City in the Sky</div> <div>9:00pm Dragons' Den</div> <div>10:00pm Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week</div> <div>11:00pm QI XL</div> <div>11:45pm Live at the Apollo</div> <div>12:30am The Cider House Rules</div>	<div>6:15pm ITV News and Weather</div> <div>6:30pm The Chase: Celebrity Special</div> <div>7:30pm Dance Dance Dance</div> <div>9:00pm Endeavour</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News and Weather</div> <div>11:15pm Peston on Sunday</div> <div>12:15am Rugby: Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights</div>	<div>4:30pm A Place in the Sun</div> <div>5:30pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>5:55pm Avatar</div> <div>9:00pm Walking the Americas</div> <div>10:00pm Homeland</div> <div>11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats</div> <div>12:00am Does Countdown</div> <div>2:10am 2 Guns</div> <div>2:10am How to Lose Weight Well</div>	<div>3:45pm Free Birds</div> <div>5:30pm Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2</div> <div>7:10pm Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4</div> <div>8:10pm The Medallion</div> <div>9:55pm 5 News</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm Celebrity Botched Up</div> <div>12:00am Bodies</div> <div>12:00am Just Go with it</div>	<div>12:30pm Goals on Sunday</div> <div>1:30pm Football</div> <div>4:15pm Football</div> <div>6:15pm Football</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm Boxing</div> <div>Carl Frampton and Leo Santa Cruz meet at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.</div> <div>1:00am Live NFL Pro Bowl</div>
MONDAY	<div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Inside Out</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Panorama</div> <div>10:00pm Silent Witness</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div> <div>11:40pm Weather</div> <div>11:45pm Class</div> <div>12:30am Class</div>	<div>7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys</div> <div>8:00pm Put Your Money</div> <div>9:00pm Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>9:30pm University Challenge</div> <div>9:30pm An Island Parish</div> <div>10:00pm George III - Genius of the Mad King</div> <div>11:00pm Insert Name Here</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:10am Weather</div>	<div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm The Halcyon</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:40pm Through the Keyhole</div> <div>12:40am The Chase</div>	<div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Dispatches</div> <div>9:30pm Food Unwrapped</div> <div>10:00pm The Undateables</div> <div>11:00pm First Dates Hotel</div> <div>12:05am Tattoo Fixers</div> <div>1:10am The World's Weirdest Weather</div>	<div>6:00pm 5 News</div> <div>6:30pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm World's Biggest Beasts</div> <div>9:00pm Police Interceptors</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm My Mum's Hotter Than Me!</div> <div>12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div>	<div>8:30pm Spanish Football Gold</div> <div>8:40pm Football</div> <div>10:40pm Spanish Football Gold</div> <div>11:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17</div> <div>11:30pm La Liga Goals</div> <div>12:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17</div> <div>12:30am Premier League Legends</div> <div>1:00am Scottish Football Round Up</div>
TUESDAY	<div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Holby City</div> <div>10:00pm Silent Witness</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div> <div>11:40pm Weather</div> <div>11:45pm Match of the Day</div> <div>1:05am Who Do You Think You Are?</div>	<div>6:15pm Flog It!</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys</div> <div>8:00pm Our Dancing Town</div> <div>9:00pm Further Back in Time for Dinner</div> <div>10:00pm Sicily</div> <div>11:00pm Revolting</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:10am Weather</div>	<div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Save Money</div> <div>9:00pm Tales From the Coast with Robson Green</div> <div>10:00pm Sugar Free Farm</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:40pm Wilderness Walks with Ray Mears</div> <div>12:10am The Investigator</div>	<div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well</div> <div>10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E</div> <div>11:00pm Iraq (Title TBC)</div> <div>12:05am This is Us</div> <div>1:05am The Undateables</div>	<div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm Sinkholes: Buried Alive</div> <div>9:00pm The Nightmare</div> <div>10:00pm Neighbour Next Door</div> <div>11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm Celebrity Botched Up</div> <div>1:05am Bodies</div> <div>2:00am Celebrity Big Brother Super Casino</div>	<div>7:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17</div> <div>7:30pm Premier League 100 Club</div> <div>8:00pm Scottish Football Round Up</div> <div>8:15pm Football Gold</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm Nissan Match Choice</div> <div>12:00am Football</div>
WEDNESDAY	<div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>9:00pm Who Do You Think You Are?</div> <div>10:00pm DIY SOS</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div> <div>11:40pm Weather</div> <div>11:45pm Brainwashing Stacey: Living with Big Game Hunters</div> <div>12:35am Film 2017</div>	<div>6:15pm Flog It!</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys</div> <div>8:00pm Put Your Money</div> <div>9:00pm Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>9:00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor</div> <div>10:00pm Hospital</div> <div>11:00pm Common Sense</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:10am Weather</div>	<div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm Local News and Weather</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Midsomer Murders</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:40pm Joanna Lumley's Japan</div> <div>12:40am It's Not Rocket Science</div>	<div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Location, Location, Location</div> <div>10:00pm No Offence</div> <div>11:00pm Women Who Kill</div> <div>12:05am 24 Hours in A and E</div> <div>1:05am Live From Abbey Road Classics</div>	<div>6:00pm 5 News</div> <div>6:30pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm A New Life in Oz</div> <div>9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm In Therapy</div> <div>12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div>	<div>6:00pm Football</div> <div>6:30pm Football</div> <div>7:00pm Football</div> <div>7:30pm Football</div> <div>8:00pm Barclays Premier League World</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm Football</div> <div>12:00am Barclays Premier League World</div> <div>12:30am Premier League Legends</div>



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TIME

EURO WEEKLY'S SPACE FOR YOU TO TAKE A BRE

Word Ladder

FEEL

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

SLIM

WITS
DITS
SLED
(SEED)
FLED
FEED
FEEL
Solution

MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



THAT IS NO CHINESE NEW YEAR ROOSTER - THAT'S A RHODE ISLAND RED THOROUGHBRED CROWING FOR HIS PRESIDENT!

YOUR STARS

PISCES ♋

(February 20 - March 20)

One thing is certain, when you come through this week's restless planetary antics, you won't be totally the same Piscean who walked in. Whether you're figuring out numbers, analysing your dreams, or getting into a playfully social mood, there'll be much to enjoy and put to the test.

ARIES ♈

(March 21 - April 20)

Education, media, creative and social connections are given star merit. The solar eclipse in your own sign bursts with vitality and success, more so for an array of bold moves, replacements and makeovers covering your personal affairs.

TAURUS ♉

(April 21 - May 21)

Stand by for a week of whoosh and whirl. More importantly, try to avoid getting tongue-tied or dogmatic on Tuesday and Friday.

AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)

Eager Mars meets affluent Jupiter and enriches your financial forecast.

It might show a foretaste of money to come, or on-stream benefits. If you intend to make alterations to your personal and home interests, you'll undoubtedly cope with both offbeat and upbeat activities.

Promising potentials appear, especially if you spruce up your competitive streak.

GEMINI ♊

(May 22 - June 21)

Throughout this fortunate week, whatever else you decide, refuse to discard your hopes and wishes. As a Gemini, you like to have two strings to your bow of life, which gives you an alternative option, especially if the going gets tough.

CANCER ♋

(June 22 - July 23)

A vivid star pattern portends a frantic personal and social diary. Ensure that any tight planning is carefully handled, especially if you hope to fit in everything you would like to say. Don't allow Monday or Wednesday's tensions to spoil opportunities for settling something important.

LEO ♌

(July 24 - August 23)

Pave the way for any ambitious

schemes you may have, rather than actually starting them. With your ruler the Sun eclipsing your kindred fire sign, determined Aries, you are now more likely to get the support and affection you need from the powers that be or someone who thinks the world of you.

VIRGO ♍

(August 24 - September 23)

Even if the opposite to what you want happens, it could prove useful. One clue to this week's planetary crossword puzzle is 'What word could also mean success?' Check it out, and make it work for you.

LIBRA ♎

(September 24 - October 23)

The solar eclipse in your opposite sign of Aries intensifies your willpower. Before you say 'go,' find out where you stand. It might pay you to leave things be for a little longer to see if anything begins to change.

SCORPIO ♏

(October 24 - November 22)

The planets mobilise your streak of Scorpio daring, but don't stretch your limits. Your most effective weapon against personal and work-related pitfalls is your ability to be objective.

Your desire to make specific situations and conversations work needs to be combined with your faith that they will work.

SAGITTARIUS ♐

(November 23 - December 21)

The main gist of the solar eclipse in fiery Aries and the link between plucky Mars and your ruler friendly Jupiter will stir surprises.

Whether you create the right atmosphere all round depends on how you interpret other people's views.

CAPRICORN ♑

(December 22 - January 20)

Hard-working, enterprising and self-sacrificing are just some of the words that describe your zodiac sign. It will be these qualities that count.

Friday will boost your powers of persuasion, but you won't have too much to complain about if you follow this lucky trend into next week's encouraging tide.

Weather

for next 7 days

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 11 - C

Fri -	15	10	Sh	Mon -	16	10	C
Sat -	15	10	Sh	Tues -	16	11	Cl
Sun -	15	10	Sh	Wed -	16	11	Sh

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 9 - C

Fri -	15	9	Sh	Mon -	17	9	C
Sat -	15	8	Sh	Tues -	18	10	Cl
Sun -	17	8	Sh	Wed -	18	12	Sh

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 10, MIN 5 - CL

Fri -	11	8	Sh	Mon -	13	5	Cl
Sat -	10	6	Sh	Tues -	14	6	Cl
Sun -	12	5	C	Wed -	13	6	C

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 9 - C

Fri -	15	10	Sh	Mon -	15	11	Sh
Sat -	14	10	Sh	Tues -	16	11	Cl
Sun -	15	10	Sh	Wed -	16	11	C

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 8, MIN 3 - SH

Fri -	9	2	Sh	Mon -	13	2	S
Sat -	11	2	C	Tues -	12	4	C
Sun -	13	1	C	Wed -	12	5	Sh

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 12 - C

Fri -	13	8	Sh	Mon -	17	8	Cl
Sat -	16	7	Cl	Tues -	17	10	Cl
Sun -	17	7	Cl	Wed -	16	11	Sh

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 6 - CL

Fri -	15	8	Sh	Mon -	14	8	Sh
Sat -	14	7	Sh	Tues -	15	8	Cl
Sun -	14	7	Sh	Wed -	15	9	Sh

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 6 - C

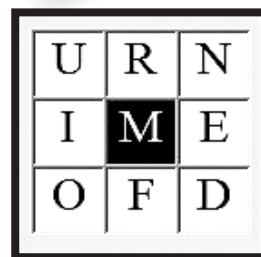
Fri -	12	6	Sh	Mon -	15	7	C
Sat -	14	4	Sh	Tues -	15	8	C
Sun -	13	4	C	Wed -	15	9	C

S Sun, CI Clear, F Fog, C Cloudy,
Sh Showers, Sn Snow, Th Thunder

Euro Weekly News accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the weather forecasts which are supplied by a third party.

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

TARGET:

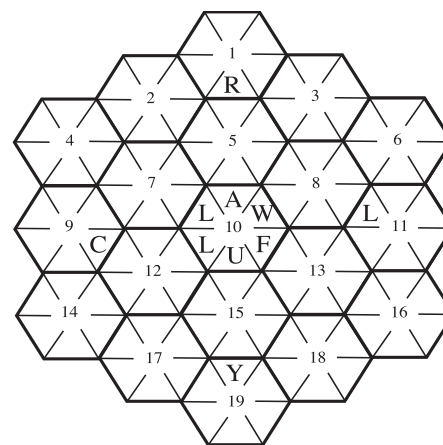
• Average: 11 • Good: 15
• Very good: 22 • Excellent: 28

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ache chad chat dahl dhal doth each echo echt etch hale halo halt hand hate head heat held hoed hold hole holt hone lath lech loch loth oath tach tanh tech than then ached ahold altho chant cheat chela cloth cohen death dhole doeth haled halon hated helot holed honed hotel latch lathe leach letch loach loath nacho natch neath notch teach tench thane thole chalet cloth daeth detach haloed halted handle loathe technocathode chanted clothed ethanol latched loathed notched DECATHLON

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



AIRWAY
AROUND
ARTERY
DIAPER
DULCET
EYEFUL
FAULTY
FETTER
FEUDAL
FIDDLE
INCITE
KAISER
LAWFUL (10)
PLANAR
QUARTZ
RETAIL
RUCKUS
SCALAR
WINKLE

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Hereby 2 Cereal 3 Esteem 4 Garage 5 Warren 6 Possum 7 Reason
8 Octant 9 Blanch 10 Swanky 11 Poetic 12 Coyote 13 Entire 14 Heroic
15 Broken 16 Hearty 17 Tracer 18 Linear 19 Rabies.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday January 21

4 13 37
40 52 58

BONUS BALL

51

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday January 21

18 21 22
23 24 36

BONUS BALL

45

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday January 17

4 16 25
43 47

LUCKY STARS

2 10

Friday January 20

10 17 27
31 49

LUCKY STARS

3 5

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday January 21

4 9 15
29 37 45

REINTEGRO

1 2

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 22

11 20 23
32 40

REINTEGRO

8

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

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

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



Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

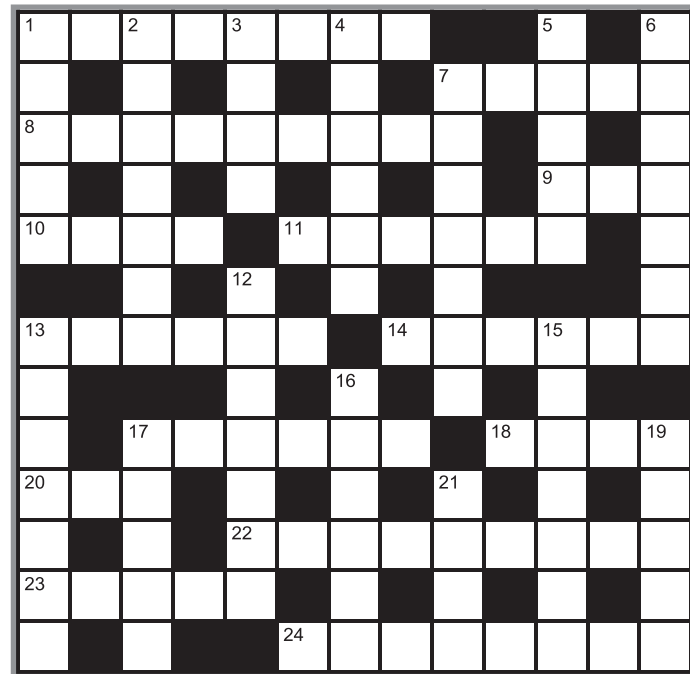
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Incomparable like the House of Commons? (8)
7 Step inside, sir, thank you (5)
8 I hate cork cooked as a vegetable (9)
9 Raced from the veranda (3)
10 Perfect herb (4)
11 Political leader is involved in surprise attacks in fast-flowing water (6)
13 Presented by good man of advanced years (6)
14 Foolishly races a Roman emperor (6)
17 Blames cold pelts (6)
18 Very quick to go on a diet (4)
20 Regret the French way (3)
22 A luxury car is involved in domestic story (9)
23 Order some sudden action (5)
24 Forcible opening around English border (8)

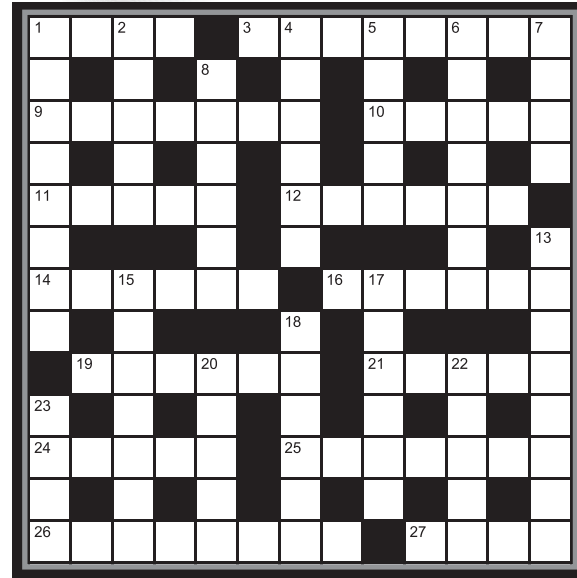
Down

- 1 The prime minister entertains little Sally with a hymn (5)
2 Country stretching from the Azores to Niagara Falls (7)
3 Rugby forward returned in polo-neck collar (4)
4 Rallying cry: 'Keep record in hospital' (6)
5 Hiding places for damaged rails (5)
6 One thousand rand for Her Majesty to make things more luxurious (7)
7 Half ran back for the meeting (7)
12 Aggressive drunk fainted (7)
13 Mark to allow bright red (7)
15 New disease from the coast (7)



- 16 King discovered echo in ravine (6)
17 Timber Ed put in vehicle (5)
19 Deal with Halloween choice? (5)
21 Start singing after kicking energy drink (4)

Quick



Across

- 1/23 Polaris (4,4)
3 Showing careful forethought (8)
9 Move back (7)
10 Ordinary (5)
11 Strangely frightening (5)
12 Golfer's assistant (6)
14 Late meal (6)
16 Austria's capital (6)
19 Spanish rice dish (6)
21 Austere person (5)
24 Freshwater fish (5)
25 Clerical robe (7)
26 With no apparent pattern (8)
27 Weapons considered collectively (4)

Down

- 1 Wrongheaded (8)
2 In a while (5)
4 Launch assault on (6)
5 Moderately warm (5)
6 No Clue
7 Mentally healthy (4)
8 Calm and collected (6)
13 Flat cakes of thin batter fried on both sides on a griddle (8)
15 Subdivision of a military company (7)
17 Be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge (6)
18 Annul (6)
20 Bingo-type game (5)
22 Distinctive smell (5)
23 See 1 Across

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Trite, 4 Harems, 9 Despair,
10 Rigid, 11 Ties, 12 Engrave,
13 Sir, 14 Abut, 16 Nods, 18 Dot,
20 Absence, 21 Idle, 24 Larva,
25 Adrenal, 26 Washed, 27 Party.

Down:

- 1 To date, 2 Issue, 3 Esau,
5 Arrogant, 6 England, 7 Sodden,
8 Drier, 13 Stone age, 15 Bistros,
17 Wallow, 18 Delay, 19 Replay,
22 Dinar, 23 Trip.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Fraught, 5 Pacts, 8 Steal,
9 Replica, 10 Yesterday, 12 Nap,
13 Quaint, 14 Appear, 17 Emu,
18 Somnolent, 20 Inquire,
21 Plain, 23 Scone, 24 Erratic.

Down:

- 1 Fussy, 2 Axe, 3 Galleon,
4 Tirade, 5 Puppy, 6 Clientele,
7 Scarper, 11 Status quo,
13 Queries, 15 Prosper,
16 Impede, 18 Seize, 19 Tunic,
22 Apt.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Ladder, 4 Trap, 8 Apple,
9 Susto, 10 Armchairs,
13 Crust, 14 Colas, 15 Obey,
16 Mayors.

Down:

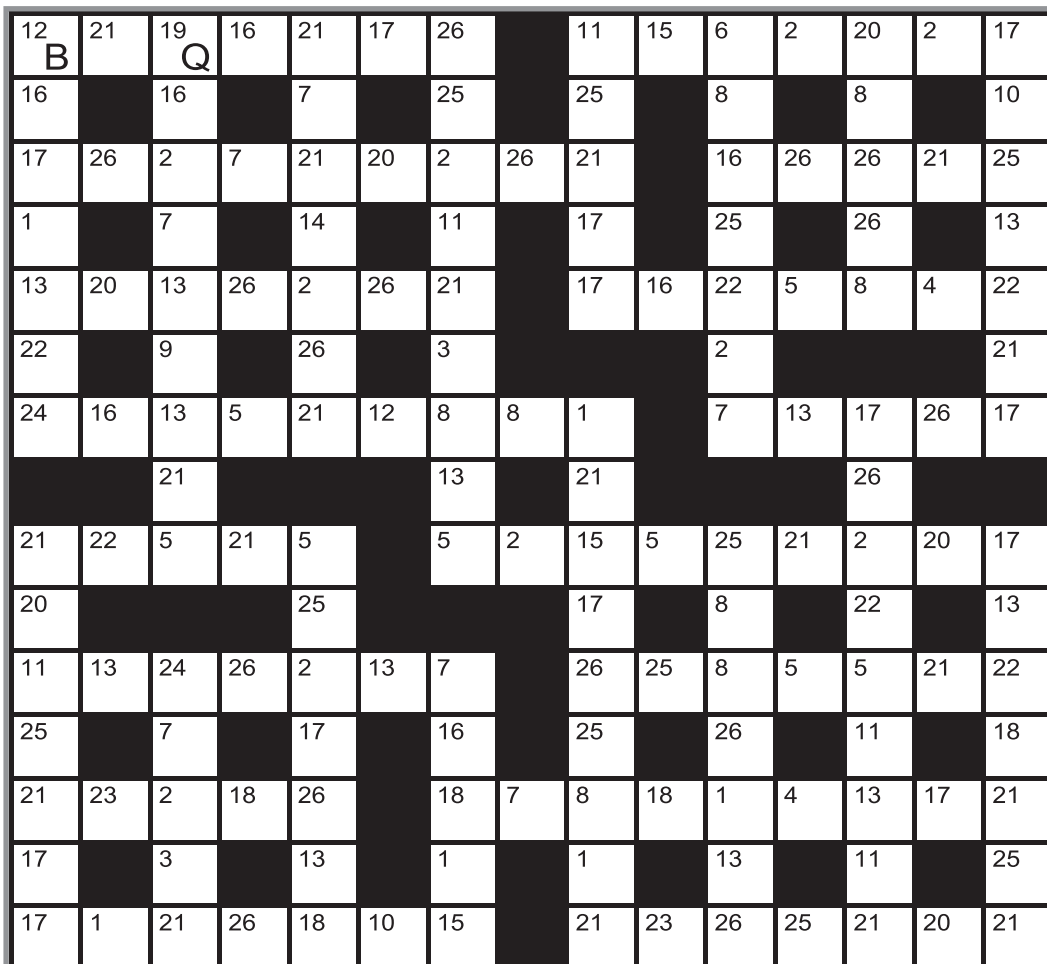
- 1 Liar, 2 Departure, 3 Ejercito,
5 Rastrillo, 6 Poor, 7 Escarcha,
11 Ocho, 12 Osos.

CODE BREAKER

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

Code Breaker

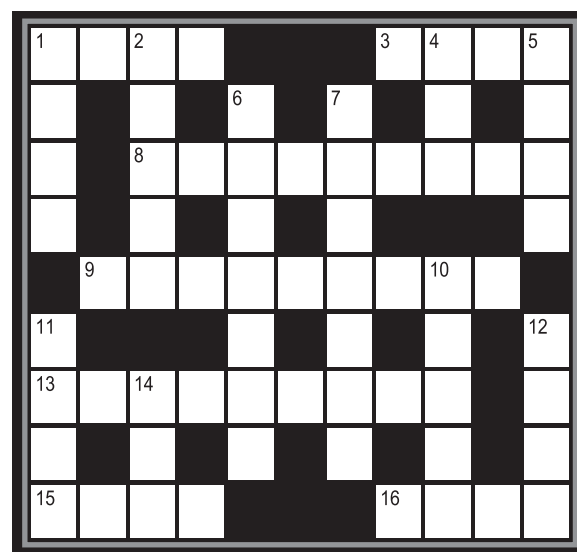
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents B and 19 represents Q, so fill in B every time the figure 12 appears and Q every time the figure 19 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Pan de molde (4)
3 Dolor (4)
8 Manzano (5-4)
9 A veces (9)
13 Garantía (de producto) (9)
15 Piel (4)
16 Seal (animal) (4)

Down

- 1 Izquierdo (4)

2 Down (physical movement)

- (5)
4 Coche (3)
5 Plano (llano) (4)
6 To tighten (belt, shoes) (7)
7 Magazine (journal) (7)
10 January (5)
11 Huevos (4)
12 Classroom (4)
14 There (near you) (3)

LETTERS**YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION**

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

Protect your pensions now

YOUR article on the current situation whereby UK pensioners living in certain countries do not receive the annual increases in the state pension will have horrified many expatriates.

When Brexit comes into effect it could mean that the UK will no longer be legally obliged to pay the annual increases to pensioners residing in the EU. Whether this actually happens will become apparent during the negotiations.

For the half million UK pensioners already living in the EU and in receipt of their state pension there is little that can be done apart from protesting should their state pensions become frozen.

However those UK expatriates already living here who are not yet of pension age can take action to maximise their pension. In the UK the working population pay into the state pension system since it is compulsory when in employment.

However upon leaving the UK to live abroad the state pension becomes voluntary and as a result many expatriates decide that a pension is something which can be faced up to at a later date and is usually overlooked until it is too late to do anything about it.

The government will argue that it has bent over backwards during the last 15 years to make contribution rates attractive. It is currently possible to catch up in respect of contributions for the last six years if they have been missed and from time to time it has campaigns in order to persuade people to improve their pension record and so maximise the state pension that they will ultimately receive.

The return on additional contributions made in this way is over 30 per cent. In the event of the government depriving UK pensioners living in the EU of the annual increases, they should at least ensure that their state pension is approaching the maximum amount of £160 per week and is not a derisory amount as a result of taking no action.

Peter Sanderson, Estepona

Processed meat

SURPRISING you should support 'boost your intake by eating more red meat' in your health section! Really! We all know doctors for

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



GIBRALTAR: Spain will seek joint sovereignty with Britain.

An orderly divorce

“ SPAIN will seek a friendly and orderly divorce for Britain (Spain's economy minister in Davos recently). Spain's PM has said earlier that in the negotiations between EU and Britain Spain will seek joint sovereignty with Britain over Gibraltar.

To the best of my ability I can't see that Britain's territory should be on the agenda in the divorce proceedings! Should Britain trade away their sole sovereignty over Gibraltar to get a friendly divorce from EU? With due respect, it is rather naive.

Leif Krogstad, Palma Nova

years now have been suggesting to cut back on meats for health reasons... not only is factory farming unhealthy, it impacts the environment more than any other food, because livestock require much more land, food, water, and energy than plants to raise and transport.

Not to mention the horror and constant torture to millions of animals! From locking animals in tiny cages, to slicing parts of their bodies off without any pain relief, to genetically selecting them to grow so obese and so fast that many become lame, it's by far the biggest cause of animal suffering in the world.

Eating red or processed meat can, over time, increase the risk of de-

veloping type 2 diabetes as well as other disease. Try boosting your intake with beans and dark green leafy vegetables which are especially good sources of iron, even better on a per calorie basis than meat.

Iron absorption is increased markedly by eating foods containing vitamin C along with foods containing iron. None or less meat eaters do not have a higher incidence of iron deficiency than do full-time meat eaters. Tofu, spirulina, pumpkin seeds, quinoa, tomato paste, white beans, dried apricots, cooked spinach, dried peaches, prune juice, lentils, peas...

Loads of information on the net!

Felipe, Baleares

Fly right

IN answer to the article 'Droned to Death' (EWN 1642) there will now be thousands more drones because of Christmas presents, unfortunately not all of these will be flown responsibly. As far as petitioning the government goes there are already rules and regulations for drone flyers with more in the pipeline.

Unfortunately as with any sport or hobby you always get those people that are not bothered about rules and regulations so more rules will only penalise the responsible fliers.

It seems the media is willing to name anything that flies as a drone without recognising what it really

is. The last drone strike reported by a UK airline pilot was later found to be a polythene bag. When you think that all aeroplanes are stringently tested with numerous articles being fired into engines and air frames the damage done by a toy drone would be minimal.

In saying this, it is not an excuse for flying near airports. If there is anybody that has a drone and wants to learn to fly it responsibly please contact your local aero model club. Don't think it's ok to fly at National Parks, you could be fined €6,000.

Gray Callow, Huercal-Overa

Soothe yourself

WHAT an abusive rant by Leapy against Obama! Petulant he says!? Pillock. White Nanny (Mrs Clinton?)! Pathetic! Islamic! Limp! Infantile! Nasty! Arrogant missus (Mrs Obama?)! OMG. Easy on Leapy. Relax. Enjoy the New Year. Soothe yourself back to 'keeping the faith' and sharing some of your old fashioned, fair/unfair, balanced and challenging observations with which I don't always agree.

John Kennedy, Benalmadena Costa

Snow joke

QUITE right about keeping snow in perspective. Our northern friends have to endure lots of snow and winter darkness. We in Britain have a more moderate climate. In the north from North Yorkshire up we do have a fair bit of snow. Road gritting commences in November all through the winter and snow ploughs are ready at a moment's notice. We from those parts are ready for it. However we Brits love talking about the weather to the extent whereby it sells newspapers etc.

We are serial weather watchers. I don't expect people who spend half their lives in the dark to understand.

Ian Terry

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.euroweeklynnews.com

Advertising feature

New year, new challenges for MACS cancer support

WITH 2017 well underway, we continue our series of articles on MACS cancer support group. This month we sat down with founder, Elaine Brown, and asked her to share her thoughts on 2016 and plans for the coming year.

How was 2016 as whole for the organisation?

2016 was a good year in general, our excellent volunteers worked very hard and our highly-motivated committee achieved some good results. We made the decision not to open any more shops during that period and that decision turned out to be the best one for that time.

Were there any achievements you were particularly proud of?

Yes! I was delighted with the way the public supported our fundraising events last year and also the generosity of various groups was overwhelming.

We launched the new MACS van in 2016 which gave us greater independence in delivering hospital equipment and it now has a dual use as an awareness vehicle.

I was also touched by the support of the

whole community when we refurbished the Turre shop and following the December storms when the Mojacar shop was flooded.

Were there any low points or struggles during the year?

Yes, especially during the early part of the year. We saw so many of our patients lose their battle and these sad times were particularly difficult for our 'buddies' and for other patients who become close to each other.

In 2016 we reached a peak of 164 patients. Since 2008, MACS has assisted some 504 patients and their families.

What are the main goals for 2017?

We hope to open our next shop by Easter and revive the equipment-hire service to non-cancer patients, which as well as helping the community will generate much-needed revenue.

We plan to offer a third patient, survivor and carer meeting for Albox and a fourth for Vera before the end of the year and also to develop closer working relationships with the social services departments in the areas we support.

Another major aim is to gain recogni-



MACS founder Elaine Brown shares her plans for 2017.

tion as a 'Utilidad Publica' which will enable us to receive tax breaks, we are currently treated as a business and the tax bills make huge dents in our funds which could be put to much better use.

How do you hope to reach these goals?

We need to find suitable premises for the new shop and recruit new volunteers to assist in its operation.

Increased awareness of the group continues to be important, newly diagnosed patients would benefit greatly if they were to register with us in the early stages.

MACS cannot operate without the support of local individuals and businesses, the advertising boards in the shops and on the van are a great way to raise funds and give publicity to businesses. This year we are giving businesses an opportunity to put business cards in the van for just 50€ per year.

We have some great events coming up, including the 'Big MAC 3.'

A final question on a personal note, how are you doing yourself Elaine?

Since my transplant my health has been fine. I visit the hospital every three months and these checks are always reassuring. My doctor is fantastic and very nice to look at too!

More information on MACS can be found at macscancersupport.com or on the Facebook page 'Mojacar area cancer support MACS.'

The general enquiry line is 634 328 334 and the helpline 634 656 555.



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NO MEETINGS JAN 2017

Mojacar – 1st Wednesday of every month

Huerca Overa – 1st Friday of each month

Informal meeting with coffee and cake. For more information call 607 598 470

Businesses and Groups please look at supporting MACS throughout 2017.

If you have an idea for an event or fundraising opportunity please email.

Thank you for your continued support.

For more information General Enquiry number 634 328 334

Or visit our website www.macscancersupport.com

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BEFORE SKIING: Try to warm up before hitting the slopes to prevent injuries such as pulled muscles or strains.

Prepare for the white stuff

SNOW arrived in many parts of Spain last week, including along the coastal areas of the Costa Blanca, an event not seen in a generation. Whilst it may have been a brief fluttering, many have turned their thoughts to a wintry wonderland and are dusting off the skies in search of more of the white stuff.

But before you head to the Sierra

Nevada, or further afield, it is important to remember some basic health checks.

Skiing can be a demanding sport so always try to warm up before hitting the slopes to prevent injuries such as pulling muscles and strains. Ten minutes of squatting and stretching after skiing will also help prevent problems.

For those who do little exercise, skiing

can be a shock on the system as to how physical it can be, so try and prepare at home a little before heading off. Even simple walking up and down stairs will help prepare the leg muscles.

The snow reflects 80 per cent of solar radiation so whilst you may be wrapped up, don't forget to wear a high sun protection factor on the face and lip balm.

One in 67 babies suffers from FAS

EVERY year, over 100,000 babies are born in the world with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) as a result of the mother drinking too much during pregnancy.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Canada, carried out a study to find out which countries had the highest incidence of women drinking during their pregnancy.

In Canada it is estimated that around 10 per cent of women continue drinking alcohol when pregnant. The five countries with the highest consumption were Russia, the UK, Denmark,

Belarus and Ireland. Europe as a region, saw pregnant women drinking 2.6 times more than the world average. Southeast Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean saw the lowest levels of alcohol consumption.

It is believed that FAS affects one in every 67 babies from drinking mothers. Babies may be shorter in height, have a small head, behavioural problems and issues with sight and sound. The risk of problems depends on how much and often the mother drinks.

Ask The
Doctor

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What to do about flu?



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

THERE is a lot flu about at the moment and also a lot of coughs and colds.

- What are the usual symptoms of flu?

Flu usually causes fever, muscle and joint pain, headache, cough, fatigue, lack of appetite and a general feeling of being unwell. Sometimes it can also cause chest infections with green mucus, chest pain and difficulty breathing being warning signs.

- What's the difference between flu and a common cold?

Common cold symptoms are far less severe and include a runny nose, stuffed up feeling and sneezing. Fevers are rare.

- Should I go to the doctor if I think I might have flu?
Generally, you don't need to see a doctor as there is no cure. However, if your symptoms last for a long time or you get worse rather than better, then get yourself checked out by a doctor.

- So there's no treatment?

The only medication available for flu is to treat the symptoms: control pain and reduce fevers. Antibiotics are not needed for flu. Drink plenty of water and get lots of rest.

- When should I go to hospital?

Very rarely, complications require hospital treatment. If you have serious trouble breathing or any other severe symptoms, then a visit to A&E is probably a good idea though.

- How long will it last?

Flu symptoms usually last between five and 10 days. Common colds usually last one week.

- I had the flu jab, can I still catch flu?

You are less likely to catch the flu but there is always a possibility of doing so. Your symptoms will probably be far less severe than if you hadn't had the vaccination though.

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

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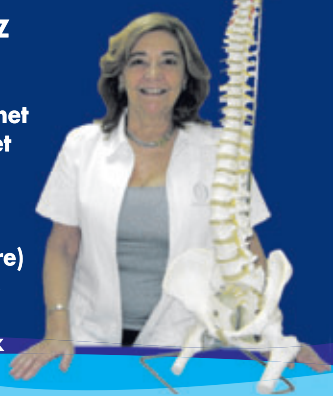
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NEWS EXTRA

Carnival coming

MOJACAR Council is holding a children's carnival event on Friday February 24 at the Centro de Usos Múltiples, 6-10pm. Entry is free and there will be music, dancing, games and competitions.

Art classes

FIFTEEN women from Purchena have been learning to paint at a course at the Taller Carmen de Burgos. Equality delegate Dolores Martínez visited the village to present them with their diplomas.

On parade

THOUSANDS of people turned out in Olula del Río for the San Ildefonso and San Sebastian processions, which have been declared a festivity of tourist interest.



DREAMBEACH: The most ambitious line-up in its history.

It's bigger and better

By Eleanor Hawkins

THIS year's Dreambeach Villaricos electronic music festival promises to be bigger and better than ever before, the organisers have promised.

The 2017 edition of the festival was presented at Fitur travel fair in Madrid by the organisers and Cuevas del Almanzora Council.

"We're preparing the most ambitious

line-up of the history of the festival, now in its fifth year," the organisers promised.

Cuevas mayor Antonio Fernandez Liria announced that the top act this year will be Australian group Pendulum, which has played at Dreambeach twice in the past and recently announced it will be returning to live performances this year.

"Dreambeach has become one of our signs of identity and each year it brings thousands of people from all over the

place to our home, attracted not only by the music but also by the good climate and food and magnificent beaches we have," the mayor said.

The festival organisers also let slip that, to celebrate this important benchmark anniversary, they are working on a technical scenography and 'a theme, to be announced in the near future, which will transform the location into a real paradise for dreamers.'

First fair for foodies

VERA will be hosting the first Gastro Andalucía fair on February 17-19, the council has announced. The fair, Commerce councillor Francisca García explained, will be focused on Andalusian gastronomy and traditions with participants from the agricultural and nutrition sectors, top chefs and music and dance.

The event will be open to the public at El Palmeral fair-ground and those interested in displaying their products are invited to request more information from the council's Commerce department.

Tell us what's on

STARTING shortly, we will be introducing a new What's On section in the paper, and we invite readers to send in typed details of any events they are involved with (no pdfs of posters please) at least two weeks before the event to whatson@euroweeklynnews.com.

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- Roasted Butternut Squash & Chilli Soup
- Home-made Pate served with Melba Toast & warm caramelised red onion chutney
- Home-made Oriental Fishcakes & Noodle Salad

Main Course:

- Chicken Fillet filled with Spinach & Cheese served with garlic & parsley new potatoes and seasonal vegetables
- Poached Fillet of Salmon with a Champagne Sauce, served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables (4€ supplement)
- Steak Diane served with sautéed potatoes and seasonal vegetables (4€ supplement)
- Strips of beef marinated in Soy & Honey, served on a bed of noodles with Ginger & Spring Onion

Desserts:

- Chocolate Mousse
- Lemon Cream Tart served with a Chantilly Cream
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Keeping up traditions



By Eleanor Hawkins

HISTORY will be repeated in Vera on June 10 with a representation of the surrender of the Moorish town during the annual fair.

In keeping with traditions honoured in many parts of the Levante area, the local Moors and Cristians association will be re-enacting events during which the Moorish inhabitants of Vera peacefully handed the keys of the town over to the Christian conquerors in 1488.

Associa-

“Members attended Fitor dressed in traditional costumes.

tion members attended Fitor travel show in Madrid dressed in traditional costumes and played out a small part of the re-enactment which will occur on the day. Association secretary Pedro Soler said: “these re-enactments are of historic events which happened all over the Levante area and the rest of Almería, and we would like the authorities to help associations like ours to recover them as traditions and historical and cultural heritage.”

What's on!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IMPORTANT EVENT LISTING TO SHARE?

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Don't miss out on the Big Mac 3

MACS (Mojacar Area Cancer Support) association is preparing for its event of the year, the Big Mac 3, which will be held at Hotel Puerto Marina Mojacar on February 5.

Running from noon to 8pm, the event includes live music, all day entertainment, children's animation, food and drink and craft stalls. Entry is €5 for adults, free for children under the age of 12.

Those interested in holding a stall (€10) are asked to contact jessicadeesimpson@gmail.com.

MACS will also be holding meetings for patients, survivors and carers next week. The meeting for the Mojacar area will be at the Mojacar MACS shop just past the Parador hotel at 10.30am on Wednesday, February 1.

There will another meeting at 10.30am the next day, Thursday February 2, at the Albox MACS shop on Avenida Americana (opposite the back entrance to Mercadona).

For more information on MACS, see www.macscancersupport.com or call 635 328 334 for general enquiries or 634 686 555 for the helpline.

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Good food, good wine and good friends

with Garry Waite

I was approached a few years ago by a Finnish lady who had found my company on the internet. She wanted to open a restaurant in Puerto Banus. She had the premises, but needed a complete reform, new kitchen, interiors, terraces et al. She was a strange lady but very nice and I was a bit concerned for her.

She actually had a very successful restaurant business with her husband in her native Finland. However I could see that she was going to have a lot of problems and the money I know she was going to have to invest, made me wary. I knew the premises and they had never succeeded for any of the previous occupants. So I said to her, "if you give me €20,000 I will save you €350,000."

She asked me how and of course I said that she had to give me that before I would tell her. Now I know it is a bit 'tongue in cheek' but what I was implying was not to do it as I was pretty sure that it was going to turn out badly for her. Having said that we did all the work, came out with a great place and a fabulous kitchen operation and on the surface it looked as if it would work and that I was going to have to eat my words.

● **However**, after a few months of relative success the owners decided that they didn't need the expertise of the team that I had put in. Letting the manager go and replacing the chef with the client's husband. That was the beginning of the end, and as I had foreseen the business fell into a downward spiral. Eventually closing with a loss of - you guessed it - €350,000. No assets to sell, no way of selling the traspaso - just money down the drain!!

● **I suppose** the moral of this story is probably, that if you seek and pay a professional for advice, be it a lawyer, accountant, financial adviser or a management consultant - then heed it!!



Ann Hegerty doesn't know her Puff from her Flaky!

I QUITE LIKE TV

quiz shows. It helps to keep the brain active!! One such is ITV's The Chase. Four contestants pit their wits against a highly experienced quizzer. Usually the team gets beaten and the contestants leave with nothing. On occasions they win some money. But there are times when I listen incredulously to the 'Chaser' and think how on earth did you know that?? While at the same time wondering how some of the contestants ever got past the interview stage! But seldom do both sides get it wrong. On one occasion though the question to both was 'What pastry is used to make a Mille Feuille?' (options) Choux - Short - Puff?

Now the contestant was a Hospitality Manager and the Chaser, the brilliant Ann Hegerty. Both selected Choux. The Hospitality Manager chose it because it sounded French (sic) and Ann because she was hoping that Flaky Pastry would come up! I would have thought that Hegerty would know the relationship between Flaky and Puff pastries!

As for the Hospitality Manager..... I wonder what branch of Hospitality he works in? HMPs? I trust, dear reader, that you got it right!!



Nathan Odom - destined for great things.

READERS of last week's column will have seen that my guilty pleasure has been watching Junior MasterChef (from America). I watched the two finalists battle it out last week and was utterly amazed at the menus and the standards that 11-year-old Andrew Zapple and 12-year-old Nathan Odom produced.

● **NATHAN'S MENU** was a Roasted Fennel Gratin with French Ham and Fennel Salad followed by Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb with an Asparagus Puree finishing with an amazingly creative Early Grey Tea Tart with Blood Orange Coulis. The judges loved all the dishes, with Gordon Ramsay saying about the dessert in particular "it shouldn't work, but it does" and it was "bloody delicious."

● **ANDREW'S MENU** consisted of a starter of Herb Infused Ricotta Cheese (freshly made) with Roasted Baby Beetroots and Pumpernickel Bread.

A main course of Beef Cheek Ravioli with Shaved Parmesan was followed by a Risotto (Made with Arborio rice - normally for savoury risottos) Figs and a Verjus* Reduction. All dishes were praised by the judges, but the overall winner who also received a cheque for \$100,000 was - Nathan Odom!! I wish I could find Chefs of that standard!! Let alone 12 year olds!!!

(*Verjus is a highly acidic pressing of sour/unripe fruits such as apples and grapes)

OVER THE YEARS of opening and running restaurants I have spent lots of money on making sure that the kitchens have plenty of approved storage containers. Different colour identifying marks on the tops ensure that the correct food and sauces are properly stored. These items are expensive but wonderfully hygienic and strong. No matter where I have been over the years (including my own operation in the UK many, many years ago) chefs (including me!!) used ice cream containers. The five litre catering packs make great storage for sauces and the small one litre ones make for good portion control, gar-



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

“A toast to good food, good wine and good friends.”

nishes etc. But, like wire coat hangers, these things take on a breeding pattern of their own. Lids abound (with lovely coloured identifying marks) but no bases on which to place them.

Or bases exist without the correct size covering. They have disappeared into the kitchen ether - along with multitudinous other kitchen aids - leaving said containers 'divorced'! But I have found similar things happening in my own kitchen at home. Although I have a few containers with their correct partners, I too have loads of lids with no bottoms and some bottoms without lids. So I, like so many of my Chefs, have resorted to using the containers that chicken livers, scallops and ice creams come in. Now I have plenty of these usable, virtually free, containers for freezing down.

● **If there are** any car booters reading this and you come across a load of expensive storage containers with no lids - some of them are probably mine!! By the way, I've got a load of tops that might fit!!

● **I was given** a very pleasant bottle of wine to try this week. I took full advantage of this, in as much as I did not share it with anyone!! I am more of a Ribera del Duero type of guy who fell out of love with young Riojas some time ago. But I still have a penchant for good Reservas and Gran Reservas none more so than those that come from Bodegas Muga. This particular gem was a Prado Enea Gran Reserva 2009. Having not made any in 2007 or 2008 (they only sell the best vintages) and not releasing the 2012 or 2013 it makes this spectacular wine even more desirable, collecting from 'they that know' 95/97 points.

ON THE NOSE it had great aromas of ripe fruits, plums, redcurrants, black pepper, dark chocolate and typical Spanish cedar. On the palate, smooth, polished and refined. Full flavour, but still feeling quite young, for a wine with such depth. I wouldn't mind trying it again in 10 years. It would probably be at its best then. This is a blend of 80% Tempranillo, with Garnacha, Mazuelo and Graciano making up the other 20%. Retailing around €40 it isn't quaffing wine, but would grace any enthusiastic wine consumer's dinner party table.



Fit for a King - or wine loving columnists.

The top and bottom of it!

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.

BBC is to adapt John le Carre novel for their new TV series

Richard Shanley
Dishing the Dirt

OF EUROPA DIGITAL



THE BBC is to adapt another John le Carre spy novel for a new TV series following the success of Golden Globe-winning *The Night Manager*.

The *Spy Who Came In From The Cold*, set at the height of the Cold War, is being adapted by the Oscar-winning writer of *Slumdog Millionaire*, Simon Beaufoy. It follows Alec Leamas, a hard-drinking British intelligence officer whose East Berlin network is in tatters.

Le Carre said he was "very excited" by the show, which will appear on BBC One. The series will be another co-production with US network AMC, following their joint effort on *The Night Manager*.



TOM HIDDLESTON: Won a Golden Globe for his role in *The Night Manager*.

Tom Hiddleston, Hugh Laurie and Olivia Colman all won Golden Globes for their roles in the drama, while the show itself was

nominated for best mini series or TV film at the awards. The *Spy Who Came In From The Cold* is set in 1962, months after the

building of the Berlin Wall. In the story, Leamas's agents are either on the run or dead - victims of the East German counter-intelligence

officer Hans-Dieter Mundt. Leamas is recalled to London where he is offered a chance at revenge.

Piers Wenger, controller of BBC Drama, said: "Following the huge global success of *The Night Manager*, it's a privilege to announce that John le Carre will return to BBC One with one of the best spy thrillers ever written."

If you would like me to answer any questions you may have on satellite TV or to expand on anything I have written about please call me on 678 332 815 or email richard@europa-digital.com. I look forward to your comments and questions. Don't forget to listen to my radio show every weekday from 10am on Spectrum 96.1 & 106.8FM, now covering almost 3000sq kms of Costa Almeria and Calida or listen online at costaalmeria.spectrumfm.net for the latest news and views from the world of satellite television.

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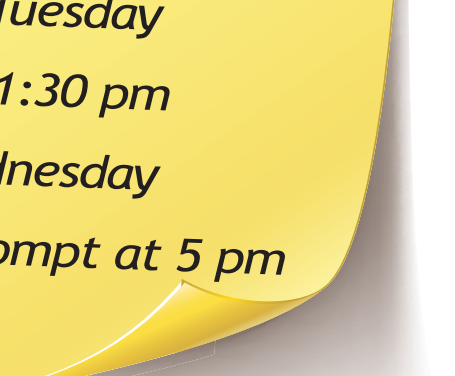
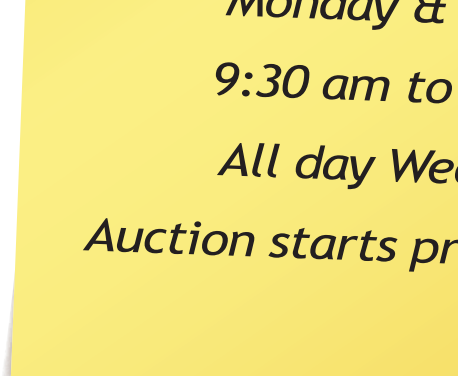
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Healing the rift

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

- and not entirely impartial reaction -
to the Spanish political scene

CLEVER Patxi! Patxi Lopez has taken the political equivalent of a selfie and put his name down in PSOE's secretary general race.

Lopez is old blood instead of Pedro Sanchez's new blood which caused such bad blood in the PSOE. As secretary general Sanchez appealed to the paid-up party membership - aptly described in Spanish as militants - but not the voters or party hierarchy.

Former president of the Basque region, Lopez was briefly Speaker following the December 2015 elections. He backed Sanchez's 'no means no' stance over Mariano Rajoy's investiture bid but later abstained. Nothing to complain about there, then - unless you're Susana Diaz and thought you had it in the bag.

Change of heart

EX-SECRETARY GENERAL Pedro

Sanchez has a problem and not only with Patxi Lopez or Susana Diaz.

Backing for Sanchez in his tug-of-war with the party hierarchy stemmed not from support for his person, but his refusal to allow Mariano Rajoy to form a government. Balears regional president, Francine Armengol, and Idoia Mendia, secretary general of the Basque socialists, have now spelled that out to Sanchez.

The PSOE membership, which famously chose Sanchez in the 2014 primaries dropped by several thousand under his leadership. The militants might not be enamoured of the Managing Committee headed by Javier Hernandez but will they come out for Sanchez now that Patxi Lopez has thrown his hat in the ring? Or will it be 'No means no thank you?'

Of primary concern

SPAIN'S president Mariano Rajoy has compromised over the primaries that some in the Partido Popular are calling for.

Members up to date with their dues will vote for candidates in a first round. In the second, the party's US-style delegates, will vote for those obtaining more than 10 per cent of the vote.

Galicians like Rajoy are notorious for answering questions without giving a definite reply. And this, for the time being, is his response to an issue that brought so much grief to the PSOE.

Undesired effect

EX-PRESIDENT Jose Maria Aznar has severed most of his links with the Partido Popular but confirmed that he does not intend to start a new right-wing party. Not that he is going to keep quiet, he warned, which will do neither Rajoy nor the PP any harm. Criticism from Aznar is praise indeed.



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CANTORIA: Searches were mounted after the woman went missing after an argument.

Woman found injured in fall

By Eleanor Hawkins

A WOMAN believed to have fallen down a 10-metre embankment has been rescued by the Guardia Civil in Cantoria.

The 35-year-old woman was reported missing by her partner, who explained that she had got out of their car on the A-334 road during an argument and disappeared.

Searches were mounted and the police force noted that at 10pm a driver had reported seeing a woman walking alone at the side of the

road. She was eventually found at 9.30am the next morning in a state of confusion with signs of hypothermia and suspected fractures to her legs.

Officers covered the woman with coats and blankets and called for an ambulance, which took her to La Inmaculada Hospital in Huerca-Overa.

The police force reported that the woman had fallen down the embankment while trying to get off the road in the area known as El Cortijillo de la Hoya.

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Closure blamed on population drop

By Eleanor Hawkins

REDUCED population is to blame for the announced closure of an infant and primary school in Albox, the regional Education delegate has explained.

Francisca Fernandez, Almeria Education delegate for the Junta de Andalucía regional government, said the department's decision to close Francisco Fenoy school and move its pupils to Virgen del Saliente school permanently is due to the fact that the number of applications for school places in the town has dropped by more than 100 since 2006.

“The number of applications for places has dropped by more than 100.”

This means that there is more than enough space at Virgen del Saliente for the pupils of both schools, Fernandez said, and there is no need to build a new school or repair the Francisco Fenoy, which was damaged by an earthquake in 2012.

Alleged gun owner found

A YOUNG man from Albox has been arrested suspected of being the owner of a pistol found at Alicante train station.

A man alerted security guards at the station on August 31 last year after spotting a cardboard package wrapped in sellotape behind the urinals in a station bathroom.

Police officers scanned the suspicious package and discovered the pistol and ammunition.

Investigations by the Alicante Scientific Police led to identification of a suspected owner, a 26-year-old man, who has now been tracked down at a home in Albox and arrested for alleged illegal weapon possession.

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Snowed out of local schools

EIGHT schools had to close due to the snow and another nine were affected by power cuts, closed roads and low attendance due to the bad weather.

In Seron, Tijola and Tahal schools closed as they were unreachable or the few pupils and teachers who had arrived were sent home due to power cuts.

Rural schools in Armuña de Almanzora, Albánchez, Sufli, Urracal, Laroya, Somontin and Siero were also all affected.

Even at schools which did open, like Valle del Andaraz secondary school in Canajayar and Valle del Almanzora secondary school in Cantoria, students who use school buses were late or had to stay at home due to the state of the roads.

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Former mayor on trial

By Eleanor Hawkins

FORMER Oria mayor Jose Perez is on trial at a provincial court accused of continued corrupt practice between 2007 and 2011.

The Public Prosecutor has requested a 10-year ban from public office for Perez, who is suspected of having given jobs to 46 people without carrying out any official recruitment or selection processes.

As the number of employees, who were taken on to fill all sorts of posts ranging from sports monitors to secretaries, was often double the amount budgeted for, the prosecution has claimed, this



JOSE PEREZ: On trial for corrupt practice.

led to a council debt of €388,740.

The workers were not provided with contracts and no social security contributions were paid

for them, an audit by Graudi Auditores y Consultores revealed. Wages were paid in hand with the irregular members of staff signing simple written receipts

rather than payslips, the prosecution has said.

The former mayor is also believed to have awarded work contracts in an irregular, verbal manner for part of a nursery school project worth €400,000 and another three technical projects for a total of almost €127,000. The audit also brought to light other irregularities including payment from council accounts for €48,000 worth of building materials from a company belonging to Perez's brother in law. The report stated that "the materials described on the bills have never appeared or been used in municipal works."

Photo credit You Tube

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Swimming begins

ALBOX Council's Sports department has announced that swimming lessons for all ages are about to start at the indoor pool.

Those interested in the classes, available for babies, children, pregnant women, adults and seniors, have until February 10 to sign up at Agua y Salud sports centre.

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ROSA NAVARRO: Secondary school where bullying was alleged to have taken place.

Accusations denied

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE Education Department has hit back following accusations of ignoring requests for information by the Andalucian Ombudsman regarding a case of alleged bullying in Olula del Rio.

While the Ombudsman's office claimed last week that it had put in two requests for information, neither of which received a response, Education

Delegate for Almeria Francisca Fernandez has said that is not the case.

Two requests have been received, Fernandez said, one in September and one on November 24, and both were answered within weeks of reception. This, the delegate stressed, can be proved as the department has records of all documents which enter and leave the office, and staff confirmed reception of replies by telephone too.

Regarding claims that measures put into place at the school in question, Rosa Navarro secondary school in Olula, where a 12-year-old was reportedly bullied, Fernandez stressed that the protocol for these cases had been followed.

The student, she said, continues to receive home tutoring and the authorities will coordinate to enable him to return to lessons at the school as soon as possible.

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Red hot properties down under

By Matthew Elliott

REAL estate in New Zealand startled observers when two Auckland homes were sold five times in just four days. The country continues to experience a property boom, considered one of the biggest in the world today.

“New Zealand continues to experience a property boom, considered one of the biggest in the world today.”

Both houses were ‘flipped,’ meaning sold two or more times during a year. The phenomenon is common in piping hot property markets but averaging more than one sale a day for five days straight is unprecedented.



AUCKLAND: Almost 2,000 homes in the city changed hands more than twice last year.

The properties are actually neighbouring homes located in an affluent Auckland suburb. One saw its value almost double from €900,000 to €1.6 million from February to August 2016. Both properties ended up in the hands of the same developer, who reportedly plans to demolish them and build 18 townhouses in their stead.

Almost 2,000 homes in the city changed hands more than twice last year and there are so-called ‘flipping hotspots’ scattered around both the north and south islands. The average house price in Auckland recently shot through the NZ\$1 million mark (roughly €670,000), up from half that 10 years ago. With foreign investors snapping up thousands of properties the city is now experiencing a housing crisis as many working people are forced to live in tents and caravans.

New incentives for landlords



CATALONIA: The project has been pioneered by the local government as rents in the region reached a record high last year.

By Matthew Elliott

LANDLORDS who offer tenants fair rents will be offered tax breaks and other subsidies as a reward under a new scheme aimed at lowering prices and ending abusive rents. The project has been pioneered by the Catalan government as rents in the region reached a record high last year.

High demand and a lack of rent control had led to predatory pricing whereby landlords take advantage of struggling tenants and booming foreign and touristic demand, especial-

ly in Barcelona. Rent control schemes have made a major impact in Germany and other places, but are relatively unheard of in Spain.

Instead the government hopes to act indirectly, offering incentives for landlords whose prices don’t exceed a new local price index. Those who do demand higher prices will be forced to admit this is the case on official documents.

The real test is how Catalonia can compete with platforms like Airbnb which encourage homeowners to rent to tourists for a handsome price.

A SURVEY among senior property experts suggests 2017 will be an exciting year for Spanish real estate. Half of the managers questioned believed house prices will rise by between 3 and 6 per cent. Asked the same question last year, only one in five considered such a performance possible.

The comprehensive survey

Exciting times

was conducted by internationally renowned surveyance firm CBRE, who asked 100 recognised experts to share their thoughts on the future of Spanish property. The results were overwhelmingly positive and bode well for 2017.

Two out of every three believed that private investors will shape the market to a greater extent than they did in 2016, while more opportunistic investors will take a back seat. That is a positive trend for long term stability and

highlights growing confidence in the residential market.

The impact of international investors is expected to remain stable, contributing around one third of total developments and continuing to buy up second homes. Meanwhile experts anticipate the office sector will take off this year, especially in the quick growing major cities.

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Climbing roses ideal for winter

By Graeme Tyrrell

THE Mediterranean winter is short but it gives a break from the many activities needed to maintain the garden through the long hot summer. Not needing to water the garden is a great relief and gives more time to attend to actual gardening work. Now is an ideal time to prepare the soil and plant roses.

There is a limited range of quality roses that will thrive in the Mediterranean garden but an often overlooked possibility that is more reliable than most is the climbing rose.

Traditional rose beds can do well when carefully planned with varieties selected to suit the long hot summers. I have a rose bed that provides exquisite blooms with scents that put most bottled perfume to shame.

Rose bushes need a lot of care to maintain the right amount of sunlight without being too shaded or too scorched with balanced

moisture levels between drying out and saturating the soil, mulch to insulate the soil temperature and reduce evaporation, applied nutrients to ensure vigorous growth, regular pruning of spent blooms, rose hips and unwanted lateral branches in addition to winter pruning, insect control and fungal prevention.

I find it well worth the effort to be able to appreciate the queen of flowers and they provide a valued gift for friends and visitors to the garden but it does take very regular care.

The most spectacular display of rose flowers in my garden however is the 20+ year old climbing roses that grace the stone walls in full sun all day and all the year. They need and receive little care except for an annual pruning after the main flowering period in May/June, when working in the garden is the most pleasant.

The advantage of a climbing rose is that it finds the best way to



Jaana Piira Shutterstock

grow itself if placed where it can ramble over walls and structures to optimise its own environment by shading its own root zone and foliage with its own branches and seeking out the place to receive

the right amount of sunlight. The roots also tend to have the same rambling character and are better at finding the best sources of moisture and nutrients underground to better sustain them-

selves when irregularly watered.

A formal rose garden doesn't have this flexibility to adapt and is more prone to failure due to susceptibility to the intensely harsh Mediterranean summer.

If you can find a climbing rose that is doing well and that will fit into a suitable situation in your garden, cuttings from local plants are invaluable as they are already proven to be adapted to the climate and they often grow well from cuttings. If you can, layering a branch or finding ones that have self layered is the best option. My neighbourhood has lots of climbing roses that have grown in this way from sharing the strongest and best roses to create a zone where roses rule in fine majesty.

When buying roses it is worth asking local experts on the best variety for your area.

Not all climbing roses available in nurseries are suited to all environments but they are in general hardier than the bush varieties.

New room for the New Year

IF you've decided to redecorate your living room there are a few common points interior designers tend to agree upon to get it right.

Remember the room needs a focal point so think about where you want visitors' eyes to be drawn when they first walk in. Also consider the atmosphere you want for your home. Failing to get the right feel can lead to

a sterile, unwelcoming room.

Go for a colour-scheme that suits the room and your character. It's no good going for the latest fashions if they will look wrong or make you feel uncomfortable.

Layout is also vital as too much furniture or pieces which are too big will cramp a smaller room and feel claustrophobic.

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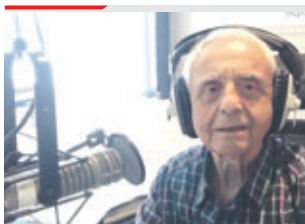
She posts her holiday dates securely on the site, with a few photos of Daisy and their home to give an impression of what the house-sitters can expect. She also describes the location of her home and what can be enjoyed in the region, there is lots to do and that appeals to many house-sitters who exchange their services for free accommodation.

Once she has posted details of the pet-sitting requirements, the website then sends out an email alert with the house-sit advert and house-sitters apply. Before committing to anyone, she checks their references and asks to speak to them on SKYPE. Then she makes her selection. Unperturbed by new visitors to the house Daisy keeps her daily routine while her owners travel. New house-sitters means new people to love and cuddle her.

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2. When travelling by car,

plan for twice as many rest stops as you would for a small child. Pets need ample time to stretch their legs and to go to the bathroom.

3. Avoid motion sickness by only feeding your pet a small meal a few hours before leaving for your trip. Also, start with short local trips and gradually increase the time before a long trip.

4. Take plenty of fresh water, possibly enough for some days. It has been found that many area's water varies, this has caused problems. Whenever you travel with your pet and factor in potential emergencies, such as if your vehicle breaks down. Always bring extra food and snacks for the road.

5. Safety belts and harnesses are good for securing small dogs in vehicles, but the safest way for your dog to travel is secured in a crate in your back

seat or at the rear of an estate vehicle. Dogs should never travel in the open bed of a pick-up truck.

“ Take plenty of fresh water and always bring extra food and snacks for the road.

6. If your trip includes an overnight stay, research pet-friendly hotels first and have a full understanding of what accommodations are available for them, as well as any extra charges that may apply.

7. All airlines require pets to have a health certificate before they can fly -make sure you check first. Each airline's policy differs, so plan accordingly. Also, find out if the airline will fly your pet during weather extremes - hot or cold.

8. Make sure your pet has a strong collar and identification tag, and include information about your destination should you get separated. Also, remember that all dogs and cats in Europe are required by law to be microchipped. Also, remember to carry a current photo of your pet along with the health certificates and inoculation records.

9. Never leave a pet in a car on warm or hot days. Temperatures in cars are at least 20 degrees above the outside temperature and heatstroke or death can result.

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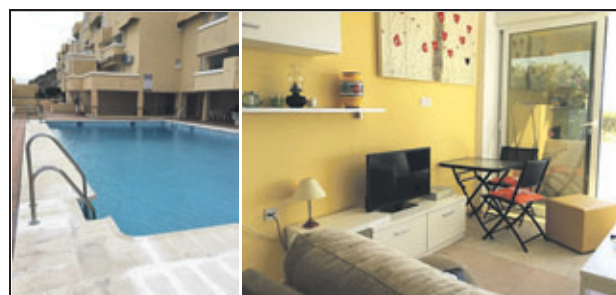
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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

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*On driving a BMW 1M “It’s as if somebody suddenly gave you permission to set fire to Piers Morgan.”**Some might say...***Motoring shorts****Top motors to buy in Europe**

THE Ford Fiesta has long been the best-selling car in the UK, but what are other European countries buying?

The ever-popular Volkswagen Golf was the best-selling car of 2016 in Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Luxembourg.

Elsewhere, the Nissan Qashqai topped the sales charts in Croatia and Latvia, while the Renault Clio was most popular in France, Portugal, and Slovenia.

It was a good year for Skoda, with their Octavia shifting the most units in Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Poland and Switzerland, and the smaller Fabia beating off the competition in Slovakia.

In Italy, the Fiat Panda was the year’s best-selling motor, while the Fiat 500 sold the most in Lithuania and the 500L in Serbia.

By Matthew Elliott

ZENOS Cars, the Norfolk-based sports car firm much-loved for its affordable lightweight lineup, has

gone into administration. The British car maker had recently produced its 100th vehicle, but a series of cancelled export orders proved too much for the small yet intimate company to handle.

Founded in 2012 by two experts who had worked at Lotus and Caterham Cars together, Zenos first produced its E10 sports car in 2015. It had no roof and was priced at a modest £25,000 (€29,000).

Later followed the more powerful E10 S and E10 R. The E10 R could hit 60mph in just three seconds, had a top speed of 155mph and weighed just 750kg. Around half of Zenos’ cars were sold within the UK, while others can be found as far away as the US and Japan.



ZENOS CARS: Norfolk-based sports car firm.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Volkswagen Tiguan - the SEL 4Motion

THE Tiguan is Volkswagen's five-seater SUV, spacious, well-built, attractively styled and up against a lot of competition in a keenly fought sector of the market.

Since its launch in 2007, almost three million Tiguans have been sold worldwide. The latest version - which has recently won a top SUV award in its German homeland - competes against rivals such as the Renault Kadjar, Mazda CX-5 and Ford Kuga, all with their individual plus-points.

Yet the Tiguan's big plus-point is that it comes over as a great all-round package, an appealing blend of premium looks, latest technology, durable construction, nice driving dynamics and excellent fuel economy.

Priced from £22,510 (€26,616), there are petrol and diesel engines on offer, though VW says it expects that the vast majority of sales will be diesel. Longer and wider than the previous version,

the new Tiguan is built on the same platform as the VW Golf and the Audi TT. With fresh styling and a revised and upgraded cabin, Tiguan is all set to take on the best in the class and come out on top.

Most popular engine choice is the 148 hp 2.0 litre diesel, and my test model had the slightly more powerful version of this engine, offering 187 hp, and mated to a slick seven-speed automatic gearbox.

It's a neat combination, delivering a quick 0-60 mph time of just 7.9 seconds, a top speed of 131 mph yet returning an impressive 49.6 mpg combined. In upper-range SEL 4Motion (all wheel drive) spec, the test model costs £34,060 (€40,270).

Out and about the Tiguan proves to be a relaxing drive, with light steering, good feedback, assured handling with minimal cornering pitch, and a comfortable ride. Standard suspension can be a tad

bumpy on rough roads, but there is the option of adjustable dampers which help smooth the surface.

This new model has wider appeal, with more youthful styling which includes a sleeker front end and revised head lights. Equipment levels are generous with even entry-level S versions getting touchscreen infotainment system, alloy wheels and air-con. My SEL model added a raft of other kit including three-zone climate control, four driving modes including off-road and snow, panoramic sunroof, larger 19-inch alloys, sat-nav, roof rails and an array of additional safety features.

The roomy cabin easily takes three adults in the rear, a larger boot now offers 520 litres, increasing to 1,655 litres with the seats folded. These seats also slide up to 170mm to adjust load/occupant space. With a lot of stowage compartments too, the Tiguan gets top marks for practicality.



Stats:

Model: Volkswagen Tiguan SEL 4Motion
Engine: 2.0 litre diesel
Transmission: 7-speed automatic
Performance: 0-60mph 7.9 seconds, top speed 131 mph
Economy: 49.6 mpg combined
Emissions: 149g/km

VW TIGUAN: Well-built five-seater and attractively styled.

Countdown to Geneva

THE Geneva Motor Show may still be a few months away but several big-hitters have already come forward to stake their claim to motoring dominance. McLaren, Ferrari and even a Singapore outfit have put their cards on the table, ready to showcase their next generation masterpieces.

British manufacturer McLaren will debut the second generation of its acclaimed Super Series. Engineers claim that it will have double the aerodynamic efficiency of the 650S, which is no mean feat.

Stronger, lighter and with outstanding grip and even an airbrake, the new McLaren model will need to outshine its predecessor if the struggling

company wants to keep its place at motoring's top table.

Meanwhile Singapore modestly claims it will kickstart an 'electric revolution' when it debuts its awkwardly named Dendrobium. Produced by Vanda Electrics it is a two-seat electric supercar with an automatic roof and doors shaped like Dendrobiums, a flower native to Singapore. The Geneva Motor Show takes place from March 9-19.

Thousands of spectators will also see the new Ferrari F12 M; Range Rover Coupe; Kia Picanto and Jaguar XF Sportbrake. There will also be a lightweight Lamborghini, a Suzuki Swift, and a Porsche 911 GT3.



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Bernie Ecclestone gets ousted from Formula 1 after 40 years in charge

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 Pilica in the Sierra Cabrera Mountains overlooking Turre.

Costa de Almería

FOOTBALL:

• I'LL start by congratulating Wayne Rooney who, last Saturday, earned Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Stoke with his 250th goal for the club, thus breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's record which has stood for 44 years. Also I congratulate Swansea for a terrific 3-2 win at Liverpool.

• Last night Liverpool (trailing 1-0 and looking to bounce back from that horrid defeat by Swansea) met Southampton in their LC semi-final second leg, while tonight Manchester United (2-0 up and unbeaten in 17 games) visit Hull in the other 'semi.'

• There are 16 fourth round FA Cup ties coming up, the pick being Derby v Leicester (tomorrow), followed by Chelsea v Brentford, Crystal Palace v Manchester City, non-League Lincoln v Brighton, Liverpool v Wolves, Middlesbrough v Accrington, Southampton v Arsenal and Spurs v Wycombe on Saturday and Manchester United v Wigan and non-League Sutton United v Leeds on Sunday.

• The top SPL games are Celtic v Hearts and Motherwell v Rangers (a repeat of last Saturday's cup tie). SL1 leaders Livingston play Brechin.

• In the PL next Tuesday, it's Arsenal (2nd) v Watford, Liverpool (4th) v leaders Chelsea and Sunderland (bottom) v Tottenham (3rd), followed on Wednesday by Manchester United (6th) v Hull (again) and West Ham v Manchester City (5th).

• In the African Cup of Nations, Cameroon, Congo DR, Ghana and Senegal are eyeing up semi-final places and there are eight FA Trophy fifth round ties this weekend.

• £175m was spent in last January's transfer window... expect £200m to have changed hands when this year's 'window' closes next Tuesday.

Deals already include: Oscar (Chelsea-Shanghai SIPG, £60m); Gabriel Jesus (Palmeiras-Manchester City, £27m); Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United-Everton, £24m); Memphis Depay (Manchester United-Lyon, £16m+); Wilfred Ndidi (Genk-Leicester, £15m); Saido Berahino (WBA-Stoke, £12m); Jeffrey Schlupp (Leicester-Crystal Palace, £12m); Ademola Lookman (Charlton-Everton, £11m); Jake Liver-

more (Hull-WBA, £10m) and José Fonte (Southampton-West Ham, £8m).

• Manchester United, the world's richest club, banked £505m last season. Real Madrid and Barcelona earned £463.8m each, Bayern Munich £442.7m and Manchester City £392.6m.

• Last Saturday, FC Chapecoense (Brazil) played its first match since that horrific pre-Christmas Colombian air crash. They drew 2-2 with Palmeiras before a record 22,700 crowd as tears were shed and drums were banged throughout the 90 minutes. No one cared about fouls, misplaced passes or goals. This was the

birth of a new team.

TENNIS:

• In the Australia Open, Sir Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic suffered shock defeats to Germany's Mischa Zverev (ranked 50th in the world, and 1,013th two years ago) and Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin respectively.

• Another Brit, Birmingham-born Dan Evans, beat two seeds, Marin Cilic and Bernard Tomic, before losing to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

• At the start of this week, Roger Federer, David Goffin, Rafael Nadal and Stan Wawrinka were looking strong, likewise GB's Johanna Konta who ousted Caroline Wozniacki on her way to a quarter-final clash with Serena Williams. Spain's Garbine Muguruza was also going well.

CRICKET:

• England lost the first two ODIs against India by three wickets and 15 runs but won the third, just, by five runs. Over 140,000 spectators attended the three encounters.

• The countries now play three T20 matches: today, on Sunday and next Wednesday.

RUGBY UNION:

• There were European Champions Cup wins last week for Clermont, Glasgow (43-0 at Leicester), Sale and Saracens, and in the Challenge Cup for Bath, Cardiff, Gloucester, Ospreys and Worcester.

• This weekend there's Anglo-Welsh Cup action.

FORMULA 1:

• AS soon as the \$8 billion (€7.45 billion) takeover of Formula 1 was completed, Liberty Media announced that Bernie Ecclestone would, with immediate effect, step down as CEO and become Chairman Emeritus of the group.

Current chairman of Formula 1 Chase Carey who represents Liberty Media on the board will combine his current role with that of CEO and former Ferrari technical director and Mercedes team boss Ross Brawn who had been acting as a consultant to Liberty, has been appointed managing director of motor sports.

According to a statement by 86-year-old Ecclestone, who was at the helm of F1 for 40 years, to a German auto-sports magazine, he has been forced out, saying "I was dismissed."

This is official. I no longer run the company. My position has been taken by Chase Carey."

There is no question that Ecclestone has transformed the sport and made the company into a multi-billion dollar brand, but with so much money invested in the takeover it is hardly surprising that the new owners want to have complete control at the top.

ROUND-UP:

• Ronnie O'Sullivan beat Joe Perry to claim a record seventh UK Masters snooker title.

• Welshman Alex Thomson, after 74 days at sea, finished second to Frenchman Armal le Cleac'h in the gruelling Vendee Globe round the world yacht race.

• England golfer Tommy Fleetwood won the Abu Dhabi Championship and Europe's 2018 Ryder Cup captain Thomas Bjorn can use four wild card entries to face America.

• The Finn, Valtteri Bottas, will partner Lewis Hamilton at Mercedes in this year's F1 races. Felipe Massa replaces Bottas at Williams.

• Carl Frampton (GB) fights Leo Santa Cruz for the WBA featherweight title in Las Vegas on Saturday.

• Last Sunday, skier Dave Ryding became the first Brit since 1981 to stand on the podium after taking silver in the World Cup slalom in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

SAD NEWS:

Although a tad late, I must say what a great sporting lady Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint was. Captain of England ladies 1973 World Cup winning cricket team and vice president of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Rachael died last week, aged 77. RIP maam.

BERNIE ECCLESTONE:
Stepped down as CEO as soon as the takeover was completed.

DID YOU KNOW?

HALF of the 92 clubs in the PL, Championship and Leagues 1/2, have 'stadium' in their ground name, including: Wham Stadium (Accrington), Hive Stadium (Barnet), American Express Stadium (Brighton), Keepmoat Stadium (Doncaster), Cherry Road Records Stadium (Wimbledon), Matchroom Stadium (Leyton Orient), Lamex Stadium (Stevenage) and New York Stadium (Rotherham).

R.B.L. QUIZ

I have my first RBL quiz of 2017 at the Beachcomber, Mojacar Playa, next Friday, 3rd February, 8.30pm. Please come along, it's for a good, honest cause.



Wayne Rooney scored his 250th goal for Manchester United, thus breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's record which has stood for 44 years.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Cabrera Lawn Bowling Club

FROM January 11 to 15 Cabrera Lawn Bowling Club hosted The Brindle Bowl Hong Kong Pairs.

The Brindle Bowl, although a pairs competition, is played on a slightly different format with each of the two players of the team taking it in turns to lead and skip. The first player bowls two woods, the second player bowls all four woods and then the first player bowls their last two woods. A very interesting format.

There were some very good rounds and closely contested matches, but the standout player throughout the competition was Sandra Marriott who was partnered by her husband Peter. She had an excellent competition and got to the final with Peter where they met John Wilson and Chris Cole.

Chris and John got off to an excellent start but Sandra and Peter fought back gallantly and after 10 ends the score was 7-7 and after 14 ends was 10-10 so you can see how competitive the final was.

After 17 ends John and Chris were one shot ahead, but on the 18th end



L to R: John Wilson, winners Sandra and Peter Marriott, Chris Cole.

Sandra produced the shot of the competition to level the score. Not to be outdone by his wife, Peter then produced a fantastic shot to hold the end by two shots and therefore winning the final 14-13. It was an absolutely fabulous display of bowling by all four competitors worthy of any final.

The many spectators thoroughly enjoyed the display of bowling. Congratulations to Sandra and Peter and commiserations to John and Chris.

All members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Clubhouse, Al Andalus Gardens, Turre, on Thursday February 9 at 10.00am for a 10.30am start. First call will be made at 10.30am and if no quorum a second call will be made at 11.00am.

For further information please contact the club secretary Lynne Hughes-Jones on 950 930 471 or club captain Ian Jackson on 634 340 361.



BIG FOOT: Was spotted walking on the 7th fairway.

Badgers Golf Society

WEDNESDAY January 18 saw 18 hardy golfers travel to Lorca Golf Resort where they encountered a situation that has never been seen in the 17 years of Badger's golf history.

Not only was there snow on the course but due to a snow storm the golfers had to leave the course before the round was finished.

Unfortunately for all players there were no points scored for the order of merit. However prizes were given for the nearest the pins and two's. At one

point a large white figure was sighted walking on the seventh fairway and it was concluded that it was either a big foot or Dave Wright!

Prizes:

Nearest Pins: 4th Jim Russell, 8th Duncan Smart, 10th Charlie Scott, 18th Big Foot.

Two's: 4th Brendon Cullen, 8th Duncan Smart, 10th Charlie Scott, 10th Duncan Smart.

Badgers also play on Saturday mornings. For further information please contact Duncan Smart on 634 331 059.

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