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# Tempest

## Aid appeal to Madrid debated

By Matthew Elliott

Warmer weather finally returned to Mallorca after a wild week of snow, storms and flooding which caused severe damage across the island.

The Balearic government is now assessing that damage and considering requesting emergency aid from Madrid.

Thick snow made a rare appearance south of the Tramuntanas and four torrential days saw triple the volume of rainfall than is typical for the whole month of January.

Some roads remain blocked after dozens were closed due to landslides and flooding.

Emergency services were dispatched to over 500 incidents during the weekend alone as coastal areas were battered by high winds and waves.

Schools in Marratxi, Sineu and Llucmajor have reported substantial damage, while railway sections in Soller and Sineu are in dire straits.

In the mountains the Cuber and Gorg Blau reservoirs

burst their banks after filling to the brim with melted snow and lavish rainfall. On the east coast the sea practically swallowed the entire beach of Cala Moreia in Manacor.

With wind speeds recorded far in excess of 100kph there were multiple power outages across the island.

A house in Porreres collapsed, and firefighters attended 117 rescue efforts on Saturday January 21 alone.

Overtaken trees were by far the most common problem.

Firefighters also rescued an elderly couple from their flooded apartment in Sant Joan; three drivers from flood waters on the Montuiri motorway and two workers trapped in an excavator in Vilafraça.

Fortunately there were no deaths or serious injuries reported, but farmers have suffered tremendously. Thou-



sands of hectares of potato and corn fields are waterlogged with much of the harvest destroyed.

Farmers have already ex-

pressed their fury that the government hadn't taken precautionary measures after the record rainfall in December. Emergency aid packages are

now being discussed but will do little to ease their pain.

» Turn to page 5 for more on the cold snap

See us on page 22

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**LOCAL NEWS**

## Plastic palaver

PLASTIC bags will be banned from Palma's shops next year but there is already a fiery debate over proposed exceptions to the rule. Green activists are angry over plans to allow exemptions for food traders, and believe that more should be done, while small business owners feel cheated and fear they will be stuck with thousands of useless, illegal bags.

## Big plans

PALMA'S Palacio de Congresos will officially open its doors on April 1. The hotly anticipated new conference centre covers 6,363 square metres and has the capacity

to hold 3,100 people. Palma mayor Jose Hila says the complex hopes to attract more than 77,000 visitors within four years, and generate €21 billion in revenue.

## Asterix the Gaul

A GERMAN real estate company is hoping to build luxury apartments on the site of a much-loved Palma furniture shop. Toni Amengual, president of the citizen's association, compared the local residents' situation to little Gaul in the Asterix comic, desperately trying to fend off the mighty Roman empire.

# 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:**  
Celebrated with street parades.

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## Reckless lunatic

A DRUNK driver was arrested after tearing down the Lluçmajor motorway in the wrong direction for 12km without a licence. The 37-year-old Palma man drove at top speed with a flat tyre while four times over the blood-alcohol limit.

The incident occurred late on Monday evening January 23 and involved a Volkswagen Touareg. He claims to have taken a wrong turn onto the MA-19 and was trying to get off the motorway when a couple of shocked police officers saw him.

The officers put out a call and a road block was formed, forcing him to stop. The culprit spent the night in Guardia Civil custody and is charged with recklessly endangering other road users.

## Flying Dutchman

A DUTCHMAN who ran a cannabis smoking club in Palma has been charged with drug trafficking. The Son Armandans establishment was spotted by a pair of undercover officers who spotted two suspicious young men leaving the premises with bags.

They searched the men, found a fair amount of marihuana and were told they'd purchased it from the Dutchman's café. Entering the club they found 15 people, two smoking joints, one kilo of marihuana, 93 grams of hashish, and scales.

The Dutchman happily showed them around but was astonished when he was arrested, expressing his surprise that selling dope could possibly be a crime.

## Gambling den raided

POLICE raided an illegal Chinese gambling den in Palma's Pere Garau district. More than €100,000 exchanged hands at the secret address each month.

Only players from the Fujian province of China were allowed entry, making it incredibly difficult for police to locate the building, which operated in the early hours of Friday and Saturday nights.

During the raid National Police officers arrested 21 people, seized €4,000 in cash and found a variety of card decks, dice and games.

## Timetable? What timetable?

FURIOUS bus passengers are demanding that the authorities take urgent action against a bus company they claim picks and chooses departure times as it pleases. Around 70 people have filed an online complaint against Autocares Mallorca.

The trouble concerns the Alcudia - Palma via Inca route, with passengers claiming this winter has seen a highly restrictive service. A formal complaint was lodged with the local government one month ago but

no action has been taken so far.

Travellers point out that they are essentially at the mercy of public transportation as they try to get to work on time, only to encounter seemingly random timetables that change by the day.

Many live in isolated areas without vehicles and have been driving to their wits end. A class action lawsuit has been raised as a possibility if nothing is done.

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...1

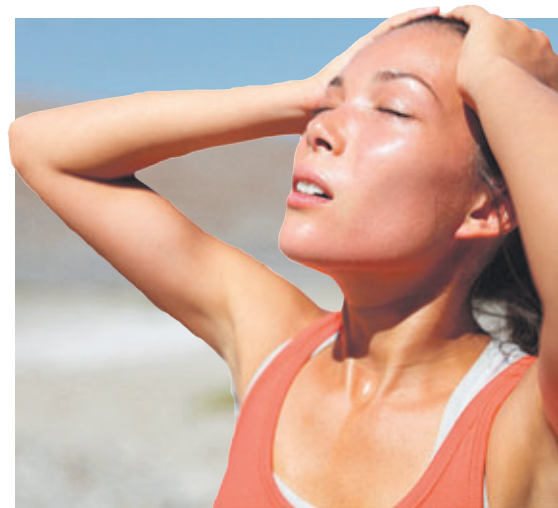
Despite the at times Arctic-like temperatures in recent days, last year was the hottest since world records began in 1880. And local weather is set to change more up to the year 2100 than it has in the last 10,000 years, according to experts.

## 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.

## Full to burst Trumped up Canyoning catastrophe

THE Cuber and Gorg Blau reservoirs have exceeded their maximum capacities as a result of the recent bad weather, but the extra water is flowing towards river channels in a 'controlled' way according to technicians.

While Cuber reached 101.26 per cent of capacity, with the water level rising 98cm since January 16, Gorg Blau topped out at 102.95 per cent and rose by 2.18 metres. On the same date last year they were 27.98 per cent full.

NEW US President, Donald Trump, has drawn the attention of British tweeters after unintentionally promoting Magaluf via his Twitter account.

The controversial businessman and reality TV star turned politician has repeatedly used the #MAGA hashtag, synonymous with his campaign slogan, Make America Great Again.

Maga is the popular name by which the notorious Mallorca resort is known to young Brits.

AN adventure sportswoman was killed while 'canyoning' in the Tramuntanas on Tuesday January 24. The adventurous activity sees people climb up empty river beds and jump into small rock pools. It draws people from all over Europe to Mallorca.

The 47-year-old Spanish national got caught in her climbing ropes when she plunged into the Coanegra torrent. Unable to disentangle herself she drowned in the waters. Firefighters and Guardia Civil agents attended the scene shortly before 10am and confirmed her death.

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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 Almaraz 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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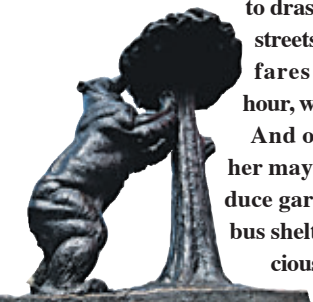


**WHILE many motorists refuse to use the metro and continue to drive on the city's main and frequently clogged roads, Mayor Manuela Carmena wants to ban all vehicles from many main streets by 2019.**

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 E!TV 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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# Crop calamity

By Matthew Elliott

THE potato, corn and cereal harvest was largely destroyed by the week's devastating storms. Farmers are requesting emergency assistance after years of hard labour was quite literally washed away.

Sa Pobla in the island's north-east was the worst affected. The area possesses most of the island's potato fields, which were expected to be harvested in March.

Balearic president Francina Armengol visited Sa Pobla to see for herself the extent of the damage. She pledged that the regional government will ensure that the farmers receive a tailor-made aid package. Authorities are now considering making a formal request for financial assistance from Madrid.

She was accompanied by environment minister Vicenc Vidal who also toured waterlogged fields in Montiuri and Algaida. Even that visit was tainted with controversy as rival politicians claimed he was taking a partisan tour of the region to avoid criticism.

His ministry is already under intense pressure to explain a perceived lack of action in response to December's monstrous rainfall. Farmer's groups are furious that preventative measures weren't taken a month ago when the writing was on the wall.

It wasn't all doom and gloom from an agricultural standpoint. Although they burst their banks, the twin Tramuntana reservoirs, Cuber and Gorg Blau, are now thankfully topped up, alleviating some of the panic over drought.



White out.



Fields covered in snow.



Valldemossa.



Palma de Mallorca.

THE Balearic Football Federation has come under fire for its lackadaisical response to severe weather warnings. The outfit had its very own Michael Fish moment as officials dismissed the seriousness of the threat.

Chairman Miquel Bestard

## Football's Michael Fish

has publicly apologised for not suspending the weekend's play in advance despite having ample time to notify players and families. Snow had al-

ready fallen on Tuesday, but many players were already en route on Saturday when games were abruptly cancelled over waterlogged pitch-

es and travel safety.

From Friday to Sunday there were over 700 amateur games scheduled to kick off across the islands, from school

matches to semi-professional leagues. Without official notice of cancellations, many clubs have forked out money on buses and paid referees,

creating a real headache for the Federation.

Though apologetic for the mishap, the Federation's official statement cheekily noted that many games on Friday and Sunday could well have gone ahead... so they were almost in the right.

  
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## 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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# Fools and their horses

By Matthew Elliott

PALMA's long suffering carriage-pulling horses will be given a slight break. The official carriages parade will be moved to a different spot following complaints that the present site at Calle Conqueridor doesn't allow them to relax.

Where the new parade will take place hasn't yet been settled. The decision comes amid a series of new proposals and controversies over what to do with the city's 'Galeras Rojas' in-

dustrial of horse-drawn carriages.

More than 70,000 people signed a petition in 2015 calling for the end of the practice after the death of a horse from exhaustion outside the cathedral. Since then the authorities have explored different options, including electric carriages, but have met resistance from the drivers who fear for their livelihood.



**CARRIAGE HORSES:**  
The new parade place  
has yet to be decided.

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PROFESSIONAL cyclists will be taking on one of Europe's toughest challenges at the 26th Playa de Palma Challenge. The hotly anticipated tour, which draws some of the world's fastest people on two wheels, starts on Thursday January 19.

The tour will last for four days and is traditionally used by the world's top teams to prepare themselves for the grueling calendar ahead.

It comprises four separate races and will involve teams from Spain, the UK, South Ameri-

ca, Russia and across Europe.

On January 26 racers will cover a tough 168.6km from Porreres to Campos, with stages at Felanitx and Ses Salines. The following Friday sees them take on the mountainous Trofeo Serra de Tramuntana route starting in Soller and cover-

ing Esporles, Bunyola, Alaro and heading towards Deia over 140km.

Saturday will have the teams make their way from Andratx to Pollensa, covering Peguera, Banyalbufar and Valldemossa across 160km. Sunday's final day begins at the Playa de Palma

and runs through Lluçmajor, Sineu, Santa Margalida and Santa Maria to the Paseo Marítimo of the capital. Distance is 161.5km, bringing the total to a sweltering 630.5km.

All days will begin at 11.55am, excepting Sunday when the action kicks off at 10am.

## Number of Germans in decline

By Matthew Elliott

GERMANS are no longer the biggest foreign contingent across the Balearics, having been outnumbered by Moroccans in 2016. The latest census figures found that, in January last year, there were 23,450 officially registered Moroccan nationals, compared to 20,451 Germans.

The revelation demonstrates a huge drop in the number of German nationals on the islands. It is almost 2,000 lower than the numbers for 2015 and, astonishingly, shows a drop from almost 30,000 in 2007. That means one third of the German population has been lost in under a decade.

**“The number of European foreigners is falling.”**

It should be noted that demographic experts believe a substantial number of the 'missing' Germans may still be scattered around Mallorca but are no longer 'officially' resident for tax purposes.

The general trend, however, is undeniable, with the number of European foreigners declining, as the population of North Africans continues to rise.

Interestingly the number of South American women has almost halved in the past decade. Meanwhile the number of Italians has shot up by 40 per cent in 10 years, but largely due to immigration from Argentinians with Italian passports.

As of January 1, 2016 there were exactly 1,107,220 registered inhabitants on the islands, an increase of 0.24 per cent on 2015.

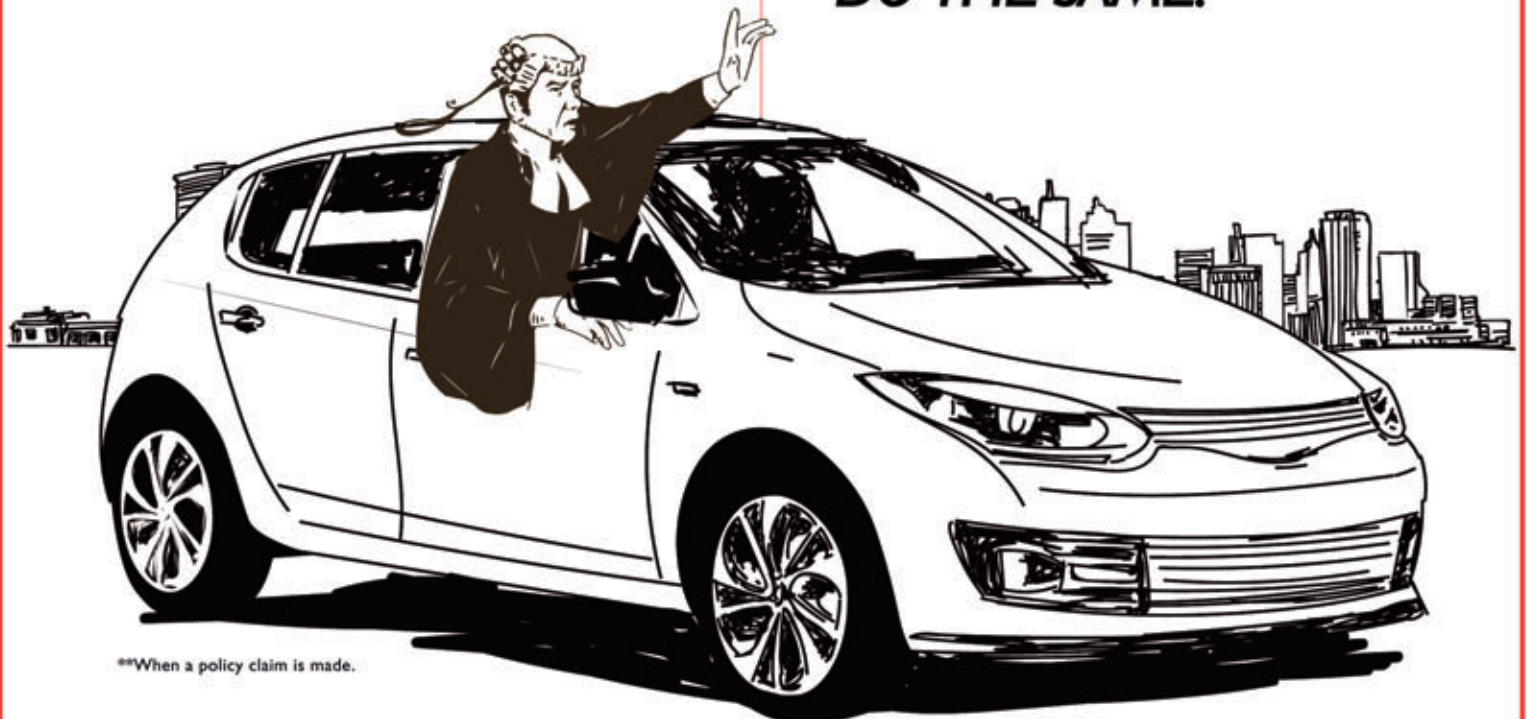
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# Local film makes good

By Matthew Elliott

A GERMAN short film produced on Mallorca will be presented at the European Film Market in Berlin in February. 'Martha' made its world premiere at the Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival last year to wide acclaim.

It forms a sequel to the award-winning 'Maria' from director Florian Gottschick and the second in a proposed trilogy set on the island.

Martha stars Carmen Molinar who plays a 53-year-old recently widowed mother contemplating her life. The film was shot around Cala Rajada, Capdepera, Cala Torta and Campos.

The European Film Market is held simultaneously with the Berlin Inter-

national Film Festival, one of the world's leading film spectacles.

**SHORT FILM:**  
Is the second in a proposed trilogy.



## Police racism claim in Arta

A TUNISIAN businessman has accused police in Cala Rajada of racism. Nidhal Gharsi claims he was offended by a rude agent from the Arta Guardia Civil.

Gharsi told local media that he had rushed to drive his two sons to school at 9am. He parked haphazardly in a banned spot after two frustrating laps of the school.

When he returned to the car he encountered the policemen duly taking photos and preparing a ticket.

He accepted the fine and

apologised. He then tried to reason with the officer, saying that they were both from the town and knew that dozens of parents committed the same offence every day.

Gharsi claims that, to his shock, the officer said that he was indeed from the town, but Gharsi was not, as he wasn't born there.

He has since lodged an official complaint with the Guardia Civil and claims to feel afraid of repercussions as his family are the only Tunisians in the area.



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## Drilling ban

THE Balearic Parliament proposed a bill to ban oil drilling in the Spanish Mediterranean.

It would forbid all exploration and production in a bid to save the environment.

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### Menu 2 food tasting for 2 people

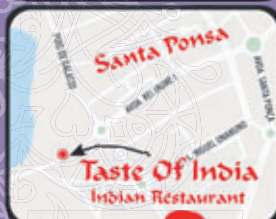
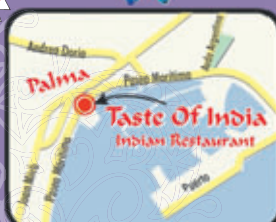
Mixed starters  
Main course:  
Chicken, lamb and beef  
Pilau rice and naan  
Bottle of wine  
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Dessert and coffee or infusion

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### Menu 3 food tasting for 4 people

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# To let, or not to let

TENSIONS between Mallorca hoteliers and the holiday rental agency bubbled over at a tourism conference in Madrid. The opposing sides have argued for years now over proposed regulations of the tourist letting industry.

Holiday rental association Aptur is trying to 'democratisé' the industry by taking the monopoly away from hotels and enabling tourists to choose

properly registered holiday apartments. But representatives from the hotel lobby used the Madrid conference to demand that all 'informal' letting affairs be brought under the same strict regulatory umbrella as hotels.

Hoteliers are furious that, until now, many people have been able to let out their homes to tourists for short term stays without having to pay registration fees and meet safety re-

quirements. That legal loophole is set to close, but the debate over how tight the noose should be is as fiery as ever.

Industry experts are now alarmed by the prospect of different Spanish regions having different sets of rules for holiday lets.

They worry that tourists will simply get confused and turned off by the needless complications.



**HOLIDAY LETS:** Tourists may get confused and turned off by the needless complications.

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## Palm or tipuana?

CAN PICAFORT is felling its beloved palm trees. Construction workers are making room for the expansion of the central shopping street Paseo Colon. Tourists are incredibly fond of the palms, which are considered symbolic of the Mallorcan town.

Once the work is complete, new trees will be planted. The question is which ones? Mayor Joan Monjo has announced that the decision will soon be made by the council's tourism committee.

Many are calling for the palms to be reintroduced, but others believe that disease resistant tipuana trees, native to Bolivia, are a smarter move.

Work on improving the Paseo Colon is expected to be finished during the Easter holidays.

# Snakes in the grass

By Matthew Elliott

SNAKES which arrived from mainland Spain are more than doubling in size on the Balearic Islands. They are also quickly conquering more land due to a lack of rival predators.

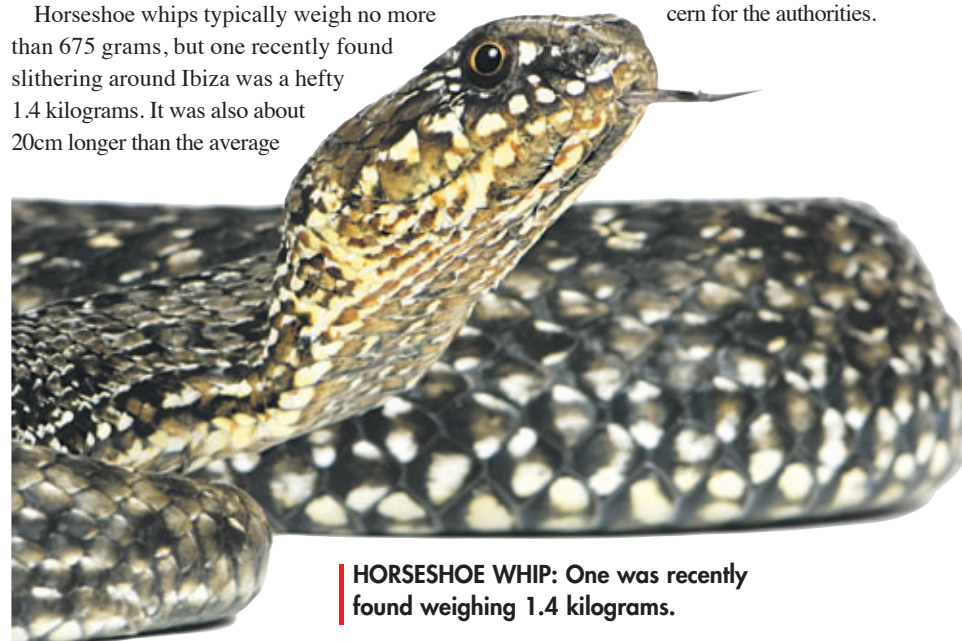
Biologists have been shocked to see some species thrive so dramatically on the islands, particularly in Ibiza and Formentera. One example is the horseshoe whip snake which came from Andalusia over a decade ago hidden in the thick trunks of old olive trees imported by keen gardeners.

Horseshoe whips typically weigh no more than 675 grams, but one recently found slithering around Ibiza was a hefty 1.4 kilograms. It was also about 20cm longer than the average

horseshoe whip, measuring 1.83 metres. The speed of its evolution has astonished scientists.

The snakes are also taking over more space, particularly favouring unoccupied rocky islands, and are now lingering off the Mallorcan coast. The Balearic Centre for Wild Animals is now setting up traps at a record rate to prevent a full blown invasion.

Fortunately the horseshoe whip isn't poisonous, but this was purely chance. A poisonous species could quite easily slip the net in quite the same way, causing far more concern for the authorities.



**HORSESHOE WHIP:** One was recently found weighing 1.4 kilograms.

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**SOLAR POWER:** People are being forced to pay more than ever before.

# Dismay over sun tax

MALLORCA residents who use solar power to help provide energy at home are being forced to pay more than ever before under the highly controversial 'sun tax.'

The rates went up dramatically on January 1 meaning locals now pay an average of €40 per megawatt hour, compared to just €19 when the tax was first rolled out in 2015.

The increased charges apply

to all photovoltaic (PV) installations with a total capacity of more than 10 megawatts and which feed into the public network. There are around 400 such homes and public institutions around the islands.

Independent political party Mes (more for Mallorca) have said the higher tax reveals the 'distrastous' energy policies of the governing Popular Party in Madrid. Meanwhile the director

of the official Balearic climate change body voiced his fears that the decision would put people off going solar.

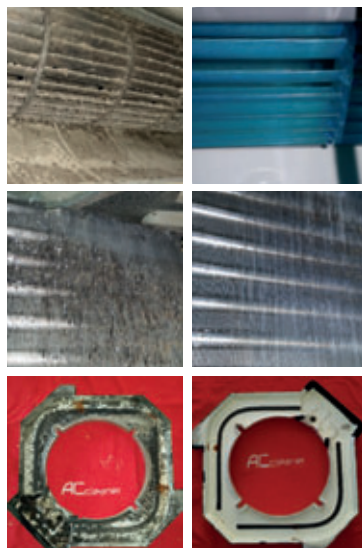
Despite many countries offering a tax incentive to choose environmentally-friendly solar power for homes, the Spanish prime minister decided to penalise them. Opposition parties claim Mariano Rajoy was unduly influenced by the country's powerful energy companies.



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# Spanish exports record growth in 2016

**ALL-TIME HIGH: For Spanish exports.**

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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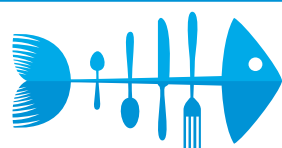
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# Plant exports banned

By Matthew Elliott

PLANTS can no longer be exported from Mallorca. The Spanish ministry of agriculture has issued a blanket ban

to combat the spread of so-called 'olive ebola' from the Balearics to mainland Spain.

Only seeds can be exported under the strict new regime. *Xylella fastidiosa*, considered

one of the world's most dangerous pathogens, was discovered at a garden centre in Porto Cristo in November 2016. Experts claim the bacterium poses a grave threat to the EU's olive industry.

It was dubbed 'olive ebola' by Spanish broadsheet *El Mundo* courtesy of its devastating impact on the tree.

Arriving in Italy in 2013, the pathogen rapidly spread, killing hundreds of thousands of olive trees in its wake.

Fortunately the export ban won't have much impact on Mallorca, which typically imports rather than exports plants. People are also free to transport plants between the Balearic Islands.

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held to provide an opportunity for the group to thank all of their volunteers and also to meet and welcome new volunteers. Feel free to pop along for a chat and talk to other volunteers with no obligation.

The coffee morning will take place on Friday February 10 from 9.30am until 12.30pm at The Boathouse, Paseo Marítimo, Palma. For more information call 661 080 101 or email [info@cancersupportmallorca.com](mailto:info@cancersupportmallorca.com).

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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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# 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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Multi Asset Growth B EUR

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£1.0714.....

£1.2611.....

£1.1795.....

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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](http://www.evenitup.org).

# Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at [international@stoneking.co.uk](mailto: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.





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# Most exciting thing to happen

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



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 clichés 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.

*Keep the Faith*

*Love Leapy*

*leapylee2002@gmail.com*



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**Spanish Property Tax & Obligations**

## Are you a Non-Resident Property owner in Spain?

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

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

#### 2016 taxes must be declared and paid before the end of 2017.

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

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

Via Puig des Castellet No 1 Bq.6 Lc 1  
07180, Santa Ponsa, Calvia (Next to Brico Toti)

**T. +34 971 694 044**

**email: info@gcmca.es**

**www.gcmca.es**



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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

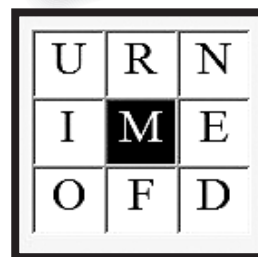
Fri -	12	6	Sh	Mon -	15	7	C
Sat -	14	4	Sh	Tues -	15	8	C
Sun -	13	4	C	Wed -	15	9	C

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

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

## 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:

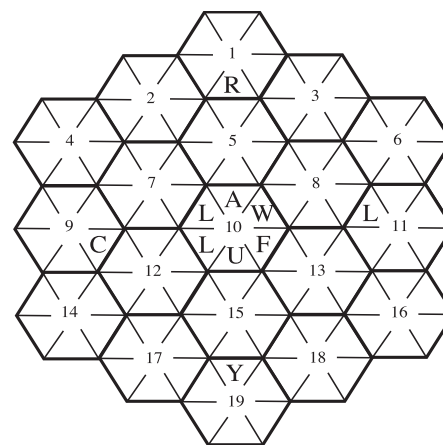
- Average: 11 • Good: 15
- Very good: 22 • Excellent: 28

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ache chad chat dahl dhal doth each echo echt etch hale halo halt hand hate head heal 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 clothe daleth detach haloed halted handle loathe techno cathode 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	



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## Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

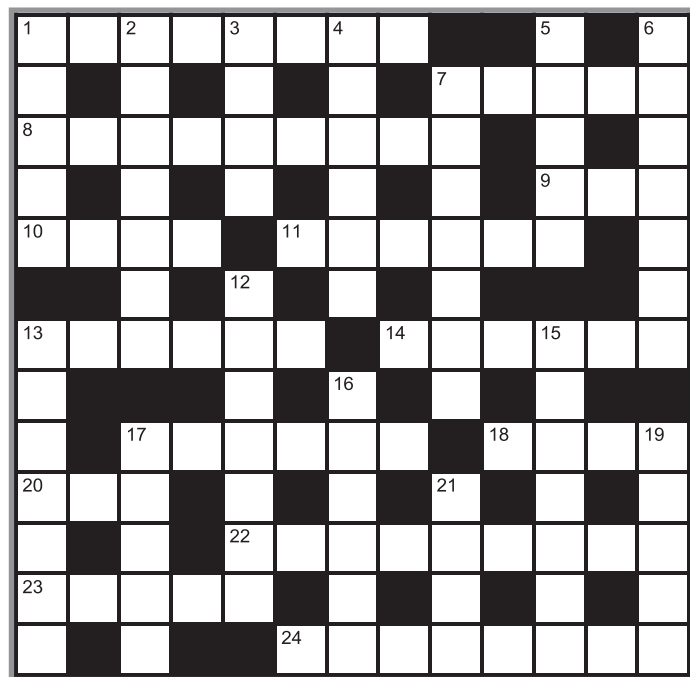
## Cryptic

## 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)

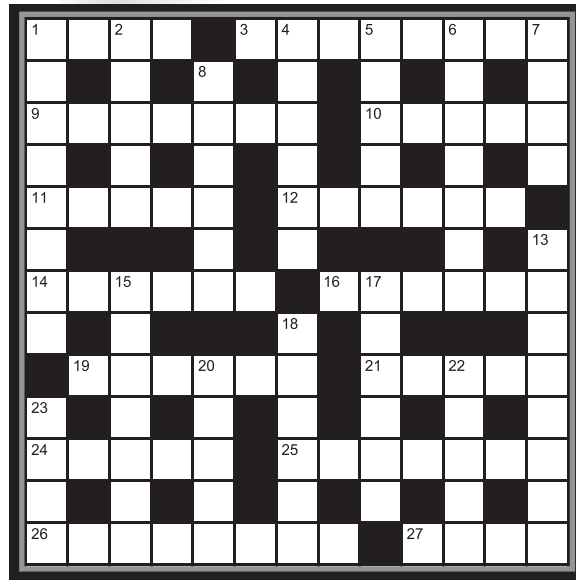
## Down

- 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:

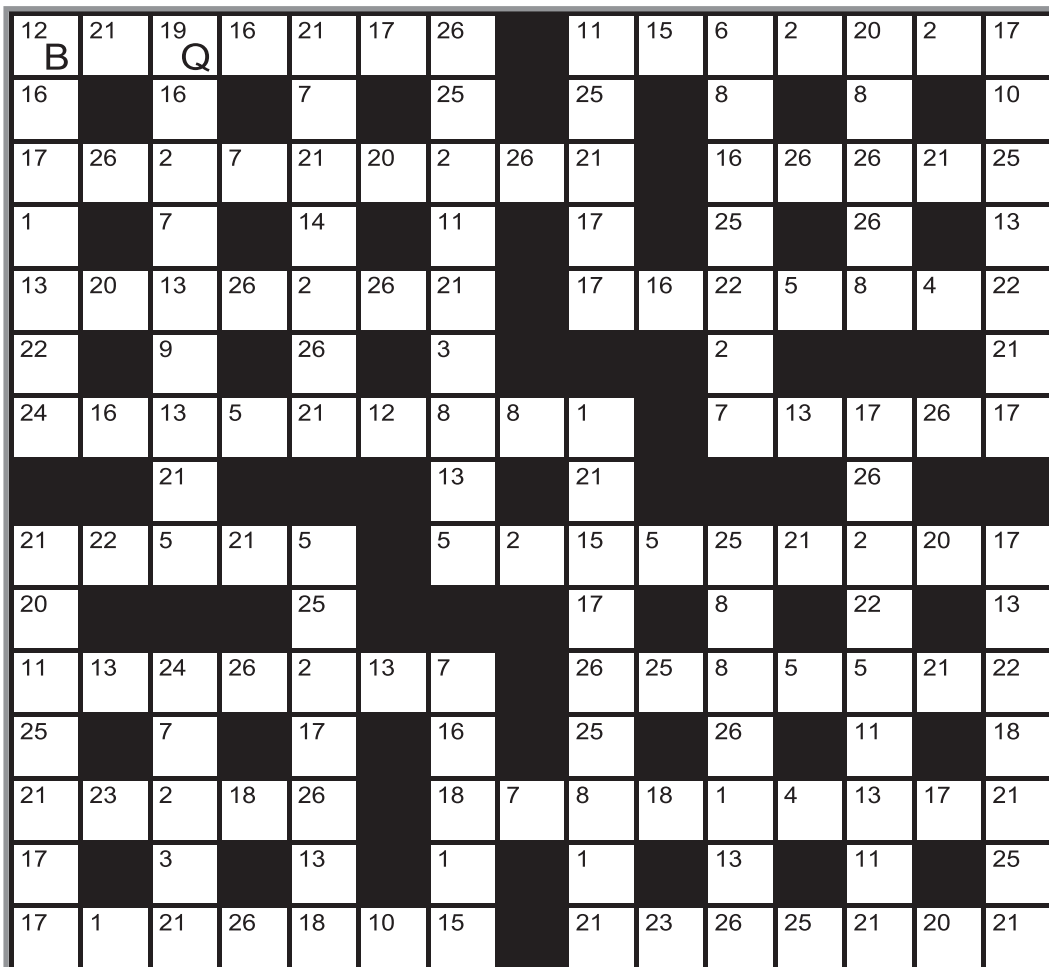
- 1 Liar, 2 Departure, 3 Ejercito,  
5 Rastrillo, 6 Poor, 7 Escarcha,  
11 Ocho, 12 Osos.

## 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

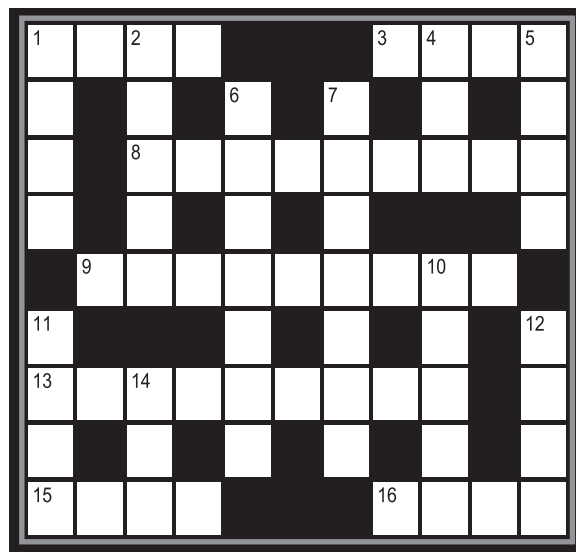
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents B and 19 represents Q, so fill in B every time the figure 12 appears and Q every time the figure 19 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters 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)



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
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>



# LETTERS

# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters for Your Say should be emailed to [yoursay@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:yoursay@euroweeklynews.com) or make your comments straight on our website: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.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@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:photonews@euroweeklynews.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.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com)



## 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 puppet. 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](http://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 motor-cycle 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 Ubada-Retana & Associates in Fuengirola at [Ask@lawtaxspain.com](mailto:Ask@lawtaxspain.com), or call 952 667 090.

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## Overnight fasting can help you live longer

DIETING whilst you sleep can help you live longer. Fasting overnight and not eating between 5pm and 8am can help you lose weight and also live longer.

Researchers carried out a study on monkeys and stopped food between these hours and found it

helped them live longer. Restricting food appeared to make bodies more able to fight off illnesses that accompany old age. As humans share 93 per cent of the same genes, they say their findings will also apply to humans. However, the results showed that it didn't work in young

monkeys, so advised that people started it later in life also.

It is believed this restriction on eating reduces the chances of illnesses such as cancer and dementia and that by eating less it may send the body into survival mode so that it focuses on protecting itself.

The scientists said they wanted to look at ways to slow the aging mode of the body in a bid to reduce serious illnesses.

The study carried out by the University of Wisconsin in the USA, was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

## Gossip is good

OK ladies, admit it, we all like a good gossip right? Well feel guilty about it no longer as a study claims that sharing gossip can actually be good for you.

A study carried out by researchers at the University of Pavia in Italy studied the effects of gossip on 22 women.

They found that gossip can be good as it releases oxytocin, the so-called love hormone.

More oxytocin was released from gossip compared to normal conversations and this hormone helps bring people closer together and gives a feeling of closeness.

Oxytocin is naturally released in the blood and brains of humans and other mammals, during social and sexual behaviours. It is also produced during labour by women to help with the baby bonding process.

## Being a mummy can be bad for your health

MOTHERS fall ill an average of 324 times during their child's childhood years and most of these illnesses have been passed on from their youngsters.

A survey of 2,000 parents found that 68 per cent of women said they often got more sick after having children and admitted to only feeling completely well for an average of 13 days per month.

From when their child is born to the age of 18, mothers will suffer from around 54 colds, as well as a total of 108 sore throats or runny noses, as well as around 36 sickness bugs.

The survey by Healthspan also reported that 72 per cent of mothers said that they cope with being ill better than their partner does. Around 36 per cent soldier on through feeling bad, but their partners have to resort to bed rest.

Psychologists believe this could be similar to the flight or fight response, with women unconsciously needing to do everything to ensure the survival of their child and safeguard their family.

The study also found that two-thirds of people

**“A survey found that 68 per cent of women got more sick after having children.”**

were prone to becoming ill when they switch off or take a holiday. This is because stress can effect the immune system and at the end of periods of stress the immune system remains relaxed and leaves people more vulnerable to illness.

In a bid to prevent winter



**PREVENT COLDS:** Eat healthily to provide greater defence and try taking multivitamins.

colds affecting your children, and you, stay warm and cosy. Encourage children to wash their hands properly using soap and wipe down surfaces,

such as door handles, regularly with anti-bacterial wipes or sprays.

Eat healthily to increase your vitamin and mineral

take to provide greater defence against colds and try taking a multivitamin, although check before giving to a child.



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## 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*



**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, behaviour-

al problems and issues with sight and sound. The risk of problems depends on how much and often the mother drinks.

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## A wintry musical wonderland

THE Symphony Orchestra of the Balearic Islands continues its acclaimed season at the Palma Auditorium. On Thursday January 26 director Pablo Mielgo will once again be overseeing a terrific production, this time starring many of the resident artists so beloved by Mallorca audiences.

Bartok's Viola Concerto and Shostakovich's Number 10 Symphony will be among many highlights of the evening. Doors open at 8pm at the Palma Auditorium and the evening will be the last conducted by the world-famous orchestra until February 16. Tickets are €32 a head but music lovers would do well to capitalise on the Auditorium's special offerings, including seven concerts for €126.

Upcoming events at the Auditorium include Tango, a Van Gogh themed pop concert, Priscilla Queen of the Desert and Johann Sebastian Bach. It's a packed calendar that is certain to get even busier as the seasons move on, so grab your tickets early.



**BOMBASTIC BAND:** Will play American classics.

## Greatest Glenn Miller Orchestra

By Matthew Elliott

FOR one night only the legendary British cover of the Glenn Miller Orchestra comes to Palma. The bombastic band will be playing terrific American classics on Friday January 27 at the Palma auditorium.

The orchestra is accompanied by the one and only Andrews Sisters and the spectacular Jiving Linndy Hoppers Ballet. Smashing American swing will be on stage all night long.

Classics certain to get the crowd jumping and jiving include Moonlight Serenade, Chattanooga Choo Choo and American Patrol.

This UK version of the original Glenn Miller Orchestra is widely acclaimed as one of the finest on the planet today. The original big band leader stormed to chart success in the 1930s and 1940s, placing an emerging American music scene under his spell before his plane went missing over the English Channel in 1944.

### 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@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:whatson@euroweeklynews.com).

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# January Jazz season

JUST before January comes to an end there's still time to catch some wintry jazz sessions across Mallorca. The fantastic Jam Sessions has been running at Palma's Blue Jazz Club since January 2 and comes to an end on Monday January 30.

The sessions allow aspiring Mallorca-based musicians to ease into their flow in front of an appreciative and intimate audience. Solo artists and big bands alike are known to test out new style and explore dif-

ferent sounds at the Blue Jazz Club sessions.

This month the Jam has been captained by Steve Bergendy on bass and Omar Lanutti on guitar. Entrance is free of charge. Next month two different jazz musicians will run the show after the pair's delightful January run.

On Sunday the Lindner Golf and Wellness Resort in Portals Nous has a well-regarded high-heeled Jazz Brunch with a huge buffet and live music from 1pm at a cost of €35 a head.

# Panic photography on streets of Palma

By Matthew Elliott

SUNDAY January 29 will see Palma de Mallorca flooded with hundreds of avid photographers to see who can snap the best city image and win a prestigious photography competition.

Palma Fotografica is now in its 31st year and is part of the ongoing Sant Sebastia 2017 celebrations.

There are hundreds of offi-

cially registered participants who will descend on Plaza Major at 9.30am. They will be handed a six and told to record six images on it which they believe best capture the six themes of the day.

Whimsical, lensical madness will then ensue as they swarm across the city trying to outdo one another in ingenuity, skill and the sheer luck of encountering a perfect moment.

Many will be professionals looking for their big break.

More than 30 groups sponsor the occasion and the winning photographs will be exhibited at a prime location in the Casal Sollerie in March. There are even special awards for young photographers.

Winners of the 13-25 age bracket will be awarded €300, presumably to be put to good use on new equipment.

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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-



The top and bottom of it!



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.

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](mailto:garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com).



Advertising feature

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# All Aboard!

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...

Whether you hanker after the opulent by-gone era of Art Deco glamour, or prefer a modern, glass ceiling carriage with gourmet dining and personal service, the luxury train choices are tantalisingly alluring with an abundance of routes and journeys to suit all tastes. You can stay local with Spain's very own El Transcantabrico and Al Andalus trains and explore the north Atlantic coastline, or Andalusia's cultural and gastronomic delights. Alternatively, opt for the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and treat yourself to a once-in-a-lifetime luxurious trip to Venice, Paris and Verona. Or venture



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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](http://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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LIVING in Mallorca can be a dream come true, the relaxed way of living, picturesque scenery, balmy weather and friendly islanders, but the seemingly endless paperwork or the Spanish language can make things difficult. But there is no need to dampen your spirits as Mallorca Solutions is here to help.

Established since 2008, this Palma Nova-based company will take the stress and hassle out of living in Spain for you. Whether you need help obtaining a NIE number or residency, registering your vehicle or setting up as self-employed, Mallorca Solutions can help.

The professional and friendly team is headed by owner Rebecca Bellafont Evans, of Spanish and British origin. Having lived on the island her whole life, she understands the Mallorcan ways better than most.

With a profound knowledge of Mallorca and its practices, as well as her experience in the tourism world, both in Mallorca and globally, she set up Mallorca Solutions after realising there was no company offering the full range of services that she felt were necessary for those relocating to Mallorca.

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al paperwork such as obtaining NIE numbers, residency certificates, social security numbers, pension applications, opening a bank account, registering at the tax office, as well as helping you register the birth of a baby.

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**“ If you do not live permanently on the island, or are resident but just need a little extra help, Mallorca Solutions can assist.**

the log book.

For businesses, they can provide general advice on how best to run your business, as well as helping with opening licences, insurance and taking care of your accountancy and tax returns.

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**MALLORCA SOLUTIONS: The team is ready and waiting to assist you.**

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

## Red hot properties on the up 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.

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.

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

LANDLORDS who offer their tenants fair rents will be offered tax breaks and other subsidies as a reward under a new scheme aimed at lowering prices and ending the scourge of 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, especially 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



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

prices don't exceed a new local price index.

On the other hand those who do demand higher prices will be forced to admit this is the

case on official documents.

The real test, however, is how Catalonia can compete with accommodation sharing platforms like Airbnb which

encourage homeowners to rent out their homes to tourists for a handsome price, far beyond that affordable by local families.

## Spain attracts eastern money

ASIAN investors are increasingly turning away from the UK and looking to countries like Spain, France and Germany when they consider expanding their European property portfolios. That is the message of the European Public Real Estate Association (EPRA).

The group represents Europe's publicly listed property companies, which boast more than €360 billion worth of assets. It has well over 200 members and prides itself on helping

them secure lucrative deals from global investors outside the EU.

Chief executive Philip Charls has noted that the first generation of Asian investors chose London, largely due to the language and financial strength of the capital. He believes that Brexit might see a flourish of activity around an alternative continental financial centre such as Dublin or Frankfurt.

Charls also explicitly mentions the booming hotel sector in Spain.

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

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#### Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



#### Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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



#### Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



#### Ref 2997, Lluccmajor, 175,000€

Charming little chalet with 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, garage. Electricity with solar panels. House 73m², plus 25m² garage, plus 25m² covered terrace plus 30 m² storerooms.



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







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**Price: 1,600,000€**

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## 11603 Marvellous Country House in Lluçmajor



376sqm



17,200sqm



5



4



Private

**Price: 1,985,000€**

This marvellous country house in Lluçmajor was built on a 17,200sqm plot and offers a living space of 376sqm distributed over two floors. The main floor consists of a double bedroom with bathroom en suite, a fully equipped and furnished modern kitchen, a guest toilet as well as a big and bright living and dining room with a nice chimney for the cold days of the year. On the superior floor there are three double bedrooms with bathrooms en suite. This fantastic property has a separate building of approximately 70sqm that can be used as an office or could be converted to a guest apartment. The house was constructed with materials of the best quality. In the exterior zone there is a beautiful and cosy porch, gardens and a marvellous pool with whirlpool. The property is located only 4km away from the centre of Lluçmajor only 10 minutes by car from the most beautiful beaches of the island. It is a luxurious property!







# Climbing roses are ideal to plant in the winter and need little care

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 preven-



**SPECTACULAR DISPLAY:** Established climbing roses framing a door.

tion.

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 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

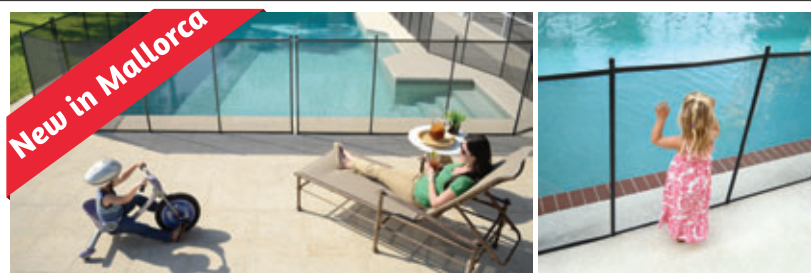
branches and seeking out the place to receive the right amount of sunlight. The roots also tend to have the same rambling character and are better at finding the best sources of moisture and nutrients underground to better sustain themselves when irregularly watered.

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.



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## Giving colour to balconies

IT'S often hard to know what to plant on balconies, especially in the winter when maintenance can be complicated. These are five of the best plants to cheer up your balcony boxes or pots at this time of year:

**Dracaena:** these plants are best suited to south-facing balconies. Their dark purple leaves will give a touch of elegance and add volume to planters.

**Primroses:** a seasonal plant used to add colour and cheer up winter compositions. They tend to flower towards the end of winter and last until early spring.

**Red Swiss chard:** not only are these very decorative for

the autumn and winter months, you can eat them too! The intense red colour of their stems makes them useful to add colour to balconies.

**Violets and pansies:** these outdoor plants tend to start flowering in the winter. They cope well with low temperatures so are apt for the autumn and winter seasons.

**Snapdragons:** native to the Mediterranean, these grow very well in pots and can reach heights of up to two metres.

All of these plants will last

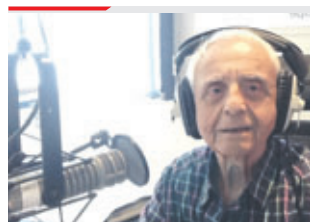


**PANSIES: Start to flower in the winter.**

on balconies until about the end of April, when it will be time to swap them for spring and summer blooms.



# Taking your pet on a trip?



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Photo by Nalaphotos

**PET PASSPORT: Make sure your pet has one before you set off on a journey.**

1. PETS should always have complete Pet Passports well before you make a journey. Ensure that you schedule a visit to your veterinarian and allow sufficient time prior to your trip to discuss diseases or problems that might exist where you are travelling and that don't exist at home.

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.

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

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.

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.

10. Prepare for the unexpected and enrol your pet with a Veterinary Pet Insurance policy. Pet Plan of Spain now cover you for all veterinary fees in Europe, which will give you great peace of mind should an accident or illness occur on the road.

## Daisy likes to catch 40 winks

DAISY is a friendly and very relaxed Cocker Spaniel. She lives at home in Malaga with her expat family from Britain. She is an only dog and absolutely loves attention, especially the unconditional adoration of children. Generally speaking her owner Junita talks of her happy attitude and easy going manner.

A few times each year the family travel back to Britain for high days and holidays, and that's when Junita calls in house-sitters from HouseSitMatch. She prefers for Daisy to be cared for at home by experienced dog lovers she finds on the website.

For Junita, using our house-sitting network offers a simple process that helps her plan her pet and home care arrangements at the same time as she plans her holidays.

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



**DAISY: Is friendly and relaxed.**

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.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting, and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

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WITH the abnormally cold recent weather all over Spain, humans and animals alike are suffering the effects. It is more important than ever to make sure pets are warm and dry as, unlike humans, they cannot tell you they are cold or put on a jumper to protect themselves!

Move all animals indoors, even if they usually live outside. Under no circumstances should pets be left outside in freezing conditions.

If you have no choice but to leave dogs in the garden during the day, make sure they have access to a dry, draught-free kennel or shelter which is big enough to move in, but small enough to hold in body heat. The floor should be off the ground and some form of bedding should be included.

## Protect your pets

Pets which spend time outside will need more food to replace extra calories burned keeping warm and, as always, they require constant access to fresh water. Use plastic food and water dishes outside.

Small dogs will appreciate a coat on walks at this time of year and keep a pot of Vaseline handy to deal with chapped noses and paws.

Use common sense and remember, if it feels cold to you it probably feels cold to your pet too.

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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.

# Farewell to the underdog

*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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## 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 are 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 Den-drobium. Produced by Vanda Electrics it is a two-seat electric supercar with an automatic roof. The Geneva Motor Show takes place from March 9-19.

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PLUSH AFFAIR: The Lexus Sport Yacht.



# Lexus luxury an illusion

By Matthew Elliott

WHEN most people hear Lexus they think of luxury cars. But Toyota, which owns the brand is trying to change that perception. The Japanese corporation kicked

off 2017 with the unveiling of a brand new 42 foot yacht as part of its ambitious 'luxury lifestyle' plans.

Named the Lexus Sport Yacht, the plush affair boasts a twin v-8 engine with 950 total hp enabling a

top speed of 49mph. There is even a 'turbo boost' option and the slick design sees the hull comprised purely of carbon fibre strengthened plastic.

Future captains will be able to operate all of the

yacht's controls using a touchpad control which can in turn be connected to an iPad.

There is on-screen GPS navigation, underwater sonar and a plush on-board entertainment system.

Featuring Italian leather finishing and Japanese engineering, you might think the Lexus Sport Yacht would be all the rage across the Med this summer.

But it is all an illusion. The Lexus Sport is a 'con-

cept' yacht, manufactured just once, that will never go into production. Its creation was essentially a challenge to rival design teams in Japan tasked with pushing the limits of Lexus luxury as far as they could.

## Superyachts of 2017

THE year 2017, is set to be the year of the superyacht as ever more audacious and enormous vessels find their way onto the seven seas. Engineers, shipyards, and dastardly billionaires are seemingly trying to outdo one another in the luxury stakes.

With one of the world's largest ports at Rotterdam, the Netherlands has found itself a reliable hub of the action. Holland-based Royal Huisman has built a tremendous 190-foot long yacht that is as elegant as it is eye-catching. It has a beach deck, sauna, library and three luxury bedrooms.

Not to be outdone, neighbouring German shipyard Lurssen has already launched its latest superyacht - Jupiter - which measures in at a hardly modest 403-foot. Passengers will even be able to gaze underneath the sea from below deck using an elaborate lighting system.

Of course that pales in comparison to the new Leviathan commissioned by Mister Superyacht himself, Russian billionaire Andrey

Melnichenko. Having the world's largest sailing superyacht, valued at an astronomical €400 million, clearly isn't enough for the Forbes-listed fertiliser king.

“

*With the move towards showmanship and luxury, the superyacht world is quickly changing.*

In spring he will take control of the 468-foot sailing yacht A, which bears the same nameless name as the monster he is presently trying to sell. It has three carbon-fibre masts each 300-feet tall, an 81-foot high beam, a top speed of 21 knots and a range of over 5,000 nautical miles.

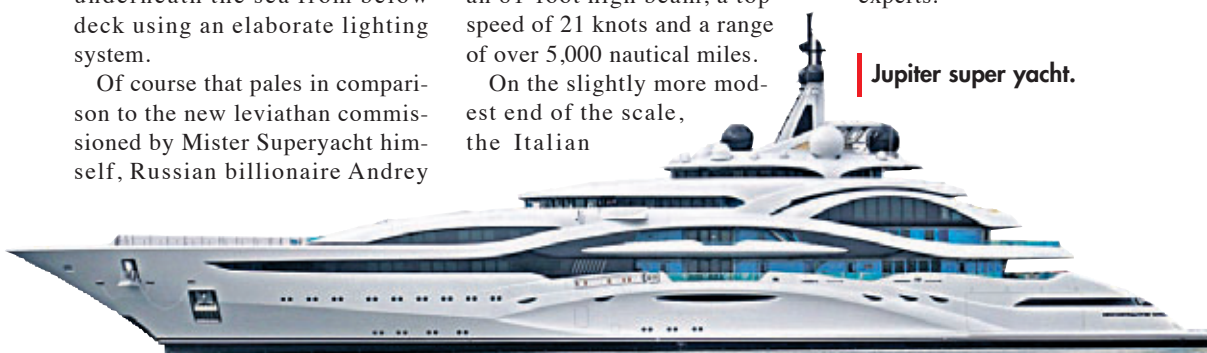
On the slightly more modest end of the scale, the Italian

Ferretigroup has officially launched its Superyacht Cloud 9 in the waters of Ancona, central Italy. The 243-foot custom built affair has already received wide acclaim for its striking design and cutting edge technology.

Emerging from the renowned CRN shipyard, it was commissioned by an 'experienced superyacht owner,' has a steel hull, and can hold a dozen guests in luxurious cabin conditions alongside 22 crew.

All the glitz and glamour does, however, have some industry insiders concerned. With the move towards showmanship, luxury and the increased encroachment of major corporations in the design process, the superyacht world is quickly changing. Influence now rests with the advertising side of the business, away from the true experts.

Jupiter super yacht.



## Record-breaking quest by champion

OLYMPIC sailing champion Iker Martinez will attempt to circumnavigate Mallorca faster than anyone in history. The world record-breaking mission is sponsored by the Port Calanova marina.

The 39-year-old Basque Country native is hoping to smash the current record of 17 hours, 14 minutes and 39 seconds set in 2005 by a German boat. The route is 160 miles long, takes in tough coastal locations at the Tramuntanas, and must be completed in one go.

Martinez, who has two Olympic medals to his name, a Gold in Athens and Silver in Beijing, will captain an M32 series boat with a small crew. They will be competing with another crew captained by Anton Paz, who

beat Martinez to Olympic Gold in Beijing.

Both teams have been training intensely at Port Calanova. They are waiting for conditions to lighten and ideal weather to ensure a smooth and speedy journey.

The marina is home to Spain's national sailing school and is one of the finest on the continent. Circumnavigating Mallorca at high speeds is perceived as one of the great tests for emerging sailing talent, one reason the island

continues to draw such top notch stars to its waters.



Iker Martinez.



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48 **Mallorca**

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

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

26 January - 1 February 2017

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# Bad weather affects weekend rugby

IN the senior league the inclement weather over the weekend prompted the postponement of various scheduled rugby matches.

El Toro RC was unable to travel to Ibiza as strong winds and high seas caused the cancellation of ferries. RC Ponent had to postpone their match against Bahia RC in Principes de España in an effort to preserve the pitch which was waterlogged after all the rain. The only match played was between Shamrock RC and Union RFC on Sunday morning when there was a break in the rain. In blustery and cold conditions an improving Shamrock RC had their fourth victory of the season with a win by 32 points to 18.

At the halfway point in the season the league table for the senior teams has RC Ponent just ahead of El Toro RC by only two points. As there are various matches to catch up on and return games to be played there could be an exciting close to the season.

On Saturday, the Federacion Balear Under 16 and Under 18 representative teams exchanged the rain and cold of Mallorca for just the cold of Valencia in the first round of the Campeonato de España (Spanish National Championships). After winning the 'B' section



**U16 Baleares struggle against Valencia.**

last year, they face the daunting but exciting challenge of pitting themselves against the top regional teams in Spain, competing in the 'A' group.

First up was Comunidad Valenciana, which for many of the Under 16s was their first ever encounter against another representative side. The increase in intensity and accuracy of the opposi-

tion was evident, but the boys were able to put their own stamp on the game during some positive moments of play. Eventually the benefit of more regular competitive matches proved too great, with the locals pushing out to a convincing 29-0 win at the final whistle. The players and coaching staff took some heart out of the effort and

dedication put in, as well as taking note of the areas for improvement for next week's encounter.

The U18 team found the going equally tough and despite the score (42-0) have grounds to feel pleased with the progress they have made since September. Coming from a two-team local competition (El Toro and Ponent,



**Baleares U18 against Valencia.**

with a handful of players from Union and Bahia), they were always going to find it difficult against the locals.

Faced with wave after wave of Valencian jerseys carrying the ball, the Balearics put all they had into defending their try line. In the end though, the local's superior game awareness and execution proved too much for the Balearic resilience.

The girl's rugby match and rugby day in Binissalem were both cancelled due to the inclement weather and will be rescheduled at a later date.

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