







ISSUE No. 1649 9 - 15 February 2017 COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM



Sex crimes

Gang lured 165 women into prostitution

By Eleanor Hawkins

More than 160 women, most of them from Russia, were lured to Spain and forced to work as prostitutes across Almeria, prosecutors claim.

The women's passports were taken and they were forced to work in the sex trade to repay debts of up to €1.800.

With no knowledge of the language and told they were illegally in the country, the women were too afraid to go to police, it is claimed.

Twenty-eight members of a prostitution ring are accused of complicity in the operation to sexually exploit the women.

They were arrested in raids on 13 different sex clubs and one at a boarding house.

The women were kept there in overcrowded conditions between February 2007 and July

The Public Prosecutor has called for the men to be convicted of crimes against the rights of foreigners, charges of blackmail and prostitu-

The longest sentence, faced by the manager of one of the clubs who allegedly forced nine women into the sex trade, is more than 33

The man suspected of being in charge of recruiting victims in Russia and luring them to Spain, could be jailed for more than 22 years.

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LOCAL NEWS

More migrants

MARINE Rescue has rescued another 61 African migrants, including two pregnant women, who arrived to Almerian waters in two dinghies. The first, carrying 34 people, reached Alboran Island where

the occupants were received and attended by Spanish Navy personnel. The second rescue happened late that night when a search plane located another dinghy 3.5 nautical miles from Punta Sabinal.

Dealer derailed

A MAN caught selling cocaine has been jailed for two years by an Almeria provincial court. The defendant was arrested after National Police officers spotted him exchanging a small bag of the drug for €50 in Almeria City in the early hours of the morning. He was carrying cocaine worth €192 and €270 in cash.

Lifeguard lessons

TWENTY people are taking part in a lifeguard course organised by Nijar Council and Atalayas del Levante sports club this week. The participants are learning rescue techniques, first aid and basic life support with defibrillators and will be awarded official certificates from the Spanish Royal Lifeguards and Rescue Federation recognised in Spain and Europe.

Hundreds enter EWN Win a Car competition

have been flooding in for EWN's fabulous 'Win a Car' competition.

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You not only win the car, but Abbeygate will insure it for 12 months and to top your day off there's a celebratory lunch or dinner for two people courtesy of La Sala Banus.

Our survey is in every one of the six editions, and will not take you long - we estimate around eight min-

You can enter through the paper using good old snail mail, or you can hand-deliver your entry as many of you are, or there's the online version which is attracting most of our entrants because it's simple, quick and easy.

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So why not give it a go? You have until March 23 and could be in with a chance of winning a wonderful prize.

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Sextortion soars through social media sites

THE number of sextortion cases registered in Almeria is on the up, yet many probably go unreported, the National Police has warned.

Over the last few months the Financial and Technological Crime Group at the provincial police headquarters has received 15 reports of blackmail using sexual images on the internet, investigators have said, and embarrassment or shame causes many other victims to pay up and keep quiet.

The difficulty lies in the fact that this type of crime is carried out over the internet by organised groups, usually based in Africa, meaning tracking them down and arresting them is far from

The majority of the victims are men between 20 and 40. They initially receive a friendship request on Facebook or other social media sites from a very attractive woman and, after accepting, conversations begin which over time lead to sharing of intimate images.

Women's centre opened

NIJAR Council and the Andalucian Women's Institute have clubbed together to reopen a Municipal Women's Information Centre in San Isidro which was closed down in 2012.

Almost 100 locals attended the launch, presided over by Nijar Mayor Esperanza Perez, Andalucian Women's Institute coordinator Francisca Serrano and Social Welfare councillor Victoria Calatrava, of the new centre on Calle Los Montes.

Professional staff will be manning the centre, providing information and assistance for victims of gender violence and all other matters related to equality and

Kitesurfer rescued four miles off coast

A KITESURFER was found and rescued from the sea four miles from Almeria City after becoming separated from a group.

The Marine Rescue service's search and rescue helicopter was dispatched after the coast guard was alerted that one of a group of five kitesurfers had failed to return to land after a trip on Sunday,

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...3

Views differ greatly over whether the Spanish are more loving than the Brits. But rest assured on Valentine's Day next Tuesday millions of locals and expats will be revealing their love to special ones.

Viva el amor!

ALTHOUGH not a traditional fiesta, St Valentine's Day is known as San Valentin in Spain, and is celebrated the same way as in the UK. Many Spaniards are convinced that it was only created to boost consumerism, though, and have dubbed Valentine's Day as the Dia de El Corte Ingles (El Corte Ingles Day) in a sarcastic reference to the famous department store.

Certain Spanish regions also celebrate their love on different days of the year. In Valencia, for example, October 9 is the most romantic day, when the Day of the Valencian Community coincides with the Day of Saint Dionysius, the patron saint of lovers. It is customary for



Diada de Sant Jordi, Barcelona.

men to gift their loved one a Mocadora, consisting of marzipan sweets handcrafted by local confectioners and wrapped in a silk scarf.

In Catalonia, couples celebrate their love on April 23, St George's Day, known locally as La Diada de Sant Jordi. Men present their sweetheart with a red rose while receiving a book in return, and a myriad of stalls selling the symbolic items spring up across the region.

Latin lovers

LATIN countries dominate the ranking of the most romantic nationalities in the world, with Spain coming in fourth behind the sensual samba of Brazil, the ooh la la of France, and the legendary passion of Europe's most convincing Casanovas, Italy.

The UK does not make the current top 10, which also features Argentina, the Lebanon, United States, Sweden, Ireland and India.

A recent history

THE Anglo-Saxon tradition of giving flowers, sweets or other gifts to a loved one was introduced to Spain in 1948 by Jose 'Pepin' Fernandez Rodriguez,



GIFT GIVING: Was introduced to Spain in 1948.

founder of department store chain Galerias Preciados.

His idea was promoted in a provocative article by journalist Cesar Gonzalez-Ruano, and Galerias Preciados followed this up with a Valentine's Day-themed advert in the newspaper

This was accompanied by text praising "a pleasure of the spirit, a way to distinguish who we appreciate and, ultimately, a feeling of culture."

The campaign continued in the weeks leading up to February 14, calling on the wealthy to enjoy 'the social elegance of a gift,' the rest is history.

Rescuers finally spotted the missing person from the sea and flew him to Almeria airport, where he was reported to be safe and not in need of medical at-

Fire affects three

THREE men had to be taken to hospital after a fire broke out at a flat in Huercal-Overa. Police officers, firefighters and paramedics were sent to the first-floor flat at number 208 on the N-340 road

The three men, aged 25, 26 and 39, were taken to La Inmaculada Hospital for treatment as they had inhaled large amounts of smoke.

Chemicals curbed

A NATIONAL POLICE investigation into the sale of illegal anabolic steroids and other supplements has resulted in the arrest of 11 people in Almeria, Vicar, El Ejido and Roquetas de Mar.

A small amount of cocaine was also

seized during the raids on gymnasiums, sports supply shops and private

Two of those arrested have been imprisoned without bail pending a trial.

Project approved

HUERCAL-OVERA Council has given the green light to a project which aims to expropriate land and build a direct access road to La Inmaculada hospital.

The new road is expected to drastically reduce the amount of traffic on Avenida Felipe VI and cut travel times to the hospital, which can be of vital importance in critical cases.

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Knife killer pleads guilty

A MAN accused of killing his girlfriend in Almeria has admitted that he stabbed her "many times."

The Public Prosecutor's office has requested a total of 29.5 years in jail for the 35-year-old, who claims not to remember much of the night he gored his partner and fled to Valencia.

During questioning at the Almeria provincial court, the defendant explained that the couple were married in an ethnic ceremony not recognised by law and that he had been drinking before he arrived home to find his wife in

"I stabbed her 1,000 times, or maybe it was 500,000," the alleged murderer told the court after explaining that he was unable to catch his rival. He admitted to arguing with his victim but claimed not to remember whether he grabbed one knife or two, or exactly what he did with them.

The Public Prosecutor reported that the woman was stabbed 48 times while alive, then killed with a stab to the nape of her neck, after which her eyes were cut out.



The number of active fishing vessels in Spain, forming the third largest fleet in the EU. Around 50 per cent of these are based in Galicia, with 19 per cent in Andalucia.

79

Virtually abducted

POLICE managed to stop a father from Zaragoza paying €10,000 to a criminal gang in Chile who falsely told him his son had been kidnapped. They said virtual kidnappings will start with a phone call to the anxious relative who may even hear a third party pretending to be the victim and to have been hurt by the gang.

The kidnappers usually demand immediate payment and victims are often chosen at random with the gang acting aggressively to provoke an emotional reaction. Spain's National Police say telltale signs can be a hidden or concealed telephone number or one beginning with +56, the STD for Chile from where many of these calls have originated.

Murder accused

A NIGHTCLUB janitor accused of shooting dead a man in the Portuguese city of Coimbra has been found hiding in a shelter for the homeless in Galicia.

Spanish police with their Portuguese counterparts swooped on the hostel in Vigo and arrested the man using a European Arrest War-



Postcard from INNORBN



ITUREN is a town and tiny municipality in northern Spain in the Pyrenees. It's made up of four small hamlets, one of them, also called Ituren, had just 518 inhabitants in 2012.

That's not a lot by any stretch of the imagination. But once a year it leaps to the top of any index measuring the oddest of local customs. Remember Morris dancers? Men with bells, ribbons and pigs' bladders? Well, this lot knock them into a cocked hat. On the first Monday and Tuesday of February its men and boys take part in a procession through the locality dressed in sheepskins and conical hats with ribbons, while carrying whips. But that's not all. Giant cowbells are strapped to their backs.

And as they progress they are confronted by other villagers dressed as witches and demons who must scatter as they walk through. The ceremony, not surprisingly, has a lot to do with good and evil, light and darkness and so on. You may think it's just quaint or done only for the tourists. But some researchers evidently think it could be one of the oldest carnival events in the whole of Europe. It's certainly one of the strangest....

Doctors held in false limb scam

DOCTORS are among 22 people arrested in Cadiz accused of defrauding more than €250,000 from the Andalucian Health Service. They face charges of embezzlement, fraud and falsifying documents. Police said false claims for prosthetic limbs and other items were made

and the equipment often sold on at inflated prices. Many people went without their limbs because of the scam, according to police, who say it operated from 2012 to 2014. Those arrested include a number of medical staff from the Puerto Real and Puerta del Mar de Cadiz Hospitals.

Train crash

RELATIVES of 81 people killed in a high-speed train crash in Spain have received the backing of a highlevel group of MEPs. The Spanish inquiry into the 2013 crash in Santiago de Compostela was not independent, they said. Around 150 people were also injured in the accident. The MEPs said a fresh inquiry should be ordered.

Heroin gang

TWENTY-NINE people have been arrested in the Spanish cities of Madrd, Pontevedra and Ourense as police cracked down on a gang responsible for heroin trafficking in Galicia. Officers found a laboratory where a high-grade drug was mixed before being sold on the streets.

The heroin had come largely from the Balkans, Turkey and the Netherlands, police said. Among those arrested was a Spaniard who will be transferred to prison to serve a 14 year sentence and a Madrid surgeon who hid the drugs when it arrived in

Bowing out

A BULLFIGHTER'S final departure if it comes in the ring can make national headlines. But the latest sad statistic is the death of a timber salesman from the Wirral in England's north-west who fell in love with the sport and became known as El Niño. Peter Jones fought several times in the summer of 2001 after attending a festival in Salamanca. He finished his short-lived career without serious injury and remained deeply committed to the sport. His death at age 49 was revealed by colleagues at his local golf club.

Birthdays

• Sandy Lyle, Golfer, February 9, 59

Scottish professional golfer who won the Open Championship in 1985 and became the first British golfer to wear the green jacket after winning the Masters in 1988. He also played in the European team at the Ryder Cup five times.

• Holly Willoughby, TV Presenter, February 10, 36

Popular co-host of the ITV show This Morning along with Phillip Schofield. She also presents other shows including Surprise Surprise, Play to the Whistle and Meet the Parents as well as being a regular team captain on Celebrity Juice.

• Burt Reynolds, Actor, February 11, 81

American actor most famous for the classic comedy films Smokey and the Bandit. Other films he has starred in include Boogie Nights, The Longest Yard, The Dukes of Hazzard and Heat. Twice married he and second wife Loni Anderson adopted a son.

• Robbie Williams, Singer, February 13,

Shot to fame as one of the five members of boy band Take That until he left in 1995 to launch his solo career. So far in his successful solo career he has released 19 albums, six of which are among the biggestselling albums in the UK. The 1.6 million tickets for his Close Encounters Tour sold out in just one day.

· Angel Di Maria, Footballer, February 14, 29

Argentinian winger/attacking midfielder who currently plays for Paris Saint-Germain. He has also played for Real Madrid and in 2014 signed for Manchester United for a record-breaking £59.7 million. Capped 80 times for his country he scored the winning goal that won Argentina the Olympic gold medal in 2008.

• Jane Seymour, Actress, February 15, 66 British actress who starred in the American TV series Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman. Has appeared in films Somewhere in Time, East of Eden and Bond film Live and Let Die. She has won two Golden Globe Awards, an Emmy and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.







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OUR VIEW

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Sapphire anniversary

MANY people look to retire at the age of 65 but Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 90 has served an incredible 65 years as monarch which is now a record from any British ruler although amazingly she is only the 43rd longest reigning monarch of all time.

King Sobhuza of Swaziland who was born in the 19th century and lived until 1982 served an amazing 82 years and 254 days but looking at 20th century European dynasties, Her Majesty actually faces no competition.

Quite understandably, she is cutting back on her public duties and it must be remembered that Prince Philip is now closing in on his 96th birthday, so it is clearly important that the royal couple take care of each other's health as they draw nearer to their platinum (70th) wedding anniversary in November of this year.

There is no question the couple have enjoyed a life of privilege but equally, they (or more correctly the Queen) have been incredible ambassadors for Britain and have been in the public eye for so very long.

We at Euro Weekly News salute and congratulate Her Majesty on this incredible achievement.

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



ALMERIA TOURISM: Councillor Javier Aureliano García Molina.

Promoting the coast

THE provincial council has been in Belgium to promote the Costa de Almeria at the 59th Salon de Vacances travel fair in Brussels.

The main tourism event in Belgium, Salon de Vacances unites professionals and members of the public under one roof for an event spread over more than 40,000m² with more than 800 stands.

One of the latest additions to the show is the Hall of Sports, which in 2016 received more than 117,000 visitors interested in active tourism and outdoor sports, one of Almeria's selling points.

Belgian tourists are some of those in Europe which spend the most money on their holidays. In fact, they spent more than €9 million on travel last year.

More than two thirds of Belgians, 70.1 per cent, choose to travel abroad and Spain in general and Almeria in particular are amongst their preferred destinations, according to provincial tourism councillor Javier Aureliano García Molina.

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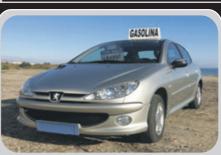
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Euro Weekly News takes no responsibility should the car offered differ from that pictured here in any way.

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EWN Exclusive

British Ambassador Simon Manley speaks to Euro Weekly News

By John Smith

THE British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley holds an incredibly important position now that Britain intends to leave the European Union as he represents the UK in one of its most important European trading partners and whilst in Malaga on Friday February 3 granted Euro Weekly News an exclusive interview.

Mr Manley spent the day travelling between Madrid, Malaga and Marbella firstly to visit the English Cemetery and then to discuss Brexit at a special event organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain.

He is often mentioned in the media but generally articles concentrate on what he is saying today and in this interview, he agreed to give more of an insight to the man himself and his history prior to his appointment as well as his current role.

He entered service with



1990 and has worked his

way through the service with

two postings to the Embassy

in Brussels, one to the

British Consulate in New

York, two periods of second-

ment to the European Union

and most recently a return to

London where he was Direc-

tor of European Affairs and Head of Counter Terrorism

Whilst one might assume

that the role of counter ter-

rorism would sit with the Po-

lice and Security Services.

the Foreign Office also has

to have a very close involve-

ment in such matters espe-

cially when British citizens

suffered as happened in both

In the days when the gov-

ernment would simply pick a

new Ambassador to post

overseas, many were the

times when the 'old boy net-

work' came into play, but for

Bali and Mumbai.

in the FCO.

the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in King Charles Street London in

tised as new jobs and candidates appointed on merit. This was the case with Simon Manley who had to spend four months in a lan-

several years the majority of

such posts have been adver-

guage laboratory to ensure that his Spanish was completely up to date.

Spain is one of the most important positions in the diplomatic service worldwide, with more consulates than any other country because of the size of the expatriate population and the enormous amount of trade which occurs between our two countries.

His role is just not just a commercial one nor indeed as an observer of expatriate and tourist needs, as a lot of this is dealt with at ground level with the consulates, but because of his background he has close relationships with the Spanish government over matters of security and there is also considerable cooperation in matters of crim-

Putting words into his mouth, a general conversation confirmed that it is a little frustrating for him to be unable to give any guaranteed information concerning Brexit and how it will affect Britons in Spain as until negotiations are completed no one knows what the results will be, although it is government policy to try to have the case of expatriates agreed at the earliest oppor-

Part of his role is to try to explain to the government and civil servants in the UK, the hopes, expectations and fears of those British passport holders living in Spain and the need for their wishes to be incorporated into any Brexit negotiations.



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Almanzora - 89,500€ (ref: AZH) 3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 750m² • Build: 205m²
This delightful cortijo has been lovingly restored

to a high standard retaining many characteristics from the original build. Situated in a small Hamlet 1km from the village of Almanzora.





Los Gallardos - 89,950€ (ref: HNAZH) 2 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 156m2 • Build: 74m Set on a small community of only 16 properties the apartment benefits east and west facing aspects, swimming pool, air con gas central heating, extended internal gas central heating, extended internal

iving space & off road parking.



Los Gallardos - 105,000€ (ref: HNCSC) 3 beds • 11/2 baths • Plot: 150m2 • Build: 68m Fully furnished and equipped south facing property with good internal & external living spaces. 2 beds / 1 bath on the ground level & 1 bedroom with 1/2 bath



Los Gallardos 129,000€ (ref: HNRM2)





A semi-detached furnished property with 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, terraces, solarium

This fully equipped property has been well maintained to a high specification and is located on a popular and desirable development with communal swimming pool and gardens that have been as equally well maintained with recent significant investment.

Location is said to be the key for a property and this particular house benefits from a great one. With an elevated position the property has considerable privacy on its terraces, excellent views and with south-east and south-west aspects takes the sun from early morning to late afternoon.



Almanzora - 190,000€ (ref: AVHR) 4 beds • 4 baths • Plot 520m2 • Build: 378m Two bungalows for the price of one is probably the best way to describe this house. the best way to describe this house. Ideal for use as two independent dwell ings or as one large family home. Village location, garage, pool and garden.



Cariatiz (Sorbas) - 279,950€ (ref: CCP) 3 beds • 21/2 baths • Plot: 2,815m2 • Build: 254m2 2 cortijos creatively & lovingly restored & combining into one. Original features incorporated with modern design and technology. Swimming pool, terraces, landscape gardens and stunning views



Alfaix - 349,500€ (ref: AFHR) eds • 3½ baths • Plot: 1,128m² • Build: 365m² Oozing character combining features from its original construction with modern day design & materials, this property offers a package that is somewhat different to its market competitors



Bédar - 395,000€ (ref: BDHO) 3 beds • 2½ baths • Plot: 10,00m² • Build: 225m² Nestled into the mountain side below Bédar, this imposing and eye-catching property boasts a larger than average build size with generously proportioned rooms and amazing views.

Next Stop Almeria is actively selling properties and looking for more. If you are thinking of selling your property please contact us for a free consultation.

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A MAN has been jailed for two years by an Almeria provincial court for hitting and trying to strangle his ex-girlfriend.

The defendant, the Public Prosecutor reported, turned up at the victim's home and knocked on the door at 2am on June 7 last year and the woman opened it thinking the person knocking was one of her daughters.

As soon as she opened the door, the

Jail for ex attacker

court heard, the defendant shoved against it, knocking her to the floor. He then fell upon her and hit her face before putting his hands round her neck and pressing hard, the prosecution stated.

The woman was saved by another of her daughters, who was awoken by the noise and rushed to the rescue. The victim suffered neck injuries and a broken tooth.

The authorities stress that victims of domestic or gender abuse can call 016, a free number available 24 hours per day and which leaves no trace on phone bills for assistance and legal advice.

Not as bad as some

By Eleanor Hawkins

THERE were 141 cases of medical negligence reported in Almeria Province last year according to the Defensor del Paciente (Patient's Defender) association.

Although a slight increase was noted compared to 2015. the province was still towards the end of the list for cases reported in Andalucia, beaten only by Huelva with 92 cases and Jaen with 127.

No hospitals in Almeria were included on the association's list of those which collected the most complaints for negligence.

The worst-offenders, the association's 2016 report reveals, were Virgen del Rocio hospital in Sevilla, Carlos Haya hospital in Malaga, Virgen de la Victoria univer-

sity hospital in Malaga, Virgen de la Macarena hospital in Sevilla and Puerta del Mar university hospital in Cadiz.

The association has complained of a progressive deterioration of the Spanish health system and claimed the Andalucian Health Service (SAS) has become one of the worst in Spain due to its 'low cost management system.'

Since the current regional president, Susana Diaz, came into power, the system has suffered cutbacks of €1,600 million, lost 9,000 members of staff and seen 1,400 hospital beds closed down. The region now spends just €1,000 per person per year on its health system, whereas Pais Vasco at the other end of the scale spends €1,500.









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NEWS EXTRA

In work

THE first 18 of 70 unemployed people to be given temporary jobs under employment schemes in Huercal-Overa have signed six month contracts and started work, Employment Development councillor Monica Navarro reported.

On the up

IN 2016, 4,701 mothers applied for maternity leave and 3,753 fathers for paternity leave in Almeria Province, a 4 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Work in progress

THE provincial traffic department has announced that work has started on the AL-6107 road from Albanchez to Rambla Aljibe in Lubrin and is due to take two weeks to complete.

English teacher running length of Europe

By Joanna Quaintmere

IN August 2016 Aleks Kashefi, a science teacher from Buxton in Derbyshire, started what was to be an epic 6,200km solo adventure to run the entire length of Europe, a distance of almost 150 ultra-marathons.

His incredible journey began at the most northern point of mainland Europe, Nordkapp in Norway, deep within the Arctic Circle and will finish at the southernmost tip of Europe, the Punta de Tarifa in Spain on February 18.

Now three-quarters of the way along and running up to 50km a day. Aleks' self-supported journey has taken him through freezing cold conditions, rough terrain, pouring rain (but of course some days of sun!) with him sleeping outside almost the entire way; literally running into new and often tough challenges at every step, each of which he has faced with charm, good grace and humour, but more importantly amazing courage.

Aleks has been lucky to have had the support and generosity of several strangers along his route so far, be it with an offer of a place to rest, food, company on a run or simply a cup of coffee, and all who without hesitation have showed kindness and compassion to someone they have never met - something he is deeply grateful for.

Aleks has maintained a blog throughout his trip complete with wonderful photography to share his experience in thoughtful, witty and insightful posts, beautifully told snippets of his various challenges, including his tent breaking on the first day of his adventure to falling in a river and injuring his leg.

Though a very humble man, and certainly not one who needs or likes the fanfare, he is keen to share his



story in the hope that he will provide inspiration to people, especially his former students; to encourage them and others to be brave, to step out of their comfort zones and take on more challenges. In his own words "where these actions lead isn't important, but the inspiration it

He is also hoping to raise awareness and donations for

may provide others to get outside, to have less and do

more, that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary

three incredible charities: The Stroke Association, The Thomas Theyer Foundation, and Mountain Rescue England and Wales. Currently running through Spain, Aleks expects to pass through Granada, Velez-Malaga and Malaga during the last legs of his journey before finally arriving in Tarifa.

Please support him in his incredible and amazing adventure by donating on his Virgin Money Giving page at: tinyurl.com/DonateRunEurope.

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Factory managers sentenced

FIVE factory managers and directors from Albox have been handed six-month jail sentences over the death of a worker in August 2009.

The judge, who agreed the jail sentences could be swapped for fines amounting to approximately €2,500 each, decided that the factory lacked sufficient safety measures.

The defendants, the judge stated, all had sufficient responsibility to introduce better measures and working methods and ensure correct training was given, yet failed to do so.

The deceased, 39 at the time of his death, was suffocated after being buried in marble remains inside a 14-metre tall silo he was trying to clean.

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A Place II Sun





By Eleanor Hawkins

RENFE rail company has announced that it will not be supplying the Almeria-Madrid line with adapted trains for the disabled until the summer due to "unavoidable delays."

The company has now awarded a contract for construction of adapted carriages, including disabled access, special wheelchair anchor places and adapted bathrooms, for 15 Talgo trains which include

Delays unavoidable

Adapted trains will have special wheelchair anchor places and adapted bathrooms. those used on the line from Almeria to the Spanish capital city.

"The complex technical specifications for the new accessible carriages have slowed down the process. We hope they will be in service by the summer," Renfe said, and apologised for the delays.

Dying

HALF the municipalities in Almeria (51 of 103) have fewer than 1,000 inhabitants and are at risk of extinction, according to a new report by the FEMP (Federation of Municipalities and Provinces).

While some places including Garrucha, Mojacar, Nijar, Pulpi, Vera and Vicar have seen their populations double and treble over recent years, others have seen theirs halved.

The problem is not purely a local one. In fact the report. drawn up based on census figures from the National Statistics Institute, revealed that of the 8.125 municipalities in Spain, 4,995 have fewer than 1.000 inhabitants, 2.652 of these have fewer than 500 residents and 1,286 do not even reach 100.

FEMP president Juan Antonio Sanchez Quero has said that, in light of the report, urgent measures are needed to beat depopulation.

NEWS EXTRA

Better roads

PHASE one of Almeria Provincial Council's 2017 'road plan' includes 11 different projects with a cost of €1,220,000, Public Works and Development delegate Oscar Liria announced.

Father arrested

A ROMANIAN man, 29, was arrested by Almeria City Local Police for allegedly hitting his 19-yearold partner in the face a number of times. The couple have a five-year-old daughter.

New stores

LIDL supermarket chain has announced it will be opening three new stores in Almeria this month at a cost of €1.5 million. Altogether the chain intends to open 10 new shops across Spain, creating 120 jobs.







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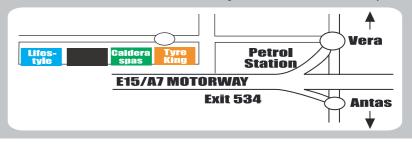
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NEWS EXTRA

Something to declare

THE Guardia Civil has arrested a 48-year-old Moroccan man who allegedly tried to smuggle 22 kilos of hashish onto a ferry to Almeria. Sniffer dogs marked the man's vehicle, during pre-boarding checks at Melilla port.

Risky roof

FIREFIGHTERS removed two pieces of loose rubble from the roofs of Virgen del Mar church in Almeria City at the weekend to avoid the risk of it falling and causing damage or injuries.

World wide

THE University of Almeria is offering 305 places at universities in 80 different countries all over the world this year to broaden students' education.

The leader of the

pack

By Eleanor Hawkins

WHEN it comes to online promotion, Mojacar Council has set an example to follow to the extent that other Almeria municipalities have been asking it for advice on the matter.

Well aware of fashions and modern ways of seeking information, the council has recently updated its website and worked on its main Facebook page, Turismo de Mojacar, with impressive results.

The Facebook page for example, Tourism councillor Emmanuel Agüero has reported, reached more than seven million users all over the world last year and currently has 40,000 followers.

Changes made to the municipal tourism website and social media sites were based mainly on the addition of new

EMMANUEL AGÜERO: Showing visitors what they will find in Mojacar.

> picture galleries, a new design and more intuitive navigation, making the sites easier to use both for local residents and tourists who may be interested in planning a visit to Mojacar.

Agüero said: "a boring, static Facebook page does not attract interest so will not have followers and without followers we cannot get the message across. That's why the new page and website are much more visual, with a more modern image, fresher colours and more emphasis on photos to make them attractive and show visitors what they will find in Mojacar."

What's yours is also mine

A FARMER and a farmhand are suspected of having stolen about 600 kilos of courgettes, worth €1,500, from neighbouring farms in Nijar.

The Guardia Civil began investigations when two farms in El Viso reported that produce had been stolen from their greenhouses. One of the farmers reported that 100 kilos of courgettes had been stolen, while the other claimed to have lost 500 kilos, again of courgettes.

Officers from the ROCA rural and agricultural theft unit inspected the farms and spotted footprints and dog's paw prints on one of the farms, although the owner did not have a dog. While looking about, they noted the presence of a dog of a similar size to the one which had made the prints on a neighbouring farm.

With this in mind, investigators discovered that one of the owners of the farm with the dog, accompanied by a farmhand, had sold 500 kilos of courgettes at a corn exchange in San Isidro even though the farm was not producing anything.

The case has been placed with an Almeria court for further investiga-



NEWS EXTRA

Heart friendly

THE Murcian Football Federation has donated five defibrillators to Pulpi Council. which has had them installed at football pitches and municipal sports centre.

School spending

ALMERIA City Council will be spending €500,000 on improvement works at local schools over the next two years, Municipal Services Councillor Juanjo Alonso has announced.

In work

EIGHT jobless people have started work in Carboneras thanks to the Emple@joven and Empleo 30+ employment schemes financed by the Junta de Andalucia regional government and the European Social Fund.

Back to life

By Eleanor Hawkins

VERA Council is spending around €70,000 on repairing five old fountains in the town and bringing them back to

Work was carried out at one on Plaza Virgen de las Angustias, two on Paseo Cervantes, one on Plaza de las Lavanderas and the Ciudad de Vera fountain opposite the funeral home.

The fountains, which had been dry for the last four years, all required sealing to stop links and most had to have their pumps replaced and new lights fitted.

The biggest job was on the Virgen de las Angustias fountain, where a bronze sculpture of Padre Vera (by the sculptor Jere) on a marble stand has been fitted in the

Padre Jose Maria de Vera (1912-1997) was a sculptor and painter and one of the most important cultural characters of Vera.





Trigger-happy man jailed

A MAN who fired warning shots towards three people and injured a girl has been jailed for a year and a half by an Almeria criminal court.

The court heard that the defendant drove to the vicinity of a school in the La Cañada district of the city in a van and stopped by a man, an underage girl and her mother and fired a number of shots from within the vehicle with an illegal pistol in a clear attempt to scare them.

One of the shots grazed the girl's lower back, causing her swelling and grazed skin.

The defendant then got out of his van and took a heavy cable to one of the victim's cars, causing €460 worth of damage.

When questioned by the National Police, the defendant claimed he wanted to teach the group a lesson as they kept knocking on his door and he thought they were going to try to attack him or burgle his

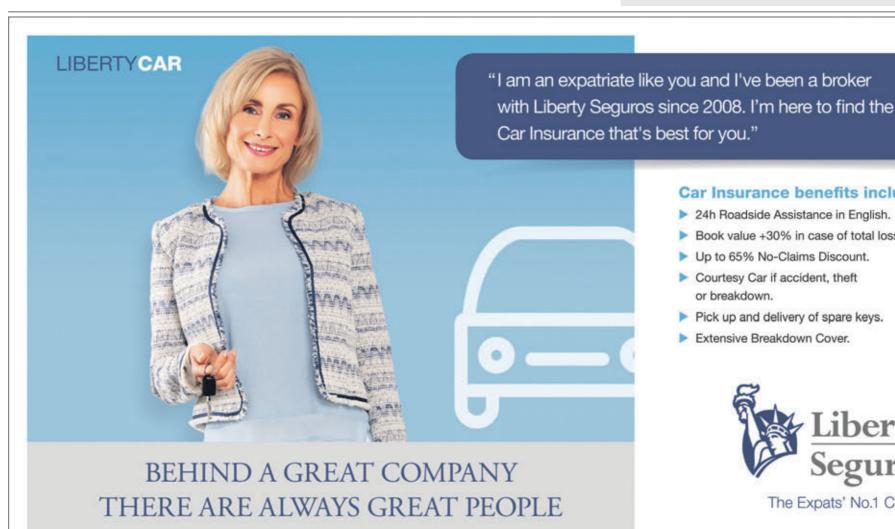
Along with the jail sentence the defendant must pay a €180 fine, €600 in damages to the girl who was injured and €460 to cover repairs to the car.

Fighting against cancer

PUBLIC hospitals in Almeria registered 24,314 oncology and radiotherapy consultations in 2016 and administered 9,751 chemotherapy and 21,583 radiotherapy sessions.

The province's capacity to provide treatment is due to increase even more in the next few years as equipment at Torrecardenas is to be renewed and increased, explain Andalucian government delegate for Almeria Gracia Fernandez at an event to mark World Cancer Day.

"In Almeria we are working continuously to improve attention to people affected by cancer and increase the services we can provide for them," Fernandez said.



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Walking back in time



TOURISM COMPANIES: Were treated to a guided tour of walking routes in the area.

By Eleanor Hawkins

REPRESENTATIVES from various Nijar active tourism companies have been treated to a guided tour of one of the most interesting walking routes in the area.

Tourism, Historical Heritage and Beaches councillor Alexis Pineda, accompanied by Ana Aycart from the Heritage department and Carmen Fernandez from the Tourism

department joined geography expert Rodolfo Caparros to lead the way on the four-kilometre Ruta del Agua (water

This popular walking route allows visitors to view the remains of water mills between Villa de Nijar and Huebro which are a very important part of the area's history.

The mills are believed to have been built on the site of original ones dating back to

the ninth century and were used to pump water to farms in the area which allowed Huebro to prosper. The settlement which grew around the springs and hydraulic systems is believed to be the second oldest in Almeria Province

This walk through history, explained Pineda, is one of the things the council wishes to promote within active and cultural tourism proposals to attract more visitors to Nijar.



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NEWS EXTRA

Captains jailed

AN Almeria provincial court has jailed two men for four and 4.5 years respectively for charging 42 migrants, including two children for places on two dinghies they sailed from Algeria to Spain.

Lucky win

THE owner of a ticket stamped at a lottery office on Carretera de Malaga in Almeria City won one million euros on Saturdays' El Joker Primitiva draw.

Out again

ONE family from El Patio in Pescaderia, which was shored up by the council last week, left their home again after being allowed back in claiming they feared the ceiling was going to collapse.

Death at work

A 32-YEAR-OLD man has died of a heart attack while at work in Vicar. An investigation has been launched into the circumstances of the death, the first in the work place in Almeria this

Blood bank on tour

By Eleanor Hawkins

ALMERIA prides itself on being selfsufficient when it comes to blood and. to achieve this, the Transfusion Centre has once again taken to the road to encourage people to give blood.

Altogether 24 collections were programmed in 17 different places for the month of February with an aim to maintaining supplies and guaranteeing attention to anyone in need of a transfusion or treatment.

Transfusion centre director Aref Laarei has reminded the public of the need to keep donations up all year round to meet any eventuality. "We need an average of 60 donations per day to stay self-sufficient and we really want to progressively increase plas-

special plasma collection sessions this month, on February 14 at the Trans-

fusion Centre at Torrecardenas Hospital. Almeria, and on February 20 at the Foro Abierto centre in Carboneras.

Centre staff will be travelling all over the province this month and will be collecting blood at Vera health centre today (Thursday 9), Huercal-Overa (Monday 13), Los Gallardos (Tuesday

> Readers who have lived in the UK are advised to check first as Spain follows **European restrictions** on blood donations related to mad cow

14), Pulpi (Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16), Turre and Carboneras (Monday 20) and Cuevas del Almanzora (Thursday 23).

For more information on when and where to give blood see www.transfu sion.granada-almeria.org.

Readers who have lived in the UK are advised to check first as Spain follows European restrictions on blood donations related to mad cow disease.

> **GIVING BLOOD: The Transfusion** Centre is taking to the road.

rescue

To the

ALMERIA Provincial Council has come to the rescue and carried out emergency works to move a mains water pipe in Huercal-Overa which was affected by a fault just before Christmas.

The provincial authority spent €60,500 on the job, which included installing a new 455-metre stretch of mains pipes to replace those crushed by earth movement, provincial president Gabriel Amat explained.

Not only has the work provided an emergency repair and guaranteed water supply for the people of the town, said local mayor Domingo Fernandez, it has also avoided the problem recurring in the future by moving the pipes to a more suitable location.

Fernandez thanked the provincial council for its quick response, to which Amat responded that it was simply meeting its obligation to provide services to the people and solve their problems.

"This job is just one example of how the provincial council puts the Almeria taxpayers' money to good, efficient use," the provincial leader





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Britain beyond Brexit



BREXIT PAGE By John Smith

THE British Ambassador to Madrid, Simon Manlev, visited Marbella on Friday February 3 as a guest of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain (BCC) to present his view on the topic 'Britain beyond Brexit.'

A packed room at the Marbella Country Club listened to representatives of the BCC, and Marbella Mayor Bernal before Mr Manley rose to give

As was to be expected, he was not in a position to give any concrete information concerning the British government's negotiating position nor could he confirm the future of expatriates in Spain, but he was very upbeat and confident in his expectations and explanations.

He commenced by saying that the government had made it clear it intends to respect the will of the people, as the majority had voted to leave the

European Union and now that the initial White Paper giving the government the right to invoke Article 50 has been passed, the next step will be to obtain a final vote from the Houses of Commons and

The next two years are important to all Britons and whilst we have to face change, this



erant Global Britain.

The Ambassador acknowledged that negotiations will be difficult as we are all sailing in uncharted waters and we need to remember that any negotiation will have to take into account not just what we want, but what the rest of EU wants as

AMBASSADOR Manley taking questions.

Free trade is important and it is worth reflecting on the fact that Britain has done much to help the creation of Spain in the past, both through investment, industrialisation and as allies during a number of wars in the 19th century in particular.

One thing that the British government is committed to is to settle the situation of expatriates and the EU as quickly as possible, as it understands how worrying this lack of knowledge can be.

With 18 million tourists from the UK spending €16 billion a year in Spain, coupled with British purchases which show a €10 billion imbalance in favour of Spain, there is no question that Britain is an incredibly important market and trading partner, especially as it has such a large population of expatriates as well.

According to Mr Manley, capitalism is about the share of wealth and neither country needs new trade barriers to make relationships difficult and with British companies investing €66 billion in Spain and employing 250,000 people, there is every reason to expect Spain to want to negotiate a decent agreement.

The government understands that many people felt let down when they were unable to vote in the referendum, but that is changing for future general elections and the Embassy and its consulates around Spain are reporting feedback from expats to the government which will help to inform nego-







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Royal British Legion, Mojacar Branch

ON January 27, the branch president attended the District North Conference where the guest speaker was the chairman of the Royal British Legion. The new chairman of District North was elected.

Val Carrington entertained members at the branch meeting on Thursday February 2 with a selection of very amusing poetry which was very well received. The president presented a certificate of anpreciation to Eileen Huard for past social events and fundraising

The next branch meeting on Thursday February 16 at 11am will be a coffee/lunch meeting at Kuki's restaurant/bar, Mojacar Playa with a short quiz for those interested. All are welcome to attend. If you are not a member feel free to come along for a chat.

For details or more information please contact Mick on 678 101 471.





Helping Animals Almanzora

THE charity Helping Animals Almanzora recently opened a new charity shop in La Alfoquia.

This second new shop is located next to Bar Triana and the current opening times will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am until 2pm.

The charity are always grateful for donations so if anyone has any items please take them along to the shop.

This is the charity's second shop and the original shop is still open in Arboleas located across from the town hall.

Your support through donations or by visiting the shop enables the charity to help abandoned and abused animals. For more information please visit the website their at www.haarescue.com.

A change for the better

THE change of location of Huercal-Overa's Monday market, the largest in the area with almost 400 stands, caused a marked improvement, the council has said.

Since the weekly market was moved from the fairground to Avenida Guillermo Reyna, the number of licences issued to stall holders has remained the

same and more people are visiting it to do their shopping. The move, the Local Police reported at a council session regarding the market, has led to better conditions for stall holders, who are more sheltered from the wind and bad weather, and more shoppers as it is closer to the town centre.

The town now also has a

market on Thursdays with 86 stalls, meaning locals have two opportunities to buy fresh produce and other goods.

The council has reminded stall holders of their obligations to clean up after themselves at the end of the markets and pointed out it gives them rubbish bags to assist with this. Those found failing to keep their area clean face fines.

APSA monthly raffle

APSA, the animal protection society in Albox, recently drew its monthly raffle prize for January which raised €112.

The winning tickets were drawn by the landlady of Bugsy Maloans. The lucky winners of the Almeria Tenpin Bowling prize of a two-course Sunday lunch for two or fish and chips with dessert for two any day of the week was Dave and Sue Stratton. Alistair and Jean MacDonald won the €10 voucher for Colin The Card, Jamie Gillard won the €15 voucher for TCs Bar and Pricebusters' €15 voucher was won by Alan and Brenda Marley.

APSA is grateful to Almeria Tenpin Bowling, Colin The Card, TCs Bar, and Pricebusters for their monthly prizes and to all who purchased raffle tick-

PAWS-PATAS then and now

AT their latest 'First Wednesday' event, Karen Polansky, PAWS-PATAS president, and Janet Franklin, rehoming coordinator, spoke about their very early experiences of dealing with sick and abandoned animals and how PAWS-PATAS came to exist.

People may think the situation with unwanted animals is bad now, but back in the late 1980s it was far worse - feral animals roamed the streets, the beach and the campo, spreading disease and causing nuisance on a very wide scale.

A group of concerned local people and tourists got together and decided something had to be done. After some lobbying, Vera Town Hall donated some land where (mainly) dogs could be taken in, receive medical treatment, be cared for and found new homes.

From these very humble beginnings, the volunteers built its first shelter until the time came for the land to be taken back by the town hall and a new shelter had to be

Throughout the years, the involvement of Dutch colleagues (notably Renée Fortuin, Rita Rebel and Belinda



Muriel, 90-year-old raffle winner with Chrissie the communications coordinator.

Meuldiik) became vital. They raised money for a new shelter and undertook to rehome in Holland the dogs that could not be rehomed locally.

The shelter which now operates between Los Gallardos and Turre has grown substantially over the years as has the number of animals looked after from 25 originally to numbers in the hundreds now. Across all the years, the hard work and support of



Janet, the rehoming coordinator and Karen, the president of PAWS-PATAS.

Janet, Chrissie and Karen look forward to the next phase.



The shelter which operates between Los **Gallardos and Turre has** grown substantially.

the public has kept the organisation going. They work tirelessly at the shelter and in the shops, donate money, find supporters and keep the show on the road behind the scenes too.

The connections built up with rehoming organisations in Holland and the UK have gone from strength to strength too. Without their help, PAWS-PATAS would not be able to continue.

Karen thanked all those who had helped over the years and ended by looking forward to the next phase in the organisation's development, about which more later... watch this





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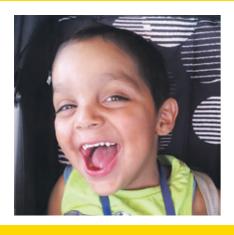


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A LONG-TIME resident of Mojacar showed up for the busking efforts organised by the Bradley family. Tony Christie, best-known for his recording of 'Is this the way to Amarillo,' helped support Fin and Richard

So Fin & Rich Devlin busked today for Leo the Lion. Tony Christie called by and very kindly donated and offered to share Leo's story on his social media

Fin & Rich raised £412 for Leo!! Get well soon brave Leo!



Former Real Madrid footballer supports Leo

FORMER Real Madrid defender and Spanish youth team player, Leo Bermejo, is the latest celebrity to support the fight against cancer of his four-year-old namesake, Leo 'the lion' Bermeio.

As well as sharing the player's name, young Leo loves football and his favourite team also happens to be Real Madrid.

Bermejo, the player, a tough leftback in the 90's, shared a tweet posted by the Euro Weekly News asking him to help the youngster in his fight against cancer.

The tweet said: 'Could you RT (retweet) to help a young football fan like yourself? His favourite team is Real Madrid!'

#premiosLaLiga His favourite team is Real Madrid." Leo Bermejo (left) with striker Sergio Leon.

Tony Christie shares Leo's story Thanks for a fighting

By Simon Firth

LITTLE Leo Bermejo is made of the right stuff. He cannot talk but he is a happy, energetic four-year-old who just a day ago underwent a long operation at Merseyside's famous Alder Hey Hospital.

The surgeons' task was to cut away the tumours in young Leo's brain that have hampered every step of a life that has barely started.

As his mother Karen says, Leo is a fighter. "He is so happy and when you see him he is playing and laughing. He does everything."

But the tumours Leo is battling are caused by a rare cancer that mostly attacks children, boys in particular and often those under four.

And when they grow they grow very fast. This is why this brave voungster can't speak because they have already damaged that part of his brain.

But Leo, who has fought back after one major operation now faces his toughest battle of

Once the Alder Hey surgeons have done their work, there is no more that can be done for him anywhere in the UK. Conventional radiotherapy would be too damaging to his young

His only hope, and the option that offers him the chance of ridding himself of the tumours once and for all, is a treatment called proton therapy.

And the specialist unit which has worked on SPNET tumours before, is in the US, in the Mid-

SPNET tumours and to

THE cancer that is attacking Leo goes by the acronym SP-NET. Its victims are children. often boys, and those under four years of age.

The characteristic is that the tumours grow and grow fast. They are located in the cerebrum, the part of the brain that governs Leo's speech, his emotions, his voluntary muscular movements and even his ability to reason and solve problems.

SPNET tumours are extremely malignant. After Leo's first operation in Pamplona, the









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western state of Oklahoma.

"It's Leo's best chance," says Karen. "Proton beam therapy is his only remaining option.

"Oklahoma is the best possible place for this kind of treatment so I have to do everything I can to get him there."

US specialist Dr Andrew Chang has already been in touch with Alder Hey and is waiting for Leo to recover sufficient strength to make the trip to the US.

"With proton therapy," says Karen "Leo can still progress. He will have the chance to learn again, to move his right side and regain some speech.

"And he won't have the problems that will affect his organs in the future.

"This is Leo's last hope for a

life and we have to take it."

The other hurdle that the family need to cross, with the help of an army of supporters from Spain, the UK and in some cases, far flung parts of the world, is the money. And that is where you, our readers and advertisers, come in.

To pay for his stay and the several bouts of treatment he needs, team Leo - that's mum, dad Jose and sister Sofia, along with their family friends and his supporters like every one of us - they need to raise €175.000.

The plight of this little boy, who will not give up, has touched the hearts of thousands. When Euro Weekly News found out we began featuring the plight of this brave family in our papers and on the web.



with advertisers who have so generously answered the call, the total on Leo's gofundme page is climbing inexorably towards the €175,000 total.

But we still have some way to go. And that is where you come in. If you can help Leo get the treatment that could mean the gift of life, then all the details are on these pages. Together we can get Leo the treatment he so deserves. Any donation, big or small, will make a huge difference.

Remember, you can use Leo's bank account if you want him to receive every bit of your donation or visit www.go fundme.com/leothelion3.



Answering the call for little Leo

HUNDREDS of you have been answering the call to help Leo win this fight against such an aggressive cancer.

Leo's mum Karen told EWN: "I do not even know what to say, except thank you, to each and every one of you, whether it was by donating, helping me manage things to take the weight off, delivering tins, posters, publishing Leo's story, sharing his page, tweeting... every single thing, big or small, has made this happen."

She added: "I feel so much stronger with all of this support behind our family."

Celebrities have been helping out, many of them retweeting to keep Leo's profile as high as

Comedian Keith Lemmon. boy band 911 and mixed martial arts world champion Michael Bisping are just a few of those getting involved. Closer to



home, everyone has been pulling the stops out.

Here's just a few who deserve a thank you:

Spectrum FM, a massive €1.000: all the staff at Euro Weekly News, another €1,000: Peter and all his team at Currencies Direct, another huge €1.000: Jackie Butcher's 'lion' walkabout which raised €443: the lovely girls at Bugbusters: the gorgeous and generous Jan at Telitec: the wonderful Steve and Sharon at Spanish Property Choice: Ian and the dynamic

team at La Sala: Solutions Marbella: Terry at Premier Heating: Shaun from Planet Positive: a generous donation from Matt in England: Ian at Cocina Plus: Gary at Expats in Villajoyosa

Faustina: Manuela from Higueron Spa: not forgetting the readers of EWN and the listeners of Spectrum FM: the community of Mojacar all of whom put donations in ranging from €5 to €5,000 and finally the people from other parts of Spain who are following Leo on our Facebook page.

reating them with proton therapy

signs that they were re-emerging took just nine weeks. And they do not stay in the same place. Once the tumours have been removed, conventional radiation on a young brain is damaging. So for Leo the answer is proton therapy. At high

energies, the positively charged protons can destroy cancer cells without being so damaging to Leo's body.

The treatment allows the surgeon greater control when delivering the right dose. There are thought to be less than 40 such specialist units in the world and there is nowhere in the UK with such a facility.

One of the few such treatment centres is in Oklahoma where you, our readers and advertisers, are helping to send

NORWAY

Church marriages





world's largest mobile telecommunications companies and last year saw 214 million mobile accesses.

No entry

TWO senior MPs were refused visas to Russia resulting in the cancellation of a two-day trip to Moscow. Norway wants answers on why the visas were refused.

Air bases

AIRLINE SAS has announced plans to set up bases in Ireland, London and Spain, allowing it to keep up with low-cost rivals and be more

GERMANY

Shed tragedy

believed to have been the cause of death of six teenagers found dead in a shed after a garden party. The owner of the shed found the youngsters. His son and daughter were among the victims.

Extremist arrests

POLICE have detained two people

on suspicion of plotting attacks on refugees and Jews. Police made the arrests during a series of raids investigating a potential right wing extremist organisation.

2016. Telenor is one of the

Welcome Fritz

FRITZ is the newest member of the family at Berlin zoo. The little polar bear was named Fritz after a local radio station ran a competition to name the bundle of fluff.

Tagging plans

THE German government has approved plans to use ankle tags to monitor extremists who are considered potentially dangerous. The proposal will now need to be passed by parliament.

SWEDEN

Bus concern

VOLVO is looking into claims its buses are being used to transport prisoners in the occupied West Bank. The company produces reinforced buses in Israel for use of transporting passengers and had an agreement they should not be used for prisoner trans-

Ikea's help

THE boss of Ikea's stores in the US has urged staff impacted by President Trump's controversial travel ban to contact the company which has offered free legal advice for those who may need it.

Top names

FIGURES just released show that Alice was the most popular baby girl name in Sweden in 2015 for the fifth year running, with Oscar the top name for boys.

Climate goals

SWEDEN has set its climate goals for up to 2045, introducing a new climate law that will come into force in 2018. It aims to have zero net emissions by 2045.

HOLLAND



AROUND 300 Dutch nationals have seen their passports cancelled since autumn 2014, as part of the country's counter terrorism plans.

Part timers

MORE Dutch women work part time hours than anywhere else in Europe. The preference for part time starts early on with many women in their 20's and without children going part time.

Dangerous dive

DUTCH television presenter Freek Vonk required a three-hour operation and more than 100 stitches after being bitten by a shark whilst diving with reef sharks off the Bahamas coastline for a new television pro-

Trump's discrimination

PRIME MINISTER Mark Rutte has called US president Donald Trump's ban on people from seven Muslim countries entering America "discriminatory." He said the decision conflicts with western values.

FRANCE



Racist crimes

THE number of racist incidents fell last year in France according to the latest figures by the interior ministry. Whilst anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim crimes fell, crimes committed against Christian places of worship rose in

Forced out?

PRESIDENTIAL hopeful François Fillon may have to step down as more investigations are launched into claims he gave fake jobs to his wife and children. He is falling in the opinion polls following the allegations.

Spanish head

SPANISH film director Pedro Almodovar, has been named a head of the jury at this year's Cannes film festival.

Top spot

NANTES has been named the best city to work in France. A study by a national newspaper ranked it the best city out of 98 towns and cities apart from Paris.

BELGIUM



Poor babies

OVER 40 per cent of babies in Brussels are born in poverty and families earning below €867 per month. The figures come from births between 2004 and 2010.

Sparkling industry

ANTWERP'S diamond sector increased last year dealing in 5 per cent more diamonds; some 202 million carats valued at around \$48 billion. The industry's recovery is expected to increase in 2017.

Old age

THE eldest living person in Belgium has been named as Fernande De Raeve who is aged 110. It comes following the death of Alicia Van den Berghe-Corveleyn, who was 112.

Costly power

ELECTRICITY in Belgium is set to double in costs by 2030. This was the conclusion of an investigation produced by the federation of industrial electricity consumers.

DENMARK



Rape rise

THE number of rapes reported last year doubled from the number in 2014, to 744 rapes according to figures. The Danish National Police said this rise was partly due to the better recording of rape inci-

Going renewable

ENERGY giant Dong has announced it will stop coal use and switch to renewable energy sources. Dong is currently the biggest wind power producer in Europe. They reported a net profit of 12.8 billion kroner (€1.7 billion) for 2016.

Mixed swimming

SEPARATED swimming for men and women has been scrapped by Aarhus City Council after offering female only swimming sessions for nearly 10 years. It was mainly used by Muslim women.

Underage marriage

DENMARK is banning marriage under the age of 18. The new bill also states that youngsters under the age of 18 who marry abroad will not have their marriages recognised in Den-

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DV1410 330,000€



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DV1412 399,500€



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DV1417 699,000€



3 bed, 2 bath detached villa of 106m2 on a plot of 1,000m2. Fabulous sea views. Sun lounge. Furnished & A/C. Adapted for disabled use.

DV1418 279,000€



3 bed, 3 bath, spacious detached villa of 225m2 on 10,000m2. Panoramic views to the sea. FGCH. Garage. Terraces & gardens. Very private.

DV1419 395,000€











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ST ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL: Until now has been used as a public museum.

Public protest

THOUSANDS of people protested over the decision to hand over control of St Petersburg's St Isaac's Cathedral to the Russian Orthodox Church. Until now it has been used as a public museum and people are concerned that the Church will make it exclusive

Weird names

PARENTS may soon be forbidden from giving their children weird, obscene or unpronounceable names.

The new law was proposed by a state senator furious over the naming of one poor boy as 'Biological object human born from Voronins and Frolovs on June 26, 2002.'

Gender dilemma

■ A RUSSIAN psychiatrist is in hiding from conservative activists angry that he issues permits for gender reassignment. Dr Dmitri Isaev has been accused of creating an army of 'gender perverts' by religious and nationalist extremists. The doctor now advertises his services through word of mouth.

Deadly violence

■ TENSIONS escalated in eastern Ukraine between Russian-backed separatists and the army. Dozens of people died in the worst violence in over a year. Thousands have been left without water and electricity amid freezing conditions. More than 10,000 people have died since violence began in



Buddha v Roman

■ A MINING company co-owned by Chelsea's billionaire chief Roman Abramovich is plotting to destroy a Buddhist sanctuary in the Ural mountains. Evraz wants to scoop out the profitable iron ore from underneath the monastery which lies on top of Mount Kachkanar in central Russia.

Strong stuff

■ VODKA had a very healthy 2016. Russian exports of the spirit soared by 14 per cent last year while production also grew. Russia exported almost 50 million litres of vodka. Germany was the biggest importer, followed by Ukraine and the UK. China is also developing an appetite for the alcoholic brew.

Tight t-shirts

■ ZARA, the Spanish clothing shop, has been forced to withdraw several items from its Russian outlets. Certain shirts were found to be made of such 'unbreathable' material that they were dangerous.

Inditex, the Spanish company behind Zara, owns almost 500 clothes shops across Russia.

US firm invests in Spain

By John Smith

THE success of Grand Theft Auto, one of the best-selling computer games of all time which was created by a team of two Scotsmen and an Englishman saw their company Rock Star Games become a subsidiary of Take-Two Interactive which has an annual turnover of €2.2 billion.

Now Take-Two, the Nasdaq listed company has announced that it will be taking over Spain's privately owned Social Point which produces games for mobile phones and tablets and will be paying €163 million with €231 million

is the total amount that Take-Two Interactive will be paying to take over Spanish company Social Point.

the balance in Take-Two shares.

Horacio Martos and Andrés Bou co-founded Social Point in Barcelona 2008. The company has gone on to become one of the world's leading developers of online social games.

Since Social Point's inception, Horacio and Andrés have remained faithful to their original vision of connecting players through social gaming, and providing the most enjoyable, immersive playing experience. Prior to

founding Social Point, they qualified at the same universities before working as computer analysts and consultants in the tech sector.

One of their games, Dragon City has become extremely popular and some 50 per cent of all downloads and revenue comes from the USA which is why the company appealed to Take-Two, especially as it has 50 million followers worldwide.

This is a major step into the mobile gaming world for the American company as it looks to continue its growth and market domination.

Bartering in **Asturias**

THANKS to the decline of the coal mining industry in the autonomous community of Asturias in northern Spain, unemployment rocketed with few opportunities for the younger generation unless they moved to larger and more prosperous areas.

Those who have remained however have looked to the past and are producing various food and drink products in the traditional ways and have developed a form of bartering which allows them to move their products on, even if finances are strained.

There is even an online bartering community known as Rastru which allows members to offer their goods in exchange for those

Quote of the Week

If you mop the floor, or you're the managing director, a nice pat on the head goes down well occasionally. Just as a kick up the backside is required sometimes." The late Sir Ken Morrison founder of the supermarket chain.

Phones used for Olympic medals



OLYMPIC MEDALS: Some of the winners.

AN idea originally raised last year has been turned into reality as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Committee has announced that its medals will be made from metals obtained from the recycling of old and obsolete mobile phones.

They expect to need to produce 5,000 gold, silver and bronze medals and with a need for two tons of metal to allow this, they hope to obtain as much scrap material as possible, especially as Japan does not have

large deposits of minerals and

Anxious to show that it is committed to sustainable production, the committee hopes to reduce costs by collecting these old phones from offices and stores starting in April of this year.

One saving already in place is that the gold medals are no longer made from gold, but are silver which is gold plated as silver costs around €16 per troy ounce, whilst gold costs €1,100

Discovery channels

AFTER some fairly robust rounds of negotiation, Sky and Discovery channel have reached an agreement so that the 12 channels which include Eurosport and TLC will continue to be screened by the satellite

Inflation up

THE Spanish National Institute of Statistics has revealed that inflation in January 2017 was 3 per cent, which is up from 1.6 per cent in the previous month and was caused mainly by the increase in the cost of electricity

IN anticipation of the opening of its first stores in Portugal, super market chain Mercadona has announced that it will first build what it refers to as an innovative centre in Matosinhos within the next six months to allow it to

Mercadona expansion

study the local market.

Insider trading investigation

AFTER announcing the German and London Stock Exchanges were considering a merger, financial investigators flagged up the fact Deutsche Boerse CEO Carsten Kengeter purchased stock in the Boerse to the value of €4.5 million prior to the

tors are investigating Herr Kengeter on suspicion of insider trading although he and the Boerse insist he was simply exercising a right to purchase the shares before the merger had been discussed.



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LONDON - FTSE 100

COMPANY PRI	CE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снд.	NET VOL
3i Group PLC	696.50		0.27	42.92
Admiral Group PLC	1841.00		0.33	59.99
Anglo American PLC	1342.50		0.75	305.62
Antofagasta PLC	815.00		0.18	204.88
Ashtead Group PLC	1614.00		-0.53	79.71
Associated British Foods PLC	2395.50		-0.46	67.92
AstraZeneca PLC	4372.50		0.33	346.49
Aviva PLC	494.60		0.31	473.74
Babcock International Gr	888.00		0.00	28.16
BAE Systems PLC	587.25		0.61	504.08
Barclays PLC	230.85		0.87	6,139.69
Barratt Developments PLC	496.80		-0.90	400.39
BHP Billiton PLC	1404.25		0.47	564.18
BP PLC	479.00		0.08	1,228.09
British American Tobacco PLC			0.29	218.42
British Land Co PLC	586.75		0.17	147.15
BT Group PLC	306.78		-0.17	1,034.85
Bunzl PLC	2127.50		-0.09	14.69
Burberry Group PLC	1642.50		0.06	62.68
Capita PLC	484.00		-0.45	488.46
Carnival PLC	4282.00		-0.16	17.98
Centrica PLC	225.70		-0.49	1,661.99
Coca-Cola HBC AG	1791.50	-3.00	-0.17	21.05
Compass Group PLC	1437.50	-6.00	-0.42	190.49
ConvaTec Group PLC	247.75	0.29	0.12	53.77
CRH PLC	2836.00	-13.00	-0.46	93.35
Croda International PLC	3347.00	-12.00	-0.36	14.43
DCC PLC	6352.50	-65.00	-1.01	11.53
Diageo PLC	2211.25	-1.50	-0.07	237.75
Direct Line Insurance Gr	354.20	-2.30	-0.65	171.16
Dixons Carphone PLC	299.75	-4.90	-1.61	526.25
easyJet PLC	932.00	-7.00	-0.74	264.45
Experian PLC	1556.50	1.00	0.06	62.41
Fresnillo PLC	1486.00	17.00	1.16	93.53
GKN PLC	345.00		-0.61	143.80
GlaxoSmithKline PLC	1552.25		0.32	380.96
Glencore PLC	312.65		1.02	3,071.32
Hammerson PLC	550.25		0.00	88.61
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	1373.00		-0.51	66.88
Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC	1922.50		-0.31	31.17
HSBC Holdings PLC	684.30		-0.13	1,687.70
Imperial Brands PLC	3766.50		0.78	150.66
Informa PLC	656.75		-0.68	99.12
InterContinental Hotels Gr	3748.50		0.21	19.15
International Consolidated	478.20		-1.30	448.31
Intertek Group PLC	3457.00		0.00	9.53
Intu Properties PLC	268.10		-0.22	96.89
ITV PLC	204.20		-0.68	975.79
Johnson Matthey PLC	3161.50		-0.66	36.08
Kingfisher PLC	337.65	-1.00	-0.30	224.20

COMPANY PR	ICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снс	. NET VOL
Land Securities Group PLC	1000.50	-3.00	-0.30	50.68
Legal & General Group PLC	237.60	-0.50	-0.21	750.67
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	66.33	0.46	0.70	18,805.60
London Stock Exchange Gr	3188.00	-11.00	-0.34	14.69
Marks & Spencer Group PLC	336.20	-3.90	-1.15	436.76
Mediclinic International PLC	797.00	8.50	1.08	101.23
Merlin Entertainments PLC	479.80	-1.70	-0.35	94.26
Micro Focus International PLC	2239.00	0.00	0.00	27.31
Mondi PLC	1760.50	-6.00	-0.34	75.38
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	239.55	-1.00	-0.42	1,060.36
National Grid PLC	933.15	5.06	0.55	307.71
Next PLC	3864.00	-22.00	-0.57	19.49
Old Mutual PLC	209.30	-0.10	-0.05	124.93
Paddy Power Betfair PLC	8535.00	0.00	0.00	3.61
Pearson PLC	643.75	0.50	0.08	326.89
Persimmon PLC	1956.50		-0.76	72.65
Provident Financial PLC	2659.50	2.00	0.08	27.94
Prudential PLC	1600.00		-0.03	383.17
Randgold Resources Ltd	7120.00		3.86	144.37
Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	7067.00		-0.86	148.49
RELX PLC	1448.50		0.42	181.75
Rio Tinto PLC	3412.00		0.65	379.47
Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	667.75		-0.45	438.93
Royal Bank of Scotland Gr	226.60		-0.83	2,826.62
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	2280.25		-0.22	301.73
Royal Mail PLC	407.70		-0.39	151.97
RSA Insurance Group PLC	580.75		0.17	104.11
Sage Group (The) PLC	630.50		0.08	164.40
Sainsbury (J) PLC	262.50		-0.87	508.60
Schroders PLC	2954.50		-0.10	15.89
Severn Trent PLC	2250.00		0.13	24.80
Shire PLC	4461.25		0.00	114.68
Sky PLC	1005.50		0.10	449.06
Smith & Nephew PLC	1203.50		-0.66	246.19
Smiths Group PLC	1510.50		0.13	37.43
Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	2133.00		-0.47	7.70
SSE PLC	1487.50		0.47	133.50
Standard Chartered PLC	806.50		0.61	1,241.54
Standard Life PLC	353.90		-0.65	104.85
St James's Place PLC	1074.50		-0.56	47.71
Taylor Wimpey PLC	170.75		-1.07	1,328.79
Tesco PLC	196.40		-0.46	2,049.68
TUI AG	1188.50		0.76	76.40
Unilever PLC	3276.50		0.76	179.25
United Utilities Group PLC	914.75		0.24	75.91
Vodafone Group PLC				
	193.38		-0.36	3,566.16
Whitbread PLC	3954.50		-0.35	17.29
Worldney Croup PLC	4950.00		-0.20	14.84
Worldpay Group PLC	280.60		-0.67	403.79
WPP PLC	1833.50	-13.00	-0.70	158.13

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3M	177,48	0,37%	0,66	106M
3M	175,04	0,49%	0,86	104M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	78,04	2,00%	1,53	70M
APPLE	129,08	0,43%	0,55	676M
BOEING CO	162,4	0,09%	0,14	100M
CATERPILLAR	93,28	-0,52%	-0,49	54M
CHEVRON	113,57	1,21%	1,36	214M
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,32	0,45%	0,14	157M
COCA-COLA	41,54	0,34%	0,14	179M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	76,43	0,34%	0,26	65M
EXXON MOBIL	83,54	0,11%	0,09	346M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,7	0,07%	0,02	262M
GOLDMAN SACHS	240,95	4,57%	10,54	95M
HOME DEPOT	137,98	0,75%	1,03	167M
BM	175,82	0,71%	1,24	167M
NTEL CORP	36,52	-0,44%	-0,16	172M
I.P.MORGAN CHASE	87,18	3,06%	2,59	311M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	113,64	0,06%	0,07	308M
MC DONALD'S CORP	124,24	0,83%	1,02	101M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	64,29	0,17%	0,11	176M
MICROSOFT	63,68	0,81%	0,51	491M
NIKE	52,36	-0,83%	-0,44	69M
PFIZER	32,09	1,13%	0,36	194M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	87,41	-0,40%	-0,35	224M
TRAVELERS CIES	117,78	0,13%	0,15	32M
JNITED TECHNOLOGIE	109,65	1,19%	1,29	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	161,87	0,69%	1,11	153M
VERIZON COMMS	48,58	0,62%	0,3	197M
VISA	86,08	4,59%	3,78	160M
WAL-MART STORES	66,5	-0,30%	-0,2	204M
WALT DISNEY CO	110,3	-0,28%	-0,31	174M

NASDAQ

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %	
Most Advanced			
Esperion Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 16.44	3.72 ▲ 29.25%	
The Medicines Company	\$ 45.96	7.96 ▲ 20.95%	
Collectors Universe, Inc.	\$ 24.92	4.13 ▲ 19.87%	
Paylocity Holding Corporation	\$ 34.98	5.06 ▲ 16.91%	
Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.10	0.56 ▲ 15.82%	
Fortinet, Inc.	\$ 37.72	4.54 ▲ 13.68%	
Pixelworks, Inc.	\$ 3.55	0.41 🛦 13.06%	
Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc.	\$ 8.40	0.95 ▲ 12.75%	
LEAP THERAPEUTICS, INC.	\$ 6.79	0.76 ▲ 12.60%	
Tabula Rasa HealthCare, Inc.	\$ 16.14	1.72 ▲ 11.93%	
Flex Pharma, Inc.	\$ 4.46	0.46 ▲ 11.50%	
Most Declined			
Pulmatrix, Inc.	\$ 3.86	1.24 ▼ 24.31%	
Vanguard Natural Resources LLC	\$ 2.75	0.72 ▼ 20.75%	
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.	\$ 2.44	0.54 ▼ 18.12%	
Aceto Corporation	\$ 15.67	3.20 ▼ 16.96%	
Vanguard Natural Resources LLC	\$ 2.96	0.59 ▼ 16.62%	
FireEye, Inc.	\$ 10.93	2.04 ▼ 15.73%	
Kirkland's, Inc.	\$ 11.60	1.99 ▼ 14.64%	
Vanguard Natural Resources LLC	\$ 3.04	0.50 ▼ 14.12%	
athenahealth, Inc.	\$ 108.90	17.74 ▼ 14.01%	
Neos Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.05	0.75 ▼ 12.93%	
GoPro, Inc.	\$ 9.58	1.39 ▼ 12.67%	



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Bank of England rethinks forecasts

By John Smith

THOSE who predicted that the UK economy would not be adversely affected by the Brexit decision were dealt a blow by the Bank of England which gave a very gloomy forecast immediately following the referendum decision.

The Bank expects the economy to sustain reasonable growth over the next three years.

Now just over six months later, the situation is definitely reversed with the Bank having to completely review its growth forecast upwards yet again to a figure of 2 per cent for 2017 which is only marginally lower than the forecast in May 2016 when it was assumed that Britain would remain in the EU.

The Bank had previously said that following the referendum result, its actions had done a great deal to stave off a possible disaster and now suggests that higher internal spending by



BANK OF ENGLAND: The Monetary Policy committee.

the government as revealed in the Chancellor's last budget review has helped to make the figures look better than expected.

Looking further forward the Bank also expects the economy to sustain reasonable growth over the next three years thanks to a stronger than ex-

pected world economy, cheaper credit options and a decision by the British public to reduce savings as borrowing is cheaper.

These revelations therefore accounted for the fact that there was no hike in the interest rates which continue at a low of 0.25 per cent, although many analysts expect this to be increased sooner rather than later

Wages have not increased according to expectations so that any cut in unemployment is currently unlikely to see an increase in inflation which is still at an acceptable level, but this is subject to the pound recovering further against the dollar and euro and with the expectation that consumer spending will begin to tail off.

Should inflation begin to increase above acceptable levels then there is little doubt that a speedy increase in the base rate will be implemented.

In many ways these announcements come as something of an embarrassment for both the Bank of England and Governor Mark Carney who recently indicated that he would not leave his post until Brexit has been completed.

If the government and industry cannot rely upon forecasts from the most influential of financial institutions in the UK, then the economy itself could be damaged, especially at a time when Britain is trying to negotiate itself out of the EU and into new trade deals with countries worldwide.

Now that approval has been given in Parliament for the government to proceed to invoke Article 50, the next step will be to review the contents of the White Paper covering the government's overall strategy for Brexit and market reaction to that may well give a strong pointer to how accurate these latest forecasts

Saving their bacon

AFTER reports that due to the appalling weather in parts of Spain there would be a shortage of a number of vegetables and fruit in British supermarkets, news is now coming in of a bacon shortage in the USA.

There may well be a sudden surge in downloads of the video game Aporkalypse - Pigs of Doom, but there has been something of an online panic as Twitter users worry about the latest news from the US Department of Agriculture that reserves of frozen pork bellies had fallen significantly.

It appears that despite President Trump's fear that the country is being swamped by Muslims, that sales of pork bellies from which American Bacon is mainly produced have risen considerably.

America has been experimenting with bacon recently and the advent of bacon cheesecake, ice cream, smoothies, cupcakes, doughnuts and popcorn coupled with the introduction of all-day breakfasts by major chains has meant that most fresh pork meat has been sold rather than frozen and put into storage.

According to the Department of Agriculture report, stocks have dropped from 22 million kilos to just over eight million kilos in a year which has triggered some fear about prices and scarcity of tasty porcine comestible.



BACON SHORTAGE: This little piggy went to market.

Whilst it is possible that Danish producers will be looking to increase their production, representatives of American pig councils have acted swiftly to advise that the number of pigs in America is greater than ever, although there may be some short term price increases.

On a more serious note, any shortage

which results in price rises must be considered counter-productive and in Zambia several years ago, there were a number of deaths when one particular type of maize was in short supply and many people refused to consume an alternative and different coloured maize which was supplied as aid by the US Government.

A different fashion connection

NOW that Sports Direct seems to have ridden out the tide of negative publicity about its treatment of staff, owner Mike Ashley is reported to have gained control over an 11 per cent stake in fashion chain French Con-

It would appear that he now has access to 10.7 million shares in the company which may be ripe for a takeover by using an unusual form of investment known as a 'contract for difference' which gives him a very strong position to either benefit from a sale to a third party or if he wishes to make an offer himself.

The bulk of his new shareholding came from asset managers Schroders and it is known that Sports Direct which owns a number of clothing brands such as Lonsdale and Everlast offers a number of French Connection items in its

The main shareholder of French Connection with 42 per cent is founder Stephen Marks, but he has been under considerable pressure from a consortium of business shareholders as the company has been making consistent losses for the last five years.

The introduction of Mike Ashley could mean that French Connection could well be ripe for a significant change in its fortunes in the not too distant future.

Sala Group presents new CEO

THE prestigious hospitality company Sala Group has announced ambitious expansion plans and the appointment of a new CEO.

The expansion will include further beach clubs and a possible strategic alliance with a prominent global hospitality group, taking the company into the next phase of its very ambitious growth plans.

Sala Group currently operates six locations world-

The new CEO, Federico González, took up the position on February 6. He holds a law and economics degree from Deusto University in Bilbao and an MBA from INSEAD business school in

He brings his extensive corporate experience to the group, having worked previously for Audi UK, among others, as well as his broad experience as an entrepreneur and property developer.



FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ: Brings extensive corporate experience to the group.

Bla Bla Car says ha ha

A COMPANY which was founded in France and has offices around the world. Bla Bla Car has just fought off a claim made in court by the Spanish Confederation for Bus Transport (Confebus) which asserted that it was improperly acting as a transport company.

It argued that car sharing of this type was helping to depress the market for bus and coach journeys and therefore should be banned in Spain.

Bla Bla Car, however denied it was a transport company but simply a social network that brings together drivers and passengers who wish to share the cost of their journey and it makes a charge for the intro-

The matter was heard before a Madrid court which ruled those drivers using Bla Bla Car are not employees of that company, nor are they in the main professional drivers touting their business for hire and reward.

In addition, it ruled they were not looking to make a profit from the journey but were simply sharing the costs incurred.

Confebus does have the right of appeal against this service and city councils who feel that this business undermines their local bus services could also decide to take action against the company in the future.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad



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

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

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



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.

Europe.

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or

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

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

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 ju-



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It's a big and nasty world

out there folks



CAN'T quite believe I'm doing Trump again this week but the man is such wonderful column fodder, I find him almost impossible to resist.

At least the court order, reversing his blanket ban on travellers from seven Muslim countries proved one thing. That no man, even the president of the United States, is in fact an island.

Hopefully the overruling by the federal judge, finally convinced the naïve whingers ('one dangerous finger hovering over the red button' etc) that there are a considerable number of factors involved before decisions of this magnitude can be implemented, even in a retaliatory mode. Dr Strangelove he ain't!

Although Russia may be a little more blatant, and somewhat less subtle, I also agree with Trump that, if the situation calls for it, most countries are very capable and do most certainly engage in assassinations, including the UK.

It's a big nasty world out there, and we just may need big and nasty people to make sure we survive in it."

To my mind there is no doubt that Stephen Ward, who featured in the Christine Keeler/Mandy Rice scandal of the 60's was topped, before he could blow the whistle on one or two characters (highly rumoured to be royalty) being participants in the sex

orgies involved. I am also convinced that the tragic Dr Kelly was murdered on orders from the government, prior to revealing the lies and false information concerned in the weapons of destruction issues that ultimately led us into the war on Iraq.

James Bond and his licence to kill appointment is actually not far from the truth. I think the assassins of the CIA and British secret service, are far more lethal and mercenary than the romantic 007 ever was.

So full marks to PDT for once again speaking out. However shocking his statements may

my message to the so-called patriots, who think their countries are whiter than white and couldn't possibly be involved in such unacceptable practices, I say get a life.

It's a big nasty world out there, and we just may need big and nasty people to make sure we survive in it.

Keep the Faith. Love Leapy. Leapylee2002@gmail.com

> **JAMES BOND: His** licence to kill is not far from the truth.



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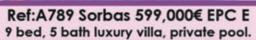
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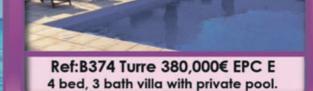


















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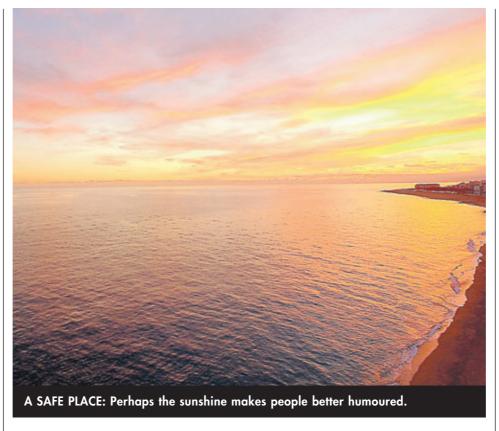
Guest Columnist

Today: Sylvia Gallimore

IN 1969 my youngest son Dan went to try to defuse a situation on a street in Bristol. He saw a young man being assaulted by three thugs and the result of his intervention was him waking up from a coma to discover he had lost his sight. I wrote a book called The Wind Beneath My Wings which described the knock-on effects to the whole family of this terrible moment in our lives.

Dan has moved on and now runs a charity called Have Stick Will Travel, which raises money to help people with poor eyesight in the West Country

Thirteen years ago Dan bought a place in Villamartin, a bolt-hole for us all. Over the years we have spent more and more time there and last year my husband and I made the decision that we also wanted to own a place in Villamartin having developed a good group of friends over the years. Dan spends a few weeks of the year in Spain and has always felt perfectly safe, which is more than he can say about England. People stop and offer him a lift in Villamartin, he is treated like a regular guy



and not someone to be pitied and this has done a lot for his confidence. I do not know if it is the sunshine that makes people better humoured. I do know that if you smile at some-

one in the street in Bristol they are likely to assume you are care in the community, whereas here, everyone just smiles back.

Another thing I like is everyone is treated

equally. I am sure there are a lot of people running away from something who are living in the area, maybe a bad marriage, debts, even homelessness. No-one cares, you get the same crack of the whip. No-one asks questions but there is always someone to listen. There are a lot of widows, widowers, lonely people that do not feel so lonely here in the sun. If you go somewhere regularly, there is always someone to talk to. If you go to a quiz evening and there are just two of you, very often another couple will ask to join you. This is unheard of in Eng-

I love Spain, the way of life, the pace, the people and the cosmopolitan feel.

Ok, there is litter and dog mess, isn't that universal, but all in all the vibe is a good one. I have even found time to write a novel, The Poet's Trap, published in England but on Kindle, in the shops and through Amazon as well. The peace and the sun inspired me to fulfil my ambition to write seriously. Everything and everyone was always in a hurry in England. I love Spain, the way of life, the pace, the people and the cosmopolitan feel.



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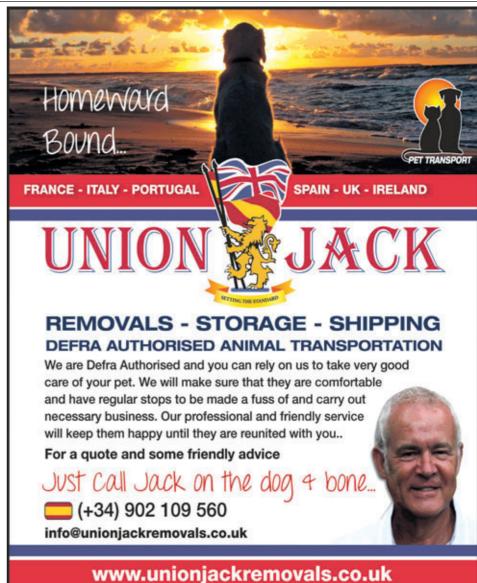
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Befuddled by English language



Views of a **Grumpy Old Man**

COMPUTERS are now such an integral part of everyday life you can't imagine being without them but they can also be annoying so and sos when they decide to go wrong. Well not even when they go wrong, just when they do not do what you want them to do.

I have an iPhone and use iCloud to store my photos and other bits and they are meant to automatically download to my PC which is quite new and runs on Windows 10. This means that I should have all my photos available on all my devices ... except I haven't because, for some reason, they won't show up on my PC. I've tried everything. I've installed the latest updates of everything.

I then checked on the internet and it told me to uninstall everything and do this, that and the other but still it doesn't work. I got in touch with Apple and they said it was a Windows problem and guess what Microsoft said? Yup, spot on, they said it's an Apple problem. So after all that I am no better off.

I've probably spent a month trying to sort it out (not all day everyday) but I've basically given up on it because, to be honest, I can't be arsed anymore.

The English language befuddles me sometimes. For instance, what's the difference between a serviette and a napkin? They are both the same aren't they? The dictionary says they are, so why have two words for the same thing? And, of course, a napkin is also what we put babies in. How about afters, dessert, pudding, sweet? Is it a class thing? I have 'afters' and the snotty cow that lives over the road has dessert? Just wondering...

I often get grumpy with restaurants as you know. I make no apology for it as they continue to do the most stupid things to wind me up. One of my favourite places closes in November and reopens again in February so we popped in for something to eat. When I looked at the menu the prices on quite a few items had gone up. Now, of course you are wondering, how would you know?

You wouldn't remember the prices of stuff on a menu and you are quite right I don't. In fact, I didn't have a clue what the prices were except instead of having new menus printed in their break, the idiots just tippexed out the old price and wrote the new one in. Seriously, how dumb is that? I would never have known but now I've got the hump, not because the price has gone up, but because of their laziness in disguising their increases.

I will be on Talk Radio Europe Friday 10 at 11.30am having a bit of a Trump grump. Listen, call in or email mikesenker@gmail.com.

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LEGALLY SPEAKING

Clamping down on repeat offenders

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



OURENSE: The DGT has seized vehicles from repeat road safety offenders.

A TOTAL of 22 vehicles have been seized in Ourense, in Galicia, north west-

The DGT took the vehicles from repeat road safety offenders. Although seemingly extreme, the action was taken on account of the severity of the repeat offences. The public prosecutor said each of the owners would have potentially had their vehicles seized for accumulating at least three consecutive convictions in a two year period for various crimes, such as drink and drug driving, or driving without a valid licence.

Of the vehicles seized, 19 have been scrapped. The remaining three are being held as evidence on account of continued investigations being carried out.

The Guardia Civil arrested 362 people in Ourense in 2016, all for serious offences against road safety. The majority were related to alcohol with 204 drivers arrested for driving whilst over the alcohol limit.

As well as clamping down on offenders, it is hoped it will enhance road safety for users. Last year, across the Spanish road network system, there were 1,038 fatal incidents in which 1,160 people lost their lives. A further 5,067 people needed hospital treatment as a result of a traffic accident.

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

Can he get it in Minutes?

At the last AGM of our Community, in the discussion at the end of the meeting, I brought up an issue about a member of the Committee, who has hired a family member to work on the maintenance. I feel that this is incorrect. After some comments, the sense of the meeting was that the

problem was minor, but the President said he would look into it. No vote was taken. I wanted this situation to be written into the Minutes book, but the President refused. Can he do this?

S D (Costa del Sol)

Yes, he can. By law, the official Minutes book of the AGM must record the members who attended, either in person or by proxy, and the decisions taken as a result of



the voting, with a list of those who voted in favour

and those against. Only those members who are recorded as voting against a proposal can later challenge it in court. Other details of discussions or points of view are optional.

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



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

IT'S coming up, flowers, dining, fine wines, chocolates and clinking glasses to say thank you to that special other half and the caring family at the table. It's a damn good tradition to get into but lamentably it comes just once a year.

Generally everyone knows his Saintly history, but he is just one of 365 days of Saints being celebrated. Of all the various Valentines the most celebrated was the one kept in a Roman dungeon for marrying soldiers and ministering to the Christians, a definite no-no confronting the Roman Empire back then.

He did, in fact, send the first 'Valentine note' under unusual circumstances, to his jailer's ill daughter

who he had cured. Just before his execution he penned a special note to her and signed it, 'Your Valentine.' Therein started a downhill snowball of love and understanding that crept through the ages from discreet admiration of the fair sex to outright public embellishments.

Saint Valentine was martyred in 269 but added to the calendar of Saints by Pope Galesius in 496. But it was another Valentine martyred in Africa on February 14 in which we arrive at the celebration date. And even that became forgotten until Chaucer grabbed a personage from the past and made him modern and Romantic.

Then followed Shakespeare and Donne with sentimental verse and the fad became a movement in England with more than 400.000 Valentines mailed in 1837. Not too much later a Valentine was sent to a young woman in New England. It might have been shrugged off as a spring prank had not the woman been the daughter of a man that owned a large book store and stationary shop.

He immediately started importing lace and colourful envelopes from old England and the frivolous flirting by mail became almost a stateside national holiday within 10 years. Last year it was estimated that more than 190 million cards were sent in the US not including those done in schools. emails and Facebook, which would easily put the figure beyond a billion!

That venerated date of February 14 is still not a world custom considering many countries still use Lunar calendars and esoteric dates for simi-

It is a pity that Valentine's Day couldn't evolve into a worldwide day of love, kindness and mutual respect. It might help the nations view each other with less belligerent discrimination and more trust.



My suggestion would be to celebrate nationally 'Cupid's Day' on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of each month, with two of those dates feminine-denominated so they may lead the charge and scheduling terms.

The world today seems so sterile, plastic, as if carved in stone therefore SAY THANK YOU: To that special other half.

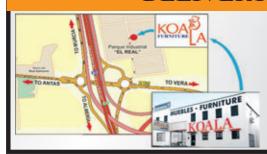
lacking human embraces and love. Simple kindness might make our living circumstances more tolerable. Even more smiles would help.



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O9 FEBRUARY	7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm EastEnders 10:00pm Death in Paradise 11:30pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News 11:45pm Question Time 12:45am This Week	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 9:00pm The Great Pottery Throw Down 10:00pm After Brexit: The Battle for Europe 11:30pm Match of the Day Newsnight SAS: Rogue Warriors	7:30pm 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Jonight Emmerdale 9:30pm The Cruise 10:00pm Unforgotten 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London 11:45pm The Late Debate 12:10am Tipping Point	6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 12:05am 1:00am Come Dine with Me The Simpsons Hollyoaks Channel 4 News Year Olds Escape to the Wild Parenting for Idiots 60 Days in Jail Britain's Greatest Hoaxer	8:00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun 10:00pm The Great British Benefits Handout Changed My Life 11:00pm Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink 12:05am Tantastic: 50 Shades of Orange	5:00pm 20 Years of Super League 6:00pm Rugby Super League 7:00pm Super League Final Gold 7:45pm Super League Final Highlights 2016 8:00pm Rugby League 11:30pm Match Pack 12:00am La Liga Show 12:30am Football's Greatest
FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY	8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm Not Going Out 10:30pm Tracey Ullman's Show 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show Uncle	7:00pm 7:30pm Fighter and Proceedings of Paradise 9:00pm 9:30pm 9:30pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 12:05am Private and American Railroad Journeys Big Dreams Small Spaces Mastermind Only Connect Pirable and Paradise Ql Newsnight Further Back in Time for Dinner	8:00pm	6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 12:05am Come Dine with Me The Simpsons Hollyoaks Channel 4 News Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast Does Countdown The Last Leg The Fake News Show	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild 9:00pm Celebrity Carry on Barging 10:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald 11:00pm When Live TV Goes Horribly Wrong 1:00am Super Casino	6:30pm Barclays Premier League World 7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club 8:00pm Football 11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview 11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club 12:45am Barclays Premier League Preview
SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY	5:10pm Weather 5:15pm Six Nations Rugby Union 7:55pm Let it Shine 8:55pm Casualty 9:45pm Let it Shine 10:15pm Taboo 11:15pm BBC News 11:28pm Weather 11:30pm Match of the Day 12:55am This Country	8:00pm Welcome to Hull - City of Culture 2017 8:30pm George III - The Genius of The Mad King 9:30pm 10:00pm 10:50pm 10:50pm 20 I XL 11:35pm Behind the Candelabra 1:30am A Royal Affair	6:45pm ITV News and Weather 7:00pm You've Been Framed! 8:00pm Ninja Warrior UK 10:20pm The Voice UK 11:20pm ITV News and Weather 11:35pm The Bourne Ultimatum 1:40am Jackpot247	4:30pm	6:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords 7:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 8:00pm NCIS: Los Angeles 9:00pm NCIS 9:55pm 5 News Weekend 10:00pm Football on 5 11:30pm World's Biggest Diamond Heist 12:30am Police Interceptors	11:00am Soccer A.M. 12:30pm Football 4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday 6:15pm Football 9:00pm EFL Goals 9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day 11:30pm Nissan Match Choice 12:30am Football 1:00am Football
SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY	6:00pm Songs of Praise 6:35pm BBC News 6:50pm Regional News 6:55pm Weather 7:00pm The Big Painting Challenge 8:00pm Countryfile Winter Special 9:00pm Call the Midwife 10:00pm British Academy Film Awards 2017 12:00am BBC News 12:20am Regional News	2:00pm 3:00pm 4:40pm 5:10pm 6:00pm 6:45pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm A:00pm 11:00pm A:00pm A:00p	7:05pm Regional News and Weather 7:15pm ITV News and Weather 7:30pm Dance Dance Dance 9:00pm Lion Country: Night and Day 10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital 11:15pm Rugby 12:15am Rugby	3:35pm A Place in the Sun 4:40pm Location, Location 5:45pm Channel 4 News 6:15pm Mrs. Doubtfire 8:30pm The Jump 10:00pm Homeland 11:05pm 8 0ut of 10 Cats Does Countdown 12:00am 127 Hours 1:50am How to Get Fit Fast	4:30pm Alvin and the Chipmunks 6:15pm Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 8:00pm Magic Makes You Laugh Out Loud 8:55pm 5 News Weekend 9:00pm TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks 11:35pm When Magic Goes Horribly Wrong 2:15am Super Casino	4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 8:00pm EFL Goals 8:30pm Spanish Football Gold 8:40pm Football 10:40pm Spanish Football Gold 10:50pm Spanish Football Gold 11:00pm Pl Match Highlights 11:30pm Pl Match Highlights 12:00am Goals on Sunday 1:30am Pl Match Highlights
MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY	8:30pm Inside Out 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Behind Bars 10:00pm New Tricks 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Have I Got Old News for You 12:30am The Graham Norton Show	7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 9:00pm University Challenge 9:30pm An Island Parish 10:00pm SAS: Rogue Warriors 11:00pm Cradle to Grave 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am	8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm The Halcyon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm Regional News and Weather 11:40pm Peston on Sunday 12:40am Through the Keyhole	5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Simpsons 9:00pm Dispatches Title 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm The Wedding Day 12:05am My Millionaire Dads and Me	6:30pm Neighbours 7:30pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm World Rally Championship 2017 9:00pm Winter Road Rescue 10:00pm The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant 11:00pm Hannibal 1:30am Info Not Available	5:00pm Pl Match Highlights 5:30pm Pl Match Highlights 6:00pm Scottish Cup Football 6:30pm Premier League Gold 6:40pm Premier League Gold 6:50pm Premier League Gold 7:00pm Scottish Cup Football 7:30pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17 8:00pm Football 12:00am Scottish Cup Footbal
TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY	7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm The Moorside 11:00pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Pretty Woman 1:40am Weather for the Week Ahead	7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 9:00pm Further Back in Time for Dinner 10:00pm Andrew Marr, My Brain and Me 11:00pm Mock the Week 11:30pm Newsnight Weather	9:00pm Tales From the Coast with Robson Green 10:00pm Secret Life of Dogs ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm Regional News and Weather 11:40pm The Chase The Investigator: A British Crime Story	6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 12:05am The Simpsons Hollyoaks Super Slimmers: What Really Happened Next 10:00pm 11:00pm The Great British Skinny Dip This is Us1	6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Winter Road Rescue 9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle 10:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh 11:00pm Celebrity Carry on Barging 12:00am Extraordinary People	8:00pm Scottish Football Round Up 8:15pm Football Gold 8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special 11:00pm La Liga World 11:50pm Premier League Gold 12:00am Premier League Review 1:00am Scottish Football Round Up
15 FEBRUARY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 9:00pm Who Do You Think You Are? The Real Marigold Hotel BBC News BBC News 11:30pm Regional News Weather A Question of Sport 12:15am Film 2017	6:15pm 7:00pm 7:30pm Flog It! 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Hairy Bikers Chicken and Egg 9:00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 12:10am Veather	7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Midsomer Murders 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm Regional News and Weather 11:40pm UEFA Champions League Highlights 12:40am It's Not Rocket Science	4:00pm Fifteen to One 5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Toopm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Location, Location 10:00pm No Offence 11:00pm Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny 12:05am Fifteen to One A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Location, Location, Location 10:00pm Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny 12:05am The Mega Brothel	4:15pm Killer Collector 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm A New Life in Oz 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Climbing the Property Ladder 11:00pm Extraordinary People	6:00pm Football's Greatest Teams 6:30pm Football's Greatest Teams 7:00pm Premier League Legends 7:30pm Live Rotterdam 500 Tennis 11:30pm Barclays Premier League World 12:00am Premier League 100 Club



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Hospitals make mistakes as well

MY wife died early last year after being treated with chemo at a Spanish hospital

My wife was very well before the last treatment, she was strong and apart from the breast cancer very healthy. On the day of her treatment I sat with her, she was well. The following day she was gardening, cleaning, cooking and she was well. The next day my wife got ill, was taken to hospital. when I was allowed in the medico said there was no point going to her bed as she was dead.

He said they had done their best to save her but the chemo was too strong for her heart, he asked me if I wished to see her body and that is all he said. I was told I could collect the body at any time and to get an undertaker.

There was no inquest, my wife at her family's request was sent to the UK for burial. I am very concerned as the chemo should not have been so strong, a mistake was made and there should have been an inquest as my wife died very suddenly. Killed, I believe, by the medication.

I know whatever I say will never bring my wife back, but I write this letter to inform others that a hospital that can kill without any comeback is very frightening: the hospital can be very cavalier in their treatment and not worry about the results. In the UK with all its faults if a person dies suddenly there is always an inquest, but here there seems to be no concern.

Stephen (Almeria)

No sympathy

I FEAR the Palma Airport taxi drivers are on the road to nowhere with their protests over the planned new bus routes to tourist resorts.

As a dad who frequently travels from the UK with a family of five, and is fleeced for two taxis as a result, I have little sympathy with the drivers. Not when they trouser the thick end of £100 for two taxis to Magaluf one way. Not when some of them bid skywards of €300.000 for a Calvia taxi plate this summer - a record I'm told.

I applaud the extra choice people will now have as to how to get to their holiday destination. Taxi drivers would be far better served exploring ways of meeting the needs of their everyday punters - rather than robbing them.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMME: Is needed to inform cyclists how to behave on the roads.

Cyclists have to abide by the rules

IT appears that Mojacar wants to promote cyclist groups for winter training. Not a bad idea for the local economy, but there needs to be a training programme for these cyclists and a set of rules published for them on how to behave on the local roads.

The groups do not obey some of the basic rules of the road: give way at roundabouts, overtake on the left, keep to the speed limit, give way at pedestrian crossings.

Last season I saw in Garrucha an elderly gentleman stranded in the middle of a crossing whilst a group of 30+ passed behind and in front of him and only inches awav.

Yes, let them train here, but they should also respect other road users especially whilst on the town's roads. I asked a local cycling tour guide why groups disregarded the rules. His answer was a Gallic shrug.

Stan Black

Top of that wishlist is having taxis and private hire cars that seat more than four persons. Of course, the real fun and games will start when the super consumer-friendly Uber hit Mallorca. I - and many of your readers I suspect - can't wait.

> Richard Chew (Calvia and Yorkshire)

Just jealous

AN article recently stated motorhome users avoid campsite fees by wild camping along coastal areas. The article referred to Aguilas and San Juan.

What the critics fail to comprehend is we motorhomers contribute to the local economy by patronising supermarkets, restaurants, bars, and fuel stations etc., all along the Spanish coast. This also contributes to Spanish taxes!

When we need to empty and refill our services, we pay small fees at the local service stations. The majority of us are considerate by not parking in front of local residences. We dispose of our refuse at the dedicated collection points, clean-up our pet faeces, and generally leave the areas as we find them. We enjoy the freedom that our vehicles allow us.

Campsites are congested, expensive, and do not obey health and safety regulations, to name a few! Perhaps the people that object to our presence are jealous of our way of life, they are certainly NOT local businesses.

Yes there are the Coastal laws that do not allow camping on the playas. However, if we do not erect awnings, or put out tables and chairs, we are not breaking camping regulations. Many towns and villages all over Spain provide free facilities to encourage motorhomes to stay in their area.

I own a motorhome and live locally. My pleasure is exploring different provinces all over Spain. I also spend many weekends in my vehicle, along the local coastal areas with our friends. If you have a valid complaint, I suggest you call the local authorities so they can deal with the culprits, not print biased objections!!

Dave (Turre)

Anti-Mr T

DON'T be fooled. Trump is a long long way from being squeaky clean. I have dug very deeply in to his past and there are so many things in there that lead me to believe he is no better than

He has had dealings with organised crime in the past and more recently many people are still wondering why a rape case against him was so suddenly dropped. Of course Trump denies everything. But as a notorious lady once said several years ago about a certain prominent member of the gov"Well he would wouldn't he?"

Vivienne Pimm

Pro-Mr T

WE should be thankful to those who gave the hacked emails to Wikileaks, otherwise the general public would have had no idea about the extent of the corruption and the dubious donations to the Clintons. The Clinton Foundation even accepted \$25 million from the terrorist funding Saudis.

There was the Whitewater property investigation during which Vince Foster mysteriously died before he could help with enquiries, etc etc. CNN even rigged the debate in Hilary's favour.

No doubt these revelations contributed to her loss, though of course the Russians are blamed! At least with Trump what you see is what you get and he could even avert WW3.

Robert Segal (Palma, Mallorca)

Do we care?

OH how I love reading the Letters page in the EWN every week. RJ Dworakowski lamented like a modern day Mr Chips about incorrect grammar in a speech from Theresa May. Very commendable, but do we care about pronouns after prepositions, whatever they are? No!!

The content is the key and making the point understood surely. No doubt he will be berating me about this little piece. Don't bother sir. Secondary Modern was my final college of knowledge.

Then there's another letter from (Mr Name Withheld) telling us all to stand up and be counted. Embrace it he says. Stand high enough and it will now make a difference. OK Mr Name Withheld. I'll show you mine if you will show me yours!!

Philip (San Fulgencio)

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

alentine's SPECIAL

Love and intimacy

VALENTINE'S DAY might not be Christmas or Easter, or all that big in Spain, but it has something very special that may make February 14 the best day of the year. Valentine's Day is about love, intimacy and sharing them with the person you care about most.

Because Valentine's Day is about spending time with the person you love, or perhaps are simply trying to get with, so many incredible options are on the table. You don't have to see the in-laws, or spend huge amounts of money, or go somewhere you don't want to All you should do is what makes you as a couple happy.

So buy chocolates and flowers, eat, drink, and dance. But Valentine's Day is also your chance to be creative, to set surprises, and let magic happen.

On February 14 more than any other it's the little things that count. Whether that's dressing up, going somewhere posh, taking a stroll down memory lane, or just offering a hug.

And for all you singletons out there, Valentine's is about love whoever you are. So celebrate it with anyone you care about! There's never too much love to go









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Valentine's Day - the origins

THOUGH many may believe today that Valentine's Day was invented by makers of chocolates, greetings cards, jewellers and florists, the origins go back way beyond modern retail.

There are two main theories on how Valentine's Day came into existence.

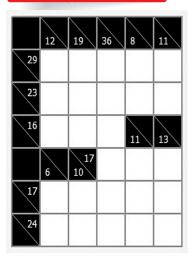
The first revolves around Bishop Valentine. Emperor Claudius II is said to have banned Roman men from marrying during wartime, and the bishop was arrested, jailed and eventually executed on February 14 for performing secret weddings. Legend has it he signed a letter written to his jailer's daughter 'from your Valentine.'

The second believes it to have evolved from a Roman pagan fertility festival, Lupercalia, celebrated on February 15 which involved men stripping naked and spanking young maidens with the skins of previously sacrificed animals in hopes of boosting their fertility.





Kakuro



LA PRIMITIVA

32 39 42

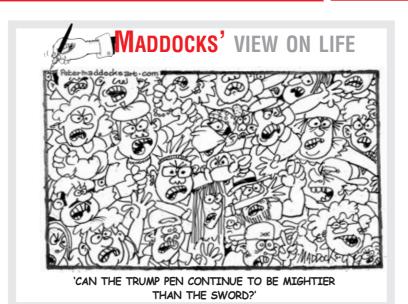
EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

(7) (9) (10) 13 37

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once

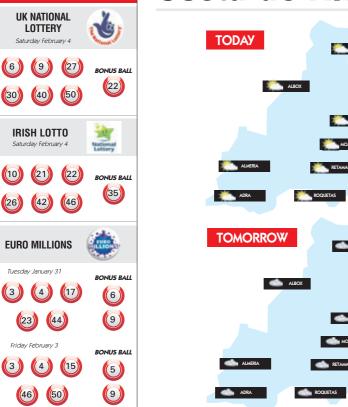
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

		31	15	28	22
	25	5	6	4	3
/3:	7	1	9	6	8
12	3	9	13	8	5
11	9	2	7.	5	2
222	2	8	5	3	4
21	5	6	8	2	



Costa de Almería

weather



TODAY	VELEZ RUBIO
ALE	HUERCAL OVERA
	GARRUCHA
ALMERIA	MOJACAR RETAMAR
ADRA	ROQUETAS
TOMORROW	VELEZ RUSIO
AL	HUERCAL OVERA
	GARRUCHA
ALMERIA	MOJACAR RETAMAR
ADRA	ROQUETAS
SATURDAY	VELEZ RUBIO
ALB	OX HUERCAL OVERA
	GARRUCHA
ALMERIA	MOJACAR MOJACAR
ale.	ROQUETAS
Sun Cl: Clear F: Fog C: Cloudy	Sh: Showers Sn: Snow Th: Thur

Alicante			Bilbao					
TODAY: MAX	15, Mi	v 8 - С	TODAY: MAX	14, Mii	ч 5 - С			
Fri - 15	10	С	Fri - 14	5	С			
Sat - 15	11	Sh	Sat - 13	5	C			
Sun - 17	12	C	Sun - 15	8	C			
Mon - 17	10	C	Mon - 15	8	C			
Tues - 17	10	C	Tues - 15	7	C			
Wed - 16	10	С	Wed - 15	7	CI			
Almeria			Madrid					
TODAY: MAX	17, MI	19 - CL	TODAY: MAX	11, Mi	ч 0 - C			
Fri - 16	9	С	Fri - 10	2	С			
Sat - 16	11	C	Sat - 10	4	Sh			
Sun - 18	11	C	Sun - 14	5	Sh			
Mon - 18	11	C	Mon - 13	5	Sh			
Tues - 18	11	C	Tues - 13	4	C			
Wed - 17	11	С	Wed - 13	5	C			
Barcelona			Malaga	_				
TODAY: MAX	13, Mi	14 - S	TODAY: MAX	17, Mı	v 11 - C			
Fri - 12	8	Sh	Fri - 14	8	Sh			
Sat - 13	9	Sh	Sat - 15		C			
Sun - 14	11	Sh	Sun - 18					
Mon - 14	12	Sh	Mon - 17	10	Sh			
Tues - 12	10	Sh	Tues - 18	9	C			
Wed - 13	9	Sh	Wed - 19	9	С			
Benidorm			Mallorca	Mallorca				
TODAY: MAX	15, Mı	ч 7 - CL	TODAY: MAX	13, Mı	۷ 4 - S			
Fri - 15	10	CI	Fri - 15	8	C			
Sat - 15	11	Sh	Sat - 15		C			
Sun - 18	12	C	Sun - 17	10	C			
Mon - 17	11	Sh	Mon - 17	10	C			
Tues - 17	11	Sh	Tues - 17	9	C			
Wed - 16	10	C	Wed - 16	8	C			
Euro	Weekly I	lews strives	for accuracy, but	cannot b	e held			

responsible for the accuracy of published forecasts

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 a **Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE** LETTER (in this case R) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed



TARGET:

- Average: 9 Good: 12
- Very good: 18• Excellent: 23

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

cede cedi deft dice diet dive edit feed iced teed tide tied vide vied cited edict feted fetid deceit defect device deceive evicted **DEFECTIVE**

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.

١				1					
	6			5		8		9	
ı		3						2	
ı		7	2	6		5			9
ı	9						7		
ı						7	8	1	2
	1					2		5	
			3						
			5		7	6	1		

7	1	3	2	9	8	5	7	4	6
NO	8	5	6	4	3	7	1	9	2
Ĕ.	7	9	4	1	6	2	5	8	3
SOLI	9	2	1	5	7	8	3	6	4
S	5	7	3	6	2	4	8	1	9
EK,	4	6	8	3	9	1	2	7	5
⋛	3	8	9	2	1	6	4	5	7
LAST	6	1	5	7	4	3	9	2	8
2	2	4	7	8	5	9	6	3	1

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Crossword

page

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

Cryptic

- 1 Work is about, employ a partner (6)
- 4 Endures ultimate on Saturday (5)
- 8 College head is impolite and vulgar (5)
- 9 Fuming, angered, confused (7)
- 10 Voter changes role, etc (7)
- 11 Carry On comedian facing Egghead (4)
- 12 Cossack's hidden purse (3)
- 14 You'll get this eye infection in the first year of school
- 15 A lair in an Arabian seaport (4)
- 18 She's an official prosecutor in the States (3)
- 21 Tom's initial request for a job (4) 23 Outflow from newly formed lake takes time (7)
- 25 Telling off could start a beating (7)
 26 Fruit begins another pleasant picnic, let's eat (5)
- 27 Go through the letters for something charming (5) 28 Tom Daley possibly having little time to entertain (6)

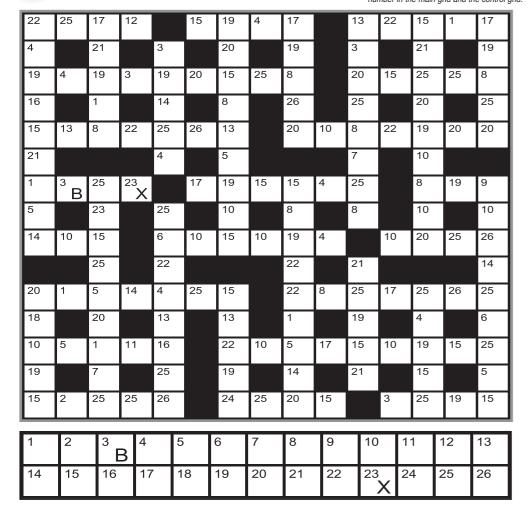
- 1 Arcane religious order embraces returning queen (6)
- 2 Let up on nouveau rich (7) 3 Mixed paste around small plant (8)
- 4 Old stringed instrument from hilly region (4) 5 A letter for Socrates (5)
- 6 Doctor should end nude's rash (6)
- 7 Accepts big furry beasts (5)
- 13 Squid generating a calm air (8) **16** Model, a former girlfriend, has sufficient (7)
- 17 Fastens twigs (6)

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			
									Ш
27					28				

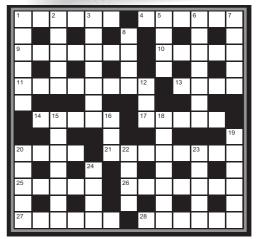
- 19 Side with gal in trouble (5)
- 20 Give in about fast time (6)
- 22 Turbulent times for pound (5)
- 24 A herb that makes many sick (4)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents B and 23 represents X, so fill in B every time the figure 3 appears and X every time the figure 23 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.



Quick



Across

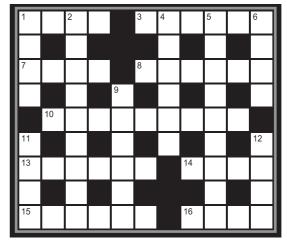
- 1 Culmination (6)
- 4 Detachment used for security (6)
- 9 Regard highly (7)
- 10 Yellow citrus fruit (5)
- 11 Irritating (8)
- 13 Prejudice (4)
- 14 Latin American music (5)
- 17 Worthless material that is to be
- disposed of (5) 20 Make docile (4)
- 21 Showing reason or sound judgment (8)
- 25 Circular stringed instrument (5) 26 Person working in the service of
- another (7) 27 Capable of being farmed
- productively (6) 28 Rely upon (6)

Down

- 1 Cattle pen (6)
- 2 Norwegian playwright (5) 3 Madagascan lemurs (3-4)
- 5 Friendly state (4)
- 6 Leftovers (7)
- 7 Connections (5)
- 8 Astonish (4)
- 12 Acquired (3)
- 15 Colourless gas (7)
- 16 Donkey (3)
- 18 Hold back (7) 19 Tried and proven to be useful or
- correct (6)
- **20** Shin bone (5)
- 22 Posing no difficulty (4)
- 23 Courageous (5)
- 24 Neither warm nor very cold (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Boot (4)
- 3 Spark (from fire. electricity) (6)
- 7 Envolver (con papel)
- 8 Places (6) 10 Teléfono (9) 13 To jump (leap) (6)
- 14 Sabio (acción. decisión) (4)
- **15** Raffle (draw) (6) 16 Remover (sopa) (4)

Down

- 1 Tazón (cuenco) (4) 2 Viaiero (9) 4 Altura (de edificio,
- 12 Ciervo (4)
- techo, persona) (6) 5 Científico (9) 6 También (4)
- **9** Hembra (6) **11** Those (4)

CRYPTIC

1 Ailed, 4 Hamper, 9 Gadwall, 10 Panic, 11 Reed, 12 Spanner,

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

- 13 Cot. 14 Ammo. 16 Stem.
- 18 Sue, 20 Illicit, 21 Urge, 24 Spire, 25 Leisure, 26 Diesel,
- 27 Sheet.
- 1 Angers, 2 Lodge, 3 Drab,
- 5 Appraise, 6 Penance, 7 Record, 8 Blast, 13 Concrete, 15 Malaise,
- 17 Missed, 18 Still, 19 Resent, 22 Rouse, 23 Bias.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Plenty, 4 Cover, 8 Recur,
- 9 Regular, 10 Stories, 11 Pail,
- 12 Ski, 14 Peru, 15 Nick, 18 Sob,
- **21** Afar, **23** Outrage, **25** Impress, **26** Alike, **27** Guess, **28** Permit.

- 1 Peruse, 2 Enclose, 3 Terminus,
- 4 Cage, 5 Villa, 6 Rarely, 7 Cross,
- 13 Initiate, 16 Cranium,
- 17 Daring, 19 Boost, 20 Detect,
- 22 Ample, 24 Fees.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

1 Lifeboat, 7 Dress, 8 Piece, 9 Lombrices, 11 Viaje, 12 Italy, 14 Painless.

Down:

- 1 Lid, 2 Fregonas, 3 Bisabuela,
- 4 Amphibian, 5 Deer, 6 Delegate, 10 Uvas, 13 Yes.

CODE BREAKER $^{"}$ $^{"}$ $^{"}$ $^{"}$ $^{"}$

13	26
12	²⁵ F
11 E	$^{24}_{\text{V}}$
10 W	23 H
₆	²² U
° D	21 B
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s S	18 N
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2 M	15 J
Z	⁴ O



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Hip pain



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

THIS week we've asked the doctor about hip pain, a common problem for many especially in the colder months.

-What are the most common causes of hip pain?

There are many things which can cause hip pain. The most common is osteoarthritis of the hip, when the components of the joints like bones and tendons degenerate over time. Other common causes are infections or injuries.

-Are there any specific exercises to help prevent or improve the pain?

There are different exercise routines which can help to control the pain and stop it from progressing. Yoga and pilates exercises and certain exercises in the swimming pool, especially low impact ones, can help a

-Many elderly people seem to suffer from hip pain. Is it something which we will all suffer in the end, in other words, is there no way to avoid it?

Over time deterioration

of the hips is inevitable and osteoarthritis is bound to appear. This appearance can, however, be delayed or the severity reduced with certain rehabilitation exercises and by avoiding being overweight and following a balanced diet.

-How can hip pain be cured, is there any medication?

Pain-killers, anti-inflammatory medication and muscle relaxers can be used to help keep the pain under control. Physiotherapy is also vital to help control the symptoms.

-Will surgery be necessary in the end?

Sometimes and with the pass of time the damage produced is so severe and causes so many symptoms, especially pain and mobility limitations, that surgical intervention is required. This often consists of implanting a prosthesis.

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

More cancer cases

THE number of cancer cases in Spain has increased more than expected.

The latest figures show 247.771 new cases were recorded in 2015, with 148.827 of these in men.

Released to mark World Cancer Day, the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM) said the increase can be attributed to the aging population with more people living longer. Smoking, alcohol, obesity and physical inactivity were also leading to a more unhealthy nation and an increased risk of cancer.

A rise in the cases of viral infections such as Hepatitis C and Papillomavirus, can also be factors in increasing cancer

The most diagnosed types of cancer in 2015, including both sexes, were colorectal (41,441 cases), prostate (33,370), lung (28,347), breast (27,747) and bladder (21.093).

Miguel Martin, president of

the SEOM, said: "The current situation in Spain is such that one in two men and one in three women will have cancer of some kind throughout their life," although he insisted this does not mean they will die from the disease.

Survival figures for cancer patients (an average of 53 per cent five years after diagnosis) have also improved, although thanks to great medical improvements in treating some tumours, the survival rates are even higher, such as in breast cancer.

The specialist said one third of cancers could be prevented: "Some people think that cancer is random and it is inevitable, but this is not true as there are risk factors that when addressed we can reduce the chance of cancer." Martin added the key is healthy lifestyle habits, such as exercising regularly, minimising alcohol intake, not smoking and avoiding obesi-

Nursing crisis hits the UK

THE NHS in the UK is reporting a staff shortage with some 24,000 nursing vacancies currently available across the country.

It comes as the number of European nurses moving to the UK to work has fallen by more than 90 per cent since the Brexit vote in June last

Posts will be filled with 2,000 apprentice nurses.

The Royal College of Nursing said it relied on EU nurses and was calling for guarantees that EU nationals within the NHS can remain working in Britain after Brexit.

At the end of last year, plans were also announced by the government that posts will be filled with some 2.000 apprentice nurses as part of a

new nursing scheme that will see young people combine on the job training with studying for a degree.



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Just about anything and everything could be brought in to go under the hammer and it often is! There is everything from stylish individual items of furniture to complete suites, beds, white goods, antiques and collectables, cars, motorbikes, caravans, boats... essentially anything and everything!

Held in spacious premises, the auctions are great fun with auctioneer Steve keeping the pace moving swiftly through the 500 plus lots per auction.

Everyone is welcome to view the lots during the week of the auction from 9.30am-1.30pm Monday and Tuesday, or all day on the Wednes-



day until the sale begins at 5pm sharp. Katrina and Becky are on hand to answer any questions and

you may purchase a catalogue to study at your leisure, or register for a paddle or place a proxy bid if you

The sellers' commission is a very reasonable 12.5 per cent of the item's final sale price, 21 per cent IVA only applies to the commission and not to the full sale amount.

So if you have unwanted items that you'd like to turn into cash, call Katrina or Becky, or pop into the office in Antas. Lots are accepted Monday to Friday from 9.30am-1pm except on the day of the auction. Items can be collected from most areas, whether single pieces or house clearances.

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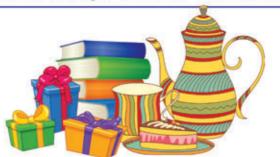
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Another Big Mac over

MACS, the Mojacar Area Cancer Support group, held its Big Mac event on Sunday (February 5) for the third year running

The event opened its doors at Puerto Marina hotel from noon to 8pm with a bursting programme of music, dancing, stalls, food, children's games and much much more and proved once again to be very popular with supporters.

At the time of going to press volunteers were still totting up the proceeds and had yet to announce the total raised.

Elaine Brown, MACS founder, has been helping people with cancer for almost 10 years now and through her hard work and that of all the volunteers have managed to open shops in Mojacar, Turre, Huercal-Overa and Albox, buy a van and help people diagnosed with cancer in many ways, from emotional support to equipment and transport.

Romantic events in the city

By Eleanor Hawkins

LEGEND has it that Saint Valentine is buried in Almeria Cathedral. With this in mind, the Historical Centre association has prepared five days of events to encourage people to visit, and spend, in the area.

The association got in touch with local business and restaurant associations, the city council, the University of Almeria and Almeria Arts School to plan activities and events to attract visitors and locals to celebrate romance in historical surroundings.

The Bring Your Heart to St Valentine schedule kicks off tomorrow. Friday 10, at 1pm with a Valentine's performance on Plaza Campoamor by pupils and teachers from the arts school. Then at 8pm there will be an evening tour of the historical centre, which sets off from Plaza Flores and will last about 40 minutes. Everyone who takes part will be treated to a 'skewer of kisses.'

There will be a medieval market running on Plaza Vieja on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 where visitors will be



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ALMERIA CATHEDRAL: Legend has it that Saint Valentine is buried here.

able to hunt for the perfect Valentine's gifts and on Saturday evening, from 8pm onwards, the women's 'tuna' musical group from the University of Almeria will be performing on Plaza Campoamor, Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza Vieja, Calle Jovellanos, Calle de Las Tiendas and finally Plaza Flores.

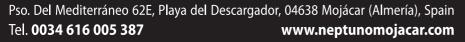
Sunday 12 sees a Gastro-Art event dedicated to St Valentine in the area around Almeria central marketplace and at 11am a guided tour of the historical centre will set off from the tourist office on Plaza Vieja.

On Monday 13 Los Vinilos will be performing on Plaza de la Catedral at 8pm and at 9pm visitors will be given red balloons and invited to release them in honour of St Valentine, again on Plaza de la Catedral.

Finally, on Tuesday 14 the University of Almeria's Poliphonic Choir will be performing a Valentine's Day



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Raising funds for Leo

By Eleanor Hawkins

VARIOUS events are being held in the area over the next few weeks to help raise funds to help Leo the Lion, the four-year-old local boy undergoing treatment for brain tumours.

Table top sales or 'rastrillos' are being held in Vera on Sundays this month. This Sunday, February 12, there will be a sale running from 10.30am to 4.30pm at Victors Café Bar. Table rental, or space to set up your own table, costs €8.50 and are for private, second hand sales only (no businesses). Next Sunday, February 19, there will be a similar sale at Chiringuito Vera Natura.

On Saturday 18, a musical gala event has been planned at the Plaza del Ayuntamiento in Garrucha, also in aid of Leo. Todossomos Leo (we're all Leo) will begin at 11am and includes performances by multiple dance schools, musicians and DJs. Tickets are available from Cafeteria Manhattan, Almoriac travel agents, Vespublicidad, JugueteriaBisu, La cantina de Flor and Ultima Fusion dance school in Garrucha, Cafeteria La Abadia in Vera, Victor's Bar in Las Buganvillas, Estetica Toñi in Mojacar Pueblo, Hotel Oasis Tropical and Badgers restaurant in



Mojacar Playa, Papeleria Lopez in Turre and Pub D'ara in Los Gallardos.

Club Deportivo Puerto Rey in Vera will be hosting 'A Day for Leo' on Sunday February 26 with activities for the whole family including go-karts, bouncy castles, trampolines, group activities, face painting, Zumba, live music and much more.

The event kicks off at noon and tickets are €8, which will go to the fund for Leo Bermejo.



Gearing up for carnival

MOJACAR is gearing up for Carnival and has announced the schedule of main events surrounding the traditional celebrations.

The first will be a children's parade by pupils from Bartolome Flores school, who will be marching from the school to Plaza del Fronton at 10am on Thursday February 23.

The next day, Friday 24, there will be a children's party with mobile disco, fun character drawing, entertainment and competitions from 6-10pm at the Centro de Usos Multiples. This will be followed at 11pm by a free Chirigota show.

On Saturday 25 Serenade will perform at 10pm, again at the Centro de Usos Multiples, before the Comparsa musical groups compete on stage from 10.30pm onwards.

The grand carnival procession will set off from Rio Aguas roundabout at 5pm on Sunday 26.

Good Food, Good Wine and Good Friends

WITH **GARRY** WAITE



HANKS to the client that contacted me a couple of weeks ago.

A year or so ago he came to Spain to buy a restaurant/pub. He succeeded in buying a relatively well-established premises and has run it (under management) with some success, but is not happy with the way things are now going. Having been open since the beginning of last year he has reached stagnation and wanted my help to revitalise the operation if possible.

We sat down to discuss where he felt that things were going wrong. Most clients come back with the same answer, "We need more clients!" Often that is not the main problem. Costs are normally the base problems of most businesses. Overstaffing, wrong type of staff, no control over food and beverage costs/sales.

The problem with opening a business without knowledge can be dangerous. Even if you have some experience in the industry in your home country, you soon find out it is different in a foreign country.

After all you need an Indian scout in Indian country!!

We started with his figures. I asked him if he was making money and he said yes. But a closer look showed me that this was not the case.

Without doing a full stock take I did a guestimate based on purchases and sales and a rough idea of stock-in-hand. It showed that sale of food had cost 45 per cent. Ideally it should be around 35 per cent or lower. Wine sales were good, but again with his prices he should have been making 75-80 per cent. The bar was much the same.

Analysing these figures would help to understand where the losses were.



CULINARY DIRECTION: The choice of menu and chef is inseparable.

Kitchen management was the first area to look at. The Chef was not passionate about what he was doing. Therefore he had no care for his product. His costings were wrong and his wastage too high. Instead of utilising his ingredients he would throw away items that could make money in the right hands. One of the problems was that the owner, while not having any kitchen experience, enforced a

TASTING NOTES: A big brooding boisterous red, the kind that makes steaks melt. The fruit is present but sits beneath the oak which imparts rich chocolate-coffee-toasty primary notes. With a name like Chêne (French for oak) one wouldn't expect any-

Viticulture was believed to

FOR MY WINE spot this week,

I'm travelling further than the

Ribera and Rioja wine producing

areas. How many of you were

aware that India produces

have been introduced to India by Persian traders some time in the fourth millennium BC. Historians believe that these early plantings were used mostly for a style of grape juice rather than the production of an alcoholic beverage. Some religious text mentions at least one alcoholic drink that may have been wine related - Sura - which seems to have been a type of rice wine that was fermented with honey. The first known mention of grape-based wines was in the late fourth century BC.

The modern wine market in India is small; annual per capita consumption of wine in the country is a mere nine millilitres, approximately 1/8000th that of France. Winemaking has existed throughout most of India's history but was particularly encour-

aged during the time of the Portuguese and British colonisation of the subcontinent. The end of the 19th century saw the phylloxera louse take its toll on the Indian wine industry followed by religious and public opinion moving towards the prohibition of alcohol. Following the country's independence from the British Empire, the Constitution of India declared one of the government's aims was the total prohibition of alcohol.

Several states went dry and the government encouraged vineyards to convert to table grape and raisin production. In the 1980s and 1990s, a revival in the Indian wine industry took

place as international influences and the growing middle class increased, so increasing demand for the beverage. By the turn of the 21st century, demand was in-

more to offer and had ex-

profitability.

plained to his boss that the food he

was being made to serve had little

artistic content, very high costs

and little room to increase on

I had decided that the problems

were not all down to bad kitchen

management - although this cer-

tainly needs looking at - but more

discussion on how to improve the

quality and performance of this

operation and I will keep you in-

formed on our progress every

• WHILE I can see what Lon-

don's Mayor, Sadiq Khan, is try-

ing to do by imposing a 'bed tax'

on the Capital's hotels, I tend to

agree with Ufi Ibrahim, the Chief

creasing at a rate of 20-30 per

We are at this moment in deep

a lack of culinary direction.

week in this column.

cent a year. The city of Nashik in the state of Maharashtra geographically in the middle of the country, is called the 'Wine Capital of India.'

The wine producing areas tend to be in the middle to the south of the continent although the Punjab and Kashmir in the north, are quite prolific producers. India produces Sparkling wines, Whites and of course Reds. While there are locally grown

grapes, the majority of the reds are Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Shiraz. There is a wine maker who makes white wines from red grapes, one of only three producers in the world who do this.

Would Ghandi have approved?

Grover-Zampa Chêne.

The picture is of one of India's top red wines. Most of them need decanting as they can pack a punch.



Executive of the British Hospitality Association, that a bed tax in London would be an "absolute folly" and said that it would add additional costs for tourists, as well as harm already hard-pressed hospitality and tourism businesses, making it even harder for them to compete with overseas operators. Already one of the most expensive cities in the world, London could lose even more of its competitive-

• ON THE OTHER SIDE of the coin, there is a restaurant in Madrid that really lives up to its' name. The Robin Hood. Its mission is simple - to charge the rich and feed the poor. Paying customers at breakfast and lunch foot the bill for the restaurant to serve dinner to homeless people, free of charge! The restaurant opened in early December, and is run by an 80-year-old Catholic priest, Ángel García Rodriguez, whom everyone knows simply as 'Padre Ángel.'

Outside, there's a sign listing the house rules: Patrons are allowed to sing as they please, as long as it doesn't disturb other customers. They can use the free wi-fi and borrow a cell phone if they need to make a call. They're free to bring their own food and order only drinks, if they prefer.

Or they can take over the kitchen for a birthday party or other special celebration.

You see there are still a few good people in this world!!

• ON THAT NOTE 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.



Trump's state visits will fit in nicely

Nora Johnson Breaking Views

DONALD TRUMP has provoked massive hysteria recently, particularly concerning his proposed state visit. However, as Brexit Britain prepares to launch itself back into the big wide world of global commerce, isn't it time to take a more pragmatic view - just as we did with the state visits of the leaders of China and Saudi Arabia?

And as for Her Majesty who has been asked over the decades to host tyrants, dictators and despots such as Presidents Mobuto (Zaire) and Ceausescu (Romania), she'll take a brash billionaire from New York effortlessly in her stride.

However, one question remains for the future: what happens when Trump's burnt through all his political capital and his frustration

about his isolation starts to show? Will he accept the limitations of his position, or go down a slippery, more authoritarian slope?

And if he does, should the UK condone it by pretending nothing's

The answer to that surely lies in his campaign. When the Republican Party 'ditched' him, he just turned on them and kept going, seemingly incapable of backing

On this side of the pond, someone else who seems unlikely to back down is the former Portuguese police chief, Goncalo Amaral, who falsely accused Kate and Gerry McCann of covering up their daughter's death.

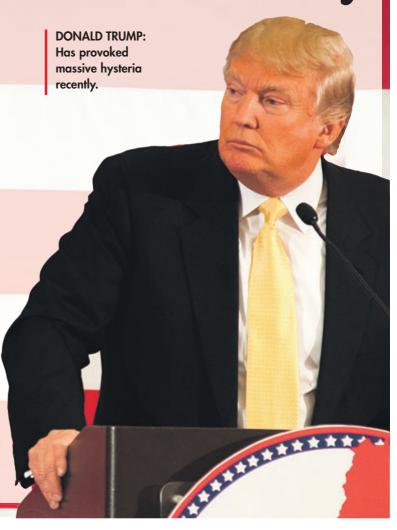
With Portugal's Supreme Court throwing out their libel case against him, Amaral could now sue them for extensive damages

Nonetheless, it seems we are no nearer to discovering the truth about Madeleine. Just as in my latest crime thriller, No Way Back, (as you know, all profits to Costa

del Sol Cudeca cancer charity), a Kate McCann-like figure is so obsessed with closure and peace of mind in her unending search for the truth about her own missing daughter she'd maybe contemplate blackmail, even murder. Whatever the outcome. Kate McCann surely needs closure, too. Whether she finds it only time will tell. Who knows what the future holds..

And, finally, to return to Trumpland on foretelling the future, one former news anchor who appeared on Sky News during US election night coverage declared: "I couldn't foresee this result." Her name? Krystal Ball.

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



Neater Heater stops cold winters spoiling your dream

NINE years ago two British expats, Richard and Tony, were looking for affordable heating when they stumbled, accidentally, on a brand of Norwegian convector heater that couldn't be bought in Spain.

Not only were these wall-mounted heaters discreet and stylish, but they were also packed with 'Es': efficient, effective and economical.

Recognising a huge gap in the market that these attractive affordable heaters would fill. Richard and Tony established Neater Heater which has been heating the Casas and Apartments of shivering expats ever since then

"We all come out to Spain for the good weather and lifestyle," says Tony "yet everyone is caught out by the cold winter nights in their spectacularly non-insulated Spanish homes. We all come from the UK where we had radiators and fires, and that is

what most British expats still

AND STYLISH: The heaters

are more affordable.

A decent oil or gas central heating system is going to set you back thousands of euros just to install it, so most people opt for unhealthy gas estufas,

or electric heaters. The problem with most electric heaters, is that the cheap ones are always expensive to run, and ugly, whereas any decent ones always cost a fortune to install.

Neater Heater can have

m o s f homes up and running with affordable, stylish, economic Neater Heaters, for less than €1,000. The cost obviously depends on the size of hose and the size of heaters. Or they can be bought individually according to your requirements.

Starting out in their home region of the Costa Blanca Richard and Tony searched for, and found, businesses that were happy to become agents

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for Neater Heater.

We hope to cater for all types of Customer." explains Richard "Some people are comfortable with computers, and are quite happy to buy from our online shop, with free delivery. But many want to shop in the traditional way, look at the heaters and talk to someone about their require-

These customers can go to one of our numerous outlets from Javea, Moraira, Calpe, all the way down through Benidorm, to several around Torrevieja, Murcia, Antas and

now, we are happy to say, our latest outlets in the Costa Del Sol, and in Portugal.

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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

ALBERTO GARZON is the leader of what remains of Spain's defunct Communist party, Izquierda Unida.

He protested recently at "intolerable" criticism of IU from some sectors of Podemos. There is a patent lack of respect for IU and the party is constantly belittled. Garzon said.

He complained with good reason, as there is little love lost between either side.

The two parties ran on the same ticket as Unidos Podemos in the June 2016 general election - an election that Podemos practically engineered.

Podemos secretary general Pablo Iglesias and Garzon had assumed that combining their votes would make Podemos Unidos the second-most voted party.

They were over-optimistic and were edged into third place with recriminations on both sides, a classic case of one plus one making something disappointingly less than two.

Second attempt

PEDRO SANCHEZ, ex-PSOE secretary general, will compete in the May primaries.

He announced this in Dos Hermanas in Sevilla, a double provocation.

He was on the home ground of his principal rival, Andalucia's regional president Susana Diaz. He was also cosying up to the sizeable faction of party members in the area still unhappy that Mariano Rajoy was allowed to

"I've demonstrated that I don't hide in difficult moments and this is the moment to commit," said Sanchez who disappeared from sight after resigning as secretary general and vacating his parliamentary seat.

He called Sevilla "the heart of Andaluz and Spanish socialism" but although Sanchez's brand of socialism might suit some parts of Andalucia, an ersatz Podemos is the last thing most PSOE voters want.

Centrepiece

ALBERT RIVERA was comfortably re-elected as president of Ciudadanos after the party's last assembly. All he needs now are

voters. It is curious and unfair that a truly centre party has comparatively little support when elections come round.

Rivera's pragmatism and flexibility are lost on the very people they should attract.

After all, it is
the voters in the
central middle
ground with no particular political orientation who decide
elections, not paid-up
members of the Left
or Right.

All sliced up

PABLO IGLESIAS and Podemos co-founder Iñigo Errejon continue to spar and disagree on party structure and organisation. The party supremo grumbles that Errejon wants to share out Podemos "like a cake" and there's the rub. Iglesias wants all the cake and he wants to eat it, too.



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Encouraging art

By Eleanor Hawkins

MOJACAR Council and the Valparaiso Foundation have welcomed four new artists who have come to spend two weeks in Mojacar with grants from the two institutions.

Artists Alberto Clerencia and Jesus Moreno, American photographer Tucker Hollingsworth and American poet and writer Clare Best are the latest on a list of 40 people who have visited Mojacar since the council and the foundation launched their grant scheme in May 2016.

By the end of this year, more than 70 artists from all over the world will have been to visit in the cultural exchange.

To display the work of these and other artists, the council has set up two exhibition rooms, one at La Fuente and another at Mojacar Castle, which host more than 20 exhibitions each year.

With its bohemian spirit, Mojacar continues to serve as a muse for local and international artists who paint, photograph and write about its streets and hidden delights.

The Valparaiso Foundation was founded by Beatrice and Paul Becket, who moved to Mojacar in the 60s. The private institution is dedicated to encouraging artistic creation and investigation in the field of fine arts, lit-

MOJACAR is currently a dream come true for bikers as BMW brought more than 300 two-wheeled delights to town for its 2017 motorbike presentation.

For the seventh year running, German event organisers Bike Promotions chose Mojacar for the European presentation of BMW's two-wheeled vehicles.

Between January and March, specialist journalists, motor personalities and mo-

A biker's dream

torbike fans spend four days at the Servigroup Marina Playa Hotel trying out the different types of motorbike, which include road bikes, racers and cross country vehicles among others.

Of particular note this year is a new electric scooter BMW has presented which can travel up to 200 kilometres between charges.

Mojacar's great weather and the quiet roads in the area make the town the perfect place for these presentations, the organisers believe.

Not only that but the bikers always receive a warm welcome, especially from the local council which can expect to feature on the front pages of specialist publications in the near future.

Good news for villages

By Eleanor Hawkins

COUNCILS in the Almanzora Valley are celebrating a provincial agreement to provide free firefighting services to municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.

Almeria Provincial Council announced that the agreement had been reached at a plenary session and the initiative will provide villages with ways to access the services at no cost to municipal coffers.

Provincial deputy Javier Aureliano Garcia explained that Almeria will be the first Andalucian province to offer free firefighting services to small municipalities and said it was proposed by the president of the provincial council.

To guarantee sufficient staff to cover demand across the Levante, Huercal-Overa, Los Velez and Almanzora areas, the deputy reported, the Levante firefighters' consortium will be taking on an extra 26 firefighters in the near future.

The news has served to put minds at rest following months of worry after Albox Council decided to discontinue management of the local fire brigade and pass the responsibility back to the provincial council.







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Redundant workers still waiting

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE 34 workers who returned from their Christmas holidays to find themselves locked out of their workplace. a marble factory in Macael, will have to wait until at least March 10 to start receiving benefits.

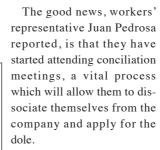
All but five, who have been taken on at the nearby Cosentino factory, continue turning up at the gates every morning as they are officially still employed by Hark Marmoles, even though some have not been paid for more than six months and it costs them money to get there.

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"We'll have to go on the dole and it will take at least two years for the FOGASA compensation fund to pay us what we should have received for redundancy, €18,000 at most. It's not fair, after 20

years working for the German company they swan off and we have to wait for the State to pay us," the representative complained.

Some of the workers have not been paid for six months.

Hark Marmoles was launched at Macael industrial estate more than 25 years

ago. Not long afterwards it was bought by a German company which ran it successfully for many years. Everything went wrong, the workers claim, when it was sold to administrator Jose Antonio Canovas on June 16,

Although early in January Canovas stated that the factory had simply closed for a few extra days after Christmas for an inventory and would soon reopen, it never





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Onwards and upwards

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE Tijola Banco de Libros (book bank) charity has grown so much, those in charge have had to officially register it as an association.

The brainchild of Eugenio Garcia Lopez, the charity began as a small enterprise to collect old books and send them on to children in need, mainly in Honduras via Acoes NGO.

Now, due to the increasing frequency of its activities and the need to continue growing to help more children access books and educational material, the charity has officialised its status.

Garcia Lopez has taken the post of president and now has a board of directors to assist him in his charitable work, which is seeing more and more support as the years go by. This

Christmas, for example, Banco de Libros managed to collect €1,300 in donations from collecting tins in local shops and ticket sales for a concert by a local musical group.



The charity began as a small enterprise to collect old books and send them to children in need.

Local cyclists Jose Ramon Marin and Francis Gonzalez are also preparing to repeat a charity cycle challenge they did last year to raise funds for the Tijola book bank. This year, the pair intend to cycle from Tijola to Zarautz in less than 75 hours at the end of June and are already seeking sponsors.

Not guilty

THREE former councillors of Arboleas have been found not guilty of corrupt practice in a case regarding an illegal building licence.

The judge at Almeria's number two criminal court decided there was no evidence that Antonio Gallegos, Angel Garcia and Gines Garcia were aware when they approved a licence to build an extension in 2008 that the home was illegal.

The home owner, rumoured to be Gallegos' partner's sister although the court was unable to find solid evidence of this, was also found not guilty as the judge believed that she bought the property, on land where building was not permitted, in good faith.





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Good news for drivers

By Eleanor Hawkins

CAR and lorry owners in Albox have had some good news as they will be saving on their road tax this year, the council has announced.

Altogether, under the 2017 budgets approved at the last council plenary session, local vehicle owners will be paying €200,000 less in taxes than last year. Treasury councillor Tito Carrillo explained that car tax will be 12 per cent lower than in 2016, while lorry tax has dropped 22 per

The total budget for the year is €8,430,000 and in-



ROAD TAX: Vehicle owners will be paying less.

cludes amounts for a number of improvement projects on local streets and municipal buildings.

Carrillo said: "the budget is

realistic and will meet the realities of Albox, allowing it to continue growing and face the most important needs of local citizens."

Smoother surfaces

THE provincial council's Special Paving Scheme has seen €120,000 spent on resurfacing the AL-6402 road in Seron and the AL-9103 in Los Velez.

Both roads get quite busy in the autumn and winter as they lead to rural and leisure areas, and it is important to keep them well-maintained as they are often subjected to low temperatures, snow, ice and rain, the council said.

Meet the author

MEMBERS of the Young Readers' Club in Purchena have been presented with 20 copies of Hojas Perdidas by the Andalucian Youth Institute.

Once they have read the novel, a mystery for teenagers, the youngsters will be invited to meet the author, Emilio Sanchez de Amo, a teacher from Almeria.

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Property heaven for investors

By Matthew Elliott

FOR the seventh year in a row, Hong Kong has been declared the least affordable city in the world when it comes to buying a property. An apartment in the skyscraper city costs more than 18 times the annual income of an average household.

That shocking statistic has actually improved since 2015 when a flat would cost 19 times a salary, but the relationship between income and property prices remains the worst in the world.

The findings were published after an extensive survey of over 400 cities by Demographia. They followed World Bank data and terminology. The economic organisation considers a place where property prices are over 5.1 times the average salary to be 'severely unaffordable.'

Hong Kong has some of the most expensive apartments to be found in Asia, given its prime location near China, but free from the strict regulations of the People's Republic. There is vast wealth but also millions of people who pay more than 50 per cent of their income to live in tiny toilet sized capsules on a rooftop paying over €400 per month.

Hong Kong is way ahead of the competition



in the disparity games, Sydney is a distant but nonetheless concerning second. The Australian

city has prices 12 times the average annual income, just ahead of Vancouver where the ratio is 11.8. Hell for inhabitants, but heaven for in-

By Matthew Elliott

CASH buyers are still a major force in Spain. In fact in the third quarter of the year they formed quite a substantial majority. Buying with cash over mortgages became the dominant mode of doing business in Spain after the recession.

Interestingly the trend has continued despite the property market be-

Property cash and golden visa

ing well and truly back on its feet. That is primarily due to the dominance of foreign buyers, who may not be in the majority, but are the country's most powerful property contingent in the residential market. Sellers on coastal areas will be

pleased to hear that foreign investors with cash money are expected to show even more interest in Spain this year. In 2016 they accounted for around a fifth of all buyers in the country, but especially in the Costas and Balearic Islands.

This year the trend will become even more pronounced as the increasing number of buyers from outwith the EU looks set to be the story of the year. Spain's Golden Visa scheme is attracting wealthy Russian, Arab and Asian investors

looking for a bright property prospect coupled with an entry to

Coastal prices can be expected to rise to accommodate this new crop of elite investors. Good news for all property owners in coastal Spain.

Home in the sun

BRITISH-Spanish television show 'Sun, Sea and Selling Houses' will soon be coming to Channel Four. There will be 20 episodes following the fortunes of British families who have moved to Spain and become involved in the real estate business.

Filming finished in September 2016 in Almeria and Alicante and the finished product will be shown on daytime TV on Channel Four. The show focuses not only on the everyday adventures of the real estate business in Spain but also on the fami-

lies themselves, their ups and downs and personal journeys.

Following such a tumultous year in the UK the show will surely be watched by millions of curious eyes. Spanish property portals have already clocked up record numbers of inquiries into property from British buyers. Many are thought to be jumping at the chance to secure a home in the sun and want to strike while the iron is

More television shows will certainly help the



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An ornamental tree with fruit

By Graeme Tyrrell

IF you want an attractive ornamental tree that also provides fruit, you may consider growing a loquat tree. Loquats are a handsome tree with well- structured branching easily maintained with minimal pruning. The large thick leathery feather shaped glossy leaves are attractive all year round. They flower in autumn under the right conditions and the fruit forms over winter.

I have several different varieties growing for the fresh loquat fruit that ripens in spring. Spring is a time when few other fresh fruits are available off the tree. Different varieties ripen a little earlier and later allowing the harvest season to be extended. They are hardy when established, needing minimal watering in summer and provide a heavenly scent throughout the garden in au-

They are not usually a large tree, tending to be three to five metres high at maturity with an equal spread but they can grow to 10 metres in good soil conditions. They grow well in natural soils with some compost added and mixed into the surface soil at planting time.

In colder climates the tree is grown as an ornamental species. It will not flower without hot



fruit. The small white flowers are heavily per-

They flower prolifically in autumn, displayed in bunches in a grape like fashion. This gave rise to their botanical name Eriobotrya which refers in Greek to the woolly grape cluster appearance of the flower panicles forming in groups.

The yellow to orange coloured fruit individually resemble an apricot. They grow in bunches however that usually ripen progressively rather than all at one time. Different varieties have varying characteristics in colour, size and taste, but in general they have a smooth skin with delicious flesh, sometimes frustratingly thin, surrounded by a very large seed or multiple seeds in

There is an art to eating them. The easiest way I have found is to pull or cut off the stem and squeeze the other end so the inner fruit pops out without the skin. It takes practice and juicy varieties can be messy for the beginner but handy to learn if you have a big harvest.

The taste of the fruit is like a scented tropical flavour. There are various recipes for using the fruit that have been developed in China. India and Japan where it has been popular for centuries. The fruit can be used in pie recipes, as jam or jelly, for sweet sauces, chutneys, and even to make fruity wine and liqueurs.

The leaves are also used in herbal medicine for various health benefits taken as a tea and much research has been done on the leaves' healing properties.

Trees are readily available in Spain and are known as nisperos. They are a well-accepted exotic fruit popular in the Mediterranean region and they grace many country homes and urban landscapes in Spain.

and the fruit fails if the frost bites them, but the tree is hardy. In the warmer Mediterranean climate they will flower and produce delicious

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- Hang a basket on the side of the vanity unit to store your hairdryer, tongs, etc in a convenient, easy to reach place.
- For super-sparkly, streakfree windows, add a few drops of dishwasher rinse aid to the water when you wash them.
- To dust venetian blinds. put a sock over your hand, dampen and run over each slat. To clean, simply put the sock in the washing machine.
- Save elbow grease by using a baby or facial wipe to wipe down shower doors.

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Dogs are moving back to Denmark

AFTER spending much of their lives near Adra in Spain, Scooby, Thomas and Jason are moving with their homeowners to spend more time in Denmark on the Western coast. The three pure white German Shepherds - Scooby aged eight years, Thomas aged four years, Jason aged three years - are some of the domestic pets of a Danish couple who live partly in

Last year the dogs met Bragi, one of our experienced housesitters and after spending two months with him caring for them at the Spanish villa they became very fond of him. This year when owner Maggie decided to move them to Denmark as their more permanent home she wanted them to be cared for by an experienced sitter.

She was happy that Bragi one of the HouseSit-Match housesitters was available to care for the dogs while she travelled abroad. Having a familiar housesitter at home with them, meant that she could relax in the knowledge they were with an experienced petsitter who knows them well. Bragi loves the dogs, and tells me they are real characters each one -"They're great fun to care for!" he said.

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PERSONALLY I believe all dogs can bite, but they do not really want to! Here are 10 top tips to prevent a dog biting you, or anyone else for that matter!

1. Read the dog's body signals - licking, yawning, shaking as if wet. A dog will do these things if they begin to get a bit unsettled. Give your dog the chance to get away, settle down and have a quiet moment.

2. Do not expect a growl. Many dogs decide growling is a waste of time. Why? Because when they growl, they get punished. Instead, they don't bother to growl and just bite anyway.

3. Biting is a sign of patience pushed too far. Some dogs have lower tolerance than others, of course, but unless a dog has learned to bite they would rather get away from a situa-

4. Teach your children well! Use the free Kennel Club Safe and Sound game, or buy the Blue Dog DVD. Get Kendal Shepherd's book The Canine Commandments, a book to help children understand and be understood by dogs. Children cannot read warning signals until they are older! Do not leave them unsupervised together.

5. If a dog has bitten once, they are likely to do it again. This doesn't mean you should panic and rush for euthanasia or



rehoming. Be aware of the situation that caused the bite and get professional help

6. Hugging and kissing can be threatening to a dog. Obvious? Not to many. Even if your dog is used to loving attention they may not see it that way.

7. Always read the signs. Dogs can have bad days too! How can we tell if a dog is in pain, has a bad tummy, or is really tired or achy? Usually dogs will not show the signs until the

pain is extreme. Be ready to help your dog by taking them to the vet if you see signs.

8. He only nipped. A snap is often a deliberate miss. Take action by getting professional

9. Get your dog used to people and their ways from puppyhood, and keep practising!

10. Do not assume that your dog would never bite. They all can if they are put in the right (or wrong!) circumstances.



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Escaping the shadow of a criminal past, a story of survival and revenge

Richard Shanley Dishing the Dirt





THE new Night Manager? Here's your first look at James Norton in BBC One's international thriller McMafia.

The first official picture from the upcoming thriller ominously takes place at a funeral, where Alex Godman (Norton) and his mum (Maria Shukshina) are faced with an unspeakable tragedy.

The ghosts from his family's past are never truly gone and they lead Alex down a very dark and potentially-treacherous path. Along with this preview photo, BBC One has also released a brand new synopsis: 'As the English-raised son of Russian exiles with a mafia history, Alex has spent his life trying to escape the shadow of that criminal past, building his own legitimate business and forging a life with his girlfriend Rebecca (Juliet Rylance).

What starts out as a story of survival and revenge becomes an epic tale of a



man's struggle against the lures of corruption in the modern world and in himself.

McMafia is impressive and intimate. glamorous and gritty, global in scale and

forensic in detail.' Like previous BBC One hit The Night Manager, McMafia is itself based on a hit book - in this case a nonfiction bestseller written by Misha Glenny.

The writer bringing McMafia to the small screen is none other than Hossein Amini, who wrote the Ryan Gosling thriller Drive and actually adapted Night Manager author John le Carré's Our Kind of Traitor for the big screen. McMafia is being filmed this year in London and Croatia. No premiere date has been announced yet.

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

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Clarkson **Quote of the Week**



Camry and I'm straight off."

"Whenever I'm suffering from insomnia I just look at a picture of a Toyota

World's favourite cars

By Matthew Elliott

THE world's most popular cars in 2016 have been revealed. Despised by Jeremy Clarkson, the Toyota Camry took 10th spot with more than 660,000 registrations last year. It was bested by Japanese rival the Honda Civic which sold some 668,000 new

up more than 700,000 new registrations across the world. The Golf saw almost a million registrations while Ford managed around 1.6 million with the F-Series and Focus combined.

Toyota's Corolla shifted almost 1.3 million new cars, making it the most popular model in

The Japanese firm counts three of the top 10 most popular cars as its own.

Interestingly at the same time Volkswagen has officially overtaken Toyota as the world's biggest car manufacturer. The Germans produced a

stagger-

100,000 more than Toyota. VW has benefited from a strong ad campaign in China where the fall out from the emissions scandal has had very little impact.

> MOST POPULAR: The Toyota Corolla.

ing 10.3 million units in 2016, over

than commuting into London each day. Which is why Volvo is recruiting British volunteers to test drive its new autonomous 4x4. The trial is targeting busy professionals who drive into west London but would rather while away the hours

along at a snails pace. 'Drivers' will be able to work on their laptops or make calls while the car uses 3D maps, sensors, and GPS to navigate its way to the capital. The XC-90 will come at a steep price and a similar trial is already underway in Gothenburg.

working than moseying

The cars can drive legally on motorways and dual carriageways at present, but drivers will have to take over full control once in the city limits.



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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

ew Suzuki S-Cross

SUZUKI'S original S-Cross just didn't look as sharp or as classy as its main rival, the Nissan Qashqai. But now a new version of the S-Cross is available, and Suzuki has addressed those styling issues.

New S-Cross has a bigger, bolder and much more noticeable front end, giving the model greater road presence, and inside there is a softer feel and more classy look to the dashboard and ungraded fabrics for the seats.

The revised styling comes together well and widens the market for this type of car, which tends to appeal to more image-conscious buvers.

Under the bonnet, the old 1.6 litre petrol engine has gone, replaced by turbocharged 1.0 or 1.4 litre units, with the smaller one offering less horsepower yet delivering better performance, and with reduced emissions and fuel consumption.

The new 1.4 does better still in the pulling power stakes as well as offering 138 hp and a little more economy than the previous 1.6 litre engine. There is also a 1.6 litre 118 hp diesel and four wheel drive is available as an option with all the engines.

S-Cross prices start at €17,612 (£14,999) for a 1.0 litre in SZ4 trim that comes with Bluetooth, digital radio, air conditioning, 16 inch alloy wheels, heated door mirrors and seven airbags.

The mid-range SZ-T level adds satellite navigation, dual zone climate control, front and rear parking sensors, rear parking camera. rear privacy glass, bigger alloys and LED headlights.

The top-spec S-Cross SZ5 features extra kit including

leather trim, heated front seats, large opening glass sunroof and alloy roof rails among an extensive standard features list.

My SZ5 4x4 test model cost €27,332 (£23,279) and had the 1.0 litre engine and 6-speed manual gearbox.

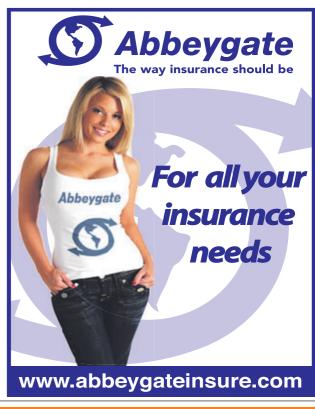
I found the S-Cross very pleasant to drive - smooth, quiet and responsive, with composed cornering and a comfortable ride.

Add that to its attractive new look and Suzuki's excellent reliability record and it is clear that the S Cross is now a very strong competitor in the SUV sector.





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Official document which relates to the technical inspection of the vehicle, the Inspección Técnica de Vehículos, or ITV.

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Permiso de Circulacion

The Permiso de Circulacion is similar to what we might refer to as the log book for a vehicle, which contains information

such as the number plate, the vehicle owner and other details.

There are also some documents which are not compulsory, but it is advisable that you carry them with you too.

Insurance Policy

Carrying the insurance policy is NOT compulsory as the information is contained on a central computer, however, if you are involved in an incident you will need to know your policy details for the Accident

It is mandatory that the documents you carry are the originals, not photocopies. The only copy allowed is one stamped and certified by a Notary.



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International Sports

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

CALENDAR EVENTS:

• Following last weekend's opening Six Nations Rugby Union wins by England (19-16 v France), Scotland (27-22 v Ireland) and Wales 33-7 v Italy), the second round of matches feature Italy v Ireland and Wales v England on Saturday, followed 24 hours later by France v Scotland... all live on TV.

OF

• Moving to the other

code of rugby, and the 2017 Super League starts tonight with St Helens v Leeds Rhinos followed tomorrow by Castleford-Leigh Widnes-Huddersfield with Salford-Wigan and

Saturday Hull FC player and Hull KR chairman and coach, Colin

Catalan

Dragons-

Saturday's PLfootball matches include Arsenal (4th) versus Hull City

(18th), recent conquerors of Liverpool (5th) who play Spurs (2nd) and Burnley versus leaders and in-form Chelsea, who comfortably beat the Gunners last Saturday to go 10 points clear at the top of the table.

• On Sunday, it's Bournemouth, whose last game ended in a 6-3 defeat at Everton, against Manchester City (4th) who beat Swansea 2-1 last Sunday with a 92nd Jesus goal. Relegation-threatened Crystal Palace (19th) visit Stoke, Sunderland (bottom), who walloped hapless Crystal Palace 4-0 at Selhurst Park in their last game, meet Southampton and Swansea (17th) take on struggling Leicester who were outplayed when losing 3-0 to Manchester United last Sun-

• In the Championship tomorrow night, Sheffield Wednesday (6th) play Birmingham, followed on Saturday by Brighton (2nd) v Burton Albion, Wolves v leaders Newcastle, Derby v Bristol City, Leeds (4th) v Cardiff, OPR v Huddersfield (5th) and Reading (3rd) v Barnsley.

• It's Peterborough v Sheffield United (top) and Scunthorpe (2nd) v Shrewsbury in FL2; there's a Devon derby in FL2 involving Plymouth (2nd) and Exeter and north of the border, Celtic play Inverness CT, Hearts meet holders Hibs and Morton take on Rangers

in 5th round Scottish Cup-

• Here in La Liga, Real Madrid (top by a point) visit Osasuna and Alaves welcome Barcelona (2nd) on Saturday, and Sevilla (3rd) go to Las Palmas on Sun-

• And don't forget that the first legs of eight Champions League quarter-final ties take place on February 14/15, with 16 first leg encounters in the round of 32 in the Europa League next Thursday.

• Two golf tournaments start today - the AT/T-Proam at Pebble Beach and the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur.

• Tomorrow, the first round of tennis's Federation Cup gets underway at venues all over the world while on Monday four WTT tour events com-

mence in Argentina, Holland (Rotterdam), USA (Memphis/Ten-

> FIRST MATCH WIN: For England in the **Rugby Six**

nessee) and Qatar (Doha).

• And the Swedish motor rally also begins tomorrow morning in Varmland

FACT FILE:

• The Williams sisters. queens of the tennis courts. are now close to winning (banking) an incredible £100m in combined career prize money. Following her recent Australian victory. Serena has earned £67m while Venus has collected

• Of the 6.675 international cricket matches ever played, only New Zealand (who lost eight batsmen for five runs v Australia in a 1946 Test) have scored fewer runs for the loss of that many wickets than England's recent collapse in India when eight players dismissed for just eight runs in the final T20 encounter last week, Back in 1979, England lost eight wickets for 11 runs against the West In-

• Gianfranco Zola has finally celebrated his first win as Birmingham City's manager... 1-0 over Fulham.

• Napoli have recorded their biggest-ever Serie 'A' away win... 7-1 at Bologna.

• Celtic are 27 points of the SPL (67-43): Inver-

Spain (16 wins, 11 defeats) and Italy (12/15) share the record for appearing in most European/Champions

League Cup finals: 1956-2016.

just 18. The biggest pointsmargin by a championship winning team is 31, achieved by PSG in France last season. Celtic won the SPL in 2013-14 by 28 points.

• Cameroon beat Egypt 2-1 in the final of last Sunday's African Cup of Nations.

• GB's tennis team beat Canada 3-2 by default in the first round of the Davis Cup in Ottowa after the host player Denis Shapovalov smashed a ball into the face of the umpire when two sets and a break down in the deciding game against Kyle Edmund. Next up for GB is a match against France.

• A crowd of 72,000 (with millions more watching on TV) saw the New England Patriots storm back from a 25-point deficit to beat Atlanta Falcons 34-28 to win the Super Bowl for a fifth time in Houston, Texas.

• Spain's Sergio Garcia won the Dubai Golf classic - his first major prize in three years.

• And finally manager Jose Mourinho says "Manchester United deserved to win every game they've drawn this season." Reply: than their opponents!



A crowd of 72,000 saw the New England Patriots storm back from a 25-point deficit to beat Atlanta Falcons 34-28 to win the Super Bowl for a fifth time.

TO READ MORE



Aguilon play New Year Cup

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

THE first major trophy of 2017 saw the New Year Cup, a two leg aggregate Stableford competition, take place with the first leg on Monday January 23 and the second leg on Friday January 27.

The first leg had been postponed from Friday 20 due to the bad weather experienced that week. On Monday it was nice to see the sun return, although the course was still drying out from last week's rain. The top 10 players had all to play for in the second leg, being within four points of each other.

1st Mark Newall 37 pts on a card play off

2nd Norman Whibley 37 pts

3rd Chris Tyler 36 pts on a card play off

On Friday the nerves of the first round leaders were on show as the wind increased during the round, which resulted in a three-way tie on the day

1st Dave Simpson 35 pts on a card play off

2nd Bill Pratt 35 pts on a card



OVERALL WINNER: Of the New Year Cup, Norman Ridgway (centre).

3rd Norman Ridgway 35 pts The overall aggregate placings were as follows:

1st Norman Ridgway 69 pts and winner of the New Year Cup

2nd Derek Manning 68 pts on a card play off

3rd Peter Death 68 pts

For further information log on to the club's website aguilonmembers club.com.

19th Hole Golf Society

ON Thursday February 2 the 19th Hole Golf Society made its way north to the Lorca Golf Resort to play its qualifier for the forthcoming 'Ryder Cup' competition with another local golf society.

Nigel Greenwood played way beyond his handicap by

scoring a massive 43 points taking the win very comfortably. Vince Swain also exceeded his own expectations scoring 39 points to secure second place with much improved Mike Palmer taking third spot with an impressive 37 points.

A dominating win

ON a lovely early February day at Aquilon GC, a good Forum Golf Society field turned out for a double par medal competition.

An outstanding round of nett 68 gave Kevin Bircher a well deserved win. Trailing in his wake was John Bridgen in second place with 73.

Five players, all with a score of 74, in third to seventh place, were Steve Vine, Max Gonzales, Malcolm Tilley, Richard Price and Sandra Vincent. In eighth place was Byron Sherlock on 76, ninth was

Alan Croft on 77 and 10th was Bob Vincent on 78.

Nearest the pin prizes went to Brian Gyer and Gill Vine. Nearest the pin in two was Mike Chaston and longest drives were Steve Vine, off the vellow tees, and David Frost off the red/blue tees.

The society's next event is a stableford competition at Valle del Este GC on February 17. The next report will confirm some recent changes to the organisation at the Forum Golf Society with new contact details.



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