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Slashed

50,000 to lose Ferrocarril discount

By Matthew Elliott

Soller residents will no longer receive a discount on the famous Ferrocarril train line. The European Commission ruled that the subsidy discriminated against tourists after a German national made a formal complaint.

The European Union threatened sanctions against the Balearic government if it did not comply with the demand to abolish the resident's discount. Jaume Mateu, the regional

transport minister, has now confirmed that residents will be forced to pay the full fare from April 1.

Tickets on the famous train, one of Mallorca's biggest tourist attractions, presently cost €16 for tourists and €7 for local residents. The vast majority of passengers are guests, who accounted for over 90 per cent of the line's almost two million journeys made last year.

That still leaves 50,000 people who will have their Balearic resident's discount card taken

away from them. The Balearic government is reportedly working on establishing a new subsidy system for locals, especially those who rely on the train to make a living or see relatives.

Different modes of transport may be considered, or users will be rewarded for frequent journeys with financial discounts that make no mention of residency. Another option is making return trips from Soller to Palma cheaper than two singles, or the more popular Palma-Soller route.



ORANGE EXPRESS: Began in 1911. |

The European Commission's decision found the discount to be illegal on the grounds that it discriminated against people on the basis of their nationality. Becoming a resident of Soller is not restricted by nationality or golden visa applicants.

The Ferrocarril de Soller is expected to do excellent busi-

ness in 2017. Work first began on the railway, advertised to tourists as the Orange Express, more than a century ago in 1911.

Demands have long existed to update Mallorca's transport infrastructure to reduce reliance on the railway and the attendant cost for residents with business in Palma.

Stop Press

DON'T MISS OUR VALENTINE SPECIAL INSIDE! PAGES 32 - 33

Win a Car!

YOU CAN STILL BE THE WINNER OF A CAR! SEE PAGES 8 - 9

See us on page 24

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LOCAL NEWS

Sneak thief

A PROFESSIONAL thief has been captured by Guardia Civil officers. The Romanian national is accused of conducting four burglaries in the s' Arsenal district of Palma in the past few weeks. Officers seized stolen items, including jewellery, worth an estimated €30,000 from the man's home. He has a lengthy criminal record, having dabbled in burglary for many years.

Black hole sun

INVESTORS in solar power were dealt a tough blow after all parties rejected plans by a German investment group to create two large solar power parks in Manacor and Lluçmajor. The vote followed a report from the environmental committee which failed to justify the project, after many local residents voiced their opposition.

Cosmic events

ON Friday February 20 the snow moon, the New Year comet and a penumbral lunar eclipse will coincide for a cosmic spectacular. The best time to see the eclipse is 12.44am, according to astronomers, while just one hour later, 3.53am, the New Year comet will pass by Earth and be visible to the naked eye.

Hundreds enter EWN Win a Car competition

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

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of the six editions, and will not take you long - we estimate around eight minutes!

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Foolish fugitive

ANDRATX police managed to capture a fugitive who tried to make a daring escape. The suspect sped off at top speed when asked for identification in a residential area of the port.

Suspicious were aroused when police noted the man was sitting in a van with gloves on and sheepishly trying to avoid eye contact.

The 52-year-old Spaniard was due to return to prison under a judicial order for a breach of his release terms. But he had other ideas and made a high speed dash for Costa de la Calma in his van.

Eventually there was a full blown car chase with multiple police vehicles involved. One officer executed a skillful manoeuvre, cutting the suspect off before his fellow officers swarmed the car. The man will now have dangerous driving and an escape attempt added to his sentence.

The Italian Job

POLICE are hunting two men who fled after crashing a Citroen Saxo into a Chinese buffet restaurant. The film-worthy scene saw the pair smash into the Wok establishment in Inca on Saturday February 4 at around 11pm.

Fortunately nobody was injured in the crash. The men, both relatively young, abandoned the car and made their escape from the scene. The Citroen Saxo had been spotted the same evening driving recklessly at high speed and even colliding with two other cars on the road to Lloseta.

Osprey shot dead

POLICE are investigating after the body of an osprey was found at Palma airport with 18 gun pellets inside. The corpse of the protected bird was discovered by security guards some two weeks after its death.

The adult bird was one of only a

few dozen ospreys which live across the Balearic Islands. The birds of prey are considered a vulnerable species and killing one is a criminal offence.

Doubling down

IMPENDING restrictions on holi-

Collective island wisdom

AN exodus of young people has left many Mallorcan villages with an older population than ever before. The latest demographic data from the Spanish Institute of Statistics dates to January 2016 and makes for very interesting reading.

There are now 14 municipalities across the island where more than a fifth of the populace is a pensioner aged over 65. In places like Ariany and Sant Joan the proportion of pensioners is approaching one in three. Many villages scattered

throughout the Tramuntanas have a considerably older population than other parts of the island.

In contrast Palma, Inca, Calvia and Alcudia have the lowest relative number of pensioners at around one in nine. The capital does, however, have by far the largest number of centenarians. As of January last year there were precisely 198 people aged over 100 on Mallorca, 90 of them in Palma, 13 in Manacor, eight in Son Servera and seven in Porto Pollensa.

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 Galerías Preciados.

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

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.

day rentals led to the number of properties registered for tourist accommodation doubling last year. There are now over 2,500 homes across Mallorca which are officially registered to be let out to tourists.

The previous year there was just over 1,200 such properties.

The dramatic increase comes amid the growing prospect of draconian fines for people who let out their homes without registering them.

Favourable fuel

PETROL may soon be cheaper across Mallorca. A ruling from the Balearic Supreme Court has allowed self-service petrol stations, thus reducing operating costs. Whether those reduced costs will be transferred to consumers remains to be seen but competition will certainly increase. For years consumer regulations across the islands have insisted there is at least one on-duty worker manning petrol stations during opening hours.

Postscript to ponder

13,000

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.

INSIDE VIEW

News

1 - 18

Finance

19

Leapy Lee

25

TV



26

Time Out

30

Letters

34

Health & Beauty

38

Social

40

Property

43

Classifieds

49

Motors



51

Boats

53

Sport

54 + 56

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 kidnapers 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 Warrant.

Doctors held in false limb scam

DOCTORS are among 22 people arrested in Cadiz accused of defrauding more than €250,000 from the Andalusian 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.



Postcard from ITUREN



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....

Train crash

RELATIVES of 81 people killed in a high-speed train crash in Spain have received the backing of a high-level 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 Madrid, 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 Spain.

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, 43**
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 biggest-selling 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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Banker sold his soul



Photo by Facebook

CORRUPT GROUP: Lynden Scourfield (right) with accomplices David Mills (centre) and Michael Bancroft.

By Matthew Elliott

A CORRUPT British banker who holidayed in Mallorca with his ill-gotten gains has been jailed for 11 years. A London judge described the money laundering scandal as one of the worst cases he had ever seen.

Lynden Scourfield, a director at HBOS, forced clients to do business through a consultancy owned by David Mills, who received 15 years for his part in the crime. Desperate

business owners seeking loans were forced to go through the illegal consultancy and extorted for lucrative bribes.

The pair were ringleaders of the corrupt cabal which poured the eye-watering 'consultancy fees' into their own personal accounts, ultimately defrauding the bank and hundreds of small business owners of more than €300 million.

Jurors at Southwark Crown Court heard how the bankers

spent millions hiring superyachts and prostitutes during lavish trips to Mallorca and the Caribbean. Judge Martin Beddoe told Scourfield that he had 'sold his soul' to the devil 'for sex, for bling and for swag' during the 2005-2007 crime spree.

An inquiry will now determine whether Lloyds, which owns HBOS, has a moral and legal duty to compensate the hundreds of men and women left 'cheated, defeated and penniless.'

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Orange revolution

ORANGES are enjoying a minor renaissance in Mallorca with a much larger harvest expected in the near future. Old and diseased trees have been rooted out and replaced with thousands of young ones. Organic oranges will be given much higher priority as farmers hope to capitalise on a growing demand for organic produce. Mallorcan mandarins and local speciality bitter oranges will also be promoted. They can be granted a special designation of origin as unique to Mallorca, making them far more valuable for export.



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OUR VIEW

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.

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EWN Exclusive

Interview with British Ambassador to Spain

By John Smith

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

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 history of the man himself as well as his current role.

He entered service with the Foreign and Commonwealth



SIMON MANLEY: British Ambassador to Spain.

Office in 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 secondment to the European Union and most recently as Director of European Affairs and Head of Counter Terrorism in the FCO.

Whilst one might assume that the role of counter terrorism would sit with the Police and Security Services, the Foreign Office also has to have a very close involvement in such matters especially when British citizens are involved.

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 co-operation in matters of criminality.

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 negotiation 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 opportunity.

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 loving in Spain and the need for their wishes to be incorporated into any Brexit negotiations.

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‘Historic injustice’ set to come to an end

By Matthew Elliott

AFTER 20 years the Soller tunnel will finally be made free for drivers. From September 1 the controversial toll, relatively the most expensive in Spain, will no longer be charged.

The decision is being described as the righting of an ‘historic injustice’ for the people of Escora, Deia, Fornalutx and Soller. Thousands of working men and women have been forced to pay the €5 tax simply to get to work, many of them twice a day, although subsidies were recently introduced.

Mallorca Council had previously intimated they would lift the toll before the high season began. President Miquel Ensenyat said the council will pay Globalvia, the concessionaire, €15.4 million in a one-off payment to cancel the toll.

With five years remaining on the contract, the company is



SOLLER TUNNEL: Will finally be free for drivers.

seeking compensation of €33 million, more than double the figure offered. However much is paid, the taxpayer will bear the brunt of the cost. Considering its relatively short length the tunnel is Spain’s most expensive toll road.

The Soller tunnel, opened in 1997, was immediately the subject of one of Mallorca’s greatest corruption cases. Almost

10,000 vehicles pass through each day and the tunnel needs safety improvements estimated to cost millions of euros.

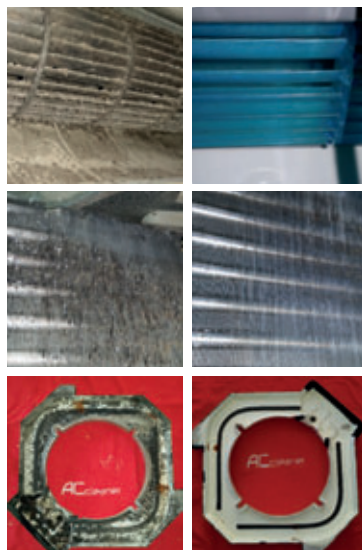
By making the payment the Council hopes to ensure the tunnel doesn’t fall into private hands once the contract expires. But the political landscape will look very different in five years time and millions in additional costs can certainly be expected.



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■ Terms of Entry:

Completed survey forms must reach Euro Weekly News by noon March 30, 2017 at the latest. Only FULLY completed forms received by the final deadline will be entered into the prize draw. All entrants must possess a current NIE number, hold a valid driving licence and must be aged 18 or over. Only one entry per person is allowed. Failure to meet these requirements will invalidate the entry. No cash alternatives.

No employees of EWN Media Group can enter.

The winner will be announced on April 20, 2017. The winner will be required to take part in any promotional activity and EWN reserves the right to use the name of the winner and photographs in any publicity both in newspaper and online.

The winner will have to collect the car from the EWN offices in Benalmadena. Any expenses incurred by the winner in collecting the car will be their own responsibility.

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Tick box if you do not wish your personal details to be shared with third parties or to receive promotional information or special offers.

You and the EWN

How often do you read the EWN?

- Every week
- Regularly
- Monthly
- On occasions
- Very rarely

Which sections of the EWN do you read?

- Local News
- General Features
- Business
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- Other columnists
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- Horoscopes
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- Health & Beauty
- Food/Social Scene
- Homes & Gardens
- Community
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- Sport

What do you THINK of the EWN?

.....

What do you EXPECT from the EWN?

.....

What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

.....

How long do you spend reading the EWN?

- Up to 10 minutes
- Up to 30 minutes
- Up to 45 minutes
- One hour or more

Do you find it difficult or easy to pick up your copy?

.....

Where do you usually pick up your copy?

.....

Do you have a suggested new distribution point?

.....

You and the EWN Online

Where do you primarily get your daily news from?

- Television
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Internet

What device do you browse the internet on?

- Desktop computer
- Laptop
- Tablet
- Mobile phone
- Smart TV

What time do you normally browse the internet?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening
- All day

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- More than once a day
- Once a day
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Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

How old are you?

- 18 – 21
- 22 – 35
- 36 – 50
- 51 – 70
- 71+

Status

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

Which other local newspapers do you read?

.....

How often do you eat out?

- Once a week
- More than once week
- Once a month
- Rarely

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

- No
- Yes (specify).....

Have you ever used a currency exchange/money transfer company?

- No
- Yes (specify).....

Is your telephone

- Landline
- Mobile
- Both
- Name of your provider(s).....

Is your mobile

- Contract
- Pay as you go
- Name of network provider.....

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

- Android
- iPhone
- Windows
- Other (specify).....

Is your internet

- Fibre Optic
- ADSL
- Other (specify).....

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Fill in this simple survey which will help us make decisions about the content and structure of the EWN in the future.

It does not matter whether you are a regular or casual reader, nor do you have to agree with our firm belief that we are the best. All of your opinions will help us to improve what we offer both readers and advertisers in the future across all six editions of the newspaper widely distributed each week from Valencia to Costa del Sol, as well as Mallorca and inland.

What's more, if you fully complete the survey in today's issue, which will be republished until March 23, 2017, or answer it online and send it back to us no later than March 30, 2017, then you stand the chance of winning this brand new car in our prize draw.

So what are you waiting for?

Grab your pen or log on to our website and say what you like, want to read about, and how you would like the Euro Weekly News to improve.



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Britain beyond Brexit



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THE British Ambassador to Madrid, Simon Manley, 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 his address.

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 Lords.

The next two years are important to all Britons and whilst we have to face change, this is the chance to create a new future in a respected and tol-

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 well.

We share the same values and will continue to work together both in business and on a personal basis.



AMBASSADOR Manley taking questions. |

Photo by Euro Weekly News

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 negotiations.



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NEWS EXTRA

Checking in

MALLORCAN hotel group Melia is being investigated by the European Commission over suspicions that it broke competition rules by making it harder for some customers to see more favourable room rates online.

Budget empire

A BRAND new Lidl has opened in Palma, near the Arena. It is the 17th in Mallorca, spans 1,200 square metres, and has solar panels on the roof.

President Evil

VIDEO gamers in Mallorca created a new arcade-style game that sees players shoot evil Donald Trump characters with an array of weapons. It is based on 90's classic Resident Evil.

Chosen ones

HUNDREDS of motoring journalists arrived in Mallorca to test drive the new Volkswagen Golf. More than 30 cars were driven around picturesque landscapes in the PR stunt.



STORMS: Winds hit up to 134kph.

These chills are multiplying

By Matthew Elliott

STORMS returned over the weekend and gave way to a cold snap with snow expected in the mountains on Thursday February 9 and high winds predicted for the weekend.

Powerful winds saw emergency services in almost non-stop action across Mallorca, rescuing fishermen, drivers and homeowners.

The brunt of the damage was done on Sunday February 5. Police officers and firemen were called out to hundreds of incidents with winds hitting 134kph in Alfabia. Fallen trees and electricity cables saw roads closed in Montuiri and Manacor.

Bus and ferry services were cancelled and three flights diverted from Palma airport. Extremely strong gusts on Monday struck almost 100kph in

Binissalem, Sineu and even the outskirts of Palma.

Winds even ruined the dream of Olympic sailor Iker Martinez who had to abandon his quest to circumnavigate Mallorca in record time. He and his crew were towed to safety and lived to sail another day.

“ Snow is expected at altitudes above 1,000 metres.

Wednesday saw the cold arrive and snow is expected at altitudes above 1,000 metres from Thursday onwards. More populated areas will also feel the chill as maximum temperatures plummet by an average of eight degrees.

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Buxton English teacher running length of Europe

By Joanna Quintmere

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



ALEKS KASHEFI: Keen to share his story to provide inspiration to other people.

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 may provide others to get outside, to have less and do more, that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things."

He is also hoping to raise awareness and donations for 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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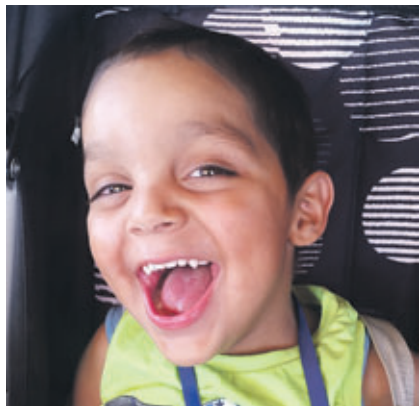


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Tony Christie shares Leo's story ★

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 Devlin.

So Fin & Rich Devlin busked away for Leo the Lion. Tony Christie gave them the thumbs up, very kindly donating and offered to share Leo's story on his social media.

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



SUPPORT: Tony Christie with Fin & Richard.

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' Bermejo.

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 left-back 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!'



Leo Bermejo (left) with striker Sergio Leon.

“His favourite team is Real Madrid.”

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 youngster 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 all.

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 brain.

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-western state of Oklahoma.

"It's Leo's best chance," says

SPNET tumours and tr

THE cancer that is attacking Leo goes by the acronym SPNET. 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 cere-

brum, 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



Leo the lion3

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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.

The other hurdle that the family needed to cross, with the help of an army of supporters from Spain, the UK and in some

cases, far flung parts of the world, has been the money. And that is where you, our readers and advertisers, have helped... in droves.

STOP PRESS: As we went to print Leo's family revealed the target has been hit, thanks to a final boost provided by an anonymous donor. Any extra funding for Leo will now go towards the extensive rehabilitation his young body and mind will need. From all of us, there remains only one thing left to say... **COME ON LEO!!!**

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



LION WALKABOUT: Raised €443.

Answering the call for little Leo

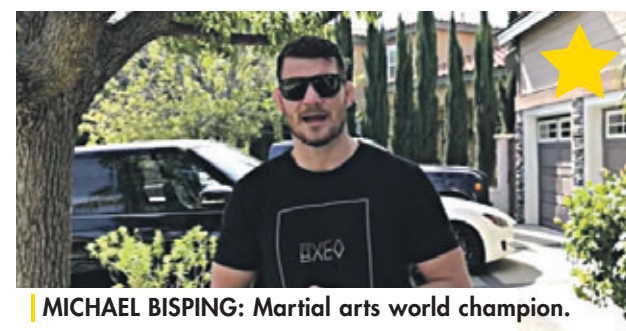
HUNDREDS of you have been answering the call to help Leo win this fight against such an aggressive cancer.

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 possible.

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



MICHAEL BISPING: Martial arts world champion.

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 Higuera 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 Leo!



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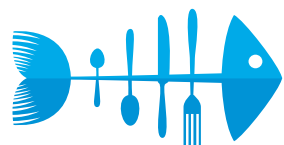
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Age Concern Mallorca

FANCY a weekend away in Ibiza? Age Concern Mallorca is organising a trip from Friday March 24 until Sunday March 26.

The cost is €225 per person for residents with a certificate from the town hall. Included in the price is return flights, four-star hotel full board accommodation all inclusive of beverages, transfers to hotel and travel insurance. Optional cancellation insurance is available at €13 per person. Limited places are available.

For more information please call Jackie on 678 352 040 or 971 231 520, email mallorca@ageconcern.org.es or visit ageconcern.org.es.



Photo by Ayuntamiento de Baleares

COSTITX: Is claiming to be at the very centre of Mallorca.

Stuck in the middle with you

By Matthew Elliott

COSTITX is stamping its claim to be at the very centre of Mallorca with a 23-foot high sculpture. But that claim is disputed by nearby Sencelles and Sineu who also argue that they are bang in the middle of Mallorca.

The sculpture, by local artist Joan Ramis, was purchased by

Costitx Council 15 years ago to plant in the village as a symbol of its centrality. A study from the University of the Balearic Islands found Costitx to be officially at the centre of the island.

Yet Sineu and Sencelles believe otherwise. And a rival study from national geographers found that the 'real' centre was in the woods of Lloret

de Vistalegre at Sa Comuna. Indeed there is already a symbol there said to mark the spot.

Costitx mayor Antoni Salas is, however, adamant that the Balearic University study trumps the pesky geographers and old legends. And until he's proven wrong, Costitx will have the tallest claim to fame.

The problems with panga

A CONTROVERSIAL species of catfish native to south-east Asia will continue to be fed to Balearic schoolchildren, despite some Palma schools banning it. The Pangasius fish, known as panga in Spain, has also now been banned from the Carrefour supermarket across the country.

Several Palma schools, and others on the mainland, have stopped serving the white fish, which is farmed intensively in south east Asia and very cheap globally. They have responded to fears from parents about allegedly high mercury levels found in the fish.

The Balearic health ministry has found no evidence to suggest there are health risks to children. Carrefour has banned panga on environmental grounds, following claims from Greenpeace that its farming contributes to heavy pollution in the Mekong.

Many also believe that Spain shouldn't be undercutting local fishermen by importing vast quantities of the fish from Asia. Spain is the largest consumer of panga in the EU, despite having some of the most abundant fishing opportunities in the continent.

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NOMADS present Olive!

THE North of Mallorca Amateur Dramatic Society (NOMADS) will be performing OLIVE! a 'take' on the OLIVER stage show on Friday February 17 at 7.30pm and Saturday February 18 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at the Casa de Cultura, Calle Hostal, 9, Alcudia.

Tickets cost €5 and are available from Multi-Hire in Puerto Pollensa and Victoria's Dog Refuge in Puerto Alcudia. All of the proceeds will go to local or national charities.

For more information, please call Jan on 627 293 273.

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 that they need.

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



Photo Credit: Richard Sandoval flickr

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 metals.

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 per troy ounce.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

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 broadcaster.

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 and fuel oil.

Mercadona expansion

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 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

announcement. This now means German prosecutors 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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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



Photo Credit: Bank of England

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, al-

though 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 may be.

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 Apokalypse - 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.



Photo Credit: Ververidis Vasilis Shutterstock

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 Connection.

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 stores.

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 worldwide.”

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 France.

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.

Commenting on his appointment he said, “I’m honoured to have been chosen for this very exciting opportunity. This is a group that has achieved unparalleled success since its foundation. To be offered the chance to lead our 300 employees to greater success is a challenge I am greatly looking forward to.”

Steve Hampson who has been CEO since 2012 commented, “Fede is an excellent fit for our business, his local and international experience will prove invaluable as the group formalises our expansion plans for 2017/18.”

Hampson will remain with the business as a director focusing on International and Strategic Affairs.

Sala Group currently operates six locations worldwide, with a pipeline of proposed projects for 2018. It has gained acknowledgment as one of the premier hospitality groups in Spain and Europe.

Photo Credit: Sala 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 (Confibus) 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 introduction.

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.

Confibus 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

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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

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



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It's a big and nasty world out there folks

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT**



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 royals) 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 seem,

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



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

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

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

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Befuddled by English language

Mike Senker

In my opinion

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.

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 down barriers.



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

A TOTAL of 22 vehicles have been seized in Ourense, in Galicia, north western Spain.

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?

Q. 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)

A. 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

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



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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Kakuro

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.

	12	19	36	8	11
29					
23					
16				11	13
	6	17			
17					
24					

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	31	15	28	22	
26	5	6	4	3	
31	7	1	9	6	8
12	3	9	8	5	
11	9	2	5	2	
22	2	8	5	3	4
21	5	6	8	2	

MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'CAN THE TRUMP PEN CONTINUE TO BE MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD?'

Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case 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

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday February 4

6	9	27	BONUS BALL
30	40	50	22

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday February 4

10	21	22	BONUS BALL
26	42	46	35

EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday January 31

3	4	17	BONUS BALL
23	44	9	

Friday February 3

3	4	15	BONUS BALL
46	50	9	

LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday February 4

8	26	31	BONUS BALL
32	39	42	5

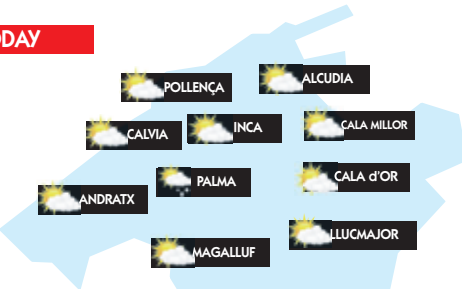
EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday February 5

7	9	10	BONUS BALL
13	37	3	

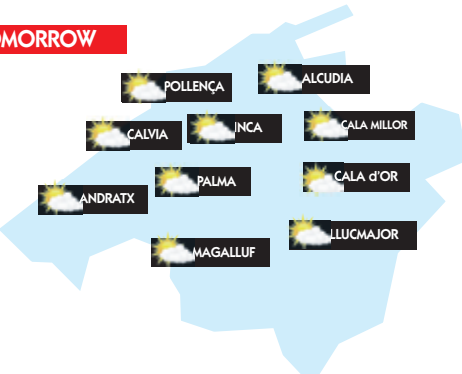
Mallorca

weather

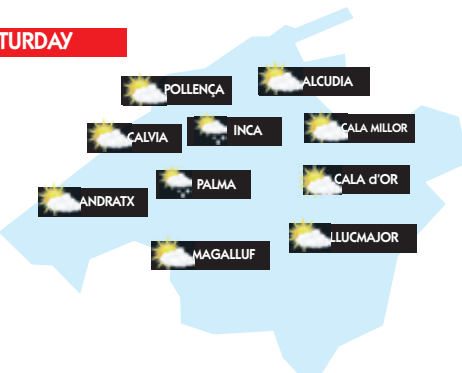
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 8 - C

Fri	- 15	10	C
Sat	- 15	11	Sh
Sun	- 17	12	C
Mon	- 17	10	C
Tues	- 17	10	C
Wed	- 16	10	C

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 5 - C

Fri	- 14	5	C
Sat	- 13	5	C
Sun	- 15	8	C
Mon	- 15	8	C
Tues	- 15	7	C
Wed	- 15	7	Cl

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 9 - Cl

Fri	- 16	9	C
Sat	- 16	11	C
Sun	- 18	11	C
Mon	- 18	11	C
Tues	- 18	11	C
Wed	- 17	11	C

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 11, MIN 0 - C

Fri	- 10	2	C
Sat	- 10	4	Sh
Sun	- 14	5	Sh
Mon	- 13	5	Sh
Tues	- 13	4	C
Wed	- 13	5	C

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 4 - S

Fri	- 12	8	Sh
Sat	- 13	9	Sh
Sun	- 14	11	Sh
Mon	- 14	12	Sh
Tues	- 12	10	Sh
Wed	- 13	9	Sh

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 11 - Cl

Fri	- 14	8	Sh
Sat	- 15	12	C
Sun	- 18	12	Sh
Mon	- 17	10	Sh
Tues	- 18	9	C
Wed	- 19	9	C

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 7 - Cl

Fri	- 15	10	Cl
Sat	- 15	11	Sh
Sun	- 18	12	C
Mon	- 17	11	Sh
Tues	- 17	11	Sh
Wed	- 16	10	C

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 4 - S

Fri	- 15	8	C
Sat	- 15	10	C
Sun	- 17	10	C
Mon	- 17	10	C
Tues	- 17	9	C
Wed	- 16	8	C

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of published forecasts

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

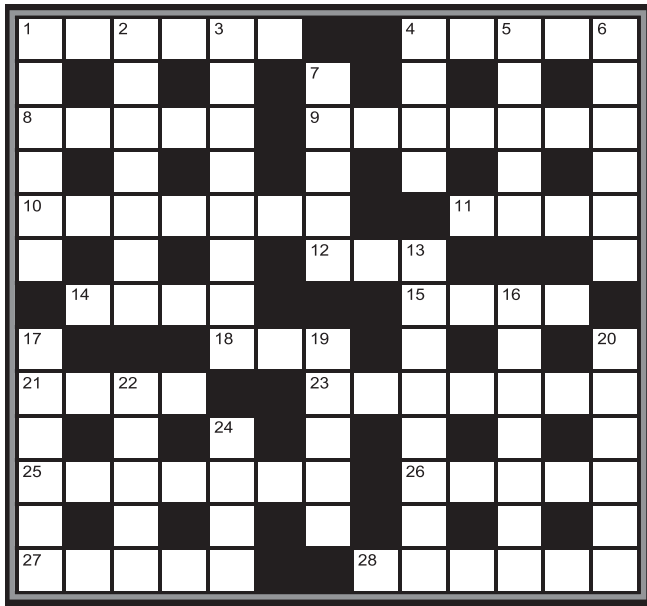
Cryptic

Across

- 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 (4)
- 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)

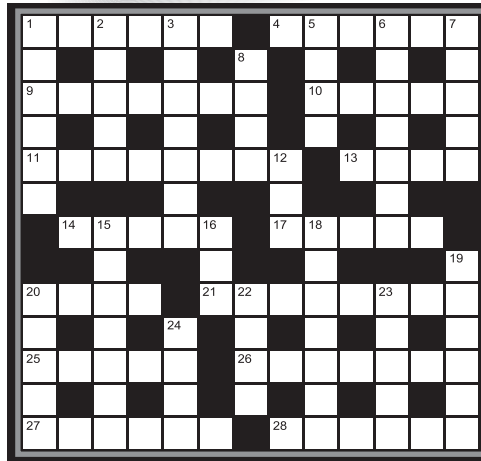
Down

- 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)



- 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)

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)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Ailed, 4 Hamper, 9 Gadwall, 10 Panic, 11 Reed, 12 Spanner, 13 Cot, 14 Ammo, 16 Stem, 18 Sue, 20 Illicit, 21 Urge, 24 Spire, 25 Leisure, 26 Diesel, 27 Sheet.

Down:

- 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.

Down:

- 1 Peruse, 2 Endose, 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

Across:

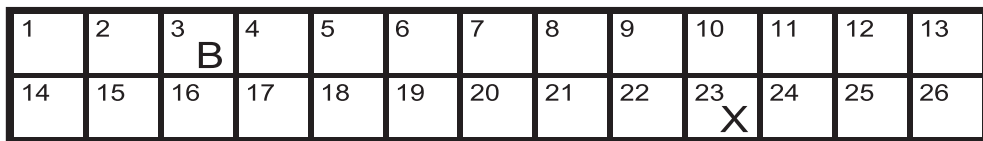
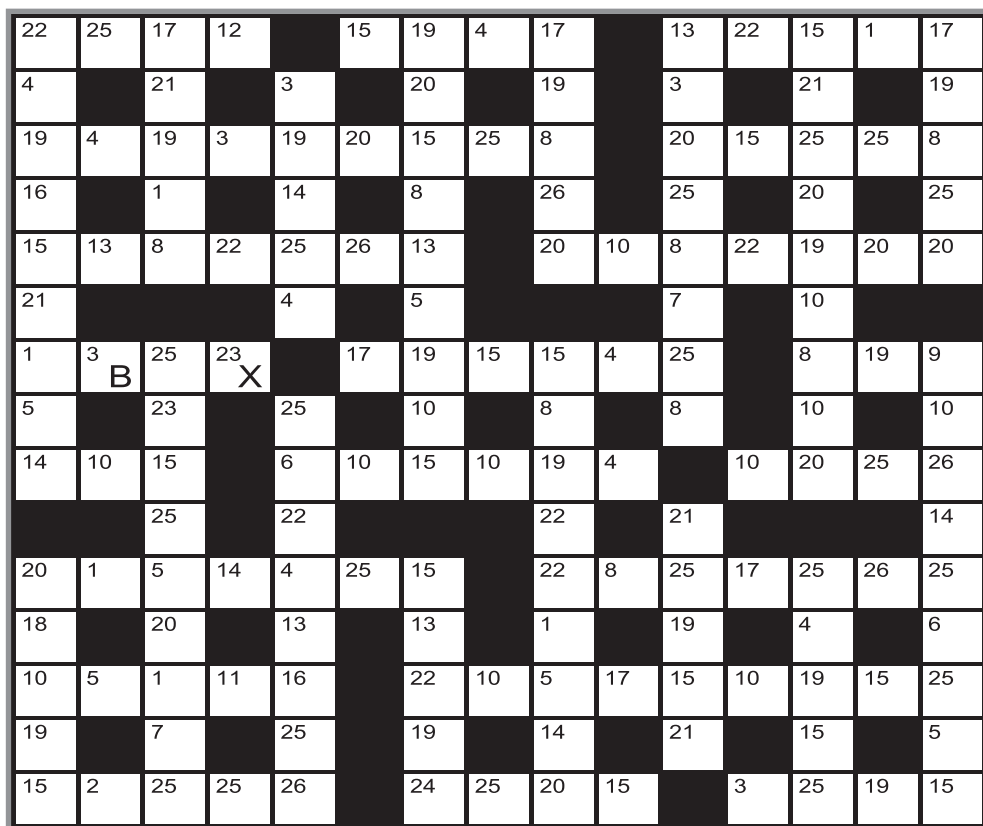
- 1 Lifeboat, 7 Dress, 8 Piece, 9 Lombrices, 11 Viaje, 12 Italy, 14 Painless.

Down:

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

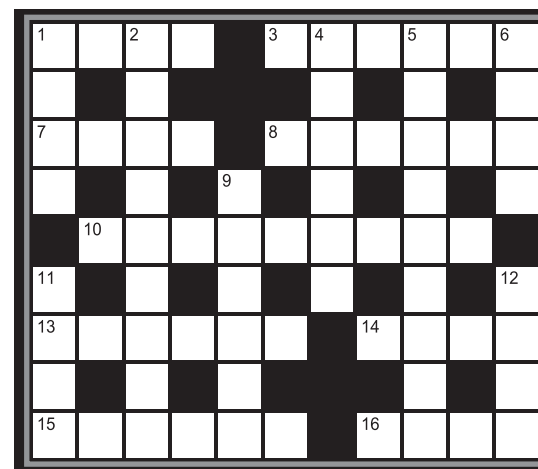
Code Breaker

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.



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) (4)
- 8 Places (6)
- 10 Teléfono (9)
- 13 To jump (leap) (6)

Down

- 14 Sabio (acción, decisión) (4)
- 15 Raffle (draw) (6)
- 16 Remover (sopa) (4)
- 5 Científico (9)
- 6 También (4)
- 9 Hembra (6)
- 11 Those (4)
- 12 Ciervo (4)

CODE BREAKER



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Valentine'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. Your soul mate, other half, significant other, or whatever cheeky nickname you have for each other when you're all alone.

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. And fortunately there's as many different types of couples as there are stars in the sky.

So buy chocolates and flowers, eat, drink, and dance by all means. 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 nice, going somewhere posh, taking a stroll down memory lane, or just offering a giant 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 around.



Different view of Valentine's

VALENTINE'S doesn't have to be about the one you love, it can also be about the people you love. It might not feel traditional to involve the whole family in your romantic plans, but what does tradition matter when we're talking about love?

Just like Christmas and Easter get wrapped up in all manner of celebrations, there's no reason Valentines can't too. So why not involve your family, friends and neighbours in a proper celebration?

Of course this works extra well if you haven't got a significant other just now. Or perhaps you do and neither of you care much about all the fanfare.

Forget the adverts and promotions and just view Valentine's as another terrific excuse to party and celebrate life with the ones you love.



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Happy Valentine's to customers old and new



Valentine's Day – the origins

By Eleanor Hawkins

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 the times of modern retail.

There are two main theories on how Valentine's Day came into existence and both date back to Ancient Roman times.

The first, more popular and romantic of the two revolves around a bishop, 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 that he signed a letter written to his jailer's daughter 'from your Valentine.'

The second, meanwhile, believes it to have evolved from a raucous 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.

King Henry VIII officially declared February 14 as the holiday of Saint Valentine's Day in 1537 and it became a generally honoured day of celebration of love (minus the blood, dead animals and spankings, in public at least.)



KING HENRY VIII:
Declared Valentine's Day a holiday.

Be the best Valentine

By Eleanor Hawkins

COUPLES all over the world are preparing to celebrate Valentine's Day once again and those of us lucky enough to live in Spain have more options than most when it comes to romantic, memorable ways to mark the day.

Whereas in the UK for example the weather will condition any plans for a special day, the Mediterranean climate means, while definitely not bikini weather, an outdoor celebration is likely to be possible.

From a romantic walk or picnic on the beach or a boat ride to a skiing trip or a hot air balloon flight, just about anything

is possible here when it comes to making your beloved's day a perfect one.

Yet before you start splashing out on roses and cava and booking that helicopter ride, stop and think about your sweetheart's tastes and possible desires. It's oh so very easy to make a big, clichéd gesture and leave her (or him, come on ladies if we want equality we need to do our bit too!) cold and clammy if she's scared of flying for example and you go for the above.

It may well be your other half would prefer something smaller that shows you put some thought and work in rather than a characterless, expensive gift. In the run-up to the day, try to

look for hints of what could go down well. If in doubt, you can always rope a close friend or family member (sworn to secrecy!) in to help with ideas.

Of course, you can never go wrong with the old faithfuls: flowers, cards, chocolate, teddy

bears, perfume, jewellery, dinner or a hotel stay. Once you have an idea of what they would really appreciate, check out this paper for the best places to wine and dine her (or him!), have a relaxing getaway or buy that special gift.

Valentine's revenge

NOT everybody loves Valentine's. Especially people recently made single. Last year a slightly bitter Chinese man who was angered by seeing couples everywhere he went decided he'd had enough.

A keen cinemagoer he knew exactly what to expect when he tried to escape from the love festival each year... rows upon rows of couples ruining his film. So he decided to buy up all the odd-numbered seats in a Shanghai cinema to stop couples sitting together. Other singletons quickly joined him and soon cinemas across the city had all their odd-numbered seats bought by chuckling online netizens.

El Galeon Taberna

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LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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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 away.

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 the Clintons.

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-

ernment accused of an indiscretion, "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.

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Advertising feature

Golden Visas open the golden gates

At a time of increasing globalisation, and in particular for residents of politically or economically less stable, non-EU regions, it is becoming increasingly important to be flexible.



This also means being able to travel freely

and independently with the family. This concept is referred to as 'Global Residency' a term that reflects the spirit of the times, a way of life and the personal vision of many clients.

In September 2013 Spain introduced a Golden Visa investment scheme to attract investment in Spain by non-EU citizens. The laws were amended in 2015 to make it easier for applicants to obtain the Golden Visa in Spain and the scheme allows non-EU investors to apply for Spanish residency and later also citizenship, in return for significant investment in Spain provided that certain criteria are met.

A number of European countries offer fast track programmes to obtain a second residency, or travel authorisation for non-EU cit-

LUIGI CARLO DE MICCO:
CEO and president of De Micco & Friends law firm.

izens. Through purchasing property or investing in companies, fixed-term deposits or government bonds, the investor can enjoy unrestricted travel and residency, or even permanent residency and citizenship. Countries such as Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Hungary offer such programmes.

A Golden Visa can be obtained for investment from approximately €300,000. Many people, especially the so called 'high-net-worth-individuals' and also entrepreneurs from China, Japan, Russia, Africa or the Middle East, do not necessarily want to leave their homeland and relocate, but many appreciate the benefits of freedom and flexibility that the option of 'Global Residency' allows.

The Golden Visa Spain

One of the most popular and recommendable locations for a Golden Visa application is Spain. More than 60 per cent of clients of De Micco & Friends Lawyers and Auditors, select Spain as the best and safest place for investments. According to the IMF, Spain's GDP is currently predicted to grow 2.5 per cent.

The Golden Visa will allow your spouse and young children to also ob-

tain the residence permit at the same time and it allows the holder to work, live or study in Spain with no other authorisation needed.

The most common investment forms in Spain

Spain offers several investment forms to apply for a Golden Visa. The most common and recommendable investments are property investments in a growing real estate market with high returns of investments and investments in Spanish companies (as active or passive shareholder).

For more information on the Golden Visa problem and the terms and investment needed, contact De Micco & Friends.

Information provided by Luigi Carlo De Micco, CEO and president of the De Micco & Friends law firm, which is represented with more than 500 associated lawyers in all Spain, with headquarters in Palma de Mallorca.

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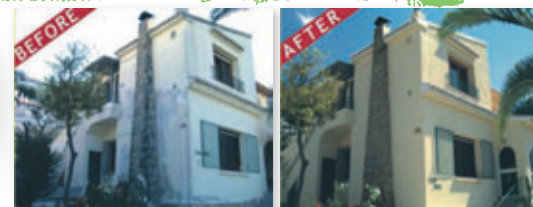
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Trump's state visits will fit in nicely

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

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 happened?

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 down.

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.

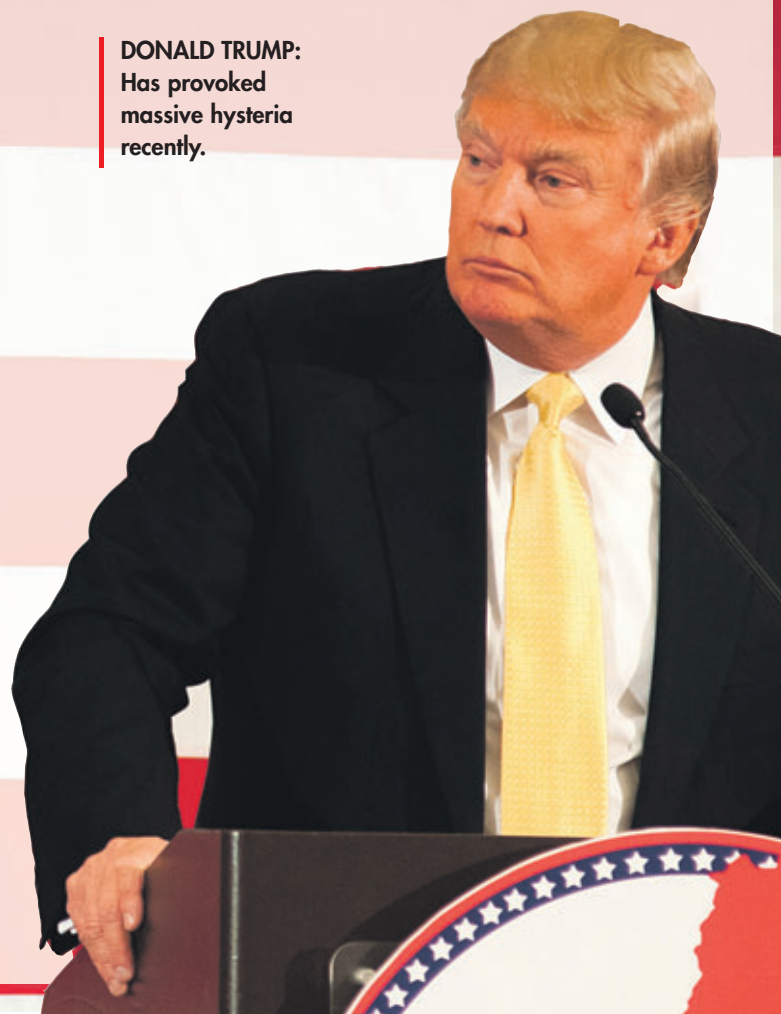
Nonetheless, it seems we are no nearer to discovering the truth about Madeleine. Just as in my latest crime thriller, *No Way Back*, (as you know, all profits to Costa

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 Trump-land 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.nora-johnson.com) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

DONALD TRUMP:
Has provoked massive hysteria recently.



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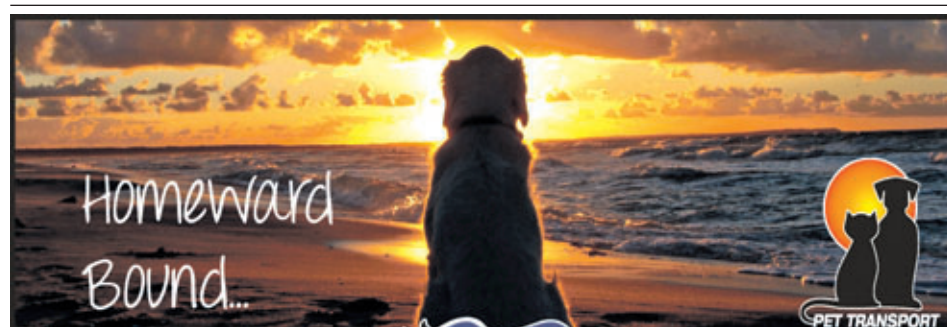
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App to predict illness

IT seems there is an app for everything nowadays, particularly relating to your health from checking your blood pressure, to predicting the best times to try and conceive. But what if an app on your phone could warn you if you were about to get ill?

Well this could soon become a reality as scientists in America are working on a smart device that can warn you up to half a day in advance gathering information from wearable health trackers which monitor heart rate and body temperature.

The team at California's Stanford University is working on the app, and have tested the theory on 43 volunteers who wore a smart watch for up to 11 months.

Analysing the data they found that as people start to become ill their heart rate and skin temperature



went up and their blood oxygen levels dropped. By using this information it can give the user a first warning that something isn't quite right.

By getting this heads up people could plan better and prevent aggravating the illness and hopefully have a quicker recovery.

The app could also be used to track the health of the elderly or those with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and act as a warning system for carers or family members.

The scientists are confident the app will be on the market within the next few years.

NEW APP: Could be used to track the health of the elderly.

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 cases.

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 obesity.

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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 lot.

-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@helicopterosanitarios.com



DOCTORS SURGERY: Many people have fears of a physical examination.

Are you scared of going to the doctors?

DO you put off that trip to the doctor for fear of bad news? If you do, it seems you are not alone. A report suggests that a third of us delay appointments with middle-aged men being the worse culprits.

Women in general are more likely to attend screenings and seek medical help,

with men more likely to suffer symptoms for longer.

The report by 2020 health said many had fears of the physical examination and the hospital and medical environment and around a third of those questioned avoided the doctors because they

had a fear of finding out they may have serious illnesses such as cancer.

Researchers said smokers, heavy drinkers and those who are overweight, were less likely to want to hear bad news about their health and feared they would be told to change their lifestyle.

Going to the theatre could prevent dementia

ENJOYING activities such as going to the theatre could help prevent dementia.

Scientists claim that engaging activities help cut the risk of mental decline as they stimulate the brain more, helping to protect against and prevent mild cognitive impairment (MCI) which is the stage between decline from aging and dementia. Symptoms include becoming forgetful, repeating yourself and problems with reasoning and problem-solving.



THEATRE: Regular trips stimulate the brain more.

The new study followed almost 2,000 adults over the age of 70 who were

were cognitively normal at the start and were monitored until they showed

signs of developing MCI.

During this time their activities and hobbies were analysed and it was found that regular theatre goers developed MCI symptoms later in life.

Meanwhile, another study has reported that women's brains start going downhill in their 50's and not in their 60's as previously thought.

The findings were based on a study that followed more than 2,000 healthy women in their 40's, for 10 years.

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TO READ MORE

Bach is back

WIDELY considered one of the greatest composers in history, Johann Sebastian Bach will be coming to Mallorca. Not the man himself of course, rather his Baroque music, which has stood the test of time for centuries.

The 'BachCycle' will be a collection of five concerts taking place across the Balearic Islands in the coming months. They will be performed by the aptly named Bachroc Ensemble which comprises both local musicians and orchestral talents from the continent and across the Atlantic.

The first concert takes place at Palma's Auditorium on Valentine's Day February 14, a perfect selection for any lovers out there. Beginning at half past eight in the evening, tickets are available from the Auditorium's website

and cost upwards of €22.

If that date doesn't suit then relax. The next performance will take place at Santa Tereseta, also in Palma, on February 25. The following evening the Bachroc Ensemble will be taking the Baroque masterpieces to Ibiza at the Puig d'en Valls Church. Dates are yet to be announced for the two other concerts, one to take place in Mallorca and the other in Minorca during March or April.

Bach's Baroque style was developed during the 18th century and is perfect for more wintry weather, being somewhat ill-suited to sweltering summer temperatures. Bringing Bach to Palma in February is also part of Palma's plans to become a Mediterranean cultural gem attracting quality guests throughout the year.

Sensational secret

By Matthew Elliott

ONE of Spain's most spectacular pop singing exports is on her way to Mallorca. Tickets are now available to catch a glimpse of the sensational India Martinez in Palma on Friday March 10.

The Grammy and Goya-winning artist has sold millions of records and albums worldwide. Last year she released her seventh studio album 'Te cuento un secreto' (I tell you a secret) which quickly rose to Number One in the Spanish charts.

The 31-year-old beauty was born in Cordoba and raised in Almeria. She is credited with transforming Andalucian flamenco and pop music in the modern era. Martinez has also duetted with such male stars as David Bisbal and Enrique Iglesias and is also hugely popular across Latin America.

Tickets begin at just €32 and can be purchased from the Palma Auditorium website.

INDIA MARTINEZ: Is on her way to Mallorca.



End of ice cream era

PORTO POLLENZA'S famous ice cream shop Gelats Valls no longer exists. The town hall has dismantled the iconic wooden building after the parlour was forced to shut down after more than half a century of business.

The beginning of the end came for Gelats Valls when a rival ice cream parlour opened shop. It became clear that Gelats Valls had never filed the proper paperwork and was operating in violation of regulations.

Despite a huge petition attracting thousands of local signatures in April 2016, the council's decision to close the parlour stood.

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Pacific Atlantic

WITH the recent winds and storms there really is no better time to experience the instrumental heartfelt tales of the high seas that comes from Carles Grimalt's 'Pacífico Atlantico.'

The Mallorcan instrumentalist will be bringing his acclaimed and unique sounds to Manacor Theatre on Saturday February 11.

Pacífico Atlantico is Grimalt's latest concept album featuring a melody of instrumental sounds capturing the soul of the sea, and bringing the tales of ancient mariners to life. He will be accompanied by six other musicians to bring the audience an experience they will never forget, on an island custom-made for this peculiar style.

Tickets cost just €8 and can be bought in advance from the Manacor Theatre. The event begins at 7.30pm and is largely instrumental, save for the hushed intonations of Emmi Finozzi.

BRITISH alternative rock stalwarts Placebo are to play at the Mallorca Live music festival which takes place in Calvia on May 12 and 13.

To date the band has released seven studio albums and sold around 11 million records worldwide.

In 2016 the group, fronted by androgynous singer-guitarist Brian Molko, celebrated the 20th anniversary of their self-titled debut long player by releasing the retrospective compilation A Place for Us to Dream.

Their most famous single remains the 1996 hit Nancy Boy.

Other acts now confirmed for the jamboree include Malaga's finest Chambao, who will bring their Flamenco-influenced stylings to the island as they play through their latest album Nuevo Ciclo.

Music festival line-up

Ukrainian DJ and Kiss FM presenter Nastia will also be present, spinning a range of the latest electronic sounds, while Club el Rio will present their second album Un Sol Dentro.

The Madrid-based group Sexy Zebbras will also play the festival having recently toured throughout Europe, the United States and Mexico, while Argentinian alt-rockers Onda Vaga have also been added to the line-up.

Other acts due to play Mallorca Live include Lori Meyers, The Martinez Brothers, Mala Rodriguez, C. Tangana and Nicola Cruz.

malloralivefestival.com



PLACEBO: Will hit the stage in Calvia this May.

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THANKS 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

menu that he thought was commercially viable, on to the Chef who had a lot more to offer and had explained 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 profitability.

I had decided that the problems were not all down to bad kitchen management - although this certainly needs looking at - but more a lack of culinary direction.

We are at this moment in deep discussion on how to improve the quality and performance of this operation and I will keep you informed on our progress every week in this column.

• **WHILE** I can see what London's Mayor, Sadiq Khan, is trying to do by imposing a 'bed tax' on the Capital's hotels, I tend to agree with Ufi Ibrahim, the Chief

“ There is no love sincerer than the love of food.”
George Bernard Shaw

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 competitiveness.

• **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 Rodríguez, 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.

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 wines?

Viticulture was believed to 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 encouraged 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

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 anything else.

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 increasing at a rate of 20-30 per 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.



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

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 Repub-



HONG KONG: Has been declared the least affordable city in the world when it comes to buying a property.

lic. 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 investors.

Action finally taken after European ruling

MAJOR Spanish lender Bankia will be among the first institutions to act on a recent European ruling declaring so-called 'floor clauses' to be abusive.

Well over one million bank customers across Spain were affected by the clauses, which imposed a lower limit on mortgage repayments, regardless of interest rate fluctuations.

Bankia has seen the writing on the wall from the hugely significant European Court of Justice decision late last year. They have announced that they will refund all of their affected customers with the help of a giant €200 million kitty they have set aside.

It's not completely due to a sense of fair play or responsibility. The bank has openly recognised that they will

probably have to pay out even more in legal fees and bureaucracy further down the line if they drag their heels over repayment.

People due refunds will have the choice between a one-off payment straight into the bank account, or the due amount being wiped from their larger mortgage debt.

Various schemes across different banks are set to be

rolled out across the country as the government approved new legislation set to guarantee that people get their money back.

Banks will be expected to not only pay back what they overcharged, but to do so with interest attached. Billions of euros are expected to be paid back to property owners in the coming years as a direct consequence of the decision.

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

families themselves, their ups and downs and personal journeys.

Following such a tumultuous 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 hot.

More television shows will certainly help the cause.



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

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Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

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



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





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This beautiful house of modern style is located in Palmanova. This newly refurbished property was built on a large plot of 2,000 sqm and it has a constructed space of 400 sqm and 250 sqm of living space distributed on one floor. The house consists of 5 bedrooms (the master bedroom with a big dressing room), 3 bathrooms (2 of them en suite), a modern open kitchen and a very spacious living/dining room with chimney and with access to a big terrace surrounded by a big garden with terraces and a beautiful pool. Furthermore, this wonderful property has a separate apartment that consists of 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, a kitchen and a living and dining room. The house was built and refurbished with the best materials available on the market. It is located in a residential area very close to the beach of Palma Nova, to the international schools, supermarkets and all services you might need in daily life. The famous Puerto Portals with its shops and restaurants and the golf course are only 4 km away. The centre of Palma is only 14 km away.



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11615 Fantastic townhouse in Genova



 300sqm

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Price: 705,000€

This fantastic townhouse is located in Genova and it has a living space of 300 sqm distributed into 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (one of them en suite), a spacious kitchen with cooking island and home cinema of 35 sqm with a 4 sqm screen and a chimney. This property has 5 terraces, one of them with 35 sqm has access to the communal pool. Furthermore, there is a utility room and 2 parking spaces. The community is very quiet, there are only 5 neighbours. The property is located very close to several shops and restaurants of the area and only 5 minutes away by car from the centre of Palma and 15 minutes away from the airport. Perfect for families!



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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 autumn.

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



Photo Credit: Olaf Speier/Shutterstock



FRESH FRUIT: Harvesting the Loquats.

fruit. The small white flowers are heavily perfumed.

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 the centre.

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.

Decorative yuccas

By Eleanor Hawkins

YUCCA is a genus of perennial shrubs and trees of the Agavoideae subfamily. There are more than 50 different varieties, the most suitable of which for indoor use is yucca elephantipes or spineless yucca.

their woody, erect stems and large green lanceled leaves. There is a variety with a lighter-coloured band on the sides of the leaves which is very eye-catching.

“ To keep yuccas happy, make sure they get plenty of natural light.

Although unlikely to sprout flowers when grown indoors, yuccas can have very pretty bell-shaped white, cream or pink flowers at the top.

Yuccas resist lack of water well as their leaves economise when necessary and their roots, when grown outdoors, can go down as far as two metres into the earth in search of water.

Grown as houseplants yuccas can reach heights of between two and four metres and outdoors they can grow up to eight metres.

They are best planted between March and August and need moving to larger pots regularly over the first three or four years.

To keep yuccas happy, make sure they get plenty of natural light. They thrive in temperatures between 16 and 38 degrees. Water every 15 to 20 days in winter and once a week in spring and summer. Be careful not to overwater as drowning will kill the yucca.

Another common and popular variety for decorative purposes is the yucca aloifolia, however this is more suitable for the garden as its leaves end in hard spikes. Originally from the American tropics, it grows perfectly well in Mediterranean climates. Yuccas are characterised by



YUCCAS: Resist lack of water well.

Organise it all

WHEN it comes to getting the house clean and tidy and shaving time off routines, there's nothing like a few good hacks or tricks. While many seem obvious once discovered, they can make all the difference and save valuable time for other things.

- Encourage children to hang their towels back up by using hooks shaped like their initials.

- 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, streak-free windows, add a few drops of dishwasher

rinse aid to the water.

- Save time hunting for matching sets when changing bedding by storing each set folded inside its pillowcase.

- Line the bottom of plastic bin bags with a few sheets of old newspaper to absorb liquids and avoid drips.

- To dust venetian blinds, put a sock over your hand, dampen slightly 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 and screens. This helps prevent limescale building up.



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Scooby, Thomas and Jason are on the move

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 Spain.

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 HouseSitMatch 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.

Do you need a house or petsitter? Get in touch. Housesitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and petsitting, and the experienced and checked



Scooby, Thomas and Jason.

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Dog Marleys want reggae

A NEW study carried out in Scotland by the SPCA and the University of Glasgow has revealed that reggae and soft rock are the preferred sounds of dogs in shelters.

Heart monitors were used on shelter dogs to keep track of their stress levels while different musical genres, including Motown, pop, soft rock, classical and reggae were piped through the kennels.

Although in a similar way to humans the results showed that different dogs preferred different musical styles, hinting that hounds have their own tastes for more than just lamb chops, reggae came top of the list for reducing stress levels.

Top tips to stop your dog biting

READ THE SIGNS:

Dogs can have bad days too!



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PERSONALLY I believe that 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, have a quiet moment and things are less likely to escalate.

2. Do not expect a growl. Many dogs decide that 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 situation. Let them take themselves off to a quiet place if they want to.

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

“ **Get your dog used to people and their ways from early puppyhood.**

children understand and be understood by dogs. Children cannot read dog warning signals until they are well into their teenage years! 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. Get professional help from a qualified behaviourist immediately.

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

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 of unusual or grumpy behaviour.

8. He only nipped. Not a dog bite then? A snap is often a deliberate miss. Take action by getting professional help now. Your dog was clearly feeling under pressure and needs help to feel less stressed.

9. Socialise, socialise, socialise. Get your dog used to people and their weird ways from early 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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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

“Whenever I'm suffering from insomnia I just look at a picture of a Toyota Camry and I'm straight off.”

Some might say...



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 cars courtesy of rave reviews.

The Volkswagen Polo and Toyota RAV4 both clocked 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.

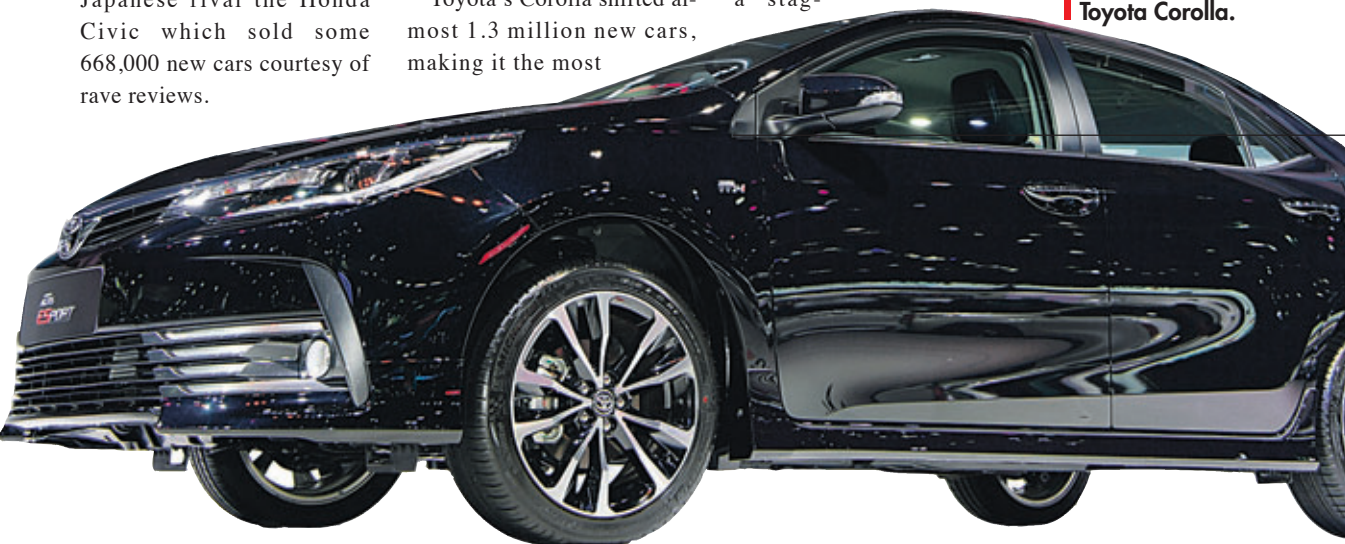
Toyota's Corolla shifted almost 1.3 million new cars, making it the most

popular model in the world. 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 stag-

gering 10.3 million units in 2016, over 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.



What documents do I need to take in my car?

WHEN you drive a vehicle on Spain's roads, it is compulsory for you to carry certain documents with you in the vehicle.

The ITV Card

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

ITV Report

Once your vehicle is four years old it will have to undergo the mandatory ITV test. The ITV report details what happened during that inspection.

Permiso de Circulación

The Permiso de Circulación 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 Agreement.

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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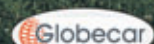
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Virtual super reality



MOST EXPENSIVE: The Azzam superyacht cost almost €500 million.

By Matthew Elliott

SUPERYACHTS are getting bigger and bigger. There are now almost 4,500 languishing in luxurious ports across the globe or being refitted to possess even more opulent features.

Surprisingly the world's largest superyacht-owners are Arabs. Middle-eastern businessmen now easily outstrip American and European billionaires in the superyacht sweepstakes.

Today the world's most expensive superyacht is thought to be that owned by the president of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al

Nahyan, whose family has around €150 billion to play with. His yacht, the Azzam, is almost 600 feet long, cost almost €500 million and naturally has a missile defence system.

Superyachts form a perfect luxury holding for the uber rich and are collectively worth more than their artworks, private jets and mansions. So it's no surprise that superyacht selling and renting is developing into some of an artform itself.

One innovative new technique to separate the superrich from their fortunes is the use of virtual reality to show poten-

tial customers just how perfect a possible yacht can be. The technology is already in place for hotels, allowing clients to virtually visit rooms and get a feel for the place.

Until recently it's proven much harder for yachts, but one international developer has made a breakthrough. Soon superyacht investors will be able to hit the high seas and take a whirl in a helicopter without even leaving their office suite. Various shipyards have taken note and we can expect to see virtual reality rooms become commonplace at exclusive harbours.



MARTINEZ: Disappointing outcome.

Will try again

AFTER the record for circumnavigating the globe was shattered, Mallorca proved a much harder task for Spanish skipper Iker Martinez. The Olympic legend was attempting to set a new record for sailing around the island when strong winds toppled his mast on Friday February 3.

Martinez was sailing east on the catamaran M32 Movistar yacht towards Alcudia Bay at 30 knots when conditions suddenly worsened. He and his highly experienced four man crew had only set off that morning and were ultimately towed to Colonia de Sant Pere in Arta.

They hoped to beat the Vuelta Mallorca record of 17 hours, 14 minutes and 39 seconds set in 2005 set by German entrepreneur Klaus Murmann who died in 2014.

Martinez and the Movistar crew will be desperately disappointed having delayed their plans for weeks in wait of ideal weather conditions. The 160-mile route is technically very difficult and it would have been virtually impossible to complete, let alone set a new record, given recent storms.

But no Olympian worth their salt is easily discouraged and the 39-year-old has already announced he and his crew will set out again to break the record at the end of February, weather permitting of course. Martinez won Olympic Gold in Athens in 2004 and Silver in Beijing 2008.

Around the world in 40 days

A NEW record was set to snatch the Jules Verne trophy. Francis Joyon and his Idec Sport crew sailed around the world in just 40 days, 23 hours, 30 minutes and 30 seconds. The team smashed the previous record by more than four days, sailing 26,412 miles at an average speed of just under 27 knots.

During the race they also shattered a range of other records as they sped around the world from December 16, 2016 to January 26 this year. An onboard meteorologist helped the crew nip across the entire Indian ocean in just six days on their maxi trimaran Idec Sport yacht.

The six-member crew had one Spanish member, Alex Pella, but owes their success largely to the superhuman efforts of Joyon, a 60-year-old French veteran of the sport. On their 14th day the crew sailed 894 miles, while another record was set when they managed over 800 miles a day for eight consecutive days.

It wasn't all smooth sailing. The first attempt was aborted after just a few days. Later they experienced extreme storms in the Doldrums and were well behind the pace set by



NEW RECORD: Francis Joyon and his crew sailed around the world in 40 days, 23 hours, 30 mins and 30 seconds.

record holder, the Banque Populaire V as they finished the second week.

The quest will now be on to see who can half the original Jules Verne ideal of circumnavigating the world in 80 days. Winning skippers have almost exclusively been French with the first to manage a sub-80 day sail being Bruno Peyron in 1993.

If anyone is to break the 40-day mark then Joyon must be firm favourite. As well as skipping his crew to the Jules Verne trophy, the Breton also holds the record for the fastest solo sail around the world. He beat Brit Ellen MacArthur's record in 2008 when he managed it in just 57 days, 13 hours, 34 minutes and six seconds. He gained revenge

for her usurping his previous world record when she had beaten it by one day in 2005.

Joyon holds one other staggering record. In 2005 he raced single-handedly across the Atlantic in little over six days and in one awe-inspiring 24-hour period managed to power across 543 nautical miles (1,006km).

Overnight boating

FORGET the storms and seize a bit of instant adventure with an overnight stay on your boat.

It's the perfect getaway treat for almost any occasion and works especially well in low season when the ports and waters are quiet.

If you do decide to spend the night afloat then be sure to bring food. Ideally it won't need cooking, won't bruise easily and will be tightly packed in plastic bags.

Bring some coolers for fresh food and cold drinks and to stop going overboard on costs if you've got an onboard fridge.

Be sure to tow an inflatable underneath just in case and bring a power generator if you're planning a trip.

Chelsea win again – so do England, Scotland, Wales, GB and the Patriots

Tony Matthews



International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

CALENDAR OF 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.

• 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 and Widnes-Huddersfield with Salford-Wigan and Catalan Dragons-Warrington playing on Saturday.

• Meanwhile, the former Hull FC player and Hull KR chairman and coach, Colin Hutton, has died aged 90.

• Saturday's PL football 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 out-

played when losing 3-0 to Manchester United last Sunday.

• 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, QPR 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-ties.

• 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 Sunday.

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

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 £29m.

• 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 Indies.

• 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 clear of Aberdeen at the top of the SPL (67-43); Inverness CT are bottom with

just 18. The biggest points-margin 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 Ottawa 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: They would have done if they'd scored more goals than their opponents!



FIRST MATCH WIN: For England in the Rugby Six Nations.



SCOTLAND v IRELAND: Stuart Hogg's second try.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Spain (16 wins, 11 defeats) and Italy (12/15) share the record for appearing in most European/Champions League Cup finals: 1956-2016.

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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

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

Busy day for Shamrock

MEMBERS of Shamrock RC had an early start and busy day on Saturday as they played host to teams of all ages from the youngsters to the U18s and girls.

First up were the U14 teams in which EL Toro RC continued their unbroken run of wins although their opponents pushed them hard. This was followed by the flag rugby for the school teams and the rugby day for the 'proper' game played by youngsters aged between eight and 12 years.

The three U16 teams, El Toro RC, RC Ponent and Babarians, the combined team for other clubs who find it difficult to make up a full team, played a triangular tournament. Towards the end of the afternoon and under floodlights the girls had their opportunity and played in the Olympic 'sevens' format.

Teams from El Toro RC, Corsaris RFC and hosts Shamrock RC, along with a visiting team from the University of Sevilla, played short matches.



RESCHEDULED GAME: Between Ponent RC and Bahia RC.

Continuing their domination were El Toro RC girls who won both of their league matches although they lost the friendly to the mainland team. Last match of the long day was the U18 between El Toro RC and RC Ponent.

The only match played at the weekend in the senior league was the rescheduled game between Ponent RC and

Bahia RC in Principes de España. Victory went to the home team by 33 points to seven.

Next week the first matches in the Michel Rodier Trophy League for the U16 and U18 teams will be played in Principes de España. The U14 have a training session for the Baleares team and the U20 Baleares team meet Valencia.



RUGBY:
A game
for all
sizes!

Spanish Masters held in Palma

TRADITIONALLY February is the month which hosts the Spanish Masters Open Winter Swimming Championships in a 25m pool. This year Palma in Mallorca was the venue and saw a record number of participants.

The event saw 1,424 masters swimmers descended upon the Olympic Municipal pool from February 2-5 for the 22nd Spanish Masters Winter Championships with 166 swimming clubs who presented swimmers of all ages from 21 to 91 in 40 different races. Swimming club, Club Natacion Elche had four swimmers who participated in the competition and together they won seven medals - five golds, one silver and one bronze medal.

Beth Altabas won gold in the 800, 400m (70+ category), 200m, 100m and 50m freestyle events. Vicki Connolly won a bronze medal in the 800m freestyle (50+ category), just missed out on bronze coming fourth in her 200m freestyle event and swam a seasonal personal best of 1:17:75 in her 100m freestyle.

On Saturday Julio came 10th in his 50m butterfly in the 35-39yrs category. On the final day Javier Sanchez won silver in the 50m breaststroke in the 30-34yrs category.

By the end of the competition with only four swimmers representing CN Elche the club managed to rank 68th of 166 clubs. A massive achievement with only four swimmers! Well done to all.

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