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Prison or bail

Verdict on King's brother-in-law

By Simon Firth

The husband of Spain's Princess Cristina, who was convicted of fraud and tax evasion, will find out if he is to be jailed while his appeal goes through the courts.

Although his wife was acquitted, Iñaki Urdangarin was given a sentence of six years and three months by judges in Mallorca. He was convicted of tax offences, fraud, falsifying documents, embezzlement and abuse of position.

The princess, sister to the Spanish King, Felipe VI, still

faces a fine of €265,000 as she benefited from illegal activity in terms of civil responsibility.

Although there were 16 defendants in the case, the most eagerly awaited judgements were on Urdangarin's former business partner, Diego Torres, and former government minister, Jaime Matas. Torres received the longest sentence, eight-and-a-half years, while Matas must serve three years and eight months.

The King's brother-in-law, Urdangarin is a former Olympic handball medalist

who was accused of using the sports foundation he ran, the Nóos Institute, to win falsely inflated contracts from regional government organisations. The money was then channeled into personal accounts via tax havens.

It was alleged Nóos received more than €6m in public money, principally from the Valencian and Balearic regional governments. The latter has already indicated it intends to pursue a legal attempt to recover the €2.3m it paid to the Nóos institute.



PRINCESS CRISTINA: Was acquitted.

Stop Press

DON'T MISS OUR PROPERTY SUPPLEMENT

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Win a Car!

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See us on page 24



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LOCAL NEWS

Perilous plummet

A 28-YEAR-OLD foreign climber is in critical condition after falling 10 metres down a sheer rock face between Cape Farrutx and Betlem. A helicopter was used to rescue him due to the inaccessibility of the site and the serious nature of his various injuries, before he was rushed to the Son Espases Hospital.

Tourist trap

LAURA CAMARGO, spokeswoman for left wing political party Podemos in the Balearic Parliament, has expressed her party's "indignation" at Palma airport operator AENA's proposal to extend capacity so that a flight arrives every 45 seconds. She said: "We have been discussing how to pop this tourism bubble for a long time... we do not want to be a hotel colony!"

Whale watch

THE whale and dolphin migration corridor off Mallorca is to be declared a Specially Protected Zone of Importance for the Mediterranean (ZEPIM) at a Barcelona convention later this year. This will ensure that preventative measures regarding hydrocarbon prospecting and other harmful activities in the area are put in place and upheld.



TAXI DRIVERS beat drums, blew horns and whistles, and lit firecrackers outside the Consulat de la Mar on February 15.

Photo by Gillian Keller/EWN

Taxi drivers announce more strikes

By Gillian Keller

TAXI DRIVER associations have announced a series of strikes, starting with a 24-hour strike on March 6. There are also shorter three-hour scheduled strikes for March, 13, 20, and 27 and April 3, and 24-hour strikes planned for April 13 and 16, which are Thursday of Easter Week and Easter Sunday itself.

There will also be no taxi service from 10pm until 6am on both April 14 and April 15. These strikes are aimed to get residents involved in the discussions, as large numbers of tourists and locals alike use taxis during big holidays.

Recent meetings between the four taxi-driver associations, the minister for Transport Marc Pons, and the mayor of Calvia Alfonso Rodriguez, have produced minimal progress toward a resolution, leaving the deadlock unbroken. Pons said the meetings made some advancements, but the taxi drivers disagree.

There is another protest planned on March 17 from 11am until 2pm outside the Consulat de la Mar.

Emilo Gomez, a Pollensa based taxi driver for 17 years, believes they will continue protesting until a fair agreement is reached. "Everybody needs a taxi, not just tourists; but what the government is

doing is bad service for everyone," Gomez said at the February 15 protest.

Many residents struggle to get behind the taxi drivers and their protest. In 2016 Mallorca's association of self-employed taxi drivers released information regarding revenue; their spokesman Juan Pablo Arias, stated a typical Palma driver can take home between €5,000 and €6,000 in each of the summer months, although winter months see a decrease down to as little as €800 on a slow month. The average yearly salary in Mallorca is €26,375, or taking home just over €2,000 a month; taxi drivers on average take home more than most working in Mallorca.

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Ice cream kiosk removed

GELATS VALLS, a Puerto Pollensa ice cream shop since 1929, has had its kiosk removed after complaints of malfeasance regarding the continual use of the kiosk.

An Inca judge has opened proceedings looking to clarify if there was an abuse of public office, beginning with a town hall meeting on May 5, 2015. Both the former and

current mayors are being investigated, along with board members of that and other relevant meetings.

Locals are divided, with some glad to see the large kiosk that does not pay the town gone, while others are nostalgic for the decades old landmark of the port.

Tallest mural unveiled

THE largest street art mural in Palma has been officially unveiled.

The work of the Mallorcan artist, Joan Aguiló, it depicts a child hold-

ing its bottle and behind it is a toy train.

José Hila, the mayor of Palma, was among those invited to the inauguration ceremony, who said such works helped "transform Palma into a more modern city while supporting Balearic artists."

The work, which is 20 metres in height, can be seen near the Sóller train station.

Something in the air

AIR BERLIN has denied a report in the Mallorcan press, which inferred

that the planned withdrawal of certain flights to and from Mallorca would be postponed for at least a year saying that it was pure speculation.

The report suggested that the amalgamation of the Niki airline subsidiary with Tui to form a holiday airline, as well as the involvement of Etihad had not received a blessing from the German government.

Playa wins prize

A MALLORCAN beach has bagged a gong in the 2017 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Beach Awards. Muro beach, near Alcudia, finished in 10th place on the European list, with the top 15 featuring five Spanish beaches.

The glowing description of the pristine sandy strip describes how 'the sea has a beautiful turquoise colour and a warm temperature.'

Mother and daughter rob disabled woman

A MOTHER and daughter accused of beating and robbing an 84-year-old woman after pretending they were going to drive her home, have been arrested.

The pair, who are known to police, belong to a group who have preyed on the elderly in the past.

The mother, aged 57, and her 33-year-old daughter, are said to have struck in Manacor.

Their victim, who is disabled, was tricked into getting into a car by the women who said they would drive her back to the retirement home where she lived.

Instead, they drove her out of the city, forced her out of the vehicle, and then assaulted and robbed her.

They then drove back leaving their frightened victim alone at the side of the road.

Police have revealed the two women are repeat offenders and have previously been banned from Palma Old Town.

The women are part of a group who are notorious for befriending their victims on the pretext of selling them a flower or a rosary, but instead distract them while another accomplice steals from them.

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Postscript to ponder

8 billion

The estimated amount in euros that political corruption has cost Spain since the country became a democracy in 1978, with 175 official cases recorded.

Clean-up time!

SPAIN has been sent a final warning to comply with EU air pollution standards. If it does not show how it intends to comply with EU law within two months, a court hearing with the power to impose heavy fines could begin later this year. There are three 'air quality zones' that exceed the NO2 limits in the country, one in Madrid and two in Barcelona.

Poor air quality is believed to be the cause of an estimated 30,000 deaths a year in Spain alone. The UK has been issued a final warning for 16 air quality zones exceeding the pollution limits, including London, Birmingham and Leeds.

Ghostly fear

A COUNCILLOR claims a ghost is living in a Granada council building. A supporting photograph taken by a civic worker at the Vegas de Genil council building has been widely circulated on the internet. The councillor told the *Ideal* newspaper: "It was unusually cold in the office. I put on my coat and went to the bathroom. That's when I heard strange rustling sounds down the hallway."



Postcard from

PAMPLONA



THE eight-day festival of Saint Fermin is held every July and is famous the world over. While not all will know why it is globally famed from such a bare description, many will have heard of the events which annually put the courage, or in some cases the drunken bravado, of mostly young men to the test.

The event is the running of the bulls, or encierro in Spanish. Six young bulls are released from a coral, accompanied by six bullocks and three more behind them. The last three aim to ensure there are no reluctant stragglers. Ahead of them are hundreds of mainly men, who basically act as their quarry.

The bulls are set off on a route of city streets that culminates in the bullring, with the near three minutes it takes them to get there fraught for the men running... and dodging... in front. Injuries are common but not all are caused by the bulls. Records kept since 1910 show only 15 people have been killed in that time, usually by goring. Nowadays around 200 medics are on duty each day.

If you fancy testing your courage against rampaging bulls with sharp horns then put any one of the eight days from 7 July in your diary!

Baby boom

A 64-YEAR-OLD who underwent in vitro fertilisation in the United States has given birth to twins by caesarean section in the northern city of Burgos. She also gave birth to a daughter six years ago via the same method, but the Junta de Castilla y Leon placed the girl into the care of a relative in 2014 after social workers reported issues with her personal hygiene, clothing and absenteeism from school.

Porno sting

SPAIN'S National Police force has arrested 22 people and is investigating another 10 for distributing photographs and videos of child pornography. One of the detainees has also been accused of abusing his children, aged eight and 13, one with a mental disorder. Two others arrested are also suspected of grooming children on the Internet. They deceived the victims by posing as teenage girls and took photographs of them naked, with which they subsequently blackmailed them.

Banking scandal

THREE Bank of Spain officials are stepping down after learning that they are under investigation by the High Court as part of a probe into the Bankia flotation fiasco of 2011. The bank's Director General of Supervision, Mariano Herrera Garcia-Canturri, his deputy Pedro Comin Rodriguez and Pedro Gonzalez Gonzalez, who headed an inspection unit at the lender, are all to leave their posts, the bank has announced.

Birthdays

• **Linda Nolan, Singer, February 23, 58**
Irish singer who, along with her five sisters, formed girl group The Nolans whose most famous hit song was I'm in the Mood for Dancing. She has also had a successful career in the theatre having starred in productions such as Blood Brothers and Prisoner Cell Block: The Musical.

• **Floyd Mayweather Jr, Boxer, February 24, 40**

American boxer who was undefeated in his professional career winning 15 world titles. In 2016, ESPN hailed him as the greatest boxer of the last 25 years. In 2012 and 2013 he came top of both lists by Forbes and Sports Illustrated, and in Forbes' 2014 and 2015 list, as the highest paid athlete in the world.

• **Ed Balls, Politician, February 25, 50**
British former Labour MP and Shadow Chancellor who lost his 'safe' seat at last year's General Election. He is now on the Board of Directors at Norwich City FC as Chairman. Married to fellow politician Yvette Cooper they were the first married couple to both be Cabinet members at the same time.

• **Michael Bolton, Singer, February 26, 64**
American singer/songwriter who is best known for his hit ballads such as Time, Love and Tenderness, How am I Supposed to Live Without You? and Soul Provider in the late 80's, early 90's. Prior to this he was the lead singer with the hard rock/heavy metal band Blackjack who once toured as a support act with Ozzy Osbourne.

• **Paul Hollywood, Chef/TV Presenter, March 1, 51**

English chef and baker who is one of the judges on the hit TV show The Great British Bake Off. He has also presented his own cookery shows Paul Hollywood's Bread and Paul Hollywood's Pies and Puds. He has written and published cook books including How to Bake, 100 Great Breads and The Weekend Baker.



Slave saved from service

THREE people suspected of subjecting a young Moroccan woman to slave-like conditions of domestic servitude have been arrested in Navarre.

The victim was handed to a family in Holland who are accused of exploiting her by making her work long hours for miniscule pay, with Spanish police describing her employment as "almost feudal."

The woman had no rights or permits and was forced to give most of her small income to her father.

When police in Holland became aware of the woman's situation they alerted colleagues in Spain with a joint operation resulting in the arrests of three Moroccans in Navarre. Dutch police believe the Netherlands-based family had also exploited two other women.

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NEWS EXTRA

Humour festival

THE town of Calvia has announced the third annual festival of humour will return March 18 until April 9, with many comedians and performances, taking part in theatres across the town.

Smart Island

CALVIA will host the 2017 Smart Island World Congress on April 20 and 21, and will be now be the permanent headquarters to the congress.

Taken over

AFTER five years of being privately owned, control of the Costa Nord estate will be taken over by the Valldemossa Town Hall, intending to restore run down areas and then promote tourism and events back to the estate.

Prison time for illegal fishing

A PLYMOUTH judge has sent Shane Barton, the owner and skipper of the Nicky Noo, to prison after he plead guilty to four charges of maritime safety laws. The judge said Barton was complacent and arrogant, and his failings and the cutting of corners were deliberate, putting the safety of his crew and the ship at risk.

The skipper plead guilty to three charges of unsafe operation of a fish-

“ Skipper plead guilty to three charges of unsafe operation of a fishing vessel.

ing vessel, and one charge of breaching prohibition notice which required Barton to complete safety training. He was handed a three-month prison sentence suspended for 24 months and a 12-month supervision order.



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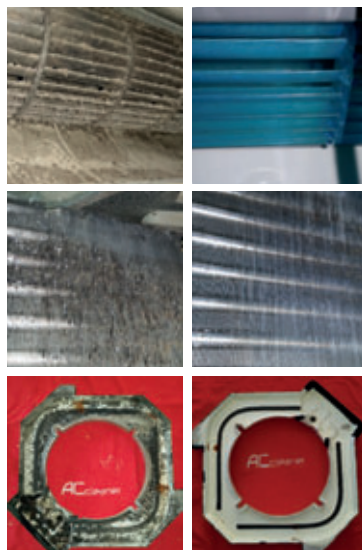
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Menu 2 food tasting for 2 people

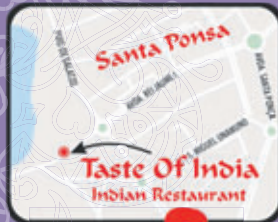
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Menu 3 food tasting for 4 people

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OUR VIEW

Drive safely

RECENTLY there seem to have been a large number of serious road accidents reported with some lucky escapes, but sadly a number of deaths.

We all think that we are good drivers, but one has to think about the other person and not be tempted to get involved in trying to stop the idiot behind you from overtaking.

There is a huge business in car rentals to tourists and all that a visitor needs to do is produce money to cover the rental and a valid driving licence and they are then allowed to get behind the wheel of a large piece of fast metal.

At night, in Spain in particular, it seems that every other car has a problem with badly adjusted headlights or with one out completely and the dazzle effect from their lights in rear view mirrors is quite frightening.

At *Euro Weekly News* we value all of our readers and would simply ask that you ensure that your car is properly looked after as although there is nothing you can do to stop the other hazards on the road, if your car is kept in good order, then it makes life safer for everyone.

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Mallorcan's hunger strike suspended

JUAN FERNANDEZ BUSTOS, a Mallorcan sentenced to 15 years in a Cape Verde prison for drug trafficking, money laundering and criminal association, has temporarily suspended his hunger strike after 16 days.

In a statement released through his lawyer after his hunger strike, Fernandez reiterates, "I proclaim innocence until the end of my days. I have not committed any of the crimes for which I was convicted." The sudden worsening of his health and the "incalculable suffering" caused to his family were decisive factors in pausing his hunger strike.

Since his arrest in November 2014, Bustos has repeatedly claimed his arrest and the process since have been an "absurd miscarriage of justice, with intolerable violations of the rule of law." Bustos and his lawyers argue there has never been proper evidence of his criminal activity.

Accusations include the transport of 521 kilos of cocaine; the drugs were found on a boat heading to Europe. Bustos was one of six arrested and accused of loading the drugs onto the boat; the arrest occurred while the six were driving, not all together, away from the drug-filled boat.

Bustos' appeal was supposed to be reviewed last September, but has been put off until May because of the complexity of the case; this delay was a main reason for the Mallorcan's hunger strike.

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Solar roofs proposed

THE Association of industrialist of Mallorca (ASIMA) has requested financial aid to have solar panels installed on the roofs in the Can Valero and Son Castello estates in Palma, in total 50 hectares.

An estimated 32,100 homes could be powered, producing a power up to 73MW, similar to project proposals in Santa Cirga in Manacor and Cap Blanc in Lluçmajor.

ASIMA's director, Alejandro Saenz de San Pedro claims the project would avoid the emission of 82 tonnes of CO2 per year.

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Pollution to be reduced by 2018

ENVIRONMENT and agriculture minister Vicenç Vidal and the president of Emaya, Neus Truyol, have signed a protocol on planning investments in sanitation and purification, proposing €35 million in priority investments between 2017 and 2018.

The director general of water resources, Joan Garau, states that the ministry has increased investment into maintenance by 20 percent. Truyol recalled, "the last legislature did not invest a cent in tax concept of sanitation in the city."

Now, Vidal, Garau and Truyol have the common goal of working together to improving the water cycles, water treatment, and pollution control.

Multiple projects have

been proposed, including construction of a large water tank in Palma, costing €18.8 million, to improve the flow of water from heavy rain.

“Multiple projects have been proposed costing €18.8m.

A treatment plant with a budget of €80 million, is to be built nearby by the environment and agriculture ministry. The large water tank will lessen the pollu-

tion into the bay of Palma, as the beginning of heavy rain storms contain the most pollutants and compounds spilling into the sea.

Improvements are also

planned for Playa de Palma, with Emaya investing €7million. Truyol stresses that these actions will have a "positive impact on the environment."

NEWS EXTRA

Sa Trap rescue

A GERMAN national found himself lost with a head wound on an excursion around Sa Trapa; the mountain rescue group found the man at 3.55am with information from his Twitter account.

Wage gap

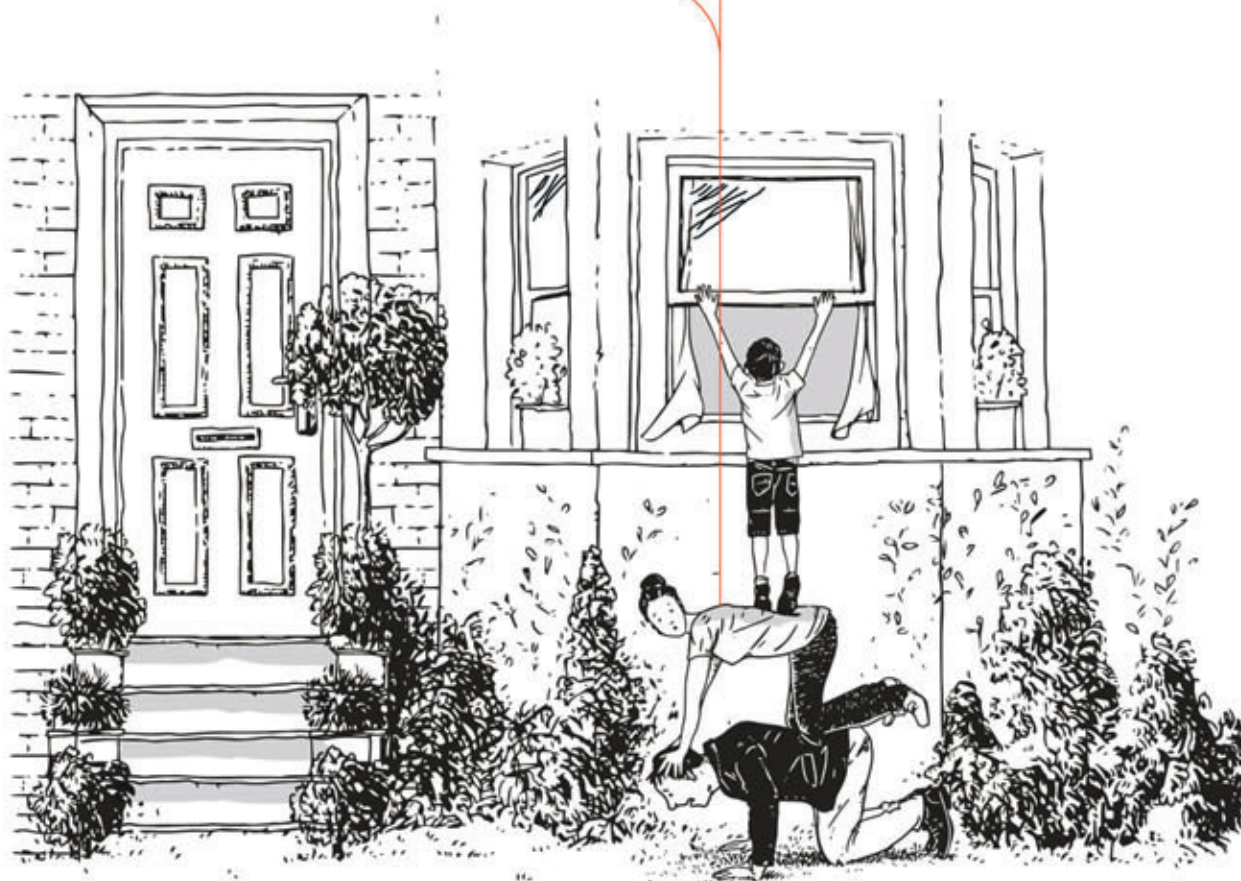
A NEW study shows that the wage gap between men and women in the Balearic Islands stands around 20 percent, with woman earning an average of €4,762 less for the same job.

Canine cops

PALMA police have launched a campaign to ensure dog related laws and rules are adhered to, such as leash and muzzle laws. Fines for infractions are between €60 and €3,000.

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■ By email:

survey@euroweeklynews.com

■ In person:

■ Portal Nous - Mallorca
 Crta. Andratx 32, Portal Nous
 07181, Calvia, Mallorca
 Islas Baleares, Spain

■ 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.

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

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

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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
 Leapy Lee
 Other columnists
 Television
 Horoscopes
 Time Out
 Letters
 Health & Beauty
 Food/Social Scene
 Homes & Gardens
 Community
 Classified
 Motoring
 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?

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 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

How often do you visit the www.euroweeklynews.com website?

More than once a day
 Once a day
 Once a week
 Once a month
 Never

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 No

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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?

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 More than once week
 Once a month
 Rarely

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

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 Yes (specify).....

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

No
 Yes (specify).....

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 Mobile
 Both
 Name of your provider(s)

Is your mobile

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 Name of network provider

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 iPhone
 Windows
 Other (specify)

Is your internet

Fibre Optic
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 Other (specify)

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WELCOME to the 2017 Euro Weekly News Reader Survey. We are continuously examining ways to further improve Spain's leading English-language newspaper and we want you, the reader, to take part.

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.

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Spirited Lords to debate Brexit



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

ALTHOUGH there is regular criticism of the activities of the House of Lords and calls for its abolition, it has to be said that whilst the House of Commons effectively gave Prime Minister Theresa May carte blanche on Article 50 the Lords are looking feistier.

With no majority in 'the other place', the Conservative government has to expect some opposition to the bill concerning Article 50 although Labour leader Lady Smith has gone on record saying that it is highly unlikely that the Lords will try to block a late March trigger.

What does however appear likely is that with 200 peers wanting to speak on the matter that one major area will concern the guarantee of resident status for all those from the European Union who were in the UK prior to the referendum.

If this does go back to the Commons and the amendment is accepted (although the same amendment brought by an MP was rejected previously) then this may bring comfort for British passport holders living in EU member states as they could reasonably anticipate a similar commitment from the EU.

In the same way that you don't expect turkeys to vote for Christmas, many peers fear that if they are too obstructive to the government, action will be taken to dissolve the House and bring in an alternative and this has been inferred in warnings from Conservative ministers.

Threats however have not deterred former Labour minister Lord Hain or the ever present Lord Mandelson from suggesting a more vigorous opposition and the latest former politician Tony Blair has also joined in, saying that it is his "mission" to try to persuade the British people to rise up against the decision to leave the EU.

As Mr Blair certainly divides much of the population, many of whom believe that he took

Britain into Iraq based on falsehoods Brexiteers appear to be pleased that he has joined in as they consider that his comments will have the opposite effect on what he hopes to achieve.

Time will tell whether 'the Ayes have it' when the vote is taken in the Lords at the beginning of March.

TONY BLAIR at the European Parliament.



Photo by Roman Yanushevsky Shutterstock

Brussels will not surrender

A NUMBER of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from different countries have been vocal in comments to European and British media warning that if Prime Minister May expects to divide and conquer or blackmail a soft exit then she will be disappointed.

From an early stage, Mrs May has warned the EU that if negotiations are difficult and if Britain is being given a difficult time, then she will simply walk away, regardless of whether any agreement is in place and in such a scenario, she has warned that member states will suffer.

These MEPs however have said that there will be a united front and Britain could be surprised at the response from the European Parliament if it tries to threaten or bully it.



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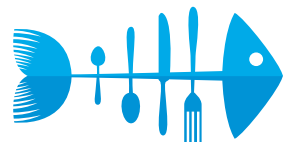
Stricter rules for Palma kiosks

SINCE the recent request made by Palma's federation of residents association to reduce and restrict city kiosks, Palma's town hall has announced that changes are coming this season.

“Some kiosks are expected to become smaller.

A new by-law is expected to be published in March in order to combat overcrowding of pavements and squares, but will not apply to parks, nor will it affect police and tourist information kiosks, and those with a social purpose, such as ONCE.

There will be a qualification process for new and existing kiosks, with a proposed four metre distance between things such as buildings, zebra crossings, bins and bus stops. Some kiosks are expected to become smaller, while the city also recognises some exceptions may be made on an individual basis. The new by-law is planned to be enforced before the start of the tourist season.



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NEWS EXTRA**Dam repair**

THE government will invest €1.5 million into the restoration of the dam at Cala Ratjada's port, which received significant damage in the late January storms. In total, €7.6 million will be spent redeveloping the port.

Name change

THE Mallorca Council is seeking to change the name of the Son Sant Joan airport to the Roman Lull Palma-Mallorca international airport costing an estimated €500,000.

University rise

UNIVERSITY enrolment in Mallorca has seen an increase for the first time in seven years; much of this is credited to the new medical programme offered at the University of the Balearic Islands.



NEW HOTEL: Would become a municipal asset and provide sports facilities.

Possible velodrome hotel in Can Picafort

A HOTEL that includes a velodrome is becoming a likely project for Son Baulo in Can Picafort.

Proposed by Joan Monjo, mayor of Santa Margalida, the hotel would involve complex urban planning issues on the 275,000 square metre plot of land where

builder Vicenc Grande envisions the project.

The hotel will become a municipal asset without financing coming from the town hall, creating sports facilities and a large 'green lung and equipment area,' according to Monjo.

Urban forest is coming to Palma

By Gillian Keller

PALMA'S urban forest project will break ground in September.

The first phase is the 17,000 square metres of the old dog track running along

the Torrent de Sa Riera.

This new leisure space, proposed by Palma's deputy mayor Antoni Noguera, has a budget of €500,000 and will have 280 Mediterranean species, including oaks, pines, olive, almond and hackberry trees.

The space has been well thought out, including features such as walkways made of permeable earth to enable water drainage and reduce humidity, there will be no concrete in the forest. Once the trees reach a height of 15 metres, the temperatures will be considerably lower, especially during heatwaves.

The second stage involves the velodrome, which the town hall expects to possess by April. The main reasons for the urban forest are simple: transforming a current black spot, fighting climate change and creating a neighbourhood space and urban environment.

The openness links the city centre, as the urban forest will be just a 15 minute walk from Placa de Espanya, and connect the areas cut off by the torrent.

Some of the current pieces will stay unchanged, such as the remains of the Arc dels Tints, which date back to the 13th century.

The city plans for the first phase of the urban forest to open between the end of the year, and early 2018.

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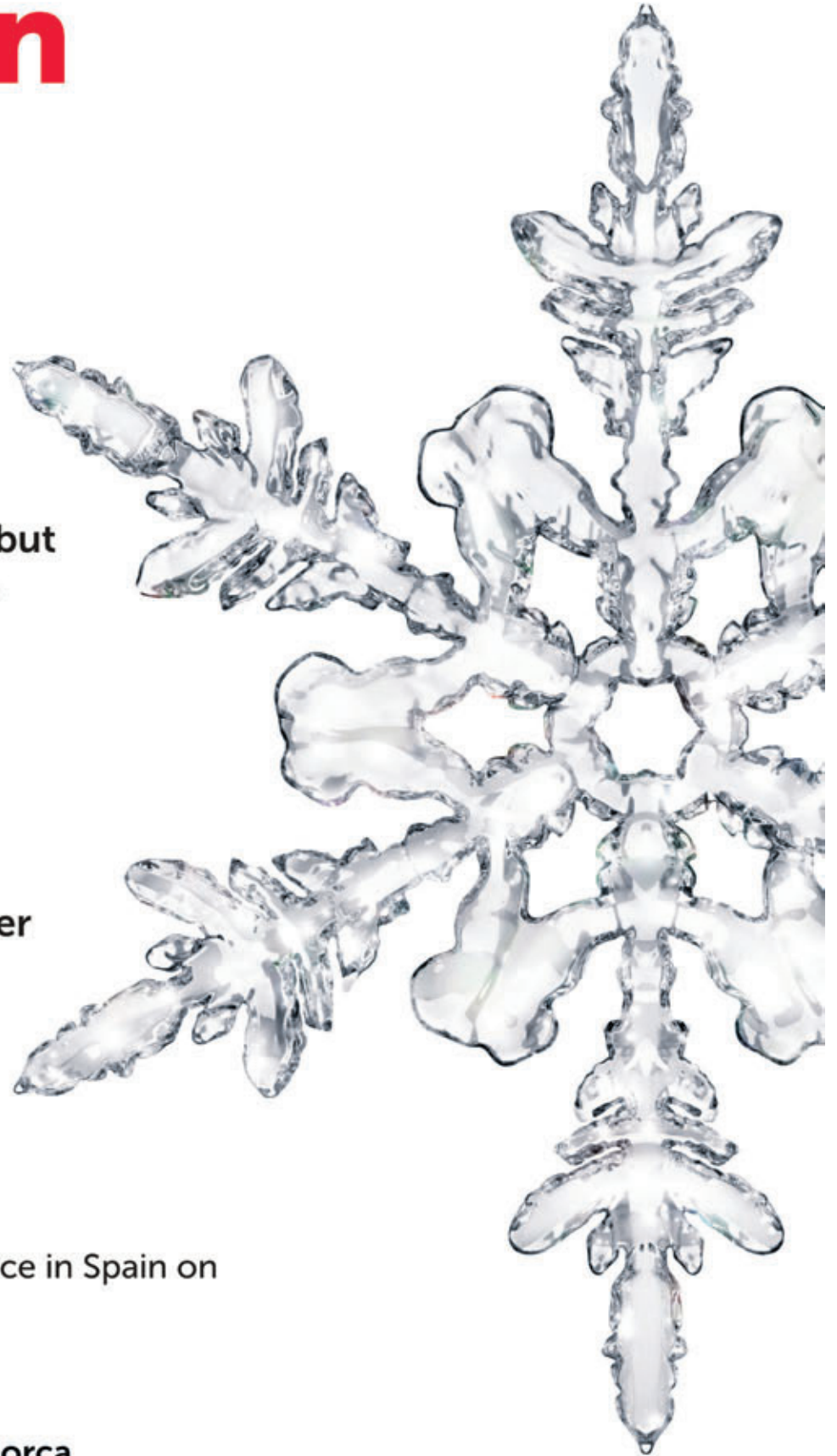
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Leo en route to his treatment in the USA



LITTLE Leo is on his way to the States! The four-year-old was declared well enough to make the journey to the treatment centre in Oklahoma. Under the guidance of Dr Andrew Chang, Leo will undergo proton therapy. It's the only treatment that will reduce the damage to his brain and hopefully kill off the tumours.

Mum Karen told EWN: "Part of me is feeling nervous and anxious as we are going into the unknown to a country far away, but as the days pass I am more and more positive. We are doing the right thing."

Leo has been given his chance by the surgeons at Alder Hey. One of the best-known children's hospitals in the UK, they were able to remove the cancerous tumours that keep coming back inside his brain.

"I am sure we have made the right decision giving Leo the best chance at having a normal life," says Karen.

She admits the medical team's reports have not been easy to understand and believes what was worrying the surgeons before his operation - nodules near the tumours - have now been cut out.

"From what I understand these nodules have been removed, including the suspicious one that the doctors were worried about. Hopefully I will get confirmation that Leo has a clear scan with nothing suspicious, but I am trying not to get too excited."

Keeping her spirits up over such a long period has not been easy, she admits.

"I was having a couple of down days, everything getting on top of me, living out of a suitcase and trying to organise a million things.

"Maybe it was the depressing English weather, and comments from people who don't mean anything but I'm not going to let them get me down anymore."

Leo is making the trip with his older sister Sofia to try to make the atmosphere around him as normal as possible and make up for the time they've lost together during his prolonged bouts of treatment.

Once in Oklahoma his treatment will start almost immediately, and, the family hope, impact less on him as he tries to recover.

"Seeing Leo go through one of the most aggressive forms of chemotherapy that exists was very difficult, one of the worst things for a parent to witness," says Karen.

"During proton therapy Leo might only have a bit of nausea and a headache during treatment which is a breeze compared to the chemo."

How long it will take before the success of the proton treatment can be gauged, won't be clear for some time.

If young Leo is not too ill, then the family hope they can actually enjoy some aspects of life in the USA.

Says Karen: "We hope that he can actually enjoy his stay in the USA and still have some fun, despite having his treatment."



“His treatment will start almost immediately.”

KAREN'S BROTHER: Giving the thumbs up.



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Modern apartments next to the sea.

This image shows a modern, multi-story apartment building with a mix of white and stone facades. It features balconies with glass railings and outdoor seating areas. The building is set in a landscaped area with greenery and a clear blue sky.



Pinars de Murada

CALA MURADA (MANACOR) - MALLORCA

from **360.000 €**

Modern villas next to the sea.

This image shows a modern villa with a large outdoor living area. The villa has a white and stone facade and features a large covered terrace with a white umbrella, a dining table, and a lounge area. A swimming pool is visible in the foreground, and a car is parked nearby. The villa is surrounded by lush greenery and a clear blue sky.

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NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER REGIONS

Terra Natura's new Bengal tigers

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH



Photo by Terra Natura website

» By Caroline Tyszka

THE Terra Natura Park in Benidorm will be showing off its newest editions at the weekend, two baby Bengal Tigers.

Members of the public are invited to attend the park on Saturday March 18 to meet the new additions named Neu and Pluja who were born on January 20.

The two females are currently being fed and monitored by the veterinary team at the park following their mother rejecting them.

The cubs' parents Shana and Rajiv moved to the Benidorm park from France in November 2015 along with their three male cubs.

A protected species, the Bengal tiger originates from Asia. There are presently less than 2,500 left in the wild because of poaching and their natural habitat being destroyed.

At the special presentation event Bimbo, the food company, will be offering special 'Tigerton' cupcakes to celebrate the arrival of the tiger cubs.

NEWEST EDITIONS: The cubs are being monitored by the veterinary team.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

Stormy hangover

FIXING up the Plaza de Toros, Las Chapas promenade, damaged schools and public buildings after December's storms will cost roughly €1 million according to Marbella Mayor Jose Bernal.

Death mystery

THE lifeless body of a British woman was found in a Medina Gardens apartment in Puerto Banus. Police are investigating the death of the 50-year-old but there were no immediate signs of foul play.

Tiny twister

A MINIATURE tornado struck Fuengirola's Los Pacos area, whipping up winds of 137kph as it spun across almost one kilometre of land, damaging homes and gardens.

Lucky escape

A FAMILY was evacuated from their Marbella home after the roof collapsed. Luckily no one was hurt but they'll have to find temporary digs until the ceiling is secure.

Crystal clear

A NEW transparency portal has been opened by Torremolinos Council. It allows citizens to see all of the town's budgets, contracts and audits to prove there's no wheeling and dealing.

■ AXARQUÍA

Legionella limited

VELEZ-MALAGA council's environmental team has carried out 224 actions to control legionella in the last year.

Drugs discouraged

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA'S Department for Social Policy and Equality is providing drug dependence prevention workshops for families with children in primary school.

Bridges confirmed

TWO pedestrian bridges have been confirmed. They will be built at the entrances to the rivers Chillar and Seco following an investment of €219,000 by project 'Senda Litoral.'

Fire fight

AN electric metre in a building in the La Najarra neighbourhood caught light and was extinguished by firefighters from Almuñecar. The property suffered some damage but no injuries were reported.

Hit and run

AN individual from Morocco who was believed to have fled to that country in 2005 has now been arrested in connection with the death of a Guardia Civil officer in Almuñecar on the N-340 in March 2005.

■ COSTA DE ALMERÍA

Licence to lie

LOCAL POLICE in Almeria City have arrested a 30-year-old Moroccan man for allegedly buying a motorcycle licence for €850 during a business trip to the Czech Republic.

Safer road

A PROJECT to improve road safety on the A-332 between Cuevas del Almanzora and San Juan de los Terreros has been put out to tender by the regional government for €1.45 million.

Pensioners coming

THOUSANDS of Castilla y Leon pensioners could be coming to visit this year as the region's government subsidised pensioners' holiday scheme, Club de los 60, has included the Costa de Almeria as a new destination.

More arrivals

ANOTHER 66 refugees, 65 Syrians and one Iraqi, have arrived in Spain from Greece under the European Union's relocation programme and 18 of them have been sent to Almeria.

Peddler poached

A MAN, 27, from Murcia has been arrested by the Guardia Civil in Pulpi for allegedly selling marijuana and cocaine in nightlife areas in Almeria and Murcia.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

Public defibrillators

BETWEEN 15 and 18 potentially lifesaving defibrillators will be installed in Elche this year in sports areas, public facilities and across the districts, at a cost of €30,000.

Sporting honour

SANTA POLA is renaming the Els Xiprerets sports pavilion. It will be named after local handball player Lara Gonzalez Ortega who plays on the national team.

Visitor centre

CARTAGENA'S archaeological site Barrio del Foro Romano is to welcome a visitor and interpretation centre in 2019. Further excavation work on site will also be carried out.

Hammer attack

A WOMAN has been arrested for hitting her husband over the head with a hammer following an argument at the couple's home in Espinardo, Murcia. He was stabilised in the property before being taken to hospital.

Air cadets

A TOTAL of 105 new students from across Spain were welcomed at the General Air Academy of San Javier as they prepared to begin air academy training.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Getting tough

FINES of between €200 and €2,000 await any Javea resident who ignores a building ban. Once identified, building projects halted on legal grounds will be inspected every 10 days to verify that the stop order has not been flouted.

Landslides cleared

WORK has begun to clear up landslide damage in El Campello following the storms earlier in 2017. The government has invested €120,000 and it is hoped that the repairs will be completed before Easter.

Record readers

THE La Nucia Caravana library has seen 270,000 users during its first 10 years, having opened on February 15, 2007. To celebrate this Dr Miguel Llopis donated 70 books to the library.

Social aid donation

TEXLIMCA, who collect clothing in containers in La Nucia, have presented the town's social welfare department with €1,964, having collected a total of 24,450 kilograms of used clothing and footwear in 2016.

Climber rescued

THE provincial fire brigade's Rescue Unit was called out when a 67-year-old Briton fell while descending Puig Campana.

Murder suspect

AN 86-year-old Briton was arrested on suspicion of stabbing and murdering his 79-year-old wife at a combined day centre and home for the elderly in Campello.

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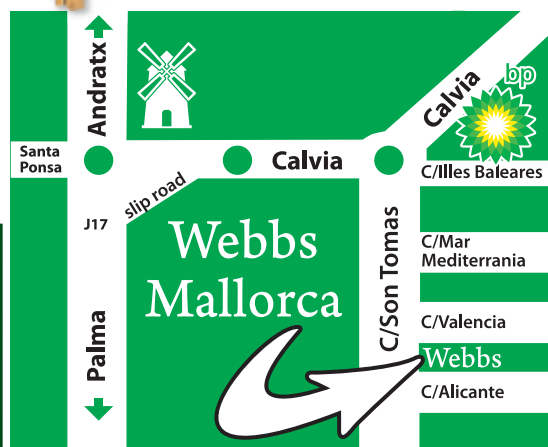
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DENMARK**Grammy performance**

DANISH band Lukas Graham performed at the 59th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, USA, but despite being nominated in three categories, failed to pick up any awards.

Homeless numbers

A COUNT of the homeless people on

Copenhagen's streets revealed that 41 were foreign and just three were Danish. Copenhagen municipality said many of the foreign homeless are in Denmark illegally and so cannot assist them.

Happy 100th

MORE Danes are reaching the ripe old age of 100. Last year saw 1,143 Danes celebrate their 100th birthday with better childhoods and friendlier workplaces believed to be the reason behind why people are living longer.



Photo by Wikimedia

LUKAS GRAHAM: Failed to pick up any awards. |

City roadworks

COPENHAGEN seems to be a city of roadworks with figures showing that last year nearly 11,000 digging permits were granted in the city, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year.

GERMANY**New chancellor**

THE most recent poll has shown that 64 per cent of Germans want a new Chancellor after the election to replace Angela Merkel following 12 years in office.

were booked in hotels and guest houses in the region in 2016.

centigrade.

Bavaria boost

BAVARIA is enjoying a tourism revival with more tourists than ever. For the first time, 90 million beds

Outback death

AN elderly German couple have died in the Australian outback after becoming disorientated. The couple had been missing for days and were found near Alice Springs as temperatures topped 40 degrees

Fake news

TWO people are being investigated amid claims they made up a story about dozens of Arab men rioting and sexually assaulting women in Frankfurt. Interviews with alleged witnesses led to doubts over what had happened.

FRANCE**Rape riots**

RIOTS broke out in a suburb of Paris following the alleged rape of a black youth with a police baton. President François Hollande has condemned the riots but said justice must be served of what happened.

Skiers killed

FOUR skiers were killed following an avalanche in the town of Albertville in the Alps. The avalanche, some 400m wide, is believed to have been set off by a group of skiers higher up the mountain.

Obesity rates

THE country's childhood obesity rates are stable or declining according to the French Ministry of Health. According to a study, 18.1 per cent of French children were considered overweight, significantly less than the European average.

No hacking

RUSSIA has denied that it was behind media attacks of presidential hopeful Emmanuel Macron. A Kremlin spokesperson said: "We do not have any intention of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries."

NORWAY**More recycling**

A CONSORTIUM of companies are backing research which focuses on the development of new technologies for bio-plastics and recycling of plastics packaging. Currently, over 60 per cent of plastic packaging is recycled in Norway.

Hit and run

A DRIVER has been arrested after hitting a six-year-old girl and then fleeing the scene. She was on her way to school at the time and was taken to hospital for checks.

Drugs ban

NORWEGIAN cross-country skier Therese Johaug, aged 28, has been suspended from the sport for 13 months after testing positive for steroids.

Child welfare

NORWAY'S Child Welfare Service is being criticised for the number of children it puts into care. A total of 1,664 children were taken into care in 2014 and in the last year eight cases have been taken up by the European Court of Human Rights.

BELGIUM**Winning ticket**

A BELGIAN man has scooped €23.5 million on the Euromillions lottery. He is the first major jackpot winner in the country for 2017.

launched a campaign to get more employees to exercise at work and is set to advise companies on the issue and how to get workers more active.

Fighting force

ESTIMATIONS predict that by 2028, Belgium will have lost a quarter of its fighting forces. That's according to the military trade union.

Bad air

AIR quality in Belgium is below par and not what it should be, with levels exceeding the European alert level of 50 microgrammes per cubic metre in some places with Flanders and Antwerp the worst affected.

Active workers

THE Flemish government has

NETHERLANDS**Early spring**

SPRING has sprung early as many parts of the country basked in above average temperatures, just a week after snow. In Maastricht, the temperature reached 17 degrees, compared to the average six degrees for this time of year.

Street harassment

HOLLAND'S Labour party wants to make it a criminal offence to sexually harass women in the street with fines of up to €8,200 for offenders.

Worker arrest

A MAN who spent more than 15 years working in child care has been arrested on charges of possessing child pornography.

Cat's travels

A CAT which went missing from Tilburg in August has reportedly been found in Austria. It was found and taken to a vet who located its owner thanks to its microchip.

SWEDEN**Match fixing**

A SWEDISH football striker is one of three people jailed for match-fixing. The case followed a complaint from the Norwegian Football Association.

Milk study

A SWEDISH study claims that drinking too much milk could shorten your life. Women who drink at least three glasses of milk per day with little fruit and veg, are three times more likely to die earlier than those who drink one glass of milk a day.

Offensive plates

A SWEDISH man has had two of his latest attempts to create his own personalised number plates denied after it was deemed they were offensive when the letter and number combinations were reflected in a mirror.

Horny beer

A NEW beer from a Swedish microbrewery has become an overnight success selling out within a day. It could be due to its unusual name; Katol, which roughly translates as 'horny beer.'

Booze ban at Lloyds of London

By John Smith

BACK to the coffee house is the instruction that Lloyds of London has effectively given to its 800 strong staff as it has banned the drinking of alcohol between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

Originally set up in Edward Lloyd's coffee house in the 17th century, it became the world's largest insurer and some of the deals were struck over fairly boozy lunches, but the organisation now intends to ensure that its

£2.1 billion (€2.47 billion)

is the profit that Lloyds of London declared for the 2015 accounting year and it is on course to exceed this when 2016 profits are announced later this year.

staff are not influenced by the 'demon drink.'

One of the reasons for the decision is because in a survey of internal grievance and disciplinary cases, a high percentage were fuelled

by or related to alcohol and the employer now wants to ensure that its policies are in accord with other industries.

Certainly at one time every senior employee of the Royal Mail, apart

from being a member of the Territorial Army), had their own drinks cupboard in their rooms which ranged from antique wood to metal lockers in their rooms, but that was stopped many years ago.

Ironically and perhaps irritatingly for Lloyds' staff, independent brokers and underwriters who work in the same building will not be subject to the ban.

The organisation is also gearing up for Brexit and has already announced that it will be moving some of its staff to new offices in Europe.

£5 update

AFTER saying that it has treated the 100,000 signature petition calling for the withdrawal of the new £5 note due to use of tallow with "utmost seriousness," the Bank of England has announced that it will continue to issue that note regardless.

In addition, having already spent £24 million (€28.25 million) on production, it will also go ahead with the release of the equally 'tainted' new £10 bank note in September of this year.

The bank argues that only a very small amount of tallow is used in the process of production, which is a bit like arguing that there is only a bit of pig in crackling!

Quote of the Week

Good for jobs and businesses in Europe and Canada. Voted in favour of CETA." Jyrki Katainen, European Commission vice-president for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness on trade deal with Canada.



Opel and Vauxhall sale



Photo by Vauxhall

GENERAL MOTORS: The Astra in production.

By John Smith

GENERAL MOTORS (GM) which owns the Opel and Vauxhall car brands has indicated that despite both companies turning in regular losses over the years, there is a possibility that a French group may be interested in taking them over.

The PSA Group, makers of Citroen and Peugeot cars works with GM on a number of projects in Europe and is currently the third largest manufacturer in Europe, behind Renault-Nissan

which has recently recorded increased sales and Volkswagen.

Vauxhall currently employs 4,500 staff in the UK, but unions estimate that a further 30,000 people worked in occupations connected with Vauxhall and its vehicles.

The French company is partly owned by the state, but also has investment from the Peugeot family as well as a Chinese vehicle manufacturer and if a sale was to be agreed, the new company would become Europe's number two producers of vehicles.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Going Greek

WHILST the International Monetary Fund warns about the continued fragility of the Greek economy and invites the European Union to give more financial assistance, creditors have previously indicated that nothing is likely to be available to assist Greece until 2018.

Bank rate

THE chairperson of the US Federal Reserve Janet Yellen has indicated to Congress that it would probably be sound economic sense to increase the base rate of interest in the USA in the not too distant future following a December 2016 increase.

Alleged fraud

ACCUSATIONS of corruption will not disappear as far as the ruling Partido Popular of re-elected Mariano Rajoy is concerned as the president of Murcia has been accused of alleged fraud and bribery, whilst the former mayor of Cartagena has been accused of using public funds to underwrite a digital newspaper which promoted her in a positive light.

Increasing price of milk

AFTER the publicised shortage of vegetables in the UK and bacon in the US, the next possible consumer problem could be with milk and yoghurt according to French global company Danone.

There isn't likely to be a shortage of the dairy

product, but prices of milk have risen by 9 per cent in the last year which means that the owner of the Activia and Actimel brands will be keeping a close watch on the escalating price of the 'white stuff.'

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 20

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,345.00	0.00	0.00	19,203.73
Associated British Foods	2,840.50	231.50	8.87	20,330.19
Admiral Group	1,790.00	-58.00	-3.14	5,308.86
Ashtead Group	1,733.00	29.00	1.70	8,546.74
Antofagasta	842.50	5.50	0.66	8,364.99
Aviva	495.00	-3.40	-0.68	20,431.48
AstraZeneca	4,545.50	-49.50	-1.08	57,247.52
BAE Systems	608.50	2.00	0.33	19,169.56
Babcock International Group	907.50	12.00	1.34	4,542.79
Barclays	237.50	0.50	0.21	40,377.81
British American Tobacco	4,997.50	-6.50	-0.13	92,780.57
Barratt Developments	516.25	-4.25	-0.82	5,205.96
British Land Co	606.00	-4.00	-0.66	6,255.80
BHP Billiton	1,410.00	15.50	1.11	29,864.70
Bunzl	1,050.00	-2,162.00	-100.00	7,188.74
BP	447.50	1.50	0.34	87,343.71
Burberry Group	1,713.50	53.50	3.22	7,221.83
BT Group	311.00	-5.10	-1.61	31,124.51
Coca-Cola HBC	1,000.00	-1,989.00	-100.00	6,944.30
Carnival	4,317.50	14.50	0.34	9,330.68
Centrica	230.00	-2.60	-1.12	12,898.77
Compass Group	1,455.00	-18.00	-1.22	23,810.00
Capita Group (The)	519.50	-2.50	-0.48	3,442.45
Croda International	1,625.00	-3,408.00	-100.00	4,437.49
CRH	1,300.00	-2,753.00	-100.00	23,016.34
Convatec Group Ord 10pWi	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,539.13
Dixons Carphone	162.50	-301.20	-100.00	3,488.43
DCC	3,425.00	-6,780.00	-100.00	6,036.17
Diageo	2,262.50	-10.50	-0.46	56,814.65
Direct Line Insurance Group	368.50	14.60	4.13	4,908.75
Experian	796.50	-1,608.00	-100.00	15,063.54
easylet	955.00	-8.50	-0.88	3,779.44
Fresnillo	1,532.50	9.50	0.62	11,082.88
GKN	346.50	-0.80	-0.23	5,951.11
Glencore	324.00	4.55	1.42	46,710.93
GlaxoSmithKline	1,620.00	-19.50	-1.19	79,401.07
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,975.00	-59.00	-2.90	4,835.42
Hargreaves Lansdown	750.00	-1,372.00	-100.00	6,460.22
Hammerson	256.00	-564.50	-100.00	4,469.62
HSBC Holdings	704.00	-3.50	-0.49	140,019.65
International Consolidated Airlines	497.50	-15.50	-3.02	10,740.17
InterContinental Hotels Group	1,400.00	-3,889.00	-100.00	7,649.85
3i Group	335.00	-720.00	-100.00	7,004.11
Imperial Brands	3,700.00	-81.00	-2.14	35,136.75
Informa	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,413.71
Intu Properties	124.50	-273.50	-100.00	3,677.58
Intertek Group	2,000.00	-3,538.00	-100.00	5,680.81
ITV	211.05	5.55	2.70	8,376.88
Johnson Matthey	2,940.50	-121.50	-3.97	5,945.35
Kingfisher	329.00	1.90	0.58	7,362.59

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	1,033.50	-20.50	-1.94	8,318.63
Legal & General Group	245.00	1.00	0.41	14,624.98
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.40	-0.46	-0.69	47,998.84
London Stock Exchange Grp	1,645.00	-3,130.00	-100.00	10,926.06
Micro Focus International	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,007.57
Mediclinic International	375.00	-828.00	-100.00	6,100.69
Merlin Entertainments	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,969.34
Marks & Spencer Group	343.15	17.65	5.42	5,361.60
Mondi	1,837.50	-21.50	-1.16	8,934.19
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	253.00	4.10	1.65	5,822.49
National Grid	963.00	1.80	0.19	35,953.37
Next	3,750.00	-102.00	-2.65	5,664.62
Old Mutual Group	209.00	-7.10	-3.29	10,722.61
Provident Financial	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,094.79
Paddy Power Betfair	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,051.35
Prudential	1,557.50	-56.50	-3.50	42,060.10
Persimmon	1,935.00	-76.00	-3.78	6,207.64
Pearson	669.50	1.00	0.15	5,429.05
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,080.00	-20.00	-0.28	48,312.66
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	238.50	-3.90	-1.61	28,789.46
Royal Dutch Shell	2,145.00	50.00	2.39	94,025.63
Royal Dutch Shell	2,229.00	43.50	1.99	83,355.81
RELX	1,464.50	-19.50	-1.31	15,921.27
Rio Tinto	3,606.00	6.50	0.18	50,143.10
Royal Mail	424.00	13.40	3.26	4,100.00
Rolls-Royce Group	703.25	37.25	5.59	12,752.19
Randgold Resources	7,340.00	-45.00	-0.61	6,886.09
RSA Insurance Group	300.00	-581.50	-100.00	5,995.31
Sainsbury (J)	245.00	-23.40	-8.72	5,845.49
Schroders	1,550.00	-3,069.00	-100.00	6,882.38
Sage Group (The)	348.50	-633.50	-100.00	6,864.98
Shire	4,845.00	9.00	0.19	43,086.30
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,187.50	-49.50	-2.21	5,206.92
Sky	995.00	0.00	0.00	17,155.79
Standard Life	355.00	-12.20	-3.32	7,274.92
Smiths Group	745.00	-1,514.00	-100.00	6,038.40
Smith & Nephew	1,196.00	-7.00	-0.58	10,573.87
SSE	1,535.00	11.00	0.72	15,494.89
Standard Chartered	782.50	9.50	1.23	26,544.80
St James's Place	400.00	-1,090.00	-100.00	5,776.15
Severn Trent	2,327.50	17.50	0.76	5,423.67
Tesco	196.40	0.65	0.33	16,088.06
TUI AG	1,193.50	69.50	6.18	6,580.70
Taylor Wimpey	176.60	-0.90	-0.51	5,786.59
Unilever	3,792.50	-4.50	-0.12	42,963.80
United Utilities Group	938.00	-13.00	-1.37	6,454.07
Vodafone Group	197.50	-0.50	-0.25	52,785.32
Wolseley	2,400.00	-4,991.00	-100.00	12,709.08
Worldpay Group	131.00	-267.20	-100.00	5,400.00
WPP Group	1,896.00	-4.00	-0.21	24,208.15
Whitbread	3,750.00	-186.00	-4.73	7,231.39

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CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 20

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	182,950	-0.25%	-0.460	109M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	79,7100	+0.25%	0.2000	71M
APPLE	135,720	+0.28%	0.375	710M
BOEING CO	172,710	+1.11%	1.900	105M
CATERPILLAR	98,850	+0.60%	0.590	57M
CHEVRON	110,33	-0.32%	-0.35	207M
CISCO SYSTEMS	33,740	+0.42%	0.140	169M
COCA-COLA	41,23	+0.07%	0.03	177M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	77,4900	-0.39%	-0.3000	66M
EXXON MOBIL	81,76	-0.66%	-0.54	338M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	30,3700	-0.26%	-0.0800	267M
GOLDMAN SACHS	250,38	+0.38%	0.94	99M
HOME DEPOT	143,0000	+1.03%	1.4600	173M
IBM	180,67	-0.42%	-0.76	171M
INTEL CORP	36,4800	+0.19%	0.0700	172M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	90,2300	-0.33%	-0.3000	323M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	118,8600	+0.66%	0.7800	322M
MC DONALD'S CORP	127,8000	+0.87%	1.1000	104M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	65,39	+0.20%	0.13	179M
MICROSOFT	64,620	+0.15%	0.100	497M
NIKE	56,75	+0.82%	0.46	74M
Pfizer	33,6200	+0.00%	0.0000	203M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,090	+0.33%	0.300	232M
TRAVELERS CIES	121,95	+0.13%	0.16	34M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	112,15	+0.07%	0.08	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	157,62	-3.68%	-6.03	149M
VERIZON COMMS	49,19	+1.51%	0.73	199M
VISA	87,46	+0.06%	0.05	161M
WAL-MART STORES	69,3700	+0.73%	0.5000	212M
WALT DISNEY CO	110,0600	-0.59%	-0.6500	173M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 20

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
LMI Aerospace, Inc.	\$ 13.66	4.47 ▲ 48.64%
GSI Technology, Inc.	\$ 6.99	1.27 ▲ 22.20%
SunPower Corporation	\$ 7.89	1.13 ▲ 16.72%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.93	0.54 ▲ 15.93%
Cohu, Inc.	\$ 15.72	2.08 ▲ 15.25%
Universal Electronics Inc.	\$ 72.65	9.55 ▲ 15.13%
Connecture, Inc.	\$ 2.212	0.222 ▲ 11.16%
The Kraft Heinz Company	\$ 96.65	9.37 ▲ 10.74%
Corium International, Inc.	\$ 3.84	0.33 ▲ 9.40%
Encore Wire Corporation	\$ 47.85	4.10 ▲ 9.37%
Nabriva Therapeutics AG	\$ 10.82	0.87 ▲ 8.74%
Most Declined		
Icahn Enterprises L.P.	\$ 2.29	0.41 ▼ 15.19%
Impinj, Inc.	\$ 31.17	4.19 ▼ 11.85%
Monotype Imaging Holdings Inc.	\$ 21.40	2.20 ▼ 9.32%
Gibraltar Industries, Inc.	\$ 40.30	4 ▼ 9.03%
Marchex, Inc.	\$ 2.80	0.27 ▼ 8.79%
Huron Consulting Group Inc.	\$ 42.60	4 ▼ 8.58%
Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.38	0.30 ▼ 6.41%
Zynerba Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 21.23	1.41 ▼ 6.23%
Bel Fuse Inc.	\$ 29.90	1.80 ▼ 5.68%
Avis Budget Group, Inc.	\$ 33.76	2 ▼ 5.59%
Credit Acceptance Corporation	\$ 191.99	10.41 ▼ 5.14%

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Sterling Fixed Income B

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Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

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

DEALING PRICE

€0.9851 -£0.0002
€0.9647 -£0.0003
£1.1402 £0.0042
£1.0736 £0.0040
£1.2750 £0.0128
£1.1906 £0.0119
£1.3976 £0.0215
£1.3122 £0.0202

Price Movement

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

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Ethical Co-op Bank may be sold or split up

By John Smith

IT has been announced that the self-proclaimed ethical bank owned by the Co-op which was founded in 1872 as the Loan and Deposit Department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society has been put up for sale by the Board of the Co-op.

In reality however this is not strictly true as following the huge scandal concerning former chairman, the 'crystal Methodist' Paul Flowers and the discovery of a £1.5 billion (€1.75 billion) hole in its finances, the parents raised the funds needed by selling 80 per cent of the equity to mainly American hedge funds.

What is actually being sold therefore is the remaining 20 per cent of the business and there are suggestions that it might appeal to the TSB which is owned by Spanish bank Sabadell, fellow Spanish group Santander or Virgin Money.

Hedge funds invest in weak businesses in order to see a relatively quick growth and return and therefore they will be looking to either walk away with a decent profit or perhaps release their investment to



CO-OP BANK: Has been put up for sale by the Board.

place elsewhere.

A complete sale is not the only option as in theory, the bank could be floated on the stock exchange or broken into parcels and sold to different

financial groups, but a number of politicians including former Finance Minister Sir Vince Cable are worried by the possible sale.

According to the Liberal Democrat

grandee who lost his seat in parliament in the 2015 election, Britain, unlike the USA and so many other countries in Europe does not have a large number of small local banks but

effectively the entire high street banking system is run by a few conglomerates which have gobbled up any 'lame ducks.'

Sir Vince's opinion is shared by a number of MPs who fear that the options for consumers in particular could be restricted even further if the Co-op Bank is taken over by one of the 'big boys,' as it still has four million account holders who would be treated as a commodity.

Having disposed of a number of 'bad loans' and introduced cost savings, the Co-op group has still 'written down' the book value of its 20 per cent shareholding on more than one occasion and it seems likely that the entire bank is worth less than £1 billion (€1.17 billion).

With the recent acceptance by Lloyds Banking Group that there were irregularities at HBOS prior to its takeover, repeated accusations against HSBC and now lawsuits from a number of former and often bankrupted clients of RBS, the need for an ethical bank is possibly greater than ever which is why the possible disappearance of the Co-op is under the microscope.

Champagne prices may rise

By John Smith

IT appears that the price of 'premium' Champagne in Britain is likely to jump due to Brexit and UK tax, but it is still possible to purchase a bottle of supermarket Champagne for less than £10 (€11.70) and with continued price wars this should continue.

“ Champagne brands invest huge amounts of money in marketing.

Whilst many will turn their noses up at the Champagne from Aldi or Lidl, it should be remembered that to be called Champagne it has to go through all of the requirements of its much more expensive premium brothers and sisters which begs the question as to why prices vary so much.

At the end of the day, the long established Champagne brands such as Krug, Moët, Bollinger and Taittinger are names that everyone knows and are therefore associated with quality. If you are holding a social function, you are far more likely to serve one of those brands rather

than a Tesco best buy.

The Champagne brands capitalise on this 'snobbery' and charge accordingly and there is no doubt that they have in-



CELEBRATING
with Champagne.

vested huge amounts of money into their properties, their grapes and their marketing, so need to see a decent return.

When Boris Johnson directed observations to the Italian government about a trade deal following Brexit he was quite accurate in warning them about the market for Prosecco as it is a simple fact that the Italian fizz now outsells the

French 'original' by a factor of four to one and it is still relatively inexpensive.

It is considered (rightly or wrongly) to be a cut above Cava from Spain and Sekt from Germany and whilst ladies who lunch now ask for Prosecco, it is highly unlikely that any of them will know the name of any of the brands.

Sparkling wine is big business in the UK and even British wineries, particularly those in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, with similar ground and grapes to those used in the Champagne region and are beginning to be treated seriously with some high quality production and financial results.

Charging costs

A CAFÉ in Vienna has decided to 'call time' on nuisance customers who come in for a cup of coffee and then spend hours occupying a seat and what is worse recharging their phones or running their laptops at the café owner's expense.

“ It costs less than €1 a year to charge a phone.

Whilst this may appear to be a reasonable decision with anti-social customers hogging seats, the argument about the cost of electricity isn't so strong as research suggests it costs less than €1 a year to charge a phone.

Some café owners have taken to disguising electric points and only let regular customers know where they are.

Former Bank of Spain Governor to be quizzed over Bankia Group

Spanish pensions

By John Smith

THE farrago which saw the public flotation of the Bankia Group and then the huge loss of value of shares following the revelation of the misleading financial prospectus and the government bail-out continues to rumble on.

The Spanish government invested more than €22 billion in saving the group and although it is beginning to see some positive results, Bankia is still having to compensate those persuaded to purchase shares when the bank was first floated.

In the meantime, former Spanish government minister and former Bankia president Rodrigo Rato is still awaiting a verdict following his trial for alleged misuse of Bankia funds which he has always denied.

There is no question that the whole Bankia affair came as a huge embarrassment to the Spanish government and helped in its own way to trigger a major



Photo by Banco de España/Flickr

FORMER GOVERNOR: Miguel Ángel Fernández Ordóñez.

financial crisis in the country.

Now it has been announced that a number of senior former employees of the Bank of Spain including the former governor Ordóñez as well as others from the watchdog National Commission for

Market Values are to be interviewed by the court in Madrid over their inability to detect the irregularities in the Bank.

No formal charges have been laid against any of those who will be examined and three current Bank of Spain em-

ployees have resigned their positions as they are to be interviewed, but they will all need to explain why they apparently ignored information from a Bank of Spain investigation team which warned that Bankia was not financially sound.

“ The Bankia affair came as a huge embarrassment to the Spanish government.

According to the court, these warnings included unequivocal and strong advice that the listing of the bank on the Spanish stock market should not be allowed and if their warnings had been heeded, investors and tax payers would have been in a much better position, as much of the money invested by the government following the crisis will never be repaid.

AWARE that the Spanish pension pot has been considerably reduced by the current government in order to ‘plug holes’ in state finances, the governor of the Bank of Spain, Luis Maria Linde has come up with a plan.

According to the governor, as people live longer and pension funds are stretched, it would be sensible to increase the retirement age as has been done in the UK which would mean less money spent and more taxes collected.

He would like to see the new retirement age of 67 which is due to be implemented in 2027 brought forward, but this idea has not found favour with the government, although they have no problem in principle if people wish to voluntarily continue to work after they reach 65.

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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Blair is an eloquent con artist

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



COULD anyone believe the gall of Tony Blair in last week's rambling tirade against Brexit?

This arrogant war criminal, personally responsible for the destabilising of the Middle East and the deaths of thousands, is a political conman who, through added guile and misinformation, not only opened the doors to millions of immigrants purely to bolster his re-election, but now has the audacity to stand up as bold as brass and virtually call for another referendum!

“ He sees the Brexit situation as just another opportunity.

'The people voted knowing nothing about the consequences,' he spouted. Pretty rich from a man who led us into a con-

flict of which the public, not only had no idea of the outcome, but were even lied to about its true purpose. Blair possesses the one thing that is a basic necessity for all con artists, he is extremely eloquent.

He, like many

successful conmen are akin to market 'mock' auctioneers, who can basically talk the hind leg off a donkey which is why he has amassed millions spouting his diatribes to anyone prepared to line his pockets.

This despicable individual is also the classic opportunist.



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Tony Blair.

All those years ago, realising the Labour party had sunk into an unelectable morass (sound familiar) he gleefully swooped in, renamed it 'New,' and callously used it as a vehicle to ultimately attain the highest office in the land.

He sees the Brexit situation as just another opportunity.

Completely unaware, or simply not giving a damn about the revulsion he attracts, he deviously observes it as a chance to form some kind of new 'movement,' which at some point will be able to 'Rise Up' and challenge the present Labour party. With him at its head of course!

I bet he's even decided on a name for it. Send this revolting intelligence insulter back to whatever cesspit he crawled out of; along with his equally abhorrent, self-gratifying spouse!

Thanks for all your mail. Most with attachments, or too long to publish. Nevertheless, much appreciated, I do read them all. Keep 'em coming. And whatever ya do. Always.

Keep the faith
Love Leapy
leapylee2002@gmail.com

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
23 FEBRUARY	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm The Chase	3:10pm Countdown	4:15pm Deadly Paradise	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm ITV News London	4:00pm Fifteen to One	6:00pm 5 News at 5	3:30pm Premier League Legends
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	4:00pm One2eleven
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	4:15pm One2eleven
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm The Great Pottery Throw Down	8:30pm Tonight	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	4:30pm One2eleven
	9:00pm Shop Well for Less	10:00pm Born Too White	9:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	4:45pm One2eleven
	10:00pm Death in Paradise	11:00pm Match of the Day	10:00pm Mafia Women with Trevor Macdonald	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun	5:00pm The Premier League Years
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm The Supertvet	10:00pm The Great British Benefits Handout	7:00pm Premier League Legends
	11:30pm BBC London News			10:00pm Has Political Correctness Gone Mad?		7:30pm Barclays Premier League World
	11:45pm Question Time			11:00pm The Swingers		8:00pm Live Premier League Darts
FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm The Chase	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News at 5	4:00pm Premier League Gold
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm ITV News London	4:00pm Fifteen to One	6:30pm Neighbours	4:50pm Premier League Gold
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Big Dreams Small Spaces	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	5:30pm Football's Greatest
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	9:00pm Mastermind	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Happy Campers: Caravanning	6:00pm Premier League Matchpack
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm Only Connect	9:00pm Schofield's South	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Celebrity Carry on Barging	6:30pm Premier League Matchpack
	9:30pm Room 101	10:00pm The Secrets of Your Food	9:30pm African Adventure	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald	7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club
	10:00pm Not Going Out	11:00pm QI	10:00pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	11:00pm The Freddie Mercury Story	8:00pm Football
	10:30pm Tracey Ullman's Show		11:00pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories	10:00pm Gogglebox		11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten		11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm The Last Leg		
11:25pm BBC London News						
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY	6:10pm BBC News	4:10pm Natural World	3:50pm The Chase	3:00pm Come Dine with Me	4:15pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door	11:00am Soccer A.M.
	6:20pm Regional News	5:00pm Mastermind	4:50pm Local News and Weather	3:30pm Come Dine with Me	5:15pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door	12:30pm Barclays Premier League Preview
	6:25pm Weather	5:30pm University Challenge	5:00pm ITV News and Weather	4:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:15pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	1:00pm Football
	6:30pm Celebrity Mastermind	6:00pm Only Connect	5:15pm Ireland v France	4:30pm A Place in the Sun	7:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
	7:00pm Pointless	6:30pm The House That £100k Built	8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	5:30pm Location, Location, Location	8:05pm NCIS: Los Angeles	6:15pm Football
	7:45pm Let it Shine	7:30pm Flog It!	9:30pm The Voice UK	6:35pm Grand Designs	9:00pm NCIS: Los Angeles	9:00pm EFL Goals
	9:25pm Casualty	8:30pm Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	11:30pm ITV News and Weather	7:30pm Channel 4 News	9:55pm 5 News	9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day
	10:15pm Taboo	9:00pm Diana	11:45pm The Boat That Rocked	8:00pm Penelope Keith's Favourite Villages		11:30pm Nissan Match Choice
	11:15pm BBC News	9:30pm Dad's Army		9:00pm Great Canal Journeys		12:30am Football
	11:28pm Weather					1:00am Football
11:30pm Match of the Day						
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY	3:15pm Flog It!	3:15pm Wanted Down Under Revisited	3:00pm England V Italy	3:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	3:10pm No Reservations	11:00am The Sunday Supplement
	4:15pm Escape to the Country	4:00pm Birds of Paradise	6:30pm Local News and Weather	4:00pm Location, Location, Location	5:10pm 5 News	12:00pm Goals on Sunday
	5:00pm Songs of Praise	5:00pm Bobsleigh and Skeleton	6:45pm ITV News and Weather	5:00pm Channel 4 News	6:55pm The Fifth Element	2:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	5:35pm Shop Well for Less	7:00pm Six Nations Rugby Special	7:00pm Unbelievable	5:30pm 101 Dalmatians	7:00pm Highlights: Football on 5	4:45pm Live EFL Cup Final
	6:35pm BBC News	8:00pm Dragons' Den	8:00pm The Voice UK	7:30pm The Jump	10:00pm 5 News	8:00pm Boxing
	6:50pm Regional News	9:00pm Dragons' Den	10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital	9:00pm Rivers with Jeremy Paxman Ep1	The latest news coverage.	8:30pm Football
	6:55pm Weather	10:00pm Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm Homeland	12:15am The Terminator	11:00pm Football
	7:00pm The Big Painting Challenge	11:00pm Life of Crime		11:00pm Gogglebox		11:30pm Live EFL Cup Final
	8:00pm Countryfile					12:30am Goals on Sunday
	9:00pm Call the Midwife					
MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY	4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:00pm Landward	3:00pm Judge Rinder	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown	3:30pm Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones	4:00pm The Home Game	4:00pm Fifteen to One	6:30pm Neighbours	3:30pm Boxing
	5:30pm Flog It!	4:30pm Africa	5:00pm Tipping Point	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	4:00pm Live EFL Cup Final
	6:15pm Pointless	5:25pm A Place to Call Home	6:00pm The Chase	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News	5:00pm Football
	7:00pm BBC News	6:15pm Bargain Hunt	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm The Cars That Made Britain Great	5:30pm Live EFL Cup Final
	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Eggheads	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Ice Chaos: Winter Road Rescue	6:30pm Football
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant	7:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:30pm Inside Out	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	8:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Dispatches		7:30pm Boxing
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Further Back in Time for Dinner	9:00pm The Kyle Files	9:30pm Food Unwrapped		8:00pm Football
	9:00pm EastEnders		9:30pm Coronation Street	10:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?		8:00pm Football
9:30pm Panorama		10:00pm Broadchurch			12:00am Boxing	
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY	4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:30pm Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones	5:00pm Tipping Point	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles	1:00pm Football
	4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown	4:25pm Africa	6:00pm The Chase	4:00pm Fifteen to One	4:15pm Dear Diary, I Died	5:00pm Mnf Pre-Game Show
	5:30pm Flog It!	5:25pm A Place to Call Home	7:00pm Local News and Weather	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News	6:00pm Football
	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Bargain Hunt	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	6:30pm Boxing
	7:00pm BBC News	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	7:00pm Premier League Review
	7:30pm Regional News	7:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:30pm Britain's Busiest Motorway	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	8:00pm Boxing
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm Secret Chef	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Ice Chaos: Winter Road Rescue	8:00pm Football
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Further Back in Time for Dinner	10:00pm Play to the Whistle	9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle	8:30pm Football
	9:00pm Holby City		11:00pm The Nightly Show with David Walliams	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	10:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	11:00pm Boxing
	10:00pm The Replacement			11:00pm Catastrophe		11:30pm Boxing Gold
WEDNESDAY 01 MARCH	3:15pm The Coroner	4:15pm Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones	4:00pm The Home Game	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles	4:30pm Football Gold
	4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:15pm Africa	5:00pm Tipping Point	4:00pm Fifteen to One	4:15pm Fatal Honeymoon	4:45pm Football Gold
	4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown	6:15pm Bargain Hunt	6:00pm The Chase	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News	5:00pm Football's Greatest
	5:30pm Flog It!	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	5:30pm Boxing Gold
	6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	6:30pm Boxing
	7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	7:00pm Boxing
	7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm The House That £100k Built	8:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Sinkholes: Buried Alive	7:30pm Boxing
	8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm Incredible Medicine: Dr Weston's Casebook	9:00pm Little Big Shots	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	8:00pm Barclays Premier League World
	8:00pm EastEnders		10:00pm Benidorm	10:00pm The Royal House of Windsor	10:00pm Climbing the Property Ladder	8:00pm Football
	9:00pm Who Do You Think You Are?		11:00pm The Nightly Show with David Walliams	11:00pm Adults in Crisis	11:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	11:00pm Boxing

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The great diesel car scam

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



ONCE again the British public have been stuffed by misinformation from the government. I'm talking about diesel cars. About 15 years ago Gordon Brown offered incentives for people to buy diesel fuelled cars and over the next few years we did ... in fact over eight million were sold. Fuel was cheaper and no-one wanted to buy your second-hand petrol car so their prices dropped.

Now it turns out they were wrong and they want you to pay a surcharge if you want to drive your diesel car into many city centres. So, of course, no-one wants to buy your poison-spewing death machine diesel car! It's absolutely disgusting that folks that bought these cars in good faith are now being punished by the new 'toxic tax.' There is talk about a scrapping scheme to encourage people to dump their diesel cars and buy a petrol car. That is no help whatsoever to the punter who just can't afford a new car. As usual the government has cocked up and you, me and all the other mugs that listened to them are going to have to foot the bill.

On to more serious things. What is the point of garnish? I like veal Milanese with

spaghetti bolognese. A pretty basic, simple dish for a pretty simple person. So why does it turn up with a lettuce leaf and a slice of orange on it? The orange, of course, is slightly cut and twisted to make it look pretty. It does nothing to compliment the meal and immediately gets dumped on to the nearest side plate.

I've had egg and bacon with parsley on the plate! In fact, parsley keeps turning up everywhere. Why? Why use up so much of something nobody wants? I've had food turn up with so much green stuff sprinkled over it, it looks like it was left in the garden and someone has gone past it with a Flymo! I've even had a sprig of parsley on an ice cream dessert. Are you raving bonkers? The only things you can garnish ice cream with is chocolate or fudge sauce or another dollop of ice cream. NOT GREEN STUFF!

I used to go to a great Thai restaurant on the Mijas road, which is closed now, and they used to make amazing things with carrots, like little sculptures of flowers and animals. It was a bit wasted on me because I like carrots and I just ate them only to be informed one day that they were only for decoration and sometimes got moved from plate to plate! That will teach me to think that everything served with my dinner was for me to eat and not to take a bloody photo of! I'm on Talk Radio Europe Friday February 24 at 11.30am.

Email me at mikesenker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Are you distracted by modern systems?

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 Torre Vieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



OVERLOAD: Can fatigue a driver.

THERE are many systems now on vehicles that can help make driving safer. Many hide behind names and acronyms that not everyone understands such as ABS, ESP, traction control or blind spot control and whilst these aim to improve safety, they can also increase the level of distraction.

A recent study by RACE and Castrol revealed that the lack of knowledge about the operation of these technologies can have a negative effect on driving, with a reported 6 per cent frightened by these systems, 13 per cent stressed and 25 per cent distracted by them.

As a result, it is necessary to know how they operate to avoid the anxiety caused by the new technology. As a car's cockpit becomes more like that of a complex space shuttle than a classic car with steering wheel and levers, it is important to train yourself on exactly what your vehicle does. Read the manual, search the internet and train yourself on every device on

your vehicle, and do so before you take to the road.

According to studies, ignorance or relying too much on the technology, can directly influence driving. For example, if the system alerts the driver when they are exceeding the speed limit, but the speed control is automatic, the driver can become lazy and forget about the acceleration and take longer than normal to take it off speed control and manually reduce the speed.

The stress caused by new technologies in the vehicle can also affect your psychophysical state. According to Luis Montoro, President of the Spanish Foundation for Road Safety (FESIVAL), long periods of stress behind the wheel, means the mind cannot rest and consequently, the body will perform negative actions which can affect driving safety.

An overload of data from all the extra dials, controls and equipment, can also fatigue a driver and distract attention from the road.

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

Does he need building permit?

Q. More than 10 years ago I applied to my local town hall for a building licence to build my house in the 'campo.' Under the regulations at the time, the minimum area to build was 10,000m² of land and the maximum built-area of the house was 2 per cent of the plot area.

My plot was over 10,000m² and the built area was less than the maximum. The licence was issued, the house was built and a Certificate of

Habitation issued on completion. The house is U-shaped around an open courtyard. Now I want to extend my house by enclosing part of the courtyard. The new enclosed area will take the built-area to the limit of 2 per cent of the plot size, but will not extend beyond the original footprint. Do I need to apply for a building licence for this small extension?

B C (Costa Blanca)

A. Yes. If you build, you need a licence. You need to take your plan to your town hall urbanismo department. Further,

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



when you are done, you need to change your listing in the Property Registry to show your new covered area.

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

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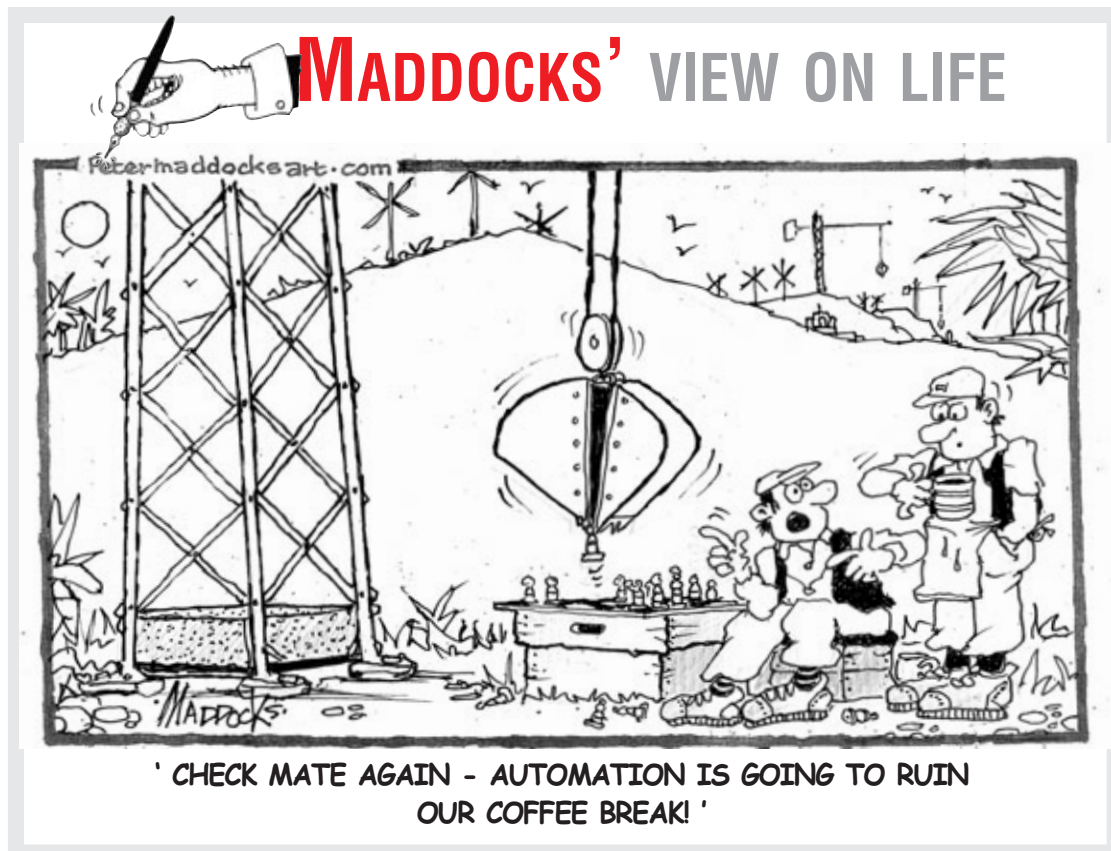
Kakuro

			33	9	27	
	19					14
	21					
	13					
9				5		
12				6		
			13			
21						
	16					

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

		28	10	33	
	3	2	6		14
	5	2	8	1	3
	3	9		9	6
	4	7		8	2
	9	1	2	7	4
	6	7	2		



Women's wit

The three ages of man: youth, middle age, and 'my word you do look well'?

June Whitfield, Actress



Famous quote

You can be the one-in-a-million. Don't be discouraged by the odds to succeed.'

David Beckham, Professional Footballer

World of English

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?'

YOUR STARS FOR 7 DAYS

ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)

Emotional and monetary wealth go hand in hand at the beginning of this energetic week. Someone is likely to make demands that you find unacceptable and you will need all your tact to avoid unpleasantness, but any resistance by you will, in the longer term, only gain you respect.

TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)

You may feel a bit like Sherlock Holmes when you solve a tricky dilemma. With your intellect soaring, it is little surprise that others come to you with their problems.

GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)

Someone with a romantic interest

PISCES ♉ (February 20 - March 20)

Even as you prepare to go on a trip or start something new this week, the future beckons. In small things there are clues to

in you starts buzzing around. This is all very well if you are willing, but if not keep your distance. As thoughts turn to a well-deserved break, it is not surprising that a holiday is on your mind.

CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)

Small matters start to clog up the emotional works. You would rather be somewhere else, but grit your teeth and deal with necessary matters. Finances certainly must be watched most carefully. Get your glad rags on at the weekend and

the way forward. A chance encounter brings humour and opens your eyes to a friendship lately neglected.

really let your hair down. time.

LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)

Mutual plans are exciting but make sure that others know your needs exactly. As a Leo, you will never willingly accept second best but how can others know your standards?

VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)

Putting your thoughts and feelings on a par with someone else will help you to understand their point of view. As painful as it seems, there will need to be some compromise if everyone is to be happy. Are you feeling the need for some activity and excitement?

LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)

Sometimes, you retreat into your shell and your normally gregarious personality takes a back seat. Although you may not have received the expected response to a question recently, it is no reason to brood.

SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)

The way to bring energy levels up

this week is to spend time with energetic people. You may feel a little on the fringes initially but, at the end of the day, your spirit will be lifted.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)

Look ahead to see how exactly you can make this spring time extra special.

Making your plans clear to others means a smooth journey as opposed to unnecessary delays. A particular place brings back memories of a love long past.

CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)

There is an incredibly romantic week ahead if you only enter into the spirit of it.

Let your feelings be seen and felt, showing appreciation for loved ones. You do not need the excuse of a birthday or anniversary to give a gift, just a heart full of love.

AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)

Being at the forefront of a learning experience is pleasurable this week.

An unexpected offer seems small but could have a big effect. A friend in need may go over the top and annoy you. It may be necessary to distance yourself and give help through others. Planning ahead to the weekend means that you have more time and energy to get things done.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY



Saturday February 18

11 13
21 37
49 59

BONUS BALL
4

IRISH LOTTO



Saturday February 18

27 32
44 45
46 47

BONUS BALL
24

EURO MILLIONS



Tuesday February 14

2 10
24 40
44

LUCKY STARS
3 10

LA PRIMITIVA



Saturday February 18

5 15
19 21
29 39

REINTEGRO
43 1

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA



Sunday February 19

7 31
37 38
39

REINTEGRO
7

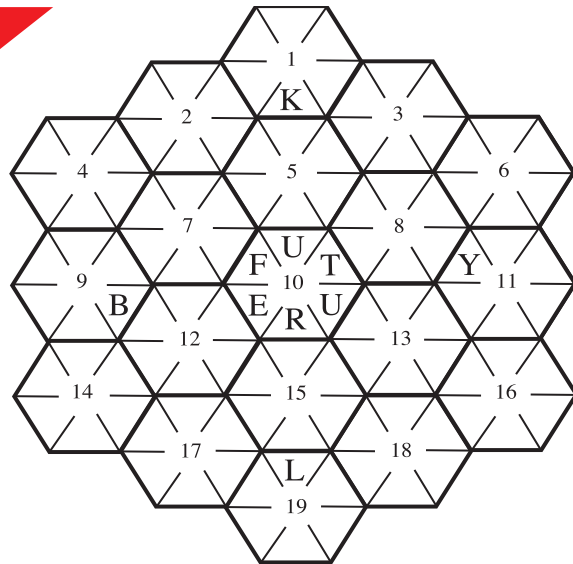
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Hexagram

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| AMOEBA | GRISLY |
| AROUSE | MAGGOT |
| BARBER | OYSTER |
| BARFLY | RELIEF |
| BARLEY | STOCKY |
| CHEESE | STROLL |
| EARTHY | TOUSLE |
| EUREKA | TRACER |
| FILTER | TUMBLE |
| FUTURE (10) | |



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Decode 2 Nettle 3 Beater 4 Ninety
5 Beyond 6 Survey 7 Yeoman
8 Server 9 Anneal 10 Myself
11 Insert 12 Deafen 13 Seller
14 Leaden 15 Teller 16 Hoyden
17 Advent 18 Eldest 19 Hearty.

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



TARGET:

- Average: 12 • Good: 16
- Very good: 24 • Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

aeon amen anoa damn dam dean done earn mana mane mean mend moan morn name nard near nerd node norm omen rand rend roan adman admen adorn amend anode arena demon drone maned manor monad named namer nomad radon roman anadem daemon enamor madman madmen maenad merman moaned moaner modern random remand adenoma MEMORANDA

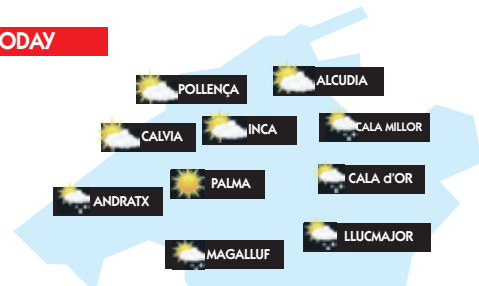
This week in history

- 1950** – Labour's Clement Attlee returned as prime minister after winning the general election by a slim majority.
- 1959** – British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan met with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev to discuss expansion of Anglo-Soviet trade.
- 1964** – At the age of 22 Cassius Clay, who later became better known as Muhammed Ali, unexpectedly became the heavyweight champion of the world when he beat Sonny Liston.
- 1971** – The UK government introduced a new Immigration Bill which meant Commonwealth citizens lost their automatic right to remain in the UK.
- 1975** – A packed London underground tube train crashed killing 43 people, including the driver. The cause of the crash was never established.
- 1981** – Buckingham Palace announced that Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer were engaged to be married.
- 1982** – Corporal punishment was banned in British schools after the European Court of Human Rights ruled it violated the Human Rights Convention.
- 1987** – The General Synod of the Church of England voted to allow ordination of women priests.
- 1896** – French physicist Henri Becquerel discovered evidence of radioactivity which led him to being awarded a Nobel prize.
- 1991** – As Allied troops entered Kuwait Saddam Hussein ordered a retreat bringing an end to the ground war.
- 1979** – Referendums in Scotland and Wales saw both countries reject devolution which had a crippling affect on Labour's minority government.
- 1993** – Sir Bobby Moore, captain of the winning England team in the 1966 World Cup, died at the age of 51, 10 days after announcing he had cancer.
- 1994** – NATO carried out its first combat in its 45-year history when American fighters shot down four Bosnian Serb jets in a no-fly zone.

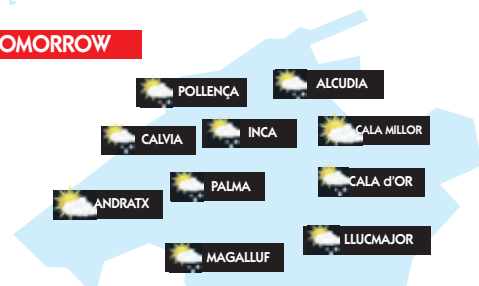
Mallorca

weather

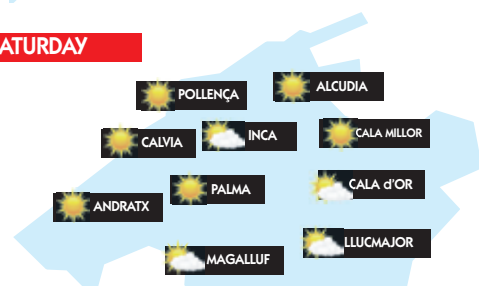
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



Alicante	Bilbao
TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 12 - C	TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 10 - C
Fri - 20 11 Cl	Fri - 12 6 Sh
Sat - 19 10 C	Sat - 18 7 C
Sun - 19 11 S	Sun - 19 9 C
Mon - 21 12 S	Mon - 18 8 Sh
Tues - 19 11 S	Tues - 14 6 C
Wed - 18 11 S	Wed - 16 7 Sh

Almeria	Madrid
TODAY: MAX 22, MIN 12 - Cl	TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 5 - Cl
Fri - 19 12 Sh	Fri - 18 3 S
Sat - 19 11 C	Sat - 17 4 S
Sun - 20 12 S	Sun - 18 5 S
Mon - 21 13 S	Mon - 17 4 C
Tues - 21 12 S	Tues - 16 3 C
Wed - 19 12 Cl	Wed - 16 3 Cl

Barcelona	Malaga
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 9 - S	TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 11 - S
Fri - 16 9 Cl	Fri - 21 11 Cl
Sat - 16 8 C	Sat - 18 9 Cl
Sun - 17 8 Cl	Sun - 20 10 Cl
Mon - 18 9 S	Mon - 21 11 S
Tues - 15 8 Sh	Tues - 19 10 S
Wed - 16 8 C	Wed - 19 9 Cl

Benidorm	Mallorca
TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 12 - C	TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 10 - Cl
Fri - 19 12 C	Fri - 18 8 Cl
Sat - 18 11 C	Sat - 17 8 S
Sun - 19 11 S	Sun - 18 7 C
Mon - 21 12 Cl	Mon - 18 8 C
Tues - 19 11 Cl	Tues - 18 8 Cl
Wed - 18 10 Cl	Wed - 17 7 Cl

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

NEW ON DVD

Arrival

Directed by: Denis Villeneuve
Starring: Amy Adams, Forest Whitaker, Jeremy Renner



Linguistics expert Dr Louise Banks (Amy Adams) is enlisted to decipher an alien language after 12 mysterious spacecraft appear around the planet. Arrival is a stunning, philosophical new take on the sci-fi contact movie which features a cracking performance from Adams and a number of thought-provoking themes. The film was nominated for eight Oscars and ranks among the very best releases of 2016 while cementing Villeneuve's reputation as one of the most impressive directors at work today.

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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

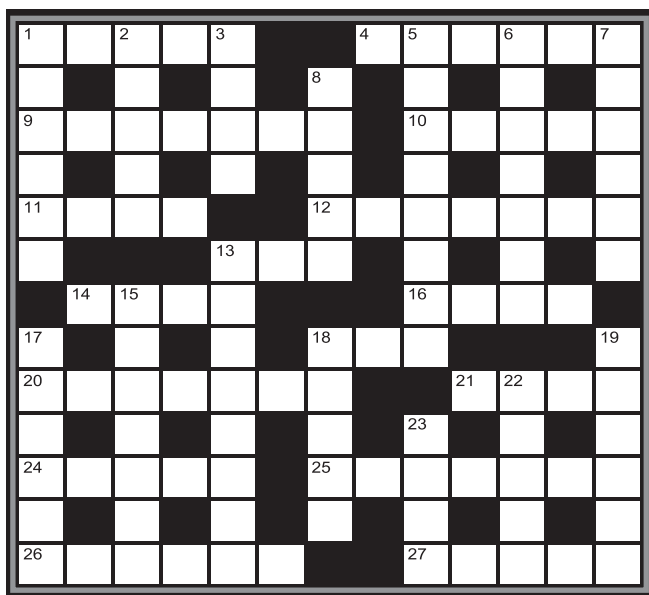
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Good man has help to get sober (5)
- 4 Street telephone line (6)
- 9 Church renews lease for a football team (7)
- 10 Sense some of his mellowness (5)
- 11 Foolish King is with Cinders (4)
- 12 Delight in French song (7)
- 13 Liberal left slum the lot (3)
- 14 Delight some eagle-eyed viewers (4)
- 16 Upset pet's gait (4)
- 18 The dish is from occupied France (3)
- 20 A sabre I broke in a military installation (3,4)
- 21 Call for part of a book (4)
- 24 Enthusiastic approval is lost in a terrible clatter (5)
- 25 I posed a problem being fat (7)
- 26 Substitute a small sorceress (6)
- 27 Wimbledon champion Chris is always on time (5)

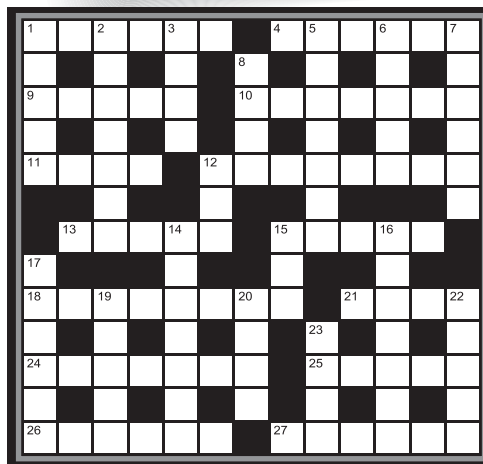
Down

- 1 Observe dog being kept safe (6)
- 2 Raves about claims (5)
- 3 Sleep like a tramp in Barbados shack (4)
- 5 Examine luggage to establish legal precedent (4,4)
- 6 Repeat some of the composite rates (7)
- 7 For a change, go late for an Italian ice cream (6)
- 8 Corrupt males in Oregon (5)
- 13 Times can change meaning of words (8)
- 15 Knowledge Garland added for enchantress (7)



- 17 Harbours with own poles (6)
- 18 Bar some flopped albums (5)
- 19 'God without end' admitting church is fake (6)
- 22 Poem for a sailor to remind him of home (5)
- 23 Textbook item contains mention of bird of prey (4)

Quick



Across

- 1 New World vulture (6)
- 4 Writing implement (6)
- 9 Be in accord (5)
- 10 Less rational (7)
- 11 Unforeseen obstacle (4)
- 12 Friendly and pleasant (8)
- 13 Let for money (5)
- 15 Strikingly odd or unusual (5)
- 18 Reticent (8)
- 21 Blemish made by dirt (4)
- 24 Disease (7)
- 25 Accumulate (5)
- 26 Wayward (6)
- 27 Place where bread and cakes are made or sold (6)

Down

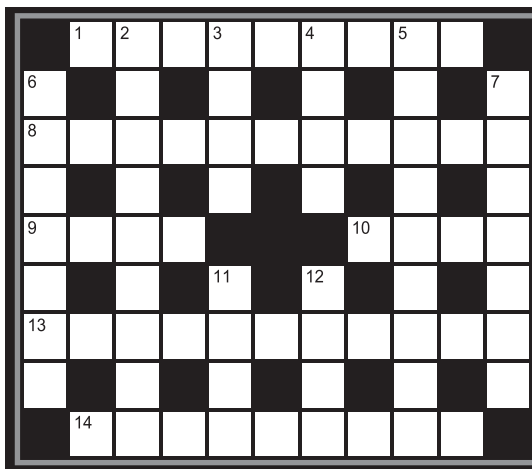
- 2 disorder (5)
- 2 Give a spoken or written account of: (7)
- 3 Kitchen cooker (4)
- 5 Check closely (7)
- 6 Ascend (5)
- 7 Small storeroom for storing foods or wines (6)
- 8 To say again or imitate (4)
- 12 Prosecute at law (3)
- 14 Operating physician (7)
- 15 Take in marriage (3)
- 16 Put back (7)
- 17 Cook in liquid (6)
- 19 Relating to the sun (5)
- 20 Posing no difficulty (4)
- 22 Savoury, appetising (5)
- 23 Spanish sparkling wine (4)

Down

- 1 State of extreme confusion and

English - Spanish

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



Across

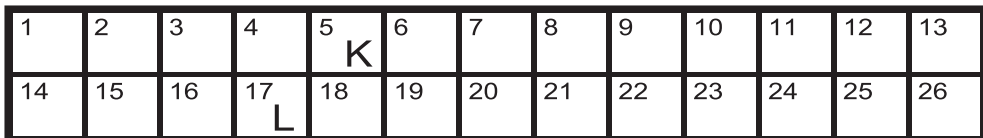
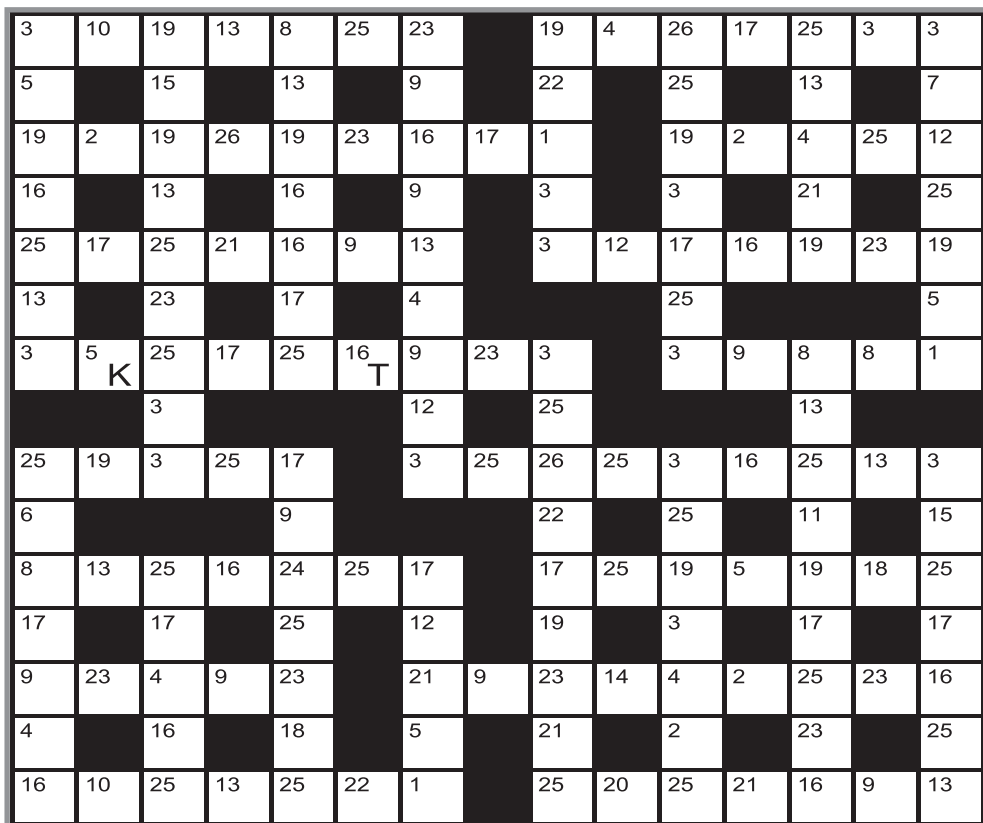
- 1 T-shirts (9)
- 8 Boniato (5,6)
- 9 Minutes (of a meeting) (4)
- 10 Cinturón (4)
- 13 Table tennis (5,2,4)
- 14 Scarlet (9)

Down

- 2 Olives (9)
- 3 Dentro de (4)
- 4 Those (4)
- 5 Asombro (9)
- 6 Asphalt (7)
- 7 Cartero (7)
- 11 Island (4)
- 12 Campana (de iglesia, puerta) (4)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 5 represents K and 17 represents L, so fill in K every time the figure 5 appears and L every time the figure 17 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.



CRYPTIC

Across:

- 7 Recall, 8 Attune, 9 Node, 10 Entirely, 11 Abstain, 13 Peace, 15 Brisk, 17 Beating, 20 Lacerate, 21 Ruse, 23 Renege, 24 Scarab.

Down:

- 1 Nero, 2 Lament, 3 Algeria, 4 Paste, 5 Starve, 6 Anglican, 12 Barrages, 14 Reverse, 16 Sweden, 18 Tarzan, 19 Jaded, 22 Span.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Robin, 4 Phobic, 9 Tractor, 10 Nurse, 11 Apex, 12 Edifice, 14 Grab, 16 Acre, 18/13 Rip off, 20 Piccolo, 21 Save, 24 Erode, 25 Trample, 26 Linger, 27 Maybe.

Down:

- 1 Ritual, 2 Brave, 3 Note, 5 Handicap, 6 Barrier, 7 Clever, 8 Brief, 13 Obsolete, 15 Raccoon, 17 Appeal, 18 Route, 19 Recede, 22 Apply, 23 Calm.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Llegar, 4 Eggs, 8 Clear, 9 Ataud, 10 Aconsejar, 13 Leche, 14 Often, 15 Ríos, 16 Tapete.

Down:

- 1 Lock, 2 Ejercicio, 3 Aprender, 5 Guarantee, 6 Seda, 7 Cacerola, 11 Flor, 12 Once.

CODE BREAKER



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BOOKS

Theresa May: The Enigmatic Prime Minister



By Rosa Prince

MORE than a decade after she warned stunned Conservatives of their 'nasty' image, May has become the champion of Middle England. This maps the rise of Britain's second female premier, who had to fight against the odds to become an MP, remained overlooked and undervalued during much of her time in Parliament, yet went on to become a formidable Home Secretary. She is now the leader of her country as it faces its greatest challenge since the Second World War. In this fascinating biography, Rosa Prince explores the self-styled unflashy politician whose commitment to public service was instilled in her from childhood.

books@euroweeklynews.com

TOP 10

Sporting events in 2017

RUGBY fans will be in their element at the moment with the Six Nations Rugby currently underway. If rugby isn't your thing well perhaps one of our top 10 sporting events to look forward to in 2017 will be. Here's a look at what's coming up.

1. The London Boat Race

Now known as the Cancer Research UK Boat Race this popular event first took place in 1829 with the men's race. The women's race was introduced in 1927. It is amongst the oldest sporting event in the world. The annual contest sees rival rowing crews from Oxford and Cambridge universities race four miles (6.8km) along the River Thames. This year's races will take place on Sunday April 2.

2. The Grand National

First run in 1839, this annual National Hunt horse race takes place at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool. This year's event will be held on Saturday April 8. The handicap steeplechase has 30 jump fences over the two laps and the gruelling course is four miles and 514 yards (6,907km) in length. As the race has a higher than average death rate for horses, animal rights groups often campaign to have it modified or abolished.

3. The World Snooker Championship

If you are 'snooker loopy' then you will be eagerly awaiting this year's championship which will take place between April 15 and May 1. This ranking tournament first took place in 1927 and it has been held in the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield since 1977. The Second World War played havoc with the event meaning it was not held between 1941 and 1945 and from 1958 to 1963 it was not held due to a decline in interest.



BOAT RACE: One of the oldest sporting events in the world.

4. UEFA Champions League Final

In 1992 the European Cup, which was founded in 1955, was rebranded and replaced with the UEFA Champions League. One of football's most prestigious competitions it is a firm favourite with football fans. Reigning champions, Real Madrid, have won the tournament 11 times making them the most successful club. The 2017 final will be played at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday June 3.

5. The Tour de France

Since the first race in 1903 it has been held every year except during both of the World Wars. Bike buffs can catch the event from July 1 to July 23 this year. Each year the route changes although the race format stays the same and it also alternates between clockwise and counterclockwise circuits around France. The

cyclists will cover around 2,200 miles (3,500km) over a 23-day period with 21 day-long segments.

6. Royal London One-Day Cup

If cricket's your thing then July 1 is the date for you to remember. This is a 50-over limited overs competition for England and Wales first-class counties which replaced the ECB 40 tournament in 2014. Two groups of nine teams play and the top four teams from each group progress to the quarter-finals. Cricket fans are sure to be bowled over.

7. Wimbledon

One of four Grand Slam events it is the oldest and often considered the most prestigious tennis tournament. Played on outdoor grass courts it is the only major tournament to be played on grass. Established in 1877 it is played at the All

England Club in Wimbledon, London. Will the world's number one Andy Murray successfully retain the title this year? Tune in from July 3-16 to find out.

8. The Open Championship

Golf fanatics will be heading to Royal Birkdale for the 146th Open which will be held this year from July 20-23. This will be the 10th time it has been hosted at this course. The Open was first played at Prestwick Golf Club in Scotland on October 17, 1860. Currently the event rotates around nine different courses - four in Scotland, four in England and one in Northern Ireland.

9. Athletics World Championships

The first Athletics World Championship event was held in Helsinki in 1983. It used to be held every four years but since 1991 it has been held every two years. This will be the 16th event and it will take place from August 4-13 in the Olympic Stadium in London. Sprinter Usain Bolt and long distance runner Mo Farah are likely to be highlights as both have announced this will be their final track and field competition.

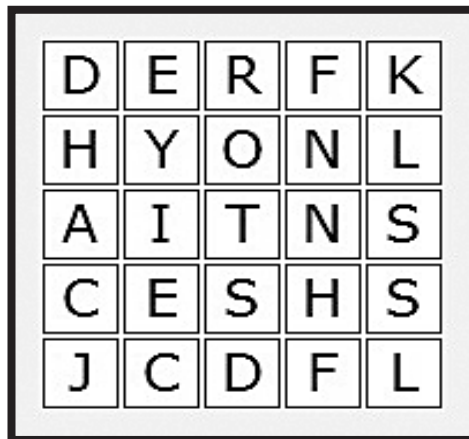
10. F1 Grand Prix

Avid Formula One fans will be looking forward to the final race of the season which is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi on November 26. Motor racing has its roots in France and the first Grand Prix took place in 1906 at Le Mans with racers completing six laps each covering 105km. The race currently rotates around various courses around the world with racers completing the smallest number of laps that exceeds 305km, although no race can exceed two hours in length.

Boggled

How many English words can you find in the Boggled grid, according to the following rules?

- The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'. They can be adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Words must contain at least four letters and may include singular and plural or other derived forms.
- No letter may be used more than once within a single word, unless it appears twice.
- No vulgarities or proper nouns are permitted.



TARGET:

- Average: 19
- Good: 26
- Very good: 38
- Excellent: 49

SCORING:

- 4 letters: 1 point
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 6 letters: 3 points
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

jotted jotter jots josh joss jest jests jess ditto dittos dent dents dentist dentin dentins denim dermis hotted hotter hottish hone honed hots hose host hosts estop edit erns sire hush hurt hurts huts indite into inter intern interns inert inst inrush inrushes

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

Word Ladder

SEND

WORM

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

- WORM
- WORD
- WARD
- WAND
- (WEND)
- SAND
- SEND
- or Solution

Advertising feature

Do less and see more: try a great canal journey

Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL

christina@globelink.co.uk



REMEMBER the 1970's Hoseasons advert to the tune of 'Messing About on the River'? We've come a long way since then, but 40 years later, canal and barging holidays are seeing a revival; possibly thanks to the compulsive viewing of TV programmes like Great Canal Journeys and Celebrity Carry on Barging.

Canal holidays are a glorious leisurely alternative to a driving or walking holiday. With over 2,000 miles of waterways in the English countryside alone, it's a perfect way to slow down the pace and see more of your surroundings while revelling in the comforts of a cosy home-away-from-home.

Whether you opt for a crewed barge and just sit back and enjoy the scenery as you meander by, or fancy learning the ropes yourself, you can enjoy an unhurried holiday afloat with friends or family and discover the hidden world of canal boating.

Beginners will soon get the hang of it and if you need an extra hand, there are



| CANAL HOLIDAYS: A glorious leisurely alternative to a driving or walking holiday.

several online and paper guides available.

Where are the top destinations for your canal boat holiday? It depends what rocks your boat (and your budget), however, some of our favourites include: the Shropshire Union Canal, in England's West Midlands, meandering through rolling hills, valleys and across deep cuts and magnificent bridges - a testament to the bygone

era of the industrial revolution.

Or opt for the picturesque, wide tree-lined routes of Canal du Midi, France which passes through vineyards and walled cities in easy reach of the canal. Board in the ancient canalside village of Le Somail, near Narbonne. Life slows to a snail's pace and the most taxing decision is whose turn it is to buy the fresh croissants for breakfast.

The Gota Canal, Sweden, offers spectacular scenery and history, connecting a series of lakes across Sweden from Lake Vänern, near Gothenberg, to the Baltic. The canal includes 58 locks along the way.

Book direct with boat companies, or via operators like www.Hoseasons.co.uk, www.barginginfrance.com, or try lateboat.com and save trawling through lots of websites to compare prices.

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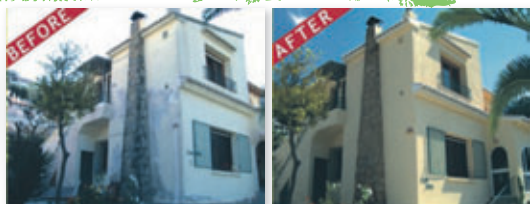
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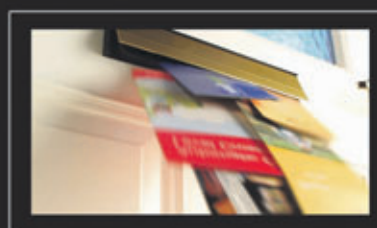
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LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

Low fare Ryanair played fair

ON the morning of February 15 my friends booked a flight from Malaga to Dublin travelling on February 22. At 5pm they received a call from Ireland to say a close friend had died.

They immediately contacted Ryanair to ask if they could transfer their flight to the following day i.e. February 16. Their request was dealt with at no extra cost. Well done Ryanair. So often they get bad publicity.

*Yvonne Thomas,
Torremolinos*

Brexit confusion

FIRST it was 'Brexit means

Brexit' with no further details. Then it was the boiled egg variety 'soft or hard Brexit.' There were even some references to 'black or white Brexit.' Now it seems it is 'Brexit at any cost.'

One particular commentator here is fond of calling Remain voters 'confused.' There is no confusion among Remain voters. They voted with perfect clarity to remain inside the EU. They would do so again given the opportunity. The confusion is all in the Brexit camp.

Just look at the pledge they made to divert British EU money to the NHS - completely opposed in the Bill before Parliament by the very people who argued FOR it only nine months ago!

Immigration - arguably the biggest issue of all in the referendum - has been shown to be mostly from countries OUTSIDE the EU. In fact, most Brexit voters just want to keep out people from Muslim countries which are not in the EU. How confused is that?

'Brexit at any cost' means exactly that. Cost.

*Brian Eagleson,
Mojacar*

Trump truths

THE only person scowling after that fiasco was Trump seeing his great plan blown out of the water and the

worldwide condemnation that followed.

The would-be terrorists must be rolling all over the desert busting their sides laughing.

Immigration control is vital but it is also such a serious and contentious issue that it needs to be carefully planned and executed.

This was neither. It was clumsy and amateurish. The follow up was equally pathetic. At the moment all we are seeing from Trump's Presidency is disarray and chaos.

Naturally he denies this, claiming that it is a well-oiled machine. And of course, he is the president therefore he must be telling the truth and everyone else is wrong.

Ian Terry

COMMENTS from the Euro Weekly News website

» On Tony Blair

I STILL cannot understand why this man is not in prison for what he has done to the country. He took us into the Iraq war after which the world now suffers from terrorism, and he destroyed Britain with his immigration programme. Anyone who listens to this idiot deserves a good slapping.

Roy Peters

» Mallorca taxi drivers

A GREAT common sense idea, I can't understand why there isn't already a bus service to and from the airport! As is the Spanish mentality, taxi drivers hate competition rather than looking at it as a way of using it to provide a better service to try and entice customers! Spain is way behind on the competition front because their culture, political and otherwise, prefers monopoly, they don't like giving... but they love taking!

Mike in ESP

» Animal rights in Benidorm

I WOULD like to thank your paper for taking the time to cover this story, you have the thanks of all animal lovers and also thanks from the members of Benidorm News & Information Forum on Facebook who expressed their horror at this barbaric incident. Special thank you to Caroline for covering the story.

J. A. Perkins

» Brexit & Blair

WHY wont people just accept that, rightly or wrongly the vote was leave - had the vote been stay then the remainers would be saying 'the people have spoken!' (for what it is worth I think leaving is a mistake).

David Allcock

I THINK the point is that people were wrongly informed and blatantly lied to (£350 million to the nhs) and while I don't like the guy no one else is willing to stand up to the right wing media and say it.

Scott Wilkinson

THERESA MAY has changed her mind. Why can't others - especially when new information becomes available? Blair has rattled those in favour of Leave. Why, because he is listened to by most and Brexit cannot be defended when sensible questions and concerns are raised. Anyone in favour of Remain, are crazy not to support Blair's intervention.

Graham Clark

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



LETHAL WEAPON: The deadly hairs of the processionary caterpillar.

Caterpillar curse

“ EVERYONE, especially dog owners and parents, should be aware that the hairs on processionary caterpillars carry a deadly poison.

A mere touch by a dog's nose or tongue can have deadly consequences. One of our own dogs was poisoned in this way. With just a little of the poison on her nose, she naturally stretched her tongue to lick it off but this immediately transferred into her mouth. Unless very quick remedial action is taken, serious damage then occurs often causing complete loss of the tongue and possibly death.

The best and vital action to take is to immediately and thoroughly wash the inside and outside of the dog's mouth with running water, taking great care not to touch the dog's mouth or nose with bare hands. It is strongly advised to have a vet repeat the mouth washing and give injections of cortisone or other medicine to counter the poison plus pain killers.

Luckily, our dog responded well and appears normal again. The most important recommendation is to stay well away from pine trees, particularly during the caterpillar season.

Ken Lelliott

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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Who wants to be a millionaire?

Even lottery winners are victims now

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



NEWS that Britain's youngest Euromillions winner, Jane Park, had planned to sue lottery bosses for negligence for 'ruining' her life is hardly surprising. 'I thought it would make it 10 times better but it's made it 10 times worse. I wish I had no money most days,' she moaned.

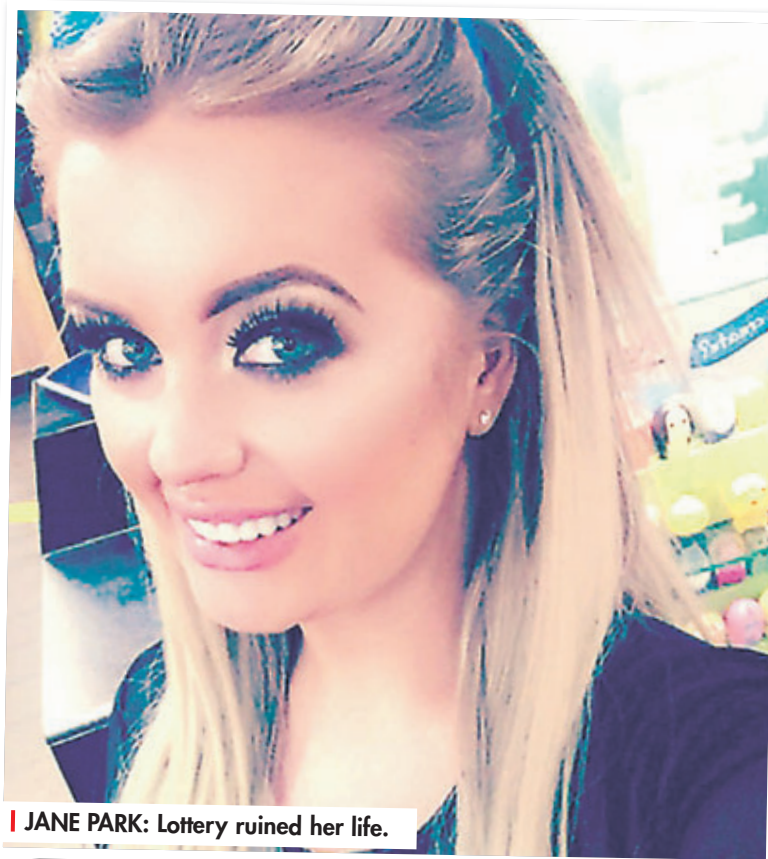
Only 17 when she won £1m with her first-ever ticket in 2013, Jane whinged about being sick of shopping for designer goods and staying in upmarket holiday resorts, struggling to find a boyfriend who's not after her money and being burdened with the stress of being a millionaire.

Poor Jane - how we feel for her pain! Well, she could always have

given it to some deserving cause (like, for example, here in Spain the Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity celebrating its well-earned 25th anniversary this year).

Basically, she should have employed a minder to stop her frittering away her million, but the fact that she didn't is, naturally, someone else's fault. When are we ever going to return to an era when people take personal responsibility for their actions rather than whine: 'I'm the victim here, who can I sue?' But then, people taking responsibility for their actions? What a quaint old-fashioned notion these days...

However, thoroughly inspired by Jane Park's experience, just think what some might still do. Sue secondary schools and/or colleges for allowing them to achieve less than top grades and, consequently, top jobs.



JANE PARK: Lottery ruined her life.

Cosmetic companies for not allowing their 'miracle' creams and potions to make them instantly look decades younger. Supermarkets for allowing them to get not only well and truly plastered but also morbidly obese as a result of their wine and chocolate multi-buy offers. Well, that should all go down, as a certain orange president ensconced in his golden tower might say, 'bigly'!

Finally, to return to the lady in question, I am reminded of an advert from years ago where a little girl utters the immortal words: 'and my mother says that one day I shall grow up to be a right little madam.' 'Nuff said.

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.

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ing partners BORA.

Following their extremely successful event in Hamburg, last year, Palma has the privilege of being selected to host the second such event of its kind in the whole of Europe.

The 19-metre long glass cabin is a kitchen, dining room, and event location, all in one, with the objective of exhibiting beautiful bespoke kitchens, using modern crane technology.

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Clinical trials to help Butterfly Children

By John Smith

PEOPLE living with Epidermolysis bullosa, a rare genetic skin disease more commonly known as Butterfly Skin have seen a positive start to 2017 as a clinical trial on a possible treatment is starting this year in Spain.

The aim of the trial is to evaluate how mesenchymal cells, derived from bone marrow, can improve the healing of wounds caused by Butterfly Skin.

This important trial is being promoted by the Foundation for Biomedical Research La Paz University Hospital and will be carried out by the Department of Haematology and Dermatology at the hospital in Madrid.

The trial, which is approved by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Sanitary Products, has a bud-

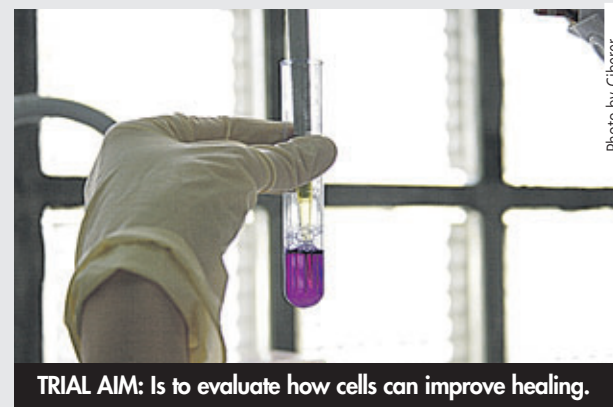


Photo by Ciberer

TRIAL AIM: Is to evaluate how cells can improve healing.

get of €308,000 of which 75 per cent is being financed by the Carlos III Institute of Health and the remaining 25 per cent by the patients association DEBRA, The Butterfly Children Charity.

In addition, the charitable association will also be funding a molecular geneticist for one year and with this extra resource Butterfly Children families will have better access to genetic diagnosis of

their condition.

This is extremely important for both the affected and their relatives because it clearly defines what type of Epidermolysis bullosa they suffer from therefore providing prognostic value. It is also necessary for future family planning and for the affected to take part in clinical trials such as this.

For more details on how you can help visit www.pieldemariapos.es.

Dentistry no longer cheaper in the UK

IN a 2016 study, WhatClinic revealed that the cost of a simple check-up at a private dentist soared by 42 per cent between 2015 and 2016. The UK national average is now £51 (around €59) up from £36 in 2015, meaning it may no longer be cheaper to 'go back home' for dental treatment.

Dr. Howard Forge, owner of Santa Ponsa Dental Practice, ran a successful practice in the UK for more than a decade before relocating to Spain in 2013 and can see both sides of the coin: "Many expats living in Mallorca are under the impression that a trip back to the homeland will shave euros off the cost of their dental treatment, but I can't see how that's true any more, especially once you factor in flights. Not only is the average check-up a cool £51, rising to £255 for the most expensive London clinic, but prices of implants for example have also rocketed. According to WhatClinic you'll now pay on average £2,814 for a dental implant, also up 42 per cent on 2015. Your UK dentist may not be as affordable as you remember."

The data, based on 14,000 private dentists in 20 towns and cities across the UK, exposed that the price of dental care had in-



DENTAL TEAM: Patients will be cared for in the best way by the professional and friendly team.

creased for all procedures in the study year, at a rate higher than inflation, except for tooth whitening which dropped by 4 per cent to an average of £293 (around €345).

So why does dentistry feel so expensive?

"There are three things to mention here," continues Dr Forge: "Firstly, whether you're in the UK or

Spain, dental costs vary wildly from practice to practice, this can reflect how well it's equipped, whether the dentist works alone or with a nurse, and his/her experience and expertise. Secondly, a dental practice costs a lot of money to establish and run in terms of equipment and staff. Lastly, believe me when I say it's more expensive not to go to the dentist, prevention is better than cure."

Dr Forge concludes: "Of course other places in the world are cheaper for dentistry but who will you turn to if or when it goes wrong? Also many treatments require multiple visits over a certain time frame, so you may have to factor in several flights. As always, the choice is entirely yours."

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Wean yourself off the addiction

SUGAR ADDICTION: Don't go longer than three hours without eating.



MANY experts now believe sugar is just as deadly an addiction as drink and drugs, with many people consuming far too much.

Whilst it may be easier to lay off the sweets and chocolate, nutritionists say it is the

hidden sugar in foods that catch people unaware such as in pre-made pasta sauces and baked beans.

So what can you do to help wean yourself off sugar?

Try and keep your blood sugar balanced and avoid

low blood sugar that will make you want to go and get something sweet for a quick fix, eat smaller amounts more regularly. Don't go longer than three hours without eating, especially women, or your blood sugar levels will drop too low and your body will give you a craving for something sweet.

Weaning yourself off sugar can be easier for some than others. Some may prefer to go cold turkey, others gradually reduce it. First, after removing from the house the obvious sources, such as chocolates and cakes, it is recommended to take out of

your diet all the savoury foods that contain added sugar. Savoury foods such as sauces like Dolmio, which recently changed its packaging to show the sugar content, contain added sugar so look for healthier or homemade versions to remove this added sugar.

Other foods deemed healthier such as yoghurts and cereal bars can also contain high levels of sugar so check the labels.

Next, stop adding sugar to your hot drinks and other foods such as cereal. Checking the package of your cereal will show you there is al-

ready sugar in it.

Detoxing from sugar can be difficult and it is normal to struggle with headaches, cravings, tiredness, spots and an upset stomach, but after the initial first few days your body will

start to recalibrate itself. Cutting out sugar can reprogramme your taste buds and can improve your body, mind and mood, helping you to sleep better, have brighter and clearer sight and be less stressed.

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SALMON: On the shopping list for ingredients that will help to enhance your skin.

Eat your way younger

FORGET fancy creams and lotions, target the aging process from the inside and change your diet to help you stay looking younger for longer.

An Australian nutritionist has revealed her top shopping list of foods to enhance your skin which includes salmon, blueberries, dark chocolate, carrots, almonds, tomatoes and citrus fruits.

Salmon is a fatty fish that has long been hailed for its healthy benefits, but it is also said to allow water to better penetrate the top layer of the skin leaving it looking plumper and well hydrated.

Blueberries, as well as being rich in Vitamin C, are high in potassium,

which helps to combat puffiness and provide minerals and salts which help the body to fight the aging process.

“ Vitamin C is also a popular skincare ingredient that helps with the production of collagen.

Those with a sweet tooth can indulge a little bit of the dark stuff without guilt as dark chocolate is rich in flavonoids, a form of antioxidant that helps the skin fight against UV rays which can lead to premature ag-

ing. The beta-carotene in carrots helps cells to grow and repair, resulting in fewer dead cells.

Almonds are full of Vitamin E, another antioxidant that helps to protect skin cells from UV light and free radicals that can lead to cell damage.

Tomatoes contain lycopene, which is what makes them red. In humans, this lycopene can help protect against sunburn and aging caused by the sun's rays.

Citrus fruits, full of Vitamin C are the fruit of choice to help ward off colds and illnesses, but Vitamin C is also a popular skincare ingredient, helping with the production of collagen.

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To sleep or not to sleep



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

THIS week we've asked the doctor about something a lot of people complain about, insomnia.

- How many hours of sleep does the average adult really need?

The number of hours of sleep a healthy adult needs varies as it depends on many different factors. Getting at least seven hours of good, uninterrupted sleep is considered to be adequate on average, however some people find six hours to be sufficient and others need more to be able to correctly carry out their daily activities.

- When are sleep problems considered to be insomnia?

A patient is considered to have insomnia when they are regularly unable to fall asleep or suffer from frequent episodes during which they wake up during the night and are unable to get back to sleep and all of this causes them problems and stops them carrying out their normal activities during the day.

- What are the most common causes of insomnia?

There can be many different reasons behind insom-

nia. The most frequent cause is emotional stress. There are, however, also many psychiatric problems and hormonal imbalances which also include insomnia as one of their symptoms.

- What can be done to cure it?

The first thing to do is discover and avoid the cause of the insomnia. For example by avoiding stress or by remedying the hormonal imbalance which produces it. Medicines such as muscle relaxants or anti-depressants can help people get to sleep. Sometimes natural remedies alone such as relaxation techniques and exercises and herbal teas can be sufficient to keep it under control.

- Can it be bad for our health?

It can most definitely be very bad for our health, not just because it can affect our normal day-to-day lives and activities, but also because it can be a cardiovascular risk factor.

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

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SOCIAL EXTRA

Funambulista rocks Palma

FUNAMBULISTA, a pop band led by frontman Diego Cantero, will be performing at the Palma Auditorium on February 25. The band released their new album 'Duel' earlier this month which debuted at number four in the charts.

Powerman Duathlon

POWERMAN Mallorca's Duathlon is taking place on February 25 in Can Picafort. The first event begins at 9am, with an entire day of events and activities planned including powerkids mini events.

Frozen the musical

TICKETS are on sale now for Frozen the musical, being performed at the Palma Auditorium on March 4 and 5. The musical will be in Catalan; admission for children under three is free.

They love you yeah, yeah

By John Smith

ACCORDING to fans of the Beatles, the Flaming Shakers are the closest you will ever get to hearing the Beatles again and they will be appearing at the Teatre Municipal La Unio in Son Servera on March 12.

They have appeared at a number of Beatles conventions and were given special recognition at the Beatle Weeks in Liverpool in 2015 and again in 2017 where they performed some of the bands best known works from the early days to the break up.

The band tours regularly, particularly in Belgium, France and the UK where they are well received and have the accolade of playing with one of the very original band members,



Photo by The Flaming Shakers

THE FLAMING SHAKERS: Play with original drummer Pete Best.

Pete Best who was the drummer prior to Ringo Starr.

In addition they have also played with the Quarrymen who at one time counted John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison as members prior to the formation of the Beatles.

This 'fab foursome' pays particular attention to both the sound and the look, changing costumes as they present the very best from the Beatles catalogue.

Tickets for the Flaming Shakers, consisting of Israel Marshall (guitar and voice), Abel Marshall (guitar and voice), Nathan Baughman (bass and vocals) and Matias Segovia (drums and vocals) are just €10 for the two hour performance which starts at 7pm and can be obtained from the theatre.



Photo by Fanny Schertzer Wikimedia

PEASANT GIRL: The sad tale of Giselle.

Ballet Giselle visits Palma

THE sad tale of Giselle, the popular ballet in two acts by Adolphe Adam will be presented at the Auditorium in Palma at 9pm on March 8 by the St Petersburg Festival Ballet.

The ballet opens on a sunny morning in the Rhineland during the Middle Ages as villages are picking

grapes. A young noble man who has noticed her from afar, has fallen in love with a shy and beautiful peasant girl, Giselle, despite being betrothed to Bathilde, the daughter of the Duke of Courland.

He disguises himself as a peasant in order to get close to her during the harvest fes-

tivities but he is revealed as a man of worth who is engaged to another and so sad is Giselle that she dies of a broken heart.

In the second act, ghosts of women who have died young of unrequited love appear and start to attack any man who they find and make them dance until they drop. When

they summon Giselle to join them and attack the repentant suitor bringing flowers to her grave, she forgives him and he is allowed to live.

Tickets for this evening of delightful ballet are available from the Auditorium website and box office with seats costing from €34 to €38.

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A unique and comedic show in Palma

El GILI, the comic known as the 'romantic thug,' is performing at the Palma Auditorium until February 26.

The self-titled 'story-teller' gives an hour and a half unique comedic set, narrating his ugly personal history, including overcoming his failed marriage.

El Gili finishes each

“ The self-titled 'story-teller' narrates his ugly personal history.

comic night with a performance singing with his guitar, sometimes bringing on stage a guest drummer.

Carnival celebrations all across Mallorca

By Gillian Keller

CARNIVAL, or locally known as Sa Rua, is celebrated all week long, with most towns hosting parades and parties over the weekend. Almost all celebrations have contests with cash prizes awarded in many different categories, such as best costume and best parade float. This year Manacor's Sa Rua has a country and western theme; the first of such an untraditional but exciting theme.

The following lists some of Mallorca's Sa Rua festivals, including dates, times and locations of parades or parties. Some towns also host Sa Rueta, a children's version; usually the morning or the day before Sa Rua. Check with your local town hall for more events and information.

- Sa Rua Palma:** February 26, 5pm
La Rambla/ Avenida Jaime III
- Sa Rua Calvia:** February 25, 4.30pm
Ses Quarterades Calvia Vila
- Sa Rua Andrax:** February 25, 4pm
Son Mas Castle
- Sa Rua Campos:** February 25, 2.24pm
Placa dels 3 Molins

Sa Rua Sa Pobla: February 25, 4.30pm
Can Tro Estate

Sa Rua Pollenca Port: February 24, 4.30pm
Placa Miquel Capllonch

Sa Rua Pollenca: February 25, 5pm
Placa Major

Sa Rua Manacor: February 25, 12pm
Plaça de Ramon Llull

Sa Rua Porto Cristo: February 26, 4pm
Plaça de Ses Comes

Sa Rua Soller Port: February 25, 3.30pm
Can Miro

Sa Rua Arenal : February 25, 3pm
Calle Costa i Llobera de Son Verí

Sa Rua Inca: February 25, 5pm
Calle de Fra Juniper Serra

Sa Rua celebrates life in bright colours, leading up to the Lenten season. The celebrations are only officially over when the sardine is burned or buried. Funerals for the sardines will take place in many villages on Shrove Tues-

day with dramatic processions, music, and sobbing sardine widows. This tradition dates back to when Jews would test Christians as they start their Lenten fast and is a site to see for both residents and tourists.

SA RUA: Brings colours and flavours all across Mallorca.



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IN LAST WEEK'S column I continued reporting on the progress that we were making regarding the regeneration of a client's restaurant.

The menu has now been decided upon and both the owner and his chef are happy with the outcome. We now have to look at creating a different image. No great changes as the client had spent quite a bit of money on reforming in the first place. This is more cosmetic. A lot of effect can be had by changing tableware, table setting and lighting.

At present the restaurant, which is open for lunch and dinner, is clothed up. A standard base cloth with a coloured slip cloth. Slightly old fashioned for a place that is aiming to modernise its image. A look under the cloths however revealed good quality oak effect tables. The crockery that was being used was standard white round plates most of which appeared to have come with the property when the client bought it. Lighting was a bit bright and mostly white but candles in the evening softened the room.

The first decision was to remove the cloths for the lunch time service and replace with place mats and 'table runners.' However in the evening we would revert to table cloths. Considering the decoration of the room which was mainly cream/vanilla colours we chose a contrasting almost chocolate colour base cloth for the evening service with vanilla top cloths. Using the same material as the base cloths we made the table runners.

For the individual place setting I sourced a very attractive matt vinyl table mat in the same colour. This enabled us to use the runners on the square and rectangular tables and the mats on the round tables.

We discussed using serviettes of the same colour the only problem with coloured serviettes is that continual washing makes them fade. So we decided on vanilla serviettes and using brown presentation plates for the evening. Lunchtimes the serviettes will go perfectly on the coloured place mats.

Crockery was the next step. As we had an abundance of white plates it was sensible to continue to use many of those, but we added some different shapes and styles which helped to modernise the presentation and allowed the chef to play around with his food presentation. Nowadays you can get every shape and style imaginable.



Funky shapes and styles make for interesting place settings

Next was lighting. First thing was to put all the lights on dimmers. Then we changed the fixed ceiling lights to pendulum lights with a mixture of cream and brown shades. The effect was stunning. Picking out some of the columns in brown would finish off the effect perfectly. The next week or so it should all come together and the place will be ready to welcome clients old and new.

MY SISTER sent me a picture of a bottle of wine she had just consumed and commented that she 'had never had this before.' It was a Sancerre Red. It's true that it is not very common to see it in the UK or here in Spain. Sancerre is from the Loire and is famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. But it is interesting to know that Sancerre had been producing reds for several hundred years until phylloxera destroyed its vines in 1860.

Up until then it was a favourite served in the royal courts on both sides of the channel. Sancerre uses the popular Pinot Noir for its red wine. It is interesting to note that of the total production of Sancerre 57 per cent is exported of which only 3 per cent is red.

The bigger day-night temperature differences in the Loire compared with Burgundy gives more of a crunchy raspberry- and cranberry-style fruits over cherry, and a spicy, peppery complexity rather than Burgundy's earthy undergrowth.

Better known for their crisp white sauvignon blanc.

The unique soil structure in Sancerre is also key. About 40 per cent of the vineyards lie on the white chalky limestone-clay soils in the west of the region, many on steep hills above Bué and Chavignol, called terres blanches. These are among the best vineyards for both Sauvi-



gnon Blanc and Pinot Noir, along with those on the most easterly slopes around Sancerre which are planted on the flinty silex terroir (about per cent of the appellation), which gives a trademark smoky note and superb minerality and acidity to the wines. The remaining vineyards are on limestone pebbles, or caillottes.

The last few years the weather has been better in the Loire than in wine producing areas of France meaning that Sancerre has been able to come up with some good vintages such as 2014. As I said, I haven't drunk any in years, but I personally found the wine very light and despite its popularity I'm not really a Pinot Noir kind of guy!! But I would be happy to try a bottle again. (Nothing new there I hear you say!!)

“ People who love to eat are always the best people. ”
Julia Child.

ONE OF THE STRANGEST projects I undertook many years ago was to put together a Chinese/Japanese restaurant. It was a huge reform of an old villa near Puerto Banus. I designed what I thought was a brilliant table setting consisting of a black base cloth with an orange/rust top cloth with black Chinese style writing. I then finished the setting with black base plates, rust coloured serviettes and black stemmed glasses. It looked fantastic and I showed it

to an old friend, fellow restaurateur and interior design guru and he loved it!!

So armed with my brilliant table setting I proudly presented it to my client who stepped back in

horror. I thought the 'Chinese' writing might have actually meant something rude but it was simpler than that - Black is a very unlucky colour in Chinese culture. Ooops!!



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.

LOVE IT OR HATE IT, TripAdvisor, the bible for many a traveller, is here to stay. It comes in for a lot of stick especially from restaurateurs and hoteliers. And yet we all check our rankings and read the comments, smiling when we receive good reviews and scowling when we receive bad or unfair ones. I have had run ins with TripAdvisor especially their aptly named 'Content Integrity' department who, as the name suggests, are responsible for not only what goes into the reviews, but whether said reviews are legitimate and not written by members of staff or friends and family.

I was contacted once about one of my restaurants where they informed me that I was being 'disciplined' - ie being dropped down in the ratings - because they were under the impression that a member of staff or of their family had written a glowing review. This was not the case as it happens, but there was a review from the brother of one of my staff, but he was a regular client and was perfectly qualified to write a review.

Where does one draw the line between a random client and a regular who becomes a 'friend' of the business. Because of the link between TripAdvisor and Facebook if a 'friend' on Facebook writes a review it states that that review was written by a 'friend.' How does that fit into their rules?

Businesses are encouraged to get clients to write reviews for them. Some even offer incentives like complimentary wine or drinks. Is this against the rules or just enthusiastic marketing?

In some cases, penalised businesses are not even aware that rules are being broken, as in the case of a small hotel where an elderly relative of the owners posted reviews after staying at the hotel as guests.

As a result, TripAdvisor dropped the business in the rankings by over 100 places.

There have been cases though where some businesses have written bad reviews about their competitors. This is a despicable act and should be stamped on, but their rulings are a bit wacky! Business owners are often unaware that they should not post reviews about a competitor business, even if they are relaying a genuine experience, good or bad.

The problems arise when those that own or work in a business do not realise how TripAdvisor defines direct competitors. TripAdvisor confirm that this would apply to any type of business in the same sector if that business is within 10 miles of your business. To put that into perspective, an employee, say of the three Michelin star Alain Ducasse restaurant at the Dorchester hotel (in Park Lane, London) is not permitted to write a review of McDonald's in Hackney!!



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

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New record set

AVERAGE property prices in both England and Wales have exceeded £300,000 (€354,000) for the first time in history.

Prices slid up by 0.3 per cent in January to mark a new peak and an average increase of £10,000 since January 2016.

Though central London has seen decline, areas in

and around the capital, such as Barking and Dagenham, saw some of the largest increases.

Homes in London cost almost double the average at £598,000. The news means that prices across England and Wales have officially now doubled in the 15 years since they hit £150,000 in 2002.



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Ever heard of Llucmajor? 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 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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



Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



Ref 2997, Llucmajor, 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 Llucmajor and Algaida from 110,000€.



PALMA DE MALLORCA: The island's capital.

Mallorca the Balearic jewel

By John Smith

THERE is no question that the popularity of Mallorca as both a holiday destination and the place for a 'forever home' continues to grow and it now has one of the largest permanent international populations in Spain.

It is a lively place in which to live and work, but that's not to say that there aren't a number of quiet and restful areas on the island with prices to suit most pockets, from those on a budget to the multi-millionaire.

Due to its size and the fact that the construction of new property is strictly controlled, prices on the island - which is said to have one of the healthiest lifestyles in Spain - were not greatly depressed by the recession and property prices continue to be relatively buoyant.

There is an incredible choice of towns and rural areas to choose from, with properties including apartments on the coast, fincas in the centre and villas around the island. A few of the most popular areas are:

Andratx, situated on the south west coast with the old town sitting in a valley, attracts many expatriates who enjoy both the town and the Port which was originally a fishing village, said to be one of the most picturesque on the island and which still attracts many visitors to the sea-front restaurants.

“ It is a lively place in which to live and work.

Just six kilometres south of Andratx is the millionaire's playground at Port Adriano designed by the icon that is Philippe Starck with some of the most well-known designer names, superyachts and the glitterati rubbing shoulders with the less affluent who are attracted by the glitz and glamour as well as regular concerts and exhibitions.

Calvia, which includes the tourist playground of Magaluf, is the second most inhabited town on the island and has a very large permanent expatriate population, some of whom are involved in 'looking after' the tens of thousands of young visitors who flock to Mallorca to party.

Moving slightly further south is the capital Palma de Mallorca with its busy port, hosting ferries to the other Balearic Islands and

Barcelona and a lifestyle that is busy but not as frenetic as Magaluf.

Like any capital it has a number of cultural options ranging from the Cathedral which took nearly 400 years to complete, to the municipal auditorium which sees some of the best international entertainment as well as local acts, to the bustling marina.

Even further south and more inland but with easy access of the coast is the historical town of Llucmajor which offers a wide range of properties both in the centre of the town and in the surrounding countryside, often with a number of 'projects' looking for some TLC.

Another of the newer areas is Puerto Portals which is described as being the Mallorcan equivalent of Puerto Banus with its upmarket marina, good bars and restaurants. Accommodation in the immediate area tends to consist of apartments but Portals Nous, just down the road and popular with Mallorcan residents for second homes prior to the Civil War, offers greater family accommodation.

These are just a few of the many attractive towns on Mallorca which continues to attract new property owners on a regular basis and a trawl of local estate agents will certainly reveal a number of ideal options.



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When it comes to transferring money overseas, making the right decision starts by asking the right questions, before considering the options available on the market. It's a simple process that could help you save a considerable amount of money on all your transfers.

Be prepared

Preparation is essential; by assessing your personal requirements, you will be in the best position to later discuss them with a currency specialist like Currencies Direct. Ask yourself the following questions:

- **Why are you transferring funds?** For a property purchase, a foreign pension, to pay bills or make mortgage payments?
- **How often will you need to transfer funds?** Will it be a one-off transfer or regular payments?
- **When you will need the funds?** Is the money needed at a specific date? How much time and flexibility do you have?
- **Are there any other specific criteria relating to your own personal circumstances?**

Consider your options

Next step is the choice of the service provider. The solution may appear simple - you'll just use your bank, right? In truth, it could actually cost you a lot more money to take that route, as traditional high-street banks often offer poor exchange rates and tend to charge commission. Whereas alternatively, currency transfer specialists, like Currencies Direct, provide a tailored service and highly competitive rates.

You will then have to decide the type of transfer that you will go for. This is where the initial assessment and the guidance provided by the currency experts will help you to find the service most adapted to your needs, as well as the right time to transfer.

And, your options don't stop there, as you can also choose your transfer method, such as by phone, online or via a dedicated mobile transfer app.

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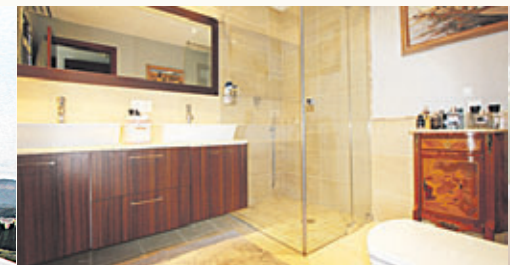
11633 Wonderful semi-detached house with fantastic views in the village of Calvia



 210sqm
  400sqm
  80+40sqm (Terrace+Garden)
  3
  3
  Private

Price: 650,000€

This marvellous semi-detached house of rustic style is located in Calvia village and it has a constructed area of 210sqm distributed over two floors. The ground floor consists of a modern kitchen, furnished and equipped with electric appliances, a guest toilet and a spacious and bright living and dining room, beautifully furnished. From there you have access to a terrace with fantastic views over the village of Calvià and the exterior area. On the upper floor there are 3 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms (one of them en suite), the master bedroom has an access to a romantic terrace with panoramic views over the charming village of Calvia. On a good day you can enjoy fantastic sunsets and you have a view up to the island of Ibiza. The basement offers a wine cellar for wine lovers, a spacious utility room, a dressing room that can also be used as a fitness room and a games room. This floor has access to a porch with BBQ, a beautiful pool, terraces and gardens. This charming property is located in a very quiet area of the village where you can relax and rest. All necessary services like pharmacies, schools, supermarkets and traditional markets are very close. The golf course of Santa Ponsa and the beaches are situated nearby. The centre of Palma City is only 25km away. It is a dreamlike property.





Your Hermann Köppler

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By Graeme Tyrrell

Winter pruning

WINTER pruning time is here. Pruning is an essential part of any healthy garden. It is necessary to remove damaged and dried out branches, restrict plants to fit into the garden design space, promote flowers and fruits of better quality, and to shape the plant to look better. Now is the time to prune most deciduous trees that require improvement.

The first key to good pruning is understanding the basics of plant growth to cut in the right place at the right angle at the right time to improve recovery of the plant from the wound. The second is ensuring the right tools for the job are sharp and effective to give a clean cut. Thirdly, as a rule of thumb, only prune a third of the plant's height and width in a year to allow it to recover before removing any more. If you need to prune more than a third of a plant in a year your plant is probably in the wrong place.

There are different types of pruning methods and tools to suit the way you tackle the maintenance of your plants. Trees need specialist care



Photo by Fotokostic Shutterstock

SAFE PRUNING: Use a sharp tool to give a clean cut.

when mature to ensure their longevity, shape and purpose with correct pruning cuts. Densely branched shrubs and hedges need skill but generally have smaller, thinner branches that allows shearing off multiple branches with minimal damage to the plant if pruning is done regularly.

Sparingly branched shrubs, such as roses, need more care and skill in pruning to encourage a good framework and promotion of flowers.

The main point to pruning cuts is to make the cut just above a bud or branch with minimal waste wood after the joint. This is to prevent die

back which promotes insect and fungal entry. Avoid damaging the remaining bud or lateral branch including the branch collar, which is the swelling on the branch around the joint, by allowing a small space of clearance above the joint.

On large limbs it is easiest to cut a

branch first well away from the joint to the trunk to remove the weight and make the final precise cut with only the stub to be removed.

In a garden with a variety of plants and trees, pruning can be a year round activity. Autumn is the time to restrict pruning to damaged and dead branches for mature trees as it is a time of fungal growth and insect activity that can infect trees. Most deciduous trees are pruned in winter when the plants are dormant in order to establish a good framework of branches while visible and encourage stronger growth in the remaining branches to produce better flowering and, for fruiting trees, premium quality fruit.

Spring pruning is normally undertaken for winter and spring flowering plants to remove flower stems and reshape the plant to encourage the next flowering season. Summer pruning is mostly removal of die back branches and overgrowth that may be taking over the allotted space to the detriment of other plants, paths or proximity to buildings and utilities, this includes hedges and topiary features. Take care when pruning.

Fighting nature with nature

SPRING is just around the corner and with it, the dreaded flies will be back in force.

Although there are plenty of things, from electric zappers to chemical sprays, on the market to get rid of the annoying insects, sometimes they are less efficient and more harmful to the environment than we would like.

There are, however, some natural, traditional tricks which have been used in Spain for as long as anyone can remember which can help you keep your home fly-free. They are all cheap and simple and take very little time to prepare:

1. Aromatic plants

Not only do these come in useful for warding off mosquitoes, hanging bunches of lavender, basil or citronella in doorways or windows will also encourage flies to go and knock on someone else's door instead.

2. Bags of water

Ever wondered why you often see transparent plastic bags

full of water hung up in Spanish bars or homes? The magnifying effect is said to scare flies away when they see their reflection.

3. Clove and lemon

Another firm favourite with Spanish housewives that also serves as an air freshener. Cut a lemon in half and stick a few cloves into it, then place it wherever you want to banish flies from.

4. Honey trap

Not too pleasant but very effective! Mix some honey,



CLOVE AND LEMON: Also serves as an air freshener.

flour and water to form a paste and place dishes of this about the area you want to maintain fly-free.

Flies are attracted by the smell of the honey but will get caught by the sticky mixture and be unable to escape.



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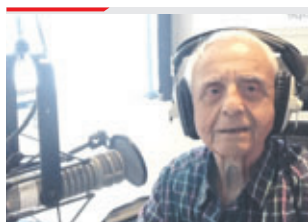
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104.6fm,
(Denia to Valencia) 95.3fm
Mallorca 103.9fm



HUMAN LANGUAGE: Dogs cannot link actions.

MANY times in a week I am informed that a dog only understands German, French, Spanish, English etc.

I find that many owners and some trainers have a misguided perception of what a dog really is and entertain false expectations of their pet. Most think their pet is a small hairy person based on the assumption that a dog's level of understanding is equal to their own.

It is vital to keep in mind that dogs do not have the capacity to intercept human language, behaviour or emotions.

Dogs are capable of linking two ideas together, but cannot link actions, which are separated to another time. If for example a dog makes a mess during your absence there is no point in telling the dog off

or getting annoyed; the dog's brain cannot link the action. Many will say 'He knows he has done wrong.' He does not, the brain is not formulated this way.

A dog's brain is much smaller than man's in particular the cerebrum - the portion of the brain associated with intellectual function, emotion and personality. Dogs cannot understand our human language. It is far more important to use sound patterns, intonation and facial and body language as a form of communication. A dog wants to please and all learning should be based on a positive reinforcement of reward. Owners should keep in mind that a large part of a dog's brain is occupied with sensory activity, particularly the interpretation of scent.

Dog's natural instinct plays a vital role and often it is difficult to understand why so few dog owners can differentiate between instinct and intelligence. Instinct is an urge from within. Instinct makes a dog act in certain ways and has no connection with intelligence.

Dog's first instinct is to survive, when a pup is born he squirms about until he finds a teat and then sucks it. No intelligence or learning by any association plays a part in the process. The maternal instinct tells the female to clean up the foetal membrane etc and stir the puppy into action by licking it. The female is not taught, she has not seen another female do this.

Most instincts provide pleasure to the dog, and because it associates the action with pleasure, the instinct grows stronger with usage.

Instinct can be strengthened, weakened or diverted, it cannot be put there, and it cannot be taken away. It might lie dormant, but once developed it can never be weakened.

A dog with an obsession for chasing balls can be controlled by training and by providing other outlets for his energy. The same if a young dog is corrected the first time he chases a car he may give up the idea, but if he is allowed to chase cars the hunting instinct becomes stronger, and in no time it will be very difficult, even impossible to cure the habit.

Instinct also covers survival, hunting, guarding, and the pack.

Update from Scooby, Thomas and Jason

REMEMBER these three pure white German Shepherds? Scooby aged eight years, Thomas aged four years, Jason aged three years? They are now living in Denmark and being cared for once again by our housesitter Bragi from Iceland.

They go for daily walks on the beach, and are very well behaved until one of them sees something interesting in the distance. Then they all sprint off to discover what's new on their patch.

Bragi's latest update for us began to describe their personalities, all very distinct. Jason is happy in himself and very friendly to new people. Scooby gets a little scared of loud noises, so one has to be sensitive to what is going on around him. And Thomas is just a little shy at



Photo by Bragi Johnson

first, and nervous of strangers. But Bragi tells me that he remembered him from the first housesit assignment and they are the best of friends now. But all three are real scamps, and Bragi has to remember to keep his food completely out of reach. Or, the tykes will demolish every last morsel before Bragi has even had a taste of his own dinner! What cheeky characters!

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Pets aren't assets

SPAIN is catching up on the topic of animal rights and political parties are working hard to promote animal rights and create laws to back them up.

The Congress of Deputies has unanimously supported a non-legislative motion to urge the government to promote the necessary legal reforms to create a special category in the Civil Code to define animals as 'living beings with feelings.' The text also calls for reforms required to avoid pets being considered as seizable assets in legal procedures.

Based on an initial proposal from the Ciudadanos political party, the text aims to 'improve the life and treatment of pets' to stop them from being treated as possessions, something the party's spokesman for these matters Guillermo Diaz has said "is inadmissible." This, the deputy pointed out, is a matter millions of people support. A recent Observatory for Justice and Animal Defence, he recalled, gathered more than 240,000 signatures.

His proposal, Diaz said, was the first step towards other debates which in his opinion are also necessary for the future of animals, such as creation of a law to establish the foundations re-



GUILLERMO DÍAZ: Party spokesman.

gional animal welfare laws must be built upon.

To this respect, Unidos Podemos spokeswoman Sara Careño proposed during the debate that a nationwide animal welfare law be created to unite policies across the country and remove the huge differences currently in existence. This, however, said PSOE spokeswoman Dolores Galovert, would require a whole new debate and careful consideration.

Finally, PP spokesman Avelino de Barrionuevo thanked Diaz for taking the proposal to Congress and stressed that for a large part of society, pets are like children, "and if children can't be seized as assets, why can pets?" he asked to conclude.



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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

“The Caterham may only have 250bhp, but you have to remember it weighs about the same as a J-cloth.”

Some might say...



Motoring shorts

Top Gear returns

TOP Gear returns to the BBC for the second season in its controversially revamped formula. The first new episode will be broadcast on BBC Two on March 5 featuring a spanking new line-up minus one Chris Evans.

Instead the 2017 version will feature Matt LeBlanc, an unexpected hit from season one, motoring journalist Chris Harris, and TV presenter Rory Reid.

The new show suggests the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to challenge Clarkson, May and Hammond and their Grand Tour.

Farewell to the underdog



FORD GT: Boasts a hand-crafted 550bhp V8 engine and six-speed manual transmission.

A FORD GT once owned by Jenson Button is going on sale at an auction where it is expected to fetch more than €300,000. Built in 2005 the VIP Ford boasts a hand-crafted 550bhp V8 engine with a quad camera and six-speed manual transmission.

It can easily hit 200mph plus and reaches 60mph from a standstill in just three and a half seconds. Benson, awarded an MBE for his services to the sport, raced the car from 2006 to 2011.

Even today it has less than 9,000 miles on the clock.

“A rare breed of modern car that instantly becomes collectable.”

The Ford will be sold by Silverstone Auctions who described it as that ‘rare breed of modern cars that instantly become collectable.’ It goes on sale at the track’s famous Race Retro rally from

February 24-26.

The Warwickshire show will see a terrific selection of classics, including a TS14 raced in 1972 and a Bentley Speed 8 worth over €10 million.

It’s unknown if Button himself will be in attendance. The 27-year-old announced his retirement from Formula One racing in 2016, but remains an ambassador for McLaren until at least 2018. He won the 2009 Championship with Brawn GP and won 15 races out of 305 with 50 podium finishes.

Lexus GS300h

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Arenal yacht club sailor placed first

A TOTAL of 15 young sailors from Club Nautico in Arenal participated in the 28th Palamos Optimist Trophy Nations Cup held in Palamos, Girona.

Maria Perello of the Arenal yacht club placed first for females, fourth overall in the championship.

Five of the 15 children from Club Nautico placed in the top 100 out of almost 550 participants.

Thanks to the result of María Perelló, the race winner Alberto Morales, Nacho Baltasar who placed second and Marina Garau who placed sixth, Spain won the 12th Nations Cup Trophy.

Billionaire's €420 million superyacht impounded

SAILING YACHT A, the largest private sailing yacht in the world, has been impounded off the coast of Gibraltar. Russian billionaire Andrey Melnichenko's €420million sail-assisted motor yacht has been arrested following a €15.3 million claim by German shipbuilder Nobiskrug for the unpaid final payment, liability for subcontractor invoices and disputed orders during the build.

A spokesman for the owner commented, "the facts are that with a project of this magnitude there are sometimes outstanding issues to be resolved, and the sum of over €9 million being claimed for payment, by January 27, was part of ongoing discussions between the owner and the shipyard in regards to their rectification."

Melnichenko assumed the matter was progressing to a resolution, especially as the shipbuilder released the sailing yacht to him this month. Melnichenko paid the €9 million the day after the boat was released, but into an escrow account pending resolution of the issues. Melnichenko insists the yacht will be able to leave soon.



! SAILING YACHT A: One of the largest yachts in the world.

Mallorca's nautical sector is boosting employment

By Gillian Keller

MALLORCA'S nautical sector is one of the fastest-growing employers in the Balearics, contributing to a steady growth in the employment industry.

According to a study published by the Balearic ministry for employment, trade and industry, between 2011 and 2015 the number of people who found work in the nautical sector increased by 10 per cent each year.

Mallorca is considered one of the most professional locations in the nautical sector; especially for refits, repairs and maintenance. The charter sector has also significantly grown in recent years, with some of the largest private

“

The charter sector has also significantly grown in recent years.

yachts in the world sailing through Mallorca.

Palma's shipyard STP is one example of the large scale nautical businesses on the island; STP is 'one of the safest and most advanced shipyards in Europe,' according to their website. STP, along with all the other ports and marinas in Mallorca, give employment to diverse industries

such as painters, engineers, electricians, woodworkers, security companies, and much more.

Brendan Simons, director founder of Loft Customs, has noticed a large increase in all aspects of the nautical sector, attributing much of the growth to "the broad scope of services available to captains, and for good prices." Simons' business is one example of the growing sector; he founded Loft Customs in 2015, specialising in bespoke canvas work for grand prix race yachts and superyachts, and has hired six new employees over his second year.

They are currently sending their work to yachts all around the globe and are expanding alongside the industry's rapid growth.

Xabi Fernandez to lead MAPFRE

SPAIN'S sailing Olympic gold medallist, Xabi Fernandez will return to skipper MAPFRE in the 2017-18 Volvo Ocean Race. Fernandez won Olympic gold in Athens 2004, and silver in 2008; he was joined by his long-term sailing partner Iker Martinez.

This year will be the first that 40-year-old Fernandez is solely in charge of leading MAPFRE's campaign.

"The Volvo Ocean Race is an enormously difficult challenge combining human adventure, world-class sport, technical expertise, logistics on a global scale, and a unique communications platform," said Fernández.

"Being fortunate enough to be back on the start line, with a chance to claim victory, is something that we are very proud of, and I'm thankful to MAPFRE for believing in a project that began back in 2014."

Fernández will return to the race after finishing his work for Sir Ben Ainslie's America's Cup campaign, Land Rover BAR.

Palumbo are moving new builds to Ancona

PALUMBO GROUP, the Italian shipyard conglomerate, has recently announced the appointment of Francesco Carbone as its new general manager. The group is planning to move all superyacht new build production to Ancona; Palumbo Group recently acquired ISA Yachts, including their shipyard in Ancona.

Congratulations to Lincoln, Millwall and Farah as United prepare to face the Saints

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

FOOTBALL

* After last weekend's tremendous 1-0 FA Cup victory at Premiership Burnley (thanks to Sean Raggett's dramatic 89th minute header), National League leaders Lincoln City – the first non-League team to reach the quarter-finals since QPR in 1914 – will face Arsenal (2-0 winners at Sutton) in the quar-

SPURS:

Harry Kane scored a hat trick.

ter-finals. The other three ties are: Chelsea (2-0 winners at Wolves) versus Manchester United (2-1 victors over Blackburn), Middlesbrough (who ousted Oxford United 3-2) against Huddersfield or Manchester City and Spurs (comfortable 3-0 winners at Fulham (thanks to Harry Kane's hat-trick) versus Millwall, 1-0 conquerors of Leicester City.

* This Sunday (6.30pm Spanish time) four-time winners Manchester United

play Southampton in the League Cup final at Wembley. This technically is a



QUARTER FINALS: Lincoln City and Millwall are both through to the next level.

'repeat' of the 1976 FA Cup final which Saints won 1-0.

* The top Premiership games coming up this weekend are Chelsea v Swansea City, out-of-sorts Leicester City v Liverpool, Southampton v Arsenal and Spurs v Stoke City.

* In the Championship, we have Wolves v Birmingham (Friday) and Brighton & Hove Albion v Reading and Newcastle United v Bristol City (Saturday).

* It's Bristol Rovers v Scunthorpe United and leaders Sheffield United v Bolton Wanderers in FL1, and Doncaster Rovers (top) v Accrington Stanley and Luton Town v Plymouth Argyle in FL2.

* Celtic, 24 points clear of Aberdeen in the SPL, face Hamilton Academical.

* La Liga leaders Real Madrid, who visited Valencia last night, will take on Villarreal on Sunday.

* On Tuesday, in the first legs of their last 16 ties in the Champions League, Manchester City played AS Monaco and last night it was Sevilla v Leicester. Also 24 hours ago, in the return legs of their Europa League round of 32, St Etienne (3-0 down) met Manchester United and this evening Spurs (1-0 up) play AA Gent in the same competition at Wembley.

* Senior Premier League referee Mark Clattenburg is

set to quit the UK to 'work' in Saudi Arabia.

* Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager since 1996, may have a new club next season (we'll see).

* Goal-line technology could be used in the Championship matches starting in August.

* And the attendance of 30,193 for Saturday's Wolves-Chelsea FA Cup-tie was the biggest at Molineux since 1981.

RUGBY

* The Six Nations tournament continues this weekend with Scotland v Wales, Ireland v France and England v Italy.

* Bath (22-12 v Harlequins), Exeter (48-32 at Worcester), Gloucester (31-23 v Saracens) and Leicester (50-17 over Bristol) are all going exceedingly well in Rugby Union's Aviva Premiership.

* Warrington Wolves beat Brisbane Broncos 27-18 to win the World Series.

* Ex-Australian lock Dan Vickerman has died, aged 37.

ROUND-UP

* Some of the world's top cyclists compete in the Los Angeles Track

WENGER:

May have a new club next season.



beat Judd Trump to take his first Welsh Open snooker final. Earlier in the competition, 15-year-old Jackson Page defeated two higher ranked players and 17-year-old Chinese star Yan Bingtao knocked out world number one Mark Selby.

* Last Saturday, runner Mo Farah won his last indoor race, taking in the Birmingham Grand Prix 5,000m title in a record time of 13 minutes 9.16 seconds. GB's Laura Muir won the women's 1,000m title, also in a record time.

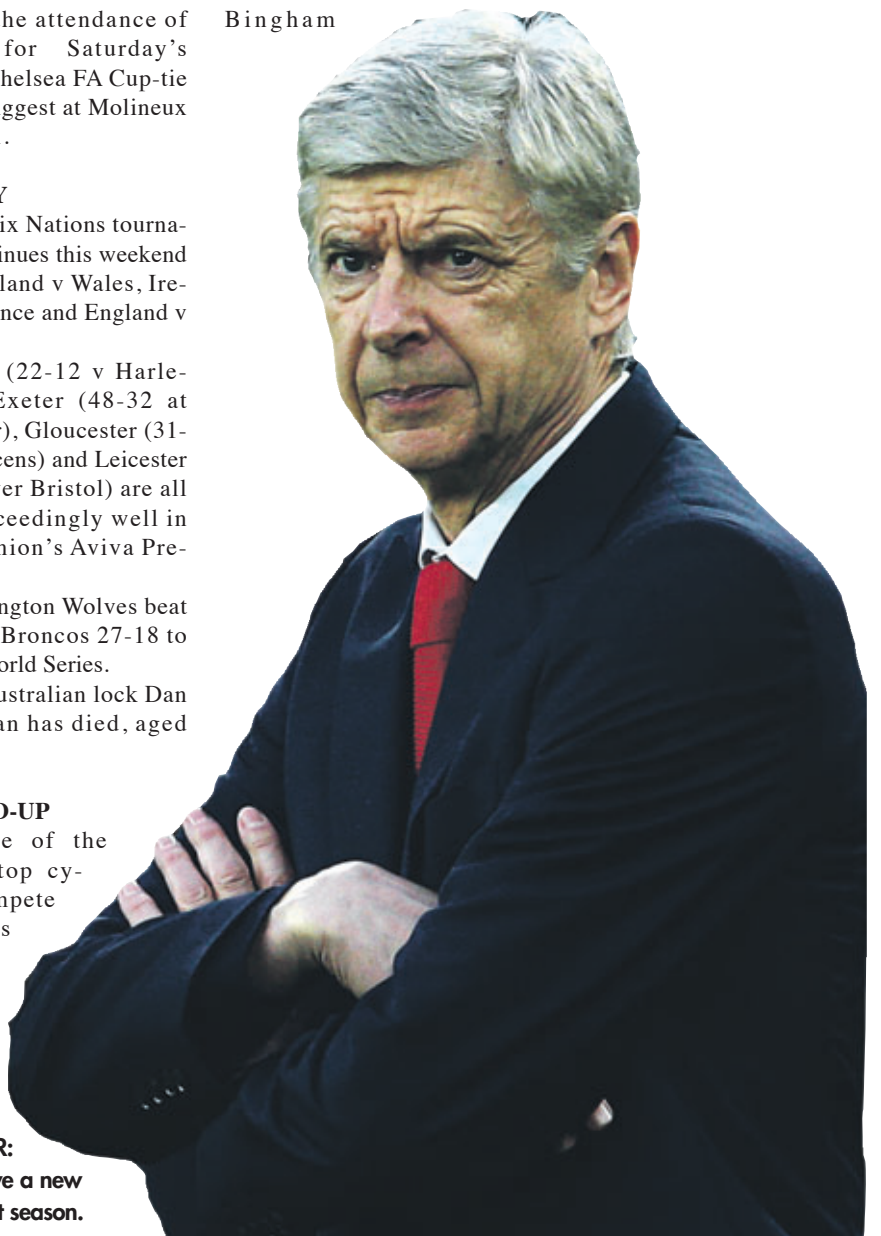
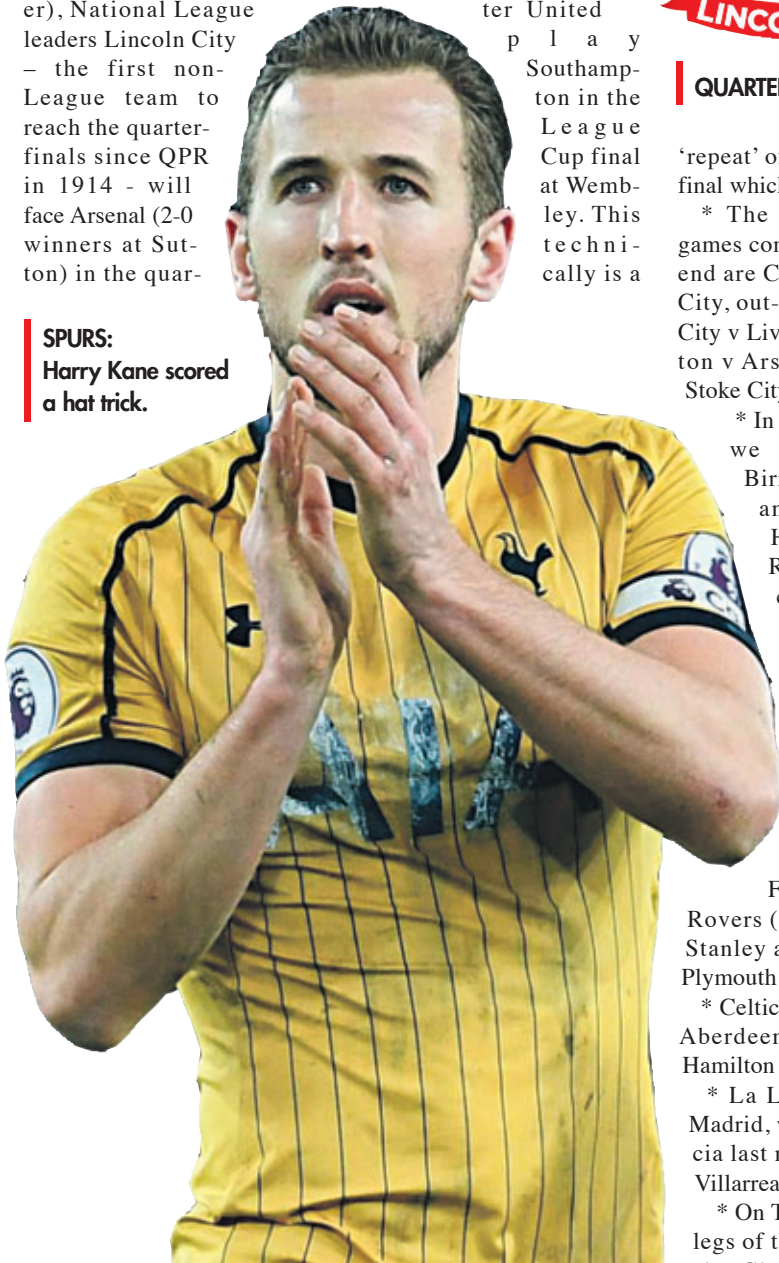
* Joe Root's first Test as England's new cricket captain will be against South Africa in July

* And Peter Richardson, ex-Worcestershire, who scored a century when Jim Laker took 19 wickets for England in the 1956 Test against Australia, has died, aged 85.

World Cup on February 25/26.

* The Dubai Duty Free tennis tournament starts on Monday and will feature inform Karolina Pliskova who beat Caroline Wozniacki in this week's Qatar women's singles final.

* Stuart Bingham



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Keeper WAYNE SHAW who was seen eating a pie during the game against Arsenal is under investigation after a bet was paid out. He said "I was just hungry."

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE



U18 MATCH: Some tense moments between El Toro RC and RC Ponent.



MICHEL RODIER TOURNAMENT: El Toro RC versus Corsaris RC.

Senior teams back in action

EL TORO RC headed for Capdepera to meet Club Rugby Escolar (CRE) on Sunday afternoon. Although the local team did their best, the visitors were stronger in all aspects of the game: a far more powerful scrum, better movement of the ball around the pitch and handling.

CRE's lack of experience and reluctance to tackle meant that El

Toro RC had the upper hand throughout and were able to score 22 tries during the match whilst CRE were unable to make any headway. Final points were 0 to 138.

RC Ponent was at home in Principes de España to last season's champions Union RC. The final score was 45 points to 24.

Shamrock RC had a successful day in Ibiza beating the home team. Unfortunately TRUC Menorca were obliged to postpone their match against Bahia RC in S'Arraco.

In the first Michel Rodier U18 and U16 tournament played in the seven's format, El Toro RC and RC Ponent each presented two U18

teams joining with Corsaris RC. Shamrock RC presented a team for the first time in the U16 category to join with El Toro RC and RC Ponent teams. In the U18, El Toro RC's 'A' team were victorious and in the U16 RC Ponent came out winners.

On Saturday in the Senior League El Toro RC are at home to

RC Ponent with kick off at 4pm. Shamrock RC play Club Rugby Escolar, kick off at 4pm and Menorca should play Ibiza RFC with kick off at 3pm. Bahia RC are due to organise the next Rugby Day for the younger categories and U14 due to kick off at 10am on Sunday whilst the girls have a training session in S'Arraco.

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