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Killer dogs strike

Pit bull pack put down after escaping shelter

By Matthew Elliott

A pack of dangerous dogs who had killed a local man incredibly escaped from their Guardia Civil shelter and attacked another man. Andres Ayuso, 69, feared for his life when three mixed breed pit bull terriers mauled him near his home in Els Poblets.

Just 150 metres from his house Ayuso encountered the roaming trio. They leapt all over him, inflicted severe bites on his arms and legs before a passing driver threw a rock at them to scare them off. Ayuso survived but is extremely shaken and receiving hospital treatment.

» Turn to page 4



DANGEROUS DOGS: Inflicted severe injuries.

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Euro Weekly News bags national prize

THE EWN MEDIA GROUP is delighted to announce that the *Euro Weekly News* was named Best Free Publication at the 2017 Spanish Periodical Publication Association (AEEPP) Awards on Tuesday February 28.

EWN publishers Michel and Steven Euesden were on hand to collect the award at the glittering gala event, which took place in the Auditorium of the famous Royal Post Office building in Madrid.

The AEEPP event is now in its 11th year, and it is considered to be among the most prestigious press awards in Spain.

According to the official press release, the winner of the Best Free Publication award demonstrates "the most impressive knowledge of the publishing world alongside the greatest imagination, sense of originality, innovation and risk-taking."

The jury featured Francisco Hortigüela, communications and marketing director for Samsung Spain, Matilde Pelegri, President of Senda Group, and Elia Mendez, director general of the Spanish Mobile Marketing Association, among others.

The AEEPP comprises around 100 publishing firms which together produce more than 900 titles covering both online and printed media, with an estimated annual readership of almost 130 million.

A full report of the event and the EWN's achievement will appear in next week's edition of your favourite weekly paper.

EWN Media Group takes over the RTN

SINCE the RTN was first published on October 1, 1999 Geoff Gartland and his team spent the subsequent years establishing a newspaper that represented it's thousands of readers, providing informative news, events and stories at a local, national and international level.

After almost 15 years Geoff decided to take early retirement, signing an agreement with a third party publisher allowing them to continue to use the RTN brand, unfortunately things did not go as planned.

Negotiations broke down and Geoff had no alternative but to reclaim the RTN and join forces with the EWN Media Group, who also own

the *Euro Weekly News*.

Having sold the brand to EWN Media Group Geoff was asked to stay with the RTN and use his expertise and that of his team to bring the paper back to its former glory.

Geoff said: "this is a really exciting time, particularly as we have now joined the EWN Media Group who are a very strong company.

"They have the expertise, the infrastructure and are dynamic in their approach to sales. This can only be a positive move for the RTN, our readers and our advertisers."

Friday's RTN hit the streets with a bumper 56-page edition, the original design style and an extensive



SECURE FUTURE: For the RTN.

distribution in both North and South Costa Blanca.

The paper will continue to support local charities and events, but also cover national and up-to-date news articles from around the world.

Geoff said: "I couldn't be happier to be back at the

helm, with the original team by my side and backed by the EWN Media Group the future is secured for the RTN."

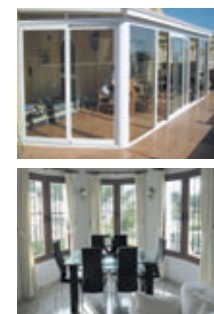
If you have any suggestions or comments Geoff is happy for you to share them with him, simply email geoff@ewnmediagroup.com.

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Robber under lock and key

A PROVINCIAL court has condemned a man found guilty of robbing a chalet in Pedreguer to 16 years in prison.

The guilty party must also pay €15,000 to the owner of the house, who was tied and gagged alongside her daughter and the latter's boyfriend during the raid.

At least five people are thought to have been involved, with one handed the same sentence in 2014, although the other three have not been identified and remain at large.

They barged into the house on May 14, 2010 wearing balaclavas and scarves to cover their faces, and gloves and socks on their hands.

The three occupants were sleeping but awoken roughly, with the daughter's boyfriend beaten heavily before a gun was pointed at the owner.

She immediately told her assailants where the safe was and they made off with the contents as well as several valuable items from elsewhere in the house.

Driver injured in car accident

A DRIVER was seriously injured in an accident on the CV-770 road on Monday morning (February 27), the Guardia Civil has reported.

The car was driving towards La Vila when it left the road and overturned, landing down a slope. Benidorm Fire Brigade sent a team of rescuers in case they were needed to free the driver from the wreck, but he managed to climb out.

Paramedics took the 42-year-old man to Marina Baixa Hospital by ambulance for treatment to injuries to his head and pelvis, the Emergency Coordination Centre informed.

Attacked at gunpoint

TWO hooded men entered a bar near Alcoy and fired shots at the owner, demanding money.

The owner and his wife, along with a customer, were in the bar area while their daughter and her grandmother were in the kitchen, when the two armed men entered the establishment demanding all the cash from the till.

Before the assailants fled to a waiting car shots were fired, although no one was harmed.

Tourism figures increase

THE trend towards ever increasing numbers of tourist visitors continued in January as revealed in the Frontier Movement Survey, FRONTUR, published by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) with 401,407 foreign visitors to the Costa Blanca.

This figure is 26.2 per cent higher than January 2016 with the UK once again supplying the largest number of visitors at 128,512, with France, the Nordic countries and Italy following some way be-

hind, but in all cases with more tourists than the previous year.

The Alicante-Elche airport saw a strong growth of 38.3 per cent more passengers, although Valencia saw a smaller but still significant growth of 24.2 per cent.

This is good news indeed for local councils, hotels, restaurants and tour operators who hope that this upwards movement will continue for the rest of the year.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 4

More than half of Spain's 8,125 villages could disappear as populations plummet, with a combination of residents aging, low birth rates and poor employment opportunities to blame with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants now in 4,955 villages, according to a report.

Pueblos in peril

ALMOST 360 municipalities have seen their populations fall under 100 since the start of this century.

The national total now stands at 1,286, according to Spanish Statistical Institute figures just released, with the National Federation of Municipalities and Provinces subsequently demanding "urgent policies to curb a problem of the first order."

Guadalajara in Castilla-La Mancha, with 173 of its 288 villages having fewer than 100 residents, is the worst-affected province with around 85 per cent of its population density the same as Siberia.



RURAL VILLAGES: The population is dropping.

Much of this emigration of villagers has been driven by a lack of jobs, with modern management practices leading to a fall from 22 per cent of the population in the agricultural sector in 1976 to 6 per cent by 2001.

The government agrees rural depopulation is having a negative effect on pensions and the welfare state, with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy recently setting up a special commission to investigate the issue.

Village with 5 residents

- Illan de Vacas in Toledo is Spain's smallest village with just five inhabitants.

- The least-populated Spanish province is Soria in Castilla y Leon, with just 9.1 residents per square kilometre according to 2013 statistics, the last year records are available. By contrast, Madrid had 809.1 and Barcelona 717.

- In 1900, 48 per cent of the Spanish population lived in villages fewer than 2,000 inhabitants. By 2009 this had fallen to 20 per cent.

- At least 30 per cent of the population is aged 65 or over in 22 provinces, with less than 8 per cent aged 15 or under.

- Demographer Francisco Zamora has calculated that for Spain to return to



ILLAN DE VACAS: The smallest village in Spain.

the same population structure it had in 2001 by 2050, every woman would have to give birth to 7.5 children.

- However, national birth rates fell from 1.4 to 1.27 children per woman

from 2008 and 2013.

- In Galicia, it has been calculated that an annual net immigration of 20,000 women would be required to maintain stable birth rates until 2050.

Waste not, want not

MUNICIPALLY-OWNED Amjasa plans to offer recycled water for agricultural purposes. At a meeting today, Thursday March 2, Amjasa's manager Josep Lluís Henarejos will tell local growers that the company is ready to process water from the treatment plant for re-use in crop irrigation.

This is aimed principally at growers in El Pla where Amjasa hopes to begin

modernising irrigation methods and introducing sustainable systems.

Budget bonanza

NATIONAL rail operator RENFE has launched a promotional campaign entitled 'Next Station,' during which 2,000 passengers will be able to travel from Alicante to Valencia for just €15 during the Falles celebrations.

The offer is available between February 29 and March 16, and tickets can be

purchased on the website renfe.com.

There are 16 daily services between the two cities, eight in each direction.

Teacher arrested

A BENISSA school teacher has been arrested amid allegations that he prostituted minors.

The man, who has been removed from his teaching post, is accused of exploiting at least five underage girls according to the Guardia Civil.

He allegedly convinced the girls, none of whom studied at the school, to spend weekends at a hotel with him in exchange for money.

INSIDE VIEW

News 1 - 42

Finance 47

Leapy Lee 53

TV  56 - 68

Letters 67

Time Out 70

Health & Beauty 72

Social 78

Property 85

Services 91

Classifieds 95

Motors  98

Sport 102

Postscript to ponder

10%

of Spaniards now take a siesta, though President Mariano Rajoy plans to wipe out the tradition by ending the national working day at 6pm.

Artful arrests

SIX people in Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia have been arrested suspected of creating and selling fake works of art as originals.

The investigation began when a collector complained after paying €7,200 for a painting supposedly by artist Ramón Casas.

More than 100 fake paintings sold for more than €100,000 have since been discovered.

108 days non-stop

SPANISH ocean racer Didac Costa finished 14th in the Vendée Globe non-stop solo round the world race.

He crossed the finishing line 108 days, 19 hours, 50 minutes and 45 seconds after setting off and in total sailed 27,964 miles. The 36-year-old amateur sailor from Cataluña was inspired by the late José Luis de Ugarte, who was the first Spanish sailor ever to finish the race.

Costly cheer

WINE lovers from China led buyers from various parts of the world in paying €2,000 each for a bottle of wine blended in Spain from Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Merlot grapes. Produced in 2013 by a bodega in Pamplona, Navarra, but only just offered for sale, in total 688 bottles were produced, with the price tag making it the most expensive ever offered locally.



Postcard from JEREZ



MIDWAY between the Atlantic and the Cadiz Mountains, Jerez de la Frontera with a population of more than 210,000 is the largest city in Cadiz Province.

Tracing its history back to before the Roman occupation, it was first named Xera and when the Romans arrived Asta Regia, with Jerez evolving from the Arabic Xerez with the whole area occupied by the Moors for centuries.

Famed for alcohol production for more than 3,000 years, the Spanish name for the fortified wine produced by local bodegas is Jerez, though the English speaking world has adopted the name sherry. Ironically, it was the Muslims who introduced the concept of distillation and this eventually led to the manufacture of brandy and sherry.

The British developed a taste for sherry after Sir Francis Drake returned from Spain with several barrels, and many of the famous bodegas were actually founded by British families.

To be called sherry, the wine must originate from Jerez, with a range of colours and tastes from the dry Fino to the sweet Pedro Ximénez. Tourists can visit bodegas on guided tours.

Cashing in

A 69-YEAR-OLD woman in Santander, Cantabria, pocketed €900 she found on the floor by a bank cash machine... and then quickly headed home. Unluckily for her the bank's CCTV recorded the incident, and she has now been identified and charged with theft after the person who dropped the money reported his loss.

Cheeky offer

A NIGHTCLUB in Barcelona introduced a special February offer, with women arriving with no underwear offered free entrance, a free drink and one will receive €100 in cash. Two women initially took up the offer, though it led to a law firm considering a boycott campaign against the club for perpetuating a "humiliating message to women."

Dog fights

A GANG which allegedly organised dog fights in Tenerife and Madrid has been broken up by National Police. The operation led to 23 arrests, including a Local Police officer and a vet suspected of administering drugs. More than 225 dogs were saved in the process.

More babies

SPAIN has appointed a demographic expert, or sex tsar, in order to combat the ongoing population crisis, with the country having one of the lowest birth rates in the developed world. With a current average of 1.33 children per adult woman, the nation's 46.5 million population is already falling, and being further threatened by the spiralling cost of raising children plus long working hours.

Savage dogs attack again



FIERCE DOGS: Ill-treated by owner.

By Matthew Elliott

"They threw themselves at me like wild things" Andres said, "I owe my life to the kid who stopped his car. I was exhausted and the dogs were devouring me."

"I've never been so frightened in my entire life" he admitted.

Local Guardia Civil officers tracked down and captured the dogs, who were among the five which had killed a 76-year-old farmer, Luis Angel Sala, just days earlier on February 18 in Beniarbeig. The shocking case made headlines across the world, making it even more astonishing that three of the five would later escape.

On Tuesday February 21 all five dogs were put down by a local vet. They were owned by a Dutch resident who had not registered them officially despite being dangerous breeds. Even while in custody they attacked and bit a caretaker and destroyed their cage.

Lois Ford, from the APAC animal protection agency in Denia, who helped capture the dogs, said their owner deliberately treated them badly to make them even fiercer.



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Cracking down on complaints from holidaymakers

By Caroline Tyszka

THE hotel industry is fighting back against tour operators who make unchecked claims for compensation, costing the industry millions.

Whilst not all holidaymakers make false claims to recover money from the cost of their holiday, it has become clear to the hotel industry that travel companies, and their clients are using loopholes in contracts that are not necessarily fair, particularly in resorts such as Benidorm.

An increasing number of British law companies are actively encouraging customers to complain about their trip, forcing many hotels to operate at a loss.

Hosbec, the hotel management representatives, has announced measures by the industry - planned for the summer season - to lessen such claims by reducing the quote that is reserved for the tour operators of the UK.

Currently, a customer submits a claim to the organisation who sold them their holiday. They may claim that during their stay they were unwell due to the hotel food or unsanitary conditions. In the majority of cases the tour operator automatically accepts the complaint, and in essence wipes out the payment that they would have made to the establishment plus charges for any expenses relating to legal costs.

Legal assistance expenses are far higher than what is paid to the client in compensation. For example if the customer receives €500 the legal fee can be as high as €5,900, crippling the hotels ability to make any profits over the year.

Hoteliers have already been holding meetings with the UK authorities regarding the legislation that has been open to abuse, and now want to impose new conditions on companies such as Jet2holidays, TUI and Thomas Cook to protect themselves from false claims.

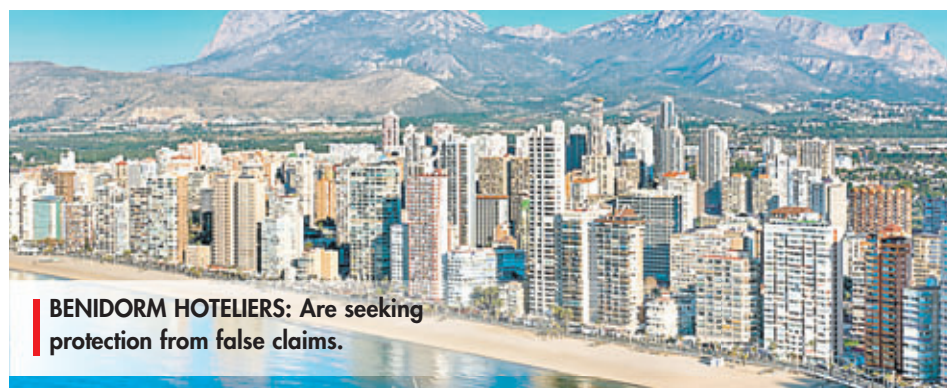
By reducing the quota that these companies have on bed

space, it is believe that the level of risk to the hotels will be reduced.

It has also been suggested that the tariffs for UK companies be raised, it is anticipate that this measure would encourage people to book low cost flights and rooms direct with the hotels, as

opposed to the traditional tour package which would then be more expensive.

In some cases hotels have requested that they be able to cut ties completely with the operators, resulting in zero risk, although no final decisions have been made yet.



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Drug panic out at sea

By Matthew Elliott

A GUARDIA CIVIL maritime patrol intercepted a boat fleeing Javea port, seizing a huge stash of hashish in backpacks. Crew members frantically began throwing the illicit cargo into the sea as narcotics agents jetted towards them.

The boat, named Zalvamar, was on its way to Santa Eulalia port in Ibiza with roughly 40 kilos of hash on board. It had been moored at Javea port for three days as the three man crew smuggled the drugs aboard.

Police had, however, been monitoring CCTV footage of the port and had seen the men clambouring



MARITIME PATROL: Trained agents stormed the boat in Javea seas.

aboard the Zalvamar with heavy backpacks early in the morning.

Suspicious, they waited until the boat departed on Sunday February 26 before making their move. Highly trained agents accompa-

nied by sniffer dogs stormed aboard the boat in Javea seas checking for camouflaged compartments while divers recovered the sinking hashish.

The Costa Blanca North -

Balearic route is extremely popular among drug traffickers and the seas heavily monitored. In January 62 kilos of cocaine washed up on the beaches of Denia and Javea having been thrown overboard.

OUR VIEW

Here to stay

THERE is a saying that in business if you stand still then you are actually going backwards and this is something that we at *Euro Weekly News* are acutely aware of, which is why we are always looking to offer an ever improving service.

We are committed to both our readers and our advertisers without whom there would be no business, let alone a growing one and we believe in producing readable and informative newspapers, which unlike national press are not governed by politics.

The fact that our papers have won awards from Spanish organisations shows that we are a truly integrated organisation and despite the uncertainty following Brexit, we are committed to remain a true part of the English speaking community in our adopted homeland of Spain.

To this end therefore, we were delighted to welcome the *RTN* brand into our family and it will continue to stand alone as a publication but as part of an ever expanding family.

Without the involvement and dedication of our staff in offices across Spain we would be unable to publish all of these papers 52 weeks a year and thanks to them we will soon be announcing another new paper from the *EWN Group*.

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Fire scare in car park

A CAR parked in the municipal market car park in Benidorm was completely burned out on Monday afternoon (February 27) giving everyone in the area a nasty fright, the fire brigade reported.

The car, which caught fire for unknown reasons, was parked on the fifth of the car park's seven storeys

and caused large amounts of smoke to gather even though it is partly open-air. In fact, there was so much smoke Benidorm fire brigade and Local Police teams decided to close the car park for about an hour for safety.

Luckily no nearby vehicles or the car park itself were damaged by the fire, fire brigade sources said.

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Photo Credit: You Tube

UP IN ARMS: The PP's Luis Barcala.

A new whodunit

THE Partido Popular (PP) party in Alicante is up in arms over a Catalan flag on the municipal tourism website, and has demanded explanations.

The flag appeared by mistake on the button to change the language to Valencian and has now been

removed, however it has sparked a heated political row.

PP spokesman Luis Barcala demanded clarification and hinted that the incident could well have been part of a plot to force Alicante to accept and display Catalan symbols and signs.

Socialist Tourism Councillor Eva Montesinos was quick to hit back, claiming that the flag had been there for four years (since times when PP was in power in the city) and said therefore it was the PP party which should explain exactly why they put it there.

Ex-Guardia Civil officer refused bail

A RETIRED Guardia Civil officer in Gandia has been refused bail following the death of his ex-wife.

The body of 49-year-old Dolores Correa was found at a property in Gandia although her telematics bracelet, used for her protection, did not alert officers as she was not wearing it. It was later found plugged in at her property.

The retired officer, who already had two court cases ongoing for threatening behaviour against Dolores, was arrested in Móstoles, Madrid, just hours after her body was

discovered. A tagging device led the police to his location.

The body of the victim was found in a house on Calle Major de Gandia. She was lying in the bathroom covered with a blanket and a plastic sheet.

The former police officer had rented the house a couple of weeks previously but had not yet paid the rent or signed a contract. It was because of this that the landlord went to the house to chase up the payment, entering through a window he found the body of Dolores.

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Fisherman lost at sea

RESCUE OPERATION: The search was carried out over four days.

AFTER four fruitless days, rescuers called off the search for a missing fisherman.

Despite constantly combing the area where the boat sank off Villajoyosa six nautical miles (roughly 11 kilometres) from shore, the launch's second occupant has not been found.

Not only Salvamento Maritimo boats and an aircraft, but also launches and patrol boats belonging to the Red Cross and Guardia Civil as well as a Fire Brigade helicopter were involved in the operation.

The owner was rescued after clinging to the boat's fridge for an hour and taken to

San Juan hospital with symptoms of hypothermia.

At the time he said that his companion "couldn't resist" and disappeared.

The owner bought the six-metre boat, Sea Mist, from a British man around four years ago and it was "rather old" according to sources at Altea's Club Nautico where it was usually moored.

The owner does not live in Altea, the same sources continued but went out to fish most days, usually with a friend. It was not known whether this was the person who accompanied him when the boat sank.

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THOUSANDS of Valencian Community teachers could lose their jobs if their Valenciano isn't good enough.

The four years' moratorium on attaining at least CI level in the intermediate grade in the language ends in September. According to the CSI.F and UGT unions, at least 5,000 of the region's teachers at schools and high schools still lack this qualification as do 3,000 in Formacion

Teachers forgot their homework

Professional vocational schools.

The majority come from Alicante Province and work in solely Spanish-speaking areas, the unions said.

The Valenciano requirement affects supply teachers as well as those established in

permanent posts.

Supply teachers would be the first to go, excluded from the pool of available teachers. Those on permanent contracts would have to remain in their current post, unable to seek posts elsewhere until they possess the re-

quired qualification in Valenciano.

The regional government's Education is not prepared to cede. The Llei d'Us passed in 183 regulates citizens' rights to use Valenciano and the legal obligation to ensure that these rights are observed.

'Suicide pact' claims Brit



NO BAIL: For husband accused of killing his wife.

By Linda Hall

AN 86-year-old Briton who attempted suicide after allegedly murdering his wife will be remanded without bail on leaving hospital.

No longer in San Juan hospital's intensive care unit and now on a ward, he has been visited by the judge and charged with murder aggravated by ties of kinship.

He allegedly killed his wife, aged 79, in their room at a residence for the elderly in Muchavista (Campello) and then tried to take his own

life with the same weapon. Guardia Civil investigators found both a knife and a cutter in their room and believe that the latter was used to inflict their wounds.

“ Ronald S S assured the judge his wife killed herself by cutting her own throat.

According to the Spanish news agencies the man, identified only as Ronald S S, assured the judge that his wife

Margaret killed herself by cutting her own throat.

Neither was in good health, he said, and the couple had often discussed ending it all once they could no longer fend for themselves. This was common in the UK, he claimed.

This was the first declaration from the accused man who earlier had refused to make a statement to the Guardia Civil. At the request of his lawyer, once he enters prison he will have a psychiatric appraisal to assess his mental state.

Woman falls to her death

A MIDDLE-AGED woman died on Sunday (February 26) after falling into a 40-metre deep cavity while potholing in Mollo de la Creu, Gandia.

Emergency services were called at about 3.25pm and rescue teams from Valencia and Alicante firefighting consortiums were sent to

the scene, along with a helicopter which was forced to fly back to base when night fell.

The site of the accident was extremely difficult to access and once rescuers were able to retrieve the woman's body they decided to wait for daylight to leave the area, fire brigade sources reported.


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

No employees of EWN Media Group can enter.

The winner will be announced on April 20, 2017.

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

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

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

You and the EWN

How often do you read the EWN?

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

Which sections of the EWN do you read?

- Local News
- General Features
- Business
- Leapy Lee
- Other columnists
- Television
- Horoscopes
- Time Out
- Letters
- Health & Beauty
- Food/Social Scene
- Homes & Gardens
- Community
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- 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?

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

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

.....

Where do you usually pick up your copy?

.....

Do you have a suggested new distribution point?

.....

You and the EWN Online

Where do you primarily get your daily news from?

- Television
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Internet

What device do you browse the internet on?

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

What time do you normally browse the internet?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening
- All day

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

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- Once a week
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Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

How old are you?

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

Status

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

Which other local newspapers do you read?

.....

How often do you eat out?

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

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

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

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

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

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

Is your mobile

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

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

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

Is your internet

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

How often do you use the internet?

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- Never

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

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

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

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



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By Linda Hall

THE volume of the church bells in San Juan town will finally be lowered.

Maria Teresa who moved to an apartment near the San Juan Bautista parish church discovered too late that the bell in one tower rang out every quarter and the other announced daily services.

Although the bells are silenced between 10pm and 7am she was still subjected to noise pollution, she complained and was suffering from insomnia and stress. After two years of complaints, and backed by a petition from 150 neighbours who were also affected by the bells, the Local Police finally went to her home and measured the decibels at 8.40am.

As Maria Teresa suspected, these registered 75.5 decibels instead of the permitted 55 decibels for that time of the day.

Hell's bells!




SAN JUAN CHURCH: The volume of the bells is to be toned down.

The reaction from San Juan Bautista's parish priest Roque Jimenez was encouraging, she said, as he had promised to lower the volume to the permitted level. She was now waiting to see if words were translated into deeds, Maria Teresa added.

“ After two years of complaints the Local Police finally measured the decibel level which registered 75.5 decibels.

Initial adjustments made little difference and Father Jimenez confirmed that the specialist firm called in would return to reduce the noise still further. It had also been decided that the bells would not start ringing until 8am.




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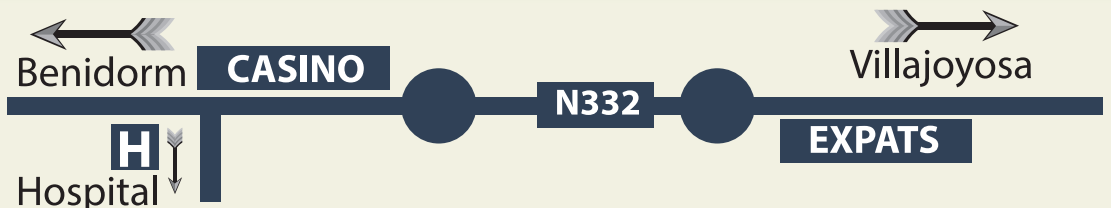
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Hundreds hoping to be TV extras

By Linda Hall

AUDITIONS for the TV series Benidorm, held at the Melia Hotel, saw hundreds queue in the hope that they could be supporting artists in the new series.

As series nine was aired for the first time on Wednesday evening, many hopefuls turned up to the hotel in Benidorm, armed with their paperwork ready to be seen by the casting crew for what is thought to be the final series (10), which will

begin filming in the next few weeks.

First in the queue was Isla Hunter, aged seven, and her brother Reuben, who is six. Both attend the Lady Elizabeth School in Javea.

The family, who had stayed in the hotel overnight moved to Spain two years ago from the north east of England.

Speaking to the *Euro Weekly News* Isla said: "I love drama, dancing and singing and go to classes at Studio 23 in Javea, I really hope that we get chosen."

Over 500 attended the auditions which were split over a morning and afternoon session, hoping to give as many people as possible the chance of attending.

Further back in the queue were Anne and Maxine, who own Hepburns bar in Albir.

Accompanied by their friend Dolah, who was a supporting artist in series nine, the ladies waited patiently until it was

their turn to be seen.

Dolah said: "I did it last year and told Anne and Maxine how great it was, I loved it so much that I have come back for more. I met so many wonderful people who have now become good friends."

It's not all glamour being an extra, with many days lasting 12 hours, sometimes in the rain or by the pool in the scorching sun, but there is never a shortage of people wanting to be part of the famous Benidorm series.

Anne said: "I have always watched the programme, right from the first series, and wanted to have a go, fingers crossed Maxine and I will get the experience of a lifetime, being part of the Benidorm series that we love so much."

If you were unable to attend the auditions check out the Benidorm Series Casting Facebook page where online application details will shortly be announced.



Maxine, Dolah and Anne waiting patiently.

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A bird's eye view



FREE VIEW: No income was received by the town hall.

By Linda Hall

BENIDORM makes nothing out of the coin-operated telescopes located in the Castillo between the Levante and Poniente beaches.

After nearly 30 years the town hall will generate extra income by putting a four-year contract to manage the telescopes out to tender. The chosen company will be required to replace the existing telescopes and pay a yearly €2,000 fee, plus the normal taxes for occupying public property.

In return the concessionary can install 12 telescopes at the Castillo, two in La Cala and another two in the Rincon de Loix, although this number could be increased, town hall sources said.

When the current council took over in May 2015 the Contracts department found permission to install the existing telescopes was given in November 1988. The authorisation was never renewed, no fees were charged and although the town hall has since charged for occupying public land "this is not enough," municipal sources said.

Eco facilities finally restored

PLANS have been announced to re-invest in a recycling plant that suffered severe fire damage in 2009.

Benidorm Town Hall hope that by 2019 the original plant could be operational with funding of €5 million being approved. The details were announced by the regional secretary of Environment Julia Alvaro when she recently visited the resort town.

It was agreed the light packaging plant in Benidorm needed new machinery, but the benefit of not transporting materials further afield would be better for the environment and Benidorm.

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By Caroline Tyszka

PARENTS at a school in San Vicente del Raspeig have been told that a pupil has contracted scabies, and to be on alert.

The 'outbreak,' as it is being described, has occurred at the Maria Blasco Institute with parents now demanding that the authorities fumigate the building.

The contagious skin disease is caused by a parasite, but symptoms can take between two and three weeks to present themselves, predominantly detected by the affected person obsessively itching.


Scabies discovered in school

The school statement was directed to families of the students saying there was "An outbreak of scabies among students. We have consulted with specialists to take the appropriate measures and have been told the possibility of contagion is eliminated when the treatment begins. This is the case for the detected outbreak."

The school, which caters for around a thousand students, has

told parents that if their child shows any of the symptoms they should consult a doctor and keep the student off until they have been cleared as non-contagious.

Begoña Monllor, Councillor for Health, had not been informed of the problem prior to parents or the media, and was surprised by the news although he has no doubt he will be given all the details.



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Gang arrested for multiple burglaries

FIVE members of a gang have been arrested in Madrid, charged with seven burglaries including one in Denia.

A Guardia Civil operation, which began in April 2016, has finally been able to track down a group who specialised in pretending to be telephone and alarm engineers, gaining entry to various businesses and homes and stealing valuables.

The gang used false identity cards to gain the trust of property owners. This meant that they were given full access to study alarm systems and where any safes were located so that they

could return later to commit their crime.

Officers have charged the group with five burglaries in Madrid, one in Barcelona and another in Alicante.

In September 2016 a burglary at an office building in Denia, which fitted the same modus operandi as the other crimes, helped the police to link the perpetrators to other recorded incidents.

The gang had good technical knowledge and carried equipment which helped them to open locks, cancel alarm systems and open safes.



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There may be some relief ahead from the threat of *Modelo 720* sanctions for taxpayers in Spain. An EU institution is challenging the severe penalties imposed on Spanish residents who fail to declare their overseas assets correctly or on time. The requirement to submit the *Modelo 720* form, however, is not under challenge.

What has happened?

On 15th February, the European Commission gave the Spanish government a two-month ultimatum to make *Modelo 720* penalties fairer. While the Commission accepts that Spain has the right to require taxpayers to declare their overseas assets, it disagrees with the severity with which it punishes late or inaccurate submissions.

Sanctions under *Modelo 720* law include, among others, a minimum €10,000 charge on incorrect declarations and an additional 150% penalty on unpaid capital gains. In some cases, taxpayers have faced large fines for just minor errors or omissions in completing the form. With penalties being so disproportionate to those imposed for other defaults (such as late submission of Spanish income and wealth tax returns), the Commission claims it is discriminatory

Brussels looks to clip Hacienda's wings on Modelo 720



By Robert Croizat,
Senior Partner,
Blevins Franks

and in conflict with EU freedoms.

After opening an infringement procedure in 2015, the Commission has been arguing with Spain about the fairness of *Modelo 720* for the last two years. As no agreement has yet been reached, they have taken this step to force a resolution.

What happens in two months' time?

If there is no satisfactory response from the Spanish Hacienda within the deadline, the Commission will bring the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) to further their challenge.

While sources from the Spanish government claim they are willing to defend *Modelo 720*, they have also hinted they may potentially soften some sanctions, such as capping the fine for errors in completing the form. They also suggested a possible reduction in penalties for failing to declare assets based in EU countries or in states that have signed automatic exchange of information agreements with Spain.

What does this mean for Spanish taxpayers?

Nothing has changed in terms of the obligations to declare correctly and on time. That means Spanish residents

with overseas assets totalling over €50,000 still need to submit *Modelo 720* or face existing penalties.

While we need to wait and see how the case unfolds, it is highly likely that the authorities will maintain the *Modelo 720* system. After all, it is not the process of declaring overseas assets itself that is under question, but the penalties that are imposed. It is possible however, that the Hacienda may revise their approach to reduce the threat of such punishing fines for errors or late submissions.

If this affects you, make sure you are ready to meet the upcoming 31st March deadline for your 2016 declarations. If you have previously submitted a *Modelo 720* form, you only need to declare assets if they have grown by more than €20,000 or you have sold or closed them. If in any doubt, seek guidance to ensure you

meet your obligations.

This is also a good opportunity to assess whether you are holding your assets in the most tax-efficient vehicles for Spain. If you have investments which were set up with UK taxation in mind, you may be paying more tax in Spain than you need to. Take personalised, professional advice from an adviser with cross-border experience to get the best results.

Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.

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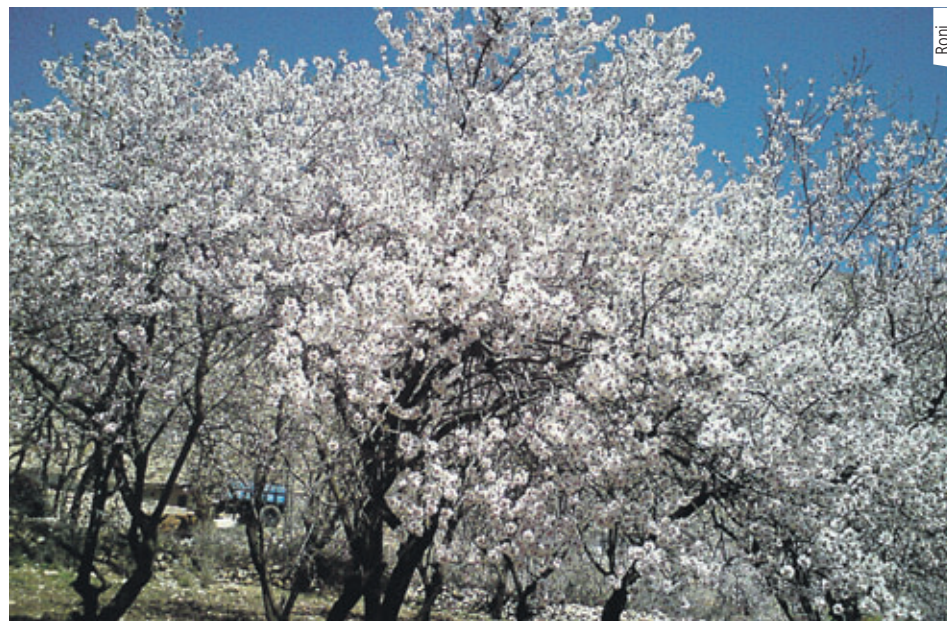
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ALMOND TREES: Blossom came early this year.

Early blossom problems

ALMOND blossom arrived early in Alicante Province this year thanks to the winter rains and a warm west wind.

This contrasts with last year when growers lost around €10 million after a cold snap and ongoing drought caused a 60 per cent drop in production.

"We're two weeks ahead," said Juan Pastor from La Unio growers' union. "That puts us

more at risk from frost than in other years. It's still winter and we all know that March can bring intensely cold spells," Pastor warned.

Inland frosts are usual but generally they only affect the earliest varieties. With so many almond trees already blossoming more could be affected than usual in l'Alcoia, El Comtat, Foia de Castalla

and Vinalopo. These are the province's coldest areas and also the principal almond producers.

Frost apart, it also remains to be seen if this year's abundant blossom produces a super-crop. "Rain arrived a little late and the trees could be more occupied with survival than producing almonds," Pastor said.



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Lord Heseltine to fight another female PM, now over Brexit



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

FAMOUS as much as anything for resigning from the Cabinet after a massive disagreement with Margaret Thatcher, Lord Heseltine is now leading a revolt against Theresa May in the House of Lords.

In an article published in the *Mail on Sunday*, Heseltine, a media baron in his own right, has thrown down the gauntlet over the bill to allow the government to trigger Article 50.

Allied with rebels from all parties in the Lords, he will be leading a challenge to amend the

White Paper in order to shackle the government so that Parliament would have the right to veto any proposed agreement presented by Mrs May and also to stop her from simply walking away and triggering Article 50 anyway.

His argument is that following the Supreme Court ruling, it is Parliament in the form of MPs and peers who have the authority to make the final decision on the Brexit terms and goes on further to suggest that if the European Parliament and those of the 27 other member states can have their say, it is unthinkable for the British Parliament not to be



able to have any right of disagreement.

Clearly the government and supporters of Brexit are not in favour of any opposition to the proposed Bill and have immediately accused the Lord and his followers as being 'bad losers.'

LORD HESELTINE:
Leading a revolt.

The cost of Brexit

AS a war of words is fought in Parliament over the terms for approving the triggering of Article 50 and the ability for it to throw out or try to amend any 'agreement' reached between Prime Minister May and the EU, watchdogs are questioning expenditure in the referendum.

The Electoral Commission has revealed that it is questioning the veracity of financial returns not just from the major lobbyists from the Stronger In and Vote Leave campaigns but also paperwork submitted by the European Movement, Labour Leave, UKIP, LibDems, Conservatives In and at least one individual donor.

The difference in expenditure between the main sides, appears to reflect the difference between the Leave and Remain votes, with Brexiters reporting a spend of £16.4 million (€19.24 million) against the Remainers spend of £15.1 million (€17.71 million).

What appears to be emerging is the fact that the financial returns from almost every pressure group involved in the Brexit campaign are incomplete and although there is no evidence that any offence has been committed, the commission is anxious to ensure that monies expended are both accountable and in accordance with regulations.

They have made it clear that the public deserve to be able to see that the money used was in accordance with the rules issued and if not then legal action may be taken against those who have not complied with the regulations.



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DOMES REPAIRS: Reproducing the original blue and white pattern.

Tiles replaced years later

By Linda Hall

WORK has started on restoring the dome of the Santa Maria Magdalena church in Benitachell.

Part of the dome has only ordinary earthenware tiles where it was repaired after being struck by lightning in 1940. Money was short at that time and the parish could not

afford blue and white ceramic-faced tiles.

Benitachell Town Hall and the VAPF company have respectively allocated €28,695 and €24,000 to reproduce the original zigzag pattern in a project created by specialist architect Josep Ivars.

He will also supervise the meticulous work involved in replacing not only the earthen-

ware tiles but many of the original but now damaged blue and white ceramic tiles.

The church was built between 1710 and 1774 and those that are removed have considerable historic worth, Ivars explained. Their replacements must be exactly the same as those they substitute in order to retain the pattern, he said.

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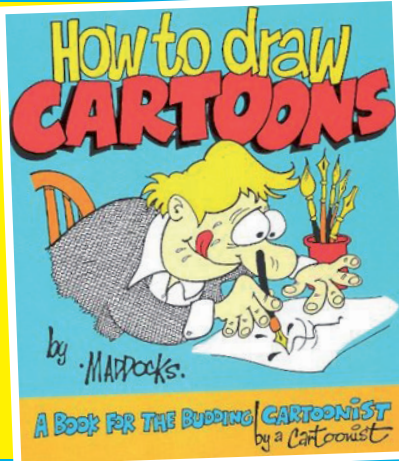
THE Ondara Portal de la Marina Shopping Centre has a new addition, with a larger Carrefour store opening.

This is chain's second shop opening in the Marina Alta in the last month, having recently opened one in Denia.

The new store has maintained the 52 people who previously worked there and created a further 47 jobs.

Additional services include a pharmacy and a market place selling produce from local and regional suppliers.

PETER MADDOCKS



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A FINE MESS: Villa owner has allegedly dumped building rubble.

Rocky path of discord

by Matthew Elliott

JAVEA'S Oceanographic Research Institute (IROX) has advised that builders' rubble is being tipped down cliffs near Granadella.

This has destroyed the Encots path, one of the sites once used for fishing from the cliff-face, IROX said. The Institute also reported a villa owner, who

was also dumping sewage, had blocked off the path with concrete blocks and ruined the footpath by adding stairs to the beach. Building work is also being carried out at the house.

The cliff is a protected Site of Community Interest (LIC) and this section of coastline, IROX pointed out. It is also a Birds Special Protection Zone for cormorants, peregrine fal-

cons and eagle owls, said the institute, calling for a halt to development.

The construction company carrying out building work in the area explained the rubble was thrown away by the villa owner. The company admitted building on part of the footpath but argue that they created a new and safer access under the supervision of the town hall.

NEWS EXTRA

Players wait

MUCHAMEL residents will have to wait until the end of April to use the new artificially turfed football area, this is because the athletics track is still being renovated and the area is deemed not safe for use.

Eco help

THE rubbish subsidy refunds in La Nucia have meant that 177 families benefited from a reduction in costs in 2016, with 37 families also benefiting from the Eco park recycle refund programme.

Cost saving

VILLAJOYOSA reduced its legal services bill by 52 per cent in 2016. In 2015 the town paid €119,028 compared to an end of year figure of €61,575. The council anticipates 2017 costs will be even lower, at around €46,000.

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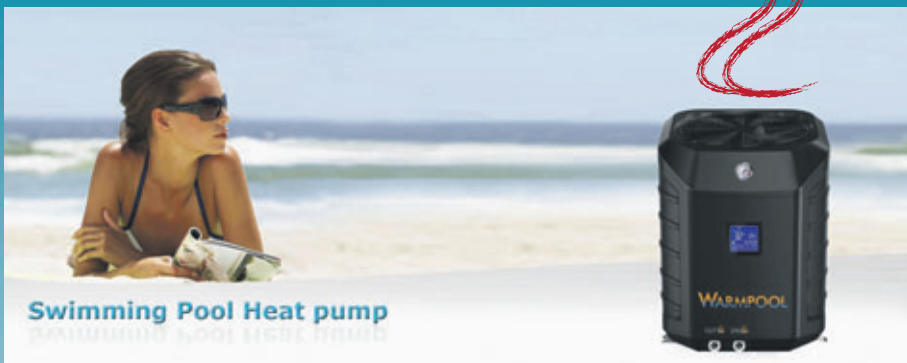
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9 important things that you should know ...when buying a property through the Spanish Courts

CAN I BUY A PROPERTY THROUGH A COURT AUCTION?

Yes, normally you can buy properties that have been repossessed by a bank or a third party.

WHAT DO I NEED?

In Spain it is advisable to employ a lawyer and a court runner to represent you through the auction process via a power of attorney.

- 1** If you are interested in a specific property that is being repossessed, you will find them published through the Court Public Information Board. Remember that information on the property will be limited.
- 2** If possible ask to see the surveyor's report if one has been submitted.
- 3** Check how much outstanding debts are against the property.
- 4** The deposit on a property in a Court auction is typically 5% of the auction price.
- 5** An offer can be made on a property, however it is down to the courts to accept any offers made. This will depend on the type of property (main residence of the debtor or not) and the outstanding debt against the property.
- 6** If the main creditor is awarded the property, he could transfer his rights to a third party with the Court's approval and avoid a further conveyance.
- 7** Once your offer has been accepted, you must pay the total amount in the 40 working days immediately after the auction. If you don't, you could lose your deposit.
- 8** You will be able to register the property and pay the Transfer Tax, as soon as the Courts provide the title.
- 9** You may petition the courts for possession of the property before it is registered. However the transfer taxes must be paid beforehand.

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MULTI-CURRENCY mortgages are another of the products marketed by banks in Spain which have ruined entire families. In this type of mortgage the Spanish bank instead of handing over the amount of the loan in Euros, does it in a foreign currency, usually in the currency of different countries like Switzerland (francs), Japan (yens), etc.

RISKS: Unfortunately the risks and costs for the consumer of this type of mortgage loans are numerous and very high.

The main risk lies in the **fluctuation and variation of the exchange rate.**

Imagine your income is in euros, but the currency of your loan is in francs. Depending on the price of the franc in the foreign exchange market, you will pay more or less Euros each month for your monthly mortgage payment.

In addition, this exchange rate also affects the outstanding or pending capital that remains to be paid on the loan, ie if the franc increases, the equivalent of what you must pay in Euros also increases, unfortunately this is what has happened.

Real examples of this risk:

1) In January 2015, the Na-

tional Bank of Switzerland stopped setting the minimum change of 1.20 francs per euro, which led to a revaluation of the franc of 30 per cent. People with a multi-currency loan in francs, in a single day had to pay a monthly loan payment 30 per cent more expensive, and their outstanding capital in euros was 30 per cent higher.

2) This office is defending some consumers with a loan in francs. The franc has revalued 60 per cent during the time of the loan, so that after 10 years paying their mortgage monthly payments (approximately €200,000) now they owe more money in Euros than what they received from the bank to begin with.

Duty of information: We have found that the main problem is that the banks that marketed this product did not correctly report about the risks to their clients. The product is as unpredictable and as risky as the foreign exchange market.

In addition, the clauses in the deeds of multi-currency loans are not usually transparent, it is not clear to the consumers the potential economic and financial consequences and risk of

what they are signing.

Nullity and effects:

In the event that the risks and characteristics of the products have not been duly explained to you, we understand that these clauses must be declared null and void, and as a consequence, it must be understood that the loan is Euros (possibility foreseen in the contract itself), and therefore the bank must refund everything overpaid plus interest, and reduce the outstanding capital. These claims mean a very large amount of money to pay by the bank.

If you are in this situation our office can help you, we are experts and we promise to help you as a consumer, minimising the risks of the claim to the bank and only charging if you get paid. **Contact us and we will help you.**

The information provided in this article is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys general information related to legal issues.

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Couldn't be better

By Linda Hall

CAMPELLO'S coastal waters have been pronounced excellent. Studies carried out by the Institute of Coastal Ecology and the regional government's Environment department both drew the same conclusion after analysing the seawater off Campello's beaches.

Samples are taken each month from the La Coveta area, as well as off Almadra-ba, Carrer la Mar, Punta del Rio Seco, Muchavista and Barranc d'Aigues beaches.

The Institute's analyses set out to safeguard the coastal environment and the results

allow scientists to keep a close watch on the quality of the local water while receiving early warning of anything untoward.

Results at all the beaches and areas examined by the Institute revealed that scientific conditions to assess the quality of their water have all been met and were catalogued as optimum by the Institute.

Reports from the regional government's Environment department centred on the quality of Campello's coastal waters for swimming, using microbiological markers. Like the Institute's findings, these were assessed as excellent, it was announced.

NEWS EXTRA**Park works**

WITH a €200,000 budget, council workers in Mutxamel have begun the project to adapt parks and gardens in the town including replacing irrigation systems and pavements as well as building children's parks.

Care more

ELDA health department has launched a campaign called '12 months, 12 reasons to care.' The year-long programme aims to encourage better relations between staff and patients with March being 'encourage a smile' month.

Women win

THE Association of San Jorge in Alcoy has approved to change the ordinance of the Moors and Christians festival so women can participate with a female soldier squadron now being included.

Ambulance back in service again

By Caroline Tyszka

THE Finestrat Council has handed over their ambulance to the DYA Association.

Juan Francisco Perez, mayor for Finestrat together with Antonio Tarin, the representative of DYA Elche, have signed a collaboration agreement which hands the town's basic life support vehicle (SVB) over to the association, so that they can offer specialised services at public events in the town.

The DYA (Stop and Help) is, as its statutes indicate, a non-profit association that has been in operation since 1966, answering immediately to all distress calls.

The ambulance has been out of service because of a law which states that towns with a population below 10,000, which includes Finestrat, are unable to directly offer the specialised service.



HANDING OVER: DYA take ownership of the ambulance.

Perez said: "We have taken this course as a legal imperative, as a council we cannot dedicate ourselves to healthcare but we can collaborate so that associations, like DYA, who do perform this function and save lives."

Whilst the vehicle has been given to DYA for free the association has

agreed to attend the August Fiestas in La Cala, sporting events and shows.

The mayor concluded: "I consider this agreement satisfactory to both parties, we could not use the ambulance directly but now it can be used to provide emergency healthcare and save lives."

New service for disputing neighbours

THE Javea Local Police has set up a mediation service to resolve conflicts between residents.

Officer José Luis Sánchez explained that most of the issues requiring the service related to the annoyances that barking dogs cause to neighbours.

Stressing that the mediator must be neutral he said: "Both parties must show that they are willing to reach an agreement, this is policing of the future, and the Local Police will eventually have a main role in this type of work."

José Chulvi, mayor and councillor for Security, Pepa Gisbert, highlighted that as Javea has over 80 nationalities co-existing, language problems can often exasperate the most simplest of problems, and this is where the service can help with settling these quickly and opening a peaceful dialogue between the parties.

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XABIA CLASICA



ANNUAL EVENT: A great opportunity for dog lovers to meet up together.

Dog walk for charity

By Caroline Tyszka

THE Giving4Giving charity is holding their fifth annual dog walk on March 26.

The walk, in support of local animal and cancer charities, will start at the Repsol garage on the CV70 opposite the Toyota dealership at 11am.

Organisers explained how proud they are to have been running the event for the past five years, and hoped that the

community would continue to support it.

Last year's event saw many take part in the leisurely stroll, with their dogs, up the Terra Mitica road. All of the dogs behaved themselves and it was a great opportunity for dog lovers to meet up together and chat whilst they walked.

Giving4Giving is a leading local charity who hold numerous fundraising events throughout the year, and to-

gether with their four charity shops - one in La Nucia, one in Finestrat and two in Altea - have donated an amazing €71,000 in just under five years to many needy causes.

For sponsorship forms or further details either call Gary on 603 137 697 or call into one of the charity shops.

Gary said: "We hope as many as possible can come and help raise money for the local animal and cancer charities."

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Water with strings attached

By Linda Hall

ANY Jucar water transferred to Alicante Province must include desalinated water from the Muchamiel plant.

The national government has attached this condition to the planned transfer from Valencia Province to the Marina Baja, l'Alacanti and Vinalopo areas.

This, critics say, is meant to demonstrate to Brussels that the €60 million plant and €33 million spent on supplementary installations was not wasted.

The EU cash was forthcoming for the Muchamiel plant on the understanding that the

Vinalopo's subterranean wells would no longer be used.

The 18-cubic hectometre Jucar transfer is the only guarantee that no more water is extracted from depleted aquifers,

some of which are now 500 metres below ground.

The first meeting between Users of the Jucar-Vinalopo central committee and the Ministry of Agriculture to for-

malise a 50-cubic hectometre transfer took place 14 months ago.

Negotiations have stalled and growers are increasingly worried that irrigation water

needed for the summer months will not arrive.

The government's Muchamiel proviso will increase costs. Instead of an initial 30 cents per cubic me-

tre, Muchamiel's desalinated water will hike the price of the Jucar water to €1.31 per cubic metre to offset construction costs as stipulated by Brussels.

Partners in crime

A COUPLE in their 40's were arrested for breaking into country properties in the Vinalopo area.

The woman, 44, and her 41-year-old partner are from Moixent (Valencia) but habitually drift between Villena and Sax.

Both have police records and a restraining order for gender violence between them is currently in force, although it has been broken on several occasions.

The Guardia Civil caught up with the pair in Sax where a search of their car revealed circular saws, tile-cutting machinery and other tools. All the items found had disappeared during robberies in Villena, Onil and Sax and the couple were unable to account for their presence.

Added to the house-breaking accusation, the man now faces the further charge of breaking the restraining order.



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Almond Blossom Festival of Walks

ON Wednesday February 22, some 123 walkers gathered at Mas la Pau near Lliber for the Costa Blanca Mountain Walkers Almond Blossom Walks Festival. A party atmosphere prevailed as both

regulars and those new to the group chatted in the early morning hazy spring sunshine before setting off on a choice of five different walks.

Those selecting the more

strenuous walks left first, going off for the day with packed lunches in the direction of Castell d'Aixa and the Font d'Aixa valley and ridge.

The moderately strenuous walk headed off through the

'hidden valley,' continuing on country roads to Font d'Aixa before a short but tough ascent to a coll with panoramic views - an ideal spot to enjoy a picnic lunch before the descent to Lliber. The easier routes attracted 70 walkers enjoying the scenery in the valleys, woods and orchards around Lliber before returning for lunch at Mas la Pau.

Those on the more strenuous walks joined those who had enjoyed the meal for a well-earned and very welcome drink to end another wonderful day in the mountains.

This friendly international group hopes that you will go along and join in, and share their love of walking in the beautiful mountains of the Costa Blanca. Full details

of all the walks, including walk grades, length, duration and start points are on the programme which can be viewed or downloaded from the website www.cbmwalkers.org. The website also includes a wealth of information on mountain walking, which is of particular interest to those who may be new to this exhilarating pastime.

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JAVEA HEADQUARTERS: A tour of the premises took place and a demonstration of how the ambulance service works.

Volunteers' visit to the Red Cross

VOLUNTEERS from the Original Charity Shop and library were invited by the Red Cross to its headquarters in Javea to say thank you for the recent donation of €5,000.

They received a tour of the premises and a demonstration on how the ambulance service works. This was followed by a presentation of the new Red Cross Teleasistencia service, better known as a 'panic button' system which brings security and peace of mind for users and their

families. For further information about this service please visit www.cruzroja.es/teleasistencia.

The volunteers were also treated to tapas and drinks and president Georgina Harvey was delighted to receive a gift as a token of their gratitude.

The Red Cross currently looks after 312 families, providing them with basic food items. However, they are running low on stock and urgently need food basics such as rice, pasta, oil, flour, tinned

food and long-life milk for the children.

Please look in your cupboards and if you have anything to donate to this cause take it along to The Original Charity Shop on Avenida Fontana 14, Javea, to the Library in Javea Park or directly to the Red Cross headquarters. It may come as a surprise there are still families out there in need of help, but this is the reality of our times.

The situation simply has not improved for everyone so please help the Red Cross to support those less fortunate.

Just scouting around

THE Alicante Provincial Council has paid tribute to the social and educational work that is carried out by the Scout Movement.

Thanks to the grateful council, the 4th Scout Group Alfaz del Pi spent a fantastic Saturday morning in the gardens of the Provincial Palace.

The police and the Guardia Civil taught the group a little about their day-to-day work, there was a collection of food for the most needy and also a broad explanation on the water cycle.

Along with other Scout groups the children enjoyed a lot of activities with inflatables, gymkanas, dancing, sto-

rytelling and a great variety of workshops.

The raising of the flag was a very special moment. The day was an injection of joy, motivation and desire to keep seeing the happiness reflected in the eyes of everyone.

Please encourage your children to go along and try out the Scouts. There are regular outings to get to know nature and lots of other activities that help instill positive values in young people. For more information on 4th Scout Group Alfaz del Pi please call 670 326 656 or 689 385 137 or Facebook / IVGSAlfazdelPi and Twitter @IVGSAlfazdelPi.

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CHARITY CONCERT: Three choirs performed and raised €2,000.

Dutch club charity concert

THE Dutch club 'De Lage Landen' organised a charity concert in the Espai la Senieta Moraira on February 12 and collected €2,000 which will be given to the day care centre AFA in Teulada and the residence Ana María Espinós Llopis.

The Alegría, Cantarres, Duo

Pasión Doble and Marilú Fischer choirs all performed at the concert. Councillor Laura Hillstead thanked the participants and especially the Dutch club for organising the spectacular event and also for the weekly personal support they give the two centres, especially through 'Contact Clown' by

Lydia La Riviere Zijdel.

The director of the day care centre AFA Teulada, Carmen Mudarra, personally thanked the club and mentioned how very important it is for Alzheimer patients and their carers to get support from associations and clubs such as 'De Lage Landen.'

New autism association

A NEW association has been formed in Denia to help people with autism spectrum disorder.

The group, called GarbaTea, hopes to raise awareness and assist individuals, as well as families who are affected by autism. Known in Spanish as Trastorno del Espectro Autista (TEA) this is an innovative idea to bring people together.

GarbaTea's objectives are to develop actions that help promote the quality of life for those suffering with TEA along with that of friends and relatives.

The new project has arranged on March 15 an opportunity for the community to find out more about their association at 6pm at the Falla París Pedrera in Denia.

Further information is available by visiting GarbaTea at Avenida Ramon Ortega No 5 in Denia.

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Brexit could bring additional Spanish Succession Tax

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asset, and is an ascendant (parent or grandparent), descendant (child or grandchild), or a spouse of the deceased, has been treated in the same way as a Spanish resident, receiving the same allowances and benefits. The tax has then been dependent on the autonomous region in Spain where the deceased was resident or where the asset was situated.

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Online agreement for Administration

ALFAZ DEL PI has signed up to a collaboration agreement between the national government and the Generalitat.

The agreement enables local, regional and national Administrations to connect online, offering the public a modern, rationalised and simplified service, explained town hall spokesman Toni Such.

Alfaz's new technological tools include digital signatures for certifying, verifying and signing documents. As the system spreads it will link to official registries, sharing information, certificates and documents with state, autonomous and local Administrations.

Alfaz will possess four essential electronic tools, beginning with the Applications and Networks System for Administrations (SARA). The town hall can also access advanced digital signature systems, register and exchange information online and participate in the official notifications service.

"New technology is part of citizens' daily lives and using it to connect with the public Administrations saves taxpayers' time, effort and money," Such said. He also stressed that the technology used is secure and reliable.

No more flooding

By Linda Hall

THE €1.4 million Avenida del Pais Valencia revamp is practically finished.

One of the last tasks involves lessening the impact of rainwater channelled to the Barranco de Soler stream via the Cami de Coves storm drain which runs off rainwater from Avenida del Pais Valencia and Plaza Jaume I.

The one-metre wide collector has a steep drop and the new outlet, reinforced with 500-kilo blocks of stone, will slow down the water before it

"A third of the budget has gone on infrastructure that no one will see."

enters the Soler stream.

Now that the Avenida Pais Valencia project is finished and surface-water drainage in Alfaz's northern area has been improved there should be no more flooding when rain is exceptionally heavy.

The system's effectiveness was confirmed during the Janu-

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KIND DONATION: USAR-13 hands over supplies to Voluntariado Social.



Photo by Alfaz Town hall

Rained-off event rakes in donations

NON-PROFIT-MAKING humanitarian group USAR-13 donated 700 kilos of food and toiletries to Alfaz's Asociacion Voluntariado Social.

The town hall's councillors for Social Welfare and Associations were both there at the handover, together with USAR-13's Laura Riero and Sergio Catala and Voluntariado Social members.

USAR-13 is an independent association which not only carries out search and rescue operations with their trained dogs but also gener-

ates social programmes and projects to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

Voluntariado Social, which was created in 2013, has 45 members who collect, classify and distribute food and clothes to those in need. They also help Alfaz's elderly and those in poor health.

USAR-13 organises a Canicross charity run up to the Albir lighthouse in mid-December each year both to introduce dog-owners to this sports activity and to raise funds for Voluntariado Social.

Bad weather twice rained-off the 2016 event and the organisers finally decided to hold a food-collecting drive at the Pau Gasol sports stadium. In exchange for non-perishable food staples and toiletries, donors received a Canicross commemorative t-shirt.

"We preferred to cancel altogether rather than have two events in the same year," explained USAR-13's treasurer, Omar Suarez. "We'll hold the next edition in December as usual," he said.



oding

ary downpours as the storm drains coped perfectly, pointed out Town Planning councillor Toni Such when he visited the site with Alfaz's mayor Vicente Arques.

"A third of the budget - around €400,000 - has gone on infrastructure that no one will see," Arques admitted.

More visible is the roundabout at the Avenida del Pais Valencia and Cami de Coves intersection which will improve traffic flow and the remodelled Plaza Jaume I which has now reopened to traffic.



Photo by Alfaz Town hall

NEW OUTLET: Will slow down the water before it enters the Barranco de Soler stream.



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Exchanging ideas



COOPERATIVE CHAT: Regarding the possibility of working in partnership.

JOSE PEREZ PARKER, president of Benidorm's Association of Travel Agents (AVIBE), recently visited Alfaz.

He was there to exchange ideas and opinions with Alfaz's mayor Vicente Arques and councillors regarding possible avenues of cooperation between the town hall and AVIBE.

The association, Perez Parker pointed out, was Costa Blanca's only association of travel agents and was working towards expand-

ing further than Benidorm.

"Alfaz is an important Costa Blanca tourist destination," Perez Parker said. Local travel agencies have noticed this and are actively promoting it, he continued.

"AVIBE's president has suggested some promotional projects that it doesn't want to reveal just yet," Vicente Arques said after the meeting. "It is up to them to launch these, although they are working along the same promotional lines as the town hall."



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TEULADA MORAIRA

NEWS

Sports grants

TEULADA-MORAIRA Town Hall has allocated €5,000 in grants for local sportspeople.

The cash will help individuals who practise sport and compete in organised sport, the town hall's Sports department explained.

Applicants, who have until July 21 to request a grant, should have been born in Teulada-Moraira or lived there for at least three consecutive years. They must also fulfil at least one of five conditions: being registered with a sports federation; having participated in an official competition; finishing amongst the first five in an official Alicante Province competition in their chosen category; having been selected by the Federacion Valenciana in their chosen category; having participated in a regional or national championship.

Applications should be handed in at the Servicio de Informacion y Tramitacion (SIT).

More information is available on the www.teuladamoraira.org website.

People at centre of Social Code

By Linda Hall

THE regional government's Equality department held its third working seminar on a new law regulating Social Services.

The first seminars took place in Benicassim (Castellon) in Alborache (Valencia) last year and Moraira was chosen for the Alicante Province meeting. As on the two previous occasions this was held in one of the Valencian Community's Youth Hostels.

Regional vice-president Monica Oltra, who al-

so heads the Generalitat's Equality and Inclusive Policies department stressed the importance of meetings like the Moraira seminar.

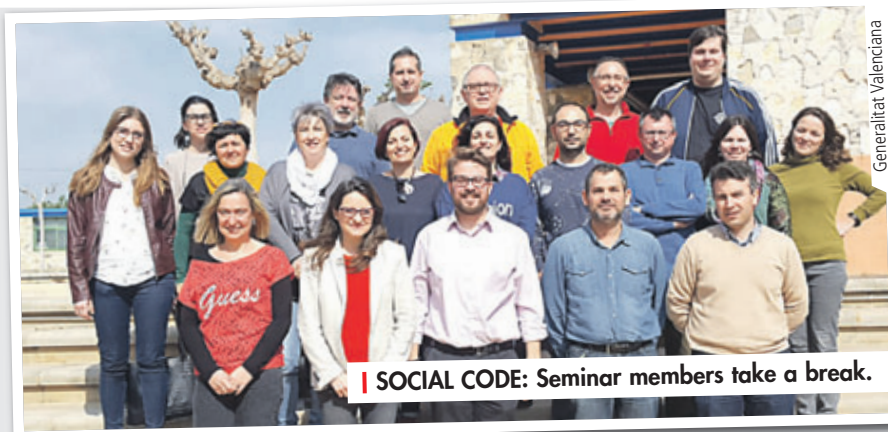
Its good working atmosphere demonstrated the commitment of all those involved in putting people at the centre of official policies.

Oltra's team is focusing on providing a framework to group together, regulate and coordinate all aspects of Social Services into a Social Code

that will provide the sector with stability.

Team members all have experience in Social Services, the vice-president said: "We want the people who develop and apply rescue measures to feel that they are part of them."

Nor was the meeting all work, as the seminar members enjoyed paella at a restaurant in El Portet and rounded off the day with the Spanish Bras concert in the Teulada-Moraira Auditorium.



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Funding shareout for local activity groups

NOW is the time when Teulada-Moraira's non-profit making groups and associations can apply for town hall grants.

Funding is available to enable local groups to continue with activities that contribute to the town's day-to-day life.

All associations registered with the Registro Municipal de Teulada-Moraira are eligible and allocations will be based on the planned activi-

ty. All projects should complement the town hall's areas of Social Services, Culture, Youth, Sports, Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture, Public Works and Citizens' Participation.

Each association's programme must be carried out this year and applicants need to demonstrate objectives of public and social interest and their repercussion on the corresponding municipal department.

Projects should include a timetable of activities, their development and cost.

Based on these conditions the town hall aims to share out funds fairly to local associations while following last year's policy of transparency and eradicating any element of unfairness.

Applications can be presented at the Servicio de Informacion y Tramitacion del Ayuntamiento (SIT) until March 23.

Seaweed protects beaches

WINTER STORMS:
Seaweed acts as a barrier.



Teulada-Moraira town hall

SEAWEED piled up by the winter storms will be left on Moraira beaches until April 9.

Like many other Costa Blanca councils, Teulada-Moraira Council is leaving the seaweed as a barrier to lessen the impact of the waves and prevent further erosion and loss of sand.

Not always popular with the public, the practice is spreading to winter beaches in a move applauded by conservationists.

Until the beaches are prepared for the influx of Easter tourists, the public toilets on the beaches will remain closed. The closest are those in l'Espai La Sienta in Avenida Madrid and the municipal Polideportivo sports complex on the Moraira Calpe road.

The footbaths have been turned off on the Portet and Platgetes beach to save water but can be used at L'Ampolla. Lifesavers will return to the beach at Easter.

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<p style="font-size: small;">REF 00661 - Benitachell Country house in Benitachell, South-East facing. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, Cons:180m² Pl:1,700m². 252,000€</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">REF 00745 - Moraira Villa in Cap Blanc - Moraira, South facing, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, Cons: 138m² Pl: 800m² 470,000€</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">REF 00773 - Moraira Villa with wonderful views to the sea in Moraira. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Cons. 180 m² Pl. 1,455m² 1,750,000€</p>

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Javea Players present Sand Castles

THE next production by the Javea Players will be Sand Castles and it will run from Monday March 27 until Saturday April 1 at 8pm in the Javea Players' Studio Theatre.

Written by Bob Larbey and Directed by Roger Brown the play follows the story of William and Margaret Patterson, a relatively elderly couple who have holidayed in the same place for years and who own their own beach hut.

They await, without much enthusiasm, the annual arrival of the awful Billet family, whilst wondering also what has happened to the Woodersons who haven't been seen for a few years.



BEACH LIFE: Javea Players cast.

This gentle comedy will appeal to all and you will readily identify with the characters and have a good laugh at their predicaments.

Tickets cost €10 and include a pre-

show drink and programme. Please note that there is a new online booking system which can be accessed at www.javeaplayers.com. Click on 'bookings' and follow the instructions.

Any problems with booking please contact Tony by calling 865 528 551 or email boxoffice@javeaplayers.com.

La Cocina offers a pre-theatre dinner menu from 6pm each night with a special two-course menu for 16€ or 19€ for three courses plus a half bottle of wine per person for both options. You can find the menu by visiting www.lacocinajavea.com and clicking 'Javea Players.' For dinner bookings please call 965 795 140.

Javea U3A boos

JAVEA U3A recently presented €1,312.21 to Red Cross Javea, its nominated charity for 2016/17, at its February general meeting at the Parador Hotel.

U3A president Eric Atkins handed over a cheque to Red Cross representatives Meike and Neus, who said they were delighted to receive the donation and thanked members for their generosity.

The money was raised among the 1,300-plus U3A members at various fundraising events throughout the year.

The association's chosen charity for this year is Make A Smile, which supports needy children throughout the Costa Blanca and

also runs a refuge for 24 handicapped youngsters.

Javea U3A continues to grow and with 42 new members joining at the latest meeting, membership has already reached the total for the whole of last year.

Appropriately, the speaker at the meeting was member Angela Chantry, who gave a valuable insight into the organisation in a presentation entitled 'The U3A Story... and new initiatives and international developments.'

She explained how U3A began in France in 1968 before spreading throughout Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, Italy and Spain as well as Quebec and California ... but at that time not the UK.

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NEWS

st for Red Cross

By 1981 there were more than 170 institutions throughout the world. The following year, Cambridge became the first U3A in England followed by London and Huddersfield. In 1983 they were joined by a number of others including Stevenage, Harpenden, Yeovil and Barnstable. Now there are 1,004 U3As

throughout the UK with over 384,000 members.

In Spain there are five active U3As in the Marina Alta – the first was Calpe, followed by Javea, Denia and Vall del Pop.

For more information on Javea U3A, its groups and activities, visit www.u3ajavea.org.



HANDING OVER: The cheque for funds raised. |

More safeguards for Cova Tallada

By *Linda Hall*

THE Cova Tallada is to have regional government protection.

Its location inside the Montgo national park already provides the cave with some safeguards but it will now be further protected as an archaeological site and quarry.

The town hall must first include the cave in the municipal catalogue as an Asset of Local Relevance to comply with Generalitat regulations.

The region's Cultural Heritage Directorate has already inspected the cave which it declared to have "outstanding values" on the strength of its archaeological remains and its

past use as a quarry. Stone from this cave was used for Javea's San Bartolome church, the La Plana windmills and Denia castle.



Mayor Jose Chulvi announced plans last year to prevent overuse and overcrowding.

The Generalitat's Culture department will include the cave in the regional register of archaeological sites before embarking on a review to decide whether it should be de-

clared an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC).

This status would allow greater control over the visitors flocking to the cave during the summer, and who conservationists maintain are putting the cave at risk.

One of the most-used routes to the Cova Tallada starts in Denia and both town halls, together with the governors of the Montgo national park, will collaborate on regulating the number of visits.

This is in line with plans that Javea mayor Jose Chulvi announced last year to prevent overuse and overcrowding at the town's beauty spots and scenery.



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U3A Vall del Pop

ON Thursday February 16 U3A Vall del Pop's president, Bob Welham, hosted a lunch at the Awraba restaurant in Orba. This was for the committee members, group leaders and members who have regularly supported him in the organisation and management of U3A Vall del Pop.

The occasion allowed Bob to personally thank the team for their support during the previous 12 months and to discuss the group's developments planned in the forthcoming months. In advance of the Annual General Meeting next month, he also had an opportunity, in very convivial surroundings, to speak to those committee members who were standing down and to wish them enjoyment with their 'additional' free time, recognising the time commitment that has to be given each month.

The U3A Vall del Pop new committee for 2017 will be elected at the AGM

due to take place today Thursday March 2 at 11am in the Polivant Centre in Murla. Please go along and give your support to the new committee. A big thank you to those committee members who are standing down for their service to the group.

Those wishing to renew their membership or to find out about TCET events, should aim to be there by 10.30am at the latest to allow time for these processes to be completed.

As it is the AGM there will be no Speaker. All members are requested to try to attend this very important annual meeting.

For further information please visit the website <http://u3avallpop.com>. The U3A is all about enjoyment and learning, and this is particularly evident in the U3A Vall del Pop group, whose members generally meet on the first Thursday of each month at the Polivalent Centre in Murla.

Javea WAGs had plenty to sing about last month

WINE lovers had something to sing about at Javea U3A Wine Appreciation Group's latest get-together at La Cocina restaurant in the port.

For this month, popular U3A member Paul Wessendorff, on guitar, opened his presentation of his choice of wines with an appropriate song, Old Dogs and Children and Watermelon Wine.

He explained to the group - affectionately known as WAGs - that watermelon wine was very popular in the States, particularly in Texas, being made 'cool' by Beyonce after she recorded a song about it. However, he apologised for not being able to offer that particular wine for tasting as it was 'out of season.'

Instead he introduced four relatively new Spanish wines available at Casa del Vino of



WINE CHOICE: Four new Spanish wines were introduced and well-received.

Javea - two reds, a white and a rose - which were equally well-received. Paul was ably assisted by his wife Jenny, who pinpointed on a large map where each wine was produced from Galicia in the

north down to the Valencia area. Paul and Jenny were thanked for their informative and entertaining presentation by group leader Trevor Rush.

The following day, at WAGs Too, members Mal-

colm and Sue Neil presented wines of Bodegas San Alejandro and their Baltazar range.

For further details about WAGs and other U3A groups and events, visit the website www.u3ajavea.org.

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ways experience the SYMPTOMS of your disease.

Testimonial - Vicky Ward, Seattle

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Symptoms of my MS have dramatically improved, I'm sleeping, I look amazing and I finally have my life back. I cannot thank Lifetime Health enough and highly recommend anyone suffering with a chronic illness to contact them as I did."

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AKIRA Animals

CALLING all eggheads. A fundraising quiz night is being held on Tuesday March 7 at 7.30pm.

Entry costs €10 and includes a buffet supper and there will also be raffles, games, prizes, etc. This will take place at Casa de Cultura, Padre Andres 21 which is opposite the children's play area in Benissa Square. To book your ticket please contact Pam on 676 534 486.

Please note that the date for the next AGM has been changed to Thursday March 30 and this will take place at Espai La Senieta, Moraira which is the large town hall building off the main car park.

Registration will be from 10am and the meeting commences at 10.30am. All board positions will be up for election, but only members can nominate or be nominated for these positions. Membership forms can be obtained from the Charity Shop Avenida de Portet Moraira or via email at akira-animals@hotmail.com. The cost of membership is €20 per year.

Please note that the closing date for nominations is March 9.

For more information about the charity or upcoming events visit the website at www.akira-animals.com or find them on Facebook.



STAGE SCHOOL: Will be performing at the Casa de Cultura.

A night at the Oscars is soon

A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS is drawing near. The production by Marcia's Dance Centre and Stage School will be performed at The Casa de Cultura, Calpe on Friday March 10 from 8-10.30pm.

Tickets cost €10 for adults and

€5 for children and they are available from the school or Margaret and Elena's Card and Book Shop, Edificio Mar Azul, Avenida Gabriel Miro, Calpe. All proceeds go to The Friends of the Children of Emaus. See you there!

World prayer day in Albir and Javea

ON Friday March 3 services will be held all over the world starting as the sun rises over Samoa and the last service will be held when the sun sets over American Samoa.

In Albir the service starts at 4pm and the church is looking forward to welcoming a good number of people.

You can find Albir Anglican Church in the centre of Albir. From the main road turn up the hill, Camino de la Cantera, (quite near the Consum Supermarket), signposted Rober Palas Hotel, turn right in front of the hotel and the Church (Norwegian Seaman's Church) is just inside the next road on the left, Carrer Mart. There is plenty of parking.

If you need any more information please contact the local administrator, Elaine Mitchell, on 966 864 962 or 636 164 467.

Javea International Baptist Church also invites people of all ages to their service on Friday March 3 at 3pm. This year's theme, written by the women of the Philippines, is 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' They express their hopes and concerns, bringing them before the rest of the world in prayer.

Refreshments served after service.

Javea Baptist Church, Calle Favara 8, Javea Pueblo. Website www.javeabaptist.es.

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‘Final challenge’ for cancer boy Leo the Lion



THE countdown for cancer-fighter Leo the Lion's proton beam therapy in Oklahoma has started. But his family have faced some agonising decisions as the treatment plan is formulated with the medics.

After originally flying from his home in Almeria to the UK for his fourth brain tumour operation, four-year-old Leo Bermejo is now in the States for the next stage of his journey.

It's just two weeks since his surgery at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital on Merseyside.

Leo and his mother Karen, sister and gran flew from the UK to America with Virgin Atlantic who offered the family a complimentary upgrade to premium economy. Once on the flight the airline offered to transfer them to first class but the group felt more at ease in their original seats.

Since arriving in the States the family have had a chance to relax a little and get to know their new surroundings as well as shop.

Mum Karen has had a meeting with oncologists at the proton beam clinic to decide the best way forward with Leo's treatment plan.

The team at the clinic have been in contact with Alder Hey and the experts all consider the best plan for Leo is to receive just the focal proton therapy.

So the beam will only radiate the tumour bed with an additional margin. According to all the test results this is the area where the disease is focused.

If Leo received full brain and spine the advantage of the proton to the conventional radio would be that his organs would not get damaged and his spine growth would not be as badly affected which are major benefits with proton.

However, as the full brain is still being radiated then the sensitive part of the brain which controls the learning would be destroyed.

Basically Leo would not progress any more than now with his speaking and understanding.

He would probably not be able to do a lot of little things on his own which we all take for granted.

So the decision is basically reducing the chances of a cure but Leo gets to progress, learn and be as close to a normal child as is possible. Live a real life.

Mum Karen said, "We know this monster is deadly that keeps coming back in Leo's head and if he is going to be defeated by it then he needs to have whatever life he has left to be enjoyable.

"Hopefully it is a long long life ahead of him and he will have a chance to grow up to be a man."

With the focal proton Leo will not be any more damaged as he already is, but he may have a patch on his head with permanent hair loss. That is it.

Karen added, "To be honest, the doctor didn't seem that positive but I did expect that as the situation is pretty bad, he just said that we can all just hope that it is a sub type of PNET that responds well to radiation, and again the chances of this being a cure are not 100 per cent. Anything is possible. And Leo is our little miracle; he keeps proving all of the doctors wrong, so this is his final challenge.

"The doctor also agrees that Leo should have oral chemotherapy for maybe a year after this treatment finishes as an additional precaution."

Leo on a strict diet now with apricot kernal liquid, protein, alkaline water, greens, frankincense oil - whatever it takes 'to kill this so it never ever comes back.'

This week Leo will have a CT scan and a physio assessment. He should be able to begin the actual proton treatment early next week.

Karen said, "I think we need to enjoy and treasure every moment with Leo now, and just surround him with positivity and hope this will work."

Meanwhile the fundraising for Leo's ongoing care and rehabilitation after the treatment continues with many events still planned in the UK and Spain.



“ The best action plan for Leo is focal proton therapy. ”



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Pupils celebrate carnival



EL CAMPELLO: School parade brightens up the dull skies.

THE Pla Barraques School in El Campello celebrated carnival week in style.

Teachers and pupils dress up and paraded through the town in colourful and humorous outfits

with many onlookers then joining in.

Whilst this year's chosen theme at the school was sports, many also dressed as rock stars, fairy tale characters and the fun of the circus.

Everyone enjoyed the music and street parade as the procession - monitored by the Local Police - passed by, fortunately with no rain, although overcast skies.

Women in Love for Book Circle

THE next meeting of the Javea Book Circle will take place on Tuesday March 7 in the Social Centre in Javea old town, at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start.

Well-known author and academic Terry Gifford will talk about women and nature in D H Lawrence's novel Women in Love.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of

each month in the Social Centre, located beside the Health Centre, at 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start, finishing at 8.45pm. You can also follow the group's activities on the website www.xabiabookcircle.com.

For more information please contact the Javea Book Circle Secretary, Nina Davies on 965 791 782 or email ninam.davies@yahoo.co.uk.

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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.



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NORWAY

Young billionaire

A YOUNG Norwegian, Alexandra Andresen, age 19, who has a passion for dressage, has been named the world's youngest billionaire by *Forbes* magazine.



Finnish territory, giving it a mountain to mark the 100th anniversary of its independence.

ALEXANDRA: Is a billionaire.

for NATO allowing personnel to train in how to respond in cold weather conditions. Around 15,000 military personnel will be in Norway until March 22.

Price increase

SALMON prices are expected to continue to rise this year as Norwegian fishermen see production fall as they continue to battle against the sea lice parasites that are affecting the fish.

Mountain gift

A GROUP of Norwegians want to move the country's border by 200m to allow the Halti mountain peak to be in

Cold training

NORWAY is hosting a training exercise

GERMANY

More troops

GERMANY has announced it is set to increase the size of its armed forces over the next seven years. The move comes amid growing security concerns in Europe.

Veil ban

BAVARIA is to ban the full-face veil in schools, universities, government workplaces and in public places

where there are concerns for public safety.

Toxic cloud

RESIDENTS of Oberhausen were ordered to stay indoors as a toxic cloud hovered over the city following an accident with a cargo ship at the harbour. Around 150 people complained of respiratory problems.

Quicker deportations

DEPORTATIONS will be speeded up for those who have their asylum status rejected. North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), has the highest number of people on its deportation list, with 62,906 being told they have to leave.

FRANCE

Anti-police rally

STUDENTS staged an unauthorised anti-police rally blocking the entrances to schools in Paris as part of protests over the alleged rape of a young black man with a police baton.

Come home

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Emmanuel Macron has been in London urging his fellow countrymen to bring their talents back home to France as he addressed more than 2,000 French citizens.

Tourist theft

THIEVES stole over €100,000 worth of jewellery and luxury goods from Russian tourists who had just landed at the Le Bourget airport which is used by private jets.

Hit and run

A BRITISH couple are fighting for their lives after being hit by a car in a French Alps ski resort. The driver fled the scene and left them for dead.

BELGIUM

Self-employed

THE third quarter of 2016 saw 1,050,402 people registered as self-employed in Belgium. An average of 878 people are setting up as self-employed every month.

Fraud cases

AROUND 78 Belgians are the victims of scams every day. In the last year there has been 28,000 reports of fraud and scam incidents to a new Central Desk that was set up.

Traffic congestion

BRUSSELS is the eighth most congested city in Europe according to the TomTom Traffic Index. Their study found that congestion in Brussels rose 3 per cent last year. Bucharest was the most congested.

Still time

MARKS & SPENCER is to remain open in Brussels until September to give staff chance to find new jobs. The return of the retailer has been short lived after returning in 2015 after a 14-year absence.

NETHERLANDS

Hospital v home

FEWER women are choosing home births with just 13 per cent having their children at home in 2015 compared to almost one in four 10 years ago.

Brexit move

AROUND 100 companies are considering relocating to the Netherlands as a result of Brexit, which could create up to 10,000 new jobs. The claim was made by VNO-NCW business federation.

Staff complaints

PRIMARK staff in the Netherlands have complained they feel 'belittled and continually controlled by supervisors and camera surveillance,' according to a survey by a trade union.

Drug smugglers

SIX people were arrested as 1,000 kilos of heroin was seized at Antwerp port, hidden in a container. The drugs were being smuggled from Iran.

DENMARK

Michelin star

BRITISH chef Paul Cunningham, has won two Michelin stars for Denmark with his HenneKirke-byKroRestaurant in Jutland. It is the first restaurant outside of Copenhagen to win a two-star Michelin ranking.

Blasphemy charge

A MAN is being charged with blasphemy for filming himself burning the Quran, Islam's holy book. The man is the first to be charged in Denmark for blasphemy in 46 years.

Digital catch

IN a world first, Danish police have hunted down internet drug traffickers by analysing their bitcoin transactions, a digital currency.

Most expensive

COPENHAGEN has been named among the most expensive tourist destinations in the world behind Zurich and New York. The ranking was based on average hotel, food, drink and taxi costs.

SWEDEN

Centre fire

A FIRE broke out at the Volvo Safety Centre in Gothenburg. The fire was safely extinguished and there were no casualties as everyone was quickly evacuated.

Disappearing glaciers

NEW images have shown how Sweden's glaciers are quickly melting. In the Kebnekaise area, the Rabot glacier has shrunk 80m since 2008 and the Siehtagas glacier by around 20m.

Suburb riots

A PHOTOGRAPHER was assaulted as he arrived in the Rinkeby area to report on the unrest as riots broke out in the Stockholm suburb.

Two stars

VOLLMERS, is the first restaurant in Malmo to be awarded the prestigious two Michelin stars. Twenty-three Swedish restaurants are featured in the 2017 Michelin list.

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VITALY CHURKIN: Respected diplomat. |

A true patriot

■ VITALY CHURKIN, the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations died in New York from a heart attack. The 64-year-old was one of Russia's most respected diplomats. Churkin served his country during the Balkan wars and in nuclear disarmament talks. He did so with class, wit and an unbreakable patriotic spirit.

are suing Aeroflot for discrimination. They accuse the Russian airline of demoting everyone aged over 40 or bigger than a Russian size 48. The women claim they were forced to work short night-time and domestic flights, while the 'young and thin' women secured long-haul internationals.

which may be on the cards for wealthy oligarchs in the near future.

Shadow economy

■ CASH payments may be restricted as the government cracks down on the 'shadow economy.' Paying for cars, apartments or luxury goods with cash may be banned. Russians spent roughly 10 trillion roubles (€160 million) in cash last year compared to over 25 billion (€400 million) in card payments.

Violence festival

■ RUSSIAN hooligans warned English football fans they will be the prime targets in a 'festival of violence' at the 2018 World Cup. The tournament will be held in Russia for the first time after violent clashes between supporters at Euro 2016 in France. Some Russian hooligans have specialised military training.

Space tourism

■ A PRIVATE airline was given the green light to fly in outer space. S7 will launch a rocket from Kazakhstan later this year as it enters Russia's competitive private space industry. The ultimate goal is space tourism

Dress debate

■ SCHOOLS across Russia are being drawn into the cultural dispute over Islam in the country. One St Petersburg school made headlines when it banned a teenage Muslim student from wearing her hijab in class. There are no rules nationally but public schools are taking an increasingly tougher stance against the garment.



CONGESTION: Drivers spent 91 hours in traffic jams.

Traffic mayhem

■ MOSCOW is no longer the world's most congested city. The Russian capital won the dubious honour in 2015 but last year it went to Los Angeles. Drivers there spent 104 hours in traffic jams compared to 91 hours for Muscovites. The small city of Magnitogorsk was the eighth most congested.

Solar sexism

■ FEMALE flight attendants

Qantas profits take a dip

By John Smith

AIRLINE revenues are similar to the way they operate their aircraft with many take offs and plenty of descents, but with very few crashes and none better to illustrate this than Australian airline Qantas.

At one time saddled with the soubriquet 'quite a nice trip any survivors,' the Queensland and Northern Territories Aerial Service certainly became one of the big players in the airline field with a very high percentage of

the domestic market and passengers having to book months ahead to obtain seats to both South Africa and Australia at peak times such as Christmas and the summer holidays.

The problem now however is that it

is facing competition from much cheaper airlines both internally and on routes via the Middle and Far East where airlines such as Etihad and Malaysian are offering newish aircraft with cheaper seats.

A\$852 million (€620 million)

is the pre-tax profit that airline Qantas has reported for the end of 2016.

Although figures for the last six months of 2016 were slightly better than forecast, turnover was down by 3.5 per cent, but more importantly pre-tax profits fell by 7.5 per cent although the airline is still making money which is one consolation for shareholders.

This is somewhat disappointing after the airline had in June 2016 reported record profits, but it hopes to fill seats again by introducing new aircraft, free wifi and even more stringent economies.

Mad for it

THE Advertising Standards Authority in the UK has been investigating the activities of a number of pay-per-bid online auction houses and has decided that a number of them, most notably MadBid are confusing or misleading customers about costs.

With TV and press advertising suggesting that expensive items such as new cars can be obtained for as little as £500 (€585), customers flocked to the MadBid site in particular, but soon discovered that every time they placed a bid they had to make a payment and there was no refund in the event that they were not successful.

Quote of the Week

"I want banks, talents, researchers, academics and so on. I think that France and the EU are a very attractive space." French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron inviting British business to France after Brexit.



Trade breakthrough



Photo by UNCTAD Wikimedia

ROBERTO AZEVEDO: General of the WTO.

By John Smith

QUITE coincidentally for the British government at a time when it wants to strike new trade deals, a new international agreement forecast to boost global trade by £1 trillion (€1.17 trillion) per annum has come into force.

"This is the biggest reform of global trade in a generation," said Roberto Azevedo, the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with regards to the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which

involves the overhaul and streamlining of customs procedures throughout the world.

The TFA has come into effect as many countries agreed to an exhaustive list of reforms which included making it easier for businesses to access information, reduced fees and simpler and faster procedures.

According to the WTO this could cut the cost of international trading by more than 14 per cent, but it has taken 15 years for this agreement to be finalised.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Telefonica profits

SPANISH communications giant Telefonica has announced that it's 2016 profits of just under €2.37 billion are nearly four times greater than 2015 results and whilst some countries have seen a drop in customers, overall numbers are up and spending more.

Stevedore strike

SPANISH stevedores have called a nine-day strike starting on March 6 in an effort to persuade the government to become involved in negotiations which are currently deadlocked. Strikes will be every other day and will affect exports.

Postal loss

AS a reward for turning Australia Post's results from loss to profit, the Chief Executive was awarded a significant bonus, but once it became known that he was earning four times more than the Prime Minister, questions were asked and he has resigned.

UK economy forecast up

THE UK economy grew by more than previously forecast in the final three months of 2016, according to the latest information released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

That body had cut its forecasts due to the fall in

the production and income for North Sea oil and gas, but this has been balanced by an unexpected increase of sales obtained by UK manufacturing industry and now leaves Britain slightly below the forecast for growth in Germany at 1.9 per cent.

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Paul
Currencies Direct customer since 2013, Calpe, Spain

Politics to drive the currency markets

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday

Contact me at euoweekly@currenciesdirect.com



Currencies Direct

OVER the last 12 months, we have witnessed increased volatility in the currency markets and this has been heated up by political events such as the Brexit vote and the election of US President Donald Trump. Swings in the currency markets have been severe and it seems that we are in a new environment where we need to expect large swings in major currencies.

However, the global economy is in many ways hitting a sweet spot at the moment. The current global recovery is the strongest since 2013, following the fallout in the Eurozone bond markets. The three big regions of the world - US, Europe and China have all shown recoveries in sync with each other. Although this is good news, we still expect to see heightened volatility in the currency markets as we adjust to political change of Brexit, Trump and renewed focus on approaching European elections.

Looking at Brexit, the UK government is currently on course to trigger article 50 in



INCREASED VOLATILITY: Swings in the currency markets have been severe.

March and this sets the scene for further volatility in Sterling. Currently, the pound is holding up well but the risk is skewed in the short term to the downside in line with a hard Brexit and lack of certainty to the deal the UK will achieve. The process to leave the EU is expected to take at least two years, potentially even longer, and the pound is likely to remain on the back-foot unless the road map becomes clearer. With this in mind you may see GBP/EUR move lower and potentially

retest the lows, however, Europe also faces political headwinds in the months ahead.

Firstly, recent polls for the presidential election in France have shown a majority for the Front National candidate Marine Le Pen in the first round. The first round normally skews towards a protest vote and it is unlikely that Le Pen would win the second round with bookies pricing in the odds at around 30 per cent. However, the bookies and the polls got it completely wrong with the Brexit vote and Trump and therefore we should

be on alert for the unexpected. The political uncertainties in Europe have recently started to weigh on the bond markets with the spread between France and Germany widening.

In addition, Greece has been back in the headlines for the wrong reasons after the IMF noted it was not possible for the country to meet its commitments and that it required more funding. Also, the ongoing problems with Italian banks not to mention the political uncertainty in Italy adds to the headwinds that Europe is facing over the coming months. This could in fact lead to pressure on the single currency vis a vis the USD and even Sterling in the coming months.

Finally, the impact of President Trump could be telling. Currently the market is awaiting more information on the proposed fiscal plan which in his words is going to be "phenomenal." So far Trump has held a hard line on trade and immigration, which the markets are uncertain how to price with the lean towards USD weakness.

Nevertheless, his tax plans could align with USD strength and higher interest rates so the market is currently fairly neutral, but expect this to change once clarity is achieved. The impact could see USD strength or weakness depending on policies and we can certainly expect volatility driven by the USD.

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Full Circle: Oil to Plastic to Oil

By John Smith

FOR years it has been the policy of governments around the world to try to cut down on the use of fossil fuels and even nuclear power in order to create electricity and Britain like the others has seen a growth in clean energy.

In addition to this, the world's seas and oceans are becoming more and more polluted by plastic and it is estimated that by 2050, the weight of plastic will exceed the weight of fish in the Mediterranean!

Plastic comes from oil and both industries are helping to pollute the planet with a product that is either almost indestructible or simply pumps out noxious gasses into the atmosphere.

A British company however believes that it has invented a process which will see a complete circle and go just a little way to alleviating the problem as it says that it can turn certain types of plastic back into usable oil.

Cynar Technology should become a household name, if it is able to deliver what it says it can achieve and it does seem to have a large number of supporters in scientific circles although it appears to be more involved in the development of the process than the actual extraction of the oil commercially.

In January, pilot Jeremy Rowsell made history by flying a light aircraft more than 500 miles from Sydney to Melbourne using a mixture of conventional fuel blended with 10 per cent of fuel manufactured by the Madrid based company

Plastic Energy which is using the Cynar invention.

According to UK charity Our Greener Future which was

involved in the 'On Wings of Waste' flight, "a 747 aircraft on a 10,000 mile flight burns 36,000 gallons of fuel and 33 per cent of airlines' operating costs are spent on fuel.

"If 3,600 gallons of that fuel was sourced from plastic waste it would be the equivalent of 18 tonnes of waste plastic that might otherwise be dumped in the ocean. Factor in the 1,200 flights a day that are made from Heathrow, and approximately 21,600 tonnes of waste plastic would be transformed from pollutant to fuel - every day."

Plastic Energy is also involved in the building of extraction plants in Bristol in the UK and Almeria and Sevilla in Spain and can transform one tonne of used plastic into 1,000 litres of different types of fuel and although there are a number of plastics that they can't yet process, there is still more than enough to allow for huge mountains of plastic to be treated.

Broadcaster and environmentalist Sir David Attenborough has backed the project saying "the Wings of Waste flight, I hope, will bring the attention of the world to this great solution that is there waiting to be taken, if only we can get the support of people to do so."

GLOBETROTTER
David Attenborough approves.

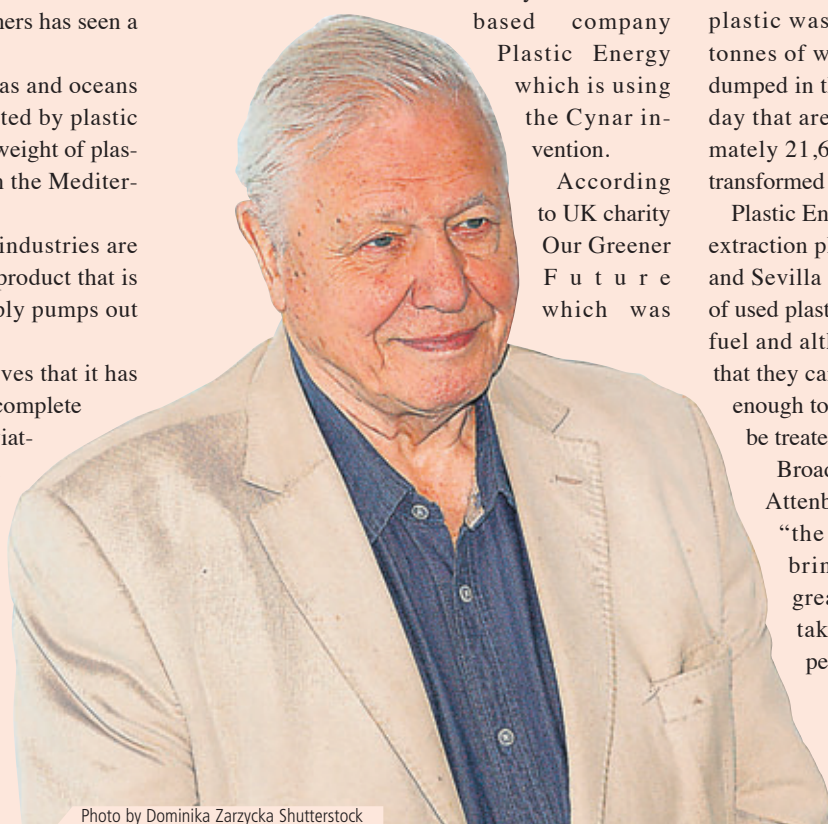


Photo by Dominika Zarzycka Shutterstock

Foreign workers in Spain

A REPORT from the Spanish Ministry for Employment and Social Security showed that the number of foreign workers registered with social security in January 2017 had recorded a slight decline at 1,687,585.

Traditionally, there is a drop following the lead up to Christmas but this fall of 24,274 is the lowest recorded since 2008 and the overall annual employment levels of foreign workers has increased.

The main groups of foreign employees come from nine countries and are from Romania (304,590), Morocco (215,366), China (95,782), Italy (83,377), Ecuador (65,702) United Kingdom (58,951), Bulgaria (52,942), Colombia (49,218), and Bolivia (47,771) with men outnumbering women 945,462 to 742,123

Andalucia comes third for employment of foreign workers behind Barcelona and Madrid with 186,000.

Bundesbank may be helpful over Brexit



Photo Credit: Masterot1312 Wikimedia

DR ANDREAS DOMBRET: Thinks it is not sensible to penalise Britain for leaving the EU.

By John Smith

DURING an interview with the BBC, Dr Andreas Dombret, a member of the board of the Bundesbank, the German equivalent of the Bank of England confirmed that it was not sensible to penalise Britain for leaving the European Union.

He recognised that some jobs will be lost in London and would flow not just into Europe but also the USA, but believed that it would still remain an important financial centre, probably 'the most important financial centre in Europe.'

What Europe doesn't need is chaos and confusion in the financial markets and he sees Germany and Britain as being two

major planks in keeping strong and healthy international regulatory standards and certainly didn't want to see any drop of standards to obtain financial benefit.

He does see that there are financial risks to the City of London and in the event that Britain faces financial difficulty, this would almost certainly be reflected across Europe and said that he wants to see that "the transition is as smooth as possible, and we, I can promise, will be as pragmatic as possible."

He doesn't however hold out much hope for a free trade agreement between the UK and the EU, pointing out that there has never been one signed between the Union and a non-member but he believes that the

German government will do all that it can to assist Britain in its negotiations with the other states.

In the meantime however, the Bundesbank is offering on its website to advise commercial banks on how best to move their business to Frankfurt, which is a potential competitor to the City of London.

Dr Dombret doesn't however see this as a way of enticing business away from the UK but a simple response to enquiries from worried bankers who have asked for assistance and information so that they can decide if they should leave the shores of Britain and find out how easy it would be to be assimilated into Frankfurt.

Stock exchange merger falters again

AFTER a year of negotiations, it would appear that the planned merger between the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and its German equivalent the Deutsche Börse is about to fall through thanks in part to the European Union.

This will be the third time that merger efforts have fallen through after previous attempts in 2000 and 2005 failed

The news will please some British Eurosceptic MPs as well as German politi-

cians who did not want to see the headquarters of the news organisation being based in London.

This 'hiccup' has been caused by a last minute EU directive for the LSE to sell an investment in an Italian bond trading company and although it divested itself of a French investment in order to reduce any anti-competition worries, it has seen this latest demand as a 'bridge too far' and has refused.

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A bitter and twisted approach

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT

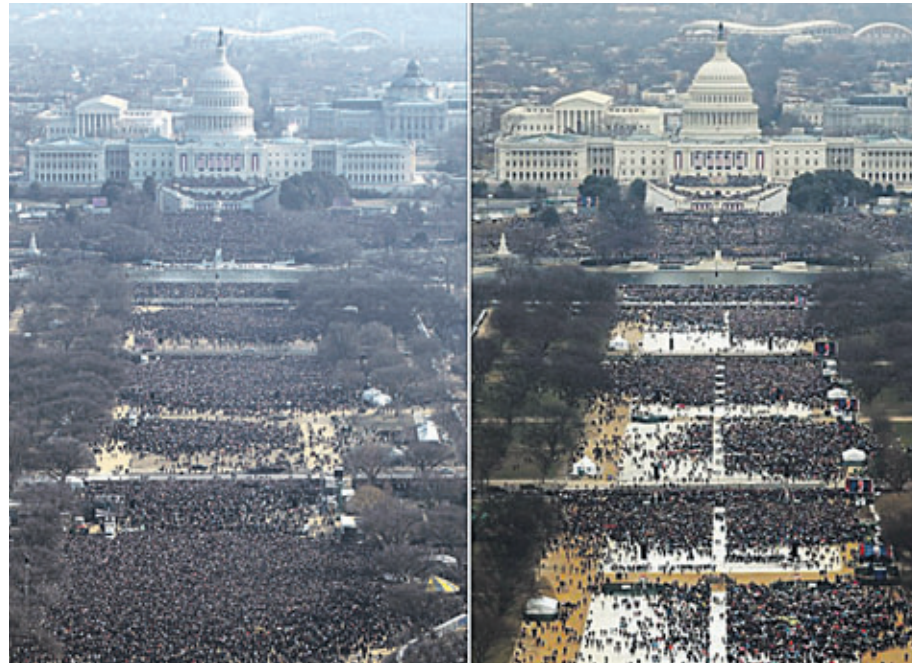


JUST whose side are the British media actually on? It does seem that almost anything that may be commendable, or praiseworthy concerning the UK, is immediately put down by cynical news people; who really do appear to only be interested in pouring rain on any British parade that waves a Union Jack.

“ Immigrants have been rioting on the streets of Brussels, France, Sweden and Germany.

Good news is immediately tempered by the introduction of some sourpuss leftie, who then proceeds to heap doom, gloom and scorn, on whatever positive announcement that has preceded them. And they are always given the last word.

I'm convinced the media is full of losers and jealous wannabes. People who



TWO PHOTOS: The explanation is of course simple.

really wanted to be stars or high flying politicians. Many of them have had to settle for second best and are subsequently bitter and twisted in their approach to anything that may be a plus, or indeed beneficial to those achievers they are re-

porting. This attitude also gives credence to Mr Trump's allegations of fake news. An example of this are the two photos showing the crowds at both his and Obama's inauguration.

Obama's showed thousands of people,

shoulder to shoulder, packing out the area in front of the Presidential presentation. The second, at Trump's swearing in, showed a far less attendance of people, with great gaps in the audience.

Underneath, the caption read, 'Where are the crowds Mr Trump?' Well of course this is typical of our esteemed media's attempts to discredit someone who they most certainly hate. The explanation was of course simple.

The photos were taken at different times of the day. Obama's during the inauguration and Trump's some time earlier in the day. And what about immigrant issues?

By the recent coverage, or lack of it, the problem appears to have been solved. Ha! Over just the last few weeks there have been immigrants rioting on the streets of Brussels, France, Sweden and Germany! No, I'm afraid that to me the whole scenario stinks of corrupt collusion in high places. Oh, and by the way, the irony of writing this piece has not escaped me!

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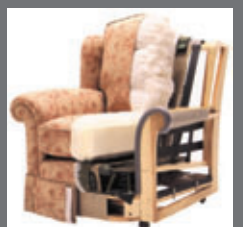
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Paul, Kina and son Nigel recently took over the store and with Karen and Wendy completing the 'family' they have a warm and cheerful greeting for every customer. They pride themselves on their friendly manner and the store has a real community feel with the welcoming cafe and services that they provide.

From free wifi, a postal service, PO boxes, free book exchange and a passport service to free use of a computer as well as a meat counter serving quality fresh meats from the well-known butcher Paul Matthews and wife Gilly, this is more than just a supermarket. With the shelves well stocked and new lines being introduced such as a wide variety of spices, vitamins and supplements, there is everything you could ask for. They also have a large selection of greetings cards and products for those special occasions and have recently acquired Lynne's British Bakeware range of cake rings and baking trays.

For those that prefer to buy their cakes rather than make them then there is the bakery tempting the taste buds with delicious



BRITISH SUPERMARKET: A real community feel.

home-baked cream slices and cakes to Cornish pasties, sausage rolls and other tasty pastries or home-made soup with a freshly baked roll which you can enjoy with a tea or coffee in the café or take-away to enjoy at home.

The café is a great place to meet friends or to make new ones and now the warmer weather is coming there is plenty of seating inside or enjoy the balmy afternoons out on the terrace

with a beer or glass of wine.

The British Supermarket Pedreguer is easy to find along the N332 and has plenty of parking. The ramp outside has been modified giving easier access to wheelchair users and they look forward to chatting and serving everyone that visits.

They are open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm Saturday and 10am until 2pm Sunday. Visit them at Partida Murtar 02/2, Pedreguer, Alicante or call 966 456 157. Alternatively look for them on their Facebook page The British Supermarket Pedreguer



PAUL, Karen and Nigel.

Advertising feature

Are you brokerless?

SOMETIMES people think that by using a broker for insurance it may cost more money. There is however, no reason why this should be the case. Like with everything in this world, one is free to shop around for the best price whatever the purchase may be, but with insurance, you need to think further than the cost.

In Spain, there are not any English comparison sites, unlike the UK, where there are many, each competing for business, with a bombardment of comical TV advertising.

Here it's a little subtler. Of course, we do have those that work solely by telephone, where you get your quote for say, car insurance, and everything thereafter is then done by post or perhaps email. This is, of course, very impersonal and maybe mistakes could creep in. Also, you never get to meet the person or the company selling you the insurance and, by telephone, it's never quite the same.

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LIBERTY SEGUROS: The Expats' Number 1 Choice with over 175,000 expat clients in Spain.

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cluding Dutch, German and Scandinavian. By visiting your nearest Liberty broker, and there's sure to be one near you, it's much more friendly and personal. You can pop into a nice

warm office; perhaps have a coffee; sit down face to face with a dedicated and professional insurance advisor, who can answer any questions you may have about many different types

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What is your greatest dream?

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.



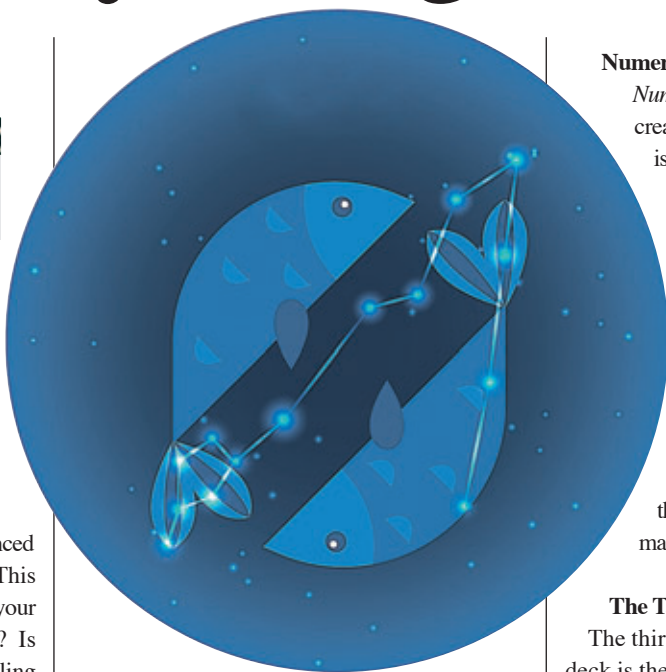
WELCOME to your March 2017 forecast. Every month I write about how the Astrology, Numerology and Tarot for the month ahead affects you, helping you to move forward confidently with your plans. Below is your forecast for March 2017:

Astrology: What's your dream?

Sun in Pisces: This month the sun is influenced by the watery and sensitive sign of Pisces. This intuitive sign is reminding you to stay true to your inner vision. What is your greatest dream? Is there a step you can take today towards fulfilling this dream? Take some time this month to reflect on what you want.

Create a vision board to help you stay focused by cutting out pictures and words from magazines, pinning them to a cork board and look at this every morning. By affirming your dream every day you will receive more inspired ideas as to how to bring your ideas to fruition.

Get in tune with the moon: The full moon this month is on March 12 in the earthy sign of Virgo. This sign will help you to get organised



PISCES: This intuitive sign is reminding you to stay true to your inner vision.

and make practical plans. This is a good time to think about the direction you would like to take in your working life. The new moon in fiery Aries on March 28 will give you all the confidence you need to follow your plans through. This is the first sign of the zodiac so use your leadership skills to help yourself, and others, move forward with plans.

Numerology: Get creative!

Number 3: This month the focus is on your creativity. Making time for your creativity is important, so consider how you can develop this side of yourself. As Spring approaches on March 21, your energy levels will begin to rise. Make the most of this increased activity to begin creating new projects. You are a creative being and when you balance this with logic you have limitless potential. Detach from the routine of life and think out of the box. Allow your imagination to open up, and use the power of creative visualisation to help manifest your highest vision.

The Tarot: Attitude of gratitude

The third card in the the Major Arcana Tarot deck is the Empress. This abundant female re-

mains present and grateful at all times. Every moment offers new opportunities, so keep looking at your life with fresh eyes. By maintaining a sense of expectation and vitality, you continuously attract a richer reality. Open yourself up to creative ideas and follow these through with enthusiasm. Stay centred in an attitude of gratitude and positively expect the best for yourself this month.

Below is a testimonial from one of my clients.

“ Hi Sally, the compatibility report was so spot on. Seriously you have confirmed so much for me regarding my relationship. You are bang on with what my partner is like, and although you've never met him, it's like you know him. Thank you very much.”
Georgie, Tring, UK

A FREE gift for March!

I OFFER personalised Astrology, Numerology and Tarot consultations via Skype, Facetime, telephone and email. I also offer couples' compatibility reports to bring insight into your most significant relationships. Throughout March I am offering a free gift with every Astrology, Numerology and Tarot consultation. This gift, sent straight to your email inbox after booking your session, will help you to relax your mind and body, helping to bring creative insight and clarity to your life.

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BBC one

Table of BBC one programming including Breakfast, The Housing Enforcers, Homes Under the Hammer, and various news programs.

BBC TWO

Table of BBC TWO programming including The World's Most Photographed, Heir Hunters, The Farmers' Country Showdown, and Victoria Derbyshire.

BBC FOUR

Table of BBC FOUR programming including 100 Days, As President Trump takes office, Top of the Pops, and Andrew Marr: My Brain and Me.

CHANNEL 4

Table of CHANNEL 4 programming including Countdown, King of Queens, Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA, and Frasier.

CHANNEL 5

Table of CHANNEL 5 programming including Shimmer and Shine, Noddy: Toyland Detective, Paw Patrol, and Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.

4

Table of programming on channel 4 including Made in Chelsea, Game of Clones, Hollyoaks, and Rude(Ish) Tube.

sky SPORTS 1

Table of sky SPORTS 1 programming including Premier League 100 Club, The Premier League Years, and Football's Greatest Moments.

itv

Table of itv programming including Good Morning Britain, Lorraine, The Jeremy Kyle Show, and Judge Rinder.

itv2

Table of itv2 programming including You've Been Framed!, Who's Doing the Dishes?, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and Emmerdale.

itv3

Table of itv3 programming including In Loving Memory, Heartbeat, The Royal, Judge Judy, and Inspector Morse.

itv4

Table of itv4 programming including Gunsmoke, The Saint, Hogan's Heroes, The Professionals, and Ironside.

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

Table of sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE programming including Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials, Tomorrowland, and Marvel's Avengers Assemble.

sky CINEMA COMEDY

Table of sky CINEMA COMEDY programming including The Top Ten Show 2017, I-Spy, Lost in Karastan, and Alien Autopsy.

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

Table of sky CINEMA PREMIERE programming including Locked in, I Saw the Light, Demolition, and The Top Ten Show 2017.

sky SPORTS 2

Table of sky SPORTS 2 programming including Cricket Classics, Time of Our Lives, Sky Sports Years, and Cricket's Greatest Moments.

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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

FOR a politician who was so often wrong, Artur Mas, ex-regional president of Cataluña, finally got it right.

There is an alternative to Catalan independence, he said, but the State must come up with it.

Of course Mas is no longer president after a sequence of early elections that ran his then party, the centre-right CiU, into the ground. The reason CiU's successor - its name changes so often it's hard to keep up - governs Cataluña is thanks to a parliamentary voting alliance with the CUP anti-system party. This unlikely support came at a high price for Mas as he had to hand over the regional presidency to Carles Puigdemont.

It will be up to Puigdemont to parlay with Mariano Rajoy but Mas, still a power behind the throne, has made his most sensible suggestion in years.

And the only likely one to prosper, bearing in mind that less than half of Cataluña favours independence.

A third way

Pablo gets his way

THINGS went the way Pablo Iglesias wanted at the Podemos party conference. His number two and Podemos parliamentary spokesman Iñigo Errejón was sidelined and Pablo Iglesias' present partner - in all senses of the word - Irene Montero has taken his place.

Meanwhile a Metroscopia poll showed more than half of those asked believed the manoeuvrings had weakened Podemos but strengthened Iglesias.

Sadly, in a party that claims to champion the vulnerable and under-privileged, it should have been the other way round.

Status symbol

IÑAKI URDANGARIN, erstwhile Duke of Palma de Mallorca, received a six-year prison term for misuse of public funds amongst

other transgressions.

His wife, the Infanta Cristina, was acquitted as the tribunal decided that despite benefiting, she didn't know what Iñaki was up to. Possibly that's true.

Clearly Cristina, who declared "I was born an Infanta and will die an Infanta" when asked by her family to renounce her hereditary rights, isn't like the rest of us. Although if she values status that much she should have married a prince or an oligarch, not a relatively penniless sportsman.



ARTUR MAS. |

Asking a silly question

EX-PRESIDENT Felipe Gonzalez asked why Podemos was absent from a meeting that asked for Venezuela's political prisoners to be freed. Ask a silly question: those prisoners were incarcerated by Nicolas Maduro's government, the same regime that called in Iglesias & Co as political and economic assessors. Enough said.

Eat 10 pieces of fruit a day?

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WHEN I lived in England, and even when I visit now, if you want to pay someone with a £50 note they look at you like you are mad. But here €50 notes are used to pay for anything and no-one bats an eyelid. So why the big deal in the UK?

I was watching the news the other day and, once again, some genius has decided that I'm not eating enough fruit. It used to be an 'apple a day kept the doctor away,' and then it was five a day.

Now, on my diet that included Terry's chocolate orange, fruit pastilles, fruit and nut, a banana split and carrot cake. The advice has now changed to 10 a day. Ten a day? Are they crazy? How can you eat 10 pieces of fruit a day? Who are these people? Do they live in the same world as us? Do they not know what happens if you eat 70 bits of fruit a week? You will be spending most of your time in the loo! Never mind fruit they are all bloody nuts!

Once again I have to Trump Grump. This week he has banned the BBC, New York Times and CNN, to name a few, from his White House press conferences be-

cause he says they print fake news. This is ripe coming from a man that is always spouting 'alternative facts' aka LIES. Anyway I think that free speech is important and everyone is entitled to their opinion.

So if I was the world's media I would have stood together and just boycotted the press conferences anyway and show that they can't be bullied. Some have already done so, so well done to them. Because if there is no media there then no-one will be reporting all his propaganda. He needs the media and they, of course, need him. Anyone want to take me up on my bet he doesn't last the four years?

I have never got so much spam in my email as I am getting now. I'm used to getting the odd pharmaceutical one and the one from my Nigerian friends but all of a sudden I'm getting about 10 a day from the likes of Costco, Tesco, M & S, Morrisons and Boots.

In fact, they are from every major store in the UK. Why? Is it only me? And how do you stop it? It's going into a spam folder. Is there away to stop it? Don't say click on unsubscribe because as they are cons, anywhere you click sends them your information.

I'm going to watch the Oscars now, as I write these articles on Sundays, and listen to all the luvvies have a pop at Donald. Not sure it's the correct thing to do... actually I am. Email me at mikesenker@gmail.com.



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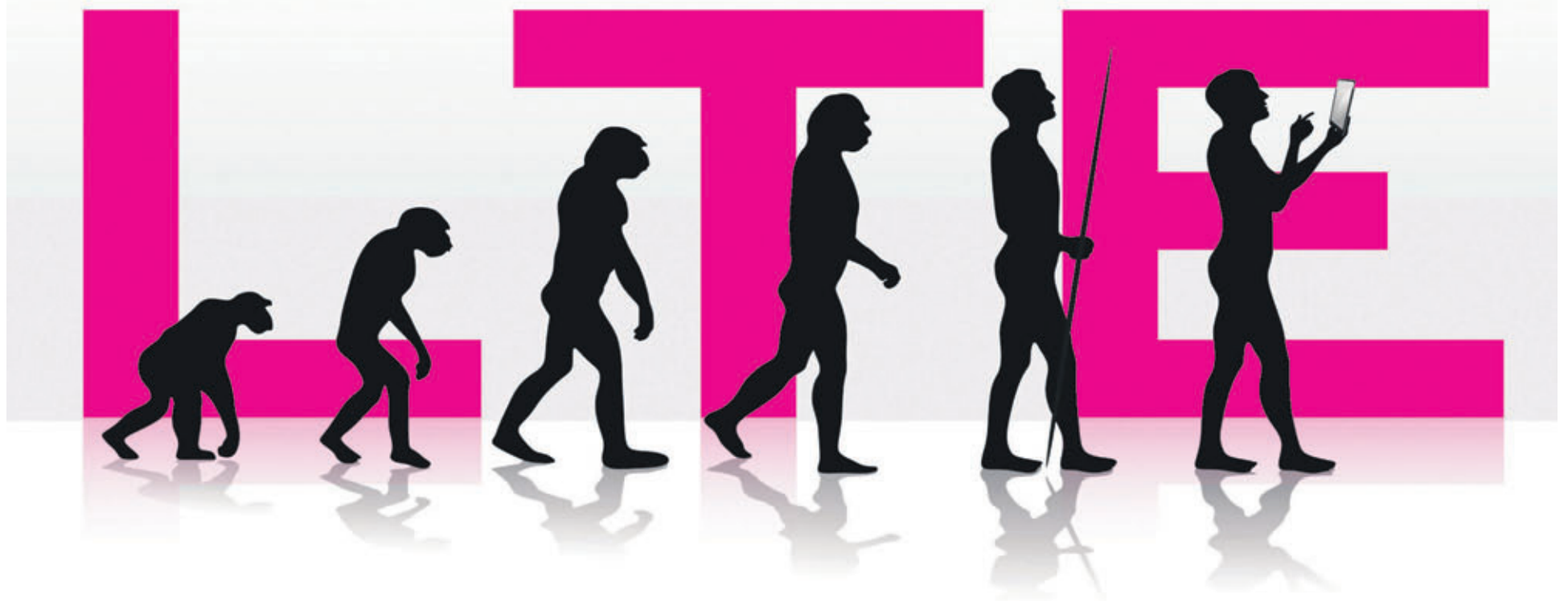
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Currencies Direct celebrate their **21st** anniversary

By *Simon Firth*

NO matter where you are in the world, reaching the age of 21 means a party is a must!

When you're one of Spain's premier currency transfer providers and you've hit 21 then you can be loud and proud about it.

Currencies Direct hosted their party, alongside their long-time media partners, *EWN*, at Marbella's fantastic Puente Romano Beach Resort & Spa.

The venue was Joe's Bar with oversight on everything from the ambience to the wonderful canapés and drink, in the marvellous hands of Group Corporate Director John Thomson.

The guest list featured friends, family, and treasured and long-time clients and customers of both companies, who came from all over the Costa del Sol.

Their host on a wonderful night of celebration was Currencies Direct Southern Europe director, Peter Loveday and his team.

Peter spoke of the company's rise from small seeds to an enterprise with 14 offices in Spain, and a product which means "we buy in huge volumes at great rates and we pass these benefits onto our clients."

He generously took time out not only to thank everyone for coming, but also asked everyone to spare a thought for little Leo Bermejo, from Almeria, who has so bravely been

battling his cancer.

EWN's managing director Michel Euesden then had a surprise in the form of a giant birthday cake - so large it had to be wheeled in - to wish the company many more years of success.

It was accompanied after a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' by a salute from two cannons which fired orange confetti and mini-euro notes into the air!

On such a wonderful night, you want your choice of music to make it a celebration to remember.

This was achieved with the stunning vocals of Mr Maph and Simone Lisa, Marbella-based entertainer Antony Wolfson and his inimitable take on the Presley greats, and Steve Cline.

The thunderous applause after every act showed just what an appreciative audience was there on the night. This quartet made it a night that will live long in the memory.

In keeping with the business of the hosts on such a wonderful evening, the guests were greeted by two giant balloon structures, one a euro and the other a pound sign.

Guests were generously supplied with money and although it was fake on this occasion, it did mean entitlement to cocktails throughout the evening!

Here's to the next 21 years!!!



More pictures of this fantastic event on our website www.euoweeklynews.com



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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
 10:15am The Housing Enforcers
 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
 12:00pm Heir Hunters
 12:45pm Dom on the Spot
 1:15pm Bargain Hunt
 2:00pm BBC News
 2:30pm Regional News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm The Doctor Blake Mysteries
 4:15pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm Money for Nothing
 5:30pm Flog It!
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News
 7:30pm Regional News
 8:00pm The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm Holby City
 10:00pm The Replacement
 11:00pm BBC News
 11:30pm Regional News
 11:40pm Weather
 11:45pm Panorama
 12:25am The Big Painting Challenge

BBC TWO

7:00am The World's Most Photographed
 7:30am Heir Hunters
 8:15am The Farmers' Country Showdown
 9:00am The Big Painting Challenge
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm The Super League Show
 2:45pm Countryfile
 3:00pm Building Dream Homes
 3:30pm Channel Patrol
 4:15pm Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones
 5:15pm Madagascar
 6:15pm Bargain Hunt
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food
 8:00pm Antiques Road Trip
 9:00pm Kate Humble - Back to the Land
 10:00pm 1066
 11:00pm Inside No.9
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:10am Weather

BBC FOUR

8:00pm 100 Days
 8:30pm Weird Nature, Fantastic Feeding
 9:00pm Tales from the Royal Wardrobe with Lucy Worsley
 10:00pm Planet Earth II
 11:00pm Storyville
 Series showcasing the best in international documentaries.
 12:55am Indian Hill Railways
 1:55am What a Performance! Pioneers of Popular Entertainment
 2:55am Alexander Armstrong's Real Ripping Yarns
 3:55am Planet Earth II Wildlife documentary series presented by David Attenborough.

CHANNEL 4

9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 10:05am Frasier
 10:35am Frasier
 11:05am Undercover Boss USA
 12:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 1:00pm Channel 4 News Includes weather and sport.
 1:05pm A New Life in the Sun
 2:05pm Find it, Fix it, Flog it
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm Fifteen to One
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun
 6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 8:55pm The Political Slot
 9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
 10:00pm Mutiny
 11:00pm Catastrophe
 11:35pm This is Us4

CHANNEL 5

9:05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 9:15am Digby Dragon
 9:30am Peppa Pig
 9:40am Peppa Pig
 9:50am Wissper
 10:00am Toot the Tiny Tugboat
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
 1:15pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
 2:15pm Home and Away
 2:45pm Neighbours
 3:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles
 4:15pm Shoot to Kill
 6:00pm 5 News at 5
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm Winter Road Rescue
 9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle
 10:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
 11:00pm Adolf and Eva

4

11:00am Charmed
 12:00pm Charmed
 1:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 1:30pm How I Met Your Mother
 2:00pm The Goldbergs
 2:30pm The Goldbergs
 3:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 4:00pm Baby Daddy
 4:30pm Baby Daddy
 5:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 5:30pm How I Met Your Mother
 6:00pm The Goldbergs
 6:30pm The Goldbergs
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm Game of Clones
 9:00pm The Goldbergs
 9:30pm Black-ish
 10:00pm Tattoo Fixers
 11:00pm Celebs Go Dating
 12:05am Naked Attraction

sky SPORTS 1

7:15am Football Gold
 7:30am Football Gold
 7:45am Football Gold
 8:00am WWE SmackDown!
 9:00am Football
 10:00am MNF Highlights
 10:30am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
 11:00am Football Gold
 11:15am Football Gold
 11:30am Football Gold
 11:45am Football Gold
 12:00pm Football
 4:00pm Spanish Football Gold
 4:15pm Spanish Football Gold
 4:30pm Football Gold
 4:45pm Football Gold
 5:00pm Football
 6:00pm MNF Highlights
 6:30pm Premier League 100 Club
 7:00pm Premier League Review
 8:00pm Scottish Football Round Up
 8:15pm Football Gold
 8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special 2016/17
 11:00pm Premier League 100 Club

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm The Home Game
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm Local News and Weather
 All the very latest local news and weather.
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 Round-up of the main national and international news.
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Britain's Busiest Motorway
 9:00pm The Secret Chef
 10:00pm Play to the Whistle
 11:00pm The Nightly Show with John Bishop
 11:30pm ITV News

itv2

9:00am Emmerdale
 9:30am Coronation Street
 10:00am Coronation Street
 10:35am Psych
 11:25am Scorpion
 12:25pm Who's Doing the Dishes?
 1:25pm Emmerdale
 1:55pm Coronation Street
 2:30pm Coronation Street
 3:00pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 4:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 6:00pm Judge Rinder
 7:00pm You've Been Framed!
 7:30pm You've Been Framed!
 8:00pm You've Been Framed!
 8:30pm You've Been Framed!
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Two and a Half Men
 10:00pm Hell's Kitchen

itv3

8:20am Where the Heart is
 9:20am The Royal
 10:25am Judge Judy
 10:50am Judge Judy
 11:20am Judge Judy
 11:45am Inspector Morse
 2:00pm Heartbeat
 Drama, set in the North Yorkshire moors in the 1960's.
 3:05pm The Royal
 4:05pm Where the Heart is
 5:10pm You're Only Young Twice
 5:50pm Doctor at Large
 6:20pm On the Buses
 This bold, bawdy and brash sitcom hit British screens in 1969.
 6:55pm Heartbeat
 Drama, set in the North Yorkshire moors in the 1960's.
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Midsomer Murders
 11:00pm A Touch of Frost
 1:00am Inspector Morse

itv4

7:00am World Cup Top Goalscorers
 7:15am Gunsmoke
 8:20am The Saint
 9:25am Hogan's Heroes
 10:00am Hogan's Heroes
 10:30am The Professionals
 Action-packed drama series about two criminal-intelligence agents.
 11:35am Ironside
 12:40pm Gunsmoke
 1:45pm Snooker
 Coverage and reaction from the latest Snooker event taking place.
 5:45pm Storage Wars New York
 6:15pm Storage Wars Texas
 6:45pm Storage Wars Texas
 7:10pm Storage Wars Texas
 7:45pm Snooker
 11:45pm Lethal Weapon
 12:45am River Monsters
 1:50am The Professionals
 2:50am Hogan's Heroes
 3:25am Hogan's Heroes
 3:55am ITV4 Nightscreen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

11:10am Independence Day
 1:40pm Tomorrowland
 4:00pm The Sorcerer's Apprentice
 6:00pm Independence Day
 8:30pm Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows
 10:30pm Hitman
 12:10am Tomorrowland
 2:25am Darkman

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:00am Raising Helen
 9:05am The Banger Sisters
 10:50am When Harry Met Sally
 12:30pm Hot Pursuit
 2:05pm Pitch Perfect 2
 4:05pm Welcome to Me
 5:40pm Death Becomes Her
 7:30pm Hot Pursuit
 9:00pm Pitch Perfect 2
 11:00pm Welcome to Me
 12:35am Death Becomes Her
 2:25am When Harry Met Sally

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Kicking Off
 8:35am Blood Orange
 10:10am Florence Foster Jenkins
 12:10pm Demolition
 2:00pm Kicking Off
 3:40pm Anguish
 5:20pm Imperium
 7:20pm The Darkness
 9:00pm Florence Foster Jenkins
 11:00pm Anguish
 Unnerving psychological horror about a troubled teenager who begins experiencing hallucinations linked to the death of another girl.
 12:35am Imperium
 2:35am The Darkness
 4:25am Darling

sky SPORTS 2

7:00am Cricket
 12:30pm Super League Gold
 12:45pm Super League Gold
 1:00pm Super League Fulltime 2017
 1:30pm Super League Gold
 1:45pm Super League Gold
 2:00pm Time of Our Lives
 3:00pm Cricket
 4:00pm Sporting Records
 4:30pm Sporting Records
 5:00pm Cricket's Greatest
 5:30pm Cricket's Greatest
 6:00pm Cricket
 7:00pm Sporting Triumphs
 7:15pm Sporting Triumphs
 7:30pm Super League Fulltime 2017
 8:00pm Live Greyhound Racing
 10:30pm Cricket's Greatest
 11:00pm La Liga World
 11:30pm Spanish Football Gold
 11:45pm Spanish Football Gold
 12:00am Premier League Review
 1:00am La Liga World

LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

President Trump and torture

DEAR Editor,

I see that Donald Trump 'absolutely' believes that 'torture works.' I've 'absolutely' no doubt whatsoever that after four years of his presidency the vast majority of Americans will hold the same view!

Richard, Benidorm

Upset reader

I WAS truly shocked at the fact that you advertised the bull running in Pamplona in today's issue of your newspaper. I have always looked forward to reading your news and doing the crosswords.

No thanks, no more. Truly disgusting. I don't care if you

print my letter or not... that is not the intention.

Even Professor Einstein stated that the human being was the most cruel animal on the Planet.

Olivia, Palma de Mallorca

Well done Leapy

Hi Lee, I just read your fantastic article in Costa Blanca South so I need to respond and agree with what you said 100 per cent. I think Tony Blair conveniently forgets how wrong he was in the Iraq war cosying up to George Bush (and people are saying now how bad Donald Trump is!! I think

George Bush was worse!).

Tony Blair has the bare-faced front to say people voted for Brexit knowing nothing about the consequences - talk about insulting people's intelligence!! The situation as a result of Iraq was we didn't find any WMD which Iraq was supposed to possess and the main reason for going to war in the first place, the audacity of that Mother...! And for people now to rise up with his popularity, anyone would liken him to Hitler!!

Anyway enough of this conman's talk. Hope people rise up against him, better less said about his wife as well. Still enough of my rant, it was a great article and you are a man of my

own heart! Well done.

Collin, Costa Blanca

Thought provoking

IN anything Leapy Lee writes, try replacing the word 'immigrants' with the word 'pensioners.' Makes you think, doesn't it?

Imagine if every time he complained about immigrants, Muslims, or anybody else who annoys him, he complained about pensioners instead - this newspaper would be inundated with protests.

But then, Leapy's both a pensioner and an immigrant - so he wouldn't understand.

Brian, Mojacar

COMMENTS from the Euro Weekly News website

» Heseltine and Brexit

'LORD' Heseltine: says it all. To even threaten the delaying of triggering Article 50 smacks of an abuse of power. It also gives rise to the suspicion that this man has a serious financial interest in the EU (which nobody voted to join, other than some of our MPs, many of whom are now drawing incredible salaries and pensions from said organisation). Now that the 'common' people and the majority of MPs have voted to leave this club, he is doing everything he can to thwart the will of the people. Surely, it is only a matter of a decade or so before the common people will insist on dissolving the unelected, undemocratic House of Lords =House of Political Buddies..

Harry Paine

This idiot should shut up and leave May to do what she has to do. Britain will be far better off out of the 'Union', and its likely many other countries will follow. The European Union has turned out to be a disaster for all concerned. Hell, they even tell us what shape our bananas have to be.

Roy Peters

» Mallorca trains

Mallorca resident's discounts for train travel were abolished after a German tourist complained to the EU that it was discriminatory. "... We see this time and time again. It takes a petition of 1000's to get something done and then a single objection gets it undone. Case of the tail wagging the dog over and over again!

Harry Bradfield

» Arsonist attacks

The guy is walking around Calahonda without a care in the world, the bar owners do not want to approach him in case they also get an arson attack. He needs to be in jail.

David Allcock

» Rajoy and Hollande meet

Illegal immigration regardless of whether the migrants are called refugees or economic migrants is one of the greatest challenges facing the world this century as hundreds of millions of people seek a better life. There is no point in leaders talking, we need action to stop the daily arrival of migrants on Europe's shores and the countless deaths caused by trafficking gangs who have made a lucrative criminal industry out of people's misery. Europe has millions unemployed and cannot cope with the invasion which is taking place which is leading to a growing social crisis. The UN needs to play a major role in bringing a change of mentality and together with the Western democracies plan to redistribute a fairer share of the world's economic wealth to improve the living standards of the population in the developing nations.

Peter Fieldman

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



GRAVE CONCERN: Amongst air-traffic controllers about the number of planes handled every hour.

Safety in the air

“ CERTAIN aspects concerning travel safety is difficult to evaluate for the common traveller. The planning of the winter stay 2016/2017 brought forward some consideration about the route followed by our ordinary airline.

There were two relevant destinations, either going to an island situated far to the east of the Mediterranean where the plane is crossing Turkey, just over Istanbul. We land-

ed, literally, in Mallorca, the plane arriving from the Western Europe. Irrelevant anxiety? Maybe, maybe not.

According to reports the authorities in Spain has allowed the Palma airport to handle 80 planes every hour: is this something to be afraid of to put it that way? Certainly it is; the air-traffic controllers expressed grave concern in 2016, when the limit was 60!

Leif, Palma Nova

HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters, whether by email or post, should carry the writer's postal address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published. Letters may also be edited.

Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on: www.euoweeklynews.com

Advertising feature

Have YOU had your Free hearing check up with your local GAES clinic yet?

If not, why not call your nearest clinic today?

In order to raise awareness about the importance of detecting hearing problems, GAES Hearing Centres are offering readers a hearing check up absolutely free, at any of their GAES centres. Regular hearing check ups offer the best protection to maintain hearing and should be taken as often as visual or dental examinations. From age 55, yearly check ups are recommended.

GAES are leaders in hearing clinics in Spain offering all their clients a Money Back Guarantee for absolute satisfaction, as well as a free in-depth hearing test within their clinics.

Recently we asked one of GAES' hearing specialists, Vanessa, (hearing specialist in one of the Costa Blanca's clinic of GAES*, Spain's leading Hearing Specialists) to explain the clinic's hearing examination offered to readers.

- Hi Vanessa, could you let our readers know how long you have worked for

Gaes? I have been working in GAES since 2003, as a qualified professional specialist in Audiology and Audio Prosthesis.

- **Do all the medical staff speak English at Gaes Clinics?** Yes, absolutely. We have very many English speaking patients, English is a must in GAES clinics, especially so here in Costa Blanca.

- **Who should be coming to the clinic for a check up?** In reality, anybody older than 16 could take a hearing examination. Particularly anyone who feels that they may have had some hearing loss, or who are older, or simply would like to check that everything is still optimum.

- **What is the normal process in a hearing revision at your clinic? Is there any obligation of further treatment?** Firstly we would inspect the auditory canal to check there is no blockage, and if the ear is found to be clear, then there is a complete and thorough audio test to know the grade

of hearing. If there is found to be hearing loss, we fully explain what help is suitable and recommended to regain a good level of hearing. The appointment lasts approximately one hour. There is no obligation of further treatment.

- **How much does the revision cost (is it free?)** It is completely free.

- **Are there new technologies that Gaes uses in your clinic, in both treatment and diagnosis?** Of course! As market leaders, we have to stay ahead using the latest technology. Every year we incorporate the latest advances and products to achieve the best results in diagnosis and treatment. There are also aesthetic advances that are just as important.

- **Are there any guarantees for the hearing devices?** Yes, absolute satisfaction or your money back!

Thanks Vanessa. You're welcome. We look forward to hearing from readers soon.

Don't wait, book your free hearing check up today at your local GAES hearing clinic.

(*The clinic is located in Calle Ramon Gallud, no 52, near the Torre Vieja Town Hall.)

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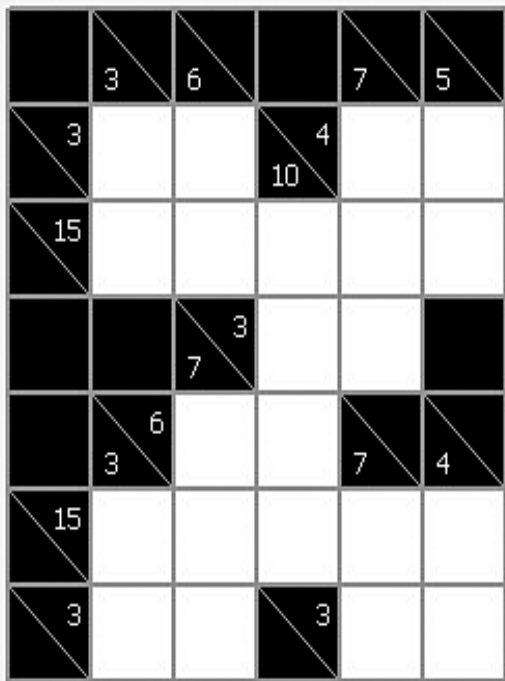
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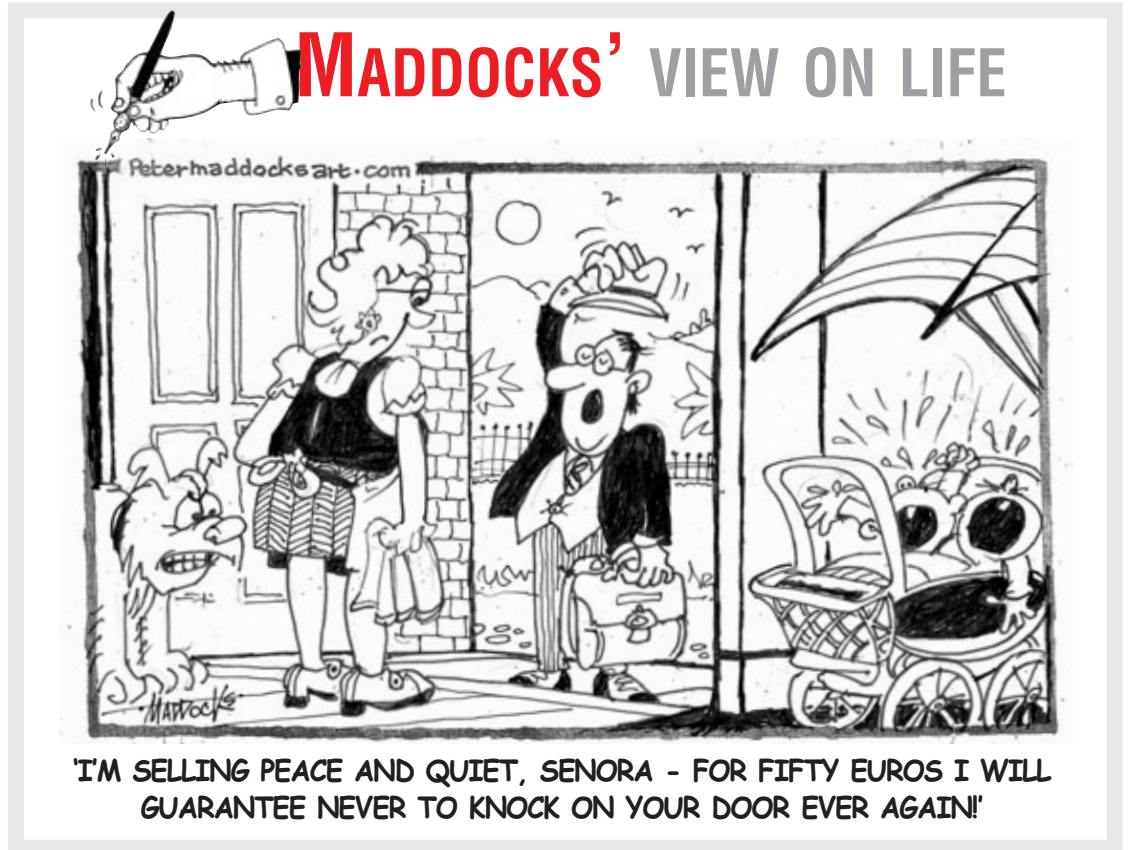
Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

33	9	27	14		
8	5	6	14		
21	3	4	5	9	
2	7	2	3		
12	3	9	6	4	2
21	8	5	7	1	
18	1	6	9		



LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday February 25

18 24 34 BONUS BALL 26
38 41 49

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday February 25

2 12 17 BONUS BALL 20
29 32 38

EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday February 21

13 19 41 BONUS BALL 3
45 49 4

Friday February 24

2 4 13 BONUS BALL 8
22 43 9

LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday February 25

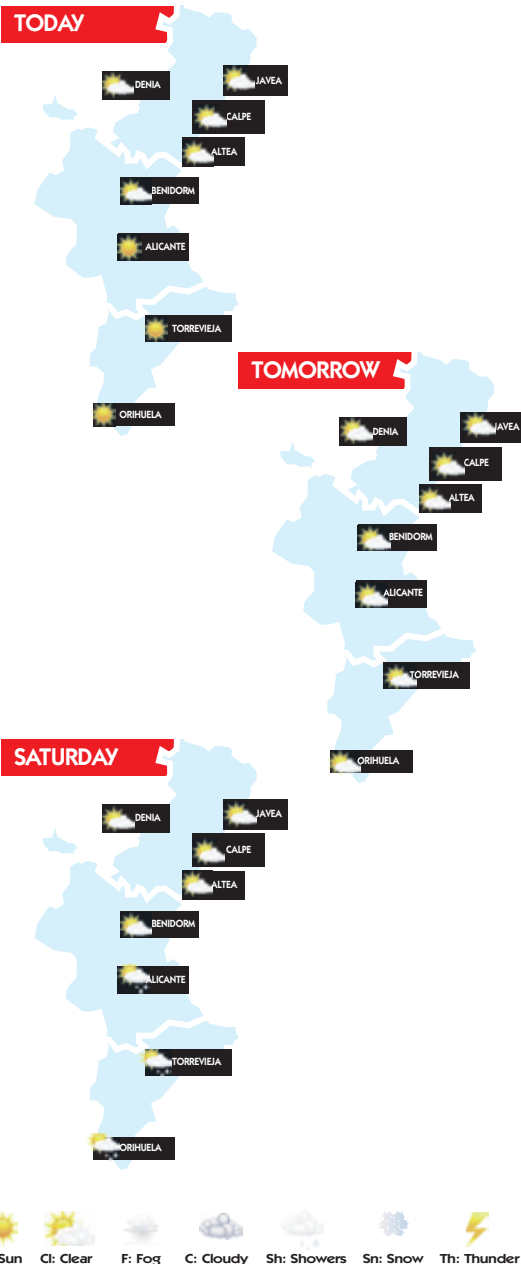
2 9 13 BONUS BALL 28
27 36 48 9

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday February 26

3 23 32 BONUS BALL 8
36 51

Costa Blanca

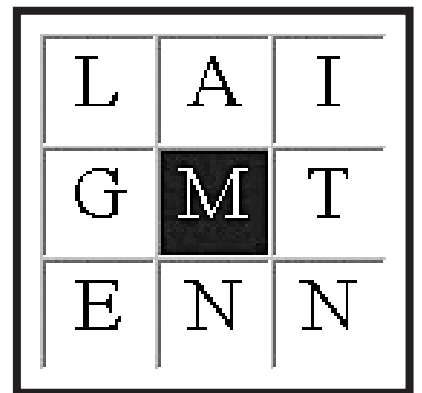
weather



Alicante			Bilbao		
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 11 - S			TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 11 - C		
Fri - 18	10	C	Fri - 18	7	Sh
Sat - 17	10	C	Sat - 12	5	Sh
Sun - 20	12	C	Sun - 14	8	Sh
Mon - 22	13	C	Mon - 17	10	C
Tues - 23	13	Cl	Tues - 17	8	Sh
Wed - 21	12	Cl	Wed - 19	8	Sh
Almeria			Madrid		
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 12 - CL			TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 4 - C		
Fri - 21	11	C	Fri - 15	3	Sh
Sat - 19	11	C	Sat - 10	2	Sh
Sun - 20	13	C	Sun - 14	4	C
Mon - 23	14	Cl	Mon - 17	5	C
Tues - 24	15	C	Tues - 19	4	C
Wed - 24	14	Cl	Wed - 20	35	C
Barcelona			Malaga		
TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 8 - CL			TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 10 - C		
Fri - 16	10	Cl	Fri - 18	9	C
Sat - 13	7	Sh	Sat - 17	10	Sh
Sun - 16	9	C	Sun - 20	12	C
Mon - 17	9	Cl	Mon - 22	12	Cl
Tues - 19	8	C	Tues - 24	12	Cl
Wed - 17	8	Cl	Wed - 22	11	Cl
Benidorm			Mallorca		
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10 - CL			TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 8 - S		
Fri - 19	11	C	Fri - 18	9	C
Sat - 17	10	C	Sat - 15	8	C
Sun - 19	11	C	Sun - 16	9	C
Mon - 21	13	C	Mon - 17	9	Cl
Tues - 23	13	Cl	Tues - 20	8	Cl
Wed - 20	12	Cl	Wed - 18	7	Cl

Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case M) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

- Average: 14 • Good: 19
- Very good: 28 • Excellent: 36

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ewer than thew twee wail wait wale ware wart wear wearir welt were what whee what whir whit while wilt wire with writ hewer threw trawl tweer twirl water whale wheal wheat wheel where while whirl white withe wrath write awhile wailer waiter wealth welter wether whaler whiter withal wither wraith wreath writhe weather whereat wreath WEALTHIER

World of English

Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?'

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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

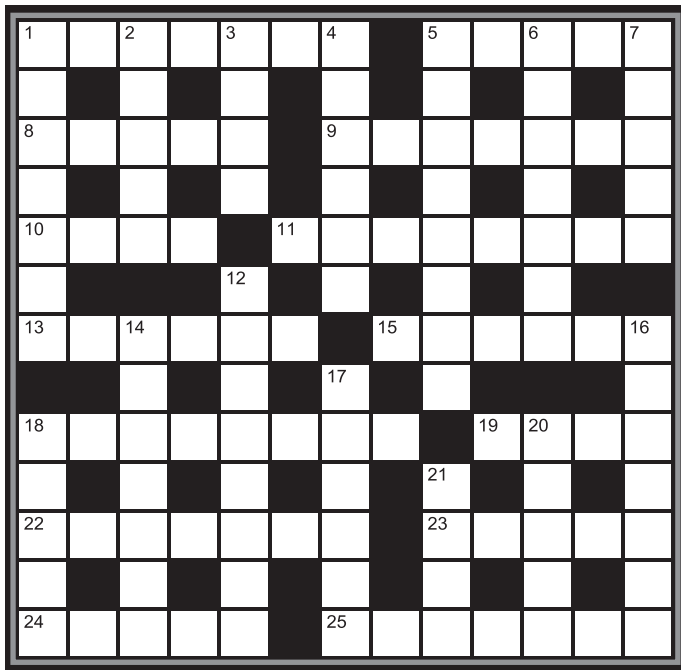
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Wild rats sit for painters (7)
- 5 Young girls lose their heads, the idiots! (5)
- 8 Quietly stood up for ordinary writing (5)
- 9 Told how the family is connected (7)
- 10 The last word in a team entry (4)
- 11 Ode Simon composed for a pub game (8)
- 13 Some scraps or relics are a light brown colour (6)
- 15 Fortune derived from some rich ancestors (6)
- 18 Hardy players press clothes (4-4)
- 19 Team get a new goalpost initially (4)
- 22 He has no illusions about a record (7)
- 23 Boast, having new part of tooth (5)
- 24 Singer John gets left in school (5)
- 25 Right, put your clothes on again (7)

Down

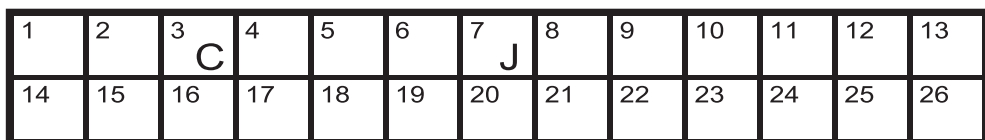
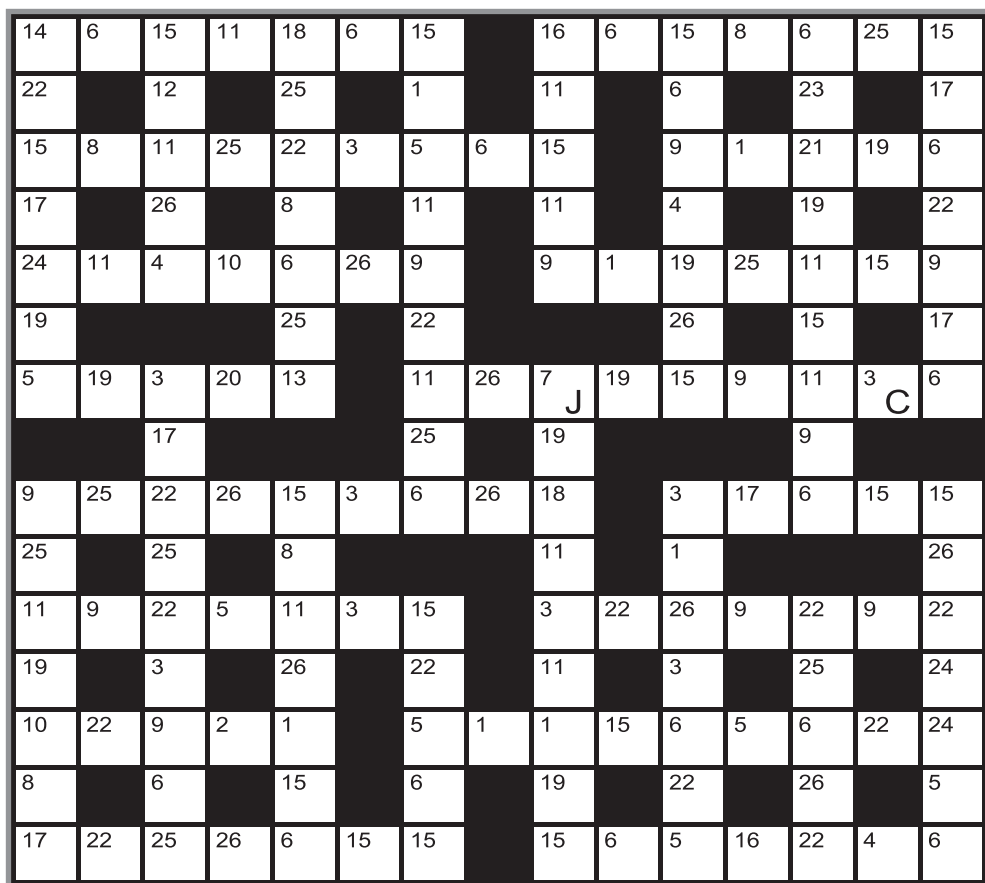
- 1 A paper's mistake crops up (7)
- 2 Treasure discovered in a controversial place (5)
- 3 Leave it in the last etching (4)
- 4 Vicar's address is in Lesser Mongolia (6)
- 5 Nobody left, that's OK (3,5)
- 6 It's in writing what newts do when confused (3,4)
- 7 "Yes", said Spanish Des, "we have teams" (5)
- 12 The ruling is in code, strangely (8)
- 14 Begin again to take it easy by drawing (7)



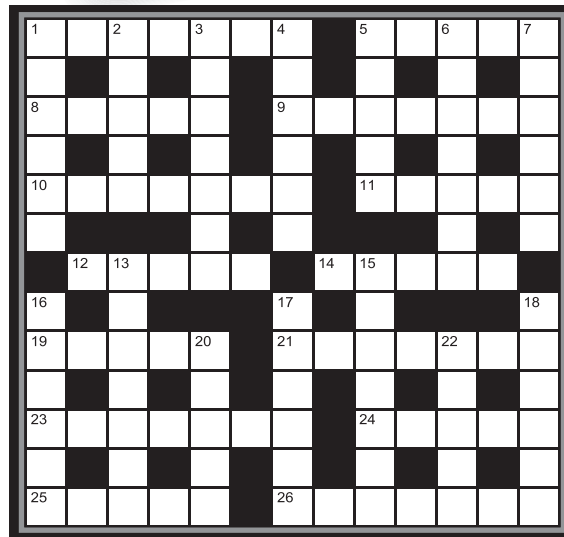
- 16 Internet search aids for motors (7)
- 17 Braggart discards small, straw hat (6)
- 18 Cut up five in anxiety (5)
- 20 Only an advance, say (5)
- 21 Compound discovered about 101 AD (4)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents C and 7 represents J, so fill in C every time the figure 3 appears and J every time the figure 7 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.

Code Breaker



Quick



Across

- 1 Bone of the upper arm (7)
- 5 Annoyed (5)
- 8 Monarch's domain (5)
- 9 Occurring at the beginning (7)
- 10 Enduring (7)
- 11 Took without the owner's consent (5)
- 12 Make somebody laugh (5)
- 14 Luxurious (5)
- 19 Not tense or taut (5)
- 21 Embarrassing mistake (7)
- 23 Having or showing profound knowledge (7)
- 24 Not in a state of sleep (5)
- 25 Encircle as a military tactic (5)
- 26 Boring (7)

Down

- 1 Obstacle (6)
- 2 Complains (5)
- 3 Stays behind (7)
- 4 Unwilling to spend (6)
- 5 Strips of potato fried in deep fat (5)
- 6 Indicating evil intent or suggesting tragic developments (7)
- 7 Precious metal (6)
- 13 Ascertain dimensions (7)
- 15 Large, spotted African/Asian cat (7)
- 16 Appraise (6)
- 17 Not being in a specified place (6)
- 18 Welcomes warmly (6)
- 20 Bladed instrument for cutting or spreading (5)
- 22 Large musical instrument (5)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Staid, 4 String, 9 Chelsea, 10 Smell, 11 Rash, 12 Enchant, 13 Sum, 14 Glee, 16 Step, 18 Pie, 20 Air base, 21 Page, 24 Eclat, 25 Adipose, 26 Switch, 27 Evert.

Down:

- 1 Secure, 2 Avers, 3 Doss, 5 Test case, 6 Iterate, 7 Gelato, 8 Salem, 13 Semantic, 15 Lorelei, 17 Havens, 18 Pedal, 19 Deceit, 22 Abode, 23 Kite.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Condor, 4 Pencil, 9 Agree, 10 Crazy, 11 Snag, 12 Sociable, 13 Lease, 15 Weird, 18 Reserved, 21 Spot, 24 Illness, 25 Amass, 26 Errant, 27 Bakery.

Down:

- 1 Chaos, 2 Narrate, 3 Oven, 5 Examine, 6 Climb, 7 Larder, 8 Echo, 12 Sue, 14 Surgeon, 15 Wed, 16 Replace, 17 Braise, 19 Solar, 20 Easy, 22 Tasty, 23 Cava.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

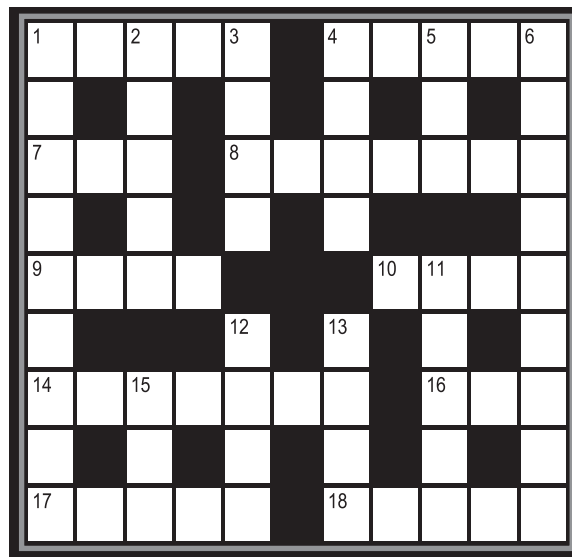
- 1 Camisetas, 8 Sweet potato, 9 Acta, 10 Belt, 13 Tennis de mesa, 14 Escarlata.

Down:

- 2 Aceitunas, 3 Into, 4 Esos, 5 Amazement, 6 Asfalto, 7 Postman, 11 Isla, 12 Bell.

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Yearning (desire) (5)
- 4 Arches (5)
- 7/5 Huevera (3,3)
- 8 Hornet (7)
- 9 Plancha (utensilio) (4)
- 10 Oriente (4)
- 14 Lawyer (7)
- 16 Gold (metal, commodity, currency) (3)
- 17 Forma (figura) (5)
- 18 Suit (for man) (5)

Down

- 1 Estadounidenses (9)
- 2 Century (5)
- 3 Abbot (4)
- 4 Celery (4)
- 5 See 7 Across
- 6 Insolación (9)
- 11 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
- 12 Coffee (4)
- 13 Pie (anatómico) (4)
- 15 Goose (domestic) (3)

CODE BREAKER



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TO READ MORE

Kissing has a range of benefits

VALENTINE'S DAY may have come and gone but don't forget to continue kissing your loved one. As well as showing them you care, it could also be good for your health as scientists have proven that it can trigger a range of physiological processes from boosting your immunity, to improving your connection with your partner.

Good for teeth

Kissing increases saliva flow which helps keep the mouth, teeth and gums healthy and reduce plaque build up.

Boosting immunity

As saliva produced by kissing can help oral hygiene, it can also give your immune system a boost as exchanging saliva can introduce new bacteria to the body which can help the body prepare for fighting off infections.

Calming effect

Kissing has been shown to de-



! KISSING: Can be good for our health.

crease the stress hormone cortisol and increase serotonin which is responsible for balancing mood levels. It also releases oxytocin, also known as the 'love' hormone that promotes bonding in humans.



Kissing has been shown to decrease the stress hormone cortisol.

Anti-aging

Kissing increases blood flow to the face and this helps stimulate the production of collagen that is needed to plump out the skin to reduce the appearance of wrinkles.

Burns calories

Studies report that kissing can burn between two and six calories per minute, but add a little tongue action and using these extra muscles can burn up to 26 calories per minute.

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Active beauty for 2017

'ACTIVE BEAUTY' has been identified by Mintel Beauty and Personal Care (BPC) as a key trend set to impact the global beauty and personal care industry in 2017, with consumers being encouraged to exercise their bodies and brains.

Jane Henderson, Global President, Beauty and Personal Care Division at Mintel, said: "Health and wellness is increasingly talked about as an integral part of daily life from a physical and an emotional standpoint. Now, companies and brands are perfectly positioned to better align themselves with this interest by innovating beauty and personal care products designed to meet the unique needs of active consumers."

Vivienne Rudd, Director of Global Insights, Beauty and Personal Care at Mintel, added:

"Looking ahead, we will see more brands driving the 'Active Beauty' trend by launching a number of new and innovative products that not only prepare and support consumers before and during physical and mental activity, but aid in the recovery process as well. Expect to see beauty brands play with temperature and water-activated products, partner with DNA analysis to provide personalised beauty regimes and team up with retailers on athletic apparel with time-release product features."

'Active Beauty' is one of the beauty and personal care trend predictions for 2017 by Mintel, the world's leading market intelligence agency.



ACTIVE BEAUTY: To encourage people to exercise their bodies and brains.

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Avoiding eye strain with computer work



EYE FATIGUE: Symptoms can include eyes becoming dry, tired and red leading to blurred vision.

AROUND 13 million Spaniards suffer daily from eye fatigue and dryness as a result of frequent use of computers and electronic devices.

It can be a problem especially for those who work in offices where lighting or ventilation conditions are not adequate. However, according to international studies, seven out of 10 adults accept the symptoms of visual fatigue as 'normal' as the population has become more accustomed to the consequences of a digital lifestyle.

Spending at least two hours in front of electronic devices can lead to the eyes becoming dry, tired and red, leading to blurred vision and difficulty in focusing. Visual fatigue can al-

so create physical discomfort such as headaches, neck, shoulder and back ache.

To try and prevent symptoms, it is recommended to rest every hour and look away from the screen. Remember to blink. It may sound simple, but constantly staring at the screen results in reduced blinking and this is essential for moisturising the eyes. Maintain the correct distance between your eyes and the computer screen. Sit parallel to the screen and ideally keep it 50cm from your eyes.

Temperature, humidity and ventilation can all put the eyes under strain if at extreme levels so it is important to check the humidity and ensure there is adequate ventilation.

TIREDDNESS: Is even having an effect on the Mediterranean diet.



Spanish cry for sleep

By Matthew Elliott

MANY Spanish people, especially during the hot summer months, complain of tiredness and fatigue. With more and more people commuting to work the siesta - long a way of winding down during the day - has instead become simply a long lunch break.

Pressures in the office mean that many people feel compelled to work, or at least think about work, during their break. If not then the time is often spent preparing things for a busy home life, with children to pick up from school, groceries to buy, appointments to keep.

Recent surveys have revealed that more and more people are reporting stress from working days which last from 9am to 8pm, after which they must attend to family concerns. The government is aware of the problem and has

proposed a more typical 9 to 5 affair.

Another proposition is moving Spain's time zone into sync with Britain's, after Franco moved the clocks forward one hour to support the Nazis. With it becoming darker an hour earlier, a shift to earlier finishing hours would be easier and people might get to bed earlier instead of eating at 10pm.

Tiredness is even having an effect on the famed Mediterranean diet. More and more Spaniards are reporting reaching for sugary snacks, energy drinks and fast food to boost energy during marathon 11 hour shifts.

People in office work are typically stationary during the day, yet eating more calories than ever before. Little wonder that Spain's obesity rates are rising quickly, despite global conceptions that Spaniards are glowing with health.

Worryingly there is a correlating growth in the number of products ad-

vertised to help people relax in order to get a good night's sleep. Rather than enjoying a healthy work-life balance, many Spanish are now locked in a chemical cycle of poor sleep, unhealthy food, long hours and medicines to induce 'relaxation.' A far cry from the lifestyles enjoyed by the grandparents of today's younger workers, even if the older generation might have endured more poverty and hardship.

The problem is that in today's globalised world, Spanish workers are in competition with billions of others across the planet. Jobs are inherently unstable and there are intense pressures to get new skill sets or risk becoming redundant.

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Repair the damage with conditioner

EVERY time we use a blow dryer or tongs, pull our hair into a tight ponytail or even brush it we're putting extra stress on it and causing unwanted damage.

Then to make things worse, damaged hair gets dry and rough which leads us on a vicious circle as we reach for the hot tools again to try and tame it.

While the experts tell us to always use a heat protector and apply a mask every week without fail, if we're honest about it there are most probably times that really isn't going to happen. Yet there is good news: with a religious daily conditioning routine, the worst can be

kept in check at least temporarily.

While some women stay away from conditioners, claiming they weigh hair down or make it fall flat, it is actually quite the opposite. By skipping conditioner, they expose their hair to damage which will wear away the cuticle layer, making every strand seem thinner.

With the right type of conditioner, your hair will not only be smooth, silky and detangled but it will look healthier too. Ask your hairdresser for advice on the ideal conditioner for you and make her, and yourself, a promise to use it every single time you wash your hair without fail!

Heart to heart

AN American hospital is offering transplant patients the chance to hold their removed organs.

The Baylor University Hospital in Texas offers the unusual

'Heart to Heart' scheme which allows them to see their hearts that are removed and transplanted with a new one. It started as a cardiologist stored every heart he removed to later study, a process he began in 1993. He then began letting patients informally see their organs but the hospital now offers it as a standard option.

“ The unusual scheme allows people to see their hearts.

So far more than 70 people have been given the chance to see their failing heart that is often grey after being soaked in formaldehyde to preserve it.

Storing body parts is an expensive procedure but the professor at the hospital claimed it was necessary and has since gone on to give one of the most detailed papers on hearts from 1997 to 2015.

Ask The

Doctor

Brought to you by



Lowdown on shingles



| SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

A READER'S letter regarding shingles made us decide to ask the doctor for some facts on an illness most of us have heard of, but not many know much about.

- Shingles is what you get if you've already had chicken pox, is that right?

Yes, that's right. Shingles consists of a painful rash formed by blisters. It is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same one which causes chicken pox.

- What are the symptoms?

The first sign is usually pain or a tingling or burning sensation on just one side of the body. The pain and burning sensation can be very intense and generally will be the first symptom to appear before there are any signs of a rash. In most patients, patches then appear on the skin followed by small blisters. Other symptoms can include: abdominal pain, fever and shivering, feeling generally unwell, genital ulcers, headache, joint pain and swelling of the lymphatic glands.

- How long do the symptoms usually last?

This varies but they can last up to a few months.

- What can be done to alleviate the symptoms? Can they be reduced without medicines, with acupuncture for example?

Shingles can be treated with an antiviral medicine to beat the virus. This will help reduce the pain, prevent complications and shorten the illness. Treatment with this medication should start within 72 hours after feeling the first pain or burning sensation. It should be started before the blisters appear.

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

This medication is usually given in tablet form, although in some cases patients may require treatment to be administered with a drip.

Strong anti-inflammatory medications known as corticosteroids, like prednisone, can be used to reduce swelling and pain. These medicines do not work for everyone.

Other medication can include: antihistamines (oral or topical) to reduce itching, pain killers, Zostrix (a capsaicin cream to reduce pain).

Acupuncture and other measures such as relaxation techniques can help control the symptoms.

- How long does it take to cure?

This varies and in some cases can take months or even years.

- Is it contagious?

It can be, especially when blisters are weeping, so patients should try to avoid others coming into contact with them.

- Can you catch it more than once?

You can have shingles more than once as the virus remains dormant in the glands and symptoms can reappear at different times.

- Is there a vaccination to prevent it?

There is a vaccination against shingles and it is different from the vaccination against chicken pox. Older adults who receive the vaccination against shingles are less likely to suffer complications due to this illness.

What exactly makes a TV advertisement most effective?

BRAIN scans have helped reveal what makes a TV advert most effective.

Researchers at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (RSM) carried out a study to try and discover what triggers people to find the product online after seeing an advert, by scanning the brains of a group of 'guinea pig' consumers.

The group was shown 11 different adverts, all created for the same brand of pain-relieving muscle and joint gel and assessed the reactions of each ad.

The brain scans revealed that an advert works best when it highlights both a product's functional benefits and triggers the viewer's imagination. These work together to activate specific parts of the viewer's brain, to make the advert more effective.

The study aimed to examine online search behaviour, and to find the elements most effective in prompting consumers.

GROUP: Was shown 11 different adverts.



Linda Couwenberg, who led the research, said: "This study shows that the effectiveness of a marketing message cannot be explained by isolating just one simple brain process. Successful TV adverts trigger a complex combination of processes in the brain."

“ The study examined online search behaviour to find the elements most effective in prompting customers.

She added: "By understanding which elements of an advert are most effective in doing what, we believe marketing, advertising and media professionals will be better placed to optimise the creative development of adverts."



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TO READ MORE

Bello Horizonte still a favourite in La Nucia

By Linda Hall

SEVEN French journalists recently visited the Bello Horizonte Extension Administrativa building in La Nucia.

The prize-winning building has made La Nucia an international reference point for modern architecture and the writers were shown round by its designer Jose Luis Campos.

The journalists, who work on design and architectural publications, were attending the CEVISAMA ceramics trade fair in Valencia City, which they visit each year.

While in the region they habitually visit outstanding buildings, this time choosing La Nucia 'because it champions architecture combined with ceramics.' They praised the originality and functionality of the La Nucia buildings and above all the Bello Horizonte council offices which won an ArchitizerA+ Award in May 2016, the architectural equivalent of an Oscar.



OSCAR-WINNER: French journalists with Jose Luis Campos.

Jose Luis Campos and the Crystalzoo studio are responsible for other emblematic La Nucia buildings including the

Municipal Library, the La Casilla Third Age centre, the Day Centre and the El Captivador Environmental Centre.

First festival for budding rockstars

THE first edition of the NyesproRock festival in Valenciano will be held in Callosa on April 22. The event aims to provide young groups or individuals with the chance to introduce themselves to the public although established rocks bands from the Valencia region's music scene will also be appearing.

A jury will choose four groups or solo artists from applicants who have until March 31 to provide them with a Spotify, Grooveshark, Myspace, YouTube or Dropbox link to at least three original numbers.

Those selected will perform at the festival in April and receive €50 to cover expenses. They will also compete for a €300 jury prize with €200 for the winner of the public vote.

As well as music there will be many other activities including skate demonstrations, a barbecue at popular prices and 'many surprises' according to the organisers.

For further details see the Callosa Town Hall website www.callosa.es, the NyesproRock's Facebook page or email nyesprorock@gmail.com

Tapas route with prizes

ALTEA'S "Horta de Primavera" tapas route will be held between March 24 and April 9.

Participating bars and restaurants will offer two tapas using typical spring produce. One must be based on broad beans but chefs may choose their ingredients for the second. Each tapa

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Photo credit: Villajoyosa town hall

WARM WELCOME: Felipe Orts arrives in Villajoyosa.

Local boy done good

By Linda Hall

MORE than 400 people turned out in Villajoyosa to congratulate Felipe Orts for his Cyclo-Cross win.

Orts took a silver medal in the Under-23's category in the World Championships held last month in Bieles (Luxembourg) and there were crowds waiting for him at Finca

La Barbera.

After talking to fans, signing autographs and posing for selfies Orts went on to the Llar del Pensionistas.

"We Vileros feel as though your medal is ours and hope this is the first of many achievements and a prosperous career," Sports councillor Jose Ramon Ucles told the cyclist at the reception in his honour.

Nordic walking to Santiago

THE Valencian Community Nordic Walking Association will be walking to Santiago de Compostela between May 6 and 13.

They will follow the English Route, setting out from Alfaz del Pi and covering 121kms in five stages in order to receive a Compostela Pilgrim Certificate.

The pilgrims will be accompanied on the journey by two monitors giving round-the-clock support. Luggage will be taken care of, hotel accommodation arranged and Nordic Walking poles provided.

Everything has been planned so participants can concentrate on completing and enjoying the road to Santiago without problems.

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Get down and dirty with Nasty Boogie blues band

By Linda Hall

VALENCIA City's top blues entertainers are performing for the Costa Blanca Blues music appreciation group in Benidoleig on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

Nasty Boogie, one of the province's hardest-working blues band, came into being in 2006 and over the decade have perfected their craft and built up their repertoire.

This ranges from upbeat boogies, jives and swings to deep blues, walking blues, train blues and basically all forms from the Delta, Chicago, California and Texas.

"It will be so great to finally witness the blues energy of Nasty Boogie," explained event organiser and monster blues fan, Karla Darocas, who started the group in order to bring blues bands to the Marina Alta.

"It has taken a long time to get this band to perform for Costa Blanca Blues, but now our time has come!" Karla said.

Nasty Boogie's guitarist, Raul Rabadan is a powerhouse player but can pick out the notes with a light touch too.

Daniel Tena, a featured guest at the annual Harp Attack Showdown, is a master har-

**NASTY BOOGIE: Valencia region's premier blues band.**

monica player and a real showman. Like many Spanish vocalists he sings in English to preserve the intensity of the blues.

Fran Moreno (bass) and Juanjo Iniesta (drums) are both professional musicians who keep the blues beat on track.

According to Raul Rabadan, the band likes to get the audience involved and encourages dancing and singing along to the

songs. "We have a great time and we like to have fun with our fans!" admitted the entertainer.

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Tattoo enthusiasts prepare for first Costa convention

By Caroline Tyszka

THE first ever Tattoo Convention on the Costa Blanca is just weeks away.

The three-day event is due to take place in Benidorm over the St Patrick's Day weekend, from March 17 to 19, at the Mediterraneo hotel opposite Benidorm Palace.

Organisers, RKA Tattoos and Benidorm All Year Round, who created the event, are now putting the finishing touches in place, booking musicians and arranging competition prizes.

It is hoped that the convention will become an annual event for tattoo enthusiasts from all over the world, and, with the full support of Benidorm Town Hall together with the Tourism Board it has been promoted at the many travel fairs that they attend throughout Europe.

With over 40 stalls, including visiting tattoo and piercing artists from Spain, UK and around the world organisers believe that the convention will offer a wide variety of the increasingly popular expressional art.

Karen Maling Cowles, co-owner of RKA Tattoos and one of the organisers said, "We are getting really excited now as there are only a few weeks to go, the interest we have had has been amazing."

"This, the first ever tattoo convention in Benidorm, will be bringing together all forms of body art under one roof with something for everyone."

Live music includes performances from the Meatloaf tribute act on the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, White Coast Rebels and the Willy Burret Xperience. There will also be Burlesque and 1920s fashion shows.

A body painting competition plus a male and female tattoo model contest are open to all, with organisers asking that anyone interested contact them to register.

Full details are available



TATTOO CONVENTION: Hoped to be an annual event.

at www.benidormtattooconvention.com or their Facebook page Benidorm Tattoo Convention.

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A great restaurant icon has passed away

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SAD NEWS from the world of hotels and restaurants that the icon that was Victor Ceserani has passed away at the very wonderful age of 97. He was taken into hospital two weeks prior to his death suffering from cancer. Born of Italian-Belgian parents on October 23, 1919 in Knightsbridge, London, Ceserani spent the first 20 years of his life living in Chelsea.

Shortly after his 15th birthday, keen to get away from academic subjects that he said were “beyond my comprehension,” he joined London’s Ritz hotel as an apprentice, on a salary of seven shillings and six pence (37 new pence) for a six-day week. It was while working at the Ritz that that he met his future wife, Letti, at the Pheasantry Club in the Kings Road. The couple remained devoted to one another throughout what Cesarani described as “an exceptionally happy marriage.”

Ceserani was one of those rare birds that combined academia with practical and creative culinary skills.

As Ceserani was technically Italian, he received his National Service papers for the Italian Army, but promptly tore them up as his father had just taken out UK nationality, and he didn’t regard himself as an Italian.

When war was declared in 1939, Ceserani joined the Royal Fusiliers, initially training as a motor mechanic. He was then promoted to lance corporal and moved to the officers’ mess as cook for the 19th Battalion of Fusiliers in Cheshire.

Throughout the war, he worked as an officers’ mess cook in many units until he was posted to France just after VE day and finally demobbed in June 1946.

On returning to London, Ceserani took on the position of second chef at Boodles. In 1948, he was promoted to head chef and one of his famous recipes during that time was roast beaver, which he had acquired from the local butcher as it was not on ration.



“ Much-respected as a teacher and a father figure.”

He has written countless books on the subject of food, food preparation, culinary skills et al. He was much-respected both as a teacher and a father figure to many well-known chefs. I was fortunate to meet him with Brian Turner many, many years ago in

London and my old colleague Gary Rhodes was one of his most enthusiastic students. Brian says he remembers all the wonderful, fun times, spent together.

During his career Ceserani was awarded an MBE for services to catering education in 1974. He finally retired in 1980 and was announced as an honorary fellow of Ealing College of Higher Education in 1982.

He was presented with the Catey Special Award, then called Personality of the Year, in 1984, and received the Catey Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992. In 1999, Ceserani was granted honorary life membership of the HCI-MA, which later became the Institute of Hospitality. He was also an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts.

He will be sadly missed but warmly remembered by those that benefited from his skills and compassion and his love of our industry.

A CATEY is the hotel industry’s equivalent of theatrical awards.



If you have Catch Up TV, you could follow James with Keith’s CV2 on a French adventure on ITV at 4.00pm.

CHEF AND TV PERSONALITY

James Martin resigned last year from his highly popular Saturday Morning Kitchen on the BBC. This light hearted look at food and the personality chefs that were guests on the programme regularly attracted viewers in excess of 3,000,000. He explained how he had been banned from making an omelette in public.

In an interview with *Heat Magazine*, Martin, who runs James Martin Kitchen in Stansted airport and James Martin Manchester in the Manchester235 Casino, revealed that his contract banned him from doing so. He said: “I’m not allowed to skydive, I’m not allowed to deep-sea dive, and then, ‘Not allowed to make an omelette in public.’”

The Omelette Challenge was a regular fixture on the BBC One Saturday morning show, where he invited the programme’s two guest chefs to make an omelette as quickly as possible using three eggs.

Martin’s job was to time the omelette-making and judge whether the often-uncooked dishes qualified for the leader board. He himself never

made an omelette on screen.

Chef Paul Rankin had previously held the record for the fastest omelette, but that accolade now goes to chef Theo Randall, chef at his eponymous site at the InterContinental London Park Lane hotel, whose 14.76 second effort from May 2015 has now been officially listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

James is travelling around France at the moment making a food programme, James Martin’s French Adventure. He’s driving my old friend Keith Floyd’s iconic CV2. Martin is an avid driver and collector of classic and performance cars. Knowing James’ passion for cars, Keith’s daughter Poppy called him and asked him if he would like to buy Keith’s old Citroen which was languishing away in a garage in France.

James immediately flew to France to collect it and drive it back to the UK. She had intimated that it was in excellent condition, but when it came back it had to undergo a fair amount of work to make it British MOT worthy. But body wise it is just about original.

HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD or is it just commerce and industry keeping up with an ever changing one. I was intrigued to find the following jobs being recently created.

Chief Listening Officer

Kodak hired Beth LaPierre as the first ever Chief Listening Officer in 2010. During her tenure, LaPierre engrossed herself on monitoring when and where Kodak was mentioned on social media channels, blogs, and anywhere else on the World Wide Web.

From her extensive data gathering, LaPierre would relay her insight to department heads and managers. Given ‘engagement’ is a focal point in the company-customer exchange, the first step remains to listen. Hiring a person to only listen is essential in beginning a meaningful conversation and relationship.

Influencer Agent

With the rise of social media, so came the meteoric rise of ordinary individuals who became well-known through a social media channels, known as ‘Influencers.’ One of the new jobs that has derived from the new business is Influencer agencies. These agencies have a network of ‘YouTubers,’ ‘Insta-famous,’ or other social media stars signed to work with them. For brands, agencies are responsible for finding the most suited Influencer. For an Influencer, it’s vital that the brand aligns with their public image and, together, create a successful campaign.

Emoji Translator

Global translation firm, Today Translations, put out the world’s first job advertisement for an Emoji Translator in November 2016. With emojis becoming a part of communication, it’s important to know exactly how different emojis are meant in varying cultures and contexts. For example, the emoji entitled ‘face with tears of joy’ is used by Westerners to convey laughter; in the Middle East, the symbol is used to express grief!

OVER THE YEARS I have attended many interviews and of course interviewed hundreds of young (and old) applicants, but

I have never known any interviewer ask the type of questions that a manager at TGI Fridays apparently asked an eager young recruit.

The interviewer reportedly asked if the applicant, who would like to remain anonymous, would ‘rather watch his parents have sex for a year or join in just for the start.’

Other questions included ‘would you rather s*** a brick or cry glass?’ during the interview for a part-time position at TGI Fridays in Derby’s intu centre.

Speaking to the *Derby Telegraph*, the interviewee said: “I’d already had a successful phone interview and I was really looking forward to this. It was a company I had heard good things about and I thought this job would suit me. The first question I was asked was whether I would rather watch my parents have sex for a year or join in just for the start. I was absolutely gobsmacked.

“Before I’d had chance to respond I was asked whether I would rather eat chocolate flavoured s*** or s*** flavoured chocolate. He seemed to think I would find it funny and join in. I thought it was disgusting, sick and pathetic.”

The interviewer has been suspended following the incident.

A spokesperson at TGI Fridays Derby said “As someone who loves being part of the Fridays’ family we are all really disappointed here with what’s happened and in no way does it reflect our Fridays’ values.”

In a statement, TGI Fridays said: “Fridays offers an industry-leading recruitment process, and this incident fell severely below our high standards.

“The questions posed during the interview with the candidate are absolutely not part of TGI Fridays’ interview process and we were very disappointed to learn of this incident. Immediate action was taken, with the person involved suspended.

“We have apologised to the candidate for the experience and offered them the opportunity to re-interview with us, which we hope they will take up.”

Glad to hear it!!!



AWKWARD MOMENT: Inappropriate questions were asked by the interviewer.

OUR RESTAURANT project has come to fruition with the final touches being completed on Tuesday of this week. Even though I say so myself the place looks great and thankfully the client is very pleased. The chef is happy and is indeed producing some good food. The total cost of the project was just under €12,000 including my fees. Not bad for a cosmetic reform! We now wait for approval from the customers.

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.

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.

Spain: Investment hotspot

ONE of the world's biggest accountancy firms has revealed that Spain is set to become even more of an investment hotspot in 2017. Ernst and Young, now known as EY, found that Madrid is a favourite among investors looking to relocate from the UK following the Brexit vote.

Spain's capital city ranked as the fifth most attractive in all of Europe, while Barcelona secured 10th spot. Only London, Paris, Frankfurt and Berlin fared better than Madrid in the survey of top executives.

Many real estate experts across Europe are eagerly waiting to see where the money will go if, as expected, a great deal of it leaves London. The most likely scenario is that it will spread across different countries but with one key base, almost certainly in Germany.

That still puts cities like Barcelona and Madrid in pole position to see even more real estate investment come their way. The twin pillars of Spain's booming economy have seen billions of euros ploughed into serious property projects in recent years.

Commercial spaces and hotels are the



MADRID: Looking for more real estate investment to come its way.

main agents of change and the trend looks certain to continue once the impact of Brexit is felt.

It also bodes very well for Spain's quickly evolving residential property market.

The country needs more homes quickly. With the commercial real estate sector looking so promising the construction industry has swung into full gear and 2017 is looking like a year of terrific growth on all fronts.

Good to be abroad

BRITAIN'S faltering real estate market saw house prices grow at their lowest annual rate in January 2017. Industry experts have predicted that this year will see the market finally experience its long-expected slowdown. Early results for January appear to have confirmed those expectations.

Nationwide, one of the country's biggest mortgage lenders, has described an ambiguous year ahead, with a 'cloudy' and 'uncertain' short term outlook for home owners. Annual property price growth stood at just 4.3 per cent in January, the lowest level since November 2015.

Rising inflation courtesy of the pound's plummet following the Brexit vote has taken over six months to sink its fangs into the property market, but its doing so was con-

sidered inevitable.

Experts still expect house prices to rise in 2017, albeit far slower than most homeowners have become accustomed too. Prices in and around central London may well drop substantially as the city edges past its property peak.

Preliminary statements from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors described the UK market as 'stuttering' towards the end of 2016 and enduring a slow start to 2017. There was a late surge of an average €4,000 price increase in December, the fastest since the Brexit vote.

But that appears to have been an anomaly. Regardless, at the end of the year the average house price in the UK reached an all-time high of £222,484 (£260,000).

Slowly but surely prices rise

THE average price for second hand property in Spain in January was €1,649 per m², 1.6 per cent more than a year ago.

The first month of 2017 was the fourth in a row to register price increases of more than 1 per cent, it was reported.

Prices went up in seven of the 17 Spanish regions, with the most expensive place to buy still Pais Vasco with an average of €2,706 per m² followed by Madrid (€2,241/m²) and Cataluña (€2,095/m²). At the opposite end of the scale, Castilla-La Mancha at €1,048/m², Extremadura at €1,105/m² and Murcia at €1,102/m² registered the most affordable prices.

Spanish market is looking rosier than ever

A STARTLING new report from the British government has admitted that England's property market is a mess. A new white paper confirmed the urgent need to build millions of new homes or face ruining the property dream of an entire generation.

Home building in England, a distinct

endeavour from policies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, has been conducted at the lowest rate in all of Europe according to the devastating report. House prices are now more than seven times the average annual income in many areas.

Young families are bearing the brunt

of the calamity. Many are being forced to while away more than half their monthly income on extortionate rents, making saving money for a deposit on a house extremely difficult.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid claims the solution is to increase new home production to 275,000 per year, up

from the 190,000 built in 2016. Critics say that is far from adequate and suggest the system needs a complete overhaul. Javid has already made waves with proposed solutions for the crisis. Last year he suggested that elderly people move out of their homes and into either smaller flats or sheltered accommodation.



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Future tech revolution

By Matthew Elliott

PROPERTY is set to be transformed by a vibrant new technology that will help people buy and sell homes faster than ever before. They will also do so with more transparency and an almost negligible risk of financial problems.

Known as Blockchain, the technology is in effect a digital database. It is decentralised and presently used to facilitate online transactions, store medical records, and in many ways manage the global economy.

Its predictive capabilities mean that major accounting firms, including Ernst and Young, PwC, and Deloitte are helping pioneer the technology.

What does blockchain technology mean for the real estate market? Well for starters it will allow almost anyone with a computer to access the entire transaction history of a property. This means that a buyer or seller won't have to rely on lawyers to quite the same ex-



BLOCKCHAIN: Giving the entire history of a property.

tent. Real estate agents will be able to increase their market knowledge ten-fold with immense digital databases at their fingertips. Local expertise will also increase as people from distant countries can get an incredibly accurate picture of

neighbourhood dynamics from just one local computer-savvy agent.

Payment issues will be dramatically different. Owners will be exposed to a new form of online banking using digital currencies to transfers funds to

etc in real time. Best of all will be the democratisation of information. Meaning you and your agent will have more power and knowledge than ever before, making mistakes a thing of the past.

Setting the right price

RENTING out spare property long term can help cover the costs and bring in a little extra cash every month, yet first time landlords tend to have a common question: how much to charge?

This is not an easy decision and there are a number of factors which will influence the price. At the end of the day the market sets the limits and the price we choose may also determine the tenants we find.

“Although the main factors which determine the value of accommodation are its location, position and size, there are other less objective parameters which must be kept in mind when stipulating a price,” says Joaquin Mencia, CEO of Uniplaces in Spain. The company, which books accommodation for university students, explained the keys which can determine the value of a rental apartment or home.

One of the most important factors is the location. Generally speaking, the more central the property, the higher the price. However, prices can still vary within the same neighbourhood so it's best to find out what is charged for similar properties in the area to get an idea of the average price.

Size is another factor which determines the rent. If a property is larger than average for the area then it will be worth more.

The state of the property will also obviously influence the price. If it has been recently renovated the rent can be put up about 10 per cent.

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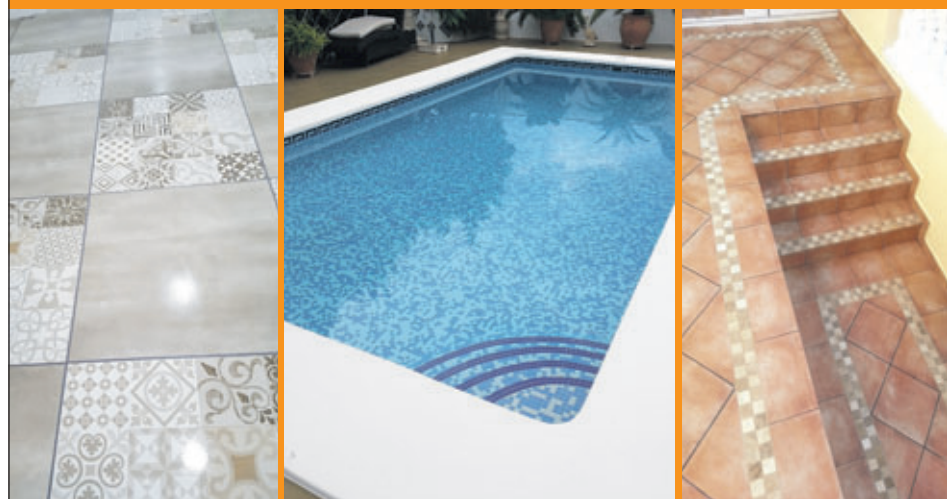
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HOUSEPLANTS: Leaves can become dirty.

Feed and clean

By Eleanor Hawkins

DUST and grime from outside and even the water we spray them with can dirty the leaves of houseplants or leave marks which make them look less than perfect.

There are many different products on the market to clean leaves and put a shine on them but to give your houseplants even more of a boost, go for one which feeds them too.

Plants can absorb liquids through their leaves, so adding nutrients to

“ **Plants can absorb liquid through their leaves.** ”

cleansers is a great way to kill two birds with one stone. The most common things included are nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium. Whichever one you choose remember to rub them in well after spraying them onto the leaves to obtain a nice shine.

Ornamental grasses for the home

By Graeme Tyrrell

WHEN we think of grass it is normally about lawns, but grasses can also add an element of interest to the ornamental garden and even in pot plants. There is a wide range of grasses that are cultivated for their showy flower spikes and low maintenance care in the Mediterranean garden.

Tussocks of ornamental grasses can be used to break up garden monotony by planting in groups, as hedges and for borders. They also suit pool areas as the debris from grasses is minimal if annually pruned.

For large gardens, Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), named after the South American region Pampas where they originate from, provides a great display of feathery plumes high above the dense clump of foliage, making it a perfect screening hedge of up to two metres high and wide.

For hedges plant one metre apart to ensure a full screen. Being a grass it is best cut back strongly in winter, after the flower display. The flowers usually emerge in late summer and autumn and there are white to pink shades available.

For smaller garden areas and containers I prefer the Fountain grasses (*Pennisetum setaceum*). They make a great border or back-



Photo by Luke Luke Shutterstock

PAMPAS GRASS: Provides a great display of feathery plumes.

ground plant that is very easy to manage. I have grown some for years from a division from a friend's plant and each year I have been extending its use in the garden as a low maintenance, easy to move space filler.

They don't need a lot of water once established and flower profusely with great dependability. The flowers can be harvested for use in dry flower arrangements so they can be on display in the house all year or incorporated into flower arrangements or decoration on gifts.

To divide ornamental grasses, it is just a matter of digging around the section of the

plant you wish to separate and prising them up. The relatively shallow roots make this easy and if the roots are kept moist, they will normally transplant successfully and commence growing quickly. It is difficult to grow these grasses from seed as the seed goes off quickly and as there are male and female plants single plants may not form seed.

There are dry area and wet area ornamental grasses but, except for pond areas or naturally moist areas, the dry area plants are the most suited to the Mediterranean as they require minimal watering and are hardier in the hot summer months.

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Clean and save

By Eleanor Hawkins

DID you know that keeping your lights and lamps clean can cut 20 per cent off your electricity bill? And that a lightbulb is only half as efficient if it's dirty? Scheduling regular lamp cleaning can reduce spending and also help the environment.

Lightbulbs should be cleaned carefully with a dampened cloth when they are switched off and cold, ensuring they are completely dry before they are turned on again. In the case of halogen lamps a dry cloth should be used.

Lampshades require different methods depending on what they are made of. For cloth or fabric, use the Hoover to remove dust and if there are stains apply a dry cleaning mouse.

Paper lampshades can be cleaned with a special dust-catching cloth or, in some cases, with a damp cloth.

Parchment shades should be cleaned by dipping a cloth in water with neutral soap. If you apply a few drops of liquid wax after cleaning, they will be left impeccable.

Glass lampshades should be washed with a mixture of ammonia and water then dried with a soft cloth.

LAMP SHADES:
Require different methods of cleaning.



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Less stress for new plants

EVER noticed that the perfectly healthy looking plant you bought from the garden centre started to drop leaves not long after you got it home?

Stress is the culprit and is caused by the sudden change from warm, humid greenhouse conditions to the drier, cooler conditions of its new residence.

Although this isn't the end of the world and most plants will adapt quite quickly to their new surroundings and pick themselves up again, you can assist them by providing them with as much natural light and humidity as possible, Spanish TV gardener Iñigo Seguro recommends.

Everything you wanted to know about the processionary caterpillar

By John Smith

MUCH is written and talked about the processionary caterpillar which makes an annual unwanted appearance across Spain early in the year, causing considerable upset and discomfort to adults and animals.

The pine processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) which lives for about a year, lays its eggs in the upper part of pine trees and although there is some control from natural predators including small birds, crickets and wasps at various stages of development, the caterpillar itself is without doubt a public enemy of the worst kind.

After the moth lays its eggs, the larvae once hatched eat pine needles and build a white silken nest in which large numbers of the larvae are lodged until they reach caterpillar stage in February or March depending upon the weather.

Numbers of these caterpillars

which measure between three and four centimetres have already been reported leaving their trees and proceeding along the ground in their elephant like processions, although in a much smaller scale.

As they become large enough to leave the trees, they are covered in tiny toxin-laden bristles which detach easily and contain an irritating protein thaumetopoein which can cause dermatitis, eye damage and severe allergic reaction in adults, children and pets.

Most at risk are very young children and animals who can become curious about the caterpillars as they either fall from their trees or march through the undergrowth and with dogs in particular, the hairs can be transferred to their paws and irritate the animal.

Worse than irritation however is if the animal then licks its paw, it can take the barbed hair into its mouth and ingest the toxin, effectively poisoning

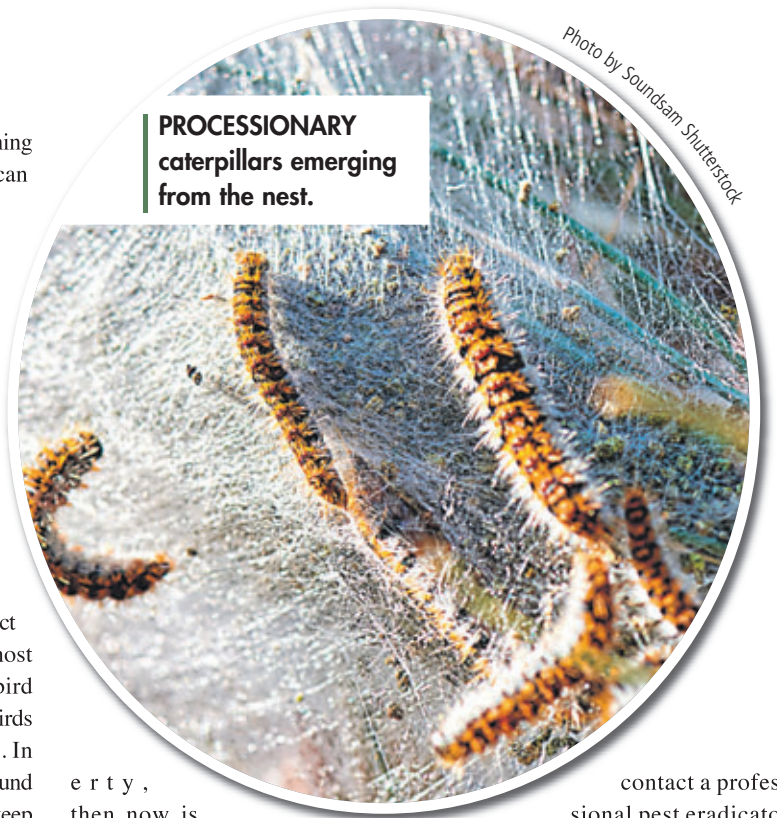
itself resulting in vomiting, breathing difficulties and if left untreated can cause death.

Even speedy treatment from a vet can result in disfigurement or loss of part of the animal's face as the toxin is so fast acting and dangerous.

Any pine tree is a potential host to this monstrous insect and whilst various attempts are made to destroy the larvae, the most effective way to battle the caterpillar is to avoid any area where it is likely to nest.

Some councils have tried to inject a form of poison into potential host trees whilst others have set up bird boxes to attract small predatory birds to areas of potential infestation. In many cases however, they have found that the best form of defence is to keep watch on potential problem areas and then remove and destroy nests when spotted.

If you have pine trees on your prop-



PROCESSIONARY caterpillars emerging from the nest.

Photo by Soundsam Shutterstock

erty, then now is the time to keep a close watch on them and if you do spot a nest or indeed living caterpillars, you would be best advised to

contact a professional pest eradicator rather than risk removing the culprits yourself, but if you insist on DIY lock up your animals and wear a mask, glasses and gloves!

Other insect pests

By John Smith

WHILST the pine processionary caterpillar causes particularly nasty symptoms, this is not the only insect in Spain that can cause illness in domestic animals.

A small yellow sand fly, not unlike a mosquito, tends to be attracted to dogs and bites them on exposed areas such as the nose and ears and a deadly illness known as Leishmaniasis is incubated within the dog for up to a year before symptoms are displayed.

Infected animals can lose the hair around their eyes and grow exceptionally long claws and then start to lose weight, appear anaemic and eventually suffer kidney fail-

ure and die if not treated by a vet.

Another problem which can affect dogs and cats is Heartworm, a parasite which is transmitted by the bite of the mosquito and grows from the larvae stage to a worm within the blood vessels in the lungs causing blockages after about six months.

Early signs include a cough and lethargy in the animal but in the most advanced cases presence of the parasite leads to severe weight loss, fainting, coughing up blood, and finally, congestive heart failure.

Early treatment following the first signs of a problem can ensure the survival of the animal after checking that its vital signs and organs are strong.



SAND FLIES: Bad news for dogs.

Photo by Wikimedia

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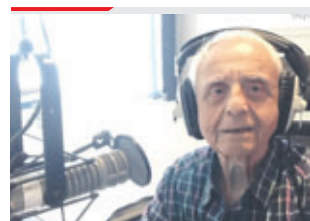
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DOGS that ritualistically scratch and lick could well be indicating that there is an allergic reaction to the food they are eating, or to an ingredient in the food. If the body defence mechanisms are in action, this will in turn trigger off cells, which release histamine into the body.

In the dog, these cells are located in their greatest numbers

on the feet and the legs, around the ears, eyes and nose, on the root of the tail and on the chest and abdomen. Frantic licking or scratching in these areas, especially shortly after eating a meal, will eventually damage the skin and leave it open to infection.

Some behaviours of licking and scratching are so extreme that they get to the point where the dog or cat does not want to sleep. They only want to do this particular behaviour.

Tail chasing and tail chewing in Bull Terriers, flank sucking in Dobermans, hind end licking and sucking in Schnauzers is well reported many dogs suffer imaginary flies and chase them.

It is important that if you find your animal is scratching or licking excessively that the first report is made to your vet who will be able to determine if in fact this is an allergic reaction to food or whether the behaviour



SCRATCHING: Allergic reaction?

has medical cause.

Parasites, skin problems or arthritis could cause excessive licking; liver disease could also cause unusual behaviour; and bowel or anal problems could result in hind end checking by your vet.

Some vets now understand the value of a canine behaviourist and often refer to them to enable a study of the particular behaviour to see if it is a learned response to the animal's owner. After physical causes and learned behaviours are ruled out, a vet or animal behaviourist takes a detailed history of events to find out what is triggering the behaviour.

Some of the common causes

include a new baby or spouse in the family, moving to a new home, holiday periods like Christmas when the animal gets less attention, when children go off to boarding school. Less attention paid to the pet or even less exercise, frustration at being left alone in too small an area or being confined for too long and harsh or inconsistent punishment. If a pet does not know what to expect from its owners, then this can cause conflict.

Many cases where a dog is seen licking itself by its owner and the owner getting frustrated shouting 'Stop licking' is enough to cause conflict in the pet's mind.



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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“This is the thing you have to remember. Alpha build a car to be as good as a car can be... briefly.”

Some might say...



Motoring shorts

Velar is unveiled

THE fourth edition to the Range Rover family goes on sale in spring 2017.

The brand new Range Rover Velar has been described as ‘avant garde’ and will challenge Porsche’s Macan for brash, sporty supremacy.

The Velar, named after the Latin ‘velaris’ meaning ‘to veil,’ slips into the perceived gap between the Range Rover Sport and the Evoque

It will have a panoramic glass roof and be powered by a JLR 2.0 litre turbo petrol and diesel engine.

In keeping with its name the full design is being kept under wraps until before the Geneva Motor Show in mid-March. Its first public debut was held on March 1 at a plush RR event.

Vintage velocity at Race Retro

By Matthew Elliott

ONE of Britain’s best auctions took place over the weekend from February 24-26 and, as always, didn’t disappoint with the motoring gems on display. The Race Retro historic motorsport show is in its 14th year and boasted its most fantastic ever collection of racing, rallying, touring, vintage, retro and marquee vehicles.

Thousands gathered at Warwickshire’s Stoneleigh Park to get a taste of the action and see motoring heroes, including Freddie Spencer and Ari Vatanen, live in person.

Among the mechanical stars of the show was a 1988 BMW E30 M3 which won dozens of touring trophies during a dynamic spell that saw it hailed as a historic great. Another German-built gem was the effortlessly cool ‘Batmobile,’ the BMW CSL 3.0 built in 1972.

Ford was well represented with its 1988 Escort RS Turbo that has unexpectedly gained legendary status over the years, a 1990 Ford Fiesta RS Turbo, and a custom built ‘72 Ford

Capri Perana V8 with a 5.0 litre Mustang engine. A real piece of Ford history could be found in the ‘65 Cortina that won accolades on the track.

Other huge hits at the auction included a modified 1974 Ferrari Dino, a 1960 Austin Mini Cooper with a 1.275 cc engine and twin fuel tanks, a 1980 Porsche 911 Turbo, and an original 1994 Lancia Delta Integrale with just over 13,000km on the clock.

A BMW CSL
Batmobile.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Hyundai Tucson Premium SE

COMPACT SUV models currently enjoy enormous popularity, with a wealth of competitors vying for customers in one of the most active sectors of the UK car market.

Kia Sportage, Renault Kadjar, SEAT Ateca, Ford Kuga, Nissan Qashqai, VW Tiguan and Peugeot 3008 are among formidable rivals that the latest Hyundai Tucson has to take on - but in my view it is more than up to the challenge.

The Tucson holds plenty of aces - it is more eye-catching than some rivals, more spacious and better equipped too, and its five-year warranty beats most of the opposition and helps it have very strong residual values. Prices start at €22,823 (£19,450), petrol and diesel options are available and depend-

ing on model, two or four wheel drive.

Even entry-level models come with features such as alloy wheels, air conditioning and Bluetooth, and my test model was the flagship Premium SE which has heated and cooling electric front seats, a heated steering wheel, electric tailgate, larger 19-inch alloys, panoramic glass sunroof, roof-rails, reversing camera and parking sensors, an eight-inch touchscreen, sat-nav, and a list of 32 safety and security features including rear cross-traffic alert and lane departure warning.

In two-wheel-drive 1.7 litre diesel form, with seven-speed auto gearbox, this top-spec model costs €31,325

(£29,695). Top speed is 185 kmph (115 mph), 0-100 kph and 0-60 mph time is 11.5 seconds and fuel economy is 20.3 kmpl (57.6 mpg) combined.

With a new chassis, new engines and new technology, the Tucson has a lot to offer but what impressed me most was its driving feel. It seems absolutely in touch with the driver, with intuitive steering response, beautifully composed ride quality and precise and assured handling. The 140 hp diesel unit is quiet and refined, the dual-clutch auto gearbox ultra-smooth with its changes.

Over the months, I have driven all the main opposition models, and the Tucson is the one I have enjoyed most for overall driving dynamics.

Striking exterior styling

gives the Tucson plenty of charisma and while the cabin looks rather less exciting, it is well designed for function and ease of use, with a clean uncluttered look and a quality appearance that matches that of Volkswagen.

Seating is comfortable and supportive, and there is good space in the rear for even taller adults. The boot space of 513 litres is larger than that of the Qashqai and Kadjar, and expands to 1,503 litres.

The latest Tucson is light years ahead of the original version in all respects and it is now in a commanding position in a segment already crowded with some excellent rivals. No doubt about it in my view, Tucson has to be on the short list of any potential SUV buyer.



TUCSON: Holds plenty of aces.

Stats panel:

Model: Hyundai Tucson Premium SE
Engine: 1.7 litre diesel
Transmission: 7-speed automatic
Performance:
0-100 kmph (0-60 mph) 11.5 seconds, top speed 185 kmph (115 mph)
Economy: 20.3 kmpl (57.6 mpg) combined
Emissions: 129g/km

Motoring memorabilia

AN eagle-eyed wife came to her husband's rescue when he almost stripped his old Porsche for parts. Rummaging in the paperwork she discovered that the previous owner was none other than

George Harrison.

Amazingly Raj Sedha had no idea that Harrison was a former Beatle and one of the most famous men in the history of music. Harrison bought the Porsche 928 S

new in the late 1990s, owning it for four years before he died in 2001.

Sedha bought it two years later with the immediate intention of stripping it for a minor profit. Now, over a decade later, he has fixed it up to pass its MOT and will sell the remodelled Porsche at a special Beatles memorabilia auction in Warrington, England on March 17.

Dealers expect it to fetch at least €25,000, ideally going to a massive Beatles fan and classic car collector. Needless to say, Sedha owes his wife a night out.

And that's not the only

chunk of history going up for sale in England. A second-hand car dealer in Gloucester is cashing in on Donald Trump's unexpected stampede to the White House by selling a Trump-designed Cadillac for €60,000.

Like most of Trump's business ventures this one has his name on it. Officially named the 'Cadillac Trump' there were only two designed in 1988. This one was kept in the Trump family before sailing across the Atlantic in 1991. It has just 45,000 miles on the clock and may well fetch far more than the asking price at auction.

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SOCIETY members were delighted to see a beautiful day for the Singles Stableford Competition, with the sun shining and the wind very gentle at Oliva Nova on Tuesday February 21.

It was great to see a field of 41 players turn up. There were three guests on the day, George Smith, David Oram and John Porter. The guest prize was won by David Oram with 25 points.

In the main competition, the results were :

Division one: 1st Peter Rappley with 38 points, handicap of 10.7. 2nd Derek Lindley with 37 Points, handicap of 14.2. 3rd Shaun O'Gorman with 35 Points, handicap of 5.3. 4th John Snelling with 34 Points, handicap of 10.4.

Division two: 1st Suzy Snelling with 37 Points, handi-

Pego Golf Society



OLIVA NOVA: Where members played a singles stableford competition.

cap of 18.4. 2nd Martin Livesey with 34 Points, handicap of 18.9. 3rd John Evans with 33 Points, handicap of 18.7. 4th Angus Muuir with 31 Points, handicap of 18.9.

The 'Balls in the Water' total was 94 and the prize was won by Angus Muir.

Nearest the Hole: Hole 5 Shaun O'Gorman, 0.63 metres with his second shot and hole 16 Angus Muir, 2.36 metres.

Paul Trigwell achieved the only 'Two.'

Next week, the society are again at Oliva Nova, where a Pairs Texas Scramble Competi-

tion will be played. This is a lot of fun and should you wish to be included in the field, please contact the secretary by emailing Penny Barden at pegohandicapsec@gmail.com or enter via the website www.pegogolfsociety.com. A warm welcome awaits you.

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Orba Warblers report



LA SELLA: Captains past and present were the conquering heroes.

ON February 22 in the Stableford at La Sella captains present and past were the conquering heroes. They came, conquered and gathered up most of the prizes. Course conditions were not optimal but the perfect weather made up for the difficult challenges.

In division one past captain David Knight (Hcap 9.7) came first with 31pts (winning on countback) followed by Robin Wheatley (Hcap 12.3) also with 31pts. Not far behind in third was Steve Smith (Hcap 5) with 30pts.

In division two, captain Clive Kay (20) came first with 33pts with Barbara Pollitt

(23.4) in second with 32pts and honorary president and past captain Arthur Sullivan in third with 31pts. There were three two's on holes 5 and 8 captain Clive Kay and on hole 13 past captain David Knight.

The football card was Burnley won by past captain Arthur Sullivan. There were two guests Sylvia and Will Evans.

Next week, March 1, will be at Alicante for a Stableford. First tee time is 9.57am so please arrive by 9.15am for registration. Guests are welcome subject to availability and current handicap certification.

To book please contact Michael Taylor at mjt@stylepms.com or call 639 242 896.

Congratulations to United and farewell Claudio

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 Torre.

Costa de Almeria

FOOTBALL

I'll start by congratulating Manchester United on their 3-2 League Cup final victory over 'unlucky' Southampton last Sunday. It was United's fifth triumph in this competition and Jose Mourinho becomes the first manager to win a trophy in his first season in charge at Old Trafford.

This weekend there are some vital, very vital, Premiership matches at both ends of the table.

Down at the basement, reigning champions Leicester (who sacked manager Claudio Ranieri last week) meet fellow strugglers Hull in six-pointer at The King Power Stadium... while at the top, Liverpool take on Arsenal, Tottenham face Everton and runaway leaders Chelsea have a London derby against West Ham (Monday).

The other fixtures include Manchester United v Bournemouth, Sunderland (bottom) v Manchester City, Swansea v Burnley and WBA v Crystal Palace.

The Championship's top two, Brighton and Newcastle, travel to Nottingham Forest and Huddersfield (third) respectively while Birmingham City (with only two wins from 13 League games under manager Gianfranco Zola) play Sheffield Wednesday (fourth). And there's a key relegation battle involving Blackburn who have Tony Mowbray in charge, against Wigan.

The big fixture at the top of FL1 involves Scunthorpe (2nd) against Fleetwood (3rd) and in

FL2 there are long return journeys for play-off chasing Exeter who go to Hartlepool (696 miles) and for Carlisle (3rd) who visit second-placed Plymouth (780).

The Scottish Cup quarter-finals are Hibs v Ayr and Rangers v Hamilton (Saturday) and Aberdeen v Partick and Celtic v St Mirren (Sunday)

Earlier this week we had the second legs of the last 16 Champions League ties featuring Arsenal (trailing 5-1) v Bayern Munich and Napoli (1-3 down) v Real Madrid (Tuesday) and Barcelona (trailing 4-0) v Paris St Germain (last night).

And also last night, Manchester City played Huddersfield in a fifth round FA Cup replay, while on Tuesday there was a crunch Championship game involving the top two, Newcastle v Brighton.

There were recent personal milestones for Gareth McAuley and Darren Fletcher of WBA; Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas of Chelsea and Harry Kane and Dele Alli of Spurs.

MAuley and Fletcher scored on their 500th club and 300th PL appearances respectively in a 2-1 win over Bournemouth; Costa and Fabregas netted in their 300th career and 300th Premiership appearances in a 3-1 victory over Swansea and Kane and Alli hit their 100th club and 50th club and

and



SIX NATIONS:
England top the table.

country goals in a 4-0 hammering of Stoke. Kane also completed his third hat-trick of 2016-17 against the Potters.

Serie 'A' leaders Juventus have now won 30 home games in succession (a record) and Carlo Ancelotti, celebrating his 1,000th game as a club manager, saw his current club Bayern Munich whip Hamburg 8-0.

CRICKET

Although the winter season remains with us, England's cricketers are still in action - and tomorrow they play the West Indies in the first of three ODIs in Antigua. The second is also in Antigua on Sunday, with the third in Barbados next Thursday.

Australia beat India last Saturday by 333 runs - thus ending India's 19-match unbeaten run at Test level.

RUGBY UNION

Last weekend's Six Nation's Rugby matches ended England 36 points Italy 15, Ireland 19 France 9 and Scotland 29 Wales 13. This was the Scots first victory over Wales for 10 years.

There were Aviva Championship wins last weekend for Wasps (1st), Exeter (2nd), Saracens (3rd) and Leicester (5th).

BOXING

WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao will fight GB's Amir Khan on April 23. And unbeaten American Deontay Wilder beat Gerald Washington in Alabama to retain the WBC heavyweight title.

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In 1937-38 Manchester City scored more goals (80) than any other top flight team only to be relegated. And Wolves bagged a century of goals four seasons running, 1957-61, netting 103, 110, 106 and 103 for a total of 422 in 168 matches.



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