

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

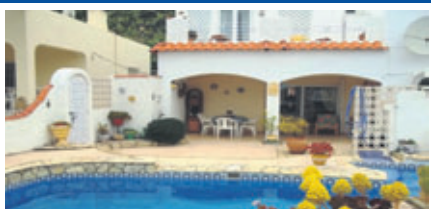
helm, with the original team by my side and backed by the EWN Media Group the future is secured for the RTN."

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

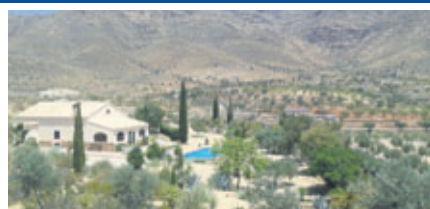
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Children safe from the sun

CHILDREN at Garrucha's Ex Mari Orta infant school will be safe from the sun at playtime from now on as the council has installed a roll-up awning over their playground.

Although it is early days, the council decided not to wait any longer and to get everything ready for when the warm weather arrives, Education councillor Maria Luisa Campoy explained.

"The awning covers 70m² and can be opened as soon as the sun starts to get hot, so the children can enjoy their breaks without getting burned," the councillor said.

The current council team, Campoy said, is aware of the need to make schools as pleasant as possible as local children and their teachers spend so much time there.

Calm weather, busy seas

CALMER weather led migrants to take to the seas again at the weekend.

On Saturday, February 25, searches were sent out after a tip off was received that a dinghy had set off from Bouyafar, Morocco. The craft was spotted by a search plane 22 miles from Alboran Island, and 23 men and nine women were taken to Almeria.

The following day another dinghy, carrying 24 men and four women, was intercepted about 18 miles south of Cabo de Gata.

So slow on the railway

THE rail connection with Almeria is the slowest long distance one out of Madrid, in spite of cuts to travel times at the end of last year.

Even though Renfe rail company managed to slice between five and 23 minutes off the twice-daily trains' total travel times, the line still has an average speed of just 94 kilometres per hour according to data in the Spanish Rail Foundation's Via Libre magazine.

Tragedy as rescue attempt fails

A MAN has drowned in a pond in Felix while trying to save his dog which had fallen into the water.

Emergency services reported that witnesses said the 35-year-old man, whose name has not been disclosed, had fallen into the water while trying to rescue his four-legged friend and was unable to swim.

The authorities were alerted at 1.40pm on Thursday (February 23) that a man was unable to get out of the Balsa de las Chanatas pond in Llano Moreno, Fe-

lix, the Guardia Civil has reported.

Police officers, paramedics and firefighters were sent to the scene but were sadly unable to do anything as the man had already drowned when they arrived.

Guardia Civil divers and firefighters retrieved his body, which has been sent to the Legal Medicine Institute for a post mortem examination to be carried out.

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.

In the dark for an hour

PULPI will be taking part in the WWF's Earth Hour on March 25, plunging various public buildings and attractions into darkness for an hour from 8.30-9.30pm.

The lights will be switched off outside San Miguel Arcangel church, Rambla de Nogalte, the Pulpi-Pozo-Higuera cycle path, industrial estate, San Juan de los Terreros boulevard,

seafront promenade, Castillo de San Juan de los Terreros castle and Pulpi Town Hall.

Ready for the holidays

A PROMISED bike path linking Las Buganvillas to Vera's coastline is now complete and ready for use, the Public Works and Housing department has announced.

Department head Joaquin Jimenez

explained that the 650-metre long, 2.5-metre wide path will be used by both cyclists and pedestrians, this providing a healthy, environmentally friendly way to reach the beach.

Waiter arrested

THE National Police has arrested a waiter for alleged drug peddling at a bar where alcohol was also sold to minors.

The 38-year-old man, arrested at his place of work on Calle Gerona in Almeria City, was found to be in possession of nine small bags of cocaine and eight ecstasy pills plus €45 in small banknotes.

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.

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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 municipality 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.



PRICE TAG: Most expensive ever offered locally.

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.

Birthdays

Daniel Craig, Actor, March 2, 49
British actor who became the sixth person to play the role of James Bond having appeared so far in Casino Royale, Skyfall, Quantum of Solace and Spectre. Other films he has featured in include The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Road to Perdition. In 2011 he married actress Rachel Weisz.

John Virgo, Snooker Player, March 3, 71
Former professional player who turned pro at the age of 30 and whose wins include the UK Championship in 1979 and the Bombay International Championship in 1980. He also presented snooker coverage on the BBC and co-presented the game show Big Break. In 2011 he published a tribute book about the late snooker legend Alex Higgins.

Kenny Dalglish, Footballer, March 4, 66
Glasgow born former footballer and manager who during his 22-year playing career was a striker for Celtic and Liverpool. He also made 102 appearances for Scotland making him Scotland's most capped player ever. He also went on to manage both Celtic and Liverpool as well as Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United.

Kiki Dee, Singer, March 6, 70
English born singer known best for the hit duet Don't Go Breaking my Heart with Elton John which topped both the UK Singles Chart and the US Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1976. During her career she has released 40 singles and 12 albums including the hit I've Got the Music in Me.

Elaine Paige, Actress/Singer, March 5, 69
Musical theatre actress/singer who has played a variety of theatre roles including Eva Peron in the production of Evita. Alongside Andrew Lloyd Webber she developed Grizabella and played the role in the original production of Cats. She had a Top 10 hit with the song Memory from Cats and released the hit duet from Chess I Know Him So Well with Barbara Dickson.



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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*.

Now we want to hear your views.
YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION
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New off-road tax explained

By Eleanor Hawkins

MOJACAR mayor Rosmari Cano and Tourism councillor Emmanuel Agüero gave Richard Shanley the lowdown on the controversial new off-road parking law during an interview on Spectrum FM's Almeria Today programme.

Shanley said listeners had been asked to send in questions for the mayor and that the parking issue was the main matter which came up.

Cano and Agüero explained that the 'tasa de vados' has been in existence for nine years now, yet only 100 local homes had registered their garages for off-road parking areas and paid the rates. Although they admitted that the rate, which some have said will be as much €150, is higher than in other areas and agreed the amount will be revised with a view to reducing it next year, the council representatives explained there would be no back charge for the past nine years property owners should have paid and haven't.

Individual cases will be studied and those who do not own a car or can prove they do not park in their garages or driveways will not have to pay, the councillor and mayor both promised.

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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.

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

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

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
- Classified
- Motoring
- Sport

What do you THINK of the EWN?

.....

What do you EXPECT from the EWN?

.....

What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

.....

How long do you spend reading the EWN?

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

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

.....

Where do you usually pick up your copy?

.....

Do you have a suggested new distribution point?

.....

You and the EWN Online

Where do you primarily get your daily news from?

- 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?

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

Do you subscribe to our daily news bulletins to your email inbox via the www.euroweeklynews.com website?

- Yes
- No

Do you follow Euro Weekly News on social media – Select those that apply...

-
-
-
-

Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

How old are you?

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

Status

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

Which other local newspapers do you read?

.....

How often do you eat out?

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

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

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

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

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

Is your telephone

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

Is your mobile

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

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

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

Is your internet

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

How often do you use the internet?

- Regularly
- Rarely
- Never

Which social media sites do you use?

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Other (specify).....

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

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

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

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

So what are you waiting for?

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



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Explanations wanted

By Eleanor Hawkins

AS Almeria City Council reported the figures for 2016 for the municipal animal pound, the opposition was quick to complain and demand explanations.

Although the Partido Popular council wished to highlight the fact that the centre had taken in a total of 1,784 animals, 612 of which were handed in by their owners who felt unable to keep them any more, PSOE socialist councillor Ines Plaza honed in on the death toll.

Plaza has demanded that someone explains the reasons for the deaths of each of the

“ We want to know what illnesses the animals died of.

200 animals put down at the centre last year. “We don’t know how many of them were put down due to illness and how many because they had been there a long time



ANIMAL POUND: Should encourage adoption.

and were taking up space. We also want to know how many animals died while being sterilised, as we have doubts on whether the centre is really apt for this type of intervention,” the opposition councillor said.

“We want to know what illnesses the 63 animals which supposedly died of natural causes suffered too, I don’t want to think that this category could hide more unjustified killing,” Plaza stated.

A lot of the pound’s problems, the PSOE spokeswoman said, would be solved if the council was to launch a series of initiatives, which would cost very little, aimed to encourage animal adoptions. “The solution certainly isn’t to just keep extending the centre, as no matter how big we make it there will never be enough space. What we need are policies in keeping with the 21st century regarding pets,” Plaza said.

Alleged bag snatcher caught

THE Guardia Civil in Nijar have arrested a 27-year-old local man suspected of snatching a businesswoman’s handbag last November.

The attack happened just after midnight on November 16 when the woman had closed her business and was walking along the street with the day’s takings of €600 in her bag, when someone rushed up behind her, grabbed it and ran away, she told the police.

Officers suspected after hearing descriptions given by the victim and a witness that it could be an old acquaintance of theirs with a police record and previous arrests for similar incidents. However, investigations led them to believe that he could have left Spain.

The trail went cold until February 17, when officers found the suspect had been to the police station in Nijar for a bureaucratic process and proceeded to arrest him.

NEWS EXTRA

Busy burglar

THE Guardia Civil has arrested a 40-year-old man from Pechina suspected of having broken into at least 31 cars parked in Almeria City, Huerca de Almeria, Viator and Benahadux since September.

Healthy breakfast

ALMOST 37,000 Almeria schoolchildren were given a traditional breakfast of bread and olive oil to celebrate Andalusia Day last week, courtesy of the regional government’s Education and Agriculture departments.

Info given

BUSINESS owners at El Pocico industrial estate in Cuevas del Almanzora received a visit from the mayor to tell them about a €1.45m project to increase safety on the A-332 road due to start in September.

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NEWS EXTRA

Ferry contract

THE ferry service to connect Almeria and Malaga to Melilla is to be put out to public tender, the government announced. The €14.3m, two-year contract will begin in the last quarter of this year.

New signs

THE Provincial Council plans to put 800 new signs into place on the 1,200kms of provincial roads in Almeria, Public Works Delegate Oscar Liria has promised.

University residence

FOUR HUNDRED students will be able to live at a new university residence which has just been completed. The seven-storey building cost €8.3m and includes a library, gym, study halls, canteen and laundry.

Man caught telling tales

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE Guardia Civil has charged a Nijar man with faking a crime after discovering that he reported his car had been stolen when in fact he had crashed it.

The owner of the vehicle lodged an official report earlier this month stating it had been stolen from the place he had parked it the previous afternoon. However, investigations in collaboration with the Local Police revealed the car had been involved in a crash on a roundabout in San Jose the day before it was meant to have disappeared and, as nobody was at the scene of the accident, it had been towed to the municipal vehicle pound.

Witness statements led officers to believe that the person who was driving the car at the time of the accident was the same one who reported the alleged theft and called him back to the station. Eventually the man admitted that he had abandoned the car himself after the crash and he was charged for simulating a theft.

“ The man admitted he had abandoned the car himself after the crash and was charged for simulating a theft.

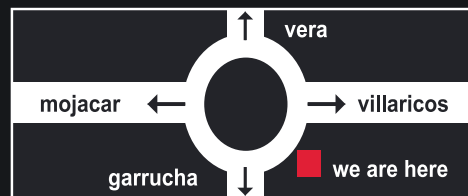
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Working for women

THE Andalucian Women's Institute spent €431,942 on its municipal women's information centres across the region last year, including the 14 in Almería Province.

These centres, located in Adra, Albox, Berja, Cantoria, Cuevas del Almanzora, El Ejido, Huercal-Overa, Macael, Níjar, Pulpi, Roquetas de Mar, Velez-Rubio, Vera and Vicar, were set up to provide women with resources and boost equality.

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Speedy Gonzales loses licence and sent to jail



HOT WHEELS: The offending vehicle was a Nissan GT-R.

By Eleanor Hawkins

A DRIVER caught on a radar in January doing 276kmph in an area with a 90kmph speed limit has lost his licence for three years and been given a four-month jail sentence.

Although the defendant and passenger at the time the car was photographed on the N347 both claimed it

was the passenger that was driving and that they had later swapped places, the criminal court judge decided this was untrue.

Judge Manuel Jose Rey said in his sentence that the amount of time it took for the car to reach a police checkpoint about two kilometres away (less than three minutes) and the road and traffic conditions would not

have allowed time for the men to stop the car and exchange places.

Plus, the judge pointed out, neither man said anything about having swapped when they were stopped by the police.

The Public Prosecutor may take up a case against the passenger and witness for making false statements in court.

NEWS EXTRA

Correct use

THE Official College of Pharmacists of Almería will be collaborating with the Health department on an informative campaign on the correct use of antibiotics, part of a European programme to combat resistant strains of bacteria.

Busy port

THE number of ferry passengers passing through Almería City port increased by 18.45 per cent last year. Altogether 27,228 people used the port, compared to 698,384 in 2015.

First to visit

THE Junta de Andalucía regional government is running a series of five hour-long workshops at the CADE Andalusian Entrepreneurs Centre in Almería City to teach entrepreneurs how to boost their sales.

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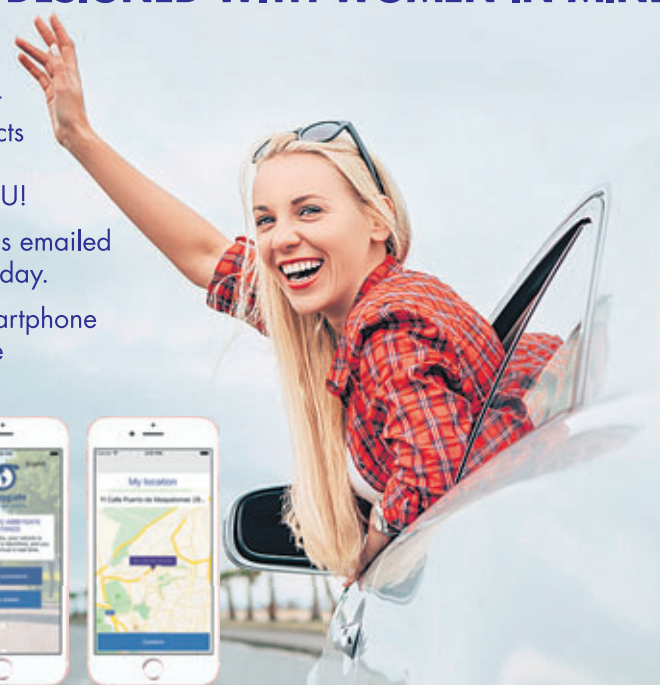
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There may be some relief ahead from the threat of *Modelo 720* sanctions for taxpayers in Spain. An EU institution is challenging the severe penalties imposed on Spanish residents who fail to declare their overseas assets correctly or on time. The 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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Smuggled ciggies seized by police

By Eleanor Hawkins

A DRIVER has been caught by the Guardia Civil with 560 packets of smuggled tobacco hidden in his car.

Officers stopped the vehicle for a routine check of paperwork and noted, while checking the driver's ID, that he appeared unusually nervous.

Deciding to search the car, the police found rubbish bags containing packets of foreign cigarettes with no tax stamps on them, all of which were confiscated along with the vehicle.

The case has been handed over to the customs department.



ROUTINE CHECK: Discovered smuggled tobacco.

Family sentence for bonfire

A MOTHER and son from Lucainena de las Torres have been handed six-month jail sentences for imprudence leading to a forest fire by an Almeria criminal court.

The defendants were found guilty of lighting a bonfire without permission on February 16 2014, which got out of control and led to 15.32

hectares of land burning.

Along with the jail sentences, the mother and son must pay the €3,232 which it cost to put out the fire, €360 each in fines plus damages to owners of 10 private properties affected.

Meanwhile the woman's younger son was found not guilty.

Jail for wife murderer

A ROMANIAN man who admitted that he stabbed his wife to death has been jailed for 27.5 years by an Almeria Provincial Court.

As recently reported in the EWN, 33-year-old Dosanu P told the court during his trial that he remembered stabbing Mariana M repeatedly but claimed not to remember exactly how many times, or anything of his flight to Valencia.

The father of two, who claimed to believe his wife had been unfaithful, took up a knife during an argument at the family's Almeria home in the early hours of May 31, 2014 and laid into the victim, stabbing her a total of 49 times. He also set fire to an ID on her thigh and

cut her eyes out, the court heard. He later went to find his brother, carrying the eyes, and explained what he had done before fleeing, while his brother took charge of the couple's eight and 10-year-old children, both asleep at the scene of the crime, and called the police.

The murderer took a taxi to Nijar, where he stole a van which he later crashed. After a passerby stopped to help he kidnapped him and drove his car to Valencia.

An international man hunt was launched by the National Police, which published photos of the suspect on social media. Eventually he was arrested at a hotel in Valencia City at 7am on June 1, 2014.

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A warm welcome



SWEDISH TOURISTS: Arrived in Huerca-Overa in motorhomes.

By Eleanor Hawkins

ABOUT 100 Swedish tourists have been welcomed to Huerca-Overa by the local mayor and tourism councillor.

Mayor Domingo Fernandez and Councillor Monica Navarro went to see the visitors, all members of the Club Husbil-

sklubbe caravan club, and welcomed them to town.

The club members arrived in 50 motorhomes, some all the way from Sweden and others from their homes in other parts of Spain, mainly Malaga, Murcia and Alicante, for the annual meet which, for the third year

running, is being held in Huerca-Overa.

The mayor, who joined in with a game of bowls while at the caravan park, told the visitors "I hope you enjoy your stay here, I've heard you have already planned visits and trips to various attractions."

Coca confiscated at the airport

GUARDIA Civil customs officers at Almeria airport have confiscated 1,600 grams of coca leaves from a woman who had flown from Bolivia via Madrid.

The leaves, which officers explained can be used to obtain cocaine, were found in four plas-

tic bags within the woman's luggage during a check even though she had stated she had nothing to declare.

The passenger admitted the coca leaves were hers and claimed they were for personal use and that she intended to make tea with them.

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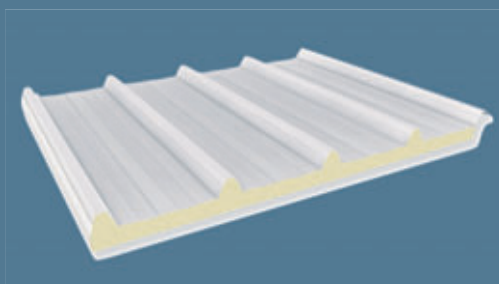
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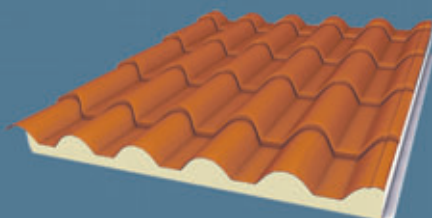
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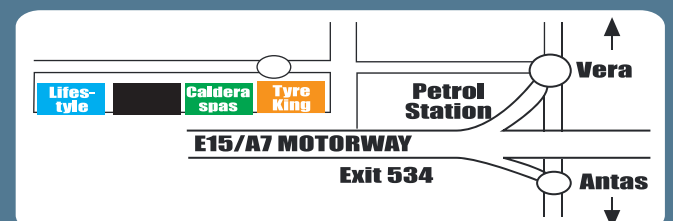
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A race for awareness



RAISING AWARENESS: Teacher Miguel Palomino will be running from Vera to Portugal.

A TEACHER from Jaen set out from Vera on Saturday morning to run round the Andalucian coast to raise awareness of diabetes.

This is the second year Miguel Angel Palomino Ramirez has set himself a health and sports related challenge as last year he cycled

round Jaen Province to raise awareness on another illness.

This year, he has set himself the goal of running from Vera all the way along the coast to Vila Real de Santo Antonio in Portugal in just 18 days.

'Today we should be happy' is this year's motto for the challenge, which has collaboration

from the Jaen Diabetes Association and hopes to encourage the authorities to bring into effect the Integral Diabetes Plan which was approved unanimously by the Andalucian Parliament back in October 2015.

Palomino's two rescue dogs, Kenya and Leia, will be accompanying him on his travels.

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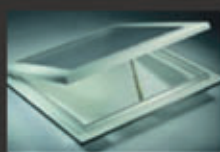
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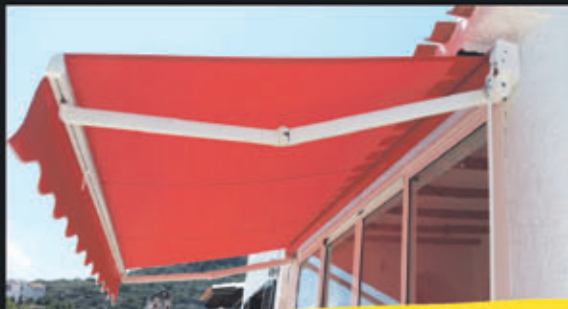
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Lord Heseltine to fight another female PM, now over Brexit



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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Celebrations for Andalusia Day



INFANT SCHOOL: Teaching the children about their homeland.

By Eleanor Hawkins

SCHOOLS all over Andalusia honoured Andalusia Day before breaking up for half term last week with activities related to the autonomous region.

In Nijar, Youth councillor Ainocha Salmeron celebrated in the company of 260 children aged between three and five at San Isidro infant

school. The pupils had prepared in advance by learning all about the region's traditions and culture and formed a green and white Andalusian flag with sheets of paper before enjoying a typical breakfast prepared by the mums.

One of the fathers, Juan Bernardo, took his guitar along and played the regional hymn plus various sevillanas

and rumbas, which the teachers danced to.

"It was great to see the little ones getting involved in celebrating their roots with their teachers and parents. These activities help teach them a bit more about our homeland, its musical roots and its gastronomy. It was a fun day for them and for us too," the councillor later said.

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Youngsters broaden out their horizons

By Eleanor Hawkins

TWO young adults from Garrucha have set off to Poland and Greece under the European Volunteering Service to broaden their horizons and do some good.

Paqui Garcia and Miguel Gea were waved off by the provincial Financial Promotion and Employment delegate Carmen Belen Lopez, who explained that Almeria Provincial Council collaborates with the service to assist youngsters interested in volunteering abroad.

The experience not only improves the volunteers' language skills but also allows them to see more of the world and acquire new skills or experience in their chosen fields, Lopez said.

Garcia recently qualified as a teacher and will be volunteering at a secondary school in Poland, while Gea, qualified in marketing and a nature-lover, will be working on a WWF project in Greece.

"We're very satisfied with the work being done by our European Initiatives De-



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: Is in charge of preparing and training volunteers.

partment as it benefits many Almeria residents and boosts their professional futures. We're sure Paqui and Miguel are going to have a great experience," Lopez said.

As a collaborating institution, Almeria Provincial Council is in charge of prepar-

ing volunteers and signing them up for official training before their departure as well as helping them arrange their journeys, obtaining insurance and providing support through regular contact before, during and after their trips.

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Good isn't good enough

ALMERIA women have one of the lowest wage gaps in Spain, yet are still paid an average of 14 per cent less than their male colleagues according to a new report.

UGT Andalucía trades union's 2017 Wage Gap report revealed that at a national level women are paid an average of €6,000 less than men, resulting in a gap of 23.25 per cent. The sector with the smallest difference between salaries was construction at 8 per cent while industry saw the greatest gap at 31 per cent.

Carmen Vidal Salcedo, General Secretary for UGT in Almeria, said: "based on Treasury Department data for 2015, the salary gap in Almeria is just 14 per cent, one of the lowest in Andalucía, whereas in Huelva it is 34 per cent and the nationwide average is 24 per cent."

This, Vidal said, is one of the main areas that authorities need to address. Equality policies which really work are necessary to stop women suffering unfair conditions, he stressed.

Square in a sorry state



LOCAL RESIDENTS: Are concerned about its condition.

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE opposition in Almería City has complained about the state of the square built on the former animal pound by the town hall with more than €111,000 of European funds.

PSOE socialist councillor Manuel Vallejo spoke out on the state of the square and outlined the concerns of local residents. "The square has ended up just being used by youths to mount street drinking sessions, disturbing locals who are often forced to call the police at the weekends," the councillor complained.

The local residents were not consulted to see what they wanted before the square was built, Vallejo claimed, and a vertical garden which was built is not even maintained. "They could at least try to water the plants regularly rather than leaving it to the people who live nearby," he said, explaining that the plants are dying and revealing tiles and wallpaper left on the wall behind from houses which used to be there.

"It's disgraceful that this project was improvised and they didn't even bother to put a layer of cement over the wall. It's quite representative of the way this mayor and his council manage public funds," the opposition councillor stated.

Jail term reduced

A MAN sentenced to four years and nine months in jail for faking work contracts for foreigners has had his sentence halved by the high court after appealing the initial decision.

A provincial court had issued the jail sentence and a fine of €20 per day for 10 months and 16 days for the defendant, who was found guilty of using data from his administration business to draw up illegal contracts for foreigners without the company owners' knowledge.

Non-European citizens in need of a contract to apply for residence in Spain paid the defendant between €450 and €1,200 each for the fake documents, and he is believed to have registered dozens of people as workers with businesses in Almería, Albox and Huerca-Overa who were in fact not employees at all.

The high court, however, partially accepted the defendant's appeal and considered that the original court had failed to justify such a harsh sentence. The jail sentence was therefore reduced to two years and four months, although the fine remains unaltered.

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MUSIC lover and avid volunteer Harvey Defriend unfortunately passed away last month. He worked tirelessly as a volunteer supporting both the Red Cross and Vera Town Hall right up until his death.

In memory of Harvey some of his favourite musicians have organised a 'Concert for Harvey.'

“ Promises to be a great night of entertainment while also raising funds.

The event will take place on Sunday March 5 from 8pm in the new Vera Auditorium, near the bus station.

Therapy day to raise funds for Leo

A THERAPY day is being held to raise monies for the young local boy Leo Bermejo who has an aggressive brain tumour and needs specialist treatment in America and ongoing treatment afterwards.

The event will be held at Sansonora in Mojacar on Saturday March 4 from 10.30am-3pm.

There will be a variety of therapies on offer: Thai reflexology, reiki, reflexology, craniosacral therapy, Indian head massage, back massage, facial massage, tarot card readings and more.

Therapy sessions will last for 20 minutes and cost just €6 donation.

Sansonora is on Calle Piedra Villazar Number 4 in Mojacar, just behind the pharmacy nearest to the commercial centre.

For more information please call Sharon on 672 061 048.

Concert for Harvey

Entry will be free, however donations will be collected for the Red Cross, Harvey's favourite charity, and all of the profits from the bar will also be donated.

A range of professional musicians will be performing on the night which will feature a range of genres including pop, opera, musical theatre, comedy and classi-

cal. The Catante choir, with whom Harvey once sang, will be performing.

Jim Mackie will provide piano accompaniment for several of the performers

and classical pianist Barry Jobling will also be performing and accompanying Jeanne Henny MBE.

With so much on offer there will be something to

suit everyone's taste.

This important event will be an excellent tribute to the treasured expat and promises to be a great night of entertainment whilst also helping to raise vital funds for the Red Cross so go along and show your support. For more information call 651 751 629.



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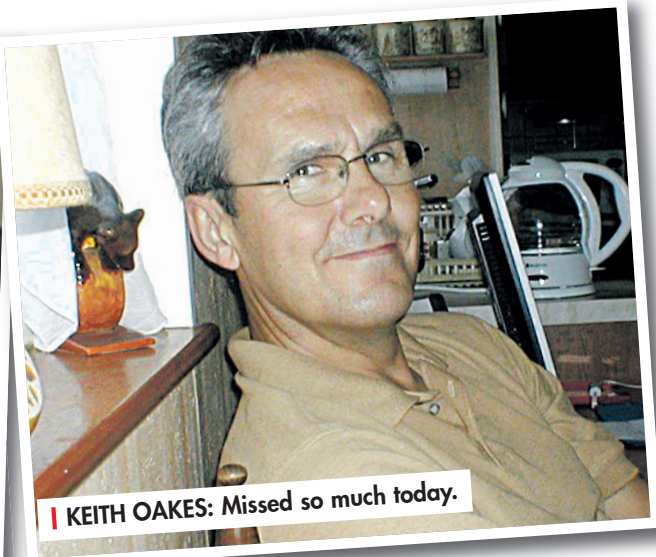
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Remembering Keith Oakes



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His wife Anita was left heartbroken having lost her husband, best friend and her soulmate. In remembering Keith she would like to take this opportunity to urge all men to have a PSA test. This quick and simple blood test is in their best interest to



Men should take action and speak to their doctor.

make sure all is well as prostate cancer can be treated and is fairly successful if it is diagnosed early enough.

Keith is missed as much today, if not more, than he

was then and he loved Mojacar. Anita wishes he had lived long enough to see and enjoy the new Paseo as he would have so loved to have walked along it.

Keith Oakes: August 6, 1948 – March 11, 2012

I've shed many a tear since I lost you, many more will continue to fall

You took my happiness with you, the happiest times of all

I lost my life's companion, a life linked with my own

You're still mine to remember, a husband proud to own

Please don't give your loved ones the heartache that Anita has had to endure. Men, take action and speak to your doctor about getting tested and ladies, please encourage the men in your life to get tested.

A fun-filled evening at Hotel La Resistance



SIT BACK: Relax and enjoy the performance.

SHOESTRING PRODUCTIONS would like to invite you to an intimate supper/theatre experience from Thursday March 30 until Sunday April 2.

Please join the International cast of Hotel La Resistance at Restaurant/Bar MontMartre (opposite Tito's Restaurant in Mojacar) and experience a fun-filled evening. The war is almost over... happiness is within grasp... come along and join in the celebrations. All you need to do is sit back, relax, enjoy and laugh!

Written and directed by one of Mojacar's resident thespians Jim Dale-Grey performances will take place on Thursday March 30, Friday March 31, Saturday April 1 and Sunday April 2.

Tickets will be available soon and can be purchased from PC Playa in Mojacar/Connexions in Turre and MontMartre Restaurant. Proceeds will be donated to PAWS-PATAS.

For further information contact Chrissie Cremore at chrissie.3@hotmail.co.uk.

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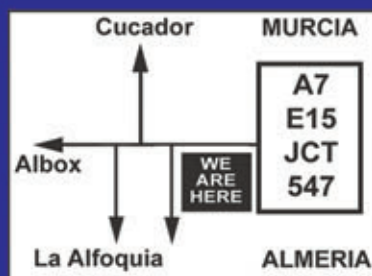
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VITALY CHURKIN: Respected diplomat.

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.

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

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.

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.

Solar sexism

FEMALE flight attendants



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.

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Cortijo Grande



2 bed, 2 bath, frontline golf townhouse of 85m² + 22m² of garden terrace in a small complex. Furnished. A short drive to towns & beaches.

LV626 69,000€

Valle del Este



2 bed, 2 bath, brand new townhouse of 130m² front-line to the golf. South facing & spectacular views. 2 terraces. Allocated parking. Good on-site amenities & benefits.

LV720 89,950€

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, bungalow of 66m² on a corner plot of 193m² in a highly desirable urbanisation. Roof terrace + front & rear terraces. Sea & mountain views.

LV715 139,500€

Vera Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 88.13 m² + 67.74m² of terraces on a pretty urbanisation. 2 adult & 2 children's community pools. In walking distance of amenities.

LV712 120,000€

Vera



2 bed, 1 bath, 1st floor apartment of 87m². In walking distance of Vera town centre. Terrace & roof terrace. No furnishings or white goods included.

A1291 46,995€

Vera Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, 1st floor apartment of 66m² + terraces in a superb, secure, urbanisation. A/C & furnished. Parking. Indoor & outdoor community pools.

A1285 85,000€

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, penthouse apartment of 55 m² with excellent sea views. Terraces, solarium, underground parking, storeroom & furnished. Community pool & gardens.

A1286 125,000€

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, west facing apartment, on 2 levels, of 75m² + 2 terraces. Views to the community pool. Short distance to golf & beaches.

A1289 95,000€


Cortijo Grande



3 bed, 3 bath, villa of 151m² on a plot of 1,451m² laid to terraces & gardens with a fully refurbished pool. Ample driveway & many extra features included. Furnished.

DV1377 269,000€

Mojácar



4 bed, 4 bath, detached villa of 238m² on a plot of 10,000m². Private pool & garage. Ample terraces & gardens. 5 mins. drive from the beach. Pretty views.

DV1213 325,000€

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath, detached bungalow of 130m² on 507m². Private pool & garage. Roof terrace. Walled plot. Easy walk to beaches, shops & restaurants.

DV1223 310,000€

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath newly built detached villa of 120m² on 874m². Superb sea & mountain views. Garage, pool & solarium. Kitchen furniture not included.

DV1338 320,000€

Cabrera



3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 134m² on 1,000m² with panoramic views to the sea. Beautiful sunny terraces, private pool, gardens & gated carport. Undeveloped underbuild. Furnished.

DV1372 325,000€

Desert Springs



3 bed, 2 bath, detached villa of 100m² on a corner plot of 380m² in a top quality golf development. Secure community, garage & swimming pool.

DV1383 229,000€

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath, detached bungalow of 140m² on 500m². Private pool & garage. Large roof terrace. Walled plot. Good location.

DV1388 347,000€

Arboleas



3 bed, 2 bath, quality detached villa of 143m² on a plot of 620m². Private pool & gardens. A/C & pellet burner. Short drive to local towns & villages.

DV1422 184,950€

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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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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 27

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,255.00	2.50	0.20	17,801.49
Associated British Foods	2,610.00	-1.00	-0.04	20,662.70
Admiral Group	1,884.00	14.00	0.75	5,391.32
Ashtead Group	1,655.00	20.00	1.22	8,401.97
Antofagasta	826.25	18.75	2.32	8,128.39
Aviva	504.50	1.00	0.20	20,573.65
AstraZeneca	4,595.00	-14.00	-0.30	58,209.13
BAE Systems	611.00	-4.00	-0.65	19,360.14
Babcock International Group	907.50	23.50	2.66	4,423.97
Barclays	224.00	-1.90	-0.84	38,859.40
British American Tobacco	5,057.50	-12.50	-0.25	94,337.32
Barratt Developments	512.50	-1.00	-0.19	5,130.44
British Land Co	615.00	0.00	0.00	6,333.03
BHP Billiton	1,320.00	12.00	0.92	28,460.17
Bunzl	1,050.00	-2,171.00	-100.00	7,306.20
BP	448.50	1.40	0.31	87,733.29
Burberry Group	1,655.00	-6.00	-0.36	7,292.11
BT Group	330.00	-2.90	-0.87	32,987.00
Coca-Cola HBC	975.00	-1,936.00	-100.00	7,071.42
Carnival	4,335.00	-11.00	-0.25	9,399.70
Centrica	226.75	1.05	0.47	12,355.38
Compass Group	1,472.50	5.50	0.37	24,056.65
Capita Group (The)	544.50	-12.50	-2.24	3,712.64
Croda International	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,369.24
CRH	2,750.00	83.00	3.11	22,441.76
Convatec Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,580.11
Dixons Carphone	155.00	-300.60	-100.00	3,445.79
DCC	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,053.93
Diageo	2,267.50	-4.00	-0.18	57,116.72
Direct Line Insurance Group	368.50	3.90	1.07	4,989.88
Experian	1,587.50	-5.50	-0.35	15,025.81
easylet	924.50	-7.00	-0.75	3,632.47
Fresnillo	1,542.50	17.50	1.15	11,318.69
GKN	346.50	1.40	0.41	6,000.83
Glencore	322.50	-5.00	-1.53	47,696.97
GlaxoSmithKline	1,631.50	-8.00	-0.49	80,162.18
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,074.00	-2,109.00	-100.00	4,962.60
Hargreaves Lansdown	750.00	-1,321.00	-100.00	6,346.38
Hammerson	589.00	-1.50	-0.25	4,683.78
HSBC Holdings	649.00	-1.30	-0.20	129,689.03
International Consolidated Air	521.00	-6.00	-1.14	10,697.76
InterContinental Hotels Gr	3,765.00	5.00	0.13	7,458.26
3i Group	335.00	-687.50	-100.00	6,848.47
Imperial Brands	3,900.00	63.50	1.66	36,824.08
Informa	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,463.15
Intu Properties	145.00	-293.10	-100.00	3,983.82
Intertek Group	2,000.00	-3,445.00	-100.00	5,619.49
ITV	205.95	3.85	1.90	8,179.63
Johnson Matthey	2,940.50	-72.50	-2.41	5,798.26
Kingfisher	323.70	-0.10	-0.03	7,201.32

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	1,074.00	7.00	0.66	8,413.51
Legal & General Group	246.00	-1.20	-0.49	14,666.66
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	69.40	0.12	0.17	49,640.43
London Stock Exchange Grp	1,645.00	-3,125.00	-100.00	10,947.07
Micro Focus International	1,075.00	-2,186.00	-100.00	5,136.03
Mediclinic International	750.00	12.50	1.69	5,533.02
Merlin Entertainments	255.50	-498.30	-100.00	5,124.76
Marks & Spencer Group	343.10	14.80	4.51	5,371.35
Mondi	1,880.00	15.00	0.80	9,167.26
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	246.00	1.50	0.61	5,801.47
National Grid	970.25	-7.45	-0.76	36,475.03
Next	3,805.00	14.00	0.37	5,613.15
Old Mutual Group	210.00	-8.70	-3.98	10,796.56
Provident Financial	1,378.00	-2,920.00	-100.00	4,272.12
Paddy Power Betfair	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,185.82
Prudential	1,597.50	-11.50	-0.71	41,685.83
Persimmon	1,874.50	-150.50	-7.43	6,201.47
Pearson	662.50	5.50	0.84	5,313.89
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,325.00	14.00	0.19	50,776.95
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	242.50	4.30	1.81	29,487.03
Royal Dutch Shell	2,126.50	53.50	2.58	92,497.66
Royal Dutch Shell	2,191.00	25.00	1.15	81,726.52
RELX	1,495.00	1.00	0.07	16,202.68
Rio Tinto	3,346.50	31.00	0.94	46,994.55
Royal Mail	409.00	0.70	0.17	4,073.00
Rolls-Royce Group	763.50	0.00	0.00	14,048.55
Randgold Resources	7,440.00	-210.00	-2.75	7,120.47
RSA Insurance Group	308.00	-595.00	-100.00	6,168.64
Sainsbury (J)	245.00	-20.60	-7.76	5,854.24
Schroders	1,550.00	-3,008.00	-100.00	6,884.64
Sage Group (The)	643.00	0.50	0.08	6,956.80
Shire	4,890.00	46.00	0.95	44,578.90
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,158.00	39.00	1.84	5,027.29
Sky	1,011.25	13.25	1.33	17,190.17
Standard Life	367.50	-1.90	-0.51	7,423.35
Smiths Group	1,489.00	7.00	0.47	5,947.45
Smith & Nephew	1,205.50	-0.50	-0.04	10,565.11
SSE	1,537.50	-9.50	-0.61	15,555.61
Standard Chartered	734.00	3.50	0.48	24,666.10
St James's Place	400.00	-1,085.00	-100.00	5,733.95
Severn Trent	2,351.50	6.50	0.28	5,473.17
Tesco	191.50	1.50	0.79	15,658.89
TUI AG	1,193.50	68.50	6.09	6,604.18
Taylor Wimpey	175.60	-1.50	-0.85	5,734.26
Unilever	3,750.00	-23.00	-0.61	48,367.17
United Utilities Group	971.00	-8.00	-0.82	6,576.81
Vodafone Group	203.05	0.20	0.10	53,836.76
Wolseley	2,420.50	-4,873.00	-100.00	12,504.22
Worldpay Group	131.00	-271.40	-100.00	5,422.00
WPP Group	1,872.50	0.50	0.03	23,977.59
Whitbread	3,815.00	15.00	0.39	6,973.06

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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	187,410	+0.12%	0.220	111M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	79,7600	-0.36%	-0.2900	71M
APPLE	136,660	+0.10%	0.130	713M
BOEING CO	177,440	+0.33%	0.580	108M
CATERPILLAR	95,480	-0.07%	-0.070	55M
CHEVRON	110,12	-0.81%	-0.90	207M
CISCO SYSTEMS	34,320	+0.82%	0.280	170M
COCA-COLA	41,78	+0.29%	0.12	179M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	79,8100	+0.28%	0.2200	68M
EXXON MOBIL	81,08	-0.86%	-0.70	335M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	30,1900	+0.57%	0.1700	265M
GOLDMAN SACHS	247,35	-1.53%	-3.84	98M
HOME DEPOT	145,9500	+0.86%	1,2400	177M
IBM	181,35	-0.17%	-0.30	171M
INTEL CORP	36,5300	+0.97%	0.3500	172M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	90,3300	-0.88%	-0.8000	321M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	122,7300	+0.85%	1,0300	332M
MC DONALD'S CORP	128,6500	+0.30%	0.3800	105M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	66,16	+0.47%	0.31	181M
MICROSOFT	64,620	+0.00%	0.000	496M
NIKE	57,86	+0.82%	0.47	76M
Pfizer	34,2600	+0.59%	0.2000	207M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,050	-0.09%	-0.080	232M
TRAVELERS CIES	122,27	-0.07%	-0.09	34M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	112,46	+0.33%	0.37	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	163,06	+0.28%	0.46	154M
VERIZON COMMS	50,60	+0.58%	0.29	205M
VISA	88,43	+0.28%	0.25	163M
WAL-MART STORES	72,3900	+1.51%	1,0800	222M
WALT DISNEY CO	110,3200	+0.54%	0.5900	173M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 27

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Cempra, Inc.	\$ 4.05	0.90 ▲ 28.57%
Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.	\$ 45.98	8.51 ▲ 22.71%
Universal Display Corporation	\$ 81	13.55 ▲ 20.09%
Cleaveside Biomedical, Inc.	\$ 8.06	1.16 ▲ 16.81%
eHealth, Inc.	\$ 12.39	1.62 ▲ 15.04%
Rocket Fuel Inc.	\$ 3.07	0.38 ▲ 14.13%
Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc	\$ 3.72	0.44 ▲ 13.41%
Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.44	0.46 ▲ 11.56%
West Marine, Inc.	\$ 9.95	1.03 ▲ 11.55%
Digitrad Corporation	\$ 5.25	0.475 ▲ 9.95%
8x8 Inc	\$ 16.15	1.45 ▲ 9.86%
Most Declined		
Acacia Communications, Inc.	\$ 54.04	9.39 ▼ 14.80%
Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc.	\$ 11.35	1.70 ▼ 13.03%
Benefitfocus, Inc.	\$ 25.10	3.25 ▼ 11.46%
Career Education Corporation	\$ 8.32	1.01 ▼ 10.83%
ATN International, Inc.	\$ 68.02	8.18 ▼ 10.73%
Smart Sand, Inc.	\$ 18.05	2.01 ▼ 10.02%
Nova Lifestyle, Inc	\$ 2.26	0.25 ▼ 9.96%
CSP Inc.	\$ 9.28	0.94 ▼ 9.20%
Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 3.86	0.38 ▼ 8.96%
Great Elm Capital Group, Inc.	\$ 3.45	0.30 ▼ 8%
Spartan Motors, Inc.	\$ 7.05	0.60 ▼ 7.84%

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

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€1.0750 €0.0014
£1.2779 £0.0029
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Politics to drive the currency markets

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



Currencies Direct

Contact me at euoweekly@currenciesdirect.com

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 Almería 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.

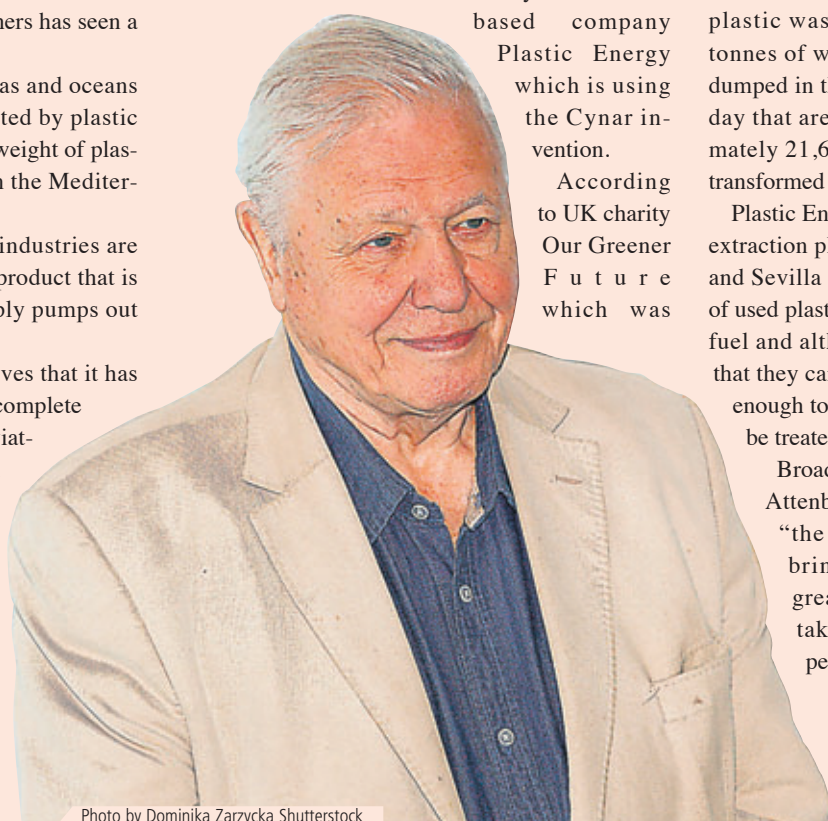


Photo by Dominika Zarzycka Shutterstock

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

Andalucía 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

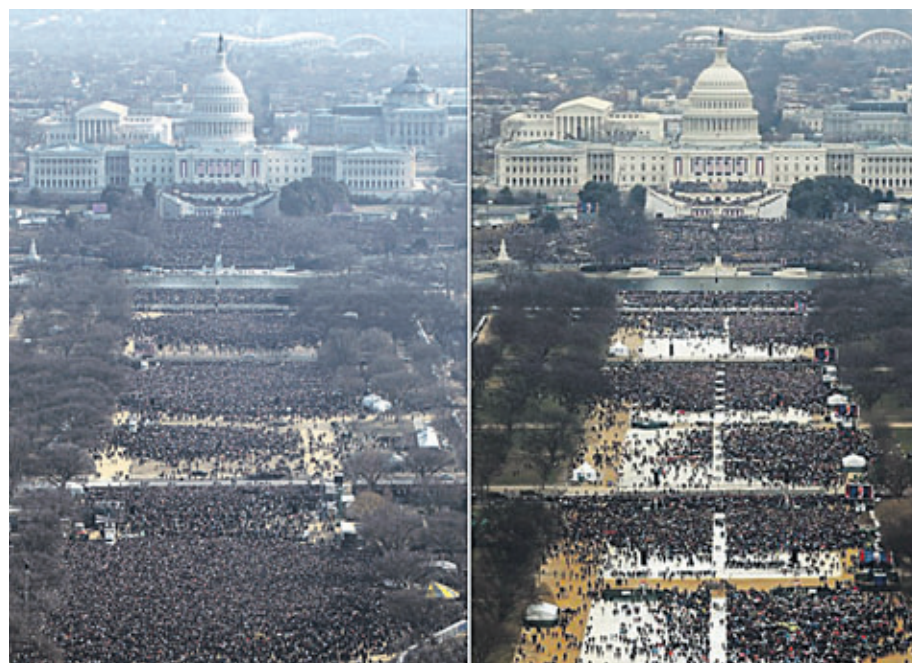


JUST whose side are the British media actually on? It does seem that almost anything that may be commendable, or praiseworthy concerning the UK, is immediately put down by cynical news people; who really do appear to only be interested in pouring rain on any British parade that waves a Union Jack.

“ 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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Ref:A675 Antas 399,995€

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Ref:B1037 Los Gall 89,995€

This fantastic 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment is located ground floor on the end of the block which has a screened enclosure and a private garden offering exceptional outside space. Air con, central heating and communal swimming pool.
EPC F 125 - 30



Exclusive

Ref:B1017 Vera 159,950€

This is a simply fantastic property located on the small, quiet, yet well-kept community of Los Alamos. 2 beds, 3 baths, air con, central heating, roof solarium, communal swimming pool, 15 minutes to the beach, 5 minutes to all amenities.
EPC G 238 - 59



Exclusive

Ref:B1005 S/Cabrera 149,950€

This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom detached villa is located in the picturesque Cabrera mountain and offers a unique style of living with one of the best views of the entire area. The complex has a beautiful communal swimming pool.
EPC Applied for.



Exclusive

Ref:B992 Mojácar 160,000€

This is a fantastic townhouse located on a pretty, small community within walking distance of the bars, restaurants, shops and glorious, golden beaches of Mojácar Playa. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.
EPC F 119 - 29



Exclusive

Ref:A743 H/Overa 95,000€

This bargain 5 bedroom large detached villa has the benefit of being located in a small hamlet of similar properties called El Pilar. Walking distance from local bars and restaurants. Garage, parking and courtyard. Must be sold!
EPC F 94 - E 30



Ref:A706 Arboleas 168,000€

Located on the highest plot in the development this detached family villa is in a superb position to make the most from the terrific views overlooking the local Mountain. 3 beds, 2 baths, private swimming pool and garage.
EPC D 102 - 26



Ref:A569 Arboleas 168,500€

This beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa is located in the quaint village of Los Higuerales. Private swimming pool, easily maintained gardens full of colour, great views can be enjoyed from this lovely villa. Now priced to sell.
EPC F 164 - 41



Ref:A660 Cucador 190,000€

This traditional fully furnished cortijo in Cucador with beams throughout offers charm and character. Private swimming pool, small plunge pool/fishpond, private parking and air conditioning. Only 25 minutes to the beach.
EPC E 189 - 49

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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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many of which have dedicated employees to look after expatriates and in most cases always speak your language, especially English but also other European languages too, in-

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

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VH1005 €69,950 CEE TBC

BARGAIN



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- Garden front & back
- Access to 2 communal pools
- Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

VH1025 €164,950 CEE F54 73

MUST VIEW



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 5m x 10m salt water pool
- 871m2 walled garden
- Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

VH957 €169,950 CEE E178 5

QUALITY PROPERTY



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 10m x 4m swimming pool
- 1,000m2 plot with views
- Zurgena area

VH770 €59,950 CEE G72 24

UNDER OFFER



- 2/3 bed, 1 bath Village House
- Roof Terrace & small garden
- Walk to amenities
- Zurgena village



Currencies Direct celebrates 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.

"So many people in the community have helped this little family. The way people have rallied round to raise money and help Leo is just marvellous," he said.

Leo's brave battle has featured prominently in *EWN* and in our hearts, as he takes his trip to the US, hopefully for the treatment that will rid him once and for all of the cancer that has plagued his young life.

After Peter's generous speech, *EWN's* managing director Michel Euesden 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 can-

More pictures of this fantastic event on



MR MAPH: Made it a celebration to remember.

Direct celebrate anniversary

nons 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.

The couple have been together for more than 30 years providing amazing solo and duet pieces for R&B, Soul, Reggae... you name it and they have it in their marvellous repertoire. From the driving vocals of Ike and Tina Turner's Nutbush City Limits to Bob Marley's greatest, it's all there.

They were supported by Marbella-based entertainer Antony Wolfson and his inimitable take on the Presley greats.

He's a man who is neither a tribute artist nor an impersonator, but a singer who lives and breathes the songs of his great hero Elvis. When you've been praised by the great man's wife, you can't go higher than that.

Topping off the musical offerings were several from Steve Cline, including Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline. The thunderous applause after every act showed just what an ap-

preciative 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!

When you've turned 21, you want a night to remember... everyone at Puente Romano joined in the Happy Birthday salute to their hosts, Currencies Direct, taking away memories of a great night on the Costa del Sol... here's to the next 21 years!!!!



our website www.euoweeklynews.com

Photographs by Ricardo Saavedra



Blair & Hogan-Howe aren't fading away, but are away with the fairies

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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



THIS week my 'targets' are two old favourites, Tony Blair and Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe. Now, bear with me here - don't panic!

In a recent speech, Blair signalled a return to frontline politics, claiming that Brexit isn't inevitable and that Brits voted with 'imperfect knowledge' of what the alternative was (as opposed to his administration's own 'perfect knowledge' of WMD?), using the analogy of a bad house swap that could still be stopped by a 'revolt' of the people.

Is there no end to the hubris of this man? Not only did his government's immigration and fiscal policies precipitate the sort of

problems which led directly to Brexit, his phoney war in Iraq was a precursor to the displacement of millions in the East and an escalation in Islamic extremism, both of which have allowed anti-immigrant feeling to spread throughout Europe.

Blair is a toxic brand and anathema to the British public. If you needed someone to help galvanise those who voted Leave whilst dividing those who voted Remain, he'd be the perfect choice, right?

Blair's like an aging rock star attempting to rekindle past glories by playing old hits to the faithful. Times have moved on, Tony. Accept that and fade away... gracefully if possible.

Someone else you might expect to fade away gracefully (with gold-plated pension plus all accompanying perks, like free truncheons for life) is recently retired Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe

who's about to embark on a lucrative world tour as keynote speaker. Remind you of anyone?

In a defiant final speech, Sir Bernard requested decent and fair treatment for armed police officers but, ironically, presided over a regime that failed to return the favour for high profile suspects like Cliff Richard etc.

Nobody should be above the law, but those charged with enforcing it should be competent, and take action based on verifiable evidence, not one man's unsupported allegations, classified as 'credible.'

And my own top three choices of succes-

sor for Sir Bernard? These would have been DI Jack Regan (from The Sweeney), DCI Jim Taggart or Miss Marple. 'Nuff said.

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



Tony Blair. |

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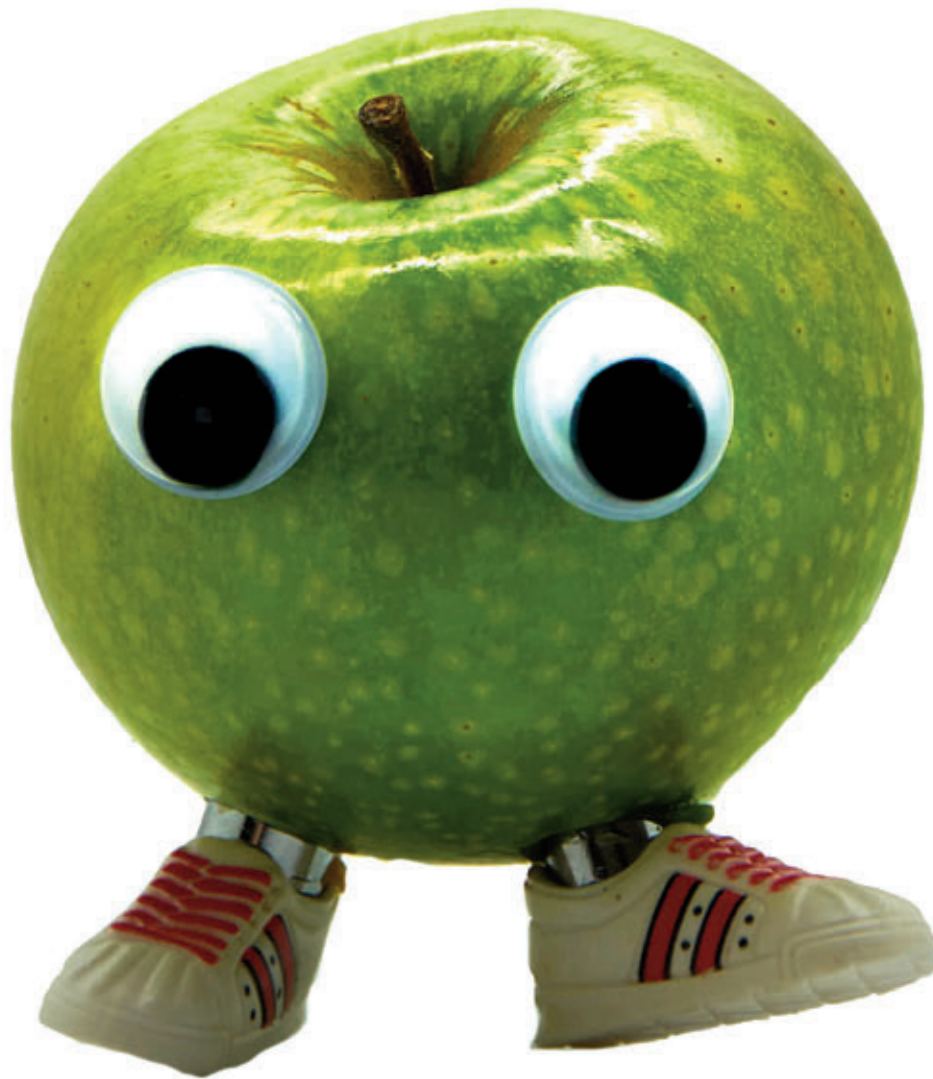
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02 MARCH	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	4:15pm	Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones	6:00pm	The Chase	1:00pm	Channel 4 News	4:15pm	A Date to Die for	4:00pm	Boxing Gold
	4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown			7:00pm	ITV News London	1:05pm	A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	5:00pm	Boxing
	5:30pm	Flog It!	5:15pm	Africa	7:25pm	Party Political	2:05pm	Find it, Fix it, Flog it	6:30pm	Neighbours	5:30pm	Football's Greatest
	6:15pm	Pointless	6:15pm	Bargain Hunt	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	3:10pm	Countdown	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	4:00pm	Fifteen to One Series	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	6:30pm	Boxing
	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:30pm	NHS: Medical Blunders	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	8:00pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	7:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm	Reunited: Tonight	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	9:00pm	The Nightmare Neighbour	7:30pm	Boxing
	8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	The Great Pottery Throw Down	9:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	7:30pm	The Simpsons	10:00pm	Next Door	8:00pm	Live Premier League Darts
	9:00pm	Shop Well for Less	10:00pm	The Attack: Terror in the UK	10:00pm	Prime Suspect 1973	8:00pm	Hollyoaks		The Great British Benefits Handout	11:00pm	Boxing
	10:00pm	Britain on the Fiddle					9:00pm	Channel 4 News			11:30pm	La Liga Show
							9:00pm	The Supertv				
FRIDAY	4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown	3:00pm	Africa's Giant Killers	6:00pm	The Chase	2:05pm	Find it, Fix it, Flog it	4:20pm	The Front	10:00am	Premier League Darts
	5:30pm	Flog It!	4:00pm	Athletics	7:00pm	ITV News London	3:10pm	Countdown	6:00pm	5 News at 5	1:00pm	Premier League Match Pack
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:30pm	Celebrity Mastermind	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	4:00pm	Fifteen to One	6:30pm	Neighbours	1:30pm	Boxing Gold
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:30pm	Only Connect	8:00pm	Emmerdale	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	7:00pm	Home and Away	2:30pm	Premier League Darts
	7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	The Secrets of Your Food QI	8:30pm	Coronation Street	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	5:30pm	Boxing
	8:00pm	The One Show	11:00pm	Newsnight	9:00pm	Schofield's South	7:00pm	The Simpsons	8:00pm	Happy Campers: Caravanning	6:00pm	Boxing Gold
	8:30pm	A Question of Sport	12:05am	Imagine...	9:30pm	African Adventure	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	9:00pm	Celebrity Carry on Barging	7:00pm	Boxing
	9:00pm	EastEnders	1:05am	Taboo	10:00pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald	8:00pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	9:30pm	Room 101	2:00am	Further Back in Time for Dinner	11:00pm	Lethal Weapon	9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast			8:00pm	Football
	10:00pm	Not Going Out					11:00pm	Gogglebox			11:15pm	Boxing
SATURDAY	5:10pm	Final Score	2:30pm	Escape to the Country	2:30pm	ITV Racing Live From Doncaster	3:00pm	Come Dine with Me	6:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand	9:30am	The Fantasy Football Club
	6:10pm	Celebrity Mastermind	3:15pm	Mastermind the Final	5:00pm	You've Been Framed!	3:30pm	Come Dine with Me	7:10pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	10:30am	Barclays Premier League Preview
	6:40pm	BBC News	4:15pm	University Challenge	5:30pm	Local News and Weather	4:00pm	Come Dine with Me	8:05pm	NCIS: Los Angeles	11:00am	Soccer A.M.
	6:50pm	Regional News	4:45pm	Only Connect	5:45pm	ITV News and Weather	4:30pm	A Place in the Sun	9:00pm	NCIS	12:30pm	Live PI Football
	6:55pm	Weather	5:15pm	Athletics	6:00pm	Despicable Me 2	5:35pm	Location, Location, Location	9:55pm	5 News Weekend	4:00pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
	7:00pm	Pointless	9:15pm	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	8:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	6:35pm	Grand Designs	10:00pm	Football on 5	6:15pm	Football
	7:45pm	Lets Sing and Dance for Comic Relief	9:45pm	Dad's Army	9:30pm	The Voice UK	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	11:00pm	Conspiracy: Pearl Harbor Cover-Up	9:00pm	EFL Goals
	9:00pm	Who Dares Wins	10:15pm	Live at the Apollo	10:45pm	ITV News and Weather	8:00pm	Escape to the Chateau	11:30pm		9:30pm	Nissan Game of the Day
	9:40pm	Casualty	11:00pm	Martin Scorsese: True Confessions	11:00pm	Lethal Weapon	9:00pm	Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service			11:30pm	Nissan Match Choice
	10:30pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys									12:30am	Football
SUNDAY	5:00pm	Songs of Praise	12:15pm	Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day	4:50pm	The Chase	3:00pm	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	6:10pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald	10:00am	The Sunday Supplement
	5:35pm	Shop Well for Less	12:45pm	Nigelissima	5:50pm	Tipping Point	4:00pm	Location, Location, Location	7:05pm	Inside Windsor Castle	11:30am	Goals on Sunday
	6:35pm	BBC News	1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra	6:50pm	Local News and Weather	5:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Inside Windsor Castle	1:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	6:50pm	Regional News	2:00pm	Triathlon World Series	7:00pm	ITV News and Weather	5:30pm	Fantastic Four	9:00pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	4:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	6:55pm	Weather	3:30pm	Athletics	7:15pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	7:30pm	The Jump	9:55pm	5 News Weekend	8:00pm	EFL Goals
	7:00pm	The Big Painting Challenge	8:00pm	Robot Wars	7:40pm	5 Gold Rings	8:45pm	Rivers with Jeremy Paxman Ep1	10:00pm	The Bruce Forsyth Story	8:30pm	Spanish Football Gold
	8:00pm	Countryfile	9:00pm	Top Gear	8:45pm	The Voice UK	9:00pm	Homeland	11:30pm	An Audience with Bruce Forsyth	8:40pm	Football
	9:00pm	Call the Midwife	10:00pm	Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week	10:00pm	The Good Karma Hospital	10:00pm	Gogglebox			10:40pm	Spanish Football Gold
	10:00pm	SS-GB	11:00pm	London Road	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather					10:50pm	Spanish Football Gold
	11:00pm	BBC News									11:00pm	Football
										11:30pm	Football	
MONDAY	5:30pm	Flog It!	4:15pm	Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones	6:00pm	The Chase	3:10pm	Countdown	2:45pm	Neighbours	4:30pm	Football Gold
	6:15pm	Pointless	5:15pm	Madagascar	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	4:00pm	Fifteen to One	3:15pm	NCIS	4:45pm	Football Gold
	7:00pm	BBC News	6:15pm	Bargain Hunt	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:20pm	Her Dark Past	5:00pm	Football
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News at 5	5:30pm	Football
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	8:30pm	Inside Out	8:00pm	Top Gear	9:00pm	The Kyle Files	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:30pm	Premier League 100 Club
	9:00pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	University Challenge	9:30pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	9:30pm	Panorama	9:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday	10:00pm	Broadchurch	8:00pm	Food Unwrapped	8:00pm	The Cars That Made Britain Great	7:30pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	10:00pm	Crimewatch	10:00pm	Meet the Lords	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with John Bishop	9:30pm	Travel Man	9:00pm	Winter Road Rescue	8:00pm	Football
	11:00pm	BBC News					10:00pm	Mutiny	10:00pm	The Railway	12:00am	Revista de la Liga
11:30pm	Regional News											
TUESDAY	5:30pm	Flog It!	4:15pm	Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones	3:00pm	Judge Rinder	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:15pm	Shoot to Kill	5:00pm	Football
	6:15pm	Pointless	5:15pm	Madagascar	4:00pm	The Home Game	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News at 5	6:00pm	MNF Highlights
	7:00pm	BBC News	6:15pm	Bargain Hunt	5:00pm	Tipping Point	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours	6:30pm	Premier League 100 Club
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Eggheads	6:00pm	The Chase	7:00pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	7:00pm	Premier League Review
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	8:00pm	Scottish Football Round Up
	8:30pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Winter Road Rescue	8:15pm	Football Gold
	9:00pm	Holby City	9:00pm	Kate Humble - Back to the Land	8:30pm	Emmerdale	8:55pm	The Political Slot	9:00pm	Inside Windsor Castle	8:30pm	Gillette Soccer Special 2016/17
	10:00pm	The Replacement	10:00pm	1066	9:00pm	Britain's Busiest Motorway	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	10:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	11:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	11:00pm	BBC News					10:00pm	Mutiny	11:00pm	Adolf and Eva		
	11:30pm	Regional News					11:00pm	Catastrophe				
WEDNESDAY	4:45pm	Money for Nothing	4:30pm	Channel Patrol	5:00pm	Tipping Point	3:10pm	Countdown	3:20pm	NCIS	5:00pm	Premier League Review
	5:30pm	Flog It!	5:15pm	Madagascar	6:00pm	The Chase	4:00pm	Fifteen to One	4:20pm	Two Wrongs	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	6:15pm	Pointless	6:15pm	Bargain Hunt	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	6:30pm	Premier League 100 Club
	7:00pm	BBC News	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:30pm	The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	7:00pm	Premier League Review
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	8:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	9:00pm	Who Do You Think You Are?	9:00pm	The House That £100k Built	9:00pm	Little Big Shots	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Killer Landslides	8:00pm	Boxing Gold
	10:00pm	The Real Marigold Hotel	10:00pm	Incredible Medicine: Dr Weston's Casebook	10:00pm	Benidorm	8:00pm	Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	8:30pm	Fight Night
	11:00pm	BBC News	11:00pm	Mock the Week	11:30pm	ITV News	11:00pm	The Royal House of Windsor	10:00pm	Climbing the Property Ladder	9:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	11:30pm	Regional News							11:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!		

AN APPLE A DAY... Keeps the Bad Guys Away



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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

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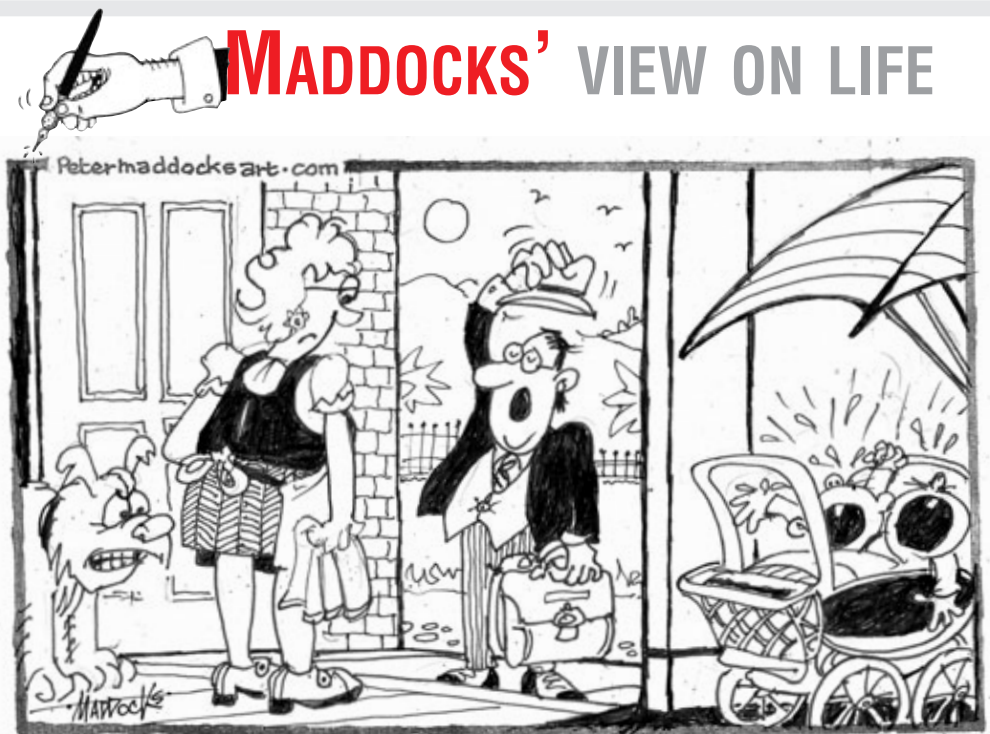
Kakuro

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.

		3	6		7	5
3				4		
				10		
15						
			7	3		
	3	6			7	4
15						
	3					
				3		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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



MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE
 'I'M SELLING PEACE AND QUIET, SENORA - FOR FIFTY EUROS I WILL GUARANTEE NEVER TO KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR EVER AGAIN!'

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

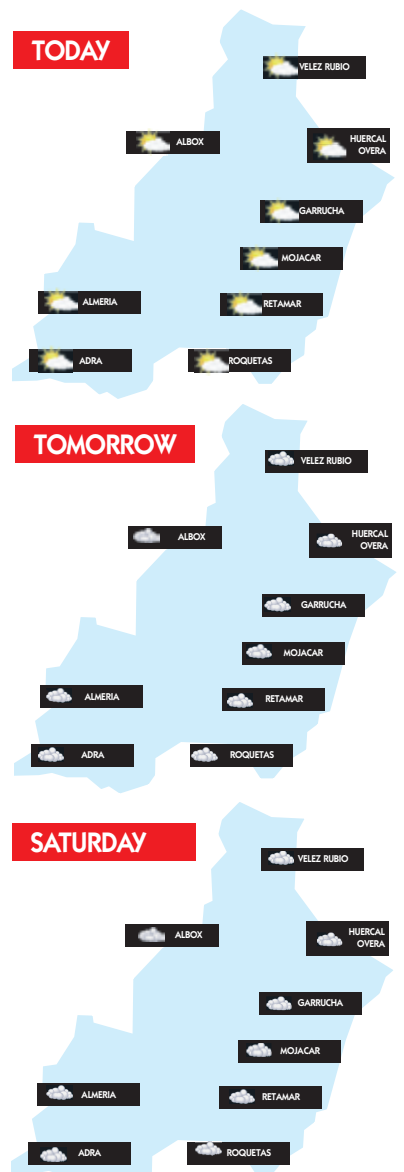
2 9 13 **BONUS BALL** 28
 27 36 48 9

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
 Sunday February 26

3 23 32 **BONUS BALL** 8
 36 51

Costa de Almería

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

Almería			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.

L	A	I
G	M	T
E	N	N

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ewer than thew twee wail wait wale ware wart wear weir welt were what whee what whir whit wile wilt wire with writ hewer threw trawl tweer twirl waler water whale wheal 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?'



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

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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

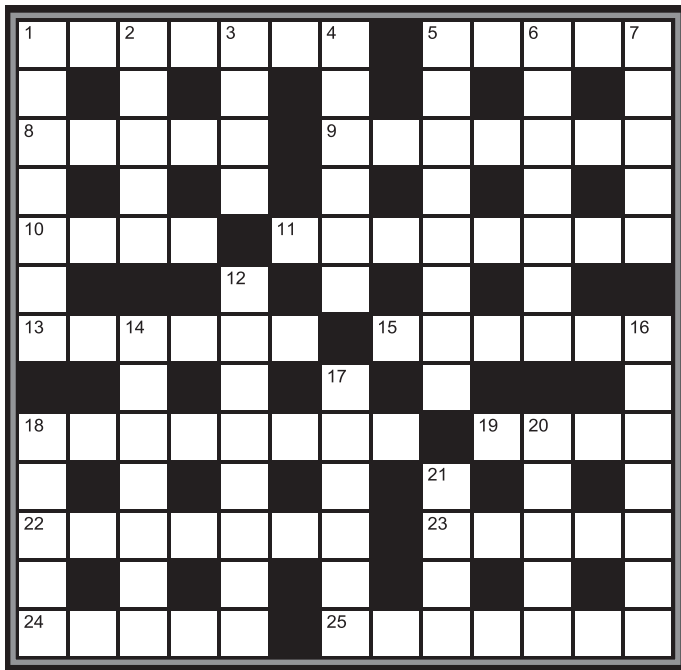
Cryptic

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

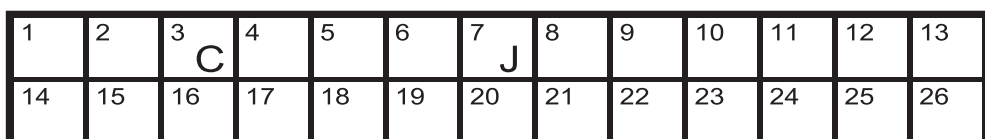
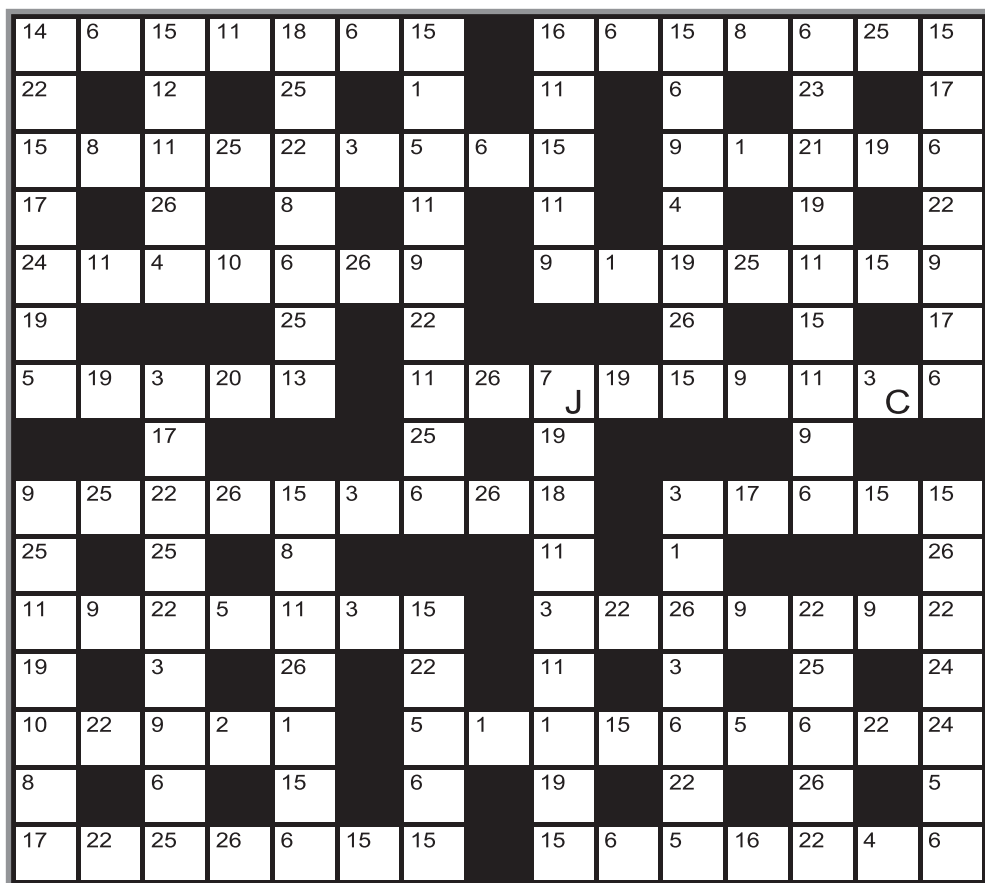
- 1 A paper's mistake crops up (7)
- 2 Treasure discovered in a controversial place (5)
- 3 Leave it in the last etching (4)
- 4 Vicar's address is in Lesser Mongolia (6)
- 5 Nobody left, that's OK (3,5)
- 6 It's in writing what newts do when confused (3,4)
- 7 "Yes", said Spanish Des, "we have teams"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



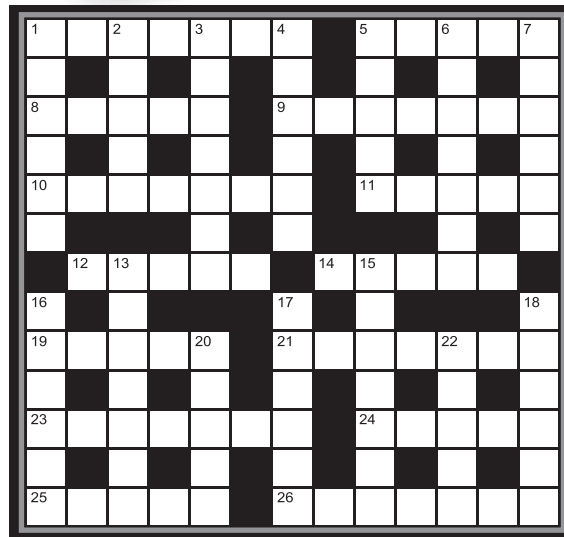
- 16 Internet search aids for motors (7)
- 17 Braggart discards small, straw hat (6)
- 18 Cut up five in anxiety (5)
- 20 Only an advance, say (5)
- 21 Compound discovered about 101 AD (4)

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

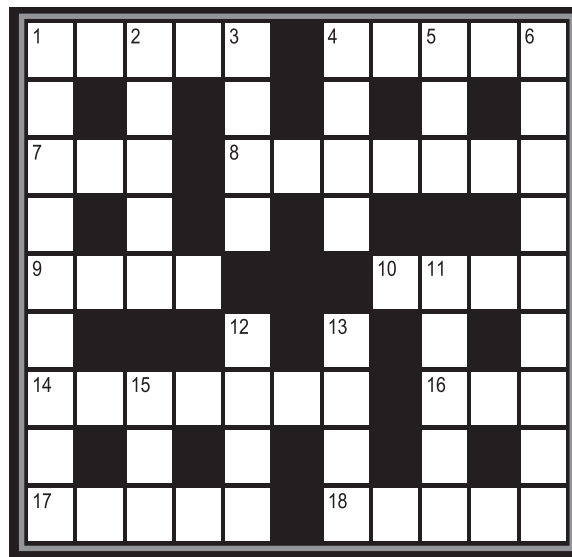
- 1 Bone of the upper arm (7)
- 5 Annoyed (5)
- 8 Monarch's domain (5)
- 9 Occurring at the beginning (7)
- 10 Enduring (7)
- 11 Took without the owner's consent (5)
- 12 Make somebody laugh (5)
- 14 Luxurious (5)
- 19 Not tense or taut (5)
- 21 Embarrassing mistake (7)
- 23 Having or showing profound 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)

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)

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.

CODE BREAKER



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.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Blue light approval

AS part of the series, we answer some common driving questions and keep you updated on the latest driving and road news kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



EMERGENCY: Blue lights to be used.

THE Congressional Road Safety Commission has approved the move for all emergency service vehicles to use blue lights, rather than amber, to follow in line with the EU.

Traditionally, only security services such as the Guardia Civil and police would use blue lights, with ambulances, fire and other priority vehicles using orange lights, but now all will use blue.

The change had been approved by previous congressional committees in 2006, 2010 and 2011, but had not been previously implemented. Now, the move has been voted for in a bid to improve road safety. The change to blue lights will also be accompanied by an awareness campaign for road users so that everyone is clear of the need to give way to priority vehicles displaying blue lights.

Irene Rivera, the deputy for the Ciudadanos political party, had raised the motion saying that some emergency vehicles had lost vital minutes in attending to emergencies as some road users had thought they were just rubbish trucks or slow moving vehicles, which also display amber lights, and had not moved out of the way for the emergency vehicles quick enough. As a result, the party asked for the change to be implemented.

The committee also took the opportunity to approve an initiative proposed by the PP to raise awareness of the human responsibility factor, intending to promote self-awareness amongst drivers as the rise in accidents on Spanish roads caused by drivers being distracted is a growing concern. This includes alcohol and drug use whilst driving.

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

Can he still get a majority?

Q. *On our complex almost all the properties are holiday homes and not occupied much of the year. The owners are multinational and the AGM is poorly attended. This makes it difficult to get the required 60 per cent approval. I propose to write to*

each owner with the details of a change of façade that I want to do. I will enclose a form to sign and return. Also, are the no shows at an AGM considered as a yes or no vote?

J N (Costa Blanca)

A. Perhaps you do not need to write to other owners. If your AGM is held on the 'second calling' and most of them are, a majority of 60 per cent of those present in person or by proxy will suffice to pass the mo-

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



tion. Unless the absentees protest within 30 days of being informed, their votes

count as favourable. I urge you to discuss your plan with your President and Administrator well in advance. Remember you need to be in the official Agenda of the meeting. You will also need a building permit.

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

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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: Can be good for our health.



Kissing has been shown to decrease the stress hormone cortisol.

Kissing has been shown to decrease 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.

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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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!

Ask The

Brought to you by

Doctor



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.

A 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.

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.



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Carnival continues

CARNIVAL celebrations continue in Albox, with the traditional Comparsas and Chirigotas music group competition running tomorrow, Friday 3, on Plaza Mayor.

Saturday, February 25, was the day for the street parades and fancy dress competitions, with prizes for the best outfits, floats and groups.

Two separate parades, one for children at 3pm and another for adults at 10pm, both set out from Plaza San Francisco and ended on Plaza Mayor, where prizes were distributed and music and dance arranged.

Albox's carnival has always been one of the most popular in the area and the council's Culture Department works hard each year to organise everything, Culture councillor Aurora Cerdan said.



EASTER POSTER: This year the chosen image is Our Lady of Peace.

Easter artwork revealed

By Eleanor Hawkins

HUERCAL-OVERA presented this year's Easter poster, which is focused on the Hermandad de La Sagrada Entrada de Jesus en Jerusalem, La Borriquita, brotherhood.

The poster rotates amongst the four main brotherhoods in the town each year,

allowing them to promote their own images and processions as well as the other events during the Holy Week. This year the chosen image is of Our Lady of Peace and the poster was designed by local artist Diego Gomez.

The artwork was presented at an event attended by Mayor Domingo Fernandez, Culture councillor Belen Martinez,

Tourism councillor Monica Navarro, the president of La Borriquita brotherhood Jenny Brodie, representatives of the other religious groups and members of the public.

The next Easter-related event in Huerca-Overa will be the 'pregon,' the initial speech, which will be given on March 11 by Oscar Francisco Trujillo.

Raising for Alejandra

ALBOX Council has announced that two events this month will help raise funds for a local girl fighting cancer.

Eleven-year-old Alejandra is receiving treatment at a children's oncology centre in Almeria City and friends and neighbours, in collaboration with the Culture department, have arranged for donations to help the family get by.

The first of the two events will be the final concert of the Solos Musical Cycle organised by BirdBrain Producciones and the Culture Department on March 17. The concert, by Itziar Baiza, will be held at the town hall's plenary hall and will be the last chance to catch a performance by national musicians during the cycle.

The second will be a processional march music concert by the Municipal Music Band on March 25. This concert is an annual taster of what's to come for Easter and there will be tons for people to donate.

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Importance of the sea

By Eleanor Hawkins

CARNIVAL was more than just a party for the pupils of the Concordia school in Campohermoso as their teachers made it an educational event too.

School staff decided to dedicate this year's carnival celebration to marine life with activities to raise awareness of the importance of the sea and teach children about the life within it.

Costumes donned by the children and their parents and teachers for the party and the street parade thus included jellyfish, fish, starfish, divers and fishermen amongst other marine-related character for a fun-filled day on Friday (February 24).

Nijar's Treasury councillor David Lozano and Sports councillor Sergio Vicente attended the event and praised the school for its organisation. "It was a very special day especially as whole families took part. Plus, we must stress the important work done by all to teach the little ones about our sea," the councillors later said.



EDUCATIONAL EVENT: A very special day as whole families took part.

Hike and learn about the area

MORE than 100 people took part in the second hike of the year organised at the weekend by Nijar's Municipal Women's Information Centre and learned some more about the area in the process.

This time the hike started at the Pantano de Isabel II reservoir and covered beautiful countryside through irrigation channels built in the 19th century which were never put to use.

A guide gave a talk on the huge construction project, which began in 1842 and had a budget of 10 million reales (the Spanish currency at the time.)

The walkers followed a circular, 10 kilometre route which took them as far as the site of the ruins of Tristanes, where they stopped for a break, and back again.

Social Welfare councillor Victoria Calatrava, who took part in the walk,

said: "this is the second hike the Municipal Women's Information Centre has organised and it was a great morning.

"We're already working to prepare the next hike, which will take us to the coast and will be on the last weekend in March. We think this sort of activity provides a chance to spend a day with other locals and learn more about the area."



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CENTRE STAGE: The group has already put on a number of successful plays.

Three generations unite

By Eleanor Hawkins

A THEATRE programme in Vera, Mirando Atras (Looking back) has been uniting three generations for three years in a row now through drama.

Run by the council's Infants, Youths, Seniors and New Technologies department, the programme sees Alyanub secondary school students, teachers and members of the San Cleofas se-

niors' centre take to the stage to put on plays for young children from local schools.

The group has already put on a number of successful plays and are now preparing to perform La Fiesta de Eva (Eva's Party) for schools on March 9 and 10.

On the afternoon of Friday 10 there will also be a performance for the public to raise funds for local boy Leo the

Lion who has undergone various operations on brain tumours and is currently being treated in the US.

Infant, Youth and Seniors councillor Isabel Belmonte said: "it is an enriching experience which unites three marvellous groups: infants, youths and seniors. It's worth the hard work just to see the seniors and youths having fun on the stage and the grins of the children in the audience."

Rock festival nominated as the best

THE Juergas Rock Festival, which will be running this year on August 3-5, has been nominated for Best Festival in Manerasdevivir.com and GarridoRock Radio's Best of 2016 competition.

The nomination, the organisers said, "is like a pat on the back and lets us know we're on the right track. Now we can carry on working and

pushing ourselves to help our public enjoy three days of rock, beach and fun each year."

Tickets for this year's edition of the festival are already on sale and can be obtained via the official festival website, www.thejuergasrockfestival.com, any Correos post office or official sales points as listed on the website.

History on four wheels

MORE than 30 2CVs could be seen along the province's coastline at the weekend as the Costa de Almeria was chosen as the location for a meet-up of classic car owners.

About 100 people met up in their four-wheeled oldies to tour the province and discover the diversity of the area, said Almeria Provincial Council president Gabriel Amat.

Amat congratulated the participating clubs on their choice of destination and praised their efforts to conserve the classic cars. "They're not just part of the memories of many generations, they're also part of the history of Spain," he said.



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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 Knights-bridge, 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.”

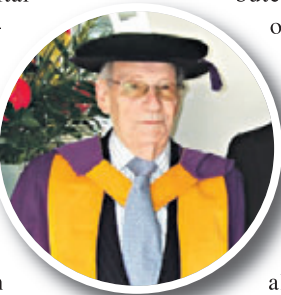
Ceserani was one of those rare birds that combined academia with practical and creative culinary skills.

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 inter-

viewer 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.

Rural plans to include caravan park

BACARES Council has drawn up a project to build a rural accommodation complex with capacity for 23 people and a caravan park near the village.

The complex, which is awaiting authorisation from the environmental authorities, will also include a farm-school, and will allow people to commune with nature, the council reported.

Although the municipally owned land on which the complex will be built is under special protection, the council hopes as it is a project of public interest it will be approved.

There will be five apartments, four for four people and one, adapted for the disabled, for seven people, plus kitchens, bathrooms, lounges and a reception area, all covering 455m2 on a plot totalling 94,144m2.



FLORIDA EVERGLADES: An interesting talk for March.

Speakers at Albox Branch RBL

GUEST speaker John Fleet gave a fascinating talk about Osprey Watch in the Lake District at the members' meeting in February.

Anyone wishing to follow the work being done can do so by logging onto <http://www.ospreywatch.co.uk/wordpress/>.

The guest speaker for the members' meeting on Thursday March 16 will be Esther Navarro who will be talking about her work as a Ranger in the Florida Everglades. This will be as interesting as John's talk so do please go along.

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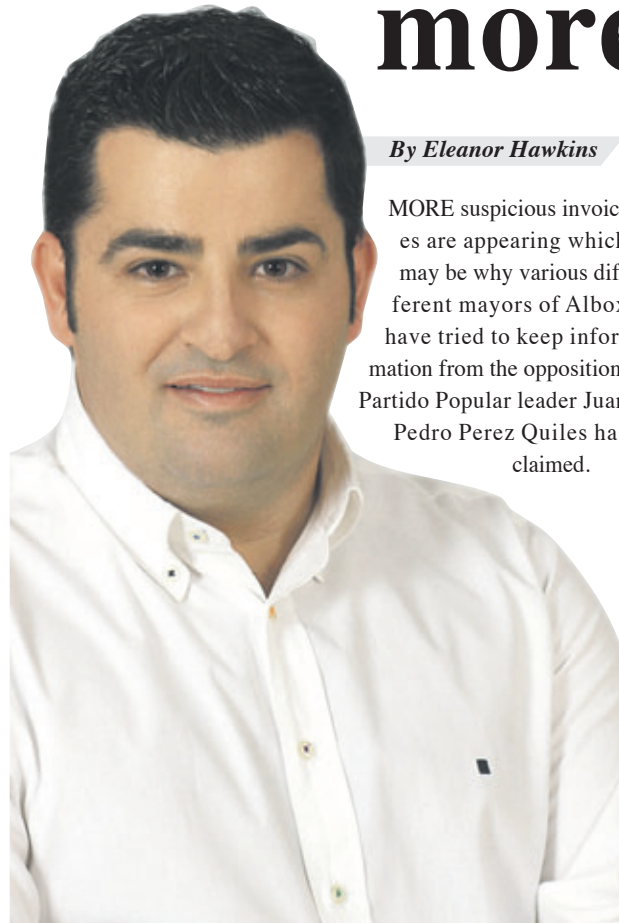
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Opposition voices yet more suspicions



By Eleanor Hawkins

MORE suspicious invoices are appearing which may be why various different mayors of Albox have tried to keep information from the opposition, Partido Popular leader Juan Pedro Perez Quiles has claimed.

“The suspicious invoices all come from the same person although they are for a variety of concepts.”

His party, the opposition leader told La Comarca Noticias local news site, has for years been trying to unravel “strange things” and a constant “trickle of expenses for jobs which either haven’t been done or were charged at well over the market price.”

The strangest thing of all, Perez Quiles said, is that the suspicious invoices all come from the same person although they are for a variety of concepts and that person is related to the deputy mayor.

The businessman has sent the council invoices amounting to more than €21,000 over the years for decorating the inside of the municipal nursery school, making a promotional video and making a metallic sculpture among other things.

The opposition leader said: “he seems to be a jack of all trades and that is very suspicious. There are lots of professionals in Albox yet he seems to have been employed as an engineer, architect, image specialist, interior designer and sculptor.”

His party, Perez Quiles said, intends to take the matter to the public prosecutor for investigation. “This is no coincidence and if someone has benefited in this way while so many others are out of work someone inside the town hall must have arranged it,” he said. The PP is convinced the businessman hasn’t kept all the money himself either, Quiles claimed.

PEREZ QUILES: Trying to unravel ‘strange things.’

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Free again

By Eleanor Hawkins

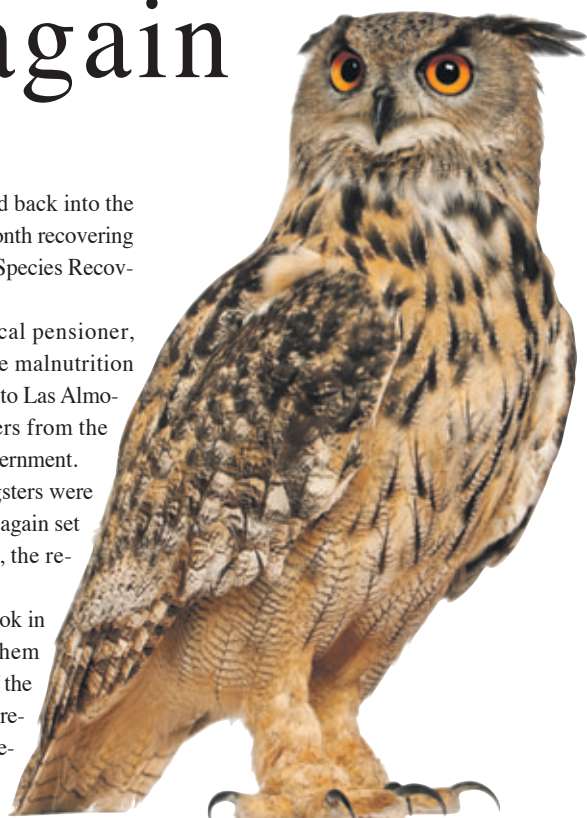
AN eagle owl has been released back into the wild in Oria after spending a month recovering at Las Almohallas Endangered Species Recovery Centre in Velez-Rubio.

The bird was found by a local pensioner, Jose Laso, with signs of severe malnutrition and unable to fly and was taken to Las Almohallas by environmental officers from the Junta de Andalucia regional government.

Laso and various local youngsters were present when the bird was once again set free, as was Antonio Martinez, the regional Environmental delegate.

The Las Almohallas centre took in 952 animals in 2016, 183 of them birds. On average, two thirds of the animals treated at the centre are released back into the wild after recovering.

Martinez stressed the importance of citizen collaboration to enable wild animals in poor health to be rescued and urged anyone who finds an animal in trouble to alert emergency services by phoning 112.



EAGLE OWL: Has been released back into the wild after recovering.

Some TLC

ARBOLEAS Council is carrying out improvements in various different neighbourhoods to improve their image as promised before the elections.

Los Higuerales, El Rulador and La Cinta are among the areas receiving some much needed TLC to improve their image, explained Mayor Cristobal Garcia.

"We think we're doing a good job and residents will see we haven't left any of the neighbourhoods out. The only thing holding us back is financing as we're having to make the most of the limited resources available and the regional employment schemes for labour," the mayor said.

Plenty water guaranteed

ALCONTAR'S Hijate district will have no more water woes thanks to a new deposit Almeria Provincial Council will be paying for through its Provincial Municipal Spending Plans.

Public Works delegate Oscar

Liria announced that the contract has been signed for an "ambitious project" which will consist of two parts and will guarantee the area sufficient drinking water, even in the summer when the population multiplies.



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Now open for shopping

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE Albox and Almanzora Valley Business Association (AEPA) is working on a number of projects to improve and adapt the streets of the historical centre, now classed as an Open Commercial Centre by the regional government.

The new status will allow for various schemes including an agreement with Cajamar bank for a points card to be used at local businesses and joint commercial campaigns.

The whole area will be gradually adapted over the next four years, in collaboration with the authorities, to provide better access, parking, lighting and signs among other things, the association said.

AEPA president Martin Martos said: "With this recognition of the Open Commercial Centre we will ensure that Albox continues as the head of commerce in the county and the north of the province. Our businesses cover all the needs and services anyone can require, with the best prices and a broad range of products, thanks to the amount of experience and professional nature of our shops and businesses."



HISTORICAL CENTRE: Projects will improve and adapt the streets.

Under the carpet

THE Partido Popular opposition group in Cantoria has had to ask the council to stop trying to brush an incident last year involving the mayor's husband under the carpet and to provide the courts with a correct set of minutes to the plenary session it occurred at.

PP spokesman Jose Maria Llamas lodged an official report in April 2016 after Antonio Cerrillo, municipal advisor and Mayor Purificacion Garcia's husband, interrupted a council session and insulted him. In the end the mayor had to have Local Police officers remove her allegedly drunk husband from the room before the session could continue.

However, according to the

PP party the minutes for the plenary session delivered to the examining magistrates' court in Huerca-Overa dealing with the case fail to give a full account of the incident or even name the person who caused the interruption.

Llamas claimed at the time that he feared for his and his family's safety as Cerrillo was an aggressive man who, as a hunter, had access to firearms.

The reason for the public verbal attack, the opposition party believes, is that it has supported municipal employees who were allegedly unfairly dismissed as soon as the PSOE socialist council came into power after the last local elections.

Drug prevention

A NEW campaign which Zurgena Council and the Proyecto Hombre Foundation have agreed to run in the village will be working to prevent drug use amongst youngsters.

The project will include organising information sessions for local youths and their parents, awareness campaigns, community activities and providing healthy alternatives for leisure and free time.



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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 Almería 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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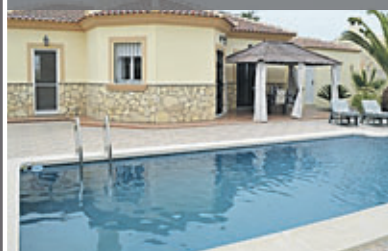
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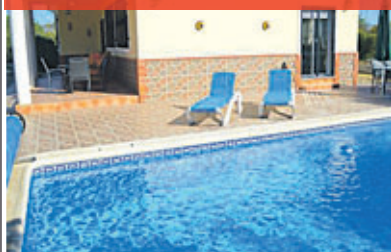
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Spain: Investment hotspot

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).



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LONDON: Luxury homes are preferable to paying money to the tax man.



Decisions, decisions

By Matthew Elliott

BILLIONAIRES prefer paying eye-wateringly expensive rents for luxurious London homes rather than forking out more money for the tax man in stamp duty. The final quarter of 2016 saw the number of rents exceeding £3,000 (€3,500) per week jump up by 28 per cent.

Experts suggest that the 15 per cent stamp duty on second homes, which came into effect last April, is the prime

2016

The final quarter saw the number of high rents jump up by 28 per cent.

motivation. By avoiding paying €1.5 million on a €10 million home, the uber rich can actually save money paying hundreds of thousands a year in rent.

There are thousands of properties listed online in London alone with rents over €3,500, which is more than €150,000 per year. Extreme luxury can be found in penthouse suites and Mayfair homes which command €40,000 a week, much more than the average annual salary.

And those are just the publicly listed properties. Regardless of the shift towards luxury rents, the public purse had done well out of the stamp duty, which raised more than €8 billion in 2016.

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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. Be-



PAMPAS GRASS: Provides a great display of feathery plumes.

Photo by Luke Luke Shutterstock

ing 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

background 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 pro-

fusely 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.

Pruning back to the central core after flowering has finished to keep plants fresh and to minimise build up of dried leaves is the easiest approach but they can also be regularly given a light prune or clipping to maintain shape in specific landscaped areas where form is important and fresh growth is required all year round. Remove spent flowers regularly if you want to maximise flowering period and frequency of flowering.

Clean and save

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 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.



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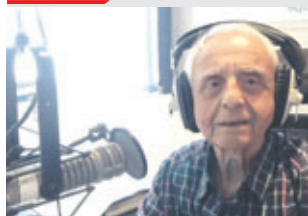
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Scratching and licking



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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 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.

In many cases where a dog is seen licking itself with the owner getting frustrated shouting 'Stop licking,' it is enough to cause conflict in the pet's mind.

Stress levels should be re-



SCRATCHING: Allergic reaction?

duced by maintaining regular schedules like feeding three times a day at a set time, habitual and increased exercise and consistent use of commands followed by immediate reward of 'Good dog.'

Sometimes drug therapy is re-

quired to correct the animal's imbalances in the brain, as it is difficult with behaviour modification alone.

If any readers are experiencing excessive licking or scratching with their pet consult a vet.

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

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These bewildering and confusing times have an answer – somehow

Ric Polansky



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

I TOO realise how confusing times are. You, as an individual and part of our society is much to blame but so is the mass education and learning process that has moved us along to this point in time, space and history to arrive at this bewildering juncture in our life's process.

Well, it is time to pause, not let the rush of events carry you downhill. Take a firm stance and observe. Study fully the beast in front or is it in fact just shadows or smoking mirrors meaning nothing consequential?

We are in fact entering a new age, leaving the horse drawn carriages behind and taking control of steam or gasoline powered locomotion. These ages have been pretty well sign posted throughout our past: stone age,

copper age, bronze, iron

Mechanised, nuclear fission and this new digital age, creating robots and drones quicker than our human population is procreating. Our forefathers faced these issues but most likely those few that read history would know about those times.

Nevertheless, some major adjusting is going to have to take place, and quickly too. All dropping on the popularly trained masses that know algebra and trigonometry and are absolutely unprepared for the shock taking place so blatantly right now.

A lot of dramatic new thinking must occur. A personal renaissance for almost each person continuing to live in an industrial society. All of this adds to our own discombobulated state of consciousness. Our current 'modern man' is worse than ill prepared for these stellar paradigm shifts largely because while he was earning he never became aware of how the ground was

shifting underneath him. The very news media that started his day became totally Polar and staunchly political at the same time.

Everybody seems to have their own agenda for getting things done and no one wanted to wait for the process to be inculcated into the system. A dire urgency seems to rule all agendas concerned and likewise a dire expediency for boxing it all in and locking it all down, tight, secure and unchangeable.

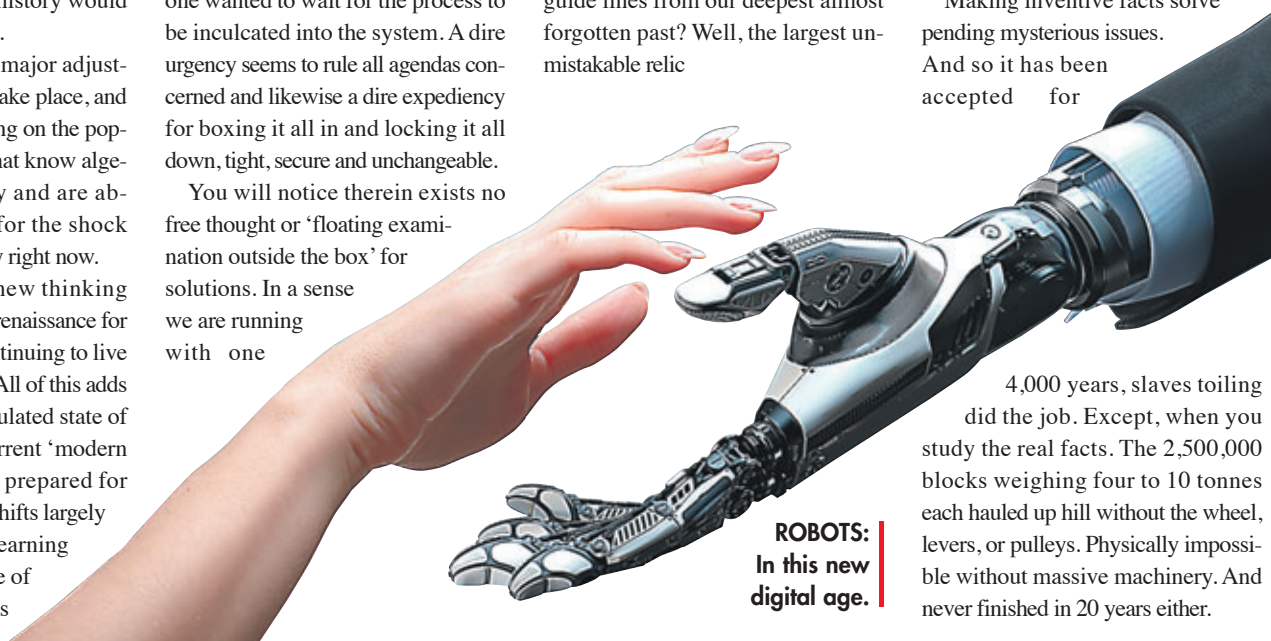
You will notice therein exists no free thought or 'floating examination outside the box' for solutions. In a sense we are running with one

leg nailed down and the scenery we are passing should be overly familiar. Worse yet, it doesn't appear that 'our dear leaders' actually know much more about remedies than us.

Can we seek ancient help? Some guide lines from our deepest almost forgotten past? Well, the largest unmistakable relic

of the prehistoric past is nothing less than the Great Pyramids of Giza. Built in less than 20 years according to Herodotus (father of history) they suffer from one major drawback - the tale could only have been just that.

Making inventive facts solve pending mysterious issues. And so it has been accepted for



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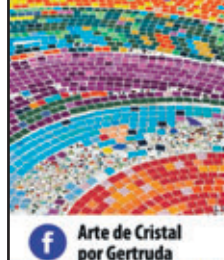
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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“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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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 inten-

tion 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.



PORSCHE 928S:
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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 depending 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, dual-zone climate control, 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



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

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.



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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 Turre.

Costa de Almería



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 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.

ROUND-UP

Ukrainian tennis star, Elina Svitolina, beat Caroline Wozniacki to win the Dubai championship.

The Indian Wells tennis tournament runs March 6-19.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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.



SIX NATIONS:
England top the table.

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Alberto Salazar is under investigation following the BBC's Panorama programme which alleged that drugs were used at his USA training base.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Badgers play at Aguilon Golf

TUESDAY February 21 saw more than 30 players travel to Aguilon Golf Resort which tends to have some wind blowing through the mountains, but it didn't seem to affect the scores too much.

Seamus Corbett, a regular visitor from Ireland, brought along a new set of clubs and claimed a prize in all three categories. He performed a Riverdance in celebration... the luck of the Irish! Well done Seamus. A good day was had by all.

Full results:

1st Kevin Riley 36 points, 2nd Jan Page and 3rd Seamus Corbett.

NTP: Keith Dring 8th, Ray Farmer 12th, Seamus Corbett 15th and Del Leary 18th.

Two's: Del Leary (nearest in two), Kevin Riley, Jan Page and Seamus Corbett.

Badgers also play on a Saturday morning. For further information call Duncan Smart on 634 331 059.

This week the Badgers' committee paid a visit to the Asprodalba Centre in Vera which provides support for people with learning disabilities. They received a very warm welcome at the centre which is their chosen charity this year. The committee, on behalf of Badgers Bar Golf Society, presented the centre with five new computers which were very gratefully received.

Individual stableford

WITH not much growth in the grass, the lightning speed of the greens and the prevailing 'levante' high winds, it is a testing time for the members of Aguilon Members Club.

On Wednesday February 15 members played an Individual Stableford in sunny and warm conditions with a little wind. Two players fought it out for top spot and there was a four-way tie for third place which was decided on countback.

Results: 1st Dave Wilson 38 pts, 2nd Jim Laing 37 pts and 3rd Terry Moore 33 pts on a card play off.

Twos: Andy Killen 3rd, Rabbe Thun 12th, John Bridgen 14th.

The Campbell Lamont Qualifier was played on Wednesday February 22 and with only three qualifiers left before the regional finals, it is getting tense at the top. On an unusually calm day it was also tight at the top of the leaderboard with a three-way tie decided on countback.

Results: 1st Andy Killen 36 pts on a card play off, 2nd Norman Ridgway 36 pts on a card play off, 3rd Terry Moore 36 pts.

Twos: Ann Miles at the 3rd and 12th, Dave Simpson and Rabbe Thun at the 12th, Sandra Hooker and Mark Newall at the 14th, Roy Bishop and George Holland at the 17th.

For further information log on to the website at aguilonmembersclub.com.



WINNERS: Andy Killen (left) and Dave Wilson (right).



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