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Snakes alive

Live cats and dogs offered to pet python

By Jay Emeny
and Matt Ford

A young woman from Loja, Granada, has been arrested by the Guardia Civil for feeding live puppies and kittens to her pet snake.

She has allegedly been offering her 1.5 metre long, five-year-old ball python (*Python regius*), also known as the royal python, the bizarre diet for a considerable period of time.

The shocking facts came to light when she placed the serpent for sale on an internet portal, with the text accompanied by a photograph which depicts the reptile wrapped around what appears to be a young puppy.

Pythons are non-venomous and kill by constriction, whereby prey is pulled into the animal's coils, shutting off blood flow to vital organs such as the heart and brain.

Having spotted the ad listing, a concerned member of an animal protection association contacted the woman to express her interest in the snake.

As they chatted by WhatsApp, the owner began to boast how she would feed the python young dogs and cats, plus the occasional bird, according to a statement from Seprona, the Guardia Civil's nature protection arm.

The latter was contacted by the angry animal lover following her conversation with the accused.

Having been detained, the woman admitted during questioning that what she had

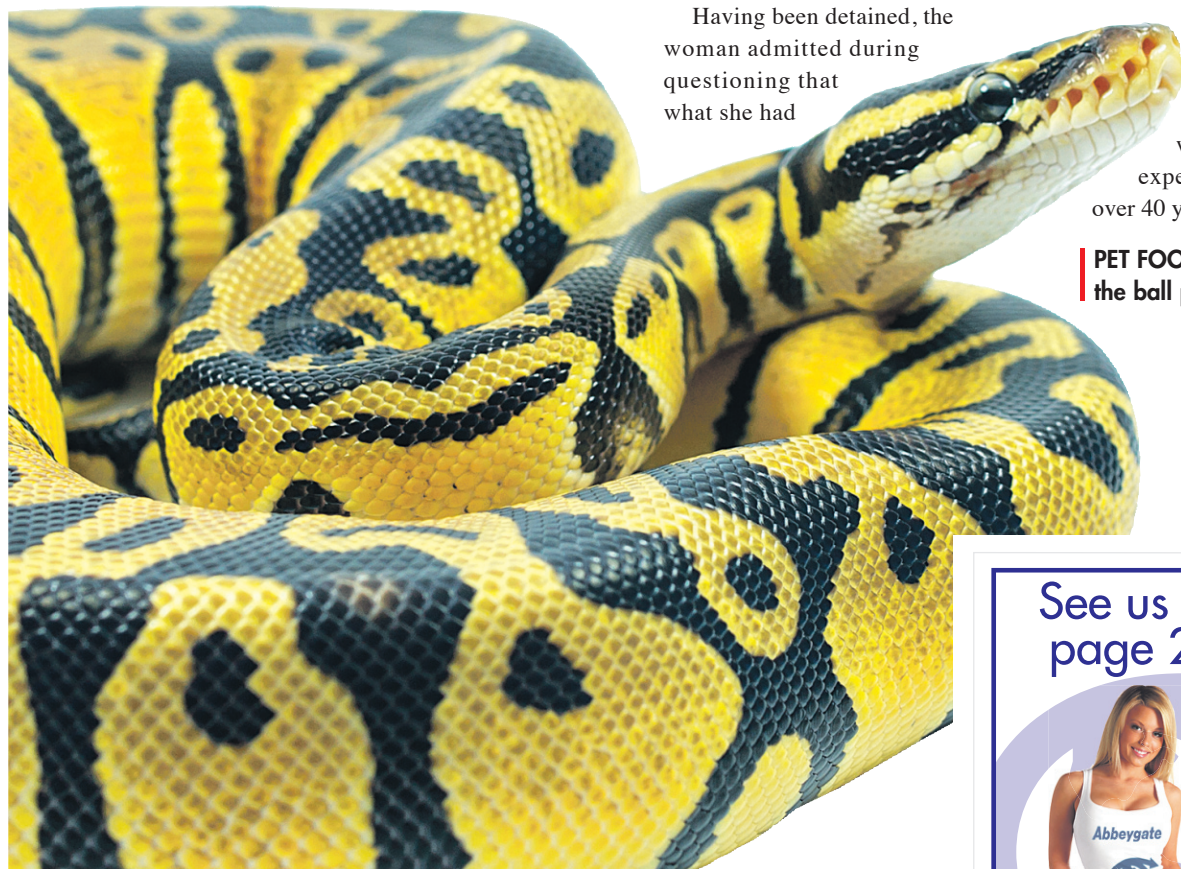
told the fake buyer was true, and that she had indeed been giving her pet live cats and dogs to eat.

The snake owner, who remains unnamed, now faces a judicial hearing which will dictate whether she will be charged with animal abuse and cruelty.

The ball python is the smallest of the African pythons and popular in the pet trade since it does not grow as large as related species and typically has a

docile temperament, with a life expectancy of over 40 years.

PET FOOD: For the ball python.



Pickled pilot

A 44-YEAR-OLD woman collided with bollards and parked cars after drunkenly driving 200 metres down a pedestrianised area of Torre del Mar. The car eventually came to a halt after hitting the front of a house. The driver, who was breathalysed, apparently told officers she did not know how to drive the car.

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About turn

THE town of Motril has been under siege since the Spanish Army, supported by Air Force and Navy battalions, has spent a number of days training in the area with a

battery of surface to air missiles (SAM) and regiments from Cartagena, Madrid and Sevilla taking part.

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Trash talking

NERJA'S Department of Commerce has reminded owners of bars, cafes and public terraces to keep the areas in front of their business clean. The town's councillor for Trade, Carmen Gonzalez, said "we are approaching Easter and we've had numerous complaints from passers-by who find garbage in the streets."

» See page 12

Jam-packed class

IRATE pupils and parents have protested about overcrowded classrooms outside the gates of Rincon de la Victoria's Colegio Josefina Aldecoa. Around 70 students and their parents have

voiced their concerns over the lack of classroom space for sixth grade pupils, with many now taught in temporary, pre-fabricated classrooms.

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LOCAL NEWS

Delay slammed

MALAGA'S Medical Union has criticised the continued delay in opening the Torre de Benagalbon medical centre. Completed five years ago following an investment of €600,000, the centre re-

mains shut. The Ministry of Health had previously committed to opening the centre in February and then November last year and has now changed the deadline to 'early 2017.'

Chilly waters

VELEZ-MALAGA'S municipal pool has dropped in temperature, forcing the town council to warn the company responsible for its maintenance that it might be sanctioned. The city's councillor for Sports, Maria Jose Roberto, blamed the previous Partido Popular council, who she alleges awarded the maintenance contract "to a company that does not offer sufficient guarantees."

Urban upgrade

ARENAS is set to benefit from a €20,000 investment for improvements to its city centre. The city council has launched a campaign, named 'Arenas blooms in Spring,' to accompany the project and keep residents informed.

Arenas' mayor, Laureano Martin, has said improvements will take place "gradually" and that he encourages "neighbourhood collaboration."



DON'T FORGET: To move your clocks forward by one hour.

It's finally time to spring forward into the summer

By Francesca Souter

DESPITE recent spells of bad weather, the days are now getting longer and summer is well and truly on its way.

The arrival of daylight savings time this Sunday (March 26) means the clocks will go forward, bringing us longer and lighter

nights - the perfect excuse for an evening spent out with friends or family.

This year, the change coincides with Mothering Sunday, so anyone planning to bring their mum a delicious breakfast in bed, or book a table at her favourite restaurant, will need to make sure that they don't get caught out!

Spend five minutes changing the clocks around your house before bed this Saturday evening. Most mobile phones and radio clocks will adjust themselves, but it never hurts to double check your settings!

Find yourself forgetting which way the clock is changing? Remember this handy mnemonic, 'Spring forward, fall back.'



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Miles Hitchcock – More than 14 Years Experience in the area

Don't forget Mother's Day

MOTHERING SUNDAY in the UK and Gibraltar is the fourth Sunday in Lent and differs from the date of Mother's Day in Spain (first Sunday in May) and the USA (second Sunday in May) but although this is in some ways a relatively new holiday, its roots go back to Ancient Greece.

More recently, it became a regular celebration in the UK as early as the 17th century, when following a church service where prayers were dedicated to the Virgin Mary it became traditional to give flowers and small gifts to mothers of all ages.

The practice died out in the UK by the 19th century but was promoted in the USA by Julia Ward Howe, composer of the iconic 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' and by 1914, it was officially recognised in the USA.

Today, Mother's Day is recognised in at least 50 countries throughout the world and it is likely that restaurants and flower shops in certain parts of Spain will be particularly busy on Sunday March 26 as British residents and visitors take the opportunity to celebrate and thank their mothers.

Driving force

A 44-YEAR-OLD woman collided with bollards and parked cars after drunkenly driving 200 metres down a pedestrianised area of Torre del Mar. The car eventually came to a halt after hitting the front of a house.

The driver, who was breathalysed, apparently told officers she did not know how to drive the car, which had an automatic gearbox. Council workers have barricaded the damaged area and are undertaking repairs.

No serious injuries were sustained, but the woman, who was found to have a blood alcohol level higher than 0.4 milligrams per litre, needed medical attention, as did her passenger.

This accident is the latest in a series of tragedies on the roads of Velez-Málaga. In the last two weeks, a 40-year-old pedestrian and a 29-year-old motorcyclist were killed in separate incidents in the city. Last week a 45-year-old pedestrian was seriously injured by a car in El Ingenio's car park.

Ramble on

AN injured hiker was rescued from the peak of Sierra Almijara. The 65-year-old

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...6

SPAIN'S Michelin starred restaurants have been making global headlines for two decades, and with 30 new stars awarded for 2017, the trend looks set to continue. There are now nine restaurants in Spain with the maximum three-star rating for "exceptional cuisine with a special journey," placing the nation fifth in world rankings behind Japan (26), France (25), the U.S. (14), and Germany (10).



Cooking-up global fame

LEGENDARY Basque chef Martin Berasategui is the holder of eight Michelin stars, more than anyone else in Spain.

He began to work at his parent's restaurant at the age of 14, when there were no Michelin stars in the Basque Country, but by 25 he owned the restaurant and had gained his first star.

He opened his eponymous eatery in Lasarte-Oria, near San Sebastian, in 1993 and it was awarded its third Michelin star in 2001.

Berasategui holds three more stars at Lasarte in

Barcelona and another two at M.B. in Tenerife, plus a further six around the world including two in the Dominican Republic and one in Mexico. However, having the most stars is not the only accolade to aim for.

El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, run by the famed Roca brothers, was named the world's best eatery by Restaurant magazine in 2013 and 2015, while the same title was handed to Ferran Adrià's El Bulli in 2002 and for four consecutive years between 2006 and 2009.

Culinary rivals

WITH 30 stars across the city, Barcelona heads Spanish city rankings with the most Michelin awards. However, only one eatery - Berasategui's Lasarte - enjoys the top accolade, collecting its third star in this year's awards, the first addition in this category since 2014. The remaining 27 stars are shared between 24 restaurants.

Meanwhile Madrid restaurants have 21 Michelin stars spread over 14 es-

tablishments, placing it among Europe's top foodie destinations since six have two or more stars. DiverXo is the sole three-star restaurant, serving experimental modern cuisine.

However, for those seeking quality over quantity, San Sebastian is the place to head, with its seven 3-Miche-



SAN SEBASTIAN: For quality.

lin star eateries placing it among the cities holding the most stars per square metre in the world.

Spanish man had fractured his ankle while attempting the famously difficult Pico del Cisne route. Part of a group, the man was stretchered to a lower altitude by Guardia Civil officers and firefighters. He was then taken by ambulance to the Hospital Comarcal de la Axarquía for x-rays.

Concrete jungle

A GROUP of around 800 people have come together to protest improvements

to Torre de Benagalbon's seafront, which would see further concrete added.

The city council has announced plans to add a 3.4 kilometre long promenade. A spokesman for the group opposing the plans, Antonio Trillo, explained, "we want the city council to listen to us... we do not want more concrete in front of the beach."

"It is outrageous to get rid of one of only three coastal environments in which there are still dunes."

Improving access

NERJA'S City Council continues to improve accessibility for less able-bodied people.

Improvements such as adapting steps are being carried out over the next few months and Avenida de Pescia and Calle de Andalucía have already been updated.

Maria Rivas, the town's councillor for Culture, said the council are fixing the historical problems the area has had with accessibility, commenting, "Nerja has been left behind in this respect," adding, "we will continue working to make the municipality accessible for all."

Postal stamps missed

SPAIN'S postal service, Correos, has printed a series of stamps incorrectly naming Velez-Málaga's castle 'Castillo de los Velez,' rather than 'Castillo de Velez-Málaga.'

The stamps form part of a series celebrating Axarquía's tourist attractions, however, the mistake concerning the Velez-Málaga landmark has caused confusion.

It is believed the postal service has mixed up the

castle with a similarly named monument in Murcia, however the picture on the stamp is of Velez-Málaga's castle.

The city's council is now asking Correos to remedy the mistake.

The Castle of Velez-Málaga was built in the 10th century and became an important stronghold in the 14th and 15th centuries. Works to restore the castle began in the 1970s.

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per cent of the Spanish population believe homosexuality is "morally unacceptable," making the nation the most gay-tolerant in the world.

Not so playful

THE Barcelona brothel offering rubber sex dolls has been closed. After Lumidolls gained worldwide publicity, the landlord of their property cancelled the lease just as the city announced the business was unlicensed and local prostitutes protested over unfair competition !

Quite a scare

MORE than 70 tourists abseiled 250 feet down after being stranded in a cable car on Tenerife's Mount Teide. Two hundred more on the mountain top were rescued on foot though some with disabilities had to spend the night in a refuge.

Magic touch

MORE than 500 grams of hallucinogenic mushrooms and 28 boxes of seeds were found by police who raided a home in Puerto Santa Maria, Cadiz. The female Dutch occupant is thought to have been selling them for €50 per delivery, with some internet clients living in Australia.

Eye on SPAIN

Around the nation in 6 stories

Postcard from

CÓRDOBA



ANDALUCIA'S third largest city, Cordoba with a 350,000 population and a fascinating mix of old and new is the globe's largest urban space to be declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.

Despite mercury levels from June to September at times rising to 45° it is a year-round favourite with national and foreign tourists partly due to excellent road, rail and air links.

With its history dating to pre-Roman times. Cordoba fell under Moorish domination as early as 711 and by the 10th century was one of the largest cities in the known world.

Unlike in some parts of Spain, Christians and Muslims existed alongside each other and at one time worshipped in the same building. The building of the great Mosque ended this practice though when the city was restored to Spanish rule, the Mosque became a Cathedral and is still a place of worship today.

Near to the Cathedral is the old Jewish Quarter and the city also boasts seven bridges, and an annual Patio Festival, in addition to hundreds of jewellery manufacturers and superb restaurants which blend the influences of Moorish and Spanish culinary tastes.

Popular dishes include Salmorejo and Rabo de Toro.

Fighting protest

TWENTY activists stripped to their underwear and covered themselves in fake blood in a Valencia street to protest against bullfighting as part of a regular activity by the Spanish charity and NGO AnimaNaturalis.

Caught on film

TWO men have been arrested after being filmed on CCTV installing copying and cloning devices at bank ATMs in the Madrid area in a Guardia Civil investigation dating back several months.

Zebra skin

A ZEBRA skin rug and pieces of coral offered for sale against international laws have been seized by Seprona (the Nature Protection arm of the Guardia Civil) officers in Menorca.

Terror link

A MOROCCAN aged 43 in Girona found sending money to a relative in Syria believed to be a terrorist with Daesh has been arrested by Spanish authorities liaising with Europol.

Birthdays

• Mo Farah, Athlete, March 23, 34

British distance runner who won the Olympic gold medals for both the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic games. He is the most decorated British athlete who has won the European Athlete of the Year award and the British Athletics Writers Association British Athlete of the Year award six times.

• Mary Berry, Cook/TV Host, March 24, 82

Popular judge on the TV show Great British Bake Off who has also hosted shows such as Mary Berry Cooks and Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. She has published more than 75 cookbooks including her first book The Hamlyn All Colour Cookbook in 1970 and the bestselling Baking Bible in 2009.

• Elton John, Musician, March 25, 70

The English singer, pianist and composer's career has spanned five decades and is one of the best-selling artists in the world having sold more than 300 million records.



Some of his hit singles include Rocket Man, I'm Still Standing and Candle in the Wind. He was knighted by the Queen in 1998 for his services to music and charitable services.

• Jennifer Grey, Actress, March 26, 57

American actress who starred alongside Patrick Swayze in the massive hit film Dirty Dancing which earned her a nomination for a Golden Globe for Best Actress. She also featured in Ferris Bueller's Day Off and in 2010 she was the winner of season 11 of Dancing with the Stars.

• Mariano Rajoy, Spanish Prime Minister, March 27, 62

Spanish politician who became the leader of the People's Party (PP) in 2004 and prime minister in 2011. He failed to win the December 2015 general election in which the PP lost 64 of its 187 seats and ended in deadlock. The PP still fell short at the June 2016 general election however Rajoy was finally reappointed in October 2016 after PSOE members abstained in the parliamentary vote.

IT ALL ADDS UP

39%

The percentage of SEAT Ibiza cars listed among the total number of cars stolen in Spain last year.

€134,000

The daily European Union fine the nation could face if it cannot pass a law on port workers.

495

The number of attacks on doctors reported to medical authorities while working during 2016.



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OUR VIEW

The die is cast

NOW that the European Union (Notification of withdrawal) Act 2017 has received Royal Ascent, those of us living in Spain but with British passports will have to look forward to a 'Brave New World' with some positivity.

At the moment, rumours abound and many British citizens living in Spain are understandably worried about their future, but there is no point in panicking when no-one knows what the final result of the Brexit negotiations is likely to be.

Some elderly residents are worried about pensions and health commitments after 2019 (assuming that is the date that Britain leaves the EU), but the news coming out of the UK is hardly comforting with talk of the NHS crumbling under the pressure of too many patients and insufficient funding.

Not everyone is particularly frightened by the unknown and it will take some time for any meaningful information to become public knowledge, but if the government is to be believed, it does want to protect those passport holders living in European Union countries and intends to try to negotiate their future at an early juncture.

Patience is a virtue and whilst difficult to accept, those of us who are going to be affected will just have to 'lie back and think of England' for a while.

Now we want to hear your views.
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Pilferers collared

By Sally Underwood

THREE Spanish men, aged between 26 and 53, have been arrested in Nerja for stealing 1,500 kilos of avocados.

The Guardia Civil collared the men after a tip off from a farmer who had seen them acting suspiciously. On their arrest, the three men were found to have only one box of avocados on them but it is believed they had been stealing small quantities from the area for around a month.

The men now face court in Torrox.

Under siege

MOTRIL has been under siege as the Spanish Army, supported by the Air Force and Navy has spent several days training in the area with a battery of surface to air missiles (SAM) with regiments from Cartagena, Madrid and Sevilla taking part.

A Ronda-based Spanish Legion Regiment was also deployed to act as a guard for the mobile missile emplacements.



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KÖMMERLING

NEWS EXTRA

Judo success

TAKING part in the provincial Judo circuit on behalf of the Judo Club of Almuñecar, athletes aged between four and 17 were highly successful, winning between them no less than 13 medals which included a number of golds.

ADHD help

VERY aware of the difficulties encountered by sufferers of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) as well as their parents when young, Almuñecar Town Hall has arranged its third session for professionals to discuss ways of assisting them.

On display

AN exhibition of photographs of the town by the Photographic Club of Almuñecar and La Herradura will be displayed in the municipal market in La Herradura until the end of summer.

Call for cleaner streets

THE mayor of Almuñecar, Trinidad Herrera, has appealed to all residents to collaborate with keeping the city cleaner.

Ms Herrera made the comments during an awards ceremony honouring groups and individuals who have made contributions to the local environment through cleaning and recycling.

She took the opportunity to ask residents for "collaboration" in looking after the area because "a city that cares for its environment is a city that progresses."

Ms Herrera also praised the "unending and often thankless and unvalued work carried out by the Department for Environment."

Dream show thrills audience



EXQUISITE CHOREOGRAPHY: A scene from the performance.

LA HERRADURA FIESTA which has just come to an end saw some interesting and enjoyable sights, including a fascinating show pairing horse and flamenco dancer which

was presented by the David Chaves Equestrian Centre.

With an even bigger audience than the previous year the aptly named Andalucía Sueña (Andalucía Dream) was

held in the temporary Plaza de Toros where horse, rider and dancer performed a number of intricate pieces and drew much applause from the crowd.

Hill climb

NO less than 40 cyclists turned up to take part in the seventh climb to Los Castillejos from La Herradura which was organised by the La Herradura Cycling Association as part of the local fiesta.

Winning a trophy and €100 the fastest rider was, José Álvarez who managed to finish the 15 kilometre climb in 39 minutes and seven seconds, beating last year's winning time by more than three minutes.

Participants included both young and old and a number of female cyclists all of whom had to deal with a very steep climb and quite challenging conditions.

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Article 50 to be triggered March 29



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THE good news is that the European Union will be allowed to enjoy its 60th birthday celebrations without the announcement of the triggering of Article 50 but the bad news is that because the formal date won't be until March 29, almost six weeks of negotiating time will be lost.

The British government, through its Ambassador to the European Union Sir Tim Barrow, advised the EU as a matter of courtesy that the trigger date would be Wednesday March 29 and this has resulted in a number of 'pithy' observations from various European leaders.

Gianni Pittella, the president of the socialist bloc in the European parliament is quoted in *The Guardian* as saying "Congratulations, Theresa May. Nine months to give birth to a



! THERESA MAY: In Cardiff with Carwyn Jones the Welsh First Minister.

date for Article 50 notification. We will make sure that Brexit won't affect EU and UK acquired citizens' rights.

"Before negotiating the new relationship with UK, first and foremost we want substantial progresses on the withdrawal agreement to be ensured."

The date is important as the leaders of the 27 remaining states had hoped

to discuss the whole situation at a special summit due to be held on April 6 and 7 but the short time frame between the triggering of Article 50 and the summit makes it highly unlikely that any formal response will be made and therefore negotiations are unlikely to start for about six weeks and some believe that it could take even longer.

Whilst president of the European Council, Donald Tusk has promised to send his observations on the matter to the 27 leaders within 48 hours of the formal declaration, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker who has been a consistent critic of Britain since David Cameron tried to block his appointment said

"Britain's example will make everyone else realise that it's not worth leaving."

In the meantime, Mrs May set off on a whistle stop tour of the regions to try to ensure a measure of unity, with Wales her first stop even though there is no formal power sharing agreement in Stormont in Northern Ireland and Nicola Sturgeon First Minister of Scotland has made it clear that she is looking for a second independence referendum prior to Brexit.

The Prime Minister insists that she will be looking to obtain the best deal for Britain including a free trade arrangement but lead negotiator for the EU, Michel Barnier indicated in a tweet that there was no certainty over such an arrangement and customs controls would have to be considered as one option.

One thing is certain, the initial period of waiting and speculation is now over, to be replaced by a further period of waiting and speculation but at least the British government will be likely to give regular updates on discussions rather than simply indicate what it considers possible although it may take more than two years to resolve all outstanding matters.

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By email:

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In person:

Nerja - Axarquía - Costa Tropical

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Nerja

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Terms of Entry:

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

No employees of EWN Media Group can enter.

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

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

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☐

What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

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☐

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?

What do you THINK of the EWN?

What do you EXPECT from the EWN?

You and the EWN Online

Where do you primarily get your daily news from?

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Radio☐

Newspaper☐

Internet☐

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More than once a day☐

Once a day☐

Once a week☐

Once a month☐


Never☐


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Tablet☐

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What time do you normally browse the internet?

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Afternoon☐

Evening☐

All day☐

Q & A

Gender

Female☐

Male☐

How old are you?

18 – 21☐

22 – 35☐

36 – 50☐

51 – 70☐

71+☐

Status

Single☐

Married☐

Separated/Divorced☐

Widowed☐

Which other local newspapers do you read?

How often do you eat out?

Once a week☐

More than once week☐

Once a month☐

Rarely☐

How long have you been reading the EWN?

Do you have private health insurance?

No☐

Yes (specify).....☐

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

No☐

Yes (specify).....☐

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Both☐

Name of your provider(s)

Is your mobile

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Name of network provider

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

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iPhone☐

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Other (specify)

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ADSL☐

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

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Back on the rails

VELEZ-MALAGA'S City Council has begun work to the city's old train station in order to make it useable for trams and buses.

The building, which was built at the beginning of the 20th century, is located on Calle Explanada Estación, close to the wholesale market. The works, which are expected to take around five months will cost €222,205, and add a waiting room, cafeteria and toilets to the station. The building's original architectural features will also be restored, and its lighting will be improved.

The mayor of Velez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, and the councillor for Transport of the Consistorio Veleño, Marcelino Mendez-Trelles, visited the works. Mr Moreno Ferrer said "this will restore an emblematic and historic building and will benefit public transport users, who will now have a station which is fit for purpose."

Keeping it clean

NERJA'S Department of Commerce has reminded owners of bars, cafes and public terraces to keep the areas in front of their business clean.

The town's councillor for Trade, Carmen Gonzalez, said "we are approaching Easter and there are multiple complaints from passers-by who find garbage in the streets, and this must be avoided.

Owners must keep the area clean and in the condition they found them in, regardless of the town hall's cleaning service." Local law states, 'persons authorised to occupy the public road are obliged to keep it in a perfect state of cleanliness.'

Nepotism claims prompt action

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA'S City Council has moved to bring cleaning company, Emmsa, under local government control following a scandal in which two politicians were accused of handing out government cleaning contracts to relatives.

The controversy caused one of the government's coalition parties, IzquierdaUnida (IU) to quit the alliance. IU has now proposed a motion to govern the cleaning company concerned. The motion passed after the council's other parties abstained from voting.

IU spokesman, Pedro Fernandez, explained, "following the events of this week, involving a policy of opaque recruitment, which does not respect transparency, equality of opportunity, free competition, merit and ability, we believe it is vital to start a debate on the municipalisation of the cleaning service,

The scandal came to light this month when two government councillors, Ezequiel Carnero and Javier Guerrero, were accused by government opposition party, Partido Popular (PP), of covering up offering cleaning contracts to relatives, in what was described as "a clear case of bunging."



STORM DAMAGE: Left residents without water.

Water pipe now repaired

VELEZ-MALAGA'S Council has fixed around 100 metres of pipeline damaged by a recent storm, which caused residents in Chilches and Benerafate to be without water for 10 hours.

Water company Aqualia started work at 7am to repair the affected pipe, restoring water for thousands. The city's councillor for Water, Marcelino Mendez-Trelles, visited the site as works were carried out and explained the bill would come to over €200,000, "including about €50,000 for damage to the pipes themselves".

NEWS EXTRA

Facing the music

NERJA Council has been holding auditions in order to decide which of 30 competing musicians will be given licence to perform on the town's streets during the busy tourist season, with teachers from the municipal music school acting as judges.

Sound investment

MOTRIL Council has continued to invest in its fire service with the purchase of a new engine equipped with a water pump and a wide range of other equipment at a cost of around €250,000.

Mucky business

REPAIRS to a sewage pipe which burst off the coast of Burriana Beach were delayed due to continued bad weather. The break in the pipe caused a 'geyser' of sewage to erupt into the air, and sources say repairs will be completed "as soon as the waves abate."

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Lack of space sparks protest

IRATE pupils and parents have protested about overcrowded classrooms outside the gates of Rincon de la Victoria's Colegio Josefina Aldecoa.

Around 70 students and their parents voiced concern over the lack of classroom space for sixth grade pupils. Following delays to building a new institute, many of the school's students are now being taught in temporary, pre-fabricated classrooms.

The Department for Education has now announced there will be so little teaching space next year

that some pupils must commute around 10 kilometres to a different school.

Protestors complained this will separate children from friends they have had since the start of school. They expressed their disgust with banners bearing slogans such as 'we are not boxes, don't stack us up,' 'we want to study without disruption,' 'our space, our right' and 'education without overcrowding.'

The Department for Education has promised that eventually "all students will be better situated."

Police station on schedule

By Sally Underwood

TORRE DEL MAR'S new police station is due to be completed by the end of 2018, it has been announced. The new building, costing €2.7 million, will be located on a 6,700 square metre plot in the Cuesta del Visillo area. It will be built over three floors, providing office space, cells and parking.

The station's foundation stone was laid earlier in the week in a ceremony attended by Minister for the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido. Mr Zoido confirmed the government is "firmly committed" to ensuring police have the resources they need.

Velez-Málaga's mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, is delighted work has started and said he wanted police numbers to increase "by as much as possible, as soon as possible."



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NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER REGIONS

New police cars

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH**NEW CARS:** Eight new vehicles have been delivered to the Local Police of Orihuela.**» By EWN staff**

EIGHT new vehicles have been delivered to the Local Police of Orihuela.

Mayor Emilio Bascuñana and councillors Mariola Rocamora and Francisco Saez, were on hand to receive the delivery and said the eight new vehicles were in order "to provide greater equipment to the police to help them in their deployment of daily work around the municipality."

These cars also replace the previous ones, to ensure the safety of officers who were driving around in older vehicles. The new ones have up to date technologies such as GPS to help locate where vehicles are in case of incidence. Three of the cars will be headed to the Orihuela Costa, three will remain the city and two will be sent to the surrounding villages.

The cars have been purchased through a rental agreement of three years which is then extendible, with a total expenditure of €380,174, which includes the maintenance, insurance and replacement of tyres.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

Moscow magic

MARBELLA is working its magic at MITT, the global tourist fair held in Moscow, encouraging wealthy Russians to buy second homes in the sun.

Earth hour

ON Saturday March 25 Torremolinos will launch a one hour blackout of the city's most famous buildings in a symbolic protest against environmental destruction.

Smoothie central

HEALTHY living is the name of the game as Fuengirola launched Bio-Merkado, a health food market that will run in the city's central square every second Sunday. There will be more than a dozen local producers offering organic and seasonal specialities.

Peak practice

PRESIDENT of the Andalusian government, Susana Diaz, was in Ronda on March 20 to snip the red ribbon at the new Hospital de la Serrania. The new facility is not yet working at 100 per cent, but is expected to be fully operational in mid-April.

Direct democracy

ONE of the first citizen portals in Spain has been launched in Benalmadena. Residents will be able to log online and suggest or vote on different proposals. The direct democracy initiative follows a similar scheme pioneered in Madrid.

Star attraction

JUST shy of €1 million will be spent improving the road connection between the Caminito del Rey and Alora. The spectacular tourist attraction has won hefty funding from the EU to draw millions to the vertigo-inducing mountainous walkway.

■ MALLORCA

Dad fighting

A BRAWL broke out during an under-13's football match in Mallorca involving the parents of the players. A confrontation between a player from Union Deportiva Alaro and Colerense sparked fury among fathers watching the game, who surged the pitch and began fighting.

Holiday rentals

WITH new holiday rental laws coming into effect by the summer it appears that with a few exceptions, those in rural and inland locations may well be better off than those in coastal areas.

Winter blues

SCOTS who wish to spend some winter time in Mallorca received something of a shock when Ryanair announced it would cease winter flights from Scotland to Palma at the end of October.

Holiday claims

IF there's pain there's a claim according to some unscrupulous companies and so many claims are being put in by British holidaymakers upon their return to the UK that the local hotelier association has complained and will be meeting with the British Consul-General.

Helicopter rescue

THE Guardia Civil had to send a helicopter to the island of Cabrera which is normally only accessible by boat after a man had a heart attack and had to be evacuated to Son Espases hospital.

■ COSTA DE ALMERÍA

Full Monty

A GROUP of teachers are set to pose naked during a protest against the lack of resources across state schools in Almeria. The gesture is a metaphor for how they have been left exposed in the classroom with poor equipment and support.

Titanic struggle

FOOTAGE of the ship Fortuny almost capsizing amid rocky waters as it arrived in Melilla from Almeria has spread like wildfire on social media.

Super car

FERRARI has chosen Almeria Province as the perfect location to showcase its new model, the Ferrari 812 Superfast, to the world. Having made its international debut at the acclaimed Geneva Motor Show earlier this month, the Superfast has already been filmed cascading around Almeria's sublime scenery.

Green machines

NOWHERE on planet Earth has as dense a supply of agriculture experts as Almeria. New data shows that there is one graduate specialist in the province for every 10 hectares of farmland.

Safe space

ALMERIA is one of the safest places in Spain for hospital staff. There were 22 physical attacks last year, compared to over 150 in Sevilla and Malaga. In Andalusia there are three attacks per day on average.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Zombie town

VILLAJYOYOSA has announced it will hold its second zombie event on April 29. Tickets are now on sale at the Department of Youth or www.entradium.com and www.entradasatualcance.com.

Potato wars

THE Compromis party wants the 'potato game' to be classed as fraud and penalised accordingly. Although this version of the three card trick is practised throughout Spain it has been a feature of the Benidorm landscape for decades.

Nispero patrol

THE Guardia Civil has allocated 150 officers to a protective security unit, to prevent nispero (loquat) thefts during the harvest season. The unit will monitor the cultivation of six towns' crops with particular attention being paid to Callosa d'en Sarria where most is grown.

Training funds

LA Nucia town will have invested over €1 million in training programmes by the end of 2017. Fifteen people are currently being trained on an electro-mechanical course, which started in December 2016.

Mundomar reopens

THE Mundomar Park in Benidorm has reopened and is offering season pass discounts. Until 30 April visitors can purchase their 2017 annual pass for a reduced price.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

Bike thief

A BICYCLE thief has been arrested in Santa Pola. The 26-year-old is believed to have stolen at least 40 bikes with many being reclaimed and returned to the owner.

Volunteer killed

A 26-YEAR-OLD biker was killed in Torrevieja after he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a street light in Avenida Rosa Mazon. The man was a well-known Civil Protection volunteer.

Truck blockage

A TRUCK loaded with debris, became wedged into the front of a house in the old town part of Sax. The owners were inside at the time with their three children and could not leave the blocked doorway. No one was injured.

Run over

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was transferred to La Arrixaca hospital after being run over in Mula, Murcia. The youngster was bleeding from the mouth when emergency crews arrived.

Storm heroes

MURCIA has rewarded a group of Local Police officers for their work and performance during the December storm. The mayor of Murcia, Jose Ballesta, was joined by councillors and government delegates at the Plaza del Cardenal Belluga, in recognising their work.

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DENMARK

Turbine testing

WIND turbines 'as big as the Eiffel Tower' are to be tested in Denmark. The test turbines are expected to be in place from 2019.

Cake criticism

THE Danish Minister for Integration has been accused of lacking sensitivity after posing with a cake to celebrate her 50th law change restricting immigration.

Blu to green

THE Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Copenhagen glowed green at the weekend to mark the celebration of St Patrick's Day.



Pricey pizza

A DANISH pizza maker claims he is offering the most expensive piz-

za in the world. Costing 8,000 kroner (€1,076), it must be ordered weeks in advance and consists of over 30 ingredients, although no one has actually bought it yet.

GERMANY

Spider alert

A GERMAN supermarket was closed down after spider cocoons were spotted in a shipment of bananas. There were fears the cocoons could have been of the Brazilian wandering spider, thought to be the most dangerous in the world, but it turned out to be a false alarm.

Reporter jailed

AN appeal to free a German-Turkish

journalist has been rejected by a Turkish court. Deniz Yucel was arrested last month accused of propaganda and inciting violence.

Strike breakers

AS workers at Berlin airport took strike action which grounded almost 600 flights, Ryanair responded by sending 20 workers from Ireland to keep its

flights going. The move has been criticised by unions claiming the workers lacked the proper safety checks.

Rape trial

A TEENAGER is on trial for raping a 90-year-old woman on her way back from church. The Spanish-Moroccan is on trial in Dusseldorf accused of rape, bodily harm and theft.

FRANCE

School shooting

A TEENAGER has been arrested following a shooting at a high school in southern France. The 17-year-old was a pupil at the school when he opened fire with a rifle, two handguns and he also had two grenades. Eight people were injured.

Cheesed off

A PHOTO of a Camembert cheese not being cut the 'correct French way' has caused outrage in the country. The photo on social media was flooded with comments of mockery and anger.

Test cheats?

FRENCH fraud investigators are claiming that Renault has cheated on pollution tests for diesel and petrol engines for more than 25 years. The company has denied the claims.

Rock-a-bye baby

A YOUNG couple has been charged after confessing to putting their 15-month-old daughter into a washing machine in a bid to try and rock her. The couple, aged 19 and 22, said they manually worked it with the door open.

BELGIUM

Lottery points

ENROLMENT at Dutch-speaking secondary schools in Brussels will introduce a lottery system with parents able to earn points for the school of their choice based on a number of factors.

Not natural

AN investigation has launched following the death of an eight-year-old boy in West Flanders. There is no evidence of violence, but authorities are sure it was not a natural death.

Illegal squatters

LEGISLATION is expected to be passed before Easter making squatting illegal which means homeowners will be able to launch official complaints and have their case heard quicker to remove squatters.

Carrefour casino

CARREFOUR in Belgium is being criticised for inviting customers to use a slot machine that is only allowed in casinos. However the supermarket claims they are simply giving customers a token to see if they have won a prize.

NETHERLANDS

No change

DUTCH voters chose to remain with Prime Minister Mark Rutte as his VVD party received most votes in the country's elections, although they did lose seats.

Abuser jailed

A MAN has been jailed for almost 11 years for abusing over 30 girls via his webcam and then threatening to share the footage with family and friends. The court hears how one Canadian girl killed herself as a result of his threats and harassment.

Uni expansion

THE Groningen University plans to open a campus in China with first year students expected to begin their degree courses in 2018. Graduates will receive a Dutch degree at the end of their course.

No drivers

DUTCH technology company '2get there' announced it will supply Dubai with an automated vehicle system, to transport 5,000 passengers an hour in driver-less vehicles.

DENMARK

Child abuse

A RETIRED Danish man has confessed to ordering mass child sex abuse of children in the Philippines over a five-year period. He told a court he did it to help the victims financially.

Major promotion

WORLD famous restaurant Noma, has made a dishwasher from the Gambia a co-owner of the Copenhagen restaurant. The 62-year-old has worked in the kitchens since 2003 shortly after it opened.

Asylum rejected

PROTESTERS blocked Roskilde Airport to prevent the deportation of 10 Afghans who had their asylum rejected. The protesters said the deportations were 'morally indefensible.'

Balloon death

A DANISH tourist has died in a fall during a hot-air balloon ride in central Turkey. The man died after falling from the balloon after it made a hard landing in strong winds.

SWEDEN

Hitting fine

A MOTHER has been fined for slapping her four-year-old son across the face during a shopping trip in Ullared. She said she hit out after he had been playing up and spat at her. A ban on corporal punishment of children was introduced in Sweden in 1979.

Baby vote

A PHOTO of a Swedish MEP taking her baby to the European Parliament during a vote has gone viral, with the politician saying it was necessary as there is no parental leave for MEPs.

Crime crackdown

SWEDEN is planning on cracking down on gang crime with the Prime Minister and Interior Minister saying "no one should live in fear of shootings or organised crime."

Computer lessons

SWEDEN children will learn about programming in primary school as new digital competence lessons are added to the curriculum, designed to make Swedes even better with computers.

Inditex profits continue to grow

By John Smith

THE Inditex Group just can't stop itself from growing and making greater profits year in year out and 2016 is no exception with profits up by 10 per cent and stores opened in five new markets.

As an employer, the group which owns such iconic brands as Zara, Massimo Dutti and Bershka added slightly less than 10,000 new staff to its workforce, making a total of 162,450 people employed, of whom 48,589 are in

€1.256 billion

is the amount of dividend that Amancio Ortega, Chairman of Inditex is expected to receive from 2016 profits.

Spain.

Thanks to an increase in areas covered by an online presence and

the opening of 279 new stores, turnover reached €23.3 billion (which would place it at number

106 in GDP if it was a country, just behind Estonia) and profits amounted to €3.157 billion even after taking into account the dividends to be paid to its chairman.

According to its President, Pablo Isla, the company makes significant contributions to countries in which it operates by paying all of the tax due around the world and in the past five years has paid €2 billion in corporation tax to Spain alone, which equates to 2 per cent of the total collected by the state.

Diamond will have benefits

ALTHOUGH there is a major diamond exploration company in Sierra Leone, local individuals have been responsible over the last few years for major finds and the latest, a 709 carat stone was discovered by a local pastor.

This gentleman sent it to the President who in turn has had it locked in the safe of the Bank of Sierra Leone until it is valued and its future is decided. Although there is thought to be a flaw in this stone, President Koroma has thanked Pastor Momoh for turning it over and has promised that he and the people of Sierra Leone will benefit from the sale.

Quote of the Week

Good riddance to the unfair NIC tax rise. Now what about that £2 billion black hole?" Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell on the government U-turn.



The smell of industry



SOUL OF MOTION: The winning team.

FORGET David Beckham, Lady GaGa and Beyonce, the latest perfume to hit the streets and to win an award is 'Soul of Motion' which has been developed by fragrance manufacturer Shiseido to represent the Mazda Kodo philosophy.

Kodo is based on the concept of breathing life into the design of a car and the packaging of the fragrance won a gold medal at the recent iF Design Awards 2017 held in

Munich, just two years after Mazda requested Shiseido to develop a perfume which expressed all that was special about the car maker.

The perfume maker toured a number of Mazda factories, testing various vehicles and getting an understanding of one of Japan's most important manufacturers before coming up with the fragrance that is 'Soul of Motion' showing the unexpected synergy between two unconnected industries.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Tivoli news

HAVING staggered on without significant investment for some years, Tivoli Park in Benalmadena may well be transformed if approval for plans to invest €300 million in modernisation is received. Work on the property could generate 1,600 jobs and once open up to 3,300 more jobs could be created.

Repsol find

SPANISH oil and gas giant Repsol in partnership with Armstrong Energy has announced what could be the largest discovery of onshore oil in Alaska in the US in the past 30 years. It is anticipated if all turns out well that light oil will start flowing from 2021 with a potential 120,000 barrels a day.

US interest

THE US Federal Reserve has announced it will raise the interest rate by 0.25 per cent to 1 per cent thanks to healthy economic results in February which has seen less unemployment, rising inflation and overall pay rises. After a decade of dropping interest rates, this is expected to be an ongoing programme with at least two additional increases expected.

Eurostar blames terrorism

THE effects of the terror attacks on Paris and Brussels, the two destinations for the Eurostar services are being blamed for a drop in passengers carried by 4 per cent to 10 million in 2016 and for an operating loss.

Having moved from a 2015 profit of €31 million to a loss of €28 million, the company hopes that new larger trains and renewed customer confidence will bode well for 2017.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 20

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Anglo American | 1,292.75 | 0.25 | 0.02 | 18,194.12 |
| Associated British Foods | 2,599.50 | -16.50 | -0.63 | 20,821.03 |
| Admiral Group | 1,898.00 | -47.00 | -2.42 | 5,425.44 |
| Ashtead Group | 1,720.50 | 36.50 | 2.17 | 8,516.79 |
| Antofagasta | 831.75 | -20.75 | -2.43 | 8,320.63 |
| Aviva | 524.50 | -11.50 | -2.15 | 21,915.89 |
| AstraZeneca | 4,822.50 | -74.50 | -1.52 | 61,573.70 |
| BAE Systems | 649.00 | 2.50 | 0.39 | 20,492.41 |
| Babcock International Group | 940.00 | 15.50 | 1.68 | 4,661.60 |
| Bardays | 231.25 | 0.85 | 0.37 | 38,932.35 |
| British American Tobacco | 5,111.50 | -80.50 | -1.55 | 95,996.69 |
| Barratt Developments | 545.00 | 2.00 | 0.37 | 5,382.24 |
| British Land Co | 606.00 | -6.00 | -0.98 | 6,286.69 |
| BHP Billiton | 1,323.75 | -9.25 | -0.69 | 27,826.55 |
| Bunzl | 2,250.00 | -75.00 | -3.23 | 7,786.15 |
| BP | 464.00 | 1.00 | 0.22 | 89,853.96 |
| Burberry Group | 1,802.50 | 17.50 | 0.98 | 7,857.52 |
| BT Group | 331.50 | -2.85 | -0.85 | 32,883.56 |
| Coca-Cola HBC | 2,006.50 | 0.50 | 0.02 | 7,194.90 |
| Carnival | 3,555.00 | -954.00 | -21.16 | 9,628.29 |
| Centrica | 220.00 | 3.50 | 1.62 | 11,955.76 |
| Compass Group | 1,497.00 | -17.00 | -1.12 | 24,730.42 |
| Capita Group (The) | 571.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,872.75 |
| Croda International | 3,640.00 | 19.00 | 0.52 | 4,762.98 |
| CRH | 2,814.50 | -12.50 | -0.44 | 23,787.91 |
| Convatec Group | 260.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,995.77 |
| Dixons Carphone | 302.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,512.72 |
| DCC | 7,145.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,372.57 |
| Diageo | 2,285.00 | -34.00 | -1.47 | 57,766.64 |
| Direct Line Insurance Group | 335.20 | 0.80 | 0.24 | 4,589.75 |
| Experian | 1,632.50 | -9.50 | -0.58 | 15,383.70 |
| easyJet | 995.00 | -27.00 | -2.64 | 3,987.97 |
| Fresnillo | 1,415.00 | -96.00 | -6.35 | 11,127.09 |
| GKN | 380.00 | 7.10 | 1.90 | 6,410.84 |
| Glencore | 340.50 | -1.80 | -0.53 | 49,143.65 |
| GlaxoSmithKline | 1,682.50 | -5.00 | -0.30 | 83,120.61 |
| Hikma Pharmaceuticals | 2,259.00 | 91.00 | 4.20 | 5,255.44 |
| Hargreaves Lansdown | 1,408.00 | 90.00 | 6.83 | 6,237.29 |
| Hammerson | 586.00 | 7.50 | 1.30 | 4,592.56 |
| HSBC Holdings | 664.30 | 5.20 | 0.79 | 132,906.66 |
| International Consldtd Air Grp | 545.00 | -23.50 | -4.13 | 12,090.52 |
| InterContinental Hotels Grp | 3,789.50 | -108.50 | -2.78 | 7,685.36 |
| 3i Group | 696.00 | -25.00 | -3.47 | 7,057.68 |
| Imperial Brands | 3,905.00 | -1.00 | -0.03 | 37,145.25 |
| Informa | 636.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,261.27 |
| Intu Properties | 280.55 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,823.92 |
| Intertek Group | 3,903.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,292.47 |
| ITV | 212.00 | 3.70 | 1.78 | 8,292.34 |
| Johnson Matthey | 2,907.50 | -99.50 | -3.31 | 5,736.33 |
| Kingfisher | 339.20 | -6.20 | -1.80 | 7,678.70 |

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Land Securities Group | 1,025.00 | -12.00 | -1.16 | 8,247.51 |
| Legal & General Group | 251.50 | 1.60 | 0.64 | 14,816.02 |
| Lloyds Banking Group ORD | 69.50 | 0.16 | 0.23 | 49,721.84 |
| London Stock Exchange Gr | 3,180.00 | 110.00 | 3.58 | 10,754.41 |
| Micro Focus International | 2,102.00 | -98.00 | -4.45 | 4,980.53 |
| Mediclinic International | 750.00 | -17.00 | -2.22 | 5,695.21 |
| Merlin Entertainments | 485.30 | 1.00 | 0.21 | 4,894.17 |
| Marks & Spencer Group | 334.00 | 4.70 | 1.43 | 5,429.84 |
| Mondi | 1,966.50 | 31.50 | 1.63 | 9,366.33 |
| Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets | 242.00 | 3.60 | 1.51 | 5,500.27 |
| National Grid | 977.00 | -7.70 | -0.78 | 36,906.17 |
| Next | 4,012.50 | 135.50 | 3.49 | 5,748.44 |
| Old Mutual Group | 211.70 | -9.60 | -4.34 | 11,176.21 |
| Provident Financial | 2,923.50 | -12.50 | -0.43 | 4,349.07 |
| Paddy Power Betfair | 8,747.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7,392.71 |
| Prudential | 1,773.00 | 12.50 | 0.71 | 45,262.02 |
| Persimmon | 2,100.00 | -7.00 | -0.33 | 6,443.16 |
| Pearson | 670.00 | 20.00 | 3.08 | 5,420.85 |
| Reckitt Benckiser Group | 7,267.50 | -124.50 | -1.68 | 51,615.04 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Grop | 240.50 | -3.40 | -1.39 | 28,446.59 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,140.00 | 17.00 | 0.80 | 93,782.04 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,240.00 | 10.00 | 0.45 | 82,962.53 |
| RELX | 1,537.00 | 1.00 | 0.07 | 16,607.53 |
| Rio Tinto | 3,480.50 | 27.00 | 0.78 | 47,811.66 |
| Royal Mail | 410.70 | -3.20 | -0.77 | 4,086.00 |
| Rolls-Royce Group | 762.50 | -10.00 | -1.29 | 14,241.69 |
| Randgold Resources | 7,430.00 | 360.00 | 5.09 | 6,669.73 |
| RSA Insurance Group | 589.50 | 0.50 | 0.08 | 6,013.44 |
| Sainsbury (J) | 246.00 | -23.70 | -8.79 | 5,862.91 |
| Schroders | 3,182.50 | 34.50 | 1.10 | 7,131.01 |
| Sage Group (The) | 647.50 | 8.50 | 1.33 | 6,935.22 |
| Shire | 4,862.50 | 52.50 | 1.09 | 43,968.54 |
| Smurfit Kappa Group | 2,148.50 | -83.50 | -3.74 | 5,261.42 |
| Sky | 1,006.25 | 16.75 | 1.69 | 17,035.46 |
| Standard Life | 372.50 | 12.70 | 3.53 | 7,123.01 |
| Smiths Group | 1,516.50 | -65.50 | -4.14 | 6,216.46 |
| Smith & Nephew | 1,239.50 | -1.50 | -0.12 | 10,753.02 |
| SSE | 1,515.00 | 11.00 | 0.73 | 15,146.03 |
| Standard Chartered | 726.50 | -3.90 | -0.53 | 24,364.28 |
| St James's Place | 937.50 | -134.50 | -12.55 | 5,697.13 |
| Severn Trent | 2,225.00 | -152.00 | -6.39 | 5,616.97 |
| Tesco | 189.20 | 1.85 | 0.99 | 15,278.95 |
| TUI AG | 1,193.50 | 51.50 | 4.51 | 6,668.75 |
| Taylor Wimpey | 190.50 | -4.20 | -2.16 | 6,297.37 |
| Unilever | 4,042.50 | 2.50 | 0.06 | 51,999.36 |
| United Utilities Group | 955.00 | -44.00 | -4.40 | 6,839.34 |
| Vodafone Group | 210.75 | -0.65 | -0.31 | 55,771.70 |
| Wolseley | 5,107.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,911.54 |
| Worldpay Group | 285.35 | -5.25 | -1.81 | 5,746.00 |
| WPP Group | 1,717.50 | 31.50 | 1.87 | 21,754.07 |
| Whitbread | 3,850.00 | -53.00 | -1.36 | 7,167.32 |

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CLOSING PRICES MARCH 20

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE | %CHANGE | VOLUME |
|--------------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| 3M | 192,360 | 1.08% | 2,050 | 114M |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS | 79,2500 | -0.65% | -0,5200 | 71M |
| APPLE | 139,990 | -0.50% | -0,700 | 734M |
| BOEING CO | 180,100 | 1.07% | 1,910 | 110M |
| CATERPILLAR | 92,910 | 0.06% | 0,060 | 54M |
| CHEVRON | 107,68 | -0.17% | -0,18 | 203M |
| CISCO SYSTEMS | 34,230 | 0.00% | 0,000 | 171M |
| COCA-COLA | 42,03 | -0.52% | -0,22 | 180M |
| DU PONT(EI) DE NMR | 81,2500 | 0.79% | 0,6400 | 70M |
| EXXON MOBIL | 82,00 | -0.09% | -0,07 | 340M |
| GENERAL ELECTRIC | 29,8800 | 0.44% | 0,1300 | 260M |
| GOLDMAN SACHS | 243,94 | -1.72% | -4,28 | 97M |
| HOME DEPOT | 149,6000 | 0.58% | 0,8700 | 182M |
| IBM | 175,65 | -0.90% | -1,59 | 165M |
| INTEL CORP | 35,2700 | 0.37% | 0,1300 | 166M |
| J.P.MORGAN CHASE | 90,6800 | -1.05% | -0,9600 | 323M |
| JOHNSON & JOHNSON | 128,0600 | -0.31% | -0,4000 | 347M |
| MC DONALD'S CORP | 128,6400 | 0.52% | 0,6600 | 105M |
| MERCK AND CO. NEW | 63,90 | -0.44% | -0,28 | 175M |
| MICROSOFT | 64,870 | 0.36% | 0,230 | 501M |
| NIKE | 57,80 | +0.35% | 0,20 | 76M |
| PFIZER | 34,3200 | -0.32% | -0,1100 | 204M |
| PROCTER AND GAMBLE | 91,000 | -0.48% | -0,440 | 232M |
| TRAVELERS CIES | 123,14 | 0.33% | 0,40 | 34M |
| UNITED TECHNOLOGIE | 113,45 | 0.99% | 1,11 | 90M |
| UNITEDHEALTH GROUP | 169,70 | -0.93% | -1,60 | 161M |
| VERIZON COMMS | 50,39 | 0.70% | 0,35 | 205M |
| VISA | 90,24 | +0.22% | 0,20 | 167M |
| WAL-MART STORES | 69,8900 | -0.78% | -0,5500 | 215M |
| WALT DISNEY CO | 111,7600 | 0.04% | 0,0500 | 176M |

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 20

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE NET / % |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Most Advanced | | |
| Pulmatrix, Inc. | \$ 3.09 | 0.75 ▲ 32.05% |
| Northern Technologies International Corporation | \$ 19.30 | 3.70 ▲ 23.72% |
| Arbutus Biopharma Corporation | \$ 3.40 | 0.55 ▲ 19.30% |
| RGC Resources Inc. | \$ 22.50 | 3.43 ▲ 17.99% |
| Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. | \$ 22.95 | 3.35 ▲ 17.09% |
| AstroNova, Inc. | \$ 15.55 | 2.25 ▲ 16.92% |
| AveXis, Inc. | \$ 84 | 11.22 ▲ 15.42% |
| REGENXBIO Inc. | \$ 22.10 | 2.40 ▲ 12.18% |
| Microvision, Inc. | \$ 2.08 | 0.22 ▲ 11.83% |
| MOCON, Inc. | \$ 22.75 | 2.35 ▲ 11.52% |
| Avid Technology, Inc. | \$ 4.96 | 0.51 ▲ 11.46% |
| Most Declined | | |
| Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 23.67 | 5.98 ▼ 20.17% |
| AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. | \$ 17.58 | 4.03 ▼ 18.65% |
| AXT Inc | \$ 5.55 | 1.05 ▼ 15.91% |
| Destination XL Group, Inc. | \$ 2.40 | 0.35 ▼ 12.73% |
| Exa Corporation | \$ 13.80 | 1.89 ▼ 12.05% |
| Editas Medicine, Inc. | \$ 22.30 | 2.61 ▼ 10.48% |
| Destination Maternity Corporation | \$ 4.48 | 0.48 ▼ 9.68% |
| Trans World Entertainment Corp. | \$ 2.35 | 0.25 ▼ 9.62% |
| Calithera Biosciences, Inc. | \$ 12.40 | 1.30 ▼ 9.49% |
| Omeros Corporation | \$ 10.54 | 1.06 ▼ 9.14% |
| Hovnanian Enterprises Inc | \$ 6.55 | 0.63 ▼ 8.77% |

Distributing Funds

EUR Fixed Income B

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

€0.9588

€0.9484

€-0.0034

£0.000

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B

EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

£0.9848.....

£0.9640.....

£1.1468.....

£1.0778.....

£1.2870.....

£1.1994.....

£1.4187.....

£1.3296.....

£-0.0002

£-0.0002

£-0.0016

£-0.0016

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£-0.0012

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The Chancellor and the lady are for turning after budget goof

By John Smith

JUST a week after announcing that there would be significant increases in the cost of National Insurance contributions for the self-employed, Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond has had to make a humiliating U-turn.

He announcement that he will not now increase such contributions during the lifetime of this parliament and the confidence that he appeared to show when delivering the spring budget soon started to unravel when it was pointed out by a journalist that this was a breach of the election manifesto that saw the Conservatives obtain a majority in parliament.

After first trying to bluff his way out by denying that any promise had been made with regards to the self-employed, he found himself receiving criticism from his own back-benchers, some of whom, it is suggested, don't trust his position on Brexit which he was against and want to see the back of him.

Reports also suggest that the influential 1922 Committee of Conservative MPs had indicated to Prime Minister May that this was a very unwise course of action to follow and it would appear that she took their advice.



U-TURN: Mrs May defending the decision in parliament.

The official explanation is that the government wants to stick to the spirit of its manifesto pledge but doesn't explain why nobody remembered what the pledge was beforehand.

Labour scored a few points when Shadow Chan-

cellor John McDonnell described Mr Hammond's reversal as "humiliating" and his plans being in "chaos," suggesting he should have spent less time on writing "stale jokes" which Mrs May enjoyed, "guffawing like a feeding seal."

EU causes strike action in the docks

IT has been widely reported that stevedores in Spain had been threatening strike action in protest against sweeping new changes in the law which will see their terms of employment swept away.

Prior to the new legislation, ports in Spain were required to only employ stevedores who belonged to SAGEP, to guarantee minimum numbers at all times and to pay them in accordance with union rates.

Thanks to the intervention of the European Union, the European Court of Justice has ruled that this practice is in breach of EU legislation and therefore the Spanish Government was required to effectively break the current monopoly and allow ports to employ whoever they want and on terms to be agreed between the parties.

A further problem affected the legislation as Podemos and PSOE vote against the law and Ciudadanos decided to abstain which meant that the Spanish government was unable to push it through.

Spanish Bernie Madoff going to jail

By John Smith

THE financier, Germán Cardona Soler, often described as the Spanish 'Bernie Madoff' has been convicted of a number of crimes based on fraudulently taking money from investors under false pretences and will be going to prison.

“ It is claimed that 180,000 investors lost amongst themselves €350 billion.

Considered to be the leader of this long term fraud which crossed national boundaries, Soler has been sentenced to 13 and a half years imprisonment and a fine of €300 million, which is only a tiny percentage of the actual money lost by his investors.

His partner, Lina Maria Matilla received a much lighter sentence of three years imprisonment and a fine of €900,000, whilst two other defendants were acquitted of all charges.

The basis of the trial was that in 2007, the two who have been found



LONG TERM FRAUD. Many clients were desperately losing money.

guilty, set up a company called Forex Finances which was supposed to invest money received from members of the public on purchasing and selling, but it transpired that they used the money for themselves and to purchase real estate.

Like many of these 'pyramid schemes' they needed new investments all of the time to allow them to pay dividends to early investors and produced grossly exaggerated advertising material in order to attract more members.

Although they indicated that investors could expect a 20 per cent return or more, only a tiny part of the money received went into genuine currency investments and a great deal of the money that didn't find its way into their pockets was spent on re-

cruiting 'promoters' who were rewarded for finding new investors.

There is no doubt that some of them enjoyed some high value returns in the form of gifts to reward them for bringing in ever increasing amounts of money, but they were few and far between and did not realise that they were supporting a fraud.

Eventually, the group started to move its registration and targets to Latin America and large numbers of members of the Colombian Armed Forces and Police were encouraged to invest in their business.

It is claimed that 180,000 investors from 10 different countries, lost amongst themselves €350 billion during the life of the scam but now all funds including gold bars, cash and property that could be recovered is to be distributed by the courts to those investors by way of partial compensation for their losses.

Although much larger, this is in many ways similar to the scam operated by Spanish stamp investment company Afinsa who went under in 2006 having taken more than €3.5 billion from Spanish pensioners and investors who were encouraged to invest in what turned out to be worthless philatelic confections.

Good and bad news for Volkswagen

By John Smith

THERE have been mixed blessings for the Volkswagen Group over the last week as it has suffered another police raid in Germany, saw its SEAT group return to profit for the first time in a decade and seen a distributor sued in Spain.

German investigators descended on nine different Audi and Volkswagen factories in Germany as part of the ongoing investigation into the installation of devices that cheated emission tests and on this occasion, they were acting on behalf of the US authorities.

Questions had arisen over the sale of 80,000 three-litre diesel cars manufactured and sold by the group between 2009 and 2015 who may not have realised that their cars could have been affected and the investigators wanted to establish who in the company had provided false information on these cars.

Despite all of the troubles and the huge financial burden created by fines and reparations, Volkswagen still managed to report a €3 billion profit for 2016 and part of this was thanks to a turn-around in the fortunes of Spanish subsidiary SEAT.



FIRST SUV: The successful SEAT Ateca.

After a decade of reporting significant losses, SEAT which is a major employer in Spain announced a staggering profit of €153 million, mainly due to the introduction and success of its' first SUV the Ateca and its margin of profit

was only 0.1 of a per cent less than the Volkswagen brand.

One piece of slightly less helpful Spanish news was that an 83-year-old woman in Santander was granted a 10 per cent refund on the cost of a vehicle

she purchased in 2013 because it came with Volkswagen engineered gas emission software.

The case is up for appeal, but if finally successful, could lead to a number of new claims for compensation.

ABTA site is hacked

THE Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) which is a body representing customers and travel businesses has just discovered it has suffered a cyber-attack on its website and details of up to 43,000 people and companies may have been compromised.

It appears the hacking occurred on February 27 but the organisation has only now released the information.

Whilst it will do everything it can to assist those who are affected, it appears the information taken is not in itself of sufficient importance to allow hackers to obtain benefit from identity theft or online fraud.

Basically, they mainly stole email addresses and passwords although information on some complaints as well as certain members has been taken.

Anyone who registered on the site after January 11, 2017 is advised to change their password and advised to monitor their bank, social media and email accounts.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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

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



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A strong border would be needed

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



AS I've mentioned in the past, writing a weekly column dealing mainly in current affairs, can often be extremely difficult. If I could have published this piece the day after Sturgeon's announcement of a further referendum, I would have had a positive tsunami of 'column fodder' to call upon.

Now of course, over a week later, most of it has already hit the coastline. Bearing this in mind, I thought I would concentrate on the consequences, should the 'Krankie' party's 'freedom at any price,' disastrous ambitions ever be realised. Undoubtedly we would first have to build the equivalent of a Hadrian's Wall. As in times of yore, this would need to be erected purely in the interest of the South.

With the advent of independence, Scotland would become a magnet for untold numbers of migrants landing on unprotectable Scottish beaches, before streaming across the country heading for England and its ripe pickings.

The South could not allow this to happen and Scotland can look forward to Calais style border 'jungle camps,' desecrating their once



HADRIAN'S WALL: Would need to be erected purely in the interest of the South.

beautiful countryside for the entire length of the barrier. Good luck with that. A strong border would also be needed to keep out the undoubted deluge of smugglers that will emerge. Whatever rubbish the SNP tries to foist on its constituents, Scotland would not be able to stay in the EU, or its free market. It would be left hanging in no man's land, try-

ing to negotiate with an EU that is visibly crumbling as we speak.

In any case what's it going to negotiate with? At present Scotland is 15 billion in debt. Set to rise to 50 billion by 2020. Its oil resources are plunging. Outside of whisky it has no serious industries of its own. A million of its workers rely on amalgamation with the

UK and 't doesn't even know what currency it will be using! And the saddest fact of all? The rest of the UK citizens are so utterly peed off with the whole sorry affair that frankly my dear, they no longer really give a damn.

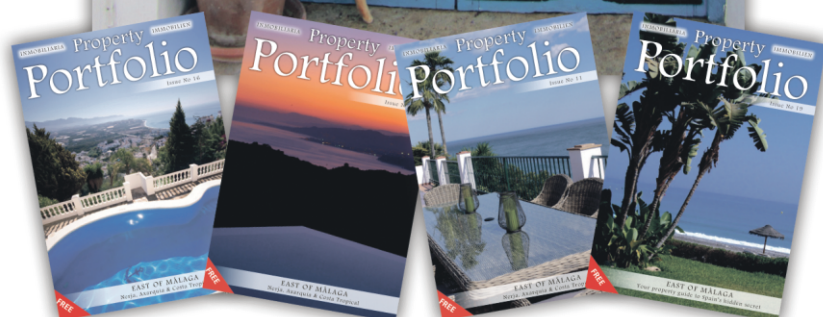
Keep the faith

Love Leapy

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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**Take A Look Inside
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Advertising feature

Why not make a splash with your next break?

Christina Sharp

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NOWADAYS if you can dream it, you can pretty-much do it as far as holidays go, so what have you decided this year? Unfavourable exchange rates swayed you towards a 'staycation'? Or are you a 'life is for living' type, and looking for something special to wash away the doom and gloom?

Whatever floats your boat, you'll be sure to find a cruise holiday that's right for you, with greater than ever choice to suit all budgets. And you will be in good company too, because a record 1.9 million Brits took cruise holidays in 2016. That's almost 10 per cent more than in 2015 according to the Cruise Lines International Association.

Once seen as the reserve of the rich or more mature traveller, cruises now offer remarkable value, with tailor-made itineraries of tantalising locations sailing into view each day and accommodation, meals and entertainment all included in the package.

Whether you chose a firm favourite Mediterranean cruise, the Baltic, Caribbean, or



Whatever floats your boat - chose a cruise and make a splash on your next holiday.

Far East, you will wonder why you ever packed your paperbacks or Kindle, as most cruises offer a mindboggling array of entertainment and activities on everything from yoga, painting, putting, salsa, wildlife watching, culinary classes on gourmet dining and even how to making a perfect crepe Suzette.

The choice of cruise ships is equally remarkable, including award winning 'super

yachts' styled on Marie Antoinette's 18th-century Chateau de Versailles; unique boutique Clipper ships; to gigantic floating skyscrapers like the Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas with its 6,000 passenger capacity, water-slides, and amphitheatre. Smaller ships can offer unique interiors and itineraries that take in lesser-known destinations, or opt for an epic transatlantic voyage to The Big Apple.

Either way you can experience luxury that many five star hotels would envy.

Many operators offer short taster cruises which are great for first-timers. But with so many cruises available, it's wise to speak to a specialist who can help navigate you through the options, and find the cruise that's just right for you.

Even with the best planning, the unexpected can happen. At Globelink we know from 20 years' experience that cutting short a cruise trip due to an emergency back home, or being medically evacuated from a cruise liner due to illness is a very-very expensive business.

Be a savvy traveller and don't just go for the tour operator, or cruise company insurance option. This may be expensive and may not suit your insurance needs. We are delighted that Globelink customers are covered as standard for their cruise holidays, so you don't have to pay extra for that essential peace of mind.

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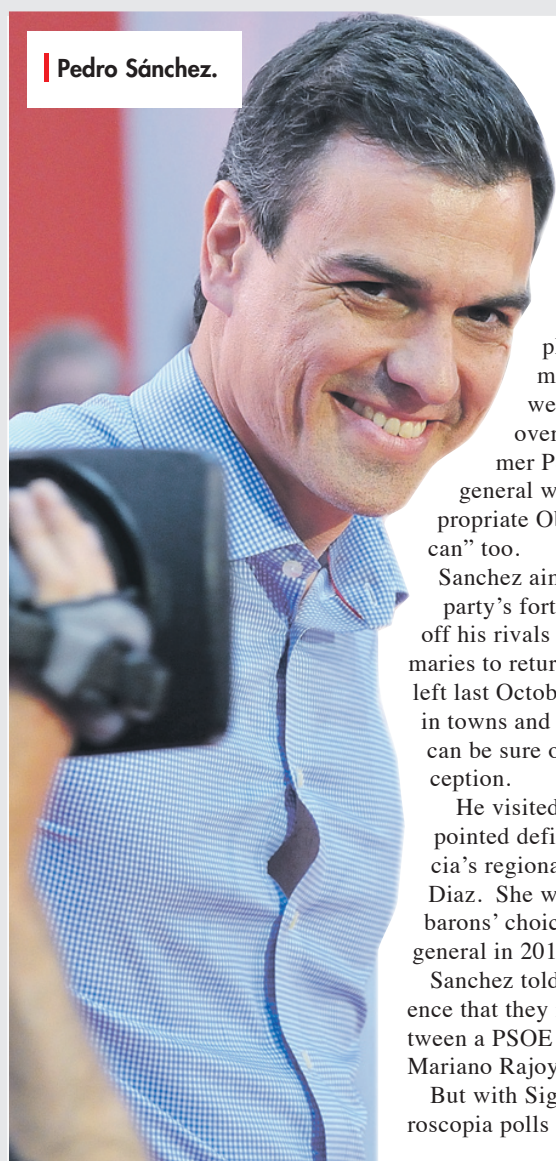
linea directa

SUNDAY - 26 MARCH

BBC one BBC Two BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|---|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|
| 7:00am | Breakfast | 7:45am | Island Parish | 8:00pm | Revolution and Romance: | 7:10am | King of Queens | 7:00am | Milkshake! |
| 10:00am | The Andrew Marr Show | 8:15am | Sark Winter | | | 7:35am | Dreamteam | 11:10am | Teenage |
| 11:00am | The Big Questions | 9:15am | Around the World in 80 Gardens | 9:00pm | Musical Masters of the 19th Century | 8:30am | Everybody Loves Raymond | | Mutant Ninja Turtles |
| | <i>A series of moral, ethical and religious debates on topical issues.</i> | 9:45am | Gardeners' World | | Stunning Soloists at the BBC | 9:00am | Everybody Loves Raymond | | <i>Underground crime-fighting escapades with the heroes in a half-shell.</i> |
| 12:00pm | Sunday Politics | 10:45am | Countryfile | 10:00pm | 6 Music Concert Highlights | 9:30am | Frasier | | |
| 1:15pm | Bargain Hunt | 12:15pm | Saturday Kitchen | 11:30pm | The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse | 10:00am | Frasier | 11:45am | The Gadget Show |
| 2:00pm | BBC News | | Best Bites | 1:00am | Timewatch | 1:30pm | The Simpsons | | <i>Technology show that examines at some of the most popular everyday gadgets.</i> |
| 2:10pm | Weather for the Week Ahead | 12:45pm | Nigel Slater: Eating Together | | <i>BBC investigative documentary series which takes a new perspective on historical events.</i> | 2:00pm | The Simpsons | | |
| 2:15pm | Flog It! | 1:15pm | Simply Nigella | | | 2:30pm | The Simpsons | | |
| 3:15pm | Countryfile | 2:45pm | The Importance of Being Earnest | | | 3:00pm | Formula 1 | | |
| 4:00pm | Spring Diaries | 3:15pm | Holiday of My Lifetime | | | 5:40pm | The Restoration Man | | |
| 4:00pm | Escape to the Country | 4:00pm | Money for Nothing | 2:00am | Tank Men | 6:45pm | Location, Location, Location | | |
| 5:00pm | Songs of Praise | 5:00pm | The House That £100k Built | 2:30am | The Century That Wrote Itself | 7:30pm | Channel 4 News | 12:45pm | The Princess Bride |
| 5:35pm | Shop Well for Less | | Back to the Land with Kate Humble | | <i>Series in which author Adam Nicolson takes an intimate slook at the 17th century's diarists and letter writers and how they produced the first great age of self-depiction.</i> | 8:00pm | Our Guy in China | 2:30pm | The Wizard of Oz |
| 7:35pm | BBC News | 6:00pm | Athletics: World Cross Country Highlights | | | 9:00pm | Rivers with Jeremy Paxman | 4:30pm | The Parent Trap |
| 7:50pm | Regional News | 7:00pm | Inside the Factory | | | 10:00pm | Homeland | 7:00pm | Dirty Dancing |
| 7:55pm | Weather | 8:00pm | Robot Wars | | | 11:00pm | Gogglebox | 8:55pm | 5 News |
| 8:00pm | Countryfile | 9:00pm | Top Gear | | | 12:00am | 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown | 9:00pm | Michael Jackson: Rich and Acquired |
| 9:00pm | Antiques Roadshow | 10:00pm | Turkey with Simo Reeve | | | 1:00am | Grease 2 | 10:00pm | Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story |
| 10:00pm | Line of Duty | 11:00pm | Cold in July | | | 3:00am | UK's Best Place to Live | | Michael Jackson's This is it |
| 11:00pm | BBC News | 12:45am | Live at the Apollo | | | 3:55m | Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year Ep1 | 12:00am | |
| 11:20pm | Regional News | | | | | | | 2:00am | Kings of Pop |
| 11:25pm | Weather | | | | | | | | |
| 11:30pm | Iron Man 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 1:30am | Celebrity Apprentice USA | | | | | | | | |

[illegible]



Pedro Sánchez.

Accentuate the positive

PEDRO SANCHEZ'S "No means no" has metamorphosed into "Yes means yes." If it weren't somewhat overworked, the former PSOE secretary general would probably appropriate Obama's "Yes we can" too.

Sanchez aims to restore the party's fortunes by beating off his rivals in the May primaries to return to the post he left last October, barnstorming in towns and cities where he can be sure of a rapturous reception.

He visited Cadiz recently in pointed defiance of Andalusia's regional president Susana Diaz. She was the party barons' choice for secretary general in 2014 and still is.

Sanchez told his enrapt audience that they must choose between a PSOE that supports Mariano Rajoy "or us."

But with Sigma Dos and Metroscofia polls putting Unidos

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

Podemos in second place after Rajoy's Partido Popular it looks as though a hefty number of voters could make an entirely different choice.

Unfair advantage

EIGHT of the people convicted of terrorism linked to the Madrid bombs that killed 192 commuters on March 11, 2004 are now free.

Most would prefer to see them serving life-means-life terms but the law is the law and has to be the same for all.

How fortunate that they can benefit from the rights and freedoms they and their caliphate want to destroy.

Non-shock tactics

JORGE FERNANDEZ DIAZ, former Interior minister who engendered the infamous Public Safety Law, popularly known as the Gagging Law, continued working while undergoing cancer treatment.

He kept quiet about it and the news of his illness - and undeniable bravery - has only emerged now. This coincides with the creation of the parliamentary

commission investigating recorded conversations that revealed his plans for a 'dirty war' in Cataluña.

Fernandez Diaz, an openly religious man who belongs to the Catholic sect Opus Dei and goes to Mass each day, wanted to discredit separatist politicians by linking them to corruption.

He made a bloomer there, though. Sadly, like everyone in Spain, the Catalans are so used to corruption they are no longer shocked by it but have come to expect it.

Same difference

PODEMOS has discarded its scornful use of Caste to dismiss and deride Spain's principal parties. It is now using Trama to convey the sleazy network of corruption that permeates Spanish politics although Podemos is in no position to throw the first stone. Their little fiddles include undeclared earnings (Monedero), an abused academic grant (Errejon), social security cheat (Echenique) and social housing sold at a profit (Espinar). Comparatively modest rip-offs, but nice little earners all the same.

Travel

Adventures on Spain's secret coast

By Matthew Elliott

SPAIN has been a popular travel destination for so long, and placed under such a powerful microscope, that it's difficult to imagine where the unbeaten track may lie. But if its informal nickname, 'the secret coast,' is true, then Huelva may be just the place.

Nestled on the far south-west corner of Spain, right on the border with Portugal, a visit to Huelva brings Atlantic beaches into the mix. And they are some of the finest in the world. The words 'unspoilt' and 'virgin' are thrown around a lot when applied to beaches but in Huelva they find their real home.

Explore the Playa de Mazagon and Playa de Castilla for some real gems. Off season you might even have these pristine miracles to yourself. Both are surrounded by wonderful restaurants and boutique hotels to relax after a gorgeous sunset stroll and enjoy some of the finest seafood in Spain.

The city of Huelva itself isn't one of the provinces main attractions but is a wonderful Spanish city in its own right, replete with its fair share of history, cuisine and culture.

EL ROCIO: The gateway to Doñana National Park.



If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, and have a car, a must-do on any trip to Huelva is a visit to the Doñana National Park. This vast untouched wildness, one of the last in Spain, straddles across three provinces - Huelva, Seville and Cadiz - a majestic 100,000 hectares of beaches, pine forest, sand dunes, marshes and mountains. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and it would be a shame not to see one of the genuine wonders of the world

right on your Spanish doorstep.

Another terrific opportunity on any Huelva visit is taking a boat to another country. After all this is where Christopher Columbus acquired his ships to sail to the New World.

You don't have to go that far, Portugal is just a 15 minute ferry ride away. For a reasonable price you can visit the charming town of Viloreal do Santo Antonio and gorge on the famous Portuguese custard tart Pasteis de Nata. Be sure to turn your

clocks back!

Huelva is easily accessible from almost anywhere on the Spanish mainland. The fastest way to get to the capital would be on the motorway through Seville from Malaga province. But the coastal route through Cadiz isn't much longer and affords many more opportunities to stop and explore Spain's majestic coast along the way.



ABOVE: Horseriding on Mazagon beach.

BELOW: Huelva City.

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Kakuro

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 5 | 33 | | 23 | 16 | |
| 11 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | |
| | 10 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 20 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | | 14 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 9 | |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | |

MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'WOW! THAT'S A STURGEON - WE SCOTS NOW HAVE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!'

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



TARGET:

• Average: 9 • Good: 12

• Very good: 18 • Excellent: 23

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

army arty dory doty dray many mayo
myna nary tony tray troy tyro yard yarn
adyta anomy atomy atony dormy mayor
moray randy rayon tardy toady today
dynamo notary amatory anatomy
drayman yardman MANDATORY

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday March 18

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 3 | 8 | 19 | BONUS BALL |
| 26 | 37 | 41 | 43 |

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday March 18

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 9 | 11 | 18 | BONUS BALL |
| 24 | 30 | 44 | 46 |

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 14

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 3 | 5 | 21 | BONUS BALL |
| 36 | 44 | 6 | |

Friday March 17

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 6 | 10 | 19 | BONUS BALL |
| 29 | 36 | 9 | |

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday March 18

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 3 | 5 | 14 | BONUS BALL |
| 21 | 28 | 43 | 6 |

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday March 19

| | | | |
|----|----|----|------------|
| 8 | 20 | 34 | BONUS BALL |
| 39 | 44 | 4 | |

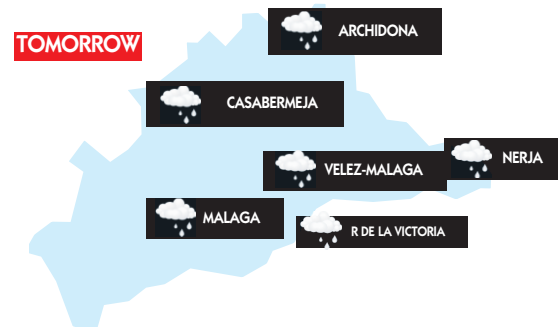
Axarquía

weather

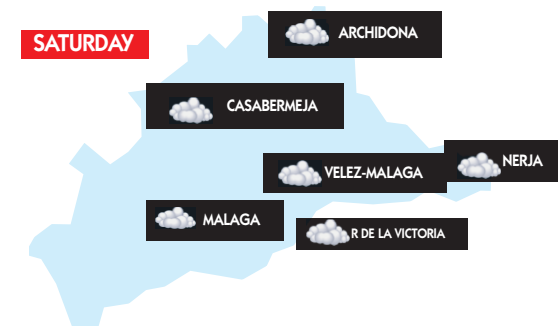
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 18 - C

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fri - 13 | 8 | Sh |
| Sat - 15 | 8 | Sh |
| Sun - 17 | 10 | C |
| Mon - 18 | 11 | C |
| Tues - 19 | 11 | Sh |
| Wed - 19 | 11 | C |

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 11, MIN 2 - Sh

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| Fri - 12 | 7 | Cl |
| Sat - 13 | 8 | Sh |
| Sun - 14 | 6 | Sh |
| Mon - 17 | 7 | Sh |
| Tues - 16 | 7 | Sh |
| Wed - 17 | 7 | Sh |

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 8 - C

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fri - 14 | 7 | C |
| Sat - 16 | 9 | C |
| Sun - 18 | 11 | Cl |
| Mon - 19 | 11 | Sh |
| Tues - 19 | 11 | Sh |
| Wed - 20 | 12 | Cl |

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 12, MIN -1 - C

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| Fri - 14 | 3 | C |
| Sat - 10 | 2 | Sh |
| Sun - 15 | 4 | Sh |
| Mon - 15 | 4 | Sh |
| Tues - 17 | 4 | Sh |
| Wed - 18 | 4 | Sh |

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 8 - C

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fri - 13 | 11 | Sh |
| Sat - 13 | 9 | Sh |
| Sun - 15 | 9 | Sh |
| Mon - 16 | 9 | C |
| Tues - 16 | 10 | C |
| Wed - 17 | 9 | C |

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 5 - CL

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fri - 14 | 5 | C |
| Sat - 15 | 7 | C |
| Sun - 17 | 10 | C |
| Mon - 18 | 9 | Sh |
| Tues - 20 | 10 | Sh |
| Wed - 21 | 10 | Sh |

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 7 - C

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| Fri - 13 | 8 | Sh |
| Sat - 15 | 8 | Sh |
| Sun - 17 | 10 | C |
| Mon - 17 | 10 | C |
| Tues - 18 | 10 | C |
| Wed - 18 | 10 | Cl |

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 17 MIN 7 - C

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| Fri - 15 | 8 | Sh |
| Sat - 15 | 8 | Sh |
| Sun - 17 | 8 | Sh |
| Mon - 18 | 8 | Sh |
| Tues - 19 | 8 | Cl |
| Wed - 20 | 8 | S |

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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

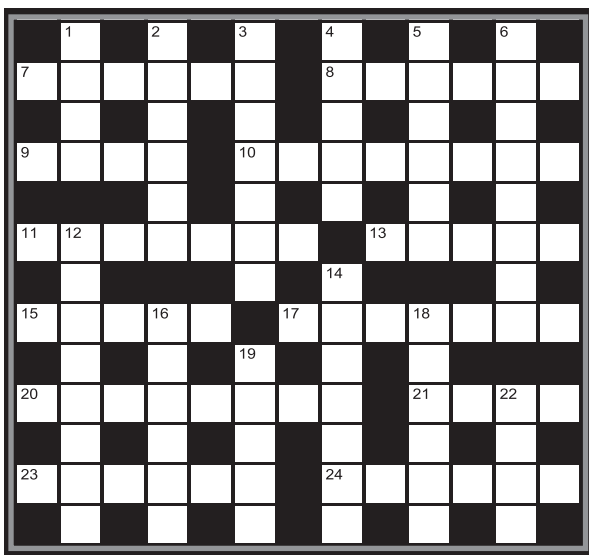
Cryptic

Across

- 7 It's dead simple if Alec goes off (6)
8 Get angry about team having magical potion (6)
9 Event in Monica Seles's diary (4)
10 Current Queen's banner (8)
11 Smith crashes Ferrari (7)
13 Left port weighed down (5)
15 Carrying some nuclear medicine (5)
17 Nothing's following the U-boat, it's below freezing (3,4)
20 Press sat around and intrude (8)
21 Give support to a Verdi opera (4)
23 Georgia collected knowledge in abundance (6)
24 Ample chicken ought to be included (6)

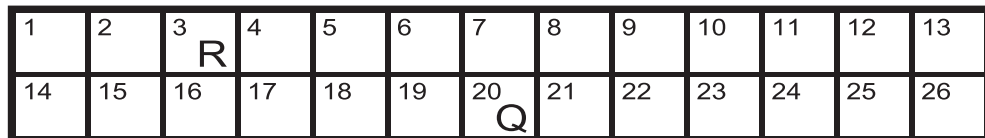
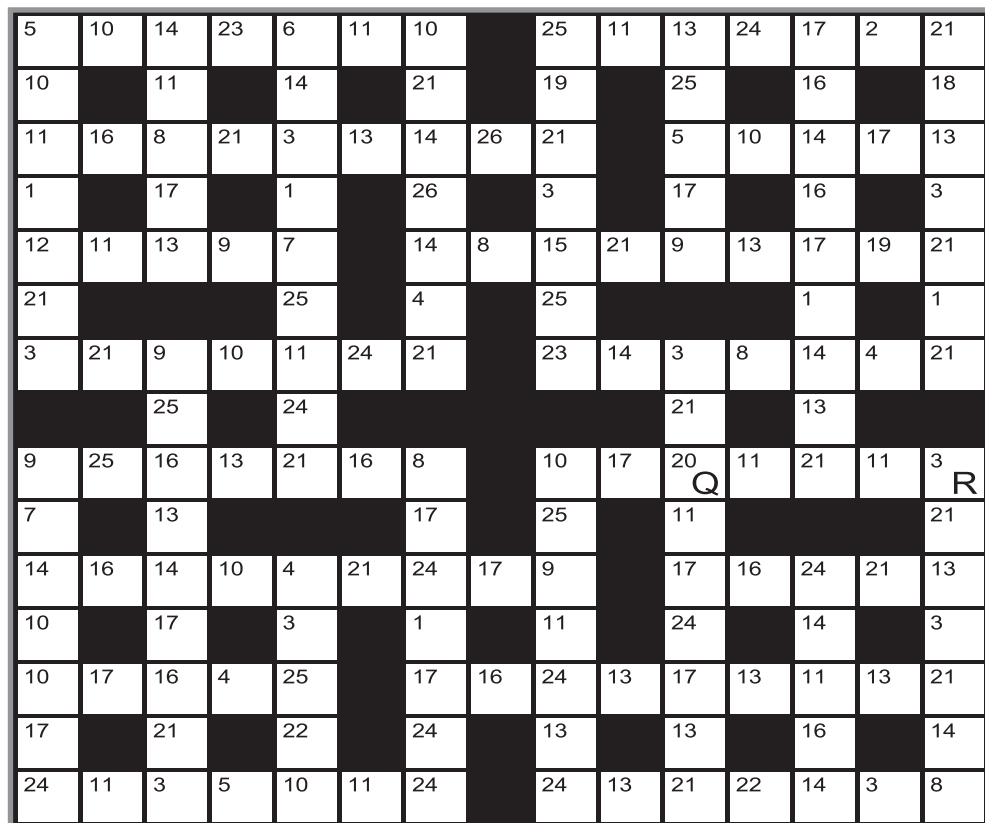
Down

- 1 Young lady going to a festival (4)
2 American aboard cruise ship is one dimensional (6)
3 Refused to eat with Earl, then ate plenty (7)
4 Bread is bad for facial hair (5)
5 Volunteers surrounding Islamic republic's capital (6)
6 Free pile designed for a member of the House of Lords (4,4)
12 Arraign a disorderly land reformer (8)



- 14 Went after and usurped criminal (7)
16 Sue going back to North London railway station (6)
18 Fanatic Zionist leader gets a lot after the end of June (6)
19 Tag first murder victim found under lake (5)
22 Italian magistrate is in a dog eat dog world (4)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents R and 20 represents Q, so fill in R every time the figure 3 appears and Q every time the figure 20 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



Quick

Across

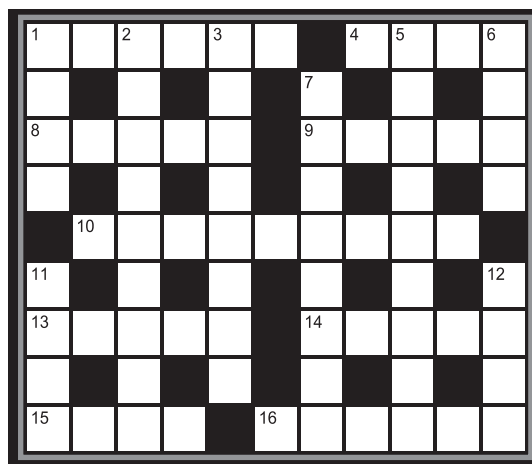
- 1 Quantity much larger than is needed (7)
5 Talk pompously (5)
8 Additional payment (5)
9 Draw back (7)
10 Flat and smooth (4)
11 Fifth columnist (8)
13 Traditional headdress consisting of a long scarf wrapped around the head (6)
15 Large marine mammal (6)
18 Perceive or think about in a particular way (8)
19 Eager or enthusiastic (4)
22 Covetousness (7)
23 Join together (5)
24 Metal rod with a handle, used for prodding and stirring an open fire (5)
25 Grasp tightly (7)

Down

- 1 Thing or area being discussed (7)
2 Series of hills or mountains (5)
3 Rich, juicy and succulent (4)
4 Disperse widely (6)
5 Left to choice (8)
6 Non-professional (7)
7 Come or go into (5)
12 Well known or easily recognised (8)
14 Plunder (7)
16 Open and genuine (7)
17 Niche or alcove (6)
18 Fastening device (5)
20 Best of all (5)
21 Spiritual teacher (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Caramelos (6)
4 Hatred (4)
8 Ira (de persona) (5)
9 Pasillo (en avión, teatro) (5)
10 To find (9)
13 Talones (de pies, calcetines, zapatos) (5)
14 Century (5)
15 Lavado (4)
16 Jugs (6)

Down

- 1 Cisne (4)
2 Ingenieros (9)
3 Tortuga (8)
5 To unload (9)
6 Obedecer (4)
7 Ghost (8)
11 Masticar (4)
12 Perros (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Dish, 3 Clear cut, 9 Laundry, 10 Pence, 11 Gulls, 12 Inches, 14 Trains, 16 Statue, 19 Rescue, 21 Reels, 24 Ledge, 25 Arizona, 26 Radishes, 27 Bede.

Down:

- 1 Delegate, 2 Skull, 4 Larkin, 5 Aspic, 6 Convent, 7 Teem, 8 Edison, 13 Persuade, 15 Amended, 17 Torrid, 18 Relate, 20 Chews, 22 Evoke, 23 Slur.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Subdued, 5 Silos, 8 Regular, 9 Llama, 10 Waste, 11 Nothing, 12 Peseta, 14 Dagger, 17 Barista, 19 Scalp, 22 Infer, 23 Stagger, 24 Haydn, 25 Conceal.

Down:

- 1 Shrew, 2 Bogus, 3 Ugliest, 4 During, 5 Split, 6 Leading, 7 Swagger, 12 Publish, 13 Scruffy, 15 Abstain, 16 Parsec, 18 Siren, 20 Argue, 21 Peril.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Estrellas, 8 Sala de estar, 9 Lamb, 10 Belt, 13 Saltamontes, 14 Toothpick.

Down:

- 2 Solomillo, 3 Rude, 4 Leer, 5 Authentic, 6 Useless, 7 British, 11 Wait, 12 Soap.

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Llorer-dô Sartre, Mallorca

Last word

MIGHT I suggest that your 'correspondent' Roy Peters should get a life and accept that we're queer, we're here and we're not going away? Yours.

David Sharpe, Torremolinos

Go Leapy!

OVER in Costa del Sol to escape the UK winter for a couple of months. Just wanted to let you know how refreshing to read your insightful comments last week on Tony Blair and this week on the UK media. At last someone who not only sees the real situation but

comments publicly.

You have a fan - pity our own media, as you so rightly point out, are incapable of being more supportive and positive rather than putting their own selfish 'spin' on stories that they don't want to believe.

Steve UK, resident

Cala Mosca

WITH reference to the ongoing battle to save 'Cala Mosca,' a fight that has been going on for several years now. Isn't it time Orihuela City started to show some consideration to the wishes of people of the Costa and back them in this battle? Or is it as so many people on the Costa believe that the Orihuela City Council only see the Costa as a cash cow and offer nothing?

Yes we have a town hall which has a limited police office and other official offices to collect revenue. We also have a Suma Office to collect revenue.

Do we have an ambulance station? NO. Do we have a fire station? NO. Why? Because no revenue can be collected from these services. The same as other services denied to the habitants of the Costa. No library, no theatre, nowhere to bury our loved ones, the list goes on.

If Orihuela City Council continues to bury its head in the sand this battle may be the straw to break the camel's back. Orihuela Costa should seek to be either independent or governed by a closer municipality. Could either San Miguel or Torrevieja do a better job?

So come on Orihuela City

come out and support the fight of the people, support the Battle for Cala Mosca. Or the fight may be against you?

TJ Sawkins, Orihuela Costa

Safer roads

I UNDERSTAND work is complete on the bridge between the Bourganvilias and Puerto Rey roundabouts.

We are relieved that cyclists and pedestrians can now use the additional path and cross the bridge safely. However, we notice some people are not using it due to having to negotiate the abrupt end of the concrete on to rough ground and a ridge up to the road.

Couldn't the town hall manage some additional concrete for a smoother passage?

Coral, Vera Playa

COMMENTS from EWN Online

» Scots referendum

MAY does not like this. She instantly gave her arguments for being against it by telling Sturgeon, you are being divisive and it would be stupid economically to leave your biggest market. It seems she thinks it is stupid for the Scots to leave the Union but it is a good idea for us to leave an even bigger one. Talk about the contradiction of the Pot calling the Pan, Sooty Arse. It seems that England is run by fools. This is however a good idea for some, when it allows those at the top to line their own pockets at the expense of the majority.

Peter

» Police inhibitor Torremolinos

WHAT an interesting and quite disturbing story. Some 10 years ago I recall staying with a friend in Alcazar de San Juan. He lived directly opposite a police station. The next day when I tried to start my car it was dead. My pal towed me to a local Renault garage. There the mechanic could find no problem, as my car started at the first attempt. We drove away very puzzled and relieved.

My pal, who is Spanish, was convinced that it was something to do with the Police Station transmissions opposite his apartment block. So it would appear that this problem has been going on for some considerable time and apart from the inconvenience. Thankfully no one has been injured... yet.

Roy Leon

» More damage on the coast

TIME for the world to put some real effort into sorting out climate change. When we all do nothing about it, then this will get worse year on year.

Roy Peters

» Leo the Lion

THE most positive thoughts I can muster are sent to be with him. Hope he can come out a winner.

Peter

» House of Lords withdrawal

THE House of Lords should have not even tried to interfere in this process, for a house of people that are supposed to be intelligent they have shown again the bunch of fools most of them are, the sooner this gravy train of mostly old fools is abolished the better for everyone... except them of course.

I really do not see any point in setting out any amendments in Article 50 at this stage, doesn't make any common or logical sense to do that before any negotiating has started. I understand the frustration from those who are not capable of understanding the way the EU citizen situation will most likely go forward but I am afraid if those people cannot grasp the likelihood of what will logically happen then unfortunately that is their problem, the process of Brexit must go forward with an open slate, no cards up and no closed options on the table either.

Shows how much these fat cat idiots trying to prove their existence are so much out of touch with reality, why they should not have tried to interfere in their attempt at delaying the process that only makes an aggravated situation aggravating and gives even more reason as to why they should be abolished.

Mike in ESP

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

Valenciano spoken

“THE economy of the Costa Blanca is very dependent on tourism and construction.

Foreigners and tourists contribute a very important part to this.

It is therefore important that foreigners feel welcome and can communicate with the locals.

In that light, it is difficult to understand that the Valencian government and various municipalities, including Alfaz del Pi, endeavour to promote Valenciano. This is to the extreme drawn in education. Good English teachers are not accepted as they do not speak Valenciano!

With high unemployment, particularly among youth, one might expect that more importance should be attached to the fluency in English, Ger-



| MORE IMPORTANCE: Should be attached to fluency in other languages.

man and French.

From the government it must be expected that residents' interests is a top priority. With the actions of promoting Valenciano, the interests of the resi-

dents of the province are being sacrificed to nationalistic purposes.

The many unemployed people and especially the youth deserve better!

Kees Hilgers

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.euroweeklynnews.com

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**Trudy
Stewart**



EVEN if you've had the most cursory of glances at the newspapers in the last few months, you can't have failed to see the rise of 'fake news.'

The first time I became aware of the phrase was when POTUS runner-up, Hillary Clinton, used it in relation to those pesky emails. I'm not sure it's right to call it fake though. In some cases it's more like uncomfortable truths that can't be irrefutably disproved so are instead discredited.

But, is this really a new phenomenon or just rebranding of something which has existed for a lot longer and was till now covered under the all-encompassing heading of conspiracy theories?

From the moon landings to 911, for everyone who believes things are as they appear, there are many others who question the official version of events and prefer to interrogate the data looking for clues of cover-ups and sinister involve-

ment of covert agencies.

It seems strange that people can look at a certain event or scientifically proven evidence and draw such widely different conclusions, but I think that's part of being human.

Some people are happy to accept what they read or are told as absolute fact and feel no need to look for deeper meaning. However, for many among us it is easier to believe that nothing is as it seems and to try to disprove the facts and provide new theories.

So who is right? Well that's the million dollar question and one that I don't think has a right answer. It depends how far you want to go down the rabbit hole. When I was younger, I dismissed all conspiracy theories as nonsense but as I get older, I don't have that same conviction mainly because there is sometimes quite compelling evidence to 'prove' the theory.

That's not to say I've been converted by the 'flat-earthers' but, I am less certain than I used to be that man has actually walked on the moon. I'm also not convinced that the royals are lizard people, but I do

have questions about an illuminati.

And maybe that's how it should be. Perhaps we should all be a little more inquisitive. Of course there are some bonkers beliefs out there, but there are also some thought-provoking theories that might get your brain firing.

With the rise of the internet and explosion of social media, anyone can be a citizen investigator nowadays. You don't have to accept information at face value and can look for evidence yourself or find a video made by someone with similar ideas to yours.

You don't have to believe everything you see or hear. It's too easy to dismiss conspiracy theorists as tin-foil hat wearing wackos but what if they are right about just some of it even? Would you rather know the truth or continue to accept everything at face value believing this to be for the common good?

I think I'll keep an open mind, after all the truth really may be out there.



Brexit and the latest act in political drama "project fear"

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

TOGETHER with news that Theresa May's fired the starting pistol for triggering Article 50 imminently, it was also announced that Parliament will need to pass at least seven controversial bills to prepare Britain for life outside the EU.

Each new law will give MPs and peers the opportunity to influence the terms of Brexit, raising worries for Number 10 that bills could be amended or blocked during what's already a tight two-year schedule.

But as with all such complex issues, the devil will be in the detail of all of this. Leaving the EU isn't quite the same as resigning from your golf or gym club. As in all divorces, everything has to be screwed down so you don't end up being taken to the cleaners. So yes, some turbulent times ahead but surely no surprise to our politicians who,

doubtless, will have (or, at least, should have) been aware of the small print issues before even opening divorce proceedings.

Yet another cause for concern for Number 10, apparently, is the actual wording of the letter triggering Article 50: just how brief or detailed should it be? Well, this is where I feel I can help out with the following which, I'm sure you'll agree, is neither too brief nor too detailed:

“There will be law upon law that will need to be repealed or amended.”

'Dear Donald (No, not that one! Donald Tusk, European Council supremo), I'm sorry, but it's just not working out, so I've decided it's best we split now and divvy up what we've built up together over the years.

I'm sure you'll get along fine and find someone else soon. Bye, Theresa.'

Finally, and back to those seven new laws, this is just the tip of the iceberg. There'll be law upon law that will either need to be repealed, amended or left for the creation of the 'Brexit loophole' that'll be fully exploited by those in the know.

Oh, and red tape. Buy yours now because it will be sold out in a few years' time as it'll soon appear all over the place. You read it here first!

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.



DONALD TUSK: European Council supremo.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

New measures to check ITV validity

AS part of a new series, we answer some common driving questions, 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.



ITV TESTS: A new database will record vehicle movements and history.

AS part of the new wave of reforms aimed at modernising traffic monitoring and safety, the DGT has announced the creation of a database of vehicle movements and history, which will then be able to check ITV tests.

The technology behind the scheme will see cameras installed around the road network and at entrances and exits of towns and cities which will record the registration numbers of vehicles as they pass.

This database will then link to the ITV test reports and will collate information from traffic incidents, crashes and repairs. Workshops and garages will be given a deadline to adapt to the new and appropriate computer technology for reports to be logged about vehicles.

The DGT will also carry out intensive campaigns to remind vehicle owners of the legal requirements to ensure their vehicle has passed the ITV tests. It is estimated there are currently between 1.5 and 2 million vehicles in Spain on the roads without a valid certificate.

At the moment, when speed detecting radars spot a vehicle that exceeds the speed limits, it automatically checks to ensure the ITV has been passed, but now, taking this idea one step further, the new equipment installed at the entrances to towns and cities will scan licence plate numbers and detect vehicles that have an out of date ITV certificate or have been for an inspection and failed and where appropriate, action will be taken and a fine issued.

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

Can vice-president resign?

Q. I currently hold the position of Vice President in our Community and I understand that, if our President resigns and no one else accepts the position at the AGM, then I will automatically be installed as President for at least one year.

I do not want to hold that position. In fact, I am considering selling up to return to the UK. How can I resign before the AGM is held? Is it just a case of writing to the administrators and the President?

R P (Costa Blanca)

A. YES, the Vice-President can resign at any time, simply by writing to the President. Keep in mind that the President is an officer of the Community. The Administrator is an employ-

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain

ee. There is no provision in law that says a Vice-President can automati-

cally be installed as President. He may be assigned the duties of the President, but only the AGM can elect the President of the Community, who is legally responsible for his actions.



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

Oops I did it again x!

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I AM quite techno literate and pretty good with computers and stuff. I love all the apps I can get for my iPhone and I'm always using WhatsApp or messaging and I always finish my messages to family and friends with an x - which, as you all know, represents a kiss.

The other day I was having a WhatsApp row with a plumber and, of course, I finished the message and, like a complete donut, I finished it with an x. I just cyber kissed a plumber I'm having a row with! Where do you go from there? I was absolutely stuffed!

Needless to say we are not using this plumber any more but I am meeting him for a drink next Friday and we will see where it goes from there!

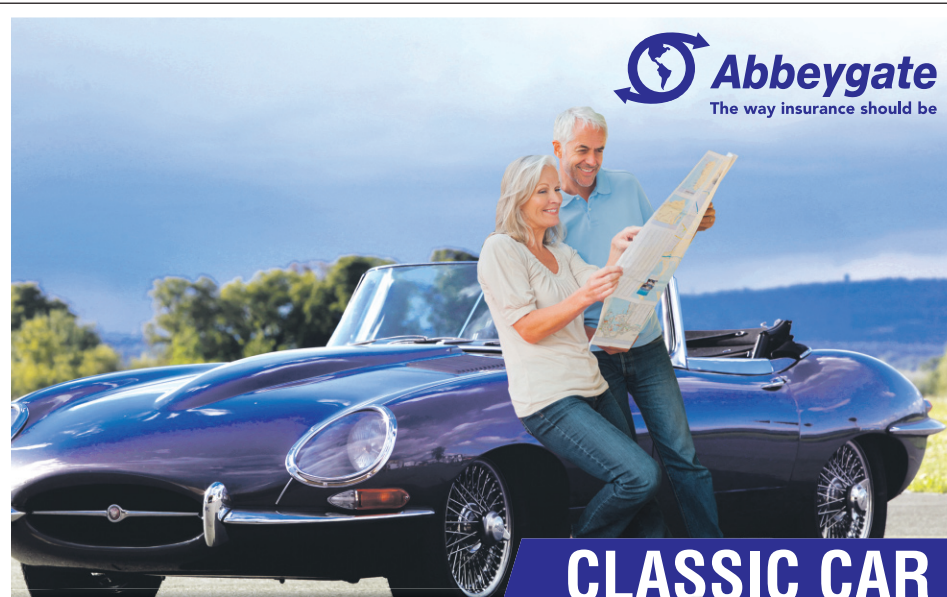
Back to one of my favourite grumps at the moment - Donny Trump. This man just never ceases to amaze me. This week he has managed to fall out with the rapper Snoop Dogg and GCHQ. He just says anything he wants and then leaves his team to clear up the mess. He wakes up at silly o'clock in the morning and starts tweeting. Mostly I think it's stuff he has just dreamed of. He says GCHQ bugged his office for Obama then all his team run around promising he will never say it again. It's a com-

edy show. The tweet after he said Obama had his office bugged was about Arnold Schwarzenegger losing his job on the Apprentice. You can't make this stuff up. Sorry to all you folks that think this man is fit to be POTUS, but you have got this all wrong. The man is a raving lunatic and I will say again, he will not last his first term.

I am usually very pleased with the service I get from the special assistance team at Malaga airport but when I arrived back the other night there was a few of us that needed assistance plus people travelling with them. I was alone. There were about 10 passengers. I travel with my own wheelchair and we were met by two guys driving two trolley things. Now, I can fold my chair up and sit on the buggy but by the time I got there it was full with people that needed assistance and their able bodied travelling companions. I was told someone would be right there to help me but, of course, that never happened and I sat there for a further 20 odd minutes before anyone came back.

So please folks if you don't need assistance, let the guy in the wheelchair use the service provided. Thanks x. Oops did it again!

Have you ever noticed, and it's mostly the older generation that do this. When asked if they are married the answer is never yes or no, it's just a number and a shrug. Are you married? 40 years shrug. mikesenker@gmail.com with your thoughts.



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Less is more when it comes to your hair

ACCORDING to the experts, today the average woman washes her hair more often than ever. In fact, in 1908 the *New York Times* published an article which advised women to wash their hair once every two weeks, instead of once a month.

Nowadays, the idea of going weeks without shampoo seems completely alien. But did our grandmothers have the right idea? Hair-dressers around the world advise us to wash our hair, on average, once every three days. However, many women confess to shampooing every other day or even daily.

There is some evidence

that many ingredients in our shampoos can be as harmful for the environment as it is for our scalps. Sulphates can strip the hair of essential and natural oils, instead producing more sebum which makes it greasy.

This leads us into a vicious cycle of washing seemingly with no end. Women with curls are advised to wash their hair even less, or even use conditioner as a substitute, removing daily build up in a much gentler manner. This has given rise to the 'no poo' movement gaining momentum amongst celebrities, swapping shampoo for conditioner or more natural alternatives.

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Controlling your weight

**| SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.**

ACCORDING to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, one in every four British adults is obese, with more than half the population predicted to be excessively fat by 2050.

The cause of the rapid rise in obesity has been associated with modern life trends, such as our increasing reliance on cars, television, computers, desk jobs and high calorie food.

What is obesity?

Obesity is a chronic illness characterised by an excessive accumulation of fat in the body, both on an external level (under the skin) and an internal level (between and entering vital organs). This causes an increase in body weight and volume which affects people's lives.

What's the difference between being overweight and being obese?

There are different levels of excess fat and obesity. The easiest way to differentiate and classify the problem is known as the corporal mass index, which is calculated by dividing weight by the square of height in metres. If this gives a number between 25 and 29.9 then the person is overweight, if the result is more than 30 they are considered obese.

Is obesity dangerous?

Obesity is considered to be a major cardiovascular risk, meaning people with obesity are more likely to have heart attacks, strokes, etc. Today it is considered the most frequent preventable cardiovascular risk and has virtually become the epidemic of the 21st century. It is not just an aesthetic problem, it is a real health risk. Also, type two diabetes is usually associated to obesity.

What can I do to control it?

There are various difference causes but most are down to an imbalance between the amount of energy we put into our bodies and how much we use each day. The best way to control obesity and lose weight is by following a balanced, low calorie diet and increasing your daily exercise.

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

Motril becomes an art attraction



ART HUB: The competition will attract artists from all over Spain.

THE seventh biennial Ramon Portillo painting contest will see Motril become an art hub, attracting artists from all over Spain.

The international competition is expected to attract around 200 artists who will exhibit their works in the sugar store of the Fabrica del Pilar.

The city's mayor, Flor Almon, and the president of the cultural association 'Friends of Ramon Portillo,' Nicolas Navarro Garcia, inaugurated the contest, which is expected to raise around €14,000.

The contest was created with the intention of paying homage to Ramon Portillo Guzman, a teacher and painter from Motril, who died in 2003, and whose works comprise still-lives, portraits, marine prints, nudes and scenes that vary between traditional Sevillana painting and modern works. It began like a school competition but has since grown thanks to the involvement of the 'Friends of Ramon Portillo' and Motril's City Council.

Ms Almon explained the competition had "become international and a must for many artists," adding, "this contest brings Motril's name to the whole world, bringing painting to the public." She praised the work of the 'Friends of Ramon Portillo' for carrying out "thankless work," which, "will always have the support of the city council."

Mr Navarro Garcia thanked

the work and effort of the culture teams and highlighted the prestige of the competition and praised the, "magnificent locations where the works will be exhibited."

He added that renowned

artists had come out of this competition such as Carlos Moreu Spa, Hernandez Quero and Dario Portillo.

Entries to the contest can be made between March 23 and April 21.

It all adds up for maths whizzkids

ALMOST 70 students participated in the 33rd Thales National Mathematics Olympiad, held in La Herradura.

The exhibition hall Pepe Gamez in La Herradura's Civic Centre hosted the first part of the competition which brought together students from year six at primary school and year two of secondary school, according to Miguel Angel Cañedo Fernandez, professor of mathematics at the IES, La Herradura.

After the contest's first phase, students moved to the Civic Centre's auditorium, where they participated in mathematical workshops, designed to test their mental calculation abilities.

Several teams from educational centres in Almuñecar and La Herradura, as well as Jete, Lanjaron, Algarrobo and Velez-Málaga took part in the event, which was sponsored by the mayor's office of La Herradura,

trade unions and companies.

Results from the competitions will be known next week. The best teams and students will go on to the regional phase, which will take place in Jaen from May 17 to 20.

This well-known contest has been taking place for decades and is considered, "one of the most recognised mathematical activities for students by Andalusian teachers," according to its promoters. About 3,000 students participated in the first phase. The national phase will be held in Valladolid.

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THERE HAS BEEN MUCH discussion over the last few years, as to what will happen when Britain leaves the European Union. Understandably people in Spain are concerned for their positions. Will they be able to stay? Will they be able to work? How safe are their properties? Well, I am no politician and have no insight into the machinations of such things, but personally I can't see the Spanish government spitting out their dummies to lose the investments and current taxes etc that the expats provide to their economy.

But of course it is not just the expats in Spain and the rest of Europe it is those that are from Europe and living and working in the UK. The very far right and the racist element have been shining on their policy 'all the foreigners are taking our jobs!!' I think that could be a gross exaggeration. The Eastern Europeans - and there's a lot of bad 'uns!! - usually are hard working and yes they will work for less than maybe their British counterparts, but the British themselves can be work shy, preferring over generous benefit pay outs to an actual job.

God knows what would happen to the NHS in the UK if it were not for the thousands of expat doctors and nurses. BUT, the catering industry would be hit even harder. And it's not that employers are trying to find the cheapest employee.

We do know however that 'immigrant' workers will work harder and longer so as to ensure they can live in their new found home. That applies to those that live and work here and I am sure many other European countries.



**AN AMUSING LOOK:
At a Prêt a Manger
sandwich.**

A case in question is the Prêt a Manger fast food sandwich chain. Only one in 50 people that apply for jobs are British, according to the company's HR Director Andrea Wareham.

Speaking at a House of Lords economic affairs select committee investigating Brexit and the labour market held on March 8 this year, she said it was a difficulty in attracting, rather than selecting, British workers, and that 65 per cent of Pret's workforce is made up of EU nationals.

She said the company would struggle to fill its vacancies with British-only applicants. Her concern was not just the chance of losing her workforce if it was a hard Brexit and EU nationals were refused permission to stay, but how she would fill the vacancies if no more 'Europeans' were allowed in.

It would not seem to be a question of salaries either. The average worker gets around £16,000 a year including free lunches and paid breaks. Managers earn around £33,000. But it is hard to get people into the Hospitality industry as many people still do not consider it a 'cool' career. I suppose it's back to the old acorn of unsociable hours. I have always found the hours very sociable as when everyone is having a good time, I'm sharing it with them!!

SPEAKING OF SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE THE JOB COOL, Gordon Ramsay! Despite his 'effin and blinding he is a great Chef and a successful businessman. At first it has to be said probably because of the backing of his father-in-law, Chris Hutcheson, as Managing Director of Gordon Ramsay Holdings.

But things went sour in 2010 when there was a public spat as Gordon fired his father-in-law for embezzlement. The now 67-year-old was accused of hacking into his private and company computers and stripping the company of more than £1.4 million.

It would appear that Tana Ramsay's father has been living a double life and had another family for more than 30 years that produced more children to add to the four he already had. He even paid his mistress £5,000 a month. He also put his son and wife on the payroll and wrote himself five figure cheques.

After an acrimonious split which left Tana siding with Gordon after finding out what her cheating father had been up to Gordon paid Hutcheson £2 million in severance and share purchase in 2010, but in December of 2012 Ramsay was awarded £250,000 compensation when a judge ruled that the Hutcheson family were in breach of confidence as they hacked into



GORDON RAMSAY: With wife Tana miscarrying last year it's been a difficult couple of years for the celebrity chef and millionaire businessman.

the company computers.

This story has taken a twist now, as Chris Hutcheson - along with his sons Adam and Chris Hutcheson Jnr and daughter Orlanda Butland - has been charged under Operation Tuleta with conspiring to cause a computer to access programs and data without authority, between October 23, 2010 and March 3, 2011.

All four appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on March 14 of this year and spoke only to confirm their names and addresses. Prosecutor Dan Suter told the court that the prosecution was brought by the International Justice and

Organised Crime Division.

Describing it as a "convoluted" case with voluminous amounts of paperwork, he said it concerned "hacking of a computer system of Gordon Ramsay Holding Ltd and email accounts of company employees."

Senior district judge Emma Arbuthnot granted unconditional bail to all four defendants until April 11 when a preliminary hearing has been scheduled at the Old Bailey.

Even a cool chef, TV personality, millionaire and very happily married man can't get everything right!!

CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP last week. What a spectacle!! I was born in Cheltenham - quite a while ago now - and was there until I was about four years old. But I did get back there to work in the early years. I was Assistant Manager of the Carlton Hotel in Parabola Road with a great cigar chomping Welshman by the name of Alan Terret as my General Manager.

Although the memories are fading I do recall a character that was a client of the hotel Mike 'somethin'-or-other' who was a Ferrari driving young millionaire. He decided to take a few of his fellow drinking buddies and me to Gold Cup Day. It was chucking with rain and we went straight into the VIP tent where Champagne and Guinness (not necessarily together - although they do make a Black Velvet) were in full flow. Oysters, Caviar, Lobster etc all courtesy of our friend!! Huge screens meant that we didn't have to get wet to watch the races. Fabulous day out.

Didn't go again until some few years later when I opened the De La Bere hotel just on the edge of Cheltenham town. A beautiful boutique hotel by a fledgling company owned by Michael and Sally Cannon. Again invited by a millionaire client on Gold Cup Day and repeated the exercise!! As an aside I have just read an old press cutting from the Bristol Evening Post from 2012 where the then 73-year-old Cannon had a wealth of £240 million and was ranked

321st in the Forbes Rich List. So there is money in catering!!! Mind you, he did buy and sell a few pub chains over the years. I wonder if he is still around?

THOSE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME are aware that my favourite quaffing wine, especially when the sun shines, is a good quality Spanish Rosado, from the Navarra or maybe the Penedes. I am not a lover of blush rosés which include the French and American varieties. But I was intrigued by a quote from Jeremy Clarkson (see the balloon above!) that I had a quick look at the very well-known and popular Whispering Angel. It's a blush, from France, from a good house, Chateau D'ESCLANS. Apparently, also rated by people such as Noel Gallagher, as well as many wine specialists and reviewers.

If anyone out there has tried it please let me know what you think!!

**WHISPERING ANGEL:
A French blush rosé.**



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@euroweeklynnews.com.

Become a property winner

AS Donald Trump might say, the most important thing when investing in property is to win, and win big. Maximise future profit and avoid the common mistakes made by buyers of off-plan properties.

Whether buying in Spain or Zimbabwe there is no excuse to impulse buy. Don't just jump in to one of the biggest financial decisions you'll ever make. Breathe, think, consult property experts, and sleep it over before snapping up that dream home.

Never allow yourself to feel pressured by the seller. No matter how streetwise and business savvy you are, the charm offensive can work unconsciously.

Novice buyer mistakes include not contacting other people who have bought from the same seller or developer. Reputations matter and it's easier than ever to find out whether one has a history of trouble.

Don't pay anything until a bank guarantee is in place, and never pay in cash unless you're willing to take the risk. Always check the seller's credit history and ask the vendor for their bank details, which shouldn't be an issue if they're transparent.

Ask for a written copy of the mortgage terms and conditions and get an independent lawyer to check it.

You have the legal right to a precise date of delivery so be wary of open-ended schedules including extensions.

Real estate empire



INTU VENTURES:
The British firm has ambitious plans.

By Matthew Elliott

A BRITISH company has secured its position as one of the biggest real estate landlords in Spain. Intu Properties, which owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester, will soon acquire Madrid's Xanadu shopping centre and the SnowZone company for a combined €530 million.

Intu now owns three of Spain's top 10 shopping centres and has ambitious plans for the future, most notably the much-awaited Intu Costa del Sol in Torremolinos.

In Madrid the British firm will transform the iconic shopping centre. There are plans for a Nickelodeon theme park and even an aquarium.

It is part of a much wider investment strategy in Spain, which has

Intu now owns three of Spain's top 10 shopping centres and has ambitious plans for the future.

seen a tremendous commercial real estate boom since 2013. Other Intu centres are turning a tidy profit in Asturias, Oviedo and Zaragoza. Xanadu

will be the crown jewel on its emergent empire. More than 13 million people visit each year to enjoy 15 cinemas, hundreds of shops and Spain's only indoor ski slope.

The firm has seen an opening in the lack of one dominant shopping centre in many Spanish regions. With the economy in fine shape and the property market heating up, now is as good a time as any to invest.



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Houseplants: the gifts that keep on giving

ONE of the most popular housewarming gifts, the humble houseplant can go a long way when it comes to sprucing up not only your house, but also your health.

It's not just about improving

your aesthetic, plants can benefit you both mentally and physically. We've all spent a little too much time in the sun and come home to the cooling powers of aloe! Studies have shown that just seeing a plant

can subconsciously make you feel calmer and more relaxed.

Furthermore, people who spend time taking care of plants show increased compassion, optimism and wellbeing.

It is so successful that some people practise Horticultural Therapy for its rehabilitative use. Plants can also allegedly purify the air, removing toxic compounds and putting out clean air.



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How to grow Aloe Vera

By Graeme Tyrrell

HAVING an attractively sculptured flowering cactus type plant that is easy to grow with minimal watering and care makes the Aloe Vera a perfect addition to any balcony, terrace or garden.

Aloes grow very well in pots, containers and planter boxes indoors or outdoors and any well drained areas of the garden with shade. It doesn't grow very big when restricted to a smaller container and it will not become invasive in the garden. The difficult thing however is to obtain its flowers.

The yellow tubular flowers of Aloe Vera, borne on an up to 90 centimetre branched panicle or stem, are striking but there is an art to encouraging it to form flowers. The plants usually need to be more than four years old to flower and not exposed to cold

in winter or sunburn in summer.

They need plenty of light but not direct summer sun for very long in the day as the leaves will become burnt and, as they are long lasting leaves, it can take a long time to recuperate with new leaves.

They should, however, have maximum exposure to bright indirect or filtered sunlight. The flower buds form in late winter for blooming in spring so this is the time to allow the maximum exposure to sunlight with periods of direct sunlight from some milder winter sun. In the garden under a deciduous tree is perfect for this to occur naturally. This will encourage flowers to form.

They require minimal fertiliser if you use a good quality soil mix and repot with new mixture every couple of years. An annual weak liquid fertiliser in early spring will help inspire the flowers and healthy growth.

Aloe Vera has been grown for thousands of years as a medicinal herb, particularly for the skin for sunburn and as a moisturiser in many parts of the world. It has been in cultivation so long and hybridised that its origins from naturally growing species in the Sahara and Middle East was only determined through DNA testing.

Extracts from its colourless gel like inner tissue are extremely popular for use in cosmetics and for a wide range of herbalist applications. Ironically, the skin of the plant has elements that can be a harmful irritant to sensitive people.

To grow Aloe successfully it needs good drainage from the soil mix it grows in. It is best watered after the soil has become dry as it doesn't tolerate wet feet for long. Incorporating plenty of composted potting mix, sand and fine gravel assists drainage.

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Follow this programme for a happy, reliable pet in three days. That's right, three days.

Housetraining is easy but only if you do it the right way. Yelling, screaming, hitting your dog often fails, causing many people to get rid of their pet.

The right way is quick, easy, stress free and creates the proper, loving relationship between

you and your new pet. Be prepared by having a few tools for this job as well as a leather leash, leather collar, and proper food for the age of your dog, a food dish and a water bowl.

There are two essential tools for housetraining. One is a few products which contain enzymes to remove all traces of the inevitable mistakes and the second is a 'crate' or 'kennel' for when you can't be there.

The crate key to this method of housetraining. Now I hear many of you protesting, "I don't want to lock my dog up in prison. Won't he resent me if I lock him up? Isn't it cruel? I want him to enjoy life."

In the wild where do dogs or wolves live? They seek out small dark dens or caves to seek shelter in nestle in the cosy spots, where the ceiling or wall meets the floor. They don't lie in the middle, open

area of the cave. He wants to feel secure and safe when he goes to sleep. The best way to do this is to provide him with a secure, cave-like area.

Crates come in different sizes so select one based on the present size of your dog. Don't worry about selecting a crate for his full-grown size, you won't need it when he's grown up. Although many people keep their crates for the life of their dogs. Some dogs come to regard them as a private space and go into it on their own.

You can buy a crate for the full grown dog and get spacers to make it smaller for a puppy. It should be just big enough so your dog can turn around in it.

There are many enzyme products on the market. Use according to the directions when your pet makes a mistake saturating the area completely.

Next week... the process.

Caring for your pets

WHEN you have a family, and that family includes furred or feathered pets, the care for the pets can become a worry when you are planning to go on holiday.

What happens to the pets while you are away? Some people swear by their local kennels, and that's great. Others prefer to have their much-loved pets cared for at home with minimal routines disrupted.

We can help with that challenge. Whether you have dogs, cats, rabbits or donkeys to care for it's likely we have sitters who will love them and care for them while you are away. If you'd like to contact me I'm happy to talk about your specific requirements.

The way we work is you first need to register as a homeowner, and create a profile for yourself with a few details. Your contact details are not revealed. I'll then get in touch and help you with the rest of the process by creating an advert for your holiday dates, and even assisting in the search for a suitable sit-



SAYING GOODBYE: To your pets when you go away on holiday.

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Motoring shorts

Farewell to motorsports legend

MOTORCYCLE hero and Formula One legend John Surtees passed away earlier this month. The Brit, who died aged 83, was the only man in history to win both the Motorcycle Grand Prix and Formula One championships.

After his first professional outing as a 15-year-old prodigy in 1949, Surtees went on to win seven motorcycle world championships during a dominant spell in the late 50s, winning the Senior TT at the Isle of Wight three years running from '58 to '60.

He made a surprise switch to Formula One in 1960, debuting at Goodwood before finishing second at the 1960 British Grand Prix. He won his first World Championship in Mexico for Ferrari in 1964, shattered half his body in a crash the following year, and did battle with Jackie Stewart at the 1966 Monaco Grand Prix.

After a frustrating end to the 1960s Surtees moved on to building his own F1 cars and ran a motorcycle shop and Honda dealership in Kent. He was an MBE, OBE, CBE and official Formula One Legend inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Clarkson Quote of the Week

“I’m in the seat of a Ford Sierra Cosworth... holding a flamethrower. Can’t get much happier than that.”

Some might say...



Wild adventures for BMW

By Matthew Elliott

BRAVING some of the harshest winter weather in Europe, the new BMW X6 M50d Drive passed its icy test with flying colours. The powerful three litre diesel, which has enjoyed critical acclaim since its 2016 release, was in Romania to tackle a high altitude mountain road for a film project.

BWW brought the cars to the wild mountainous region in freez-

ing temperatures below -20C to shoot it along the Transfagarasan highway, once called the most beautiful road in the world by Jeremy Clarkson.

The short film even includes footage of the gorgeous car, which can reach 100kph in 5.2 seconds, gliding along past the infamous Dracula Castle on the snow-covered road. A total of 10 Transylvanian locations were covered, a distance of 2.5km, reaching altitudes

above 2,000 metres. The resultant masterpiece is called Frozen Romania and is available to view online.

The BMW X6 M50d handles the ice and extreme conditions with ease. Small turbo-chargers offer extremely sharp response times. Fuel consumption is low and efficient, while a powerful engine output of 381hp can conquer even the half-vertical ice slopes of the Carpathian mountains.



ICY TEST: Passed with flying colours.

Nerves and speed in Barca

MCLAREN has endured a nightmare start to the Formula One pre-season. Engine problems forced two stoppages on the last of Barcelona trials, an enormous embarrassment with the new MCL 32 under in-

tense scrutiny.

That Honda supplied the engines will come as little surprise to fans, who have watched McLaren's shaky starts since their partnership with the Japanese firm began two years ago.

Fernando Alonso and teammate Stoffel Vandoorne were left furious when electrical problems forced the heavily hyped car to sputter out and head to the pits. Alonso didn't mince his words and publicly criticised Honda for being 'unreliable.'

Formula One has spent two weeks in Barcelona ahead of what promises to be an extremely competitive season. Red Bull is set to pose a serious threat to Mercedes and Ferrari, with Australian star Daniel Ricciardo proving in Spain that the emergent team are up for a fight.



FERNANDO ALONSO: Didn't mince his words.

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Classic Car Club of Andalucia

Fun and good company

I had no idea that owning my classic car would lead to so much more enjoyment, fun and good company.' That was the comment made by one new member at the Classic Car Club of Andalucia's March classic car run. A very accurate observation!

The Club always enjoys a good day out on these monthly runs and the March event was no exception. Some 30 cars turned up for the start at Venta El Tunel which is just out of Malaga, near the Pantano, off the Granada road.

The event was organised by Mike Glithero and Sue Gerrard who came up with a novel idea of staging a competition within the event for the best dressed crew with the theme of Bandits, Cops and Robbers. The reason for this madness was simply that the finish venue would be in Hotel El Bandalero in the village of El Borge.

The hotel was the home in the 19th century of the famous 'Cross-Eyed Bandit'

Luis Muñoz Garcia. The hotel is full of 'bandit' memorabilia of those bygone days but now has a more honestly earned reputation for good food and accommodation!

A beautiful, bright morning dawned and cars arrived at the start venue from 9.30am onwards to enjoy breakfast or coffee before a briefing about the day and then the 11.00am start.

Professional 'Tulip' Roadbooks are provided for every car to enable crews to navigate, to travel at their own pace and enjoy the stunning scenery and quiet, traffic free roads. No need for 'follow my leader' convoys on CCCA events! The cars left Venta El Tunel and headed off by the little-known country route to Casabermeja. From there the route went via Villanueva de la Concepcion before taking the old mountain road across the top of Las Pedrizas and then to Colmenar and RioGordo where a tapas stop and a 'cold one' awaited.

After some spectacular roads and scenery, a very happy group arrived in picturesque El Borge. The town hall had become involved and all the classic cars were put on show in the square there. On arrival, local Malaga Dulce wines and sherry were handed out to everyone along with local cheeses, figs and other tasty pickies.

More fun came later with the judging and presentation of awards for the best dressed

crews. It was decided to wait until after lunch to do this and it has to be said that the food was superb. Monica, who runs the hotel, is an expert chef and some of her dishes and recipes have been featured on Spanish TV. The best of them is probably the pork cooked in wine and almonds which was one of the choices offered and which is one of those that Monica has prepared and cooked for TV programmes.

Quite a 'party' atmosphere ensued as there were 10 awards given out. So many people had made the effort to dress up in 'bandit' style it was difficult to pick a winner. Paul McCarthy, Ian Ashworth and Adrian had done a great job in their 1965 Ford Mustang as had the car's previous owner, Jan Alvemark driving his 1950's Packard.

The hotel has only seven rooms but all were filled by club members eager to continue the party and stay the night. There are many local musicians in the village, most of who were persuaded to come along in the evening and perform, which further contributed to a marvellous party that went on into the early hours!

Just another typical Classic Car Club of Andalucia monthly classic car run!



CLASSIC CARS:
So much fun.



Jaguar Enthusiasts Club

THE local chapter of the JEC is having a car run organised by Ian Giles on Saturday, March 25 in a similar style to that of the CCCA.

This one will start at 11am from Venta Peligrino, near La Cañada, Marbella, and will finish around 2.30pm at the beautiful Avanto Beach Club in La Cala de Mijas.

Anyone wishing to go along to see the cars will be made most welcome.



Formula One is back

THIS correspondent spent a full three days in Barcelona last week for the second and final test session before the Formula One season gets started in Melbourne, Australia this weekend. If you are a McLaren fan things are not looking good! A vibration problem with the new Honda power unit was preventing full power application and also caused huge reliability problems for the team. It must be said that things are not looking good for the Woking team and there appears to be little sign of a fix.

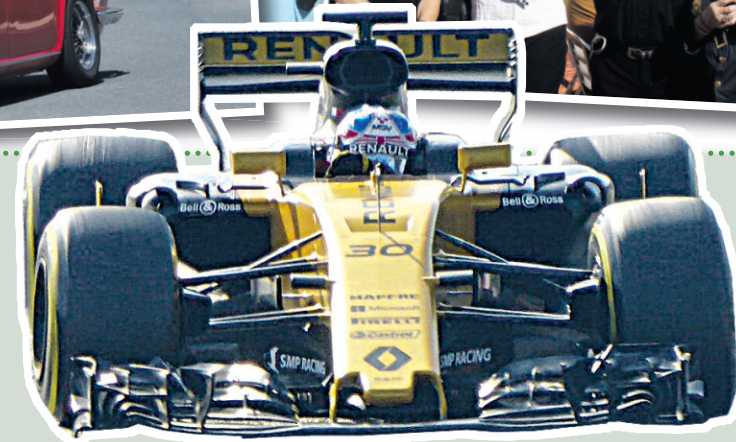
Sky TV presenter, David 'Crofty' Croft, told me that he suggested to team boss, Zak Brown, that it was fair to say that McLaren-Honda are a team in crisis. The response and stock platitudes did little to dispel that statement! Latest news

on this is that McLaren have made an approach to Mercedes to explore the possibility of using their engine instead of that of Honda.

Mercedes ran smoothly and reliably for the entire three-day test, putting in a huge number of fast laps and testing all manner of things with both their drivers, Lewis Hamilton and Valteri Bottas.

Ferrari looked remarkably good and proved fast and reliable. Red Bull didn't seem, at this stage, to be quite as quick or reliable as the Ferrari and Mercedes but this is a team known for their 'sandbagging' at pre-season testing! In fact, Red Bull boss, Christian Horner has suggested that many top teams were 'holding back' to avoid showing their hand in this test!

SEASON:
Starts this weekend.



Pleasing for F1 fans was the performance of the Williams team who have pulled Felipe Massa out of retirement to team up with rookie F1 driver Lance Stroll. They were looking very good in terms of performance, reliability and preparation. Watch out for some strong performances from them as the year unfolds.

The American race team, Haas, that was formed just in time for the 2016 season, were also very strong and were delighted with their

new Ferrari engines. Drivers Roman Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen reporting few problems with the new car.

Fastest over the two test sessions was Kimi Raikonen in the Ferrari.

Lewis Hamilton has voiced his doubts concerning overtaking with the new aero packages the teams are running due to the use of much wider tyres. We shall see how things unfold this weekend!

Further information on Classic Car Club of Andalucia events can be found on the Club's website www.cccandalucia.com.

Membership of this vibrant club is open to anyone owning a genuine classic car here in Spain.

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Behind the scenes with *SPV Racing*

FOLLOWING *Euro Weekly News* publisher Steven Euesden's recent debut in SPV Racing's Ligier JS P3 European Le Mans Series car, we headed to the Costa del Sol-based outfit's Alhaurin el Grande headquarters to chat with manager Lars GV Linberg.

During our talk, the overriding impression was an admirable attention to detail, as he readily explained.

"In my previous life I worked with the McLaren F1 technical guys, McLaren Applied Technologies, and part of the work there was to take Formula 1 into the aviation sector.

"What we looked at there was the massive amount of simulations they are doing with the Formula 1, not only looking at their car but at the competition, and then when you start taking data from all the millions of runs that you've done, you can get some real information,

so that when something happens, you have the answers.

"I used to run Group C cars 20 years ago, also racing Porsches, but then I got too caught up in aviation as a captain for Scandinavian Airlines and then a test pilot, but when we moved to Spain from Dubai I found I had time to get back into things."

“One of the most impressive pieces of kit was the Oculus Rift VR headset that the drivers use.

■ How did the team itself come about?

"Together with Raul, who was working at Ascari [circuit in Ronda] doing the technical operations but left to form his own company, running everything up to Formula 1 cars, and we joined forces to create SPV.

"Last year besides our Le Mans car we ran two Nascars in the European Series and we had eight podiums during the season which was quite fun, although very different to the Ligiers."

■ A little bit more about the Ligier car, and about your plans to compete in LMP-2 next year?

"So, on the racing side we have a four-year plan, and next year our plan is to go up to an LMP-2 car and run that in the European Le Mans Series and qualify for Le Mans, and longer term we want to race in the World Endurance Championship, which is like Formula 1 for prototypes.

"Within that you have the LMP-1 which is the pinnacle, you have Toyota and Audi and Porsche and Nissan, and it's extremely high tech with energy recovery systems and so on."

■ How much input do you have into the current Ligier car in terms of adjustment and tweaking? Is there a series of parameters you have to stay within?

"Yes, there are a set of parameters which you can't adjust, but there

are quite a few you can work with, like the angles, the camber, tyre pressure which is enormously important.

"Last year we had Borja Garcia, ex-Toyota and Williams F1, a brilliant, absolutely fantastic driver, but I drove the car at Ascari after him, and I never, ever felt a car that was so nervous.

"For him, the car was extremely responsive, but I was completely dry in my mouth!"

■ Is the Ligier difficult to drive?

"With the braking, and I think Steven had the same experience, you have to really push it hard and you can go really deep in, and basically you slam your left leg in as hard as you can and then you have to ease off a bit as it slows down.

"You can drive much, much faster than you think at first.

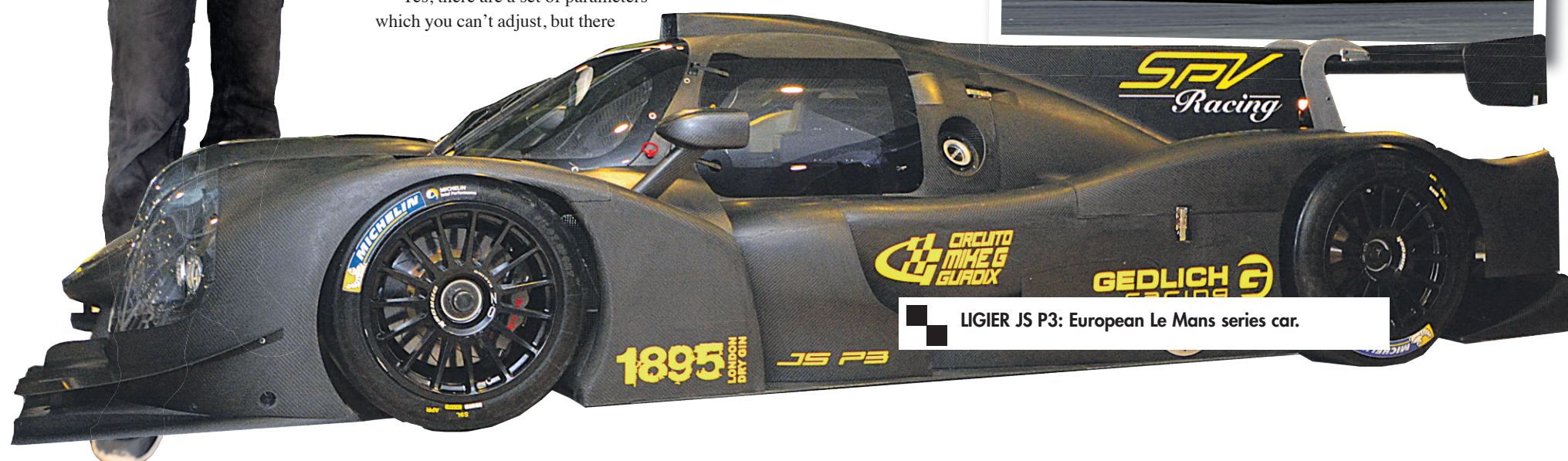
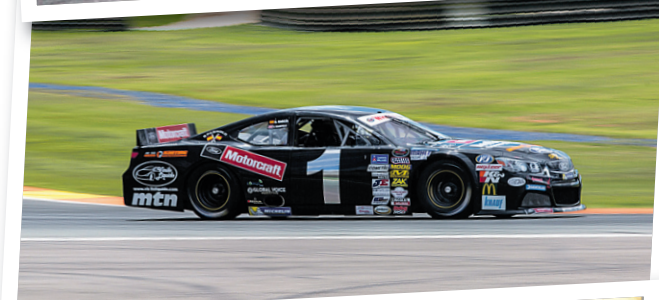
"Every lap we take all the data out of the car, so we have the engine parameters, how much braking, we know where you are on the track, so when you look afterwards with the engineer you can see exactly what you did, and how the car behaves if we make a change on the suspension or the angles."

Perhaps one of the most impressive pieces of kit was the Oculus Rift VR headset that the drivers use in conjunction with a mock-up cockpit, and Lars was clearly impressed by the technology.

"With this, you have a complete 3D environment, so the driver can really test and really feel the car, and we can do all the changes on the car virtually, and you can feel it!

"We can take data from the car and put it in the computer, allowing the drivers to practise without going on the track."

Many thanks to Lars for a brief but fascinating insight into the world of motorsport, and best of luck from all at *EWN Media Group* for the forthcoming season.



LIGIER JS P3: European Le Mans series car.

LAST Saturday 'champions' England failed to set a new world record of 19 successive Test victories by losing 13-9 to Ireland in their final 2017 Six Nations match in Dublin.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Almijara bowls

ON March 14 the Almijara Bowls Club held its annual charity tournament in aid of breast cancer charities. Nine teams entered the

event and each played five well-contested and sometimes expensive matches.

Hitting the block in the centre of the

rink meant 50 cents in the bucket and some members seemed to go through small change at an alarming rate!

The winning team was Pat Corderoy, David Crow and Sandra Mayes and the runners up were Sheila Entwistle, Bob Allaway and Mick Harker.

Following the presentation members enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Luke of La Raqueta Restaurant. A cheque for €445 is now on its way to charity.

The annual Club Championship was also held recently. It was well attended by members and after winning a series of hard fought matches, David Crow beat Ray Bainbridge in the final to become the club champion. The event was very kindly sponsored by John and Marion Morse who were on hand to present the trophy to David after the match.



WINNING TEAM: Pat Corderoy, David Crow and Sandra Mayes with their trophy.

Golf International Nerja Society

IT was a glorious day for golf on Friday March 10 when GINS members played an Individual Stableford at Los Moriscos but a bit boring really!!!

No one jumped in the water to rescue trolleys, clubs, etc. No one left the odd wedge, putter, etc. propped up against a tree, but it wasn't boring for Harold Sims. He was on fire! A great score of 42, his playing partners said it should have been a lot more, just lost his concentration a bit, understandable for an octogenarian!

Results

Ladies:

- 1st Erica Oxford, Hcp 30, 37pts.
- 2nd Linda Anderson, Hcp 18, 34pts.
- 3rd Linda Wiggins, Hcp 28, 34pts.

Men:

- 1st Harold Sims, Hcp 26, 42pts.
- 2nd Mac Farman, Hcp 16, 36pts.
- 3rd Terry Oxford, Hcp 26, 36pts.
- 4th Simon Hellewell, Hcp 15, 36pts.
- Two's: Linda Wiggins 2 and Mac Farman 14.

Friday March 24 is going to be busy after the game with the prize presentation for the eclectic, Tony Downey's

High 8 competition and a demonstration of CPR. All exciting stuff! The latter is most important, so members are asked to try and attend, you could be the one that needs help on the course!

On Monday March 13 it was a Four Ball Texas Scramble at Añoreta. Having foolishly announced the onset of spring a couple of weeks ago, the members arrived at Añoreta to a temperature of 14°C and a biting wind. Scoring was remarkably good in the difficult conditions. Only 0.2 of a shot separated the second, third and fourth teams but the runaway winners posted an astounding gross 67 without a single bogey. Ah well there's always another day let's get back to the clubhouse!

Results

1st team: Helmut Muller, Dan McAllister, Stewart Green and Lyn McAllister, 60.7pts.

2nd team: Geir Froland, John Millward, Dietmar Stec and Ingrid Stec, 64.3pts.

3rd team: Pete Thompson, Eloisa Sanchez, Lolina Canete and Hans Braem, 64.4pts.

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