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Fathers' football fracas

Parents involved in free-for-all at children's match

By Gillian Keller and Matt Ford

The Guardia Civil has opened an official investigation after a mass brawl broke out between parents of children competing in an U13s football match in Alaro on Spanish Father's Day.

A number of witnesses are to be questioned and four fathers may be charged after a video of the shocking incident emerged on social media.

On Wednesday Miquel Bestard, president of the Balearic Football Federation,

met with regional council delegate Maria Salom to deliver a report prepared by the Anti-Violence Commission.

The skirmish occurred during a league game between Union Deportiva Alaro and Collerense, after a player went in hard for a tackle, sparking fury among watching parents.

Both teams then got involved in some pushing and shoving, before the violence spread to onlookers when several fathers surged onto the pitch with some trying to separate arguing players while others remonstrated

with the referee.

They then began to squabble among themselves, before an all-out scrap broke out as mothers could be heard screaming "there are children!"

Several required hospital treatment in the aftermath, and the match was immediately suspended by the referee.

Alaro Football Club have voluntarily dropped out of the league for the rest of the season. The club president will ask the federation to allow the remaining matches to be played as friendlies.



FEUDING FANS: The violence spread off the pitch to onlookers.

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LOCAL NEWS

Senseless claims

IF there's pain there's a claim according to some unscrupulous companies.

It has been reported that so many claims are being put in by British holiday-makers upon their return to

the UK that the local hotelier association has complained and will be meeting with the Consul-General who is based in Barcelona but is responsible for Mallorca.

Taxi news

FOUR out of the five taxi associations in Palma have signed an agreement with the Balearic government with regards to bus services to and from Palma airport, but a fifth association is holding out as it does not believe that the agreement is in the best interests of its members.

Beach discovery

AFTER receiving a call from a member of the public, members of the Guardia Civil dashed to Cala Beltran where they discovered a five-metre boat which had lost one of its engines, deserted on the beach and it is believed that it had transported six 'refugees' to the island.



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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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.

Racist rumours

OFFICERS of Palma's Local Police's hate crime unit are investigating an allegedly racist altercation at the nightclub Boulevard on the Paseo Marítimo in Palma. Two men, one from Mali, the other from Guinea, claim they were discriminated against and denied entrance into the nightclub.

The men, 22 and 23-years-old, stated they were at the front of the line, but the head of security told them, "We do not want people like you here." According to the Local Police, the men were dressed appropriately, had not been drinking alcohol before arriving at the club, and were behaving appropriately.

The men also said that if they arrive at the club with other Caucasian friends, "security let us enter the club, but when we come alone or with a group of people of colour they throw us out."

Record rainfall

SPRING has officially arrived, but not

Cutting down on carbon

THE Balearic Council is preparing a law that will see only electric cars on the roads within 30 years. The proposal is one of the boldest of the government's plan to reduce CO2 emissions.

Minister of Transportation Marc Pons and energy director Joan Groizard explained the first draft of the radical plan to have the Balearic Islands emitting no CO2 emissions by 2050. This involved the conversion of all vehicles to electric and the gradual closure of all fossil fuel production plants.

This will only be accomplished by promoting alternative energy sources, mainly solar.

Large solar grids have been discussed at length in recent years, with much debate and controversy over altering the historic landscapes such as Manacor's and Lluçmajor's rejected solar plans. "We are prepared for resistance but we cannot look the other way," said Pons during the plan's presentation. He added that from now on, all vehicles purchased by the government will be electric.

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 Adria'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

establishments, 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.

Flights scotched

RYANAIR have unexpectedly announced they are cancelling all winter flights from Palma to Edinburgh starting on October 26.

Since no other airline travels directly to Scotland, there will be no direct flight available from Mallorca over the winter months.

The only Ryanair route to Mallorca from the UK will thus originate from Stansted airport, London. Low cost ri-

vals Monarch have also cancelled their Manchester-Palma connection for the winter.

Unctuous update

THE water and waste company Emaya are removing 104 containers for collecting used vegetable oil and replacing them with modern units in which the oil must be deposited in closed plastic bottles.

The new system will keep the bins cleaner and emit less odours, and there will be new collection points across Mallorca, including town markets such as Santa Catalina and Llevant.

Postscript to ponder

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

INSIDE VIEW

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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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Anticipating record-breaking flights

PALMA airport is preparing for a record-breaking 30 million seats to be filled on planes this summer season. Last year the Son Sant Joan airport saw an increase of 16.5 per cent more seats travelling to and from Mallorca totalling 26.4 million.

The months of May and June are expected to be the busiest as far as people entering and exiting Mallorca.

In 2016 flights from Palma reached 136 international destinations and 21 Spanish routes totalling 157 destinations. This year the goal is to reach 200 destinations around the world.

The airlines of easyJet, Norwegian and EuroWings will grow substantially, with more frequency and more destinations. "There will be more competition, that is for sure.

Everyone is increasing flights to Mallorca," according to an Air Berlin executive.

Airlines are cautious as the demand for more routes and frequency rises, but fear that flights will not fill the planes. Last year's 16.5 per cent growth of available seats only led to a 10 per cent increase in tickets sold.

The government is also aware of the discrepancy of people travelling to Mallorca and the amount of available housing. Last year on August 9, Mallorca broke their record for the number of people on the island at once with

2,036,132 people. Officially there is only legal housing for 1,568,508 residents and tourists at a time, meaning around half of a million people were housed illegally.

PALMA AIRPORT: 30 million available seats to and from Mallorca this summer.





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British Consulate joins holiday battle

THE British Consulate has announced they will join in the fight against fraudulent holiday compensation claims.

On April 4 there will be a conference offering advice to Mallorca hoteliers federation members on how to manage fraudulent claims with the current system.

Some reports say fraudulent claims cost Mallorcan hoteliers €50 million in 2016.

Many law firms in the UK have been found to encourage holidaymakers to lodge claims for food poisoning and stomach

troubles among other minor illnesses. Many claims have been submitted with only an over the counter chemist's receipt as evidence, with the claimants receiving compensation from the hotels and resorts, rather than insurance companies.

Claims can be made up to three years after the incident, and the burden of proof is placed on the hotel.

Fraudulent claims were first recognised as a problem in Tenerife, but it did not take long before all Spanish tourist destinations.

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OUR VIEW

The die is cast

NOW that the European Union (Notification of withdrawal) Act 2017 has received Royal Assent, 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.

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Commissioners are questioned

SEVERAL police officers questioned in the Cursach corruption case testified that commissioners Joan Miquel Mut

and Toni Pericas ordered the destruction of police files in the Playa de Palma area over the last five years.

Some witnesses claim police files were selectively deleted to benefit the Cursach group and their businesses. Palma's Local Police sent the courts confidential reports which confirmed sensitive documents were deleted. Subjects of the deleted documents include infractions regarding food and alcohol, publicity violations, infractions on roads and public areas, and building violations.

One witness claimed he was reprimanded by Mut in the presence of Tolo Cursach for performing his police duties at Cursach's Playa de Palma Megapark. Others say they witnessed the Commissioner having many meals at the Cursach farm in Felanitx.

Former head of Palma's Local Police, Commissioner Mut denied having favoured the Cursach group.

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What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

.....

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- Up to 45 minutes
- One hour or more

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.....

Where do you usually pick up your copy?

.....

Do you have a suggested new distribution point?

.....

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- Radio
- Newspaper
- Internet

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- Laptop
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- Smart TV

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- Morning
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- All day

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- Once a day
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- Once a month
- Never

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-
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-

Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

How old are you?

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

Status

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

Which other local newspapers do you read?

.....

How often do you eat out?

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

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

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

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

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

Is your telephone

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

Is your mobile

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

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

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

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- ADSL
- Other (specify).....

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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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NEWS EXTRA

Dog fight

SEVERAL people were injured in Son Gotleu in Palma when a fight involving knives broke out after a 21-year-old man's dog urinated on a woman. Her husband then cut the boy's mother's hand which required stitches.

Two flee

A MAN remains in hospital after a couple attacked him with a knife to the throat in Plaza de Espana during an attempted robbery. The couple fled and police are investigating.

Boy hit

NATIONAL POLICE arrested two men who assaulted a 14-year-old boy, after mistakenly thinking he had been bullying their young female relative.

Call for mountain management

THE Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defence of Nature (GOB) have criticised the 'deficient' management of the Tramuntana mountains.

Ten years ago the regional government declared the mountain range a nature park, and in 2011 was listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO (the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organisation).

They praised the mountain range for its outstanding geography and forest cover and for harbouring a diversity of plant and animal species.

The GOB recognises that the Tramuntana mountains are the finest protected natural area in the Balearic Islands, but they argue the range should be made a priority by the environmental ministry.

The group said the mountains are home to "spectacular landscapes and extraordinary biodiversity," and the government should be taking steps

to maintain and protect the unique landscape.

The management structure was dismantled with a previous governmental body, and the GOB strongly request a team be formed to manage the mountain range.

Currently administrative procedures and public fincas are managed, but there is no service for the general management of the landscape and the mountain itself.

While the environmental ministry is responsible for management of the Tramuntana range other authorities have key roles to play such as town halls and their urban planning and the Council of Mallorca who were the driving force behind it becoming a world heritage site.

The GOB is urging all those who should be involved in the maintenance and protection to step forward and begin planning for the future of the nature park.



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Lucky 13 for Palma centre

AFTER 13 years of setbacks and controversy, the Palma convention centre and its hotel annex will finally open on April 1 by Melia Hotels International.

With three years of planning and designing underway, the Palma-based group have a plan to make the convention centre the best in the Mediterranean.

Vice president and CEO of Melia Hotels International Gabriel Escarrer has confirmed there are already 14 events scheduled for this year. For Escarrer the rush to open has been "a major challenge," but Palma city council is convinced "we will make it happen."

Many businesses and politi-

cal groups have already booked the centre, including a well-known German company presenting a new model of vehicle and conferences of medical and pharmaceutical companies.

A restaurant in the hotel's complex named Trasluz will be the only one open to the public, while a cafe and rooftop restaurant will be open to participants of the conference centre.

The president of the regional government, Francina Armengol, has given her support for the centre's plans as they will contribute to the current goal of Mallorca being an all year round destination. Armengol believes the centre will attract



Francina Armengol and other VIPs visited the centre.

"a type of quality tourism which will bring more benefits to the island."

Palma mayor Jose Hila is celebrating the convention centre for the employment opportunities being generated. The centre will also "serve as a

bridge of union" between the city of Palma and Playa de Palma according to Hila. Completion of the centre is also influencing the surrounding area, which is making long term plans to update and modernise the forgotten neighbourhood.

Ibiza trip for Age Concern

FANCY a weekend in the medieval market town in Ibiza? Age Concern Mallorca is organising the trip from May 13-14 for anyone interested.

The cost of the trip includes return ferry costs, one or two night's accommodation in a two-star hotel in Ibiza town on a bed and breakfast basis. For a one night stay in a double room the cost is €110 per person or for a single room it is €150.

For a two night stay in a double room the cost is €150 per person or for a single room it is €190. Non-residents should add €25 per person to the outlined costs which also include a handling fee. Cancellation insurance is not included but is available on application.

The ferry departs Palma at 8am arriving at 11.30am. Please note that places are limited and that this offer is only available until March 29.

Anyone interested please call 678 352 040 or send an email to mallorca@ageconcern.org.es.

NEWS EXTRA

Smoke scare

A PREGNANT Palma resident was taken to a hospital after an apartment fire broke out in the Son Gotleu neighbourhood leading to a high level of smoke inhalation. Multiple bags of clothing in the building made the fire difficult for firefighters to extinguish.

Drunk fight

LOCAL POLICE in Felanitx arrested a couple after a drunken drug-fueled fight that led to the woman being placed in the psychiatric ward. The couple already had a restraining order preventing them from contact with each other.

Pistol threat

A SPANISH resident, aged 49, has been sentenced to one year and nine months in prison for threatening another man and pointing a pistol at his head over a money dispute in Felanitx.

Car fire

A 47-YEAR-OLD man has been seriously injured in an accident at the Felanitx roundabout. The Mallorca firefighters were required to put out the car fire and rescue the man; no other cars were involved.

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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.

■ AXARQUÍA

Keeping clean

THE mayor of Almuñécar, Trinidad Herrera, has appealed to all residents to collaborate to keep the city cleaner during an awards ceremony honouring groups and individuals who have made contributions to the local environment.

Gold medal

A PIANIST from Motril, Juan Carlos Garvayo, has received the 'Motril Gold Medal,' in recognition of his contribution to Spanish culture.

Tax help

VELEZ-MALAGA'S Council has allocated €4.3 million to help its residents pay property tax bills. The move is expected to help more than 26,000 families, who have been unable to find the money to pay the tax.

Mobile ITV

THOSE with mopeds needing to renew their ITV certificates were pleased that the mobile ITV workshop spent several hours in Almuñécar on Tuesday March 21.

Fall in

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.

■ 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

VILLAJOSYOSA 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.entradasatuallance.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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This advertisement features a modern, three-story apartment building with white facades and stone-textured walls. The building has large windows with black shutters and balconies with glass railings. A dining table with chairs is visible on a ground-floor terrace. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some palm trees in the background.

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Modern villas next to the sea.

This advertisement shows a modern villa with a large, open-plan living area and a covered outdoor terrace. The terrace is furnished with white sofas and a large white umbrella. A swimming pool is visible in the foreground. The villa has white walls, large glass doors, and stone-textured walls. A silver SUV is parked in the background.

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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.

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

**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.

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.

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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
Barclays	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
easylet	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 Consoltd 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 Grp	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%

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 Sterling Fixed Income B

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Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

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

DEALING PRICE

£0.9848 -£0.0002
 €0.9640 -€0.0002
 £1.1468 -£0.0016
 €1.0778 -€0.0016
 £1.2870 -£0.0018
 €1.1994 -€0.0019
 £1.4187 -£0.0011
 €1.3296 -€0.0012

Price Movement

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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-

cruting '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 peeved off with the whole sorry affair that frankly my dear, they no longer really give a damn.

Keep the faith

Love Leapy

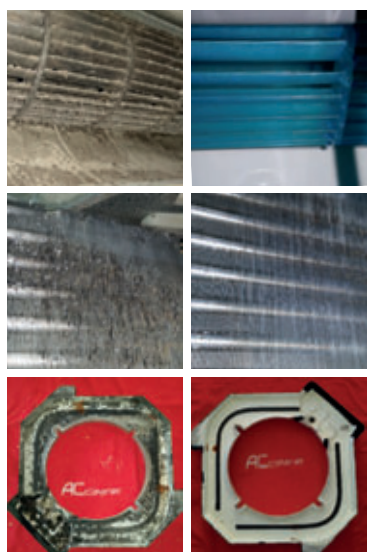
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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1						
23 MARCH	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	7:30pm	Crolla: The Million Dollar Story		
	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:30pm	The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food	8:30pm	Tonight	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	7:45pm	Boxing
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	9:00pm	Emmerdale	9:00pm	Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year Ep1	9:00pm	On Benefits and 40 Grand in Debt	8:00pm	Live Premier League
	8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	The Great Pottery Throw Down	9:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	10:00pm	Three Wives, One Husband	10:00pm	The Last Days of George Michael	11:00pm	Darts
	9:00pm	Shop Well for Less	10:00pm	The Last Kingdom	10:00pm	Prime Suspect 1973	11:00pm	Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad	11:00pm	Extraordinary People: Nelly the Snakeskin Woman	11:00pm	Boxing
	10:00pm	The Red Nose African Convoy	11:00pm	Mock the Week	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Dermot O'leary	11:00pm	The Case Against Assad	12:05am	Shannon Matthews: What Happened Next	11:15pm	Crolla: The Million Dollar Story
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:30pm	ITV News	12:00am	24 Hours in A and E			11:30pm	Darts Gold
	11:30pm	BBC London News	12:15am	Top Gear	12:00am	ITV News London					12:00am	Barclays Premier League World
	11:45pm	Question Time										
	12:45am	This Week										
FRIDAY 24 MARCH	5:30pm	Flog It!	8:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News at 5	4:30pm	Football Gold
	6:15pm	Pointless	9:00pm	Gardeners' World	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours	4:55pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:30pm	Only Connect	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	5:55pm	Live International Football
	7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	Wild Ireland	9:00pm	Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	8:00pm	Live International Football
	8:00pm	Red Nose Day 2017	11:00pm	Red Nose Day: Greg Davies' Hot Tub Half Hour	9:30pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Unreported World	8:00pm	The Gadget Show	8:00pm	Live International Football
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:40pm	Newsnight	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	8:30pm	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	9:00pm	Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast	11:30pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	9:00pm	Shop Well for Less	12:15am	Robot Wars	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Dermot O'leary	9:00pm	Gogglebox	10:00pm	Fury	12:30am	Barclays Premier League World
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten			11:30pm	ITV News	10:00pm	The Last Leg	11:00pm	5 News		
	11:30pm	BBC London News			12:00am	ITV News London	11:00pm	First Dates	11:05pm	Fury		
	11:35pm	Red Nose Day					12:00am		12:05am	Schindler's List		
1:00am	Red Nose Day											
SATURDAY 25 MARCH	9:25pm	Casualty	8:30pm	When Lynne Barber Met Phyllida Barlow	6:25pm	Local News and Weather	4:35pm	A Place in the Sun	5:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	5:25pm	International Football Highlights
	10:15pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	9:00pm	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	6:40pm	ITV News and Weather	5:35pm	Location, Location, Location	7:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	5:55pm	Live International Football
	11:15pm	BBC News	9:30pm	Dad's Army	7:00pm	You've Been Framed!	6:35pm	Grand Designs	8:00pm	NCIS: Los Angeles	8:00pm	Boxing
	11:30pm	Weather	10:00pm	Geri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom	8:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	NCIS: New Orleans	12:30am	Premier League Legends
	11:35pm	Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End	11:00pm	Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories	9:30pm	The Voice UK	8:00pm	Escape to the Chateau	9:55pm	5 News	1:00am	Premier League 100 Club
	1:10am	Weather for the Week Ahead	11:45pm	QI XL	11:20pm	ITV News and Weather	9:00pm	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	10:00pm	When Celebrity Goes Horribly Wrong	1:30am	Premier League 100 Club
	1:15am	BBC News	1:55am	Albatross	11:35pm	Lethal Weapon	11:25pm	Robin Hood	1:10am	Super Casino		
					12:35am	The Chase	3:00am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA				
SUNDAY 26 MARCH	7:35pm	BBC News	6:00pm	Athletics: World Cross Country	1:15pm	The Voice	5:40pm	The Restoration Man	12:45pm	The Princess Bride	1:00pm	Football
	7:50pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Highlights	3:05pm	Dr. No	6:45pm	Location, Location, Location	2:30pm	The Wizard of Oz	3:30pm	Football
	7:55pm	Weather	7:30pm	Inside the Factory	5:15pm	ITV News and Weather	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	4:30pm	The Parent Trap	5:55pm	Live International Football
	8:00pm	Countryfile	8:00pm	Robot Wars	5:30pm	World Cup Qualifier	8:00pm	Our Guy in China	7:00pm	Dirty Dancing	8:00pm	Live International Football
	9:00pm	Antiques Roadshow	9:00pm	Top Gear	8:30pm	You've Been Framed!	8:00pm	Rivers with Jeremy Paxman	8:55pm	5 News	8:00pm	Live International Football
	10:00pm	Line of Duty	10:00pm	Turkey with Simon Reeve	9:00pm	Vera	9:00pm	Homeland	9:00pm	Michael Jackson: Rich and Acquitted	11:00pm	International Football Highlights
	11:00pm	BBC News	11:00pm	Cold in July	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	10:00pm	Gogglebox	10:00pm	Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story	11:30pm	Goals on Sunday
	11:20pm	Regional News	12:45am	Live at the Apollo	11:15pm	The Nightly Show Best Bits	11:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats	12:00am	Michael Jackson's This is it	12:30am	International Football Highlights
	11:25pm	Weather	1:15am	Night Train to Lisbon			12:00am	Does Countdown	2:00am	Kings of Pop		
	11:30pm	Iron Man 3										
1:30am	Celebrity Apprentice USA											
MONDAY 27 MARCH	7:30pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	5 News	3:30pm	Premier League Legends
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	4:00pm	Spanish Football Gold
	8:30pm	Inside Out	8:00pm	Top Gear	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:15pm	Spanish Football Gold
	9:00pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	University Challenge	8:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Dispatches	7:30pm	5 News	4:30pm	Football Gold
	9:30pm	Question Time	9:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday	9:00pm	The Kyle Files	9:30pm	Travel Man	8:00pm	MotoGP	4:45pm	Football Gold
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	9:30pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	5:00pm	Live ATP Masters 1000- Miami
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Cradle to Grave	10:00pm	Broadchurch	11:00pm	How'd You Get So Rich?	10:00pm	Inside King's Cross: The Railway	3:30am	The Premier League Years
	11:40pm	Weather	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm	The Nightly Show	11:45pm	Tattoo Fixers	11:00pm	All New Traffic Cops	5:30am	Football Gold
	11:45pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	12:10am	Weather	11:30pm	ITV News	12:50am	Three Wives, One Husband	12:00am	Fury		
	12:45am	Have I Got a Bit More	12:15am	Imagine...	12:15am	Peston on Sunday			2:30am	Super Casino		
TUESDAY 28 MARCH	7:30pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:00pm	ATP Masters 1000-Miami Highlights
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News	5:00pm	Live ATP Masters 1000- Miami
	8:30pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	The Best of British Takeaways	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	1:00am	La Liga World
	9:00pm	Holby City	9:00pm	Stargazing 2017	8:30pm	Britain's Busiest Motorway	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	The Secret Lives of Puppies: Meet My New Families	1:30am	Premier League 100 Club
	10:00pm	Rio Ferdinand: Being Mum and Dad	10:00pm	American Justice	9:00pm	Martin Lewis Live	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	10:00pm	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild	2:00am	Premier League 100 Club
	11:00pm	BBC News	11:00pm	Inside No 9	10:00pm	Play to the Whistle	10:00pm	Mutiny	11:00pm	When Celebrity Goes Horribly Wrong	2:30am	Premier League Legends
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:30pm	Weather	11:00pm	The Nightly Show	11:00pm	Catastrophe	11:00pm	Super Casino		
	11:40pm	Weather	12:15am	Turkey with Simon Reeve	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	This is Us				
	11:45pm	Panorama			12:15am	Prime Suspect 1973	12:30am	Gogglebox				
	12:15am	Fugitives										
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH	7:00pm	BBC News	5:15pm	Life Story	5:00pm	Tipping Point	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm	The Chase	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:00pm	ATP Masters 1000-Miami Highlights
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News	9:00pm	Live ATP Masters 1000- Miami
	9:00pm	MasterChef	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	8:00pm	Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr	8:00pm	America's Hidden Pyramid City	11:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	10:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build	8:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	9:00pm	The Royal House of Windsor	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:30pm	Premier League 100 Club
	11:00pm	BBC News	9:00pm	Stargazing 2017	8:30pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	The Royal House of Windsor	10:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	12:00am	Premier League Legends
	11:30pm	Regional News	10:00pm	Incredible Medicine: Dr Weston's Casebook	9:00pm	Little Big Shots	11:00pm	999: What's Your Emergency?	11:00pm	One Night with My Ex		
	11:40pm	Weather	11:00pm	Mock the Week	10:00pm	Benidorm	12:00am	Bare Knuckle Fight Club	12:05am	Extraordinary People		
	11:45pm	Peter Kay's Car Share	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm	The Nightly Show			1:05am	The Last Days of George Michael		
	12:15am	A Question of Sport	12:10am	Weather	11:30pm	ITV News						
12:50am	Weather for the Week Ahead			12:15am	When Phillip Met Prince Philip							

The truth may be out there!

**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.



CONSPIRACY THEORISTS: Tin-foil hat wearing wackos.

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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.

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 Torre Vieja, 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.

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LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

Expansion congratulations!!!

IT'S great news the notice of your expanding. Toast for your independent voice!!!

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 gray 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@euroweeklynews.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.

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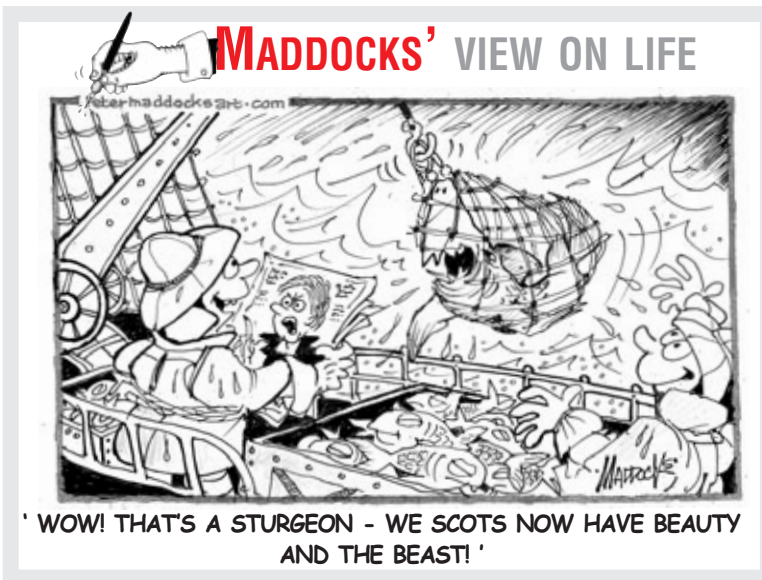
Kakuro

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.

	9	10		10	14
9			7		
			21		
20					
		15			
	14	10			
10				11	8
26					
6			14		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	5	32		23	16
11	3	8	7	4	3
8	2	6	8	2	6
		21	9	2	3
20	4	5	3	8	14
4	1	3	14	5	9
7	5	2	6	1	5



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 dorny 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

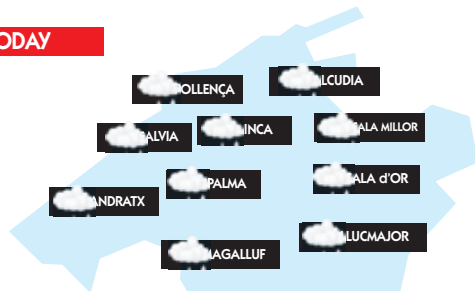
Sunday March 19

8	20	34	BONUS BALL
39	44	4	

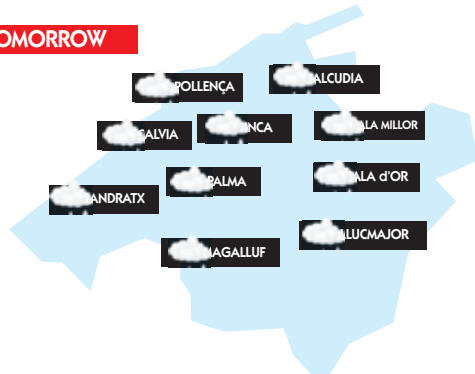
Mallorca

weather

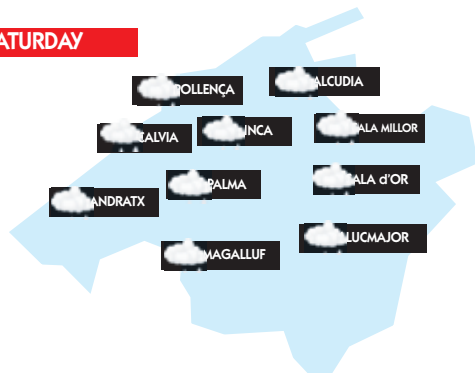
TODAY



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

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

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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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

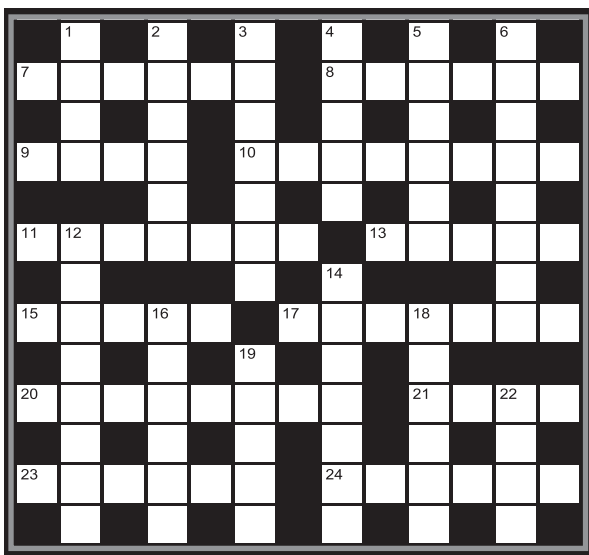
Cryptic

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)

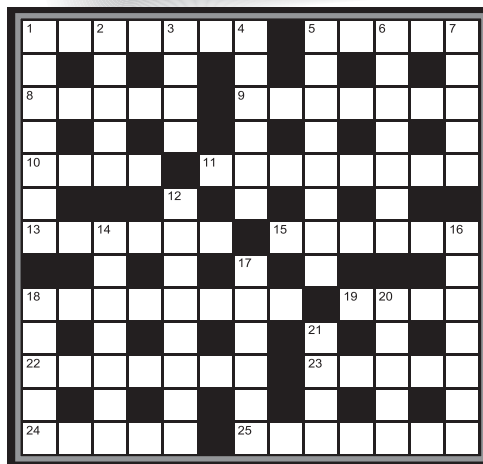
Down

- 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)

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)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Dish, 3 Clear cut, 9 Launder, 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:

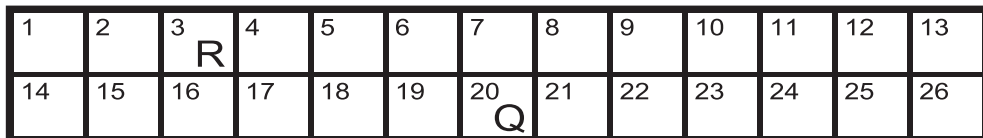
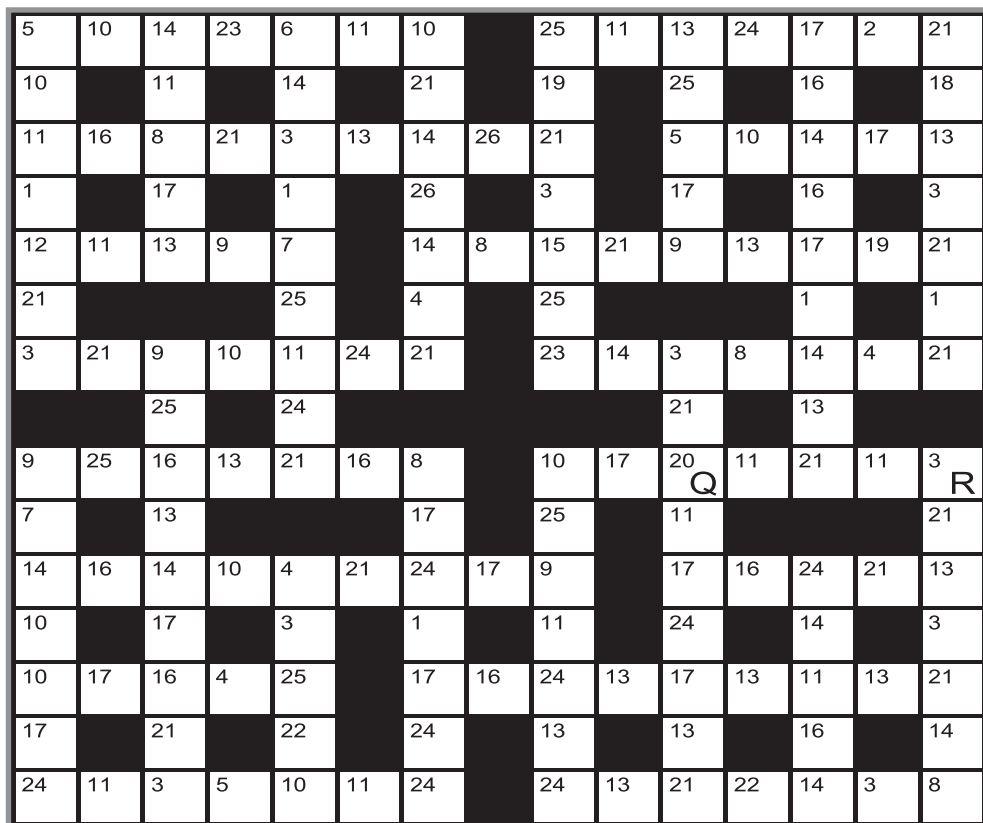
- 2 Solomillo, 3 Rude, 4 Leer, 5 Authentic, 6 Useless, 7 British, 11 Wait, 12 Soap.

CODE BREAKER



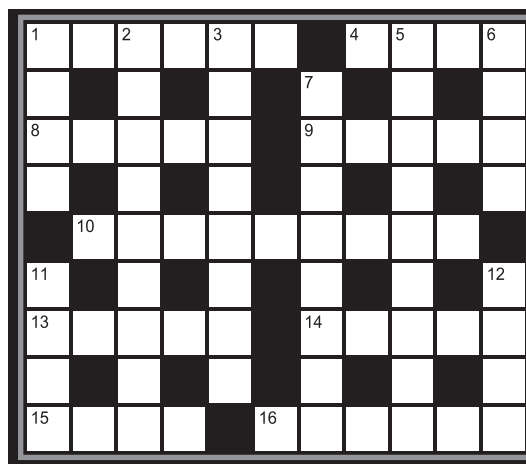
Code Breaker

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.



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)

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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.

Sánchez 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 Andalucía's regional president Susana Diaz. She was the party barons' choice for secretary general in 2014 and still is.

Sánchez 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.

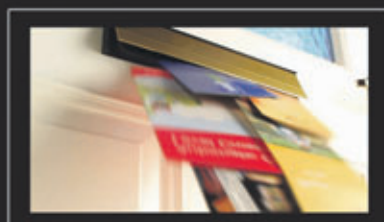
He made a bloomer there, though. Sadly, like everyone in Spain, the Catalans are so used to corruption they are no longer shocked by it but have come to expect it.

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.

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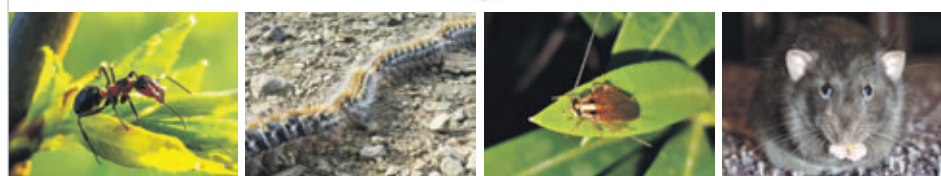
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Brits drinking less alcohol

A THIRD of British drinkers have reduced or limited their alcohol intake over the last 12 months, although the survey that revealed this statistic did not question the drinking habits of their expat counter-parts living in Spain.

Research from Mintel reveals that 32 per cent of all British people have reduced or limited the alcohol they drink in the year from November 2015 to November 2016, compared to what they would normally consume.

Half (51 per cent) of the nation's beer, wine and cider drinkers say they are drinking less alcohol than a few years ago, confirming Brits are actively moderating their drinking habits.

But why the cutbacks? Is it for health reasons?

Well the survey reported that economical factors were the main reason for consumers to reduce their drinking with over two in four (44 per cent) saying they have done so to save money, with

41 per cent saying they reduced their alcohol intake to lose or avoid gaining weight.

Additional-

ly, some 14 per cent of all those who have cut back on alcohol have done so be-

cause they are worried about becoming dependent on alcohol and the same proportion have cut back to stay within current NHS and government guidelines.

The consumers most likely to have cut back at some

point are those aged 25-34 (35 per cent) and 35-44 (36 per cent); meanwhile, geographically this peaks at 41 per cent in the North East and dips to 27 per cent in the South East/East Anglia.

Mintel, the world's leading market intelligence agency, said these figures show a significant opportunity for low-alcohol and alcohol-free beers, ciders and wines.

Today, lower-alcohol beer, cider or wine is drunk by around one quarter (23 per cent) of alcohol drinkers, while overall, 14 per cent of Brits drink non-alcoholic or alcohol-free beer, cider or wine.



ALCOHOL INTAKE: Thirty two per cent of all British people have reduced the amount they drink.

For more information on Mintel, visit www.mintel.com

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Dr. Andreas Ludwig Jenke

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? Hairdressers 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



SHAMPOO: Can be harmful to the scalp.

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.

Are you a victim of sleepless nights?

FEELING exhausted night after night but as soon as your head hits the pillow, feel as though you are wide awake? You are not alone and according to sleep experts, the phenomenon is actually a learned disorder with the brain reliving previous sleepless nights.

Experts say it is called 'conditional arousal' and is a vicious circle meaning the more nights you spend tossing and turning in bed unable to sleep, the more likely the brain is going to associate going to bed with staying awake.

Equally, for those who are good sleepers, going to bed each night triggers the auto re-

sponse of sleepiness and will help you easily drift off to sleep.

For sufferers, there are some ways to help remedy the negative cycle. Some recommend cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I), which works by changing the thoughts and behaviours which affect sleep.

Caffeine and alcohol should be avoided and turn down the lights before bed to start getting the brain into sleep mode. Also avoid computers, tablets and mobiles before bedtime as the blue light they give off suppresses the production of melatonin which helps you to sleep.

Nearly 300,000 affected by Parkinson's

NEARLY 300,000 Spaniards are suffering from Parkinson's disease according to a study by the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM).

They studied and reviewed almost 100 papers and reports to analyse the incidence of the disease in Spain and concluded that it affects around 300,000 people with a new case being diagnosed per 10,000 inhabitants each year.

From the different articles studied, the scientists have made an estimate of the cost of therapies for each patient, concluding that if some of the most advanced therapies are used, such as deep brain stimulation and duodopa gel, this can amount to between €17,000 and €50,000 per patient per year.

However, these patients are usually a minority within the group, since only a small number of patients meet the appropriate requirements to qualify for these treatments.

The study also highlights that the highest incidence of the disease is in people between 70 and 79 years. In the case of women, the highest prevalence occurs up to 85 years. In addition, the mortality from this disease is double that of people who do not suffer from the disease and their quality of life deteriorates acutely as the condition progresses.

Ask The

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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 peoples' 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:
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Advertising feature

Delicious fish and chips with a difference

SERVING up fantastically prepared and delicious classic fare, while following an ethical philosophy that supports local Mallorcans, has earned Portals Fish and Chips rave reviews across the island.

“ Widely recommended by expats and locals throughout Mallorca.

Providing passionate and quality cooking, whipping up excellent healthy and hearty meals from scratch using the very best locally sourced ingredients, the team at Portals offer a mouth-watering menu that includes all you could possibly hope for from a brilliant local fish and chip restaurant and more.

Making full use of their fantastic location in the village of Por-

tals Nous, the friendly team have easy access to a delicious variety of sustainable fish, offering cod, hake and haddock suppers done just the ‘proper’ way.

Also available are a wide range of fresh home-made salads and burgers, ice-cool smoothies and decadent desserts, as well as a brilliant new breakfast menu released just last week.

That’s right, from 9.30am onwards you can come by Portals and treat yourself to a magnificent full English breakfast with all the trimmings especially designed to really hit the spot.

Far from the typical chippy back in the rainy UK, Portals features a wonderful chill out area where you can relax with a drink before tucking into a tasty meal, while every day from Monday to Thursday the team serve a special dish of the day, sure to soothe that



HEARTY MEALS: Are made using the best local ingredients.

rumbling stomach.

Widely recommended by expats and locals throughout Mallorca, whether British, German or Spanish, Portals is quickly gaining a

can to give back to Mallorca by contributing to its future.

Whenever possible they buy locally from small family owned companies and strive to use sustainably sourced produce while using environmentally friendly packaging.

It’s this kind of passion and love for their community, combined with a friendly, creative and open mentality, that helps make Portals a wonderful addition to the Mallorcan community.

So if you’re looking for delicious food with a difference, somewhere new to enjoy a brilliant meal with family and friends, then why not give Portals a try? You can find them at the corner of Carrer Panoràmica & Ctra. Palma-Andratx in Portals Nous village and call them on 971 418 593 with any questions. Find them online for a look through the menus at www.portalsfishandchips.com.

reputation as one of the finest, most consistently delicious eateries on the island, which also happens to boast one of the most impressive terraces in the area.

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Chenoa brings pop music tour to Palma

THE Argentina born pop star Chenoa is performing her 'I am Human' tour at the Trui Theatre in Palma on March 25. The singer has spent the last 15 of her 40 years working to be one of the top pop artists in Spain.

"Nothing is so toxic to make me negative or spiteful. I have made everything into dignity, experience ... or music," said Chenoa.

With the philosophy of human error leading to empathy and forgiveness her seventh studio album 'I am Human,' or originally #SoyHumana was born. The album is true to Chenoa's style, with a fusion of folk, rock and pop.

Chenoa moved to Mallorca as a young girl, and started singing and performing at the age of 16, but did not go public until her 2002 self titled album

was released.

Her most recent album was recorded and produced in Mallorca by Maria Marcus, and the two women "have worked experimenting with different styles and sounds and finding the perfect balance between their impetuous facet and their most romantic side," according to Chenoa's publicist.



photo credit: Chenoa official website

POP STAR: Chenoa will perform in Palma.

Annual Art Brunch returns

ART BRUNCH in Palma is the annual event organised by the association of contemporary art galleries in Palma.

The city will host this year's event on March 25. The galleries and museums welcome the public to enjoy the art exhibitions, talks and discussions, gallery walks, live performances and video presentations.

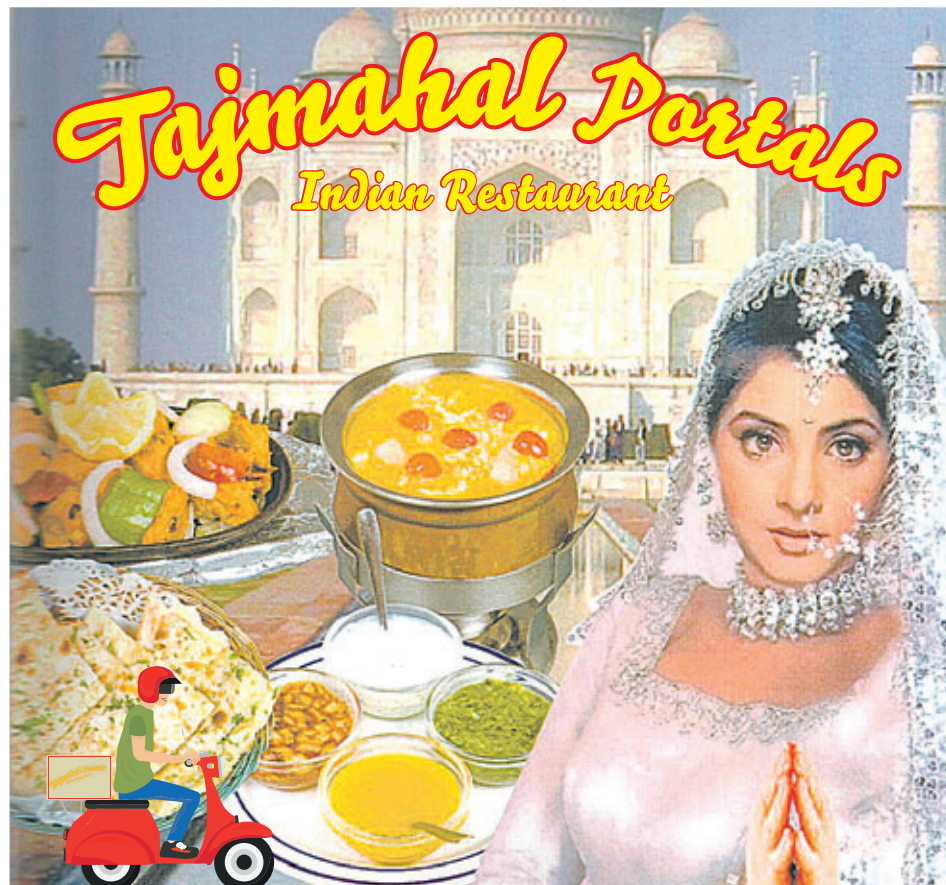
All those involved including the 10 locations aim to celebrate Palma's international art scene. The event begins at 11am. For a map of locations or more information visit ArtBrunchPalma.com.




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JS Bach in Mallorca

THERE will be two special nights where the Fundació Studium Aureum will be performing Johann Sebastian Bach's Johannespassion BWV 25 (Passion According to St. John) in Manacor and Palma.

Johannespassion is a written oratorical passion for solo voices, choir and orchestra by JS Bach shortly before Good Friday in 1724 and is based on chapters 18 and 19 of the Gospel of John.

Throughout the years he made modifications in the work, until completing the definitive version 25 years later in 1749.

Keeping true to the original, this concert will be performed using instruments of the time and baroque tuning.

Sunday March 26 sees the performance start at 7pm at Auditori de Manacor with tickets costing €15.

Then on Monday March 27, the players move to the

Conservatori Superior de Musica de les Illes Balears in Palma where there will be a short explanation of the piece at 8pm followed by

the performance at 8.30pm. The cost of the tickets for this show will be €10 for students and for all others it will be €20.

Relive the music with Queenie

IN the words of Freddie Mercury, "the show must go on" and are as far as his band Queen is concerned, there are any number of tributes who perform to an exceptionally high standard and one of them will be appearing in Palma on April 15.

“ They perform all of Queen's most famous numbers to a consistently high standard.

particularly popular, the band is playing just two concerts in Spain with that in Mallorca taking place at the Palma Auditorium.

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Formed in the unlikely Czech Republic in 2006, Queenie are reputed to be one of, if not the, most accurate of the tributes and, so popular are they around Europe that they have even headlined the Montreux Freddie Mercury Memorial Day concert.

Having added a keyboard player to their line-up as a five piece, all of the musicians played in a variety of successful bands in Prague before forming this tribute and with their sixth member working the sound board, they perform all of Queen's most famous numbers to a consistently high standard.

Currently touring mainly in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia where they are

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GARRY WAITE



HERE 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 Arbutnot 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@euroweeklynews.com.

Real estate empire

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 Indu 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 seen a tremendous commercial real estate boom since 2013. Other Indu centres are turning a tidy profit in



MADRID: The Xanadu shopping centre will soon be acquired by Intu Properties.

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.

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

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.



HOUSE SALES: Have seen a healthy rise.

Spain takes No1 spot

EVERYONE'S favourite property programme has given a glowing review of Spain in its latest 2017 report. Spain has taken top spot in the 10 Best Places to Buy in 2017 from Channel 4's A Place in the Sun.

Not only has Spain kept its No1 spot. Thanks to a booming local economy and staggering high tourism numbers, the report says its 'dominance has gotten even stronger.' It notes the healthy rise in home sales and prices, month-on-month improvements for three consecutive years, and long term optimism among proper-

ty experts.

With terrorism fears in other A Place in the Sun regulars like Turkey and Tunisia, Spain has also benefited from its safe and secure western European location and culture.

The report highlights the Balearic Islands and Almeria as showing the best year-on-year improvements, and the Costa Blanca as offering terrific value for money with an exciting future ahead. Analysis from property portals has shown a considerable increase in interest in coastal hotspots across Spain in the past year.

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Global property strength

KNIGHT FRANK is one of the biggest real estate consultants on the planet. The hugely influential firm has just released its global house price index for 2016. The excellent analysis makes terrific reading for buyers and sellers alike, especially in Spain and Europe.

Knight Frank data reveals that house prices across the globe rose an average of 6 per cent last year. That's a substantial rise on the 4.1 per cent increase seen in 2015, and the best overall performance in three years.

In fact Russia and the for-

mer Soviet states was the only major global region which saw a decline. Iceland topped the table with an incredible, though unsustainable 14.7 per cent rise. Western Europe as a whole has performed remarkably well, buoyed by stellar economic growth.

There are more foreign buyers boosting domestic markets than ever before, which contributes to the excellent 2016 data. Spain attracts a huge volume of foreign investors and continues to increase its global appeal, opening up the vast Chinese and American markets.

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Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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

Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

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

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



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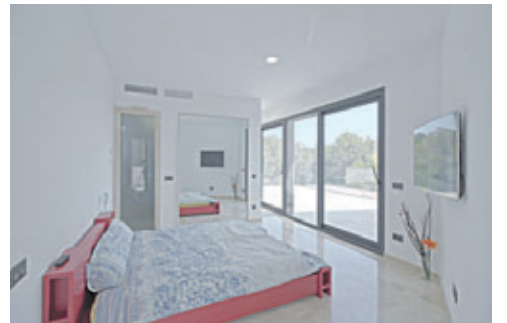
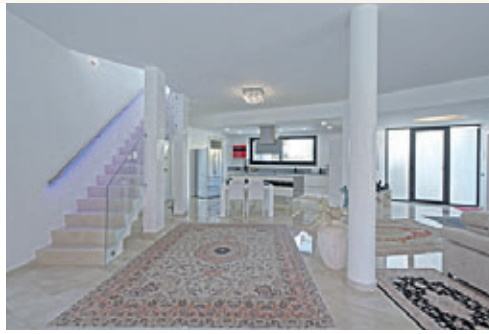
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Brexit and the latest act in political drama “project fear”

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/Book (€0.99;£0.99) and iBook-store. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.



DONALD TUSK: European Council supremo.

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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 Mediter-



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ranean cruise, the Baltic, Caribbean, or Far East, you will wonder why you ever packed your paperbacks or Kindle, as most cruises offer a mind-boggling 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 remark-

able, 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, waterslides, and amphitheatre. Smaller ships can offer unique interiors and itineraries that take in lesser-known destinations, or opt for an epic transatlantic voy-

age 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 Globalink 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.

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How to grow Aloe Vera with flowers

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. Aloes must be kept healthy by not exposing to cold in winter or sunburn in summer.



ALOE VERA: The yellow tubular flowers are striking.

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 sun-

light. 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 must have good drainage from the soil mix that 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 will assist with drainage.

Propagation is very easy as offset shoots appear around the mature parent plant.

The plant can be lifted and the offsets removed and placed in a position to grow the new plants. As they transplant easily the parent plant can be returned to its place and will continue to grow happily. Removing the offsets will help encourage the plant to flower.



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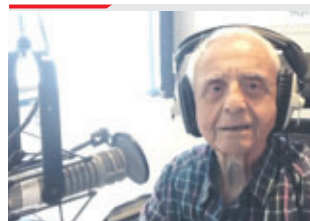
THE last few years the world has gone mad for avocado, with restaurants everywhere incorporating it into their menus, but you could grow your own.

All you need is an avocado pit, water, toothpicks and a warm windowsill! Begin by identifying which end of your pit will sprout and which will root. The tree will sprout from the pointier end of the pit.

Take four toothpicks and place them around the circumference, creating your scaffolding which will allow you to float the bottom half in water. Place in a glass of water and set it on a windowsill with sunlight, changing the water once a week.

Your tree will soon begin to sprout! Once around six inches, you can re-pot the pit in rich soil, leaving the top half exposed. Avocado trees love sunlight, so place it in the sun, water and watch it grow!

House Soiling Cure – Part 1



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IF you follow this programme you will have a happy, reliable pet in three days.

That's right, **THREE DAYS**. I know you think that's impossible or will take a miracle, but I promise you it's true.

Housetraining is easy but only if you do it the right way. The wrong way, yelling, screaming, hitting your dog, creates lasting bad feelings between the two of you and often fails, causing many people to get rid of their new pet.

The right way is quick, easy, stress free and creates the proper, loving relationship between you and your new pet.

Be prepared for this job before you bring your new dog home. You should have a few specific 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.

The tools

There are two essential tools for the housetraining process. One is any of a few products which contain enzymes to remove all traces of the inevitable mistakes that will occur and the second is a 'crate' or 'kennel' to house your dog when you can't be there to monitor him.

This crate is the 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."

Let's think about this for a moment. In the wild where do dogs or wolves live? Don't they

HOUSETRAINING: Can be quick, easy and stress free.

seek out small dark dens or caves to seek shelter in? And they seek out the cosy spots, where the ceiling or wall meets the floor. They don't lie down to sleep in the middle, open area of the cave. They go for the tight, secure area.

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 in your home.

Selecting the crate

Crates come in different sizes so you should select one based on the present size of your dog. If you have selected a large breed but right now he's a puppy, don't worry about selecting a crate for his full-grown size, you won't need it when he's all grown up.

Although many people keep their crates for the life of their dogs. Some dogs come to regard them as the private space and go in on their own if the door is left open.

You can buy a crate for the full grown dog and get spacers to make it smaller for a puppy.

Your crate should be just big enough so your dog can turn around in it. Don't worry that it's too small, too cramped, for the short periods of time that you dog will be in his crate, it will be just fine.

Enzyme products

There are many of these products on the market and they are all good.

These will be used according to the directions, whenever your pet makes a mistake. They are essential to the process. Without them, your dog will be attracted back to the spot where he made his mistake. No amount of scrubbing or cleaning will remove the odour.

Make sure you saturate the area of the mistake completely. If the mistake was on the carpet and it's liquid, the enzyme product must reach all of the mistake.

Congratulations. You're almost there. It should only take a few more repetitions before he's locked into the appropriate behaviour.

Next week... the process.



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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 assist-



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

ing in the search for a suitable sitter. I'm happy to help!

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Wild adventures for BMW

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

-20C

freezing temperatures in the wild mountainous region.

wild mountainous region in freezing 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 X 6 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.

Nerves and speed in Barcelona trials

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 MCL32 under intense 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.

Enzo: The Film

A **NEW** biopic on motoring legend Enzo Ferrari will star Australian actor Hugh Jackman. Directed by Michael Mann, the film will be set in 1957 when the Italian firm was engaged in a fierce rivalry with Maserati and on the cusp of greatness at Le Mans.

The film will tackle Ferrari's extremely tough management style, the deaths of some of his most famous drivers on the tracks, and his long, complicated relationship with wife Linda.

Welsh star Christian Bale reportedly backed out of talks to play Enzo. Another biopic starring Robert de Niro may also be in the works.

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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,



LARS GV LINBERG:
Manager.

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.

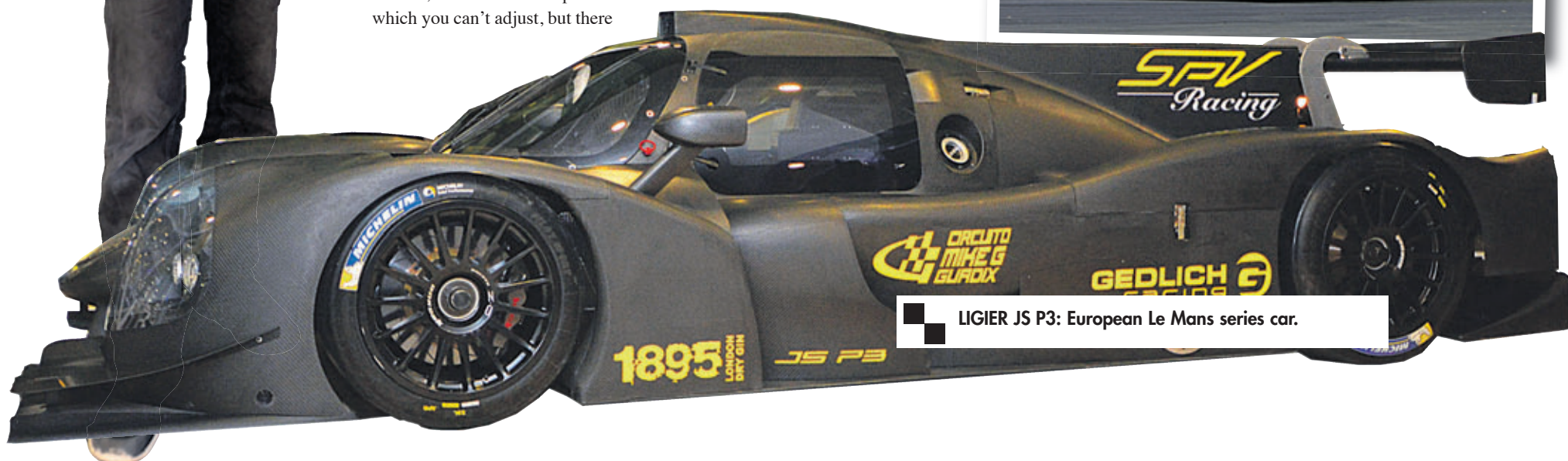
"Every lap we take all the data out of the car, so we have the engine parameters, how much braking, we know where you are on the track, so when you look afterwards with the engineer you can see exactly what you did, and how the car behaves if we make a change on the suspension or the angles."

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.**

New framework for America's Cup creates strong future

A PLAN and design for the future of the America's Cup has been agreed upon by current competitors that would see stability and cohesiveness in the oldest trophy in international sports.

"This is a hugely significant moment for the America's Cup," said Sir Russell Coutts, a five-time winner of the Cup and the CEO of the America's Cup Event Authority. "For the first time in more than 165 years, the teams have got together for the benefit of not only themselves but for the America's Cup."

During a press conference at The House of Garrard in London skippers and team leaders revealed a framework agreement that would cover the next two editions, the 36th and 37th America's Cup, the first taking place in 2019 and the latter in 2021.

Racing in the

35th America's Cup will take place in Bermuda starting this May. The house of Garrard is where the America's Cup trophy was originally crafted in 1848.

"People who want to enter this race now know how much it will cost, what kind of boat they need to build and that the rules can't change on them," said Larry Ellison, the Team Founder of ORACLE TEAM USA. "They are now able to plan ahead, build a boat, build a team and come out and compete for their country."

"Today we can announce that a new framework agreement has been created, determining the format of the next two America's Cup cycles, its protocols and its class rules," announced Martin Whitmarsh, CEO of Land Rover BAR who is a

ing America's Cup.

The framework agreement provides stability and gives interested teams an opportunity to plan long-term. It establishes a modern design challenge within which costs are controlled providing a lower entry price which encourages more teams to be involved and create larger audiences.

"This agreement is about a format long overdue in competitive sailing. The boats and the racing are incredibly exciting to watch – whether you are a sailor yourself or not. This will now reinforce the America's Cup as the world's supreme grand prix racing for sailing," noted Torbjorn Tornqvist, Artemis Racing's Team Founder and Principal.

Five of the six current competitors and

their respective yacht clubs have already signed this framework agreement: ORACLE TEAM USA, Artemis Racing, Team France, Land Rover BAR and SoftBank Team Japan.

Many hopeful future America's Cup teams have been briefed on the framework agreement and have expressed interest in becoming challengers for the 2019 and 2021 America's Cup competitions.

"Emirates Team New Zealand is not here today, but they have been kept updated on all developments throughout the creation of the framework agreement," Whitmarsh said. "We remain optimistic that they will come on board in the future and it is clear that cooperation is better for all of the stakeholders in the America's Cup."



AMERICA'S CUP: In the San Francisco Bay, affectionately known as the 'Auld Mug.'

Australian Navy save three from dismantled yacht

THREE men were rescued in the southern Indian Ocean after their yacht dismantled on a journey from South Africa to New Zealand.

The yacht, called Jedi 1, was more than 1,300 kilometres southwest of Cape Leeuwin in Western Australia when the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) detected the crew's distress beacon.

"The three male crew members of the Jedi 1 confirmed their yacht had been dismantled and their intention to abandon the stricken vessel," said AMSA in a media release.

Since the yacht was in a remote location in rough seas,



the Perth based search and rescue team from AMSA asked the Royal Australian Navy for assistance. The navy then deployed their warship, HMAS Parramatta.

AMSA maintained regular communication with the crew until the arrival of the HMAS Parramatta, which was over 24 hours after the distress beacon was first heard. The Seahawk

helicopter that set off from the Navy ship successfully winched all three crew members up to safety.

HMAS PARRAMATTA: Their second sailing rescue this month.



Cocaine smugglers convicted

FISHING boat skipper Michael McDermott has been convicted of attempting to smuggle around a tonne of cocaine into the UK. The 68-year-old man from Waterford, Ireland was found guilty by a jury at the Bristol Crown Court.

National Crime Agency and Border Force officers arrested McDermott in August 2016 alongside shipmates David Pleasants aged 57, and Gerald Van de Kooij aged 27. Acting on intelligence their boat was tracked for 24 hours.

Teams found bales of cocaine hidden under bags of gravel and sand in the fishing boat's hold. It took two days to remove the 38 bales weighing between 25 and 30 kilograms each. Forensic experts found that the drugs were between 60 and 70 percent pure making them potentially worth almost €1 million on the streets. This was the largest single seizure of cocaine in the UK in 2016.

McDemott pled not guilty in court, claiming he was forced to smuggle the drugs. The other two men pled guilty. McDermott has a previous conviction for drug trafficking, where he had admitted to being paid to sail a boat from Spain containing cannabis.

"Michael McDermott used his specialist skills as a sailor to attempt to evade border controls. We provided solid evidence that led to his conviction and have taken out another means of transport used by organised criminals to bring drugs to Britain," said Mark Harding, senior investigating officer from the National Crime Agency (NCA).

"Officers from Border Force and the NCA used sophisticated intelligence and technical expertise to track this vessel and intercept it before its illicit cargo could ever be unloaded," according to Mike Stepney, Director of National Operations and Border Force.

Irish Eyes are smiling as the F1 engines start revving up

Tony Matthews

International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

FOOTBALL

After the excitement of FA Cup and European football, we have international action at various levels over the next week or so.

In friendlies last night, Scotland played Canada while in Dortmund, Germany met England whose coach Gareth Southgate was contemplating using Jermain Defoe and four Manchester United players, as well as handing debuts to a couple of others.

Tomorrow, in 2018 World Cup qualifiers, it's Italy v Albania, Spain v Israel and the Republic of Ireland v Wales. Then on Sunday, we have England v Lithuania, Northern Ireland v Norway and Scotland v Slovenia, followed next Tuesday by the Republic of Ireland v Ice-

LEICESTER CITY: Had a brilliant win over Sevilla.

land.

Premiership and Championship clubs are 'off duty' this weekend but there are some intriguing matches in the lower divisions including Oldham v Sheffield United and Shrewsbury v Bolton in FL1 and a top-of-the-table clash between Doncaster and Plymouth in FL2.

After their brilliant win over Sevilla in the last round of the Champions League, Leicester City (UK's sole survivors after Manchester City blew it in Monaco) will face Atletico Madrid in the quarter-finals. The other ties are Barcelona v Juventus (a repeat of the 2015 final), Bayern Munich v holders Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund v Monaco.

In the last eight of the Europa League, Manchester United (after overcoming FC Rostov) will face Anderlecht, Celta Vigo play Genk, Ajax meet FC

Schalke and Besiktas visit Lyon.

As it stands, we could have an all-German or all-Spanish CL final and an all-Belgium EL final. And for the record, Leicester have met Atletico twice before, in the ECWC of 1961-62 and UEFA Cup of 1997-98, and in 1956, Manchester United beat Anderlecht 10-0 in a European Cup preliminary tie.

On the domestic front, Chelsea (2-1 winners at Stoke) lead the PL by 10 points from Spurs; Hull, Middlesbrough and Sunderland are the bottom three. The top three in the Championship are Newcastle, Brighton (recent 2-0 losers at Leeds) and Huddersfield (despite a 4-0 thrashing at Bristol City) while Blackburn, Wigan and Rotherham are at the bottom. Celtic, 25 points clear, need one more win to clinch their sixth successive SPL title; Real Madrid lead Barcelona by two points in La Liga; Bayern Munich (Germany); Juventus (Italy) and Monaco (France) are eyeing up their domestic titles.

PL/FL managers are still being dismissed thick and fast...

the latest being Aitor Karanka by Middlesbrough. He was the 44th boss to lose his job this season and the seventh in March alone, following Gary Brazil (from Nottingham Forest after 59 days), Warren Joyce (Wigan), Steve McClaren (Derby), Alex Neil (Norwich), Graham Westley (Newport) and Russell Slade (Coventry). Who's next I wonder?

FORMULA ONE

The first F1 Grand Prix of 2017 takes place in Melbourne, Australia on Sunday... and following an excellent practice campaign, Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) is among the favourites to win this opening race, but never write off Lewis Hamilton!

RUGBY UNION

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.

The other 'last day' games ended France 20 Wales 18 (after 20 minutes of added time) and Scotland 29 Italy 0.

Leicester beat Exeter 10-6 in last Sunday's Anglo-Welsh Cup final. Exeter (2nd in the Aviva PL) play Sale on Saturday.

HORSE RACING

Race-goers at Cheltenham last week (+ millions of TV viewers) saw some terrific racing with Buveur D'Air (Champion Hurdle), Special Tiara (Champion Chase) and Sizzling John (Gold Cup) winning the top races.

Ruby Walsh (four winners) and Gordon Elliott (six firsts and more seconds than Willie Mullins) won the top jockey and top trainer awards respectively.

The next big meeting is at Aintree, from April 6-9, with Vieux Lion Rouge favourite to win the Grand National.

Cheltenham Facts

The four-day festival attracted 261,834 spectators - 65,896 on St Patrick's Day.

Revenue from ticket sales/sponsorship/hospitality topped £20m; £4.3m went in prize money in 28 races; £100m entered the Gloucestershire Economy; 105,000 passengers used the local railway; 80,000 preferred the bus; 20,000 bottles of Champagne and 120,000 bottles of red/white wine were corked; 265,000 pints of Guinness were pulled; 8,000 gallons of tea/coffee was served; 45,000 bread rolls were eaten; of the 5,936 staff, 350 were chefs who prepared nine tonnes of potatoes, five tonnes of fresh/smoked salmon, plus beef, chicken, fish and loads of curry and rice, and 30 extra flights flew Irish punters across from Dublin.

ROUND-UP

Bangladesh's cricketers won their 100th Test match, beating Sri Lanka by four wickets... and Roger Federer beat Stan Wawrinka in the final of the men's singles at Indian Wells.



BUVEUR D'AIR: Won the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham races.

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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.

TO READ MORE

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

Rugby for youngsters continues to grow

RUGBY for the younger players around the islands continues to grow and attract new players. Tournaments and matches this weekend reflect the number participating in the rugby activities being organised.



El Toro RC junior teams, accompanied by coaches and parents, spent the weekend in Sant

Cugat, Barcelona participating in the Third 'Jon Reca' school tournament with five other local Catalan clubs.

Some matches were won, some lost, but all took part playing their best and had a great time meeting new teams and players.

It was always going to be a

U20 Balears against Madrid.

difficult match for the U20 Balears team against the reigning champions Madrid. The final score after a tough hitting match was 10 points to 42.

As the final matches of this season's senior league approach, the fight for the top of the table closes with RC Ponent leading by four points but second placed El Toro RC have a match in hand! In the two postponed matches

played this weekend El Toro RC travelled to Ibiza RC to beat the home team by 10 points to 42. RC Ponent beat visiting team Menorca by 62 points to nil in Principes de España.

The upcoming matches on Saturday in the senior league will be El Toro RC away to Union RC with kick-off at 5pm in Pueblo Pollensa; Bahia RC meet Club Rugby Escolar in S'Arraco

and Menorca RC are at home against Shamrock RC.

Trepitjadors RC are hosts for the next Rugby Day in the U14 teams competition whilst the girls have a training session for the Balears team in Son Roca.



El Toro RC youngsters against Barça RC.



El Toro RC running well with the ball.



El Toro RC youngsters not afraid to tackle!



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