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Stop Press

DON'T MISS OUR PROPERTY SUPPLEMENT INSIDE! **PAGES 21 - 28**

Water warning

Dam just 40 per cent full as summer approaches

By Francesca Souter and Matt Ford

Agricultural groups have warned that if spring rains fail to increase resources, tight water restrictions might have to be applied across Axarquía this summer.

The Viñuela reservoir, the largest in the province, is at 40 per cent of capacity, well below the average for the last 10 years. Another mild, relatively dry winter has now led to fears over how irrigation and Malaga's agricultural sector will be affected during the coming summer.

President of the Agrarian Association of Young Farmers (ASAJA), Baldomero Bellido, has insisted that despite the recent wet weather, the reservoirs are struggling for the third consecutive year.

Rain storms over the winter months have been highly localised, with dramatic flooding incidents on the coast while inland reservoirs received little water.

The mild weather has already upset olive production, with harvests well below expectations, although this was compensated for to an extent by higher oil prices.

Meanwhile, Avocado farmers are set to make a profit despite the arid weather conditions. Regardless of this,



Photo Credit: Wikimedia

WATER CRISIS: Farmers fear lack of water will have big consequences.

the Trops collective of growers have stressed that the situation is far from ideal.

"It has to rain more now," they said in a statement. "Otherwise, our success will depend on whether the promised works to improve irrigation infrastructure are completed or not, whether that involves connecting the Rio Chillar to the Viñuela system or to have surpluses elsewhere."

Bellido made it clear that the Junta de Andalucía needs

to address the problems in the Viñuela reservoir, "since avocados and mangoes, alongside olives, have become one of the most important economic pillars of the agricultural sector in Malaga."

The onus is now on the Andalusian government to take action, according to the growers, although their repeated requests to divert yet more rivers and natural resources towards a booming

subtropical fruit industry is likely to be met with howls of derision from environmental groups.

Dog's life

FOUR people have been arrested in Malaga on suspicion of arranging illegal dog fights involving dangerous breeds. According to detectives, the fights took place regularly between 2011 and 2017, while some of those arrested also raised and sold puppies of potentially dangerous dog breeds without obtaining the required documentation.

» See page 2

Waste of time

WORK on Nerja's first sewage plant has once again stalled with only 80 per cent of the plant completed, as the Junta de Andalucía's revised deadline of June last year fades into the distance.

This problem is just the latest in a catalogue of recent incidents, one of which saw a pipe burst 400 metres off Burriana beach, creating a 'geyser' of raw sewage.

» See page 3

Captain speedy

ALMUÑECAR Police intercepted a car which sped 14 kilometres along the wrong side of the A-7 motorway, weaving in and out of oncoming traffic. A spokesman said that the man, from Gualchos in Granada Province, appeared to be heavily inebriated and had difficulty walking properly and talking coherently.

» See page 6

Pension pledge

FOR those 450,000 living in the EU who are worried about the possibility of their state pensions being frozen in the same way they are for other overseas residents once Britain

leaves the EU, Jeremy Corbyn has offered some words of comfort. A motion to change this situation is to be debated in the House of Commons.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bhanged up

PROSECUTORS are asking a judge to jail four brothers for more than 40 years for trafficking marihuana from Morocco to Almayate, Velez-Malaga. The accused each face six years and three months in prison for offences against public health, while prosecutors also seek to fine them €10 million each for their offences.

Road show

AROUND 30 companies are competing for government tenders worth almost €450,000 to improve pavements in La Cala del Moral and Torre del Benagalbon. The mayor of Rincon de la Victoria, Encarnacion Anaya, explained, "we aim to award the works by the end of April and start as soon as possible. Both projects are financed by our Sustainable Financial Investment Plan 2016."

Housing crisis

OPPOSITION politicians from Velez-Malaga's City Council are seeking to increase the number of council houses available to needy families. They claim that the situation is critical due to a shortage of rental properties coupled with high prices compared with the average income of those seeking to rent, and are demanding an action plan.

Dog fighting ring collared

By Matt Ford

FOUR people have been arrested in Malaga on suspicion of arranging illegal dog fights involving dangerous breeds.

A statement from the Guardia Civil's nature protection agency, Seprona, said that the quartet used specialised equipment and methods in order to make the animals more aggressive.

“A makeshift ring was constructed and a ‘referee’ employed.”

The investigation has been open since August 2016, when detectives received a number of videos depicting the fights from a team working on a child pornography case.



Photo by Guardia Civil

ILLEGAL FIGHTS: Involved dangerous dog breeds.

Several apparently show injured dogs, some bleeding heavily, with the fights taking place at the home of one of the arrestees.

A makeshift ring was constructed and a 'referee' employed, while loud music

was used to drown the sound of the bloodshed.

The statement also confirmed that no veterinary assistance was sought, with the animals simply hosed down with water after each bout.

According to detectives, the fights took place regularly between 2011 and 2017, while some of those arrested also raised and sold puppies of potentially dangerous dog breeds without obtaining the required documentation.

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Miles Hitchcock – More than 14 Years Experience in the area

Sewage works delayed further

WORKS to Nerja's first sewage plant have once again stalled at 80 per cent completion, as the Junta de Andalucía's revised deadline of June last year fades into the distance.

Nerja Council, as well as local business owners from the Association of Entrepreneurs, has voiced its concerns at the project's slow progress, with only 200 metres of pipe being laid in the last two months. Works to the pumping station itself have not yet been started.

The city's mayor, Rosa Arrabal, is now asking the Ministry of Environment for answers, saying the city council has done everything it can to facilitate the works. For its part, the ministry maintains the works will be finished by the end of the year.

This sewage problem is just the latest for Nerja, which recently suffered a burst pipe 400 metres off Burriana beach which expelled raw waste into the water, causing a 'geyser' of sewage to appear.

Thefts thwarted

POLICE in Rincon de la Victoria have arrested four people in the space of 48 hours on suspicion of theft.

Three of the arrests involved three young people who had been shoplifting alcohol from supermarkets. The gang had been cutting security tags off the bottles, while one of the members kept a look out for staff. Police swooped as the group were about to unload the stolen merchandise at another location, after a patrol car noted their behaviour as being suspicious and followed them.

The next day, another man was arrested on suspicion of theft and was found to be carrying jewellery. Officers believe he could also be involved in several 'affectionate hug' thefts which target the elderly.

Rincon de la Victoria's mayor, Encarnacion Anaya, praised the police's work, commenting, "once again the professionalism and quick action of the Local Police has guaranteed the safety and social welfare of our citizens."

Caterpillars contained

VELEZ-MALAGA'S Town Hall is taking firm action on processionary caterpillars by injecting pine trees with

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...7

With 15 National Parks (NPs) covering an area of more than 325,000 hectares, Spain offers extraordinary landscapes and wildlife in addition to its more famous touristic charms. From snow-capped mountains to unspoilt archipelagos and alien-like lava flows, the state-protected natural spaces showcase the nation's spectacular diversity.

Call of the wild

A BITE-SIZED sample of the natural wonders in store for budding adventurers.



| Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici.

Mountain high

TWO of the most iconic NPs are found in the peaks of the Aragonese and Catalan Pyrenees, where the Ordesa y Monte Perdido and Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici NPs offer wild scenery filled with deep, glacial valleys, lakes and a myriad of crystal-clear streams.

Equally memorable hiking and mountain biking can be experienced in the Picos de Europa, Sierra Nevada, and Sierra de Guadarrama NPs, in Asturias, Andalucía, and Madrid/Castile y Leon, respectively.

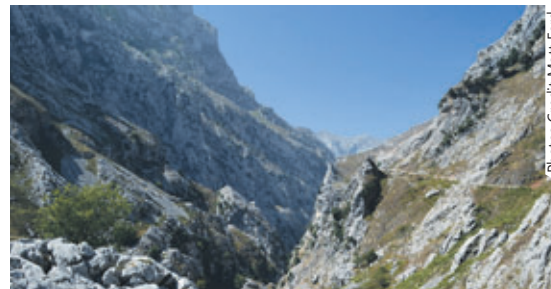
Life on Mars

THE remaining four NPs are all in the Canary Islands, where rambblers can visit the active and imposing 3,718-metre volcano Mount Teide, the nation's highest summit.

A volcanic influence is also conspicuous in La Palma's Caldera de Taburiente NP which was formed via erosion, while on Lanzarote the Timanfaya NP has unique 'Martian'

landscape formed of solidified lava.

But finally, perhaps the most unique among Spain's national treasures belongs to the island of La Gomera, where the Garajonay NP ranks among the world's best example of laurisilva,



| Picos de Europa.

Wildlife wonderland

FOR those seeking a salty flavour alongside world class bird-watching, the Atlantic Islands of Galicia NP offers some of the most important seabird colonies in Europe. In the Mediterranean, the Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial NP in the Balearics has one of the best-preserved coastal landscapes and is home to many birds and endemic plants, plus endangered marine species including turtles and whales.

For a spot of continental twitching, head to the Tablas de Daimiel NP, a restored wetland on the otherwise arid plains of Castile-La Mancha, combined with a tour of the nearby Cabañeros NP, the most well-preserved remaining example of Iberian Mediterranean forest.

Alternatively, check out the one of the planet's largest black vulture colonies at Monfragüe NP in Extremadura, or see lynx or birdlife in Doñana NP, Andalucía.



| Timanfaya.

a humid subtropical forest that dominated southern Europe millions of years ago.

a preventative treatment to stop the larvae colonising.

The councillor for the Environment, Marcelino Mendez-Trelles, explained "this is a particularly virulent pest, which affects the entire province." He continued, "at the end of last year an intensive prevention campaign was carried out in all schools in the municipality; so far no caterpillars have been spotted in any of these facilities."

Stash seized

POLICE have arrested three people, aged between 18 and 32, after discovering six marihuana plantations and 700 cannabis plants in Velez-Malaga.

The arrests came after police were tipped off to two homes in the city being used to grow and sell the drug. Following investigations, the police

raided a total of three houses and arrested two brothers plus the girlfriend of one of them.

Beaches ready

THE Junta de Andalucía is pulling out all the stops to get Velez-Malaga's beaches ready in time for Easter.

The Department for Coastlines has invested €130,000 to ensure the public spaces are at their best for the start of the tourist season.

Carolina España, a politician from the Partido Popular, praised the government for its "speed of work" and "understanding."

Council renovations and clean up

MOTRIL'S City Council is carrying out a series of improvements to its roads. Works have begun with the entrance to the Puntalon and Las Ventillas urbanisations.

Both areas have been cleaned and a pavement which was in very poor condition has also been improved. Las Ventillas now benefits from lighting at its pedestrian crossing.

Antonio Escamez, councillor for Public Works, and councillor for Maintenance, Gloria Chica, visited to inspect the improvements, which cost between €1,000 and €1,500.

Ms Chica explained the work was carried out following

requests from residents "who had told us we needed to clean the areas and carry out works such as renovating the broken pavement and installing lighting."

Mr Escamez added the council takes residents' welfare seriously. He explained, "in the coming months we will continue to carry out more necessary work. Our credos is that all residents of Motril are important."

Residents who have any concerns about the condition of any public spaces are urged to call the Department of Maintenance on 900 500 510.

Postscript to ponder

43.4

The number of individual organ donors per million Spanish people last year, reinforcing the nation's global leadership and outstripping the EU (19.6) and US (26.6) averages.

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Gang busted

A GANG of mainly Romanians believed to have broken into more than 90 commercial buildings throughout Spain has been arrested near Madrid by officers who seized stolen items worth €96,000 together with firearms, six vehicles, 44 mobile phones, 2,000 metres of copper cable, 49 new tyres and €785.

No deals

DISARMAMENT of the ETA must be unconditional according to Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy who underlined his belief by saying that "there is no negotiation with terrorists," a belief shared by Socialist Group spokesperson Antonio Hernando.

Food swoop

EIGHTEEN tons of food and 6,000 litres of drinks - all out of date, counterfeit, unlabelled or improperly labelled - have been seized in Melilla following shop and warehouses checks.

Eye on SPAIN

Around the nation in 7 stories

Postcard from GIRONA



Jolan Wikimedia

WITH a population of just under 100,000, Girona city with several rivers flowing through it is pleasant to visit especially given its proximity to Barcelona.

For fans of author Dan Brown and adherents to the search for the Holy Grail, Girona has an important part to play in deciphering its whereabouts and also with helping identify with what it is.

According to those who believe that the Grail was cared for by the Cathars in France prior to their massacre, there appear to be many similarities in their bases in the Languedoc to buildings in Girona.

Urban myths suggest that Salvador Dali, Howard Hughes and Jean Cocteau were part of a secret society which understood the meaning of the Grail. Several books by Patrice Chaplin, former wife of Charlie Chaplin's son, confirm this shared belief.

What might once have been dismissed as nonsense has attracted interest from the University of West London which has helped research and develop a new pan-European Holy Grail tourist route which takes in Girona, a city that traces its establishment back to 79BC.

Mars goal

A NEW political party has emerged in Catalan whose primary focus is the conquest of Mars. 'Alternativa' claim Spanish politics has taken a backwards step and they want to distance themselves from rivals through space exploration and by not supporting the local independence referendum.

Time to pay up

A GALICIA court has ordered low-cost airline Vueling to pay a disabled passenger €4,000 compensation after hearing that she was refused boarding for a return flight back to Chile because of claims her wheelchair was too heavy.

What a find

THE tomb of an Egyptian noble has been found near Aswan by Spanish archaeologists who have been excavating locally for nearly 10 years. Believed to date back nearly 4,000 years a number of tomb ornaments were discovered along with the mummy.

Birthdays

• **Sergio Ramos, Footballer, March 30**
Spanish footballing legend Sergio Ramos is a long time fixture of both Real Madrid and the Spanish national team, joining both in 2005. He played a key role in Spain's World Cup win in 2010 and was named La Liga's best defender for four consecutive years from 2012 to 2015.

• **Ewan McGregor, Actor, March 31, 46**
Scottish actor McGregor shot to fame in his portrayal of Mark Renton in the cult 1996 film Trainspotting. He then went on to star in big budget movies, gaining recognition as the young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the Star Wars prequel trilogy. His most recent role is as Lumiere in the box office smash Beauty and the Beast.

• **Beth Tweddle, Gymnast, April 1, 32**

British gymnastics champion Tweddle has had an incredibly successful career, competing in three Olympic games in Athens, Beijing, and London, where she won the bronze medal on the uneven bars. She has also won three World Championship gold medals, 11 World Cup gold medals and six European Championship gold medals.



• **Robert Downey Jr, Actor, April 4, 51**
Robert Downey Jr's most famous role is his portrayal of Iron Man in the Marvel universe. He won a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Ally McBeal in 2000 and another for Best Actor for his performance as Sherlock Holmes in 2009.

• **Pharrell Williams, Singer, April 5, 44**
Grammy award-winning singer, rapper and music producer Williams is one half of record production duo The Neptunes and the lead vocalist of hip hop band NERD. He was nominated for an Oscar in 2014 for penning the song 'Happy' for the film Despicable Me 2.

Numbers that add up to local life

9,474,556

people in Spain now receive some form of State pension.

13.1 %

the Spanish industrial turnover rise for January 2017, the best for 11 years.

11%

of Spaniards admit buying counterfeit goods, according to the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

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OUR VIEW

Wanton carnage

THERE is absolutely no question that the terrible events which took place outside the Houses of Parliament are unforgivable and all of our hearts go out to those who were injured or killed and of course to their families.

The fact is however that regardless of what any nation does, it will always be impossible to stop this type of attack from happening. According to reports the driver of the car who mowed down so many innocent people, including tourist visitors to London was born in Britain.

Many talk about the radicalisation of the young but Khalid Masood (born Adrian Russell Ajeo) was 52 years of age and was known as a criminal who it is claimed became an agent of Daesh.

Terrible as his actions were, in reality, there is little likelihood of the British people actually being intimidated by what has happened and they will simply continue their lives as normal.

One comfort that we can all take from this terrible event and other recent massacres in Europe is that the terrorists appear unable to make a major strike and rely upon individual madmen to drive their cars into crowds or attack people with knives.

Clearly the authorities can now deal with major incursions but will never be able to stop the lone wolf!

Now we want to hear your views.
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Paraglider crash-lands

By John Smith

SIX Polish paragliders travelled to the area of Otivar to enjoy a weekend of sport when one of their number miscalculated his landing and crashed into a gorge meaning that the emergency services had to be called out.

As well as an officer from the Guardia Civil, an appliance from the Almuñecar fire brigade arrived with an air-ambulance helicopter carrying paramedics from Malaga hot on their tail.

Since the air ambulance isn't capable of hoisting any injured person up from the ground, a second helicopter from the Guardia Civil in Granada also arrived but also didn't have a hoist, so the injured man who was treated by the paramedics had to be carried out of the gorge and was then taken to hospital.



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NEWS EXTRA

Street life

ROADWORKS on Calle San Miguel Bajo in the San Miguel neighbourhood are underway after a €140,000 council investment which will see 77 people receive temporary contracts as worn pavements are replaced and benches installed.

Creative cure

LA HERRADURA Civic Centre will host a series of Art Therapy and Psychology seminars on April 1 and 2, with a focus on emotional well-being through a series of talks and meetings between art therapists and other professionals.

Grand design

ALMUÑECAR tourist board is joining forces with Logitravel for the sixth consecutive year, as the duo launch an ambitious new campaign to promote Almuñecar and La Herradura.

Mullered motorist safely cut off

By Sally Underwood

ALMUÑECAR Police have intercepted a car driving 14 kilometres the wrong way along the A-7 motorway.

The 45-year-old driver of a red minivan had joined the motorway at La Herradura and was driving on the wrong side of the motorway towards Almeria when a woman saw him and called police.

Three police vehicles finally stopped the car and escorted the driver to safety, before performing drugs and alcohol tests.

A spokesperson for Almuñecar's police said the man was, "from Gualchos in Granada Province, appeared to be heavily inebriated and had difficulty walking properly and talking coherently." He added the driver had, "gone through tunnels in Cantalobos, Calaceite, and Itrabo, as well as several viaducts, luckily without incident."

The police paid tribute to the vigilance of citizens which is "fundamental in events such as this where, had it not been for warning from another driver, we could now be talking about a fatality."



DRUNK DRIVER: Drove the wrong way.



Photo Credit: Ayuntamiento de Almuñecar.

HIKING GROUP: Out on the tour.

Alpujarra hike

AROUND 50 hikers from Almuñecar have taken part in a tour of the Almerian Alpujarras.

The group was guided by Enrique Garin and Francisco Novo, and after a short visit to the important archaeological site 'The Millares,' arrived at la Rambla de Los Yesos.

The next route for the group will take place on April 9 from Frigiliana to Venta Vicario. The course will take in the Sierras de Almirajara and the Tejada Natural Park. The organisers commented those going should expect to walk at a fast pace.

Those interested in taking part should register at the office of municipal sports in the Francisco Bonet stadium, or call 958 883 142.

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Are you on the Padron, do you need to confirm your registration?

THE Spanish Office of National Statistics (INE) collects Padron data annually, and the closing date for information to be submitted this year is March 31. This data is very important not just for town halls but for everyone living in Spain, as it is used for allocating local budgets, among other administrative processes. You should register with the town hall where you live.

The Padron is an administrative registration which provides proof of residence in your municipality. If you live in several places you only need to register in the place where you live the most.

Benefits include more and better public services, the ability to obtain Spanish residency, driving licence, pensioners' card, health card, and school grants and registrations.

According to the Spanish authorities, if you are resident in Spain, your registration on the Padron needs to be confirmed every five years. If you are not resident (eg living here temporarily), but are registered on the Padron, your Padron registration needs to be confirmed every two years.

If your Padron registration is due for confirmation, you can do this by signing a declaration

form at your town hall. In some cases, your town hall may contact you in person (either an official from the town hall or the Local Police) or send you a letter asking you to confirm your registration.

If you change your address or personal details with your local town hall, your Padron registration will be automatically confirmed.

If you don't confirm your registration every two or five years (depending upon your residency status), then your town hall will start the process to remove you from the Padron register. However, the town hall will attempt to inform you of this process, before you are removed.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact your local town hall.

Brits in Spain

FIGURES from 2016 show that 83,493 UK nationals are registered on the Padron in the Valencian region, 80,055 in Andalucia, 18,677 in Cataluña, 16,134 in the Balearics, 13,779 in Murcia, and 9,038 in Madrid.

Do you want to be a TV star?

PRODUCTION company Flame TV is producing the next series of Channel Five's hit series The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door, and this time they're bringing the show to Spain.

They want to hear from British expatriates who have recent experience of a falling-out with their neighbours.

All information will be held in confidence and there is no pressure to take part.

If you'd like to know more, please send an outline of the dispute and your contact details to neighbours@flametv.co.uk or call +44 785 411 4859.



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Labour leader Corbyn takes up pension cudgel

FOR those 450,000 living in the European Union who are

worried about the possibility of their state pensions being frozen in the same way that they are for other overseas residents once Britain leaves the EU, Jeremy Corbyn has offered some words of comfort.

A motion to

change this situation for the 550,000 retirees who receive no increase in the pensions because they live abroad is to be debated in the House of Commons and now Jeremy Corbyn

has thrown his support behind

MPs from

most parties including

the odd Con-

servative,

DUP, Lib

Dem and

SDP.

As

Leader of

the Opposition,

Corbyn

can actually bring the matter to greater prominence in Parliament and has said: "It is contrary to natural justice for some pensioners living abroad to be left behind while others have their pensions increased in line with inflation."

“ A motion is to be debated in the House of Commons.

"The next Labour government will treat all our pensioners equally, wherever they live, and ensure that overseas pensions are levelled up, not down when Britain leaves the EU."

Whilst it is too early for pensioners to get too excited and the government has a good enough majority if it doesn't want to spend the money, up to 1,000,000 pensioners all able to vote by 2020, cannot be ignored and it will have to tread carefully if it doesn't want to be ousted by a bunch of 'Silver Surfers.'



NEWS EXTRA

Road ahead

THE local government is carrying out €294,000 worth of works to the MA-3107, which joins Benamargosa and Riogordo. The improvements will include better drainage with the addition of new ditches.

Police state

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA'S police union has complained to the council about the state of police vests and cars. The union believes police equipment is in a 'lousy' condition and needs updating, explaining several police cars may not even pass an ITV.

Lucky lotto

A LOTTERY ticket buyer from Colmenar has won €48,652, after jointly winning the second prize in the Primitiva. No one won the first prize, so the grand prize rolls over to €20,500,000.

Almuñecar waterspout

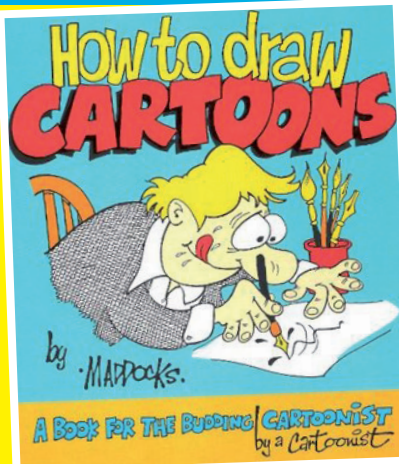
SPANISH national TV carried a report and video of a waterspout which was filmed just offshore from a beach in Almuñecar.

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Jeremy Corbyn enters the Brexit fray



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

AS the countdown to the triggering Article 50 continued, Jeremy Corbyn who appeared to have been a staunch supporter of the British Government decision to recognise the referendum vote has now thrown something of a 'spanner in the works.'

During a TV interview with Robert Peston, he said that Labour would not vote for any Brexit deal presented to parliament unless it guaranteed "unfettered access" to the European market, a proposal which has already been dismissed by EU leaders.

The timing of his comments has been questioned by pro-Brexit supporters with an immediate response coming from former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith who basically suggested that this was an ab-



Plashing Vole Flickr

JEREMY CORBYN: Has thrown a 'spanner in the works.'

surd observation and was being made so that it looked as if Labour has a policy.

Although the Conservatives have a majority in Parliament, a decision by Labour to vote against the deal could

attract Tory dissidents and the SNP and DUP but in the event that a majority decided to reject the deal, if Mrs May decided to ignore the vote and leave without a deal, this could lead to a very hard Brexit.

What is clear however is that those in the EU who want to 'punish' Britain for deciding to leave, will certainly be able to use Mr Corbyn's comments to their possible advantage in negotiations.

As Corbyn becomes more hawkish over Brexit, Jean-Claude Juncker almost became dovish when he announced that Brussels will approach the negotiation of Britain's withdrawal in a "friendly" and "fair" way, but warned that European institutions were not "naive" about the process.

He did however go on to say the UK will be handed a bill when it leaves although not as a "punishment" but as its fair share of pensions for EU officials as well as diverse ongoing projects.

Whilst no figure has been confirmed, it is estimated that it could be as high as €60 billion assuming that it is ever paid.

Juncker also said that he regarded Brexit as "a failure and a tragedy" but did make it clear that one major priority was to protect the rights of EU citizens currently living in the UK and British passport holders living in the European Union.

Europe protest march

A MIXTURE of Britons born and living in the UK and the European Union as well as Europeans living in the UK took to the streets of London and Edinburgh on March 25 to protest again Brexit and to demand that plans be reversed.

It is estimated that many thousands took part in the London 'Unite for Europe' march which heard speeches from MPs David Lammy and Tim Farron as well as Sue Wilson from the Remain in Spain group in Parliament Square, where they also held a one-minute silence in memory of those caught up in the Westminster attack.

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Credit availability in the UK

By John Smith

ACCORDING to a new Mintel report, whilst 60 per cent of British residents believe they could obtain credit if they needed to, almost the same percentage would either have difficulty or would pay a higher rate than expected.

One thing that goes against applicants for credit is if they have made just one late payment in the previous 12 months which would be likely to sound warning bells and suggest that they may have problems with managing money.

66
is the percentage of adults in the UK who owe money on a loan or credit product.

Those who have changed address on a regular basis or are in temporary employment (now known as the gig economy which is growing rapidly)

could also find their credit scores reduced which in turn would mean that they could face difficulty in obtaining credit.

Those in low paid jobs will also face some difficulty in obtaining the best rates, if indeed they can obtain credit of any type and according to the report, 23 per cent of households in Britain have an annual income of less than £15,500 (€17,900) which makes their positions difficult to say the least.

Student loans and mortgages also impinge upon the ability to obtain new credit which means a high percentage of those who do believe themselves likely to be able to obtain credit when needed, could be in for a rude awakening.

Social services

A REPORT from Spanish Association of Directors and Managers of Social Services has criticised the Spanish government for its poor investment in social services, although there are currently 1,212,048 people (2.5 per cent of the population) who are dependent upon the state for financial assistance.

It is estimated however that no less than 350,000 people receive no assistance whatsoever and 125,000 have died in the past four years after receiving nothing from the state by way of support.

If those 350,000 people were to receive help, then it is estimated that at least 100,000 would be able to find work and income taxes would pay for additional costs.

Quote of the Week

There can be no margin for error, and no excuses, when it comes to billing customers correctly." Lindsey Fussell, Ofcom consumer group director after PlusNet was fined for overcharging former customers.



Boycott of YouTube

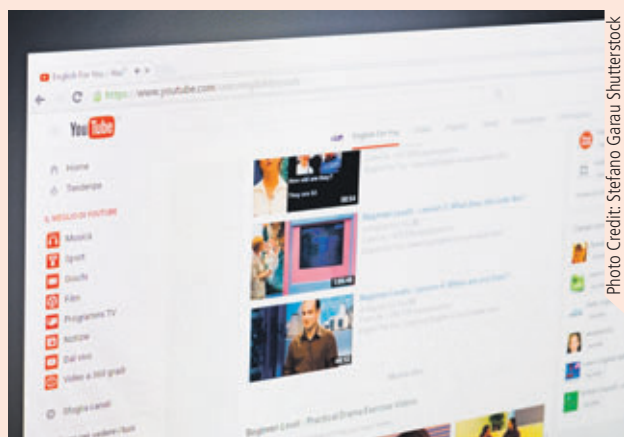


Photo Credit: Stefano Garau Shutterstock

YOUTUBE: Companies are pulling their ads.

By John Smith

AFTER a serious complaint from the British government concerning advertisements paid for by the tax payer on Google subsidiary YouTube, which were placed next to videos promoting extremist views and generating income for them, a number of companies have withdrawn their advertising.

Google had hoped to contain the damage following the public reprimand from the government (although why it needs to advertise at all on YouTube is another question) but not only

have 250 British companies pulled their ads, but a number of major US brands have followed suit.

According to *The Times* AT&T and Verizon, Enterprise and GSK have all publicly declared they will no longer advertise on YouTube until they are assured that this will not happen again.

Google responded "We've begun an extensive review of our advertising policies and have made a public commitment to put in place changes that give brands more control over where their ads appear."

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Public jobs

THE Spanish government has held meetings with Trade Union leaders to discuss the reduction of temporary positions in the civil service and replacing them with permanent positions, the appointment of additional staff to replace those who have retired and a possible increase in wages for public servants.

Port workers

DESPITE the fact the law to reform employment of stevedores in Spanish docks was defeated in the Cortes, the unions and port owners are still in negotiation as they recognise the change will eventually take place. As far as the unions are concerned, they are looking for guarantees concerning the employment terms of exiting stevedores.

Swiss charge

THE Swiss bank UBS has announced that with effect from the beginning of May it will be charging customers 0.6 per cent for any deposit exceeding €1 million, to follow up similar charges for customers who deposit large amounts of Swiss Francs with it.

Trading benefits after Brexit

ACCORDING to a recent report from think tank CIVITAS, the benefits to Britain from trading with the European Union are nowhere near as good as people tend to think. Their research suggests that Britain was exporting far more than countries like

the USA to EU states prior to joining in 1993 but since becoming a member, Britain has been overtaken in the trading states by the non-EU exporters and therefore might be better off without an EU deal.

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UK airlines could lose routes in continental Europe after Brexit

By Jay Emeny

EU chiefs have warned UK-based airlines that they may need to relocate their headquarters if they want to keep their continental European routes after Brexit.

Executives at major carriers have been reminded they would also need to sell off shares to European nationals in order to operate on routes across the continent - for example, Malaga to Berlin - according to a report in *The Guardian*.

This puts airlines such as easyJet in a difficult position, as European routes have become increasingly important assets to their business models.

Decisions to move bases to the EU would lead to a significant number of jobs lost in the UK.

Should negotiators fail to reach an agreement, along the lines of the 'open-skies' deal granted to EU members, the UK could impose its own ownership rules, which would prevent airlines such as Ireland-based Ryanair from flying UK domestic routes.

A Ryanair spokesman said the company would "adapt" to changes but the airline's chief executive officer, Michael O'Leary, has warned of the dangers of a "cliff-edge" Brexit, and criticised the



Photo Credit: Ryanair

RYANAIR: The company has said it will adapt to changes.

"mildly lunatic optimism" of the British government.

easyJet is reported to be in the process of estab-

lishing an EU operating company, in order to obtain an EU air operating certificate, but insists that it will continue to be headquartered in the UK.

Fashion fiesta for Madrid

THOSE living in or visiting Madrid are in for a fashion treat as Mango, having invested €79 million will open their new flagship store in the Calle de Serrano which will spread over four floors, have an indoor garden and will allow customers to choose music to be played.

Not to be outdone, the Inditex group is about to open their fourth Spanish outlet store, this time in the capital which will sell clothes, shoes, bags and fashion accessories from previous collections and seasons at discount prices.

The venture known as Tempe Outlet Store is part of a very special programme known as For & From which specifically aims to include disabled people in design, factory and store to ensure that they are able to enjoy the same work opportunities as others.

Based in the Sambil Outlet Shopping Centre, this store will join others such as El Corte Inglés and Mango in offering quality products at reduced prices and helps the environment by ensuring that old stock is not destroyed.

Cost of death to increase in the UK

By John Smith

ALTHOUGH living in Spain, many people prefer to nominate to have their wills written in the UK and recorded under British law, as it is believed that individuals can have greater control over who receives what.

“The new fees will come into effect from May 1.

What needs to be considered however is what actually has to be done to obtain a grant of probate which will allow the executor to distribute any funds that exist in the deceased's estate.

Two new matters have emerged which are causing some distress to the recently bereaved in the UK and that is because the cost of obtaining probate has risen on a sliding scale that means that the greater the value of the estate the more that has to be paid.

This is nothing to do with inher-



GRANT OF PROBATE: Allows the executor to distribute any funds that exist in the estate.

itance tax, simply an extra charge that the government collects in order for probate to be allowed.

Under the new rules, anyone

who inherits an estate worth more than £50,000 will see the fee for probate rise to between £300 and £20,000 depending on the value of

the estate and these new fees come into effect from May 1.

In theory that is relatively straight-forward, but because of

backlogs at the tax office, it can take several months for applications to be processed and rather than charging the new fees on estates where death took place from May 1, the new charges are to be made on any document issued after that date.

It has not been publicised to any great extent, but provided all paperwork is presented by May 1 together with a note confirming that the inheritance tax form has been applied for, then the old fees should be payable.

Those living in Spain but trying to act as executor for an estate under British law would be well advised to consider using a solicitor and should also remember that if the bulk of the value of the estate is in shares and property, it may be necessary to make an advance payment to the government to cover a percentage of the likely inheritance tax.

In some cases, if there are insufficient funds in bank accounts or savings available to cover this advance payment, it may be necessary to apply to a bank for a short term loan as it is not generally possible to sell shares or property in order to cover the advance payment.

Dutch leader upsets Eurozone neighbours



Photo Credit: Carlos Delgado Wikimedia

ALBERT RIVERA: It was agreed that his comments were ill-judged.

By John Smith

SPAIN does not “spend money on alcohol and women, we spend it on corruption, empty airports and roads without cars” according to Albert Rivera, leader of Ciudadanos.

This was spelled out when he replied to comments by the Dutch leader of the Eurozone Finance Ministers who chided that unlike some EU states

facing ongoing financial problems, he could not “spend all my money on liqueurs and women and then go and ask for your support.”

This comment was seen as being a direct attack on southern European states unfavourably referred to as the PIGS (Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain) and their indebtedness and received an immediate response from senior politicians

in Portugal and Italy suggesting that he was both racist and xenophobic and should stand down immediately.

Whilst some members of the European Commission have agreed that his comments were ill-judged, he has refused to withdraw his comments and various Spanish politicians in the European Parliament have also taken him to task.

UK state pensions reviews

DUE to the fact that not enough people are dying quickly enough, the NHS and Pension Department in the UK are continuing to experience financial difficulty which has resulted in two reports suggesting that the retirement age will have to be increased again.

These reports which are to be studied by the government within the next two months conclude that workers under the age of 30 may not qualify for a state pension until they reach the age of 70 and those under the age of 45 may have to work until they are 68 if the pension age is raised earlier.

Currently the retirement age is on a ‘sliding scale’ so for men it is 65 and for women

it depends upon their date of birth, but by 2018 to 2020 the retirement age for men and women will be 66 and remain until 2026 when it goes up to 67 and eventually 68.

Possibly of more importance for those currently or about to take the state pension, it is also recommended that what is known as the ‘triple lock’ on annual pension increases should be removed.

At present this means the increase is whichever is the highest of earnings growth, the inflation rate or 2.5 per cent but by limiting the increase to earnings only, it is estimated that the pension cost would eventually reduce from 6.7 per cent to 5.9 per cent of GDP.

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The individual that committed this act was a moronic extremist psychopath. A follower of Daesh, he used their twisted interpretation of the Koran to suit his own evil ends and used it as an excuse to make his ultimate mission in life the murder of as many of the 'infidels' as possible.

Brainwashed by evil corrupted doctrine he believed that that he would subsequently be welcomed in paradise as a true hero and, among many other rewards, be presented with 72 virgins who would be enslaved to comply with his every twisted fantasy for all



TERRORIST ATROCITY: The real reasons for this attack may never be known.

eternity. Some of his fellow numbskull compatriots have even been known to strap armour around their nether regions to protect their privates from the blast of the suicide bomb! These are the reasons this lethal maniac carried out this attack, and there are thousands more goat grabbing gnat brains out there waiting to step into his shoes.

Until those in authority accept that this evil satanic corruption of Islam is at the root of all the death and destruction of innocent citizens its followers will continue to flourish. It's time the moderate Imams stood up and convinced their brethren there is room for all and that those who believe in different routes along the path of life will never be eliminated by the fear of physical destruction.

This primitive interpretation is the reason Jihad has never prevailed for some 1,500 years.

And as a final warning to those who wish us harm, make no mistake. More evil and dangerous individuals than you have discovered that there are limits and when the worm decides to turn the vengeance of the infidels will be terrible indeed!

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IF you are one of the many who paid over a deposit when deciding to buy an off-plan property in Spain and then the developer went bankrupt or disappeared and you lost your money, then all is actually not lost.

In a number of circumstances, it is perfectly possible to obtain a refund of what you have lost thanks to a ruling by the Spanish government and the involvement of a savvy group of lawyers and advisors.

Sheldon Grossmith was caught in exactly this situation but as a real estate agent based in Spain not only did he have a good idea of the law, he also knew a very astute and successful lawyer who helped him recover his funds.

Now, through his company Off-Plan Property Deposit Refunds based in Estepona, Sheldon and his Spanish associates are offering expatriates and Spaniards the opportunity to recover their funds, even if, as is often the case, they

were lost 10 years ago.

The answer is very simple and that is that the banks with whom the original deposit was lodged could well be responsible in law for the refund of the monies lost, provided that they didn't insist that monies lodged were covered by bank guarantees, separate insurance policies or in escrow accounts.

Almost none of the money lost was ever in a 'safe haven' and this is where OPP can assist. Sheldon isn't totally altruistic as he will make a charge for putting this together, but purely on a no-win-no-fee basis! Those who have suffered a loss are invited to contact him with a copy of the original purchase contract and proof of payment (as well as where it was paid to).

A decision as to whether there is a viable case to prosecute can be made very quickly and if the decision is positive, then it is intended that there will be a three-way agreement,

signed between the person losing the money, OPP and the lawyer who will undertake the case.

Once they proceed, it is likely that it will take 12 to 18 months to obtain a final court ruling although they have already managed to obtain full refunds in just eight months for some clients and in the event of the judge making an award to the person whose money has been taken, there will be a 15 per cent charge (plus IVA) from OPP and the lawyers will keep any interest that has been awarded by the court.

Should the case be unsuccessful, then no costs are charged to the client.

OPP was formed at the beginning of 2016 and is about to be featured on Sky TV to explain the concept. If you want to find out more visit www.off-planpropertydepositrefunds.com or call Sheldon on 642 740 708.



SHELDON GROSSMITH: Could help recover off-plan deposits paid.

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7:00am Breakfast	7:30am Fugitives	8:00pm 100 Days As President	7:00am Countdown	8:35am Noddy: Toyland Detective
10:15am Holding Back the Years	8:15am Money for Nothing	<i>Trump takes office, Katty Kay in Washington and Christian Fraser in London report on the events that are shaping our world.</i>	7:45am King of Queens	8:50am Paw Patrol
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	9:00am Gardeners' World		8:10am King of Queens	9:05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
12:00pm Fugitives	9:30am Great British Railway Journeys		8:35am King of Queens	9:15am Digby Dragon
12:45pm Fake Britain	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire		9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:30am Peppa Pig
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	8:30pm Top of the Pops	9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:50am Wissper
2:00pm BBC News at One	1:00pm The Daily Politics	9:00pm Henry VIII: Patron or Plunderer?	10:05am Frasier	10:00am Toot the Tiny Tugboat
2:30pm BBC London News	2:00pm Two Tribes		10:35am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:45pm Doctors	2:30pm Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman		11:05am Undercover Boss USA	12:15pm To B&B the Best
3:15pm The Code	3:00pm The TV That Made Me	10:00pm The Golden Age of Steam Railways	12:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:45pm Who Do You Think You Are?	11:00pm Meet the Lords	1:05pm Vet on the Hill	1:15pm Police Interceptors
4:45pm Money for Nothing	4:45pm More Creatures	12:00am Natural World	2:05pm Posh Pawn	2:15pm Home and Away
5:30pm Flog It!	5:15pm Life Story	1:00am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues	3:10pm Countdown	2:45pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	2:00am Top of the Pops	4:00pm Fifteen to One	3:20pm NCIS
7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	2:35am From the Sea to the Land Beyond	5:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	4:15pm Fatal Fiancé
7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	3:50am Henry VIII: Patron or Plunderer?	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News at 5
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Great	4:50am This is BBC Four	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours
8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Stargazing Live	<i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away
9:00pm MasterChef	10:00pm The Last Kingdom		8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
10:00pm Galapagos	11:00pm Match of the Day		9:00pm Great British Buildings	8:00pm The Gadget Show
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight		10:00pm Three Wives, One Husband	9:00pm Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast
11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am Top Gear		11:00pm Eyewitness	10:00pm Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi
11:45pm Question Time			12:20am 24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story
12:45am This Week			1:20am Flashy Funerals	1:00am Super Casino
1:30am Weather for the Week Ahead				
1:35am BBC News				

FRIDAY - 31 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
10:15am Holding Back the Years	7:30am Fugitives	8:00pm World News Today	7:00am Countdown	9:15am Digby Dragon
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:15am Money for Nothing	8:30pm Top of the Pops	7:45am King of Queens	9:30am Peppa Pig
12:00pm Fugitives	9:00am Back to the Land with Kate Humble	<i>John Peel and David Jensen present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 7 July 1983. Featuring Roman Holiday, Freeez, The Cure, Funk Masters and Jimmy the Hoover.</i>	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:50am Wissper
12:45pm Fake Britain	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire		10:05am Frasier	10:00am Toot the Tiny Tugboat
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	9:00pm BBC Young Dancer 2017	10:35am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:00pm BBC News at One	1:00pm The Daily Politics	<i>The series continues with the ballet final as five more hopefuls compete for the category title at The Lowry in Salford.</i>	11:05am Undercover Boss USA	12:15pm To B&B the Best
2:30pm BBC London News	2:00pm Two Tribes		12:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
2:45pm Doctors	2:30pm Holiday of My Lifetime		1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:15pm The Gadget Show
3:15pm The Code	3:00pm The TV That Made Me	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	1:05pm Vet on the Hill	2:15pm Home and Away
4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:45pm Who Do You Think You Are?	7:00pm The Simpsons	2:05pm Posh Pawn	2:45pm Neighbours
4:45pm Money for Nothing	4:45pm More Creatures	7:30pm Hollyoaks	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS
5:30pm Flog It!	5:15pm Life Story	8:00pm Channel 4 News	4:00pm Fifteen to One	4:15pm Lost Letter Mysteries: From the Heart
6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	8:30pm Unreported World	5:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	5 News at 5
7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm Neighbours
7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	9:00pm Gogglebox	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	6:30pm Neighbours
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Great	10:00pm The Last Leg	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away
8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Continental Railway Journeys	10:00pm First Dates	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
9:00pm MasterChef	9:00pm Gardeners' World	11:00pm How'd You Get So Rich?	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm The Gadget Show
10:00pm Decline and Fall	9:30pm Only Connect	1:10am Battle: Los Angeles	8:30pm Unreported World	9:00pm Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	10:00pm The House That £100k Built		9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	10:00pm Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi
11:25pm BBC London News	11:00pm QI		10:00pm Gogglebox	10:00pm Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi
11:35pm Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	11:30pm Newsnight		11:00pm The Last Leg	11:00pm Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story
1:40am Weather for the Week Ahead	12:05am Robot Wars		12:10am First Dates	1:00am Super Casino
	2:40am Panorama		1:10am How'd You Get So Rich?	
			2:20am Top of the Pops	
			3:00am Top of the Pops	
			4:00am Top of the Pops	
			5:00am This is BBC Four	

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SATURDAY - 1 APRIL

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

Table of TV programs for Saturday, 1 April, listing times and titles for BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Four, Channel 4, and Channel 5.

SUNDAY - 2 APRIL

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

Table of TV programs for Sunday, 2 April, listing times and titles for BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Four, Channel 4, and Channel 5.

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky SPORTS 1

Table of TV programs for Saturday, 1 April, listing times and titles for ITV, ITV2, ITV3, ITV4, and Sky Sports 1.

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky SPORTS 1

Table of TV programs for Sunday, 2 April, listing times and titles for ITV, ITV2, ITV3, ITV4, and Sky Sports 1.

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Axarquía a place to relax

By John Smith

AXARQUIA takes its name from the Arabic 'Ash-sharquía,' which rather unoriginally means 'the eastern region' and is the smallest region in Andalucía, extending along the coast and inland to the east of Malaga.

This area generally enjoys a marvellous climate with many beaches, picturesque inland villages, mountains and rivers but development came quite recently compared to the rest of the Spanish coast and it is considered to be more peaceful and laid back than its neighbours.

Tourists enjoy driving along what is known as the 'Route of the Sun and Avocado' and enjoy the peaceful views of well-tended agricultural land

Although all parts are attractive and have their positive points, the main towns which attract the most visitors as well as purchasers of both retirement and holiday properties are in alphabetical order;

Almuñecar with its coastal suburb of La Herradura simply offers sun, sea and antiquity to the discerning visitor, but has one of the larger populations in the Axarquía region.

Frigiliana which is a typical white walled village at the base of a national park and close to the sea which was recently voted as one of the most beautiful towns in Spain and whilst not over-run with tourists welcomes foreign investment.

Nerja offers a combination of antiquity, architecture and beaches with its most popular attraction being the caves which contain paintings which



Caron Badkin Shutterstock

TORROX: A typical white town built on a steep slope.

are over 20,000 years old, prehistoric remains and some spectacular interiors. There are plenty of good restaurants, cafes and bars as well as 16 kilometres of sandy beaches.

Rincon de la Victoria, like Nerja offers a wide variety of places of interest, including more prehistoric caves, sandy beaches, good dining, golf and

Bezmiliana Castle. The town is famous for its locally caught anchovies (boquerones) which can be obtained at almost any beach restaurant or bar.

Torre del Mar is as the name suggests a pleasant seaside town which used to have many defensive towers and is today, one of the main holiday areas of Axarquía as well as being

the beach resort of Velez-Malaga, capital of the Axarquía region.

One of the resort's particular features is the esplanade which follows the coast to the Marina of Caleta de Velez that offers sailing and a variety of other watersports.

Torrox, like many other towns around Spain, divides

into two, with part sitting inland and part by the sea. Torrox village which is about four kilometres inland is a typical white town built on a steep slope, whilst Torrox Costa is a popular coastal strip, with a range of hotels and other accommodation.

Velez-Malaga the capital is the largest city in Axarquía and

Spectacular caves Nerja.

is just 50 kilometres from Malaga airport. The picturesque old town when ruled by the Moors, surrendered to an army of Ferdinand II of Aragon in 1487 and with its historic background, relatively compact size and small population, the city is becoming increasingly popular with foreign visitors.

There have been problems with buildings constructed without proper permission but this is very much a thing of the past.

There are very good lawyers in the area who have knowledge of English and local conditions so, any prudent purchaser would be sensible to ensure that they have professional help before committing to buy in this beautiful and tranquil area.



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BERLIN: Creative hub of the continent.

Changing of the guard

GERMANY is now Europe's biggest commercial property market. A 2016 gold rush saw international investors conduct almost €60 billion worth of real estate business with all of the major German cities playing a key role in the country's fortunes.

Berlin continued strengthening its reputation as the creative hub of the continent. Munich is seeing a hugely profitable local property market emerge. Frankfurt is poised to take over from London as the EU's financial nerve centre.

Indeed Frankfurt leased more than half a million square metres of commercial property last year, its busiest since before the crisis. Its spectacular growth has helped knock the UK from its perch and established Germany as the new top dog in European real estate.

Presidential palace



FLORIDA: Notorious for its opulent excess.

WHAT does the winter white house of the wealthiest president in history look like? Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida manages to be both shrouded in secrecy and notorious for its opulent excess.

The property covers a vast 20 acres, is valued above €185 million and even has its own private members club, with membership fees in the hundreds of thousands. There are 58 bedrooms, 33 bathrooms, a

ballroom, theatre, golf club, and even golden walls.

It's been dubbed the southern White House but the real rival in the glamour game isn't the actual white house, it's The Donald's old hideout, the penthouse suite at Trump Tower. His modest New York home has a diamond and gold door, ancient Greek statues, and even temple-stye pillars coated in fine gold.

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Price: €680,000



SUPER LUXURY FRONTLINE PENTHOUSE, TORROX COSTA

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Price: €850.000



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How can you assess your best route to transfer money to or from Spain?

With summer around the corner, brighten up your bank balance by getting more for your currency transfers. However you plan to spend your downtime over the next few months, from lazy days at the beach to exploring the Spanish coast, with the right support you can get more for your currency transfers. Here we offer our three top tips to maximise how much you have to spend on enjoying yourself.

1. Follow the latest currency news

One of the easiest ways to lose money on a currency transfer is to time it badly. Moving money to Spain when the exchange rate is weaker has a significant impact on how much you receive. But knowing if it's a good time to make a transfer can be difficult.

The currency market has a tendency to be as unpredictable as UK weather, but by following the latest news you can find out how the euro's faring against the pound and make an informed decision about when to send your money to Spain. Some international currency transfer specialists, like Currencies Direct, will send regular market updates straight to your inbox, making it easy to know exactly what the GBP/EUR exchange rate has been up to and how much your currency transfer is likely to be worth.

2. Look into your options

Taking a one-size-fits all approach to swimwear could have unfortunate results, and a lack of options can have a similar impact on currency transfers. However, some foreign exchange providers appreciate that everyone's transfer requirements are different and offer services which can be tailored to suit individual needs.

Whether you want to use a forward contract to lock-in an exchange rate for up to a year before making your transfer or would like to streamline regular currency transfers to Spain, looking into your options can offer you greater flexibility and save you time and money.

3. Benefit from expert insight

Getting the best return for your currency transfers is much easier when you've got the right support. When making currency transfers to Spain, the insight of dedicated currency experts can make a massive difference. With teams of multilingual currency pros in 13 branches across Spain, Currencies Direct take the time to understand the things that matter to you and make sure you benefit from reliable, money-saving currency transfers.

At Currencies Direct, we've helped over 150,000 customers save on their currency transfers since 1996. We're authorised by the FCA as an Electronic Money Institution under the Electronic Money Regulations 2011.

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Magic spreads

SPANISH property experts aren't at all worried about what the post-Brexit future holds for the booming marketplace. That's largely because Brits no longer make up such a big share of the foreign buyers falling in love with Spanish properties.

Estimates suggest that Brits seeking sun, sea and adventure made up a staggering 45 per cent of the foreigners snapping up homes in Spain. Today that figure may be as low as just 10 per cent. At the same time the total volume of foreign buyers continues to rise as Spain's magic spreads.

Scandinavians, Russian, Germans, French and Dutch make up the strong European contingent that favours Spain over a struggling Italy, bankrupt Greece and flailing France. Chinese money is pouring in and Americans have rekindled their enduring love affair with Madrid and Barcelona.

In fact, far from Brexit having any type of negative impact, the latest analysis suggests it may well have hugely beneficial repercussions for Spain. In the nine months since the vote the number of anxious Brits sensing this is their last chance to make a quick getaway has shot up.

Property portals and estate agents have reported an avalanche of interest which encompasses a much broader swathe of the British population than who normally consider Spain. Young families and adventurous young couples are looking at slick city apartments or rural DIY jobs.

And while the EU may seem like its on its last legs, Europe itself is considerably stronger property-wise than it was several years ago. Traditional rivals Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt are out of the picture thanks to terrorism and cultural issues, paving the way for Spain to emerge as the No1 Mediterranean destination.

With news of Spain's rebirth as a global property hotspot spreading like wildfire, Brexit will soon be a blip on the horizon.

Terrific start to 2017

EXCITING stats from the start of 2017 show that the Spanish property market has passed its early tests with flying colours. The latest data from the Association of Spanish Notaries points to an excellent 16.8 per cent increase on the number of homes sold in January.

A healthy 33,670 homes changed hands in the first month of the year. Property prices also rose by a robust 1.8 per cent as the market continued its strong finish to 2016.

Alternative stats from the Land Registry suggest an even higher increase in sales seen in January. Though the picture often changes slightly depending on which figures are used, the overall portrait is one of a market in a strong and confident position.

Spain's economy has continued to purr nicely, while foreign investment in residential and commercial real estate deepens and expands. Experts are optimistic that 2017 will be a tremendous year for both buyers

and sellers across the country.

Meanwhile, despite gloomy predictions from Downing Street and the Bank of England, British property prices have so far survived the tumultuous nine months after the Brexit vote. The average home in the UK now costs £218,255, just over a quarter of a million euros, following a 0.8 per cent increase in January.

PROPERTY MARKET:
Exciting statistics.



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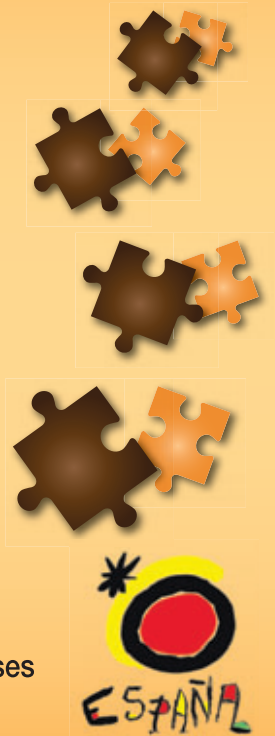
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Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson



MICROSOFT founder Bill Gates (with \$86 billion) again tops Forbes' list of the world's richest people with the number of billionaires increasing by 13 per cent. But bad news for Trump who dropped 220 places and \$1 billion, and must now rub along on just \$3.5 billion. Bless!

Many recoil at the very mention of such extreme wealth but forget that the world's top 10 richest people have actually done something to acquire it.

Gates was personally involved with writing the codes which evolved into the software that runs on so many of the world's computers and, compared with the likes of, say, Sir Philip Green, has also done something worthwhile with his billions, giving over \$40 billion to the Gates Foundation

which seeks cures for infectious diseases.

Together with the founders of Amazon, Facebook etc, Gates and co are all entrepreneurs who have created, mainly through their own drive and determination, substantial and reputable businesses serving millions of customers and employing thousands of staff.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the list would have been dominated by people who inherited their wealth across centuries, originally acquired by men who waged wars and unleashed other kinds of violence.

Doubtless, of course, there'll be tweets from Trump just how wrong Forbes' accounting of his wealth is. But how would we know whether this is true? Recently, we've had so much fake news, who knows what's truth, what's paid for or what's partisan nonsense. News flash: Trump denies existence of the moon.

White House spokesman supports Trump's claim. News update: disclaimer from chief spokesman for Trump's State Department of Alternative Truth: "This was a post-truth, alternative facts, fake news broadcast." (I made this up but you get the drift.)

And all this just weeks after front-page outrage and the nation left reeling in horror - forget Brexit, Mary Berry added white wine to a bolognese! - it's with a heavy heart that I report things could get even worse. What about when 'Trump the Musical!' opens on Broadway, with hits such as 'Ivanka Tell You Something,' 'Your Tiny Hand is Frozen,' and the show stopper, 'If You Knew Putin'...

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



BILL GATES: Has done something worthwhile with his billions.

Advertising feature

Vaping: the safe alternative

ARE you looking for a safer alternative to smoking? Whether you are hoping to stop completely or simply cut down, Vaping is a healthy way to start kicking the habit.

Restaurants, bars and cafes. It seems everywhere you go now people have taken up this safe and convenient craze.

Best still, Vaping has been given a clean bill of health by Cancer Research UK, who have confirmed it is much safer than smoking.

The respected charity has funded long-term research into the health benefits of Vaping. The study is the first to analyse saliva and urine from e-cigarette users. It found those who used e-cigarettes for six months, rather than smoking tobacco, had much lower levels of harmful and carcinogenic substances in their body.

Dr Lion Shahab, the publication's lead author and a senior lecturer at UCL's department of epidemiology and public health, said, "our study adds to existing evidence showing that e-cigarettes... are far safer than

smoking, and suggests that there is a very low risk associated with their long-term use."

He added, "while e-cigarettes are not only safer, the amount of nicotine they provide is not noticeably different to conventional cigarettes. This can help people to stop smoking altogether by dealing with their cravings in a safer way."

Vaper Nerja is a new e-cigarette shop in the heart of Nerja. Eduardo Maldonado, Vaper Nerja's owner, has already been selling Vaping equipment from his shop in El Ingenio, Velez-Malaga for several years. Such is the demand for this healthier concept, he has now expanded his company and offers his extensive range of products in Nerja.

Whether you are new to Vaping or have been doing it for years, Vapor Nerja has

the products to suit your needs - from starter kits for beginners to larger models with extended battery life.

So why not give Vaper Nerja a visit? Open from 10am until 2pm, Monday to Saturday and 5pm to 9pm, Monday to Friday, on Calle Diputacion 9, Nerja, 29780, their friendly service will help you find the perfect e-cigarette for your needs.

VAPING PRODUCTS: From starter kits to larger models.



LEGALLY SPEAKING

Wear your seatbelts

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



BELT UP: A seatbelt halves the risk of death in the event of an accident.

POLICE checks by the Guardia Civil, supported by colleagues from the National and Local Police, are increasing with officers paying particular attention to the wearing of seatbelts and correct child restraint systems.

Statistics show that using a seatbelt halves the risk of death in the event of an accident; a message repeated by countless authorities, experts and organisations around the world.

It is important to remember that children under 135cm in height, regardless of their age, must sit in the rear seats and be properly restrained in the appropriate child safety device.

The use of seatbelts and child restraints is compulsory for all occupants of a vehicle on any distance of route and on any road. The use of child restraint systems reduces injuries by up to 75 per cent in the event of a collision.

According to the DGT, road traffic incidents are the leading cause of death amongst children under the age of 14 and tragically, 40 per cent of those children who lost their lives wore no protection system.

In 2015, the last year of which completed data is registered, 22 per cent (159) of those who lost their lives in cars or vans on interurban roads were not wearing a seatbelt. On urban roads, the figure was 19 out of 70 of those killed. Many of those could be alive today if they had been wearing a seatbelt.

Using the seatbelt in the front seats protects the occupants from getting thrown from the vehicle or impacting the dashboard. Using the seatbelt in the rear seats prevents the occupant impacting with the seat in front and causing further injury to other vehicle occupants.

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

Do they pay wealth tax?

Q. My husband and I have two apartments on the Costa Blanca. In the current market, they are probably worth about €250,000 for both. We have owned them since 2002, but have never rented them. We are non-residents. Our solicitor here started taking Spanish wealth tax again in 2014 and we are now paying from

€111 to €140 per person per apartment. This is four declarations because we each own half of the properties. Her invoice for this is around €500. I have read that you need assets of €700,000 to pay this tax and no one else here seems to pay it. I would appreciate your advice.

LP (Costa Blanca)

A. Until changes in 2014, non-residents did not have the exemption on the first €700,000 and had to pay Spanish wealth tax from the first euro of valuation. Now they share

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



in the exemption, in the same way as residents, so

you should not have to pay wealth tax. Make sure you are not confusing non-resident property owners imputed income tax, declared on Form 210, with Wealth Tax, declared on Form 714.

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

What is reaching out?

Mike Senker

In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

THE conversation with my American mate starts, "You will never guess who reached out to me the other day?" "What?" "You will never guess who reached out," he repeats. "I dunno, a baby wanting a cuddle?"

He then tells me an old friend of ours sent him an email. Great, but what's with this 'reaching out' nonsense? Just say so and so emailed me. Why is it necessary to use these ridiculous new sayings and who invents them? The only reference to it I can remember is when the Four Tops sang 'Reach Out and I'll be there.' I've decided to put it at the top of my 'stupid sayings list' replacing some nonsense about 'windows of opportunity.'

Dr S, my daughter, is trying to buy her first house and at a price that makes my eyes water. My first house was about four grand and I had a mortgage of £59 a month and I was always struggling to pay it. It was sold to me by an estate agent who was also a valuer and surveyor. He was so proper that he could even sign my passport! He was helpful and would answer all my questions.

I could go and view the property as many times as needed because I was making a

commitment to spend, what was then, a lot of money. So jump forward to now renting a room, not a house, in London which can cost you a £1,000 a month easily.

What makes me really angry now is the attitude of these snotty nosed salesmen that call themselves estate agents. Dr S is saying to me that she has just had a survey done and apart from the little bits of damp that need doing, the surveyor has said it's about £10k overpriced. She wants to go and see it again with her boyfriend and the agent is saying he will see what he can do. Have I missed something? They are making the biggest single purchase that they have ever made.

They are committing themselves to a monthly payment for the next 25 years or so and this geezer is saying he will see what he can do! If that was me I would do anything to try and make the sale happen. Yes, they have agreed to buy it, but the service shouldn't just be one sided to the seller. The buyer has to be looked after too rather than 'I'll see what I can do.' How about, 'certainly you can, when's a good time for you?'

Terrible things to hear on a Sunday. I haven't done roast potatoes, I forgot to buy bacon, it's Monday tomorrow. The doorbell! No Donny Trump this week, although I have loads to say.

Maybe Leapy and I should do a joint article. Email me at mikesenker@gmail.com.



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MONDAY - 3 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
4:45pm Money for Nothing	3:45pm More Creatures Great and Small	8:00pm 100 Days	2:05pm Posh Pawn	1:10pm 5 News
5:30pm Flog It!	4:15pm France	8:30pm The Beauty of Anatomy	3:10pm Countdown	1:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
6:15pm Pointless	5:15pm Life Story	9:00pm Yellowstone	4:00pm Fifteen to One	2:15pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	10:00pm Roof Racks and Hatchbacks: The Family Car	5:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	2:45pm Neighbours
7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Eggheads	11:00pm The Queen Mary: Greatest Ocean Liner	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	3:20pm NCIS
8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm The Repair Shop	12:00am Oceans	7:00pm The Simpsons	4:20pm Nightmare Nurse
8:30pm Fake Britain	8:00pm Top Gear	1:00am Chef v Science: The Ultimate Kitchen Challenge	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:00pm 5 News
9:00pm EastEnders	9:00pm University Challenge	2:30am Jonathan Meades: The Joy of Essex	8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:30pm Neighbours
9:30pm Panorama	9:30pm Mary Berry Everyday	3:30am The Joy of Essex	9:00pm Dispatches	7:00pm Home and Away
10:00pm Child of Our Time	10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	11:00pm The Ultimate	9:30pm Travel Man	7:30pm 5 News
11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Cradle to Grave	11:00pm How'd You Get So Rich?	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	8:00pm Lost at Sea: Air France 447
11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:50pm Britain's Benefit Tenants	11:00pm Going Underground	9:00pm Police Interceptors
11:40pm Weather	12:10am Weather	12:50am Three Wives, One Husband	11:00pm All New Traffic Cops	10:00pm Conan the Barbarian
11:45pm All Round to Mrs Brown's		1:50am Tattoo Fixers		
12:45am Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You				

TUESDAY - 4 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:45pm More Creatures Great and Small	8:30pm The Beauty of Anatomy	2:05pm Posh Pawn	1:10pm 5 News
4:45pm Money for Nothing	4:15pm Kate Humble: Into the Volcano	9:00pm 1066: A Year to Conquer England	3:10pm Countdown	1:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5:30pm Flog It!	5:15pm Attenborough's Birds of Paradise	10:00pm How to be a Surrealist with Philippa Perry	4:00pm Fifteen to One	2:15pm Home and Away
6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	11:00pm The Secret	5:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	2:45pm Neighbours
7:00pm BBC News	7:00pm Eggheads	11:30pm The Secret: Desmond Morris Documentary	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	3:20pm NCIS
7:30pm Regional News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	12:00am Un Chien Andalou	7:00pm The Simpsons	4:20pm Nightmare Nurse
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Great American Railroad Journeys	12:00am One Born Every Minute	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:00pm 5 News
8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Bake Off Crème de la Crème	11:00pm Assorted Q	8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:30pm Neighbours
9:00pm Holby City	10:00pm American Justice	11:00pm Catastrophe	9:00pm Dispatches	7:00pm Home and Away
10:00pm Child of Our Time	11:00pm Inside No 9	11:40pm This is Us	9:30pm Travel Man	7:30pm 5 News
11:00pm BBC News	11:30pm Newsnight	12:05am 19 Kids and Counting	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	8:00pm Lost at Sea: Air France 447
11:30pm Regional News	12:10am Weather		11:00pm Going Underground	9:00pm Police Interceptors
11:40pm Weather	12:15am Turkey with Simon Reeve		11:00pm All New Traffic Cops	10:00pm Conan the Barbarian
11:45pm The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2017				
12:30am Galapagos				

WEDNESDAY - 5 APRIL

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	1:00pm Conversations	8:30pm The Beauty of Anatomy	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:45pm Fake Britain	1:45pm Two Tribes	9:00pm Lost Land of the Volcano	9:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	2:15pm Holiday of My Lifetime	10:00pm Documentary series combining remarkable wildlife discoveries with high action adventure.	10:05am Frasier	1:10pm 5 News
2:00pm BBC News	2:45pm Who Do You Think You Are?	11:00pm The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves	10:35am Frasier	1:15pm The Gadget Show
2:30pm Regional News	3:45pm More Creatures Great and Small	11:00pm Exposed	11:05am Undercover Boss USA	2:15pm Home and Away
2:45pm Doctors	4:15pm Kate Humble: Into the Volcano	12:00pm Magicians	12:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	2:45pm Neighbours
3:15pm The Code	5:15pm David	12:20am Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs	1:00pm Vet on the Hill	3:15pm NCIS
4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:15pm Attenborough's Rise of Animals: Triumph of the Vertebrates	1:00am Who Were the Greeks?	1:05pm Posh Pawn	4:15pm Abducted: The Carolina White Story
4:45pm Money for Nothing	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	2:00am 1066: A Year to Conquer England	2:05pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News
5:30pm Flog It!	7:00pm The Repair Shop	3:20am The Art of Gothic: Britain's Midnight Hour	3:10pm Fifteen to One	6:30pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm The Great American Railroad Journeys		4:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	7:00pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Eggheads		5:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	8:00pm Revealed
7:30pm Regional News	7:30pm The Repair Shop		6:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Top Gear		7:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9:00pm MasterChef	9:00pm Me and My Dog		7:30pm Hollyoaks	11:00pm One Night with My Ex
10:00pm Benefits (w/t)	10:00pm Second Chance Summer: Tuscany		8:00pm Channel 4 News	12:05am Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World
11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Jack Dee's Helpdesk: 1st World Problems		9:00pm Location, Location, Location	1:05am All New Traffic Cops
11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight		10:00pm Marilyn Monroe	2:00am Super Casino
11:40pm Weather			11:00pm Meet the Trumps: From Immigrant to President	4:10am Law and Order: Criminal Intent
11:45pm Match of the Day				
1:25am Weather for the Week Ahead				
1:30am BBC News				

The schedules for the television programme pages are provided by an external company: we regret that any changes or errors are not the responsibility of Euro Weekly News.

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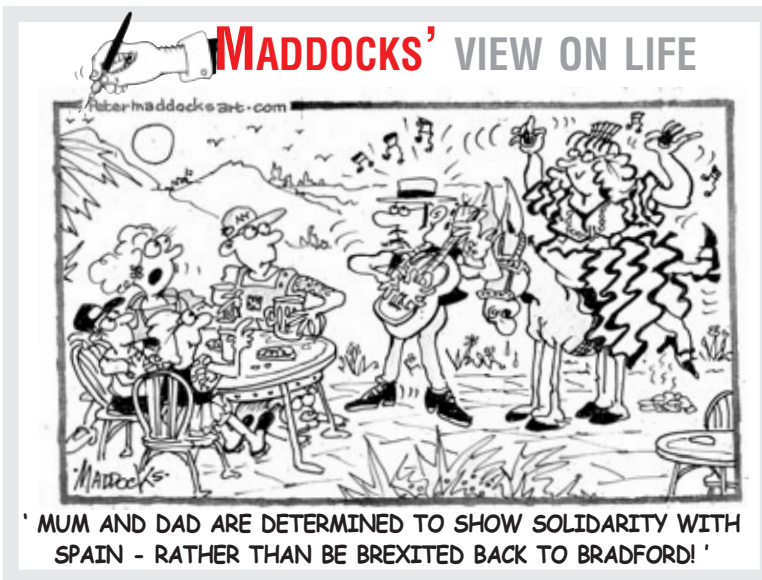
Kakuro

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.

	8	32		32	8
14			10		
17			18		
20					13
	20				
24	8				
8			6		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

9	10		10	14
3	6		5	2
6	4	2	3	5
14	10	6	2	7
3	2	5	11	8
6	7	8	2	3
5	1		9	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 N) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

- Average: 8 • Good: 11
- Very good: 16 • Excellent: 21

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

cart cert kart rata rate rete tack taka take
tare teak tear tree trek carat caret carte
cater crate eater erect karat rater react
recta taker terce terra trace track aerate
crater create errata karate racket retake
tacker tearer tracer caterer retrace
teacake terrace tracker CARETAKER

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday March 25

39	48	52	BONUS BALL
53	54	58	28

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday March 25

1	4	6	BONUS BALL
16	18	27	28

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 21

1	20	23	BONUS BALL
44	47		11

Friday March 24

2	17	21	BONUS BALL
27	34		9

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday March 25

7	11	35	BONUS BALL
36	37	40	7

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday March 26

28	32	35	BONUS BALL
39	41		3

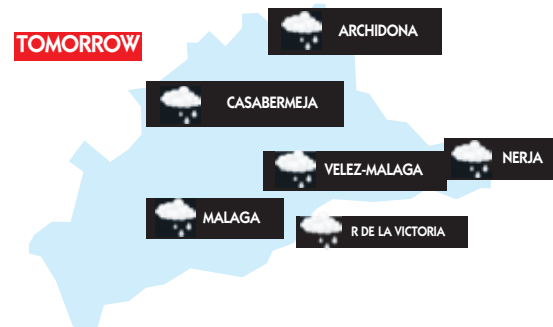
Axarquía

weather

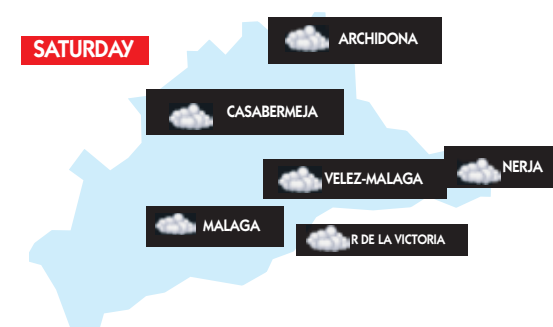
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 11 - CL

Fri - 21	13	C
Sat - 22	12	Cl
Sun - 21	11	S
Mon - 20	11	Cl
Tues - 20	11	Cl
Wed - 21	11	Cl

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 25, MIN 12 - C

Fri - 19	9	Sh
Sat - 15	8	Sh
Sun - 16	7	Sh
Mon - 19	8	Cl
Tues - 18	8	Sh
Wed - 18	8	C

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 13 - C

Fri - 21	13	C
Sat - 22	13	C
Sun - 22	13	S
Mon - 23	13	Cl
Tues - 23	13	S
Wed - 22	13	S

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 7 - C

Fri - 19	5	C
Sat - 18	4	Cl
Sun - 21	4	S
Mon - 22	6	S
Tues - 22	6	S
Wed - 21	6	S

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 8 - S

Fri - 17	9	C
Sat - 15	8	Sh
Sun - 17	8	Sh
Mon - 19	10	S
Tues - 19	10	S
Wed - 19	9	S

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10 - CL

Fri - 23	13	Cl
Sat - 23	12	Cl
Sun - 23	12	S
Mon - 22	12	S
Tues - 22	13	S
Wed - 21	11	S

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 11 - C

Fri - 21	13	Cl
Sat - 21	12	Cl
Sun - 20	12	S
Mon - 19	11	S
Tues - 20	12	C
Wed - 20	11	S

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 20 MIN 8 - S

Fri - 21	9	Cl
Sat - 19	9	Sh
Sun - 19	9	Cl
Mon - 20	8	Cl
Tues - 21	9	Cl
Wed - 21	9	C

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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Crossword

page

Enjoy filling in the following puzzles and check the answers in next week's edition

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

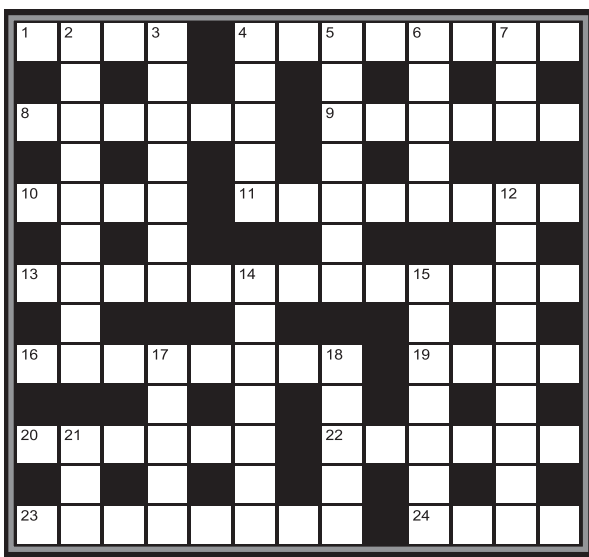
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Small label for men only do (4)
- 4 Contrary for every stanza (8)
- 8 Heard a singer's note (6)
- 9 Building detail is closely followed (6)
- 10 Put up with a large carnivore (4)
- 11 Con isn't worried receiving a boycott (8)
- 12 Variety no longer lists famous rock group (7,6)
- 16 Admires spectres at sea (8)
- 19 Swat up on part of Sacramento (4)
- 20 Borsht is cooked pulses (6)
- 22 Fungus spoils a cigar (6)
- 23 Britain always has time for a cuppa (8)
- 24 It's unpleasantly damp hiding in old Ankara (4)

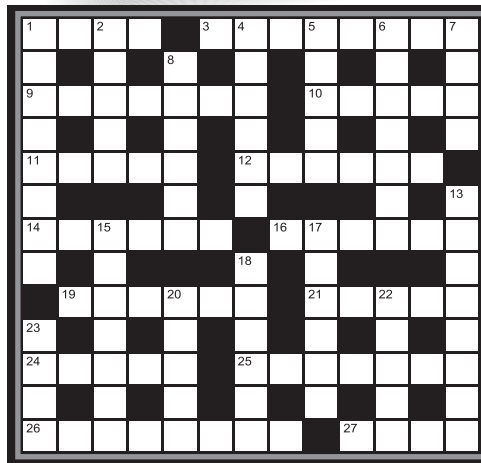
Down

- 2 Consequently the umpire gets money from Scandinavia (9)
- 3 Nonspecific military rank (7)
- 4 Studies intensely the tiny holes (5)
- 5 Grades given to sailors (7)
- 6 Order some draught cider in retrospect (5)
- 7 She can prosecute (3)
- 12 Change to open-air function (9)



- 14 Capital I put into new casino (7)
- 15 Old church with tough fruit-trees (7)
- 17 Likely to be in favour of the northeast (5)
- 18 Heads turn in the gloom (5)
- 21 First hold out every tool (3)

Quick



Across

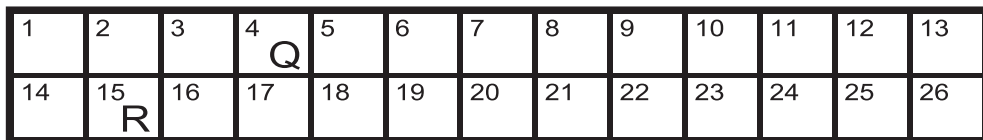
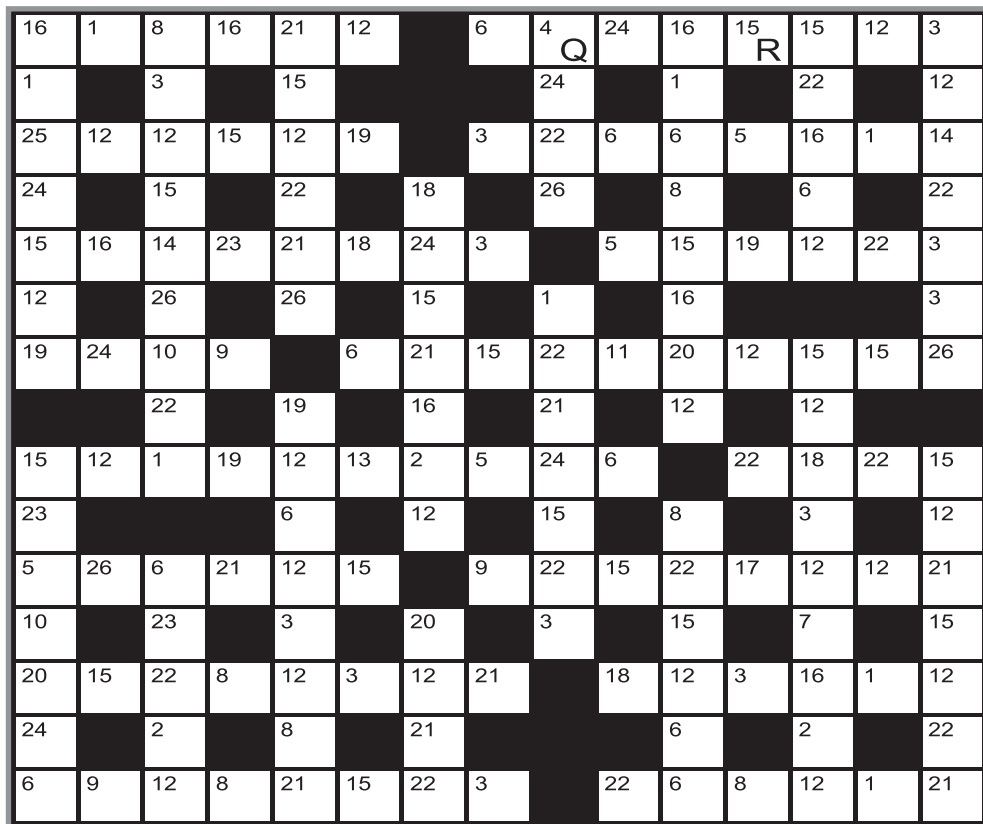
- 1 Horrifying beast (4)
- 3 Move hurriedly (8)
- 9 Give details (7)
- 10 Shares (5)
- 11 Cut by 50 per cent (5)
- 12 State of commotion and noise and confusion (6)
- 14 Confesses to (6)
- 16 Armed engagement (6)
- 19 Car repair shop (6)
- 21 Low in stature (5)
- 24 Common viper (5)
- 25 Sure, confident (7)
- 26 Necromancer (8)
- 27 Come upon, as if by accident (4)

Down

- 1 Located or originating from above (8)
- 2 Force or drive back (5)
- 4 Be in agreement (6)
- 5 Make different (5)
- 6 Brazenly obvious (7)
- 7 Posing no difficulty (4)
- 8 Natural ability or quality (6)
- 13 Fated (8)
- 15 Wander aimlessly (7)
- 17 Senseless or meaningless (8)
- 18 Free from harm or evil (6)
- 20 Be in accord (5)
- 22 Giraffe-like African animal (5)
- 23 Officially disallows (4)

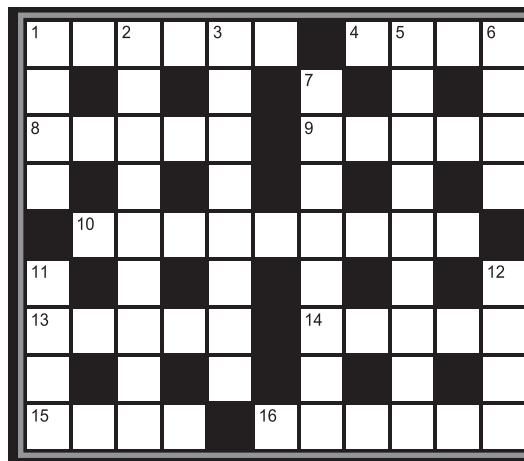
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents [letter] and 15 represents R, so fill in [letter] every time the figure 4 appears and R every time the figure 15 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 Cercano (6)
- 4 Polvo (en el aire) (4)
- 8 Sobrina (5)
- 9 Envelope (5)
- 10 Bibliotecas (9)
- 13 Nail (metal) (5)
- 14 Bag (paper, plastic) (5)
- 15 Oriente (4)
- 16 Patatas fritas (de bolsa) (6)

Down

- 1 Ninguno (4)
- 2 Estadounidenses (9)
- 3 Remolacha (8)
- 5 Paraguas (pl) (9)
- 6 Dedos del pie (4)
- 7 To write (8)
- 11 Dolor (4)
- 12 Country (nation) (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 7 Facile, 8 Elixir, 9 Case, 10 Streamer, 11 Farrier, 13 Laden, 15 Armed, 17 Sub zero, 20 Trespass, 21 Aida, 23 Galore, 24 Enough.

Down:

- 1 Gala, 2 Linear, 3 Feasted, 4 Beard, 5 Tirana, 6 Life peer, 12 Agrarian, 14 Pursued, 16 Euston, 18 Zealot, 19 Label, 22 Doge.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Surplus, 5 Orate, 8 Bonus, 9 Retract, 10 Even, 11 Saboteur, 13 Turban, 15 Walrus, 18 Consider, 19 Keen, 22 Avarice, 23 Unite, 24 Poker, 25 Squeeze.

Down:

- 1 Subject, 2 Range, 3 Lush, 4 Spread, 5 Optional, 6 Amateur, 7 Enter, 12 Familiar, 14 Ransack, 16 Sincere, 17 Recess, 18 Clamp, 20 Elite, 21 Guru.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Sweets, 4 Odio, 8 Anger, 9 Aisle, 10 Encontrar, 13 Heels, 14 Siglo, 15 Wash, 16 Jarras.

Down:

- 1 Swan, 2 Engineers, 3 Tortoise, 5 Descargar, 6 Obey, 7 Fantasma, 11 Chew, 12 Dogs.

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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

An expensive parking mistake

THIS is a warning to all visitors and tourists of Mijas Pueblo to avoid getting a €200 parking ticket.

The popular tourist attraction TUK TUK tours has a reserved area in Mijas Pueblo where they start tours from and park their Tuk Tuks from morning till around 5-6pm every day.

The area is marked by a sign, 'reserved till 8pm' however the employees of the company that conducts the tours advise visitors that they are allowed to park in the area reserved for them as long as they do not need the space for example after 6pm.

Trusting that you get proper information from such people with knowledge will cost you dearly.

If you park there even for 10

minutes after the Tuk Tuks cease daily operation, you may get a parking ticket for €200 which is what happened to me and two other cars on March 21 at 6pm.

I was told by the Tuk Tuk ladies that I can park there with no problem but this information is false and can be an extremely costly experience; probably the most expensive parking ticket in the world given out by the Mijas Local Police.

Zenna A Buchbinder, Mijas

Ask Leapy

I NOTICE Donald Trump never provides evidence for his outrageous allegations. He just makes things up.

Does this remind you of anyone? Leapy Lee, for instance?

After the paranoid lunatic in the White House issued crazy tweets saying Obama wire tapped him, his equally mad minion, Sean Spicer, said Obama got Britain's GCHQ to do it, stating: "He didn't use the NSA, he didn't use the CIA, he didn't use the FBI, and he didn't use the Department of Justice, he used GCHQ."

How on Earth? And where's the evidence?

There is none of course as shown by GCHQ's unprecedented statement: "Recent allegations about GCHQ being asked to conduct wiretapping against the then president-elect are nonsense. They are utterly ridiculous and should

be ignored."

It then took further intervention from Number 10 before the current White House mafia decided to say they won't repeat the allegations.

Well somebody should tell them, once something is said, it cannot be unsaid.

Are you listening Leapy?

Brian Eagleson, Mojacar

Brexit view

I AM disappointed you were unable to print my letter about Brexit but very pleased it obviously inspired you to write a more positive Our View leader on page six today. An example to others in your industry. Thank you.

John Price, Javea

COMMENTS from EWN Online

» Go Leapy!

WELL said Leapy. You 'hit the nail on the head' again.

Roy Peters

» Football brawl

PARENTS showing by 'example' what 'good sportsmanship' looks like...was alcohol involved, or simply a lack of self control or both?

Dylan Machado

» EU celebrates birthday

THERE'S nothing to celebrate! Absolutely nothing.

Carsten Thorvald

WHAT like no war in 70 years within the Union? The longest time in a history I believe. That in itself is worth celebrating. Seems to me a case of 'What did the Romans do for us?'

Barbara Jago

» Manipulation of water and electric costs

MOST people who own a property in Costa Blanca have most likely been offered to cut their electric bill in half after talking to someone they know (often a neighbour). Pricing was from €200 to €500.

I know many who said yes, so I don't think there are so many innocent homeowners as this article claims. But they are all being caught now, with the new meters being installed, and that is of course not a pleasant situation.

However the reality is that the ones of us who turned down the dramatic cut in electricity bills are the ones who paid for these fraudsters. They should pay their €3,000 fine and be very happy they get away with this without spending time in jail.

Of course there are a few innocent ones, but the majority was very aware of what they did. So let them pay!

John B

ACTUALLY John I totally disagree. This happened to me when my meter fell off its support and could not be read.

I received an extremely high bill, totally out of context from any other previous bill I had had, so Endesa came and changed the meter to a digital one while I was at work. Then I received notification of manipulation although I did not have access to the meter.

My argument was why would I manipulate a meter if all the readings for years had been similar! It is a fraud by the companies.

Wrong John

» Dog fighting

SHOULDN'T be a picture of the poor dogs it should be pictures of those arrested!!! Horrible individuals, hope they get what they deserve...

Paul Nicol

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

I'm curious?

“ THE dreadful event at the Palace of Westminster London March 22 numbed Britain.

The brave hearts on the front line deserve royal accolades and quite rightly one should express their sincere condolences and sympathies to all the people affected by the action of a crazed terrorist.

However, at the very height of the Palace of Westminster boundary fence fracas it was allegedly reported that the prime minister, debating in the House of Commons, was immediately taken out of the chamber, bundled into the boot of a car or back seat, then with high speed sped out of the House of Commons gate to the nearby 10 Downing Street, leaving MPs, Lords and employees 'locked down in the building' and the dead and

wounded in the streets nearby.

The following day, the prime minister was back in the House of Commons addressing the chamber of MPs and British public and stated and I quote, "we must be brave and resolute and steadfast."

I have always believed that when a ship is in serious trouble and 'abandon ship' is announced, the captain is always last to leave the ship.

Now I'm curious as no matter who is prime minister, they are dispensable so was the actions and later statements of the prime minister on this very sad day, hypercritical, stalwart or cowardly? I would welcome reader's comments please.

JA McDougall, Casares



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Strength and determination for recovery

ELEVEN months after a car accident completely sliced off her arm, a woman from America is finally able to use it once more after it was reattached in ground-breaking surgery.

The woman from Texas was driving home in April 2016 when her vehicle rolled off an exit ramp and a metal guardrail crashed through the passenger window slicing off her right arm above her elbow.

Doctors initially thought little could be done but seeing it was a clean cut, managed to reattach it. It was the first time this type of operation had been carried out at the San Antonio Military Medical Centre (SAMMC) in Texas and the procedure has been done fewer than 10 times across the USA.

Over the last 11 months, the woman has required numerous surgeries, procedures and rehabilitations but is now said to be recovering well, having a good use of her arm, even able to do push ups.

Doctors praised her strength and determination and hope the medical breakthrough will mean more reattachments can be carried out in the future.

Ask The

Doctor

Brought to you by



Dealing with bites



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

WITH recent wet weather and the onset of the summer months, mosquitoes are now starting to buzz about and cause a nuisance.

For many people, a bite from one of these bugs can go unnoticed, but for others it can become a serious problem.

There are a variety of reactions mosquito bites may cause, varying from a small amount of redness, swelling and itchiness, all the way up to those who experience a full blown allergic reaction.

Why do I seem to attract so many mosquitoes?

Research is not conclusive on this issue, but there is evidence that mosquitoes do tend to prefer certain victims over others. People with type O blood seem to be more susceptible to being bitten.

Also, because mosquitoes are attracted to heat, wearing dark clothing could make you a more likely target.

Why do I swell up when bitten?

Chemicals found in mosquito saliva prevent blood from clotting, spurring your immune system into action. The body detects the presence of the saliva and begins to produce a substance called histamine to fight it. When this reaches the bite, it causes the surrounding bloody vessels to swell as it tries to heal the bite.

How can I treat a bite?

In the case of a normal reaction, a topical treatment can cool the itch of the bite, whilst an antihistamine tablet can help to soothe the swelling. Avoid scratching the bite as this can create openings in your skin that allow bacteria in.

Can mosquito bites be dangerous?

Mosquito bites can become a serious matter. In some countries, mosquitoes can carry and transmit viruses and deadly diseases like the West Nile Virus and Malaria. Recent years have seen the rise of the Asian Tiger mosquito here in Spain, a species which can carry more than 20 exotic diseases.

Can I avoid being bitten in the first place?

Although it may seem impossible to avoid them, there are steps you can take to reduce the chance of being bitten. Peak time for mosquito activity is between dusk and dawn, so if you are outside make sure you spray yourself with an insect repellent containing DEET and cover up as much as possible.

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

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WE DON'T WORK 9 - 5

WE WORK START TILL FINISH

It's all fun and games

By Sally Underwood

MOTRIL'S Department for Young people is putting on a weekend crammed full of fun activities for children.

Mr Morales stated he aims to get more children involved this year so "that they are an active part in Motril's society, and encourage others to participate in the multitude of initiatives put on for their age group".

On Friday March 31, the Youth Centre will host its seventh edition of murder mys-



YOUTH CENTRE: Will host a murder mystery game.

tery game, 'Murder in the Americas' from 7.30pm, which involves mystery, ex-

citement, and multiple clues.

On Saturday, the Nave de los Arcos will host a day of

activities and board games from 11am. The following Saturday, April 1, sees children taken to FicZone 2017.

Mr Morales commented, "we have already filled all places for this trip. Young people are involved in the initiative because they are interested in learning alternative forms of entertainment, popular culture, the world of American comics, European, Japanese manga, video games and animation. They will have a magnificent day sharing their hobbies."

New museum opens doors

A NEW museum has opened in Velez-Málaga, known as the Muvel, and it is located on Plaza de San Juan de Dios.

The Muvel will host exhibits celebrating Velez-Málaga's culture and history. The city's councillor for Culture, Cynthia Garcia, explained, "the Muvel is a space that values the legacy of Velez-Málaga, as well as the different experiences our city has lived through, and which will help to energise our historic centre, create jobs and attract visitors to our city who perhaps come for the sun and beach."

Ms Garcia added Velez-Málaga already enjoys other cultural spaces such as the Centre for Contemporary Art, the Cervantes Room and the Holy Week Museum.



THE MUVEL: Exhibits will celebrate Velez-Málaga's culture and history.

Confirmed line-up for weekend beach festival

TORRE DEL MAR'S 2017 weekend beach festival has confirmed its line-up with additional performances by Rosendo, LA, Matthias Tanzmann and The Royal Room, added to existing acts such as The Prodigy. The festivals' organisers have promised a few extra surprises for those attending, however.

The festival, which takes place on Torre del Mar's beach, has been running every year since 2014 and sees tens of thousands of music-lovers camping out next to the sea.

The event attracts both national and international acts and plays host to rock, pop, metal, fusion, reggae and hip hop music.

This year's budget has been increased, which has allowed infrastructure improvements to be made, while keeping ticket prices low. The event runs from July 5-8 and tickets can be bought at www.weekendbeach.es.

Get crafty

AROUND 20 Almuñecar artisans and artists will meet this weekend in Parque Majuelo to celebrate the European Weekend of Crafts.

The event will host several craft workshops on Saturday and Sunday. Among these will be making artisan soap, by Encarna Manzano, basket weaving by Miguel Castillo and macrame by María Lucena on Sunday.

On Saturday afternoon there will be chocolate fritter tasting and face painting.

It will be open on Friday from 5-9pm, Saturday 10.30am-9pm and Sunday 10.30am to 3 pm.

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GOOD WINE AND
GOOD FRIENDS
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FOLLOWING MY ARTICLE in last week's column about EU staff in Britain, the investors, on which the UK hospitality industry relies, have spoken of their concerns in the event of a hard Brexit.

"There is still confidence and demand in the UK for hospitality investment - but its reputation as a 'safe haven' for investors could be under threat."

That was the message of a recent discussion panel 'Post-Brexit British market opportunities' at the International Hotel Investment Forum (IHIF) in Berlin. "There are clouds over the UK in terms of its safe haven status for us as investors," said Martin Bruehl, chief investment officer at Union Investment Real Estate.

"We are continuing to invest in the UK but it's getting more challenging for us to underwrite," he said, adding that his company is being more cautious about UK investment.

Keith Evans, vice-president

- hotel acquisitions at Starwood Capital Group, agreed, and said that a lot of domestic investors in the UK had either put their transactions on pause around Brexit or were looking at smaller transactions.

However, he also said that he felt there are still good growth opportunities in both London and the regions. "We are believers in the UK," he said, adding that although the uncertainty surrounding Brexit had made large investment decisions more complicated, Starwood is focusing on "driving its assets forward" in the UK.

British Hospitality Association chief executive Ufi Ibrahim addressed the uncertainties in terms of worker concerns - she quoted statistics that there are approximately 700,000 EU workers in hospitality in the UK, 97,000 of which would be unable to stay under proposed immigration restrictions. She said that the industry could be looking to replace 50-75,000 people every year "just to stand still," and described immigration policy as "the single biggest threat to our business in the UK" and reiterated the association's call for a cut on VAT.

DURING MY TIME IN BRISTOL many years ago, a fledgling street artist, whose work suddenly started to appear on buildings throughout the city, went under the name of Banksy who till this day has managed to stay anonymous. It would appear that he has never been seen, but I am sure his mother and bank manager know who he is!! His artwork is in demand even though at one stage his work was cleaned off walls and buildings. Now, some of his work fetches more than 1.5 million euros. As protected art the city council are now unable to clean off his work or knock down the walls on which his art appears.

He has now turned his incredible talent into the interior design of the wonderfully named Walledoff Hotel in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Situated adjacent to the Israeli West Bank wall, which divides Palestine from Israel, one room allows guests to sleep underneath one of his artworks showing a Palestinian and an Israeli in a pillow fight. Artists Banksy, Sami Musa and Dominique Petrin have customised guest rooms, with more to follow.

The hotel also houses a gallery dedicated to art created in Palestine and the Diaspora (*), a piano bar, and a museum



I hope whoever owned the bin on which banksy did this piece of art never cleaned it off unknowingly !

which tells the story of the wall. A 'budget' room, outfitted with surplus items

“

The difference between being a good cook and a good chef is as big as the difference between playing Texas Hold 'em in your pyjamas and holding a chair at the World Series of Poker.”

Gabrielle Hamilton

from Israeli military barracks, is available from 30€ a night.

Wisam Salsaa, the owner of the hotel, said the establishment, which officially opened on 11 March 2017, will be operated by the local community, the hotel staff did not know about the artist's involvement until the opening.

The hotel is aiming to remain open during 2017 - the centenary anniversary of the Balfour declaration, when Britain pledged to support the establishment of a 'national home' for Jewish people in Palestine.

Banksy's website says of the hotel: "The aim is to tell the story of the wall from every side and give visitors the opportunity to discover it for themselves."

Needless to say that the hotel restaurant has its own Walledoff salad!! Well it would wouldn't it?

**(The term Diaspora comes from an ancient Greek word meaning 'to scatter about.' And that's exactly what the people of a Diaspora do - they scatter from their homeland to places across the globe, spreading their culture as they go. The Bible refers to the Diaspora of Jews exiled from Israel by the Babylonians.)*

IN OUR WINE CORNER THIS WEEK, I am focusing on the Priorat, one of my favourite areas and the wine featured is Terroir al Limit Les Manyes 2014.

In 2004 Eben Sadie (a winemaker from South Africa) and Dominik Hubre started a new project in the trendy Catalan wine region of Priorat, called Terroir al Limit. They prospected the region for great old vines to work with, and then began taking a very un-Spanish approach in the cellar, avoiding small oak barrels and instead opting for inert tanks and larger foudres (*). The wines are made in quite a natural way, and the vineyards are managed biodynamically.

Eben is now so busy he's not involved in any practical way with the project, so it's now Dominik's baby (although Eben remains a significant shareholder). These wines are stunning: so fresh and expressive, and are a unique expression of this dramatic region, whose wines are so often blighted by new oak and over-ripeness. Alas, they are fiendishly expensive with the village level wines at 25€, the mid-range 45€, and the last two top wines are 140€ a bottle (prices are approx and depending



TERROIR AL LIMIT: Made in quite a natural way.

soils. It distills all the Mediterranean herbs and flowers, the essence of ripe red cherries and wild strawberries with some chalky minerality in a nose and palate that is close to perfection.

So fine, supple and elegant with a lovely purity, but it has real mineral power with good acidity and fine structure. There were only 1,008 bottles produced.'

**(A Foudre is a generic French term for a large wooden vat between 20-120 hectolitres in size (hectolitre = 100 litres). These large oak barrels vary enormously in size but are significantly larger than the normal oak barrels.)*

where you buy).

Tasting notes reveal, 'that in many wineries in Priorat, 2013 is clearly better than 2014, but it's not that clear in the case here, and you have to take it wine by wine. In the case of this Les Manyes, the 2014 was the big surprise, with a combination of depth, perfume, subtleness and power difficult to achieve.

The clay and chalky soils provide for an extraordinary texture of tannins, a lot less coarse than those from slate

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES these days are besotted with teaching/featuring people who can't cook and then training them up to prepare a 'Michelin' star standard meal for their unsuspecting family and friends - or 'celebrities' who are novices too and put them in competition with each other, then select a winner who suddenly opens a restaurant or does the TV circuit as a 'guest celebrity' 'celebrity' chef!!!

Don't get me wrong anything that gets people interested in food and getting them to discover new abilities I am all for. But it does sort of imply that great chefs (and even not so great chefs) have worked for years to perfect their craft, but actually you can turn it all out after a week or so of training!! But the funny thing about these programmes is that they are often presented or involve the same chefs that have been on this long and arduous journey to hone their skills only to appear to impart their knowledge to a housewife in less time that it takes to make a perfect soufflé!

Gordon Ramsay and Marco Pierre White come to mind in Hell's Kitchen and everyone from Raymond Blanc to Brian Turner extolling the virtues of cooking a gourmet meal to please or appease your spouse. Just take them out for dinner - I say!!!

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.

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THE past few years have seen the rise of the Tiny House Movement. Starting in America, the initiative is an effort to return to a simpler way of living and although the houses are small, the philosophy is anything but! It is an inspired and intentional form of extreme downsizing and these pocked-sized dwellings have become popular not just

Rise of the tiny house

for their novelty and aesthetic, proving them to be incredibly practical.

Contrary to what you may think, the tiny houses are not just for the poor, idealistic millennial, the reality is that two-fifths of owners are over 50 years

old. These homes are not only simplistic, they are also environmentally friendly. One of the most cited reasons people choose to 'go tiny' is the desire to live a more sustainable life.

With their size, the houses are much

more energy efficient and many come with solar panels for an even smaller carbon footprint!

For those people who love the idea of a tiny house, but don't want to restrict their living space, there is always the possibility that it can serve as an add-on, like a guest house or an office.



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Asparagus season has now arrived

By Graeme Tyrrell

ASPARAGUS has been a natural food source in Europe for thousands of years as far east as Egypt and it is now in season.

Those who love wild growing asparagus will no doubt be out on the lookout for patches of the prickly plant to risk plucking the slender new shoots to gather a bunch for making traditional Spanish omelettes and various other recipes. Some people even eat them raw, as apparently was the case in ancient Roman.

Not everyone likes the naturally occurring green asparagus shoots from the wild as the taste is rather strong. Cultivated white asparagus is normally a much thicker cultivar that is blanched by mounding up the soil around the plant as the new shoots emerge. The blanching makes the taste much milder and more agreeable to many,

although it still has a distinctive taste.

To minimise the discomfort of searching through the prickles and to maximise the harvest, I discovered a great way to pick plenty of bunches with no pain and plenty of gain. I have encouraged wild asparagus to grow naturally along the stone walls of my property by cutting back everything else and leaving them to grow as a hedge.

Now they are mature after several years, I cut back to the ground about one third of plants in March and another third in May, leaving about a third of the plants to just grow naturally for the year. The next year I cut the row or section left growing naturally the year before in March and the section from the previous March is then cut in May and the third section is left to recuperate.

What this rotation method does is give bare ground for the new shoots to emerge from and an extended harvest period. The

shoots can then be collected when they are the right size without getting pricked. If some grow quicker than I can harvest, I pick the tip and just let the branching shoots keep growing to form the plant again.

When the first early harvest is finished or my next row is producing, I let the plants of the first harvest recuperate. The plants that are not cut for the year give the added bonus of being able to be harvested if you need or want to.

I haven't tried blanching the naturally occurring shoots as I prefer the strong taste of green asparagus, but using the above rotation method it would be easy to build up the soil over the roots to blanch the shoots as they emerge if you prefer a milder taste.

I don't add any fertiliser, apply any pest control or even irrigate the naturally occurring asparagus as it is well adapted to Mediterranean living and thrives here.

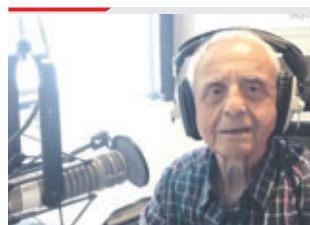
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House soiling cure - Part Two



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JUST like a baby at first your dog had no control of his functions. When control started he learned it was ok to go except in his bed. He thinks it's ok to go anywhere he gets the urge.

When you can't monitor your pet's behaviour he must be in the crate. Easy, no? When he makes a mistake you must see it. If you miss it by a second it's too late. Don't get angry at him,

it's your failure, not his. He didn't do anything wrong.

When you get your dog home take him out. Try to use the same door all the time. Start saying over and over, 'Busy, busy, busy,' in low soothing tones. As soon as he goes, get excited. Keep saying, 'Busy, busy, busy' and add 'That's a good dog. What a good dog you are.' Repeat the phrases as long as he is urinating. When he's finished stroke him, still repeating, 'Break, break, break,' and 'That's a good dog.' Your tone of voice must be happy and upbeat.

Take him inside and put him in the crate with an old towel as this will help comfort him. Try not to leave him alone at this point as he may cry and whine.

Leave him in the crate except when you can closely monitor him. He will need to go out after every meal and every three to four hours. When you take

him out, repeat what you did when you first brought him home. Coax him into urinating with, 'Break, break, break' and praise him lots when he does. Let him explore a little and remember that your command, 'Busy, busy, busy,' is just starting to mean something to him.

When he's out the crate, he will try to urinate on the floor. When you see this and as soon as the first drops hit the floor, grab him by the scruff of his neck and loudly yell, 'No, bad dog.' Pick him up, shaking him gently and carry him outside. Put him down where he's gone before and say, 'Busy, busy, busy.' Within moments, he'll start to urinate. When he does, praise him lavishly just as you did the first time he urinated.

When finished, take him inside and monitor him. If he tries it again repeat the process. Use the same technique when he tries to defecate.

Peppy loves the flowers

FROM time to time we love you to share your funny animal or travel photos with us. Our current competition requests that you share your funny travel photos with us and our newsletter readership.

The photo must be one that you have taken so you own the copyright. Also it must have an animal featured in the picture somewhere, or an amusing scene you witnessed while travelling. Please name your location and tell us what you find funny about this picture. Then we'll let you know if we agree and add you to the competition entries!

To enter you'll need to email your picture to us at admin@housesitmatch.com and title your email 'ENTRY Funny Travel Photo Competition.' The best three will win a Free Premium HouseSitMatch annual membership either homeowner or house-sitter - you get to choose. If you are already a member of our international house-sitting and pet-sitting network, then you get a free renewal! And the



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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“If you want to win all you have to do is go a little bit faster than all the others.”

Some might say...



Classics and crashes at Goodwood

By Matthew Elliott

A 1963 JAGUAR E-Type and 1964 Ferrari 250 GTO, worth tens of millions of euros a piece, almost collided at the 73rd annual Goodwood Members Meeting. They missed one another by millimetres on a drizzly English afternoon that gathered some of the finest classic cars on the planet to the famed Goodwood estate in Sussex.

Cars from all eras, including a 1909 Blitzen Benz and an army of single seaters, raced the circuit in front of dozens of motoring celebrities and wealthy patrons. David Coulthard was in attendance as was Goodwood estate owner Lord March, who regularly donates millions to motoring causes.

One of the most prestigious events on the motoring calendar, the Members Meeting is an intentionally quiet affair, allowing attendees to get up close and personal with some of the finest cars in the country.



Highlights included an Edwardian-era race, a mini chasing a rover, and a moving Wall of Sound/Minute of Noise tribute to Formula One legend John Surtees who died in March.

There was a special Group A touring cars race featuring a Rover, Alpha

and Capri battering around the 2.4 mile track and the Graham Hill trophy pitting Ferraris against Aston Martins.

The next big event at Goodwood will be the spectacular Festival of Speed from June 29 to July 2. This

year's theme will be 'Peaks of Performance - Motorsport's Game Changers.'

Lucky ticketholders can expect to see the world's finest racing collection of 1930's Grand Prix cars, Turbo-charged F1s, and Group B Rally cars take to the hallowed circuit.

Motoring shorts

Top Gear: Stateside

DESPITE its post-Clarkson Top Gear being roundly ridiculed as one of the most disastrous TV efforts of 2016, the BBC is launching an American version of the show. An all-American line-up will bring the British show's format across the pond for an eight episode run.

It is the third time American producers have tried to turn the hit show, one of the most popular in history, into a stateside phenomenon.

The latest incarnation will be produced by BBC America and led by actor William Fichtner alongside drag racer Antron Brown and writer Tom Ford. All three are apparently serious motorheads, suggesting the Beeb isn't taking a Chris Evans-sized gamble with its budget this time around and hoping for third time luck.

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THE first choice car of a newbie driver should be safe, reliable, and not too flash to arouse passing patrol car suspicions or

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Britain's Money Supermarket website decided to find out

just which cars were most popular among new drivers.

The Ford Ka took fifth spot thanks to its incredibly cheap insurance packages, relatively speaking. It's a terrific city car, perfect for urban commutes, easy to park and simple to fix.

Next up, is the second gen Renault Clio which has top marks for safety and can come packed with an unusually strong 75hp 1.2 litre engine for a decent price.

Volkswagen's supermini-style offering, the Polo, has intentionally targeted first time buyers. It is tough, hardy and often comes with lots of added extras, including insurance deals that make it appealing for budget buyers.

The UK's best selling car, the Ford Fiesta, comes second among novice buyers, almost through sheer popularity. Tops is the Vauxhall Corsa. Cheap parts, flexible payment, insurance deals and reliability make it a no brainer for new drivers.

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Team EWN makes official racing debut

EURO WEEKLY NEWS publisher Steven Euesden was back in the driving seat at the Mike G Racing circuit in Guadix, Granada, on Sunday March 26, as he began his quest to attain his Race International C driver's licence.

The first stage of the process involves accumulating a particular number of points in nationally-recognised race events, so this outing saw him take the wheel of a Renault Clio Cup IV car for two 10-lap contests in the year's first meeting of the Andalucian Velocity Motor Racing Championship.

Steven, Team EWN, and the SPV Racing Team arrived at the track bright and early to compete in qualifying, and he managed to secure a position of eighth on

the grid in the 'Touring' class after a solid performance.

There were several more powerful cars in this group, including a Porsche 944 Cup and a Porsche 997 GT3 alongside other Clios, a Seat Leon Supercopa Mk2, Mazda MX5, a Citroën AX GT and several Hyundai Accents.

SPV had kindly decked out Steven's car in full EWN livery, which looked spectacular, and he was given a full technical briefing on his qualifying performance by SPV CEO Raul Garcia Isern and manager Lars GV Linberg.

Prior to the first race, Steven said that his main concern was getting away cleanly without stalling the car and he managed to do so, unlike fellow Brit and teammate for the day Shawn

Wakefield, who last year drove for SPV in the NASCAR Whelen Euroseries.

Shawn eventually managed to make up the gap and almost made the podium, but Steven was nevertheless delighted to gain two places and finish sixth in his first ever competitive race, having been held up by two slower cars in the latter stages.

“ The SPV team were certainly impressed with his performance and he will compete in Valencia next.

He thus achieved his primary aim of finishing cleanly and getting some points on the board.

Following a lengthy break to allow the drivers to recuperate and the cars to be refuelled and tweaked, there was a second chance for Steven to check out his performance statistics on the laptop and get some tips on how to improve.

During the second race Shawn sped away and

Steven also started strongly before he found himself in fourth position and in no danger of being passed.

The event featured a few collisions, including a remarkable incident which saw one car drive into the back of the other, forcing it off the track as race officials waved the yellow flag.

Steven's race was somewhat more uneventful as he avoided trouble to clinch fourth place at the chequered flag and obtain more crucial points, an impressive debut considering he had never even seen the car prior to the day.

The SPV team were certainly impressed with his performance, and he is now set to compete in Valencia in two week's time.

A huge thank you to everyone at SPV Racing for another cracking day, plus Clive and all the staff at The Mike G Racing Circuit for their superb hospitality.



STEVEN EUESDEN with Lars (right), Raul (centre) and the SVP pit crew.



ENGLAND lost last week's friendly 1-0 in Germany before beating Lithuania 2-0 in their 2108 WC qualifier on Sunday.

TO READ MORE

www.euroweeklynews.com

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

Golf International Nerja Society

THIS week GINS members played a very well attended St Patrick's Day Individual Stableford game at Los Moriscos on March 17. The day, which was sponsored by Dunnes Stores, was a great success.

Results

Overall Winner: Pat Gray, Hcp 13, 37pts.

Ladies: 1st Sylvia Legg, Hcp 31, 35pts. 2nd Gill Green, Hcp 19, 34pts. 3rd Rita McCracken, Hcp 26, 34pts. 4th Erica Oxford, Hcp 30, 33pts. 5th Linda Wig-

gins, Hcp 28, 31pts. 6th Pat Lowe, Hcp 28, 30pts. 7th Pauline Cahill, Hcp 35, 30pts. 8th Esther McClenaghan, Hcp 20, 29pts.

Mens: 1st Bev Legg, Hcp 12, 36pts. 2nd Mike Frayne, Hcp 11, 36pts. 3rd Tony Downey, Hcp 12, 35pts. 4th Ken Jarvis, Hcp 23, 34pts. 5th Bryan Haddon, Hcp 28, 34pts. 6th Glyn Roberts, Hcp 24, 34pts. 7th Mike Cummings, Hcp 18, 33pts. 8th Stewart Green, Hcp 5, 33pts. 9th Barney Downey, Hcp 15, 33 pts. 10th Dave Lennon,

**GINS MEMBERS:
After playing at
Añoreta.**



Hcp 16, 33pts. 11th Pepe Gil, Hcp 10, 32pts. 12th Roy Boutel. Hcp 13, 32 pts.

Amen Corner: Derek Lowe and Marlene Taylor.

Nearest the Pin in three: Hole 4 Linda Anderson.

Nearest the Pin in two: Hole 14 Harald Pilperath.

Nearest the Pin in four: Hole 14 Ray Craig.

On Monday March 20 at Añoreta an Individual Stableford was played and the overall winner was Marisa Elias Garcia.

It was an Individual Stableford again for Ladies Day at Baviera on March 21 which had rolled over from the rainy day last week.

1st Team: Marion Fraser,

Ian Fraser, Glyn Roberts and Pedro Lomas, 106pts.

2nd Team: Steph Elsie, Mike Elsie, Dave Miles and Clive Akid, 100pts.

3rd Team: Rita McCracken, Mike Wills, Mark Schrello and Tony Downey, 99 pts.

4th Team: PJ Bentley-Ennis, John Blanco, Pepe Gil and Graeme Birch, 97 pts.

5th Team: Esther McClenaghan, Tony McClenaghan, Claire Gray and Pat Gray, 97pts.

Two's: Marion Fraser 8 and Ray Craig 8.

GINS also recently had its AGM with a handover to the new captain for the year, John Conlan who supersedes Peter Lomas.

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