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Stop Press

DON'T MISS OUR PROPERTY SUPPLEMENT INSIDE! PAGES 39 - 44

Gravel is the pits

Beaches at risk due to use of cheap material

By Matthew Elliott

Titanic efforts to regenerate key beaches ahead of a packed Easter week are instead causing serious damage, experts claim. Ecologists in Action issued a stark warning that beaches from Carboneras to Mojácar are being ruined to satisfy tourists.

Instead of quality sand that adapts well to the gorgeous coastline from Cabo de Gata to Pulpi, diggers are bringing in dodgy material from local quarries. Ecologists in Action say Mojácar residents have witnessed 15 tons of spillage between Cuevas and Carboneras. The bulk of it was cheap gravel and clay.

The environment ministry rejects the charges and claims the quality of imported material has been approved by the Mojácar Council.

Recently the government set itself the Herculean task of replenishing Almería's most treasured beaches with thousands of tons of sand as the spring season gets underway. But its desperation to get the work done by the Easter holidays may have devastating consequences.

The heavily protected marine ecosystems that make up the coastline of the Almerian



MARINE ECOSYSTEMS: Are in dire need of quality new sand.

Levante are in dire need of new sand. But an avalanche of clay and gravel risks damaging the seabed, killing marine life and recklessly diluting what little sand is left.

Even the colour of sea might change over time as the Costa's cherished biodiversity becomes a gravelly

graveyard. By seeking profit from tourism in the short-term, the government is counterproductively set to destroy Almería's greatest natural attraction, the group warns.

Ecologists in Action claim they now have no choice but to launch an official com-

plaint to the European Commission, urging that Spain be stopped from wrecking the region's natural heritage.

They also warn that residents of Almería must get used to the idea that, without dramatic action, the iconic coastline will vanish in the not-too-distant future.

Need for weed

A 36-YEAR-OLD man from Cuevas de Almanzora has been arrested for attempting to flee a police control with 10.7 kilos of marihuana buds in his car. Once he spotted the police in front of him, the man apparently attempted to reverse back along the motorway as traffic flew past him, but he was soon stopped and his vehicle checked over. [» See page 2](#)

Balls up

A MOTHER was left shocked and hurt on Father's Day when she was banned from a family photo with her son's football team for being a woman. [» See page 6](#)

When the team's coach asked the Federation whether Jennifer could join in for the photo, he was told it was a men-only affair.

Family favours

A NEW scandal has rocked Almería Council. Three city politicians are accused of manipulating the tender to ensure that a lucrative construction contract went to family members. Detectives went so far as to wiretap the premises of Meson Gitano, a famous Gypsy-themed theatre cum restaurant built using €5.4 million of European funds. [» See page 12](#)

Case resumes

ONE of the biggest corruption cases to ever engulf the Almanzora Valley is back in the courtrooms. The 'Costurero' case centres on whether the former mayor of Zurgena, Candido Trabalón, and other officials, padded out their bank accounts with a small fortune by issuing illegal planning licences. [» See page 58](#)

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LOCAL NEWS

Brat blunder

A TEENAGER who sued his own mother because she took his phone away has been laughed out of court by a judge. The 15-year-old from Almería launched the lawsuit himself, demanding that his mother be imprisoned for nine months and pay his legal costs. He claimed that confiscating his smart phone amounted to mistreatment.

Thyme bandits

SEPRONA agents seized 650 kilos of illegally collected thyme from herb pluckers sneaking around Cabo de Gata-Níjar natural park. The aromatic herb, used in recipes around the world, is also hugely important to stabilising the diverse ecosystems of the protected park. The collectors can expect heavy fines as environmental protection agents continue to clamp down heavily on poachers.

Tunnel vision

CULTURE is the new buzz word for Almería leaders who want to attract a more sophisticated breed of tourist to the province. Incredible subterranean tunnels used during the Spanish Civil War will be opened to the public and a ring of museums established around the city. At 9.5 kilometres long the tunnels are the world's largest known shelter of this type.

Motorway arrest for drug trafficker

By Matt Ford

A 36-YEAR-OLD man from Cuevas de Almanzora has been arrested for attempting to flee a police control with 10.7 kilos of marihuana buds in the back of his car.

The pungent plant life had been dried and vacuum-sealed ready for distribution and consumption, but the driver was flagged down by a Guardia Civil traffic unit on the A-7 motorway near Níjar.

Once he spotted the police in front of him, the man apparently attempted to reverse back along the motorway as traffic flew past him, but he was soon stopped and his vehicle parked on the hard shoulder.

As soon as they got inside, the police were struck by "an overpowering whiff of marihuana," according to one of the officers involved.

Opening up the boot, they quickly located 10 plastic bags alongside a ma-



HIDDEN DRUGS: There were 10 plastic bags inside the car.

chine and materials used to shrink wrap the smelly bundles.

The man must now appear in front of

a court in Almería City, where he will face charges of drug trafficking and attempting to evade the law.

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Gypsy feast for hero martyrs

UNDER the directions of Pope Francis, 115 Catholic martyrs from Almería were beatified. Among them was the first gypsy martyr of the Church, Emilia Fernandez, who was tortured by Franco's fascists. Aged just 24 she died in the notorious Gachas Coloras women's prison when she was denied medical attention after giving birth. To her last breath she refused to reveal who taught her to recite the rosary.

Hundreds of pilgrims, gypsies, nuns and priests celebrated the beatifications with a flamenco show at the Almería Apollo. There was music from Maria Jose Santiago, a famous Gitano singer who once performed in front of the Pope and 5,000 gypsies.

Deep sea challenge

A SPORTS solidarity challenge got off to a flying start at Cabo de Gata-Níjar. The natural park organised a swim project to raise funds for children's charities.

A series of ambitious challenges will see brave athletes and fundraisers try to conquer the watery depths of Almería's swimming pools and coastline. There will be races in the pools to prepare for an epic swim around the park's gorgeous blue waters when the weather heats up.

All funds raised go to help children with cancer at a specialist hospital in Madrid. The challenge has attracted national attention. The opening ceremony was presented by Olympic swimmer and world record holder Rafael Muñoz.

Banana republic

OUTRAGED activists are furious over a Guardia Civil attempt to identify and punish peaceful protesters in Benañadux.

Dozens of people gathered to express their anger that public works had destroyed a local site of tremendous archaeological value. But now the Guardia Civil, under the controversial gag law, are examining video surveil-

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.

lance with view to catching and fining the protesters. The gag law makes it illegal to protest without authorisation, disrespect a police officer, or even take a photo of one.

Historic plan approved

MOJACAR'S general town planning strategy was given the green light at a

recent plenary session, which also approved an environmental protection strategy from the Andalusian government.

The decision grants Mojacar the authority to have a total of 15,000 homes with a capacity for just over 25,000 residents.

At present there are 9,511 homes built.

The plan also includes new regulations on footpaths, rural roads, parks, beaches and viewpoints.

First class frigate

ONE of the most advanced combat ships in the Spanish Armada docked in the port of Almería.

The Blas de Lezo is an F-100 class air defence vessel equipped with powerful anti-aircraft missile systems and spy radar.

One of the most sophisticated warships on the planet, the F-103 category frigate can shift 5,000 tons of weight and costs approximately 500 million to build.

Man's a dead give away

A NERVOUS neighbour began to perspire when he came across a police patrol in Huerca-Overa. In fact the 52-year-old acted so suspiciously as he snuck past the officers gripping his pockets that they stopped to ask what was wrong.

Noting his sweaty brow and shaky palms they conducted a quick search and found 20 grams of cocaine in

his pockets. At that point he cracked and admitted have even more drugs stashed in his home.

He led the officers to his house and handed over a further 22 grams of cocaine and 56 grams of methamphetamine. It was easily enough to supply a localised drug dealing operation. Needless to say he was arrested on the spot and is now awaiting sentencing.

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.

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!

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Step aside

CARBONERAS Socialists have demanded that the Popular Party abandon its place in the ruling coalition to allow fresh elections amid corruption accusations levelled against Mayor Salvador Hernandez.

Hernandez is an independent politician but is propped up by the conservative PP in his control of Carboneras Council. He is facing a wide range of allegations related to his activities while in office, including handing out public contracts to associates.

In February international environmental group Greenpeace announced it would take him to court over his role in the disastrous El Agarrobrico hotel case.

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NEWS EXTRA

Bulletproof bobbies

POLICE on the beat will be equipped with 57 new bulletproof vests. But the union is demanding one vest per officer. Just last week one saved the life of an officer who was stabbed.

Lady luck

RESIDENTS of the small Almeria town of Vicar celebrated winning €300,000 on the national lottery with the lucky number 15,922.

Hooking up

DOZENS of residents of an Almeria neighbourhood protested against the Endesa electric company setting up new cables. They prefer keeping their illegal hook ups and even vandalised the new electrical supply.

Mother banned from photo



JENNIFER MARTINEZ: Left feeling small and helpless.

A MOTHER was left shocked and hurt on Father's Day when she was banned from a family photo with her son's football team. Jennifer Martinez from Gador tragically lost her husband to pancreatic cancer at the tender age of 34 just last year.

Since then she has played mother and father to her five-year-old son and went to watch him play in a football tournament on March 19. As it was Father's Day the Almerian Football Federation invited

all the youngsters to take part in a group photo with their dads.

Astonishingly, when the team's coach asked the Federation whether Jennifer could join in, he was told it was a men-only affair. Despite protests the organisers were adamant that a mother couldn't take part.

Afterwards Mrs Martinez described being made to feel 'small and helpless' and wondered how many other children without fathers suffer on the special day.

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Cerro Gordo, Partalao



SOLD
€85,000 CORTIJO CEREZA

Los Higuerales, Arboleas



SOLD
€144,950 VILLA SOLEADA

El Cucador, Zurgena



SOLD
€139,000 VILLA MOJITO

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SOLD
€18,000 CASA GALERIA

El Cucador, Zurgena



SOLD
€154,950 VILLA ENCANTACION

Los Labores, Albox



SOLD
€169,000 VILLA DORITAS

El Prado, Arboleas



SOLD
€159,000 VILLA COLOMBIA

Partalao



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Money down the drain

IF the Mediterranean Corridor included a high speed rail link from Almería to Murcia fruit and veg growers would be able to save six cents per kilo on their exports, saving €160m per year. Last year Almería sold 2.6m tons of agricultural produce outside of Spain.

Construction of the Almería-Murcia line would cost roughly €2.5 billion and last for a century. Within 15 years the investment would be paid off and the railway turning a profit.

At present Almería, Murcia and Alicante produce 5.6 tons of fruit and veg each year.

Almería is stuck on a desert island

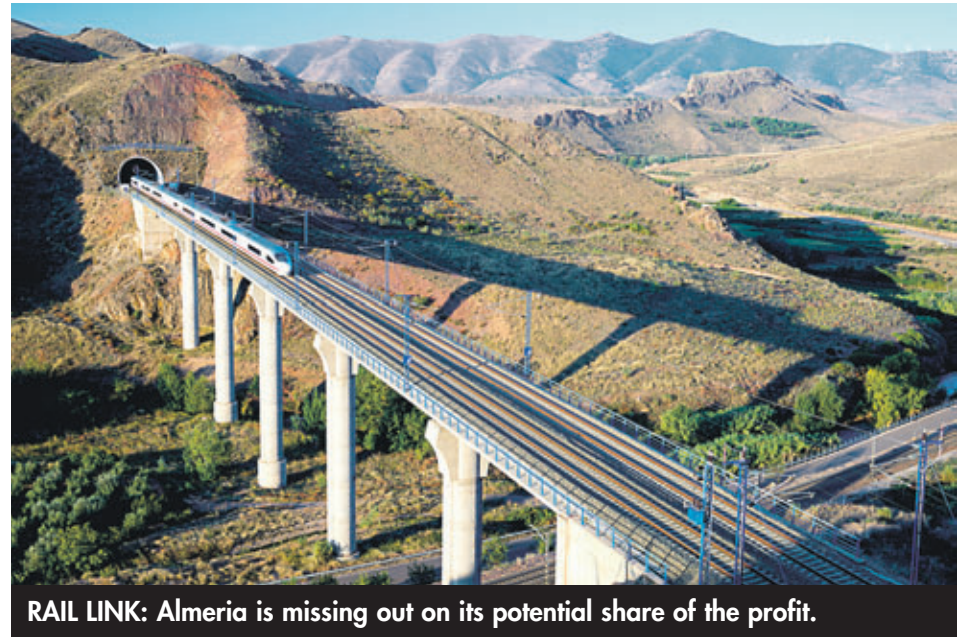
By *Matthew Elliott*

TRAIN chiefs are set to bypass Madrid and go straight to Brussels to demand a high speed rail link between Almería and Murcia.

Top businessmen and politicians claim that Almería loses out on €168 million a year because of its lack of connections.

The 'passivity' of the Spanish government in launching much needed infrastructure projects has led to the formation of the Train Bureau. The new platform is made up of rail experts, entrepreneurs, professionals and politicians who are sick of being stuck on a desert island.

Train Bureau boss Jose Carlos Tejada said "we are going to Brussels because the



RAIL LINK: Almería is missing out on its potential share of the profit.

government has not done a damn thing to help Almería in 18 months."

The group will now hold crucial talks with the EU transport commission and the parliament in what it describes as a historic trip.

Though it appears a strictly Spanish matter, Almería's railways, or lack thereof, are actually hugely important to the European economy. For decades the EU has been urging Spain to improve links from Almería to Catalonia

along what is known as the Mediterranean Corridor.

This enormously lucrative corridor is one of the most promising, yet underdeveloped, trade routes in Europe.

Billions of euros worth of goods, and people, travel from Andalucía to Catalonia, via Valencia, each year.

But the dire state of its railways means Almería is missing out on its potential share of the profit, while Valencia and Barcelona get richer by the day.

Campaigners were also infuriated to hear that the Spanish government spent a grand total of €6.5 million on Almería railways in 2016. That is just 5 per cent of the total promised by the administration. In other words, for every 20 pledged, only one has been spent.

The figure stands in stark contrast to the 1.7 billion given to Galicia, which has managed to connect its four main cities in a new high speed railway in under two years.

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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.

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

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.

where you live the most.

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.

THE Popular Party said that Almeria needs at least another 21 neurosurgeons to bring it up to the Spanish average of top docs per capita. Right now there are just two for every 100,000.

NEWS EXTRA

Brainiacs needed

THE Popular Party said that Almeria needs at least another 21 neurosurgeons to bring it up to the Spanish average of top docs per capita. Right now there are just two for every 100,000.

Silver lining

IN the decade since the financial crisis rocked the global economy, Almeria Province has lost more than 300 bank premises but perhaps it's for the best. Most buildings are now restaurants, clothes shops and community centres.

Dead cats

AN animal charity has contacted police after residents of Aguadulce found the bodies of poisoned cats littered around the streets and even near schools.



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The Brits in Spain

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

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Six things you should know about pensions today

With Brexit looming, global uncertainty and more options than ever, pensions can be a source of concern and confusion. But expatriates could find opportunities ahead, especially those with final salary ('defined benefit') pensions.

1. Pension providers are vulnerable

Employers providing final salary pensions guarantee a percentage of your salary throughout retirement. While income depends on salary and length of service, it is usually generous, especially compared to other pensions.

Today's low interest rates and increased life expectancy means the cost of funding these benefits has soared, making it harder for many companies to afford pension payments. Like BHS, companies with significant shortfalls can fail along with their pension schemes.

2. Transfer values have never been higher

To offload pension liabilities, many companies are offering members large sums ('transfer



By Brett Hanson,
Partner,
Blevins Franks

values') to leave. Some pay-outs have doubled over the last two years – sometimes by hundreds of thousands of pounds. Properly managed, such one-off pay-outs can potentially outweigh the benefits of drawing a guaranteed pension for life.

3. Expatriates can access tax-efficient alternatives

Expatriates may benefit from reinvesting UK pension funds into more tax-efficient arrangements for Spain or transferring to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS). This can also unlock estate

planning and multi-currency advantages. While many UK pensions are payable to your spouse on death, structures like QROPS offer flexibility to include other heirs. And by holding investments in different currencies, you can potentially insulate pension income from volatility in the Pound and the Euro.

However, tax benefits of QROPS vary greatly between providers and jurisdictions. Also, under certain circumstances the UK government now charges a 25% overseas transfer tax, although you will not be affected if both you and your QROPS are in the European Economic Area (EEA) or are both based in the same country outside the EEA.

Nevertheless, taking professional, regulated advice is essential to establish if this approach is suitable, navigate the numerous options and avoid pension scams.

4. A lower pension allowance could catch you out

Combined UK pension savings (excluding the State Pension) exceeding £1 million will breach the

lifetime pension allowance. This triggers 55% UK taxation when taking cash or 25% when drawing income or transferring to a QROPS, regardless of residency. Those with high-value pensions should consider HMRC 'protection' options or transferring to a QROPS to avoid tax penalties.

5. Advice is essential

Transferring is not suitable for everyone and is a key target for pension scams, so it is essential to employ due diligence and use a regulated provider. For benefits worth over £30,000, the Financial Conduct Authority makes this compulsory.

You should at least confirm your current transfer value and check if your scheme is at risk. If it is and your annual benefits are worth more than the government's Pension Protection Fund maximum £33,678 compensation, consider transferring.

6. The window of opportunity may close

If you decide to transfer, now may be the time to act. Not only could

such high transfer values be short-lived, some speculate that the UK government may make withdrawals more difficult, or introduce more taxation on transfers for non-residents.

Amidst so much uncertainty, there has never been a better time to review your pension arrangements and consider what could work for you now, under current rules. Take personalised, professional advice to ensure you are on the right track to continue enjoying the retirement lifestyle of your choice in Spain.

Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. This article is general in nature and should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Individuals should seek personalised advice.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

“I have a final salary pension. Should I take advantage of the current transfer values and cash it in?”

Talk to the people who know.

Many companies are currently offering larger than usual transfer values on defined benefit pension schemes. Properly managed, pay-outs could provide a retirement income that well exceeds the original scheme annual payment.

You should however take regulated advice to see if this would be the right move for you. At Blevins Franks we get to know your unique situation before reviewing how every pension option would work for you, from a tax and financial security point of view.

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As thick as thieves

By Matthew Elliott

A NEW scandal has rocked Almería council. Three city politicians are accused of manipulating the tender to ensure that a lucrative construction contract went to family members.

Detectives went so far as to wiretap the premises of Meson Gitano, a famous Gypsy-themed theatre-cum-restaurant built using 5.4 million euros of European funds.

Prosecutors claim to have iron clad evidence that three city officials made sure that the company of close family

members secured the highly sought after deal.

This was despite the fact that the company concerned had no construction experience, heavy goods vehicles or even real estate in its name.

Themselves key shareholders in the company, the officials stood to make a sizeable personal profit through their corruption.

It is only the latest in a series of executive controversies to engulf the province as the mayors of Carboneras and Roquetas are facing similar allegations.

Furious father invades school

A FATHER was arrested after launching a violent assault on a teacher at a Cuevas del Almanzora primary school. Sources close to the school suggested that the man entered the school during class hours to physically attack one of his son's teachers.

The incident occurred at the Our Lady of Carmen school and has been roundly condemned by police, teachers and the local government.

It is understood the father was furious over an alleged

bullying incident involving his young son. He told police he had seen his son mocked and abused by other students. Why he held this one teacher accountable is unclear.

He was not arrested at the scene, but only the following day when the teacher, who needed medical attention, pressed charges.

The Almería ministry of education has described the assault as an attack on all teachers and called for serious punishment.

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TOMATOES are the latest secret weapon in the battle against cancer. Researchers from the University of Almería have proven that key compounds in bright, red tomatoes can help prevent colon cancer and other manifestations of the disease.

The study showed that tomatoes contain special

bioactive compounds that actively fight against cancer cells. The most important is lycopene, which is found in abundance in red tomatoes and watermelons.

Even more interesting was the revelation that cooking tomatoes in olive oil intensifies their cancer-fighting powers. They combine with polyphenols

in the oil to form sturdy defences from the disease.

The redder and rounder the tomato the better. But gazpacho, passata, and tomato juice are all excellent choices.

Researchers found that rocket extracts have a similar effect and recommended the famous Mediterranean diet as the best in the business.

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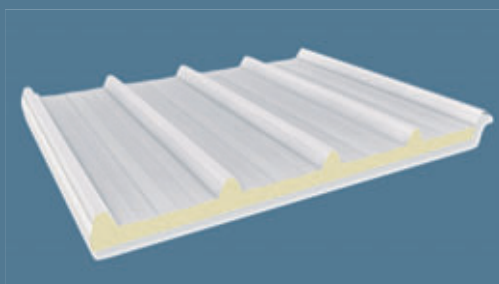
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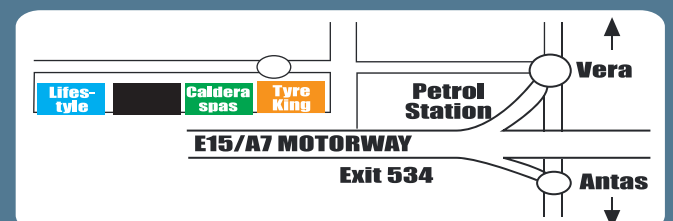
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Death of infamous criminal

PERHAPS Almeria's most famous criminal of all time has died. Pompeyo Miranda Ruiz, once considered public enemy number one in Bolivia, died from cancer at Torrecardenas hospital aged 51.

Miranda was serving time at El Acebuche prison for the armed robbery of a jewellers in 2016. But it is his exploits in South America that will go down in history.

A petty Spanish criminal, he fled to Bolivia in the 90s and quickly rose up the ranks of a Colombian drug cartel. In 1991 he was captured by the FBI and convicted for the murder of his girlfriend and Gloey Weismam, an American DEA agent.

In prison he murdered a drug dealer with a concrete slab for stealing the shampoo the Spanish ambassador brought him as a gift. He became known as the 'Spanish Hannibal Lecter' and briefly escaped to Peru before being caught by CIA operatives.

In 2013 he was extradited to Spain and released after serving 22 years in prison but he was soon back behind bars.

Teachers go full monty

A FULL MONTY strip show performed by a group of stressed Almeria teachers received rave reviews.

The teachers bared all in their March 25 show to raise awareness of the lack of class-

room resources. Following an attack on a teacher in Cuevas del Almanzora they also demanded better security for teachers and students.

With a standing ovation greeting the brave performers,

the show was a huge hit.

There are now calls for them to just give up the poorly paid day job and tour the country fighting for teachers' rights. Who knows, there could be a film in it someday.



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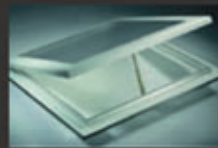
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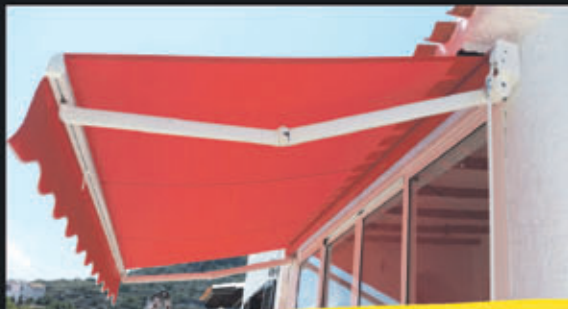
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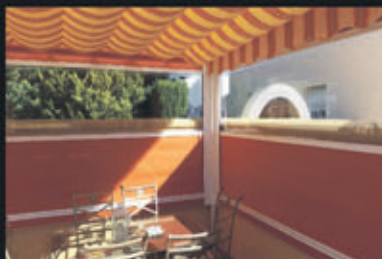
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Labour leader takes up pension cudgel

By John Smith

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 Conservative, 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."

"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.'

FIGHTING:
For pension equality.



SEMANA SANTA ALBOX 2017

LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS

For hundreds of years, come Spring, Albox becomes the stage for an event commemorating the passion, death and resurrection of Christ bringing together religion, history, tradition and fiesta. All of Albox takes to the streets, either to participate in, or to watch, the processions of the four cofradías and the hermandad. Easter Week in Albox is a cultural display where sacred statues, floats, costumes and pagentry can be admired in the streets. All part of a rich heritage treasured by each one of the cofradías.

THE LANGUAGE OF EASTER WEEK

Cofradía and Hermandad: Congregation of devotees of particular sacred images who take part in the processions.

Paso: The name given to the floats that are carried aloft containing the sacred images.

Maragullos: The name given to the member of a cofradía dressed in a tunic and hood who accompanies the pasos. This name is unique to Albox, with the more widely used name being Nazareno.

GASTRONOMY OF EASTER WEEK

Cod (bacalao) is the star of Easter Week. In Albox you can find it in the form of Remojón, buñuelos de Viernes Santa or Gachas Migas.

As for confectionary you must try torrijas, a dessert made with syrup, sugar or cinnamon, and Easter Tarts (tortas de Pascua) or Hornazos or Roscos.

MERIENDAS

"Meriendas" are celebrated on Easter Sunday and the following Monday. The tradition is to get together with family or friends and spend the day in the countryside celebrating and eating the traditional food of Easter Week (fried rabbit, potato tortillas, Easter tarts, hornazos, etc)

CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONS

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL

17.30 **PASO NEGRO INFANTIL.** From the Parish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza del Pueblo via the old town to Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, c/del Muro returning to the Plaza Mayor.

SATURDAY, 8th APRIL

16:00 h. **PASO MORAO INFANTIL.** From the Parish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza del Pueblo via the Old Town to Plaza García Haro

MONDAY, 10th APRIL

17:00 h. **PASO COLORAO INFANTIL.** From Plaza San Francisco via C/ Amistad, General Alvear, C/ Santa Isabel, Viento, Ancha returning to Plaza San Francisco.

WEDNESDAY, 12th APRIL

16:30 h. **PASO BLANCO INFANTIL** From the Casa de la Hermandad via Cervantes, Plaza del Pueblo, C/ del Muro, Plaza Nueva, Avda. Pio XII, returning to the Casa de la Hermandad.

MAIN PROCESSIONS

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL

22:00. **PASO NEGRO.** PROCESSION with the float of 'NTRA. SRA. DE LOS DOLORES'. From the Parrish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza Mayor via Cervantes, Ramón y Cajal and returning to the Plaza Mayor.

SATURDAY, 8th APRIL

21:30. **HERMANDAD JESÚS DE LA PASIÓN.** PROCESSION with the float of 'NUESTRO PADRE JESUS DE LA PASIÓN Y MISERICORDIA EN SU SAGRADO PRENDIMIENTO'. From the Casa de la Hermandad via c/Córdoba, Duque de Ahumada, Rosario and the old town returning to Casa de la Hermandad.

SUNDAY, 9th APRIL

11.00. **PASO COLORAO.** Blessing of the Palms and PROCESSION of NTRA. PADRE JESUS DE LA VICTORIA (La Borriquita). From Plaza San Francisco via Leonardo, Rulador, Viento, Concepcion, Ancha and returning to Plaza San Francisco.

TUESDAY, 11th APRIL

21.30. **PASO MORAO.** PROCESSION with the float of 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS NAZARENO EN EL LAVATORIO'. From Plaza Mayor via the old town to c/Ramon y Cajal, returning via the old town to Plaza del Pueblo.

THURSDAY, 13th APRIL

20:00. **PASO NEGRO.** PROCESSION with the floats of 'CRISTO DE LA COLUMNA', 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS DE LA HUMILDAD Y EL SILENCIO' and 'NTRA SEÑORA DE LOS DOLORES'. From Plaza Mayor via the old town to Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, C/ del Muro and returning to Mayor.

FRIDAY, 14th APRIL

11.00. **PASO COLORAO.** PROCESSION with the floats of 'SAN JUAN EVANGALISTA', 'VIRGEN DEL PRIMER DOLOR' and 'CRISTO CRUCIFICADO'. From Plaza San Francisco via Leonardo, Rulador, Arrabal de Santa Barbara, Salitre, Ancha and returning to Plaza San Francisco.

17.30 **PASO BLANCO.** PROCESSION with the floats of 'ORACION EN EL HUERTO', 'NTRA. SRA. DE LA ESPERANZA' and 'NTRA. SRA. DE LAS ANGUSTIAS'. From the Casa de la Hermandad through the old town to c/Ramon y Cajal, Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, Plaza Mayor before returning to the Casa de la Hermandad.

20.30 **PASO MORAO.** PROCESSION from the Parish Church of Santa Maria with the floats of 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS NAZARENO', 'MARIA SANTISIMA DE LA REDENCION' and 'CRISTO YACENTE'. From Mayor via Cervantes, Ramon y Cajal, Rosario and the old town returning to Plaza Mayor.

24.00 **PASO COLORAO.** PROCESSION in SILENCE with the float of 'NTRA. SRA. DE LA SOLEDAD'. From Plaza San Francisco via Concepcion, Viento, Principe de Asturias, San Leonardo, Rulador, Aguila returning to the Harmandad in Plaza Diego Capel.



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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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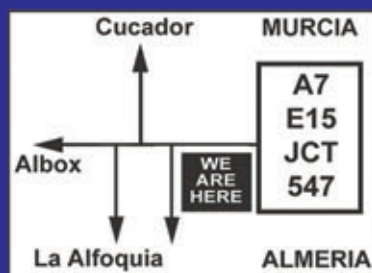
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Do you want to be a TV star?

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

The company is looking to hear from British expatriates who may have recently experienced a falling-out with their neighbours.

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

If you would 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.

Mother Nature's warriors

TEAMS from Mojacar and Almería City will meet with counterparts across Andalucía to discuss how to preserve valuable coastal ecosystems. The project has financing from the EU and involves all areas which are part of the Natura 2000 network.

Experts will develop action plans to protect the natural wonders of the province from climate change, human damage and erosion. In Almería the ambitious project is divided into three regions – the dunes, salt marshes, and forests.

Key actions will include the protection of endangered native species, the wiping out of exotic invaders, the control of waste and the management of fencing, parking and walkways around protected areas. The wider project covers all of Andalucía, including natural parks in Málaga and Cadiz.

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Celebrate Mother's Day at the theatre

MOTHER'S DAY has been celebrated for many years now, even during wartime. Some of us will remember the Women's Land Army from Second World War, and all of us must respect the fact, that some of those unsung heroes were also mothers.

of whom were mothers or became mothers during those times of turmoil.

Life on the home front could have been a lot worse for everyone, if it had not been for the Women's Land Army and the special role they played as mothers, in everyone's lives.

Come and join us in celebrating these wonderful people at The Zurgena Municipal Theatre on Saturday evening, April 1 or Sunday afternoon April 2.

Find out more at Total Entertainment, Albox and Arboleas and 1 Stop Pools by Longo in Albox.

“ Celebrating those courageous women of war.

The Independent Theatre Group in Zurgena is celebrating those courageous women of war, by presenting *Lilies on the Land*: a story that is set around the reminiscing of four Land Army girls, about 60 years after the end of the war; all



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MOTHER'S DAY: Has been celebrated for many years.



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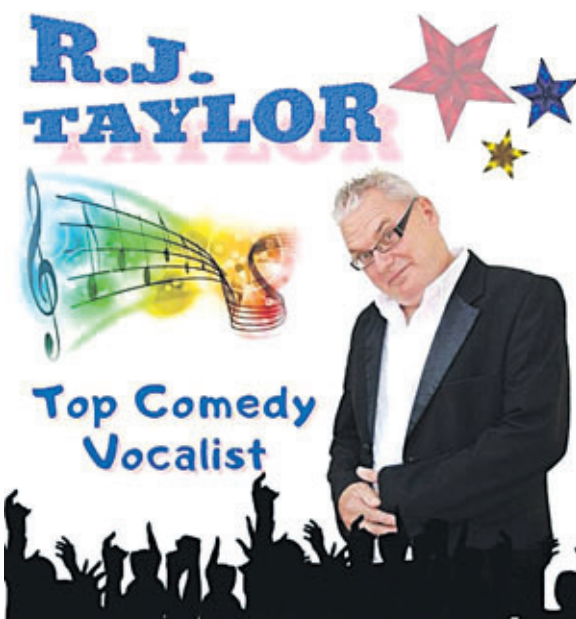
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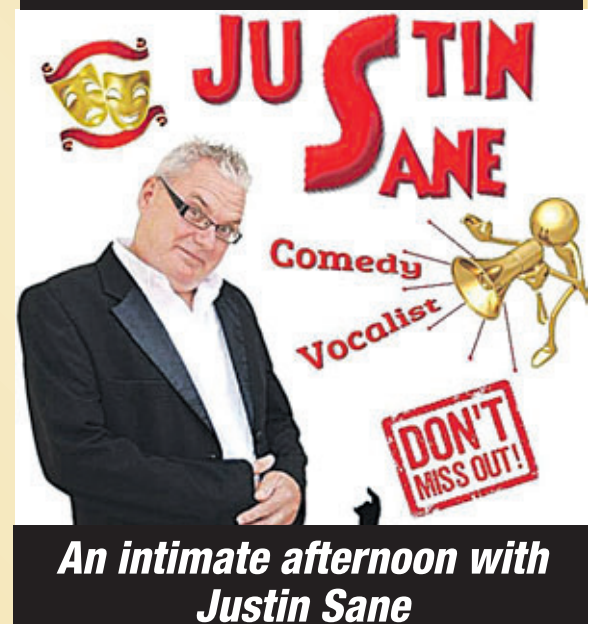


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Credit availability in the UK

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

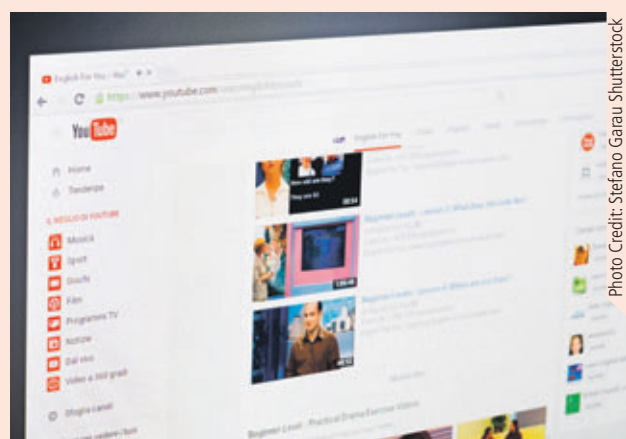


Photo Credit: Stefano Garau Shutterstock

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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Admiral Group	1,963.00	-15.00	-0.76	5,664.30
Ashtead Group	1,579.00	-30.00	-1.86	8,232.23
Antofagasta	806.50	-24.00	-2.89	8,246.69
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Babcock International Group	893.00	-23.50	-2.56	4,641.38
Barclays	222.85	-4.10	-1.81	37,990.64
British American Tobacco	5,245.00	-32.00	-0.61	96,462.78
Barratt Developments	534.25	-8.25	-1.52	5,528.25
British Land Co	603.00	-4.00	-0.66	6,250.65
BHP Billiton	1,214.50	-30.50	-2.45	26,506.50
Bunzl	2,313.00	-9.00	-0.39	7,829.78
BP	448.60	-3.25	-0.72	89,335.48
Burberry Group	1,743.00	-19.00	-1.08	7,756.61
BT Group	319.43	-6.22	-1.91	33,008.06
Coca-Cola HBC	2,015.00	-8.00	-0.40	7,376.50
Carnival	4,506.00	-44.00	-0.97	9,746.23
Centrica	217.85	1.45	0.67	11,813.04
Compass Group	1,504.50	-6.50	-0.43	24,648.21
Croda International	3,582.00	-26.00	-0.72	4,752.48
CRH	2,765.00	-56.00	-1.99	23,612.63
Convatec Group	266.55	1.75	0.66	5,151.89
DCC	6,940.00	-35.00	-0.50	6,190.50
Diageo	2,298.50	-9.50	-0.41	57,917.66
Direct Line Insurance Group	334.15	-3.45	-1.02	4,620.00
Experian	1,629.00	-7.00	-0.43	15,355.41
easyJet	994.75	-10.25	-1.02	4,003.86
Fresnillo	1,567.50	22.50	1.46	11,318.69
GKN	368.35	-3.65	-0.98	6,302.82
Glencore	307.95	-11.80	-3.69	46,300.68
GlaxoSmithKline	1,671.25	0.75	0.04	82,358.48
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2,003.00	2.00	0.10	4,861.88
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,278.50	-14.50	-1.12	6,123.45
Hammerson	571.25	-1.25	-0.22	4,572.73
HSBC Holdings	643.30	-5.00	-0.77	128,652.69
International Consoltd Airs Grp	529.75	-19.75	-3.59	11,571.75
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,826.00	-22.00	-0.57	7,619.87
3i Group	702.50	-7.50	-1.06	6,989.58
Imperial Brands	3,816.50	1.50	0.04	36,426.22
Informa	642.75	-4.25	-0.66	5,236.55
Intu Properties	274.10	-1.30	-0.47	3,754.82
Intertek Group	3,896.00	-25.00	-0.64	6,305.38
ITV	208.00	-1.60	-0.76	8,392.98
Johnson Matthey	2,906.00	-17.00	-0.58	5,747.94
Kingfisher	322.35	-1.45	-0.45	7,228.46
Land Securities Group	1,049.00	-6.00	-0.57	8,326.59
Legal & General Group	246.15	-2.35	-0.95	14,839.84

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.17	-1.88	-2.76	48,900.05
London Stock Exchange Grp	2,998.50	-17.50	-0.58	10,624.79
Micro Focus International	2,174.50	-18.50	-0.84	5,033.29
Mediclinic International	766.75	3.75	0.49	5,643.60
Merlin Entertainments	473.75	-2.15	-0.45	4,802.75
Marks & Spencer Group	329.80	-2.10	-0.63	5,480.21
Mondi	1,927.00	-2.00	-0.10	9,424.60
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	234.25	-1.55	-0.66	5,476.92
National Grid	1,011.25	-1.75	-0.17	37,776.05
Next	4,122.50	-7.50	-0.18	6,174.91
Old Mutual Group	222.35	-0.15	-0.07	10,993.81
Provident Financial	2,950.50	-15.50	-0.52	4,326.91
Paddy Power Betfair	8,687.50	-7.50	-0.09	7,317.06
Prudential	1,699.00	-22.00	-1.28	44,448.93
Persimmon	2,063.00	-20.00	-0.96	6,517.22
Pearson	634.00	-9.50	-1.48	5,223.43
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,320.50	-24.50	-0.33	51,362.92
Royal Bank of Scotland Grp	235.40	-3.60	-1.51	28,375.65
Royal Dutch Shell	2,070.50	-12.50	-0.60	92,896.26
RELX	1,558.00	-2.00	-0.13	16,780.19
Rio Tinto	3,180.00	-77.50	-2.38	45,209.66
Royal Mail	417.25	-2.85	-0.68	4,180.00
Rolls-Royce Group	746.00	-10.50	-1.39	13,864.73
Randgold Resources	7,297.50	137.50	1.92	6,665.03
RSA Insurance Group	592.50	-3.50	-0.59	6,038.94
Rentokil Initial	241.70	-2.30	-0.94	4,484.93
Sainsbury (J)	264.75	-1.85	-0.69	5,830.11
Schroders	3,058.50	-25.50	-0.83	7,024.78
Sage Group (The)	627.50	-3.50	-0.55	6,800.18
Shire	4,677.75	1.25	0.03	42,226.09
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,069.00	-18.00	-0.86	5,102.77
Sky	981.25	0.75	0.08	16,889.34
Standard Life	354.15	-2.75	-0.77	7,010.20
Smiths Group	1,591.00	-10.00	-0.62	6,153.18
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt	355.95	-3.45	-0.96	4,662.79
Smith & Nephew	1,239.00	-4.00	-0.32	10,954.26
SSE	1,498.00	-6.00	-0.40	15,206.74
Standard Chartered	715.85	-10.75	-1.48	23,891.25
St James's Place	1,052.00	-9.00	-0.85	5,570.53
Severn Trent	2,409.00	-2.00	-0.08	5,706.54
Tesco	188.93	-2.07	-1.08	15,499.67
TUI AG	1,115.00	-7.00	-0.62	6,592.44
Taylor Wimpey	189.65	-1.85	-0.97	6,372.61
Unilever	4,016.25	-1.75	-0.04	51,543.73
United Utilities Group	1,002.00	-2.00	-0.20	6,873.44
Vodafone Group	210.88	-0.72	-0.34	56,171.02
Wolseley	4,918.00	-54.00	-1.09	12,721.85
Worldpay Group	288.40	-2.00	-0.69	5,798.00
WPP Group	1,667.50	-17.50	-1.04	21,382.75
Whitbread	3,888.50	-21.50	-0.55	7,196.66

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CLOSING PRICES MARCH 27

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	191,510	-0.33%	-0.630	114M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	78,2000	+0.46%	0.3600	70M
APPLE	140,640	-0.20%	-0.280	737M
BOEING CO	175,820	-0.81%	-1.440	106M
CATERPILLAR	92,150	-0.09%	-0.080	54M
CHEVRON	107,99	+0.11%	0.12	204M
CISCO SYSTEMS	34,080	+0.35%	0.120	170M
COCA-COLA	42,12	-0.12%	-0.05	180M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	79,6000	-1.19%	-0.9600	68M
EXXON MOBIL	81,23	-0.77%	-0.63	336M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,7200	+0.34%	0.1000	258M
GOLDMAN SACHS	228,41	-1.50%	-3.49	90M
HOME DEPOT	147,7100	-0.19%	-0.2800	179M
IBM	173,83	-0.57%	-0.99	163M
INTEL CORP	35,1600	-0.31%	-0.1100	166M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	87,2900	-0.11%	-0.1000	311M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	125,4800	-0.33%	-0.4200	340M
MC DONALD'S CORP	129,3400	+0.26%	0.3400	105M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	63,18	-0.16%	-0.10	173M
MICROSOFT	64,980	+0.17%	0.110	502M
NIKE	56,36	+1.79%	0.99	74M
PFIZER	34,0000	-0.85%	-0.2900	202M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	90,570	-0.22%	-0.200	231M
TRAVELERS CIES	120,77	-0.43%	-0.52	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	111,80	-0.04%	-0.04	89M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	165,00	-0.18%	-0.29	157M
VERIZON COMMS	49,68	+0.08%	0.04	202M
VISA	89,19	+0.37%	0.33	165M
WAL-MART STORES	69,6100	-0.36%	-0.2500	213M
WALT DISNEY CO	112,1400	-0.09%	-0.1000	177M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 27

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
HTG Molecular Diagnostics, Inc.	\$ 9.65	5.72 ▲ 145.55%
Cogint, Inc.	\$ 4.30	0.75 ▲ 21.13%
Mazor Robotics Ltd.	\$ 28.87	3.37 ▲ 13.22%
Global Brokerage, Inc.	\$ 2.15	0.25 ▲ 13.16%
Brightcove Inc.	\$ 9.05	1.05 ▲ 13.13%
Microvision, Inc.	\$ 2.53	0.26 ▲ 11.45%
Investors Title Company	\$ 147.82	14.23 ▲ 10.65%
Layne Christensen Company	\$ 8.68	0.83 ▲ 10.57%
Selecta Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 12.04	1.15 ▲ 10.56%
Altisource Portfolio Solutions S.A.	\$ 31.49	2.53 ▲ 8.74%
Audentes Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 16.81	1.35 ▲ 8.73%
Most Declined		
Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 4.65	5.20 ▼ 52.79%
The Finish Line, Inc.	\$ 12.93	3.13 ▼ 19.49%
Real Industry, Inc.	\$ 2.65	0.45 ▼ 14.52%
Xcel Brands, Inc	\$ 2.30	0.30 ▼ 11.54%
Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.	\$ 11.31	1.42 ▼ 11.15%
Donegal Group, Inc.	\$ 15.35	1.65 ▼ 9.71%
AgroFresh Solutions, Inc.	\$ 3.59	0.36 ▼ 9.11%
Oncobiologics, Inc.	\$ 2.79	0.25 ▼ 8.22%
Lonestar Resources US Inc.	\$ 5.16	0.44 ▼ 7.86%
Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings, Inc.	\$ 4.64	0.39 ▼ 7.75%
Bellicum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 12.04	0.86 ▼ 6.67%

Kleinwort Benson Elite PCC Ltd

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 Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

€0.9575 -€0.0013
 €0.9493 £0.0009

Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

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

DEALING PRICE

£0.9846.....-£0.0002
 €0.9637.....-€0.0003
 £1.1415.....-£0.0053
 €1.0726.....-€0.0052
 £1.2761.....-£0.0109
 €1.1889.....-€0.0105
 £1.4008.....-£0.0179
 €1.3124.....-€0.0172

Price Movement

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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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Let me just spell it out for you!

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OTHERS THINK IT**



IS it not unbelievable, that, in the light of the recent Westminster terrorist atrocity, the authorities issue a statement informing us that 'the real reasons for this attack may never be known'!?

Despite all the evidence and facts surrounding this horrendous occurrence, our limp-wristed leaders are still in denial as to the motives and allegiances of this murdering scum. Well let me just spell it out.

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!

Keep the faith

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Advertising feature

Off-Plan Property Deposit Refunds could help you

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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Ref:A706 Arboleas 168,000€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa. EPC D



Ref:A660 Cucador 190,000€
3 bed, 3 bath Cortijo. EPC E



Ref:A569 Arboleas 168,500€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa. EPC F



Ref:A806 Cobdar 144,950€
3 bed, 2 bath Townhouse. EPC E

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- Rob Butterfield, Executive Producer for Ricochet



Message: Hello just to let you know we are really enjoying the current tv show on channel 4 well done regards Mike and Tania

Message: Loving the T.V. programme. You are such a lovely family, all the best wishes for your continued success.

Sent from my iPhone
Hi there from the UK. I just wanted to say how much I am enjoying watching you all on tv. Your bubbly friendly outlook is so refreshing to watch. You're all sincere and it is so obvious you want to help clients find their dream home. I can assure you when Mr Camelot sends a few pounds my way you will be my first port of call. Good luck to you all. A truly genuine caring family. Oh and I'm from Brum too. Currently based in Torquay. Regards Kathy Albutt

Hi Sharon / Steve,
Just thought we would let you know, how much we have enjoyed watch the first few episodes of the tele program, brought back some fond memories of our time spent with you last year. Have to say, you have all come over really well, and along with the personal touch, have shown the professionalism of everyone at SPC.

So we were watching this new programme on TV and really enjoying it. And then about halfway through the penny dropped. Goodness Sharron and Steve you've done well. We

Hi Val,
Thank you for that information. Please pass on my congratulations to the Garner family who are clearly very enthusiastic and professional estate agents.

Message:
hi just seen you on the programme I just wanted to say what a lovely genuine family you seem, we are looking to buy in the near future so will definitely be contacting you first

Due to a huge increase in enquiries-All types of properties wanted!

Watching your programme from naples fl. We will be in Spain in a few months looking for a house. Will catch up with you and see what you can help with. Jack.

Well done to you all, lovely show ... but love watching the G'arners ... although to be honest Shaun is our fav ... will be back to buy more properties from you soon .oh and for you to sell ours .

watching the new program me on channel 4 and have to say all of you show the level of professionalism and friendship that is perfect. We found you wonderful to deal with and would always recommend you and it really shows in this programme how much you all deserve your success. Regards from eve and Paul

We live in Greece and watch the programme every night we love it

Congratulations to everyone involved..x

You are all great you treat it has a hobby rather than a job and Hi/Hola, We have seen you on the TV & thought your the guys to contact! always put clients first. The fun factor is off the scale. Eish to have the Spanish life one day

Villas wanted

Hello been watching your programme on Channel 4 we are coming out to Spain to retire our budget is between 200 and 250 thousand Euros

Good morning Sharon Thank you for getting back to me so quick We are both looking forward to coming over To find out dream home in the sun we've been Thinking about it for some time now we always Watch your sun sea selling houses you are Very good I said to John that's my husband We will be using you to buy a house over There we are looking forward to Meeting you all Also our price range will be upto half a million Me and John was speaking last night about How many to buy cuz we would like to invest On Must go just going to work Have a lovely weekend Regards Julie

Good evening Sharon and thank you for getting back to me so quickly. This has been a dream of mine for many years and I never thought we could ever afford to make the move but as I said after watching the show, I can feel it and taste it and you have I am interested in two types of property. Either a 3 bed detached villa with private pool (max 200,000) or a 2 bed apartment/duplex (max 100,000) with communal facilities. Thank you very much and please do keep in touch, I'm really enjoying your programme on Channel 4. Best wishes,

Comments
Hello I'm writing this to you because me n my husband are looking to buy over in Almeria and surrounding area we are looking for a 3 to 4 bed villa with swimming pool and detached the price is between £250/350 thousand we have been watching your programme on TV and I've look up and seen some nice villas - I'm coming out to Spain in the next couple of month to start looking we are cash buyers your help in any way is very grateful yours Julie

Apartments

Message:
Loving the tv programme and DEFFO want you to find our property if u can! We want a 2 bedroomed generous size property with communal pool if poss. Have £60k maximum to spend. Adored the golf property the Yorkshire couple bought on yesterday's programme (filmed on the 53rd birthday episode!!). Could u please add us to your mailing list. Thanks ever so much - keep up the great work. You will no doubt be inundated!!!!!! Kind regards Kay

Message:
Looking to rent an apartment for 1 month or even longer 1 or 2 bedroom before buying as just sold my property in turkey. So I would really like to rent first if this is possible for a short term rent. Please don't hesitate to get back to me. I have been watching your program on channel 4 so very interested and coming out to see the area. Think you and your family have a fantastic attitude and that's why if I do decide to buy, it would be with you're selves.

Message:
We are looking to retire and having seen your program, we are seriously hoping it is possible.

Message:
Hello (just saw the property on TV very impressed with you all) it looks perfect for me. Can you tell me about the village /facilities. How close is the nearest airport please. I am a cash buyer looking for a holiday /rent retirement property thanks :)

Cortijos

Hi, have been watching your program and I have to say I'm addicted to it, think your programme is brilliant. We have a 3 bedroom villa in albanchez near albox and have it up for sale with

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Almeria is an oasis of a province

By John Smith

THERE is little doubt that if you want to find a part of Spain that generally enjoys hot weather most of the time, then Almeria may be a good place to put down roots. Despite its desert-like interior, it does have more than 200 kilometres of coast.

Fans of the 'spaghetti westerns' will know that many were filmed in the province but also many realise that John Lennon composed 'Strawberry Fields Forever' in Almeria City and there is a statue of him still in the city which also boasts a ferry to Algeria and Morocco.

As can perhaps be expected, the name Almeria derives from the Moorish occupation and was originally named Al-Mariyya, meaning mirror or possibly watchtower.

Almeria City was a Moorish stronghold and the Moorish castle of Alcazaba is the second largest of the Arabic fortresses in Andalucia, after



Tomasz Czajkowski

Tranquility in Almería City.

the Alhambra in Granada.

With up to 3,000 hours of sun each year this is definitely a place for the sun worshipper. Although there is a thriving property market in

Almeria City, it tends to mainly attract Spanish residents whilst expatriates concentrate more on the northern part and the coastal areas of the province.

Inland, both Albox and Huerca-Overa are known to attract interest due to their rural position but their historic background with crafts such as pottery are still being practised by any number of artisans.

Garrucha which has a population of around 8,000 is an attractive town with a pleasant beach and good sized port which caters for local fishing boats as well as recreational boating and with high quality fresh fish, visitors and residents alike are attracted to the bars and restaurants in the town.

Mojacar like so many other towns in Andalucia traces its roots back more than 1,000 years and despite its population of less than 10,000, this white town which leads down to the pleasant beaches is known as a laid back, but beautiful setting although it does come to life at least once a year with its international beach festival.

Perched above a ravine, the hang-

ing houses of Sorbas are something of a tourist attraction as is the entire inland town which traces its existence back to the Bronze Age. Thanks in main to the heat it is a fairly tranquil town, although the illuminated walk to view the hanging houses and the enthusiastic municipal band can certainly attract attention.

The area of Vera manages to combine an old town with some beautiful beaches and has seen some development, especially as it is now something of a paradise for nudists. This doesn't mean that everybody has to walk around naked but the freedom has attracted a number of holidaymakers and new residents.

Almeria certainly has a thriving housing market and with its number of very different locations all of which welcome new residents, the choice is wide for those who are looking for charm, history or the beach life.

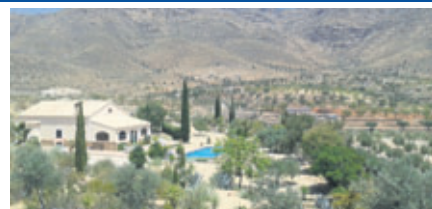
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UC/DZ - Stunning 3 bed, 3 bath modern villa in traditional Spanish style, garage, pool, gardens, 25,700 m2/ 700 olive trees. Uleila del Campo, nr Sorbas/ Sierra de Baza.
NR SORBAS REDUCED - €295,000



IA/DG - Fantastic investment opportunity, amazing front line sea views, 2 bedroom apartment, pool, open terrace, prime location, requires modernising for added value.
MOJÁCAR PLAYA - €84,950



BD/RJ - Lovely, carefully restored, original village house, 4 bedrooms of 150 m2, many period/character features, in centre of Bedar next to church / amenities, easy access to A7 motorway and Mojácar Playa beaches.
BEDAR - €139,500

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The north bites back

AFTER decades of dominance London has finally been usurped as the hottest property market in Britain. House prices in Manchester

are now the fastest growing of any major UK city. They rose by a strong 8.8 per cent from February 2016 to 2017. That's well above

the stagnant London increase of 5.6 per cent, which more than halved from its lofty heights of a 12.8 per cent rise from 2015-2016.

In fact nine other UK cities managed to pip London's performance. In Birmingham prices rose 7.4 per cent, in Liverpool 6.8 per cent, and in Glasgow 7.7 per cent. Only Aberdeen saw prices plummet.

“ London is now one of the cheapest 'global cities' to visit.

Northern cities also fare better in the affordability business, a key attraction for young professionals and families.

Interestingly though, despite its reputation as the city



MANCHESTER: House prices are now the fastest growing of any major UK city.

of £4 pints, London is now one of the cheapest 'global cities' to visit. The fall in the value of the pound made the

UK capital cheaper than both Tokyo and New York. Unfortunately the exchange rate bonus only really helps

wealthy Chinese tourists, not local workers who are stuck with sterling wages and higher prices.

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API-T0105 113,000€
TURRE
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API-V0278 77,000€
VERA PLAYA
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, townhouse, terrace & 30 sqm roof terrace, fully furnished, air conditioning, 2 outdoor pools & kiddie pool, 200m from the beach and the promenade between Garrucha & Vera.



API-VIL0111 154,000€
VILLARICOS
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API-V0282 83,000€
VERA PLAYA
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A1286 110,000€



Mojácar Playa

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A1289 95,000€



Mojácar Playa

South facing 1 bed, 1 bath, top floor apartment of 55m2 + terrace. Sea views. A/C. Community pool, terraces & parking. Quiet location.

A1297 84,000€



Mojácar Playa

3rd floor 2 bed, 1 bath apartment of 76m2 with lift access. Garage parking in adjacent building. Sea views & just a stone's throw from the beach. Communal pool.

A1298 125,000€



Los Gallardos

3 bed, 2 bath stylish penthouse of 80m2 + solarium. A/C, F.C.H. & fly screens. Easy parking. Great community pool & gardens. Short drive to local shops, golf & beaches

A1299 119,995€

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If there is a charity that you would like us to donate to, please let us know.



Mojácar Playa

2 bed, 2 bath, apartment of 62m2 + terrace of 30m2 & underground parking. Sea views. Community pool. In walking distance of the beach & all amenities.

A1294 139,000€



Mojácar Playa

3 bed, 2 bath, linked villa of 97m2 + 145m2 garden. Solarium, parking & community pool. Excellent location for the beach & amenities.

LV728 240,000€



Vera Playa

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

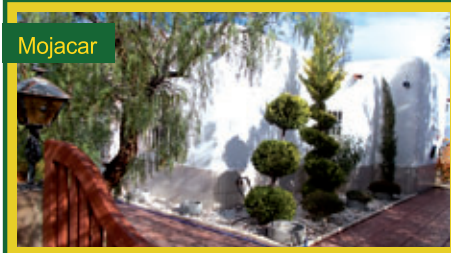
LV712 120,000€



Mojácar Playa

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

DV1223 300,000€



Mojacar

3 bed, 2 bath detached villa of 106m2 on a plot of 1,000m2. Fabulous sea views. Sun lounge. Furnished & A/C. Adapted for disabled use.

DV1418 279,000€



Bedar

3 bed, 3 bath, spacious detached villa of 225m2 on 10,000m2. Panoramic views to the sea. FGCH. Garage. Terraces & gardens. Very private.

DV1419 395,000€



Mojácar Playa

2 bed, 2 bath linked villa of 76m2 on a plot of 151m2. Sea views from the upper terrace. Would benefit from some modernisation. Excellent location.

SDV1405 195,000€

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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.

Just pop into your local Currencies Direct branch or give us a call to find out more about how you can save money on your currency transfers.

Get in touch - Costa de Almería

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- Walk to restaurant / bar
- Zurgena area

VH991 €125,950 CEE TBC



- **BARGAIN**
- Large 2 bed, 1 bath Villa
- 2nd bath could be added
- 407m2 garden, 8m x 4m pool
- Zurgena area

VH972 €153,950 CEE TBC



- **BARGAIN**
- 4 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 492m2 garden with pool
- Walk to amenities
- La Alfoquia

VH839 €139,950 CEE F59 69



- **BARGAIN**
- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 425m2 garden with pool
- Walk to amenities
- La Alfoquia



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Sally Trotman

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



ARIES: A fiery sign.



ASTROLOGY: Ready, set, go!

Sun in Aries: This month the sun is influenced by the fiery sign of Aries. As this is the first sign of the zodiac, take risks, be bold and courageously move forward with your plans. Aries will help you to develop your leadership qualities, so find ways to lovingly guide yourself and others. Try different ventures and experiences this month as a way to grow and learn. Break free from old habits and conditioning, explore new hobbies and ways of spending your leisure time. Aries encourages you to have fun, so make enjoyment your priority this month!

Get in tune with the moon: The new moon in Aries at the end of last month sets the tone for most of the month of April. A time of new beginnings, this is the moment to dive in and embrace your heart's desires. The full moon in Libra on April 11 brings the focus to your relationships. How can you create more balance here? Do you need to sit back and observe your relationships for a while to assess how you feel and what is most important for you at this time? The full moon in Libra will bring the clarity you need this month.

On Wednesday April 26 the new moon in Taurus emphasises the importance of perseverance and determination. With the ideas gleaned from the influence of Aries at the beginning of the month, make practical plans towards the end of the month to help you fulfil your goals.

Numerology: Create firm foundations

Number 4: This number brings order and struc-

ture to our lives. It steadies the influence of impulsive Aries, helping you to balance action with reflection in order to make wise decisions from your heart. A time of endings and new beginnings as spring begins, gracefully release anything which no longer serves you, and make a commitment to yourself to honour your needs and deepest desires.

Spend time with friends and family this month too, as the influence of this number reminds you of the im-

portance of your support network. When this is strong, you are able to weather the storms of life, and help others through times of difficulty too.

The Tarot:

Steady Progress

The fourth card in the the Major Arcana Tarot deck is the Emperor. This protective and paternal figures helps you to maintain your concentration and focus. When coupled with assertiveness and confidence, you can forge ahead this month with what you want to do, and what you know is best for you at this time. The appearance of this card means that structure and logic is favoured over emotional desires, so keep your plans practical and focused in order to plant seeds which will blossom into a healthy harvest later in the year.

Remember also that what you focus on grows, so think only of abundance and health in order to keep fears and lack at bay. Expect the best for yourself!

April special offer!

WHEN you book in for a one-hour Astrology, Numerology and Tarot Consultation via Skype, Facebook or Telephone this month, receive a FREE Guided Meditation straight to your email in-box to help you relax into the new beginnings of spring. To book in contact me at sally.trotman@btinternet.com. Visit my website for more tips to help you make the most of the month ahead www.sallytrotman.com.

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	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:30pm	Help Stop Me Ageing!	8:30pm	Help Stop Me Ageing!	6:00pm	5 News at 5	6:30pm	Football's Greatest
	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:00pm	Eggheads	9:00pm	Tonight	9:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	9:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	9:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	7:30pm	Home and Away	7:30pm	Barclays Premier League World
	8:30pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	The Repair Shop	10:00pm	Prime Suspect 1973	10:00pm	Prime Suspect 1973	8:00pm	5 News Tonight	8:00pm	Live Premier League Darts
	9:00pm	MasterChef	9:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Gordon Ramsay	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Gordon Ramsay	8:00pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	11:00pm	Premier League Match Pack
	10:00pm	Galapagos	10:00pm	Stargazing Live Australia	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	ITV News	9:00pm	On Benefits	11:30pm	Barclays Premier League World
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:00pm	The Last Kingdom	12:00am	ITV News London	12:00am	ITV News London	10:00pm	Rich House, Poor House	12:00am	La Liga Show
	11:30pm	BBC London News	11:30pm	Match of the Day					11:00pm	Dirty Dancing		
	11:45pm	Question Time	12:15am	Top Gear					11:00pm	5 News		
	12:45am	This Week							12:00am			
FRIDAY 31 MARCH	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm	Neighbours	5:30pm	La Liga Show
	8:30pm	A Question of Sport	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	9:00pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:30pm	Coronation Street	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	6:30pm	Premier League Match Pack
	9:30pm	MasterChef	9:00pm	Gardeners' World	9:00pm	Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	9:00pm	Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	8:00pm	The Gadget Show	7:00pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	10:00pm	Decline and Fall	9:30pm	Only Connect	9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast	8:00pm	Football
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	10:00pm	The House That £100k Built	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	10:00pm	Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi	11:15pm	Barclays Premier League Preview
	11:25pm	BBC London News	11:00pm	QI	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Gordon Ramsay	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Gordon Ramsay	11:00pm	Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story	11:45pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	11:35pm	Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	ITV News	1:00am	Super Casino	12:45am	Football Gold
	1:40am	Weather for the Week Ahead	12:05am	Robot Wars	12:00am	ITV News London	12:00am	ITV News London				
	SATURDAY 1 APRIL	7:35pm	BBC News	6:00pm	Only Connect	6:30pm	Local News and Weather	6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory	4:20pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	9:30am
7:45pm		Regional News	6:30pm	Flog It!	6:45pm	ITV News and Weather	6:45pm	ITV News and Weather	5:15pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	10:30am	Premier League Preview 2016/17
7:48pm		Weather	7:30pm	Gardeners' World	7:00pm	You've Been Framed! Let Loose!	7:00pm	You've Been Framed! Let Loose!	6:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	11:00am	Soccer A.M.
7:50pm		Pointless	8:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	8:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	8:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	8:10pm	NCIS: Los Angeles	12:30pm	Football
8:40pm		Who Dares Wins	9:00pm	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	9:30pm	The Voice UK Final	9:30pm	The Voice UK Final	9:00pm	NCIS	1:30pm	Football
9:25pm		Casualty	9:30pm	Dad's Army	11:20pm	ITV News and Weather	11:20pm	ITV News and Weather	9:55pm	5 News	4:00pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
10:15pm		All Round to Mrs Brown's	10:00pm	Jimi: All is by My Side	11:35pm	Lethal Weapon	11:35pm	Lethal Weapon	10:00pm	Football on 5	6:15pm	Football
11:15pm		BBC News	12:35am	Populaire	12:35am	The Chase	12:35am	The Chase	11:30pm	Mexico	9:00pm	EFL Goals
11:28pm		Weather							11:30pm		9:30pm	Nissan Game of the Day
11:30pm		Match of the Day									11:30pm	Nissan Match Choice
1:00am		Cosmopolis										
SUNDAY 2 APRIL	7:25pm	BBC News	4:30pm	Holiday of My Lifetime	6:30pm	Local News and Weather	6:30pm	The Simpsons	2:40pm	Operation Daybreak	10:00am	The Sunday Supplement
	7:40pm	Regional News	5:00pm	The House That £100k Built	6:40pm	ITV News and Weather	6:40pm	ITV News and Weather	4:55pm	5 News	11:30am	Goals on Sunday
	7:45pm	Weather	6:00pm	Flog It!	7:00pm	5 Gold Rings	7:00pm	5 Gold Rings	7:15pm	5 News	1:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:50pm	Countryfile	7:00pm	Inside the Factory	8:00pm	The Voice Final Results	8:00pm	The Voice Final Results	7:20pm	Inside Kensington Palace	8:00pm	EFL Goals
	9:00pm	Antiques Roadshow	8:00pm	Robot Wars	9:00pm	Vera	9:00pm	Vera	8:10pm	Inside Buckingham Palace	8:30pm	Live Spanish Football
	10:00pm	Line of Duty	9:00pm	Top Gear	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	9:00pm	Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud	10:30pm	EFL Goals
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Turkey with Simon Reeve	11:15pm	The Nightly Show Best Bits	11:15pm	The Nightly Show Best Bits	10:00pm	The Michael McIntyre Story	11:00pm	PI Match Highlights
	11:20pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo	11:45pm	Hard Target	11:45pm	Hard Target	11:30pm	20 Moments That Shocked Comedy	11:30pm	PI Match Highlights
	11:25pm	Weather	11:45pm	Dead Poets Society	1:30am	Jackpot247	1:30am	Jackpot247			12:00am	Goals on Sunday
	11:30pm	Match of the Day 2	1:50am	Question Time					1:00am	Football League	1:00am	PI Match Highlights
	12:35am	I'm Different: Let Me Drive									1:30am	PI Match Highlights
MONDAY 3 APRIL	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	3:20pm	NCIS	4:30pm	Football Gold
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Emmerdale	4:20pm	Nightmare Nurse	5:00pm	PI Match Highlights
	8:30pm	Fake Britain	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	8:30pm	Coronation Street	8:30pm	Coronation Street	6:00pm	5 News	6:00pm	Live Masters - On the Range
	9:00pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	Top Gear	9:00pm	The Kyle Files	9:00pm	The Kyle Files	6:30pm	Neighbours	8:00pm	Masters - Drive, Pitch and Putt
	9:30pm	Panorama	9:00pm	University Challenge	9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:00pm	Football
	10:00pm	Child of Our Time	9:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday	10:00pm	Broadchurch	10:00pm	Broadchurch	7:30pm	5 News	11:00pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	8:00pm	Lost at Sea: Air France 447	11:00pm	Premier League Review
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Cradle to Grave	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	ITV News	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	11:30pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:40pm	Weather	11:30pm	Newsnight	12:15am	Robson Green's Tales From the Coast	12:15am	Robson Green's Tales From the Coast	10:00pm	Going Underground	12:30am	
	11:45pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	12:10am	Weather					11:00pm	All New Traffic Cops		
	12:45am	Have I Got a Bit							12:05am	Conan the Barbarian		
TUESDAY 4 APRIL	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm	Neighbours	4:00pm	Premier League Review
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	Home and Away	5:00pm	Football's Greatest
	8:30pm	EastEnders	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	8:30pm	Britain as Seen on ITV	8:30pm	Britain as Seen on ITV	7:30pm	5 News	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
	9:00pm	Holby City	8:00pm	Great American Railroad Journeys	9:00pm	Save Money Good Food	9:00pm	Save Money Good Food	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	7:00pm	Premier League Review
	10:00pm	Child of Our Time	9:00pm	Bake Off Crème de la Crème	10:00pm	Play to the Whistle	10:00pm	Play to the Whistle	9:00pm	Inside St Paul's Cathedral	8:00pm	Football Gold
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	American Justice	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	10:00pm	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild	8:15pm	Scottish Football Round Up
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Inside No 9	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	ITV News	11:00pm	Restless Legs Syndrome: Desperate for Help	8:30pm	Football
	11:40pm	Weather	11:30pm	Newsnight	1:15am	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	1:15am	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	12:05am	The Boy Who Sees	11:15pm	Nissan Match Choice
	11:45pm	The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2017	12:10am	Weather					12:35am	Upside Down	12:15am	PL Highlights
	12:30am	Galapagos										
	WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL	6:15pm	Pointless	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm	The Chase	5:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	4:15pm	Abducted: The Carlina White Story	3:00pm
7:00pm		BBC News	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	6:00pm	5 News	4:00pm	Spanish Football Gold
7:30pm		Regional News	7:30pm	The Repair Shop	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:30pm	Neighbours	4:30pm	Football Gold
8:00pm		The One Show	8:00pm	Great American Railroad Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	Home and Away	5:00pm	Football's Greatest
9:00pm		MasterChef	9:00pm	Me and My Dog	9:00pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	5 News	5:30pm	La Liga World
10:00pm		Benefits (w/t)	10:00pm	Second Chance	10:00pm	Little Big Shots	10:00pm	Little Big Shots	8:00pm	Revealed	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club
11:00pm		BBC News	11:00pm	Summer: Tuscany	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	11:00pm	The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	7:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
11:30pm		Regional News	11:30pm	1st World Problems	11:30pm	ITV News	11:30pm	ITV News	10:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	7:30pm	La Liga World
11:40pm		Weather	11:30pm	Weather	12:15am	Anatomy of an Accident	12:15am	Anatomy of an Accident	11:00pm	One Night with My Ex	8:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
11:45pm		Match of the Day	12:10am						12:05am	Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World	8:30pm	Football
1:25am		Weather for the Week Ahead									11:15pm	Nissan Match Choice
											12:15am	PL Highlights

|| 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.

Searching and finding the worst bar in Andalucia!

Ric Polansky



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

It pains me to drive by well lit eating establishments and seeing their staff wandering about like lost souls. I can remember those better times when every place was heaving with clients. Spending and partying all done ostentatiously well and without regret or consequence.

But, following one morning's vicious hangover I decided to mend my ways, at least for one day. I needed to shut down my hedonistic life style and become more aware of myself.

Rather than seek out and enjoy my favourite haunts I would strike out of the area and look for a place I didn't really want to be and there endure the unpleasantness of not being comfortable, eating what I preferred not surrounded by friends but ungracious strangers. In short, an expedition to find the worse bar in Andalucia and subject myself to self inflicted torture.

That would surely wake my senses



WONDERFUL TAPAS: A thanksgiving banquet in a lonely place down a dirt gravel road.

for a day. Just the lark I needed from my hedonistic binge celebrations.

Having been lately in quite a run down area, not as yet exploited by the developers, I remembered a small group of houses near Cabo de Gata. So, I blazed a trail in that direction and it wasn't too long before I felt I had conquered my ambition.

There down an unpaved road were two dogs sleeping in the middle of the street. I had to pursue the inference. Mid street was a butcher outside his shop wielding a cleaver and chopping up some beast. He was surrounded by a swarm of flies and covered in blood and grime. Right next door, if you could squeeze past his flying arm,

was a shabby bar - perfect situation for being the worst.

Inside the floor was covered with a week's debris of shells, serviettes, cigarettes and table discarded rubbish. You needed boots to walk in rather than my summer sandals. I went to the middle of the room and plumped myself down serendipitously de-

manding to be served. No one came. Finally, another client yelled for Paco to leave the kitchen and come out.

Paco was visibly startled to see people he didn't know and that we could well have been that race of mythical folk known as - tourists. We ordered cervesa and he wheeled about and was gone. Moments later he returned with beers and two small dishes of something. I clinked glasses with my companion and tried the something that was pretty damn good as was the ice cold beer.

Then, other tapas began to appear. A plate of sausage from Jose's farm. Some haba beans from another Paco's finca. More beer from the table behind us. Radishes as big as your fist from the table near the door.

Our host, not to be outdone kept bringing plates of wonderful tapas and magically waved his hand pointing to clients at other tables where other goodies had befallen us.

We sat befuddled and stunned relishing a thanksgiving banquet in a lonely place down a dirt gravel road that obviously wasn't the worst bar in Andalucia.

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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



HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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

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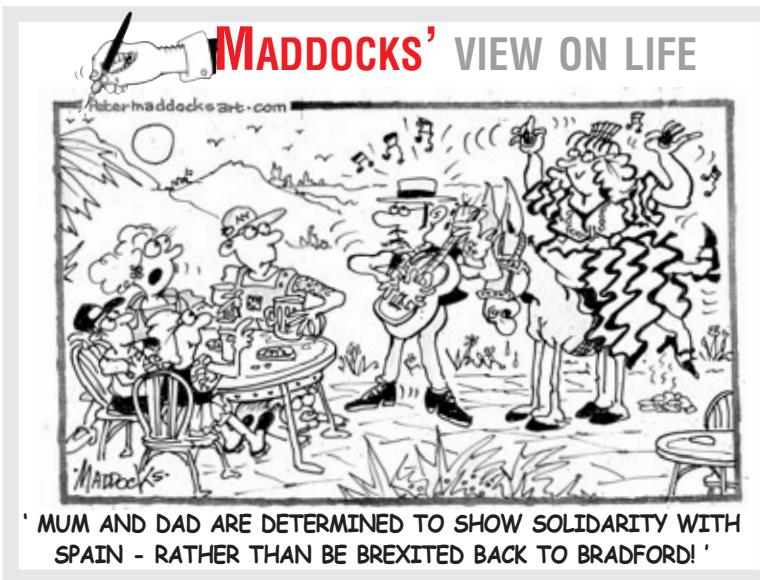
Kakuro

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

	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	15	6	2	7
10					
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	4	BONUS BALL
44	47		11	

Friday March 24

2	17	21	5	BONUS BALL
27	34		9	

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday March 25

7	11	35	8	BONUS BALL
36	37	40	7	

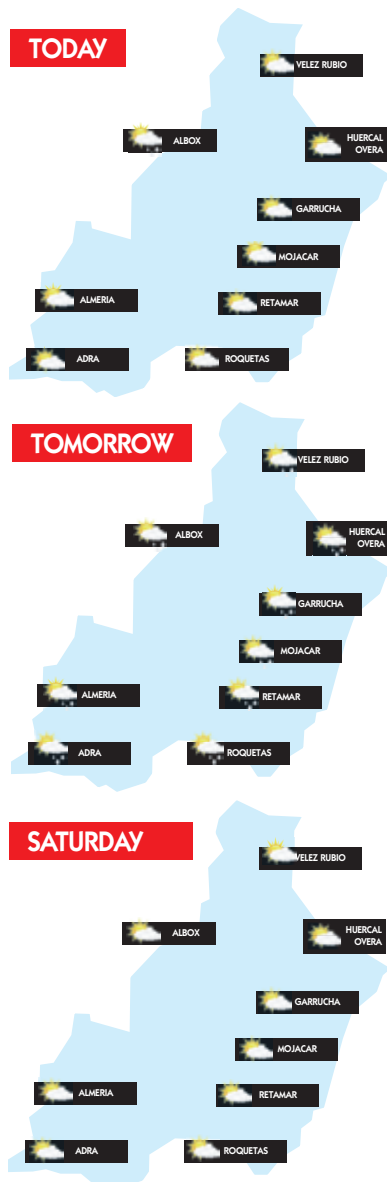
EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday March 26

28	32	35	3	BONUS BALL
39	41			

Costa de Almería

weather



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

Alicante	Bilbao
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 11 - CL	TODAY: MAX 25, MIN 12 - C
Fri - 21 13 C	Fri - 19 9 Sh
Sat - 22 12 CI	Sat - 15 8 Sh
Sun - 21 11 S	Sun - 16 7 Sh
Mon - 20 11 CI	Mon - 19 8 CI
Tues - 20 11 CI	Tues - 18 8 Sh
Wed - 21 11 CI	Wed - 18 8 C

Almeria	Madrid
TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 13 - C	TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 7 - C
Fri - 21 13 C	Fri - 19 5 C
Sat - 22 13 C	Sat - 18 4 CI
Sun - 22 13 S	Sun - 21 4 S
Mon - 23 13 CI	Mon - 22 6 S
Tues - 23 13 S	Tues - 22 6 S
Wed - 22 13 S	Wed - 21 6 S

Barcelona	Malaga
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 8 - S	TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10 - CL
Fri - 17 9 C	Fri - 23 13 CI
Sat - 15 8 Sh	Sat - 23 12 CI
Sun - 17 8 Sh	Sun - 23 12 S
Mon - 19 10 S	Mon - 22 12 S
Tues - 19 10 S	Tues - 22 13 S
Wed - 19 9 S	Wed - 21 11 S

Benidorm	Mallorca
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 11 - C	TODAY: MAX 20 MIN 8 - S
Fri - 21 13 CI	Fri - 21 9 CI
Sat - 21 12 CI	Sat - 19 9 Sh
Sun - 20 12 S	Sun - 19 9 CI
Mon - 19 11 S	Mon - 20 8 CI
Tues - 20 12 C	Tues - 21 9 CI
Wed - 20 11 S	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

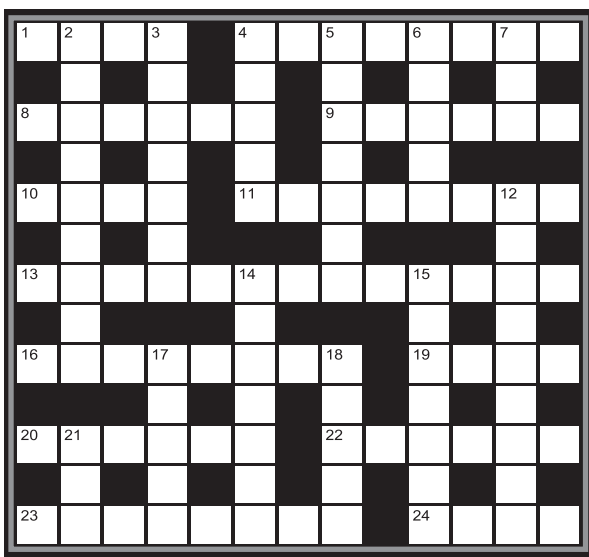
Cryptic

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)

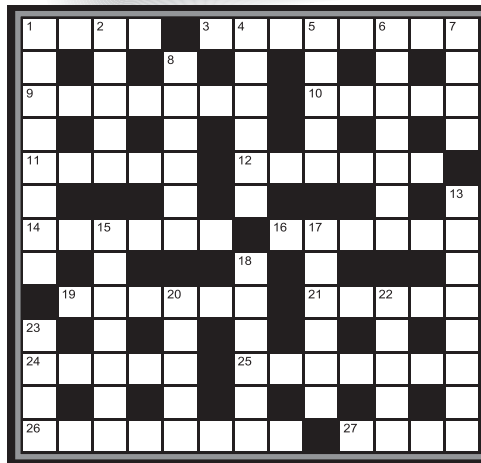
Down

- 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)

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:

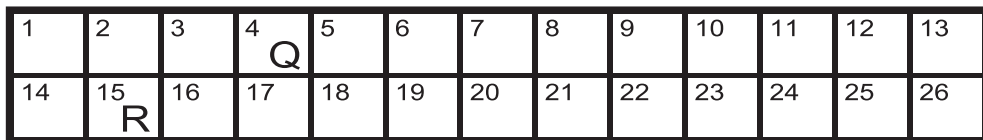
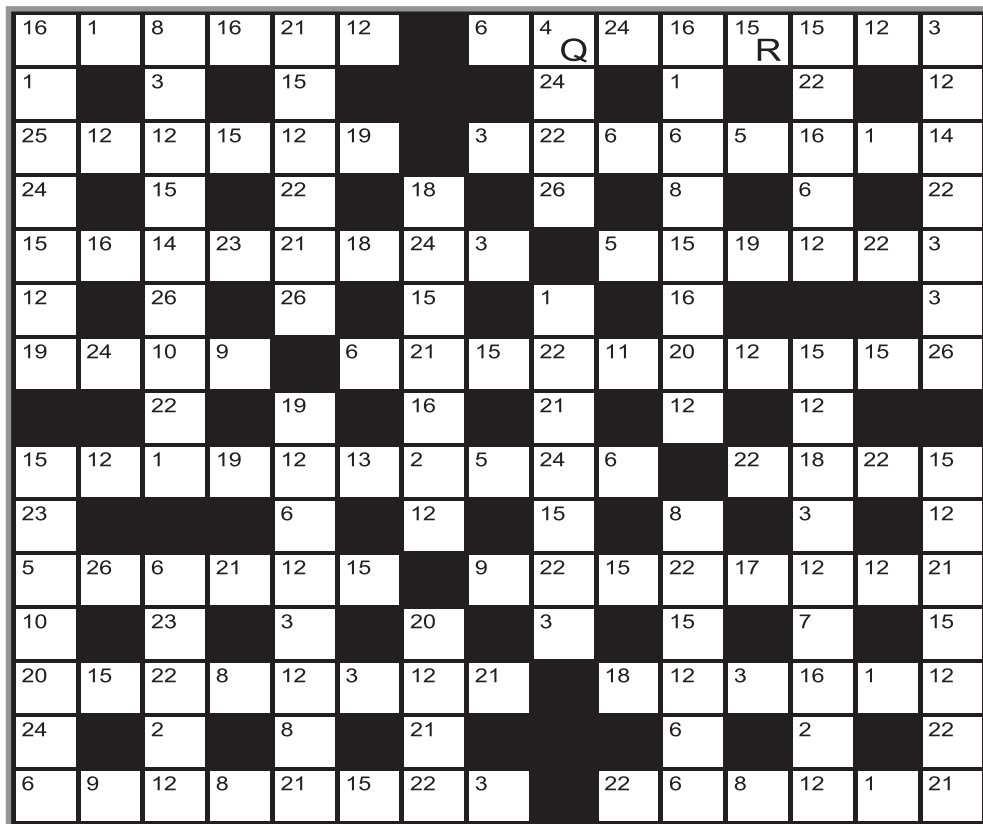
- 1 Swan, 2 Engineers, 3 Tortoise, 5 Descargar, 6 Obey, 7 Fantasma, 11 Chew, 12 Dogs.

CODE BREAKER



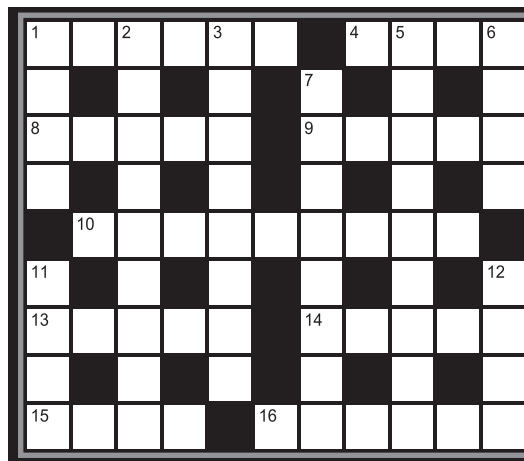
Code Breaker

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)



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TO READ MORE

And sleep....

STILL waking up feeling tired and groggy despite going to bed early? Well it could be that you woke up during your sleep cycle.

Scientists say an average adult has sleep in 90-minute cycles meaning there are five or six a night and if you wake up during this cycle it can leave you feeling tired and lethargic, so to try and optimise your sleep it is important to work out the best time to nod off and a 'sleep calculator' predicts just that.

Blind retailer Web Blinds created the 'sleep calculator' based on it taking an average of 14 minutes to fall asleep, which aims to help people know when the best time to go to sleep is for when they have to get up, ensuring they wake up refreshed.

For example, if you need to wake up at 7am, the sleep calculator believes that you should try and sleep at the beginning of a sleep cycle at either 9.46pm, 11.16pm, 12.46am or 2.16am.



SLEEP CYCLE: Ensures you wake up refreshed.

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.



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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@helicopterosanitarios.com

The great outdoors is great for your health

EVER wondered why the great outdoors is called 'great'? Well it seems that living closer to open spaces and the countryside could reduce your chance of an early death by up to 16 per cent.

Scientists say after reviewing hundreds of previous studies, they have concluded that living closer to fields and trees not only helps prevent an early death, but also reduces your risk of being obese or depressed.

The study was funded by Friends of the Earth Europe (FoE) and also showed that

the great outdoors had benefits for pregnant women, being considered a 'natural healer' with women giving birth to children of healthier sizes.

If you are struggling to sleep, camping could also help. Scientists found that sleeping under canvas for a few nights, away from the hustle and bustle of city life, helped to reset the internal body clock, with the body reacting to the natural cycle of light and dark rather than being influenced by artificial lighting from computers and televisions.

Spaniards fear the dentist

ALMOST half Spaniards (49.1 per cent) suffer from odontophobia; a fear of dentists.

According to data from the Oral Health Study of Sanitas 2016, four out of 10 Spaniards suffer on a 'moderate' level but only one in 10 patients report being 'very scared' of a visit to the dental clinic.

In children, 53.9 per cent of children report experiencing fear, however, irrational and intense fear is uncommon, with only 11.1 per cent of minors actually feeling that scared during their consultation.

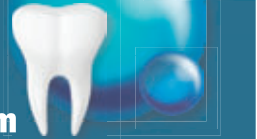
In both adults and children, the Sanitas study indicates up to 15.4 per cent of those with odontophobia use it as a cause for not going to the dentist.

The Oral Health Study of Sanitas shows the main causes of fear are injections in the mouth (63.2 per cent); pain (56.9 per cent); teeth extraction (56.0 per cent) and past bad experiences (27.9 per cent).

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TO READ MORE

Sounds of the revolution

A NEW date has been set for one of the biggest music festivals in Almería.

The 30th edition of Candil Rock takes place in Huerca de Almería on July 1.

The free gig will attract some of the province's finest and wildest rock stars and singers.

In the three decades since it first began, Candil Rock has gotten bigger and bigger.

It is now one of the very best free concerts in Spain.

With thousands of people set to attend the one night only spectacular, it will be held in the Villa San Pablo football stadium.

Topping the bill is the legendary Amparo Sanchez. Born in Granada, Sanchez made her name performing for revolutionary causes in Mexico.

She is highly regarded for her effortless yet intoxicating fusion of classic Cuban music and reggae.



AMPARO SANCHEZ: A fusion of classic Cuban music and reggae.

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Olympic extravaganza

ALMERIA'S spectacular spring cultural season is set to get underway across the entire province. The cultural agenda has copied the Olympic mantra 'faster, higher, stronger' and adapted it to 'quality, affordable, variety.' Perhaps not quite as inspired, but definitely better for the bank balance.

Almost everything under the sun will be included in the enormous extravaganza which will sweep across Almeria from early April. Flamenco, tango, rock 'n' roll, jazz, and classical music will all be covered in hundreds of separate gigs and street concerts.

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 Man Utd v West Brom 4pm
 + 1 other, see boards
 Southampton v Bournemouth 6.30pm

Tues 4th April
 Man Utd v Everton 9pm
 Burnley v Stoke 8.45pm

Sun 2nd April
 Swansea v Middlesbrough 2.30pm
 Arsenal v Man City 5pm

Wed 5th April
 Chelsea v Man City 9pm
 Liverpool v Bournemouth 9pm
 + 1 other, see boards

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Brexit just won't go away

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GOOD WINE AND
GOOD FRIENDS
WITH
GARRY WAITE**



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.

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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Closer to justice

ONE of the biggest corruption cases to ever engulf the Almazora Valley is back in the courtrooms. The 'Costurero' case centres on whether the former mayor of Zurgena, Candido Trabalon, and other officials, padded out their bank accounts with a small fortune by issuing illegal planning licences.

Trabalon, who faces a 180-year sentence, was arrested in 2008 alongside town planner Manuel Tijeras, and construction chief Tomas Zurano.

The three alleged masterminds are accused of bribery, lying and embezzlement of public funds.

More than 1,000 homes were illegally built under the scam from 2003 to 2007 and a substantial number of British expats lost money.

The trial began last year after eight years of investigation. It continues until April with oral testimony from witnesses and vic-

tims, with the final judgement expected before summer.

1,000

homes were illegally built under the scam from 2003 to 2007.

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Ronaldo meets his match

By Matthew Elliott

AN Easter padel tournament in Albox has managed to attract national attention with its fantastically outlandish poster.

Rather than just your run of the mill Easter week community advertisement, the poster is an artistic poke in the eye to the everyday.

It has an enormous image of Jesus Christ being crucified on a huge cross styled like a padel defence baton.

Next to Jesus there is a half naked Cristiano Ronaldo wielding a sword in gladiator garb coupled with shin guards, a shield, padel racket and Real Madrid shorts.

Perhaps the most famous footballer on the planet, the Portuguese star is as about diametrically opposed to Jesus



EASTER POSTER: An artistic poke in the eye.

Christ as an ego can manage.

Needless to say the poster has drawn more than a few heads across Catholic Spain where Ronaldo and padel, a tennis-like sport popular in Spain and Mexico, rarely oc-

cupy the same public space.

This year's Padel tournament takes place at the water and health centre from March 31 to April 2 with a leg of lamb for the winner and cheese for the runner-up.

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Hoax kidnap alert

ALARMING text messages warning that kidnapers are targeting local children have been denounced as fake by Huerca-Overa police.

For several days many residents received anonymous WhatsApp messages on their phones warning of a suspicious

van hunting for vulnerable children.

With many parents understandably anxious, the police waded in to say they have no evidence of any threat and the messages are almost certainly a hoax. Similar scare stories have been reported all across Spain in recent weeks.

Testing the water

ULEILA DEL CAMPO will soon have a guaranteed supply of drinking water following an investment of €130,000 by the provincial council.

The village was pre-

viously suffering from being located on top of one of the most over-exploited aquifers in the entire Mediterranean basin, but work on a new connection via installation of a

1,350 pipeline has now begun.

The pipe will be coupled to a pump and has been designed to carry water from deep underground to residents' homes.

School improvements

THE Velázquez de Albox primary and secondary school is going to have work to the value of €70,636 spent on it by the Junta de

Andalucía in order to improve retaining walls, remove trees with long roots and upgrade stairs in the main building.

NEWS EXTRA

Student success

AN Albox school will benefit from renovation works worth more than €70,000. CEIP Valazquez will have better sports facilities and rain protection for its roughly 460 students.

Pavement pounders

BIG hearts and knackered legs did Albox proud as more than 300 runners raised €2,000 for a local cancer charity. The money from the annual March race will go towards a tremendous cause while the organisers set their sights on next year.

Promised boulevard

WORK has begun on transforming the Albox crossing into one of the town's key avenues. An investment of €80,000 will iron out any road bumps, improve driving conditions, and build two new roundabouts.

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Advertising feature

How to heat your pool in 4 easy steps?

I WANT my pool to be at 28° by next week, is that feasible?

Albert from Poolworx: "This is a question we frequently get via our website and the answer is always YES, when you're living in Spanish costa climate conditions. Swimming whenever you want, whatever the season, that's what our customers are looking for and that's what we make possible. With a pool cover on, we are always confident of the timing and result. You can start your count down from the moment the installation is done. The best part is always the feedback we get from our customers when they really see the temperature going up day by day!"

A week is only seven days... are you sure that is possible?

Paul, technical expert at Poolworx explains: "Sure! In my personal experience with heat pump installations, I see that it's actually less than a week! As soon as outside temperatures exceed 10°, it takes about four days to heat a pool



HEAT PUMP: The single, most efficient way to heat a pool.

from let's say 15° to 25°.

"Few people know this, but a heat pump is the single, most efficient way to heat a pool. The cost to run, outside summer season is less than 2€/day. Because for every kW of electricity consumed by the heat pump, six are returned to heat the pool. That's 5kW for free! The warmer it gets, the cheaper the heating. And the best news, you don't need sunshine, only the right ambient temperature. This is the great thing

about heat pumps! How that actually works is explained in detail on the Poolworx website, but basically it's a reverse aircon unit."

How is the installation of a heat pump done?

Albert: "Wait... Step 1 is actually talking to you in person! Choosing the right heat pump, fit for your pool is where it all starts. We do the calculations for you and assess your current pool situation. This includes an analysis of the circulation system set-

up. We pick a good spot to install the unit, or a new solid base is put in place. After that, it's a natural job for a skilled installer. Look for yourself and get an idea of what you need, with our online calculator on www.poolworx.eu."

Paul: "Step 2 is the installation of the unit itself. Once the heat pump is on site, we mount it on rubbers and hook up the electrics. This is straightforward as all our heat pumps for domestic use can be connected to your

existing wiring, 230V single phase. All heat pumps can be triggered to start and stop by the water flow of your pool pump. Another option is that the heat pump steers the entire system autonomously. This means you have full flexibility!

"Step 3 is the installation of bypass valves to direct the flow of pool water from the existing circulation piping to the unit and back into your pool. There's no need to run the water through the unit during boiling hot summer months!"

"Step 4 is setting the desired temperature via the digital control panel and after that ... a few days patience and you can start enjoying your pool at any moment you feel like it!"

Contact Poolworx or refer your preferred installer for a no obligation 'pool specific' price quote, by calling

Spain 643 363 179 or Belgium (+32) 497 408 800, email albert@poolworx.es.

Lavender, a bloomin marvellous herb

By Francesca Souter

PEOPLE have been enjoying the calming aroma of lavender as they drift off to sleep for hundreds of years, but did you know that the

benefits of lavender oil extend further than relaxation?

With its gray-green foliage, beautiful purple flowers and that distinctive fragrance, it is no surprise that ancient texts tell us that

lavender essential oil has been used for over 2,500 years.

The Egyptians used it in mummification and perfume, the Romans used it for bathing and cooking and quite possibly the most famous of all, it is said that Mary used it to anoint Jesus.

With its use in so many areas of life, this versatile herb should be a staple of any garden.

Lavender oil can help scalp conditions, such as dandruff, and an antioxidant found in the plant can help with poor digestion. It can

even be a healthy and delicious, if not slightly strange, addition to food and is being increasingly used in baking, adding a distinctive floral taste to cakes and biscuits.

Perhaps its most unexpected quality, Lavender works as a natural repellent for scorpions, and you will see bunches of the herb on windowsills throughout the south of France to ward away the stinging critter.

So why not consider planting a few seeds and start reaping the benefits of this useful herb!



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Asparagus season has now arrived

By Graeme Tyrrell

THE asparagus season is upon us. Asparagus has been a natural food source in Europe for thousands of years as far east as Egypt.

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 with the ancient Roman manner of eating asparagus.

“Asparagus has been a natural food source for thousands of years.

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 the distinctive asparagus 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 the wild asparagus to grow naturally along the stone walls of my property by simply 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.



Photo Credit: Dusan Zidar Shutterstock

Fresh growing asparagus.

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 immediately and they are the right size without getting prickled. If some grow a bit 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. Another great advantage of having asparagus as a hedge is that in the flowering season the wonderful scent permeates out across the field and garden making an evening walk around the property delightful.

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House soiling cure – Part Two

The problem

JUST like a human infant, for the first part of his short life, your dog had no control of his functions. Then, when control

started, he learned it was ok to go anywhere except in his bed. That is his world now. As far as he knows, it's ok to go anywhere when the urge strikes.

The basic rule

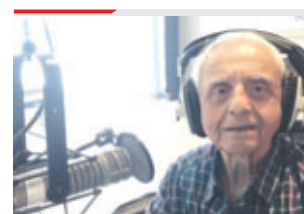
When you can't monitor your pet's behaviour he must be in the crate. Easy, no? When he makes a mistake, and he will, you must see it. If you miss it, even by a couple of seconds, it's too late. Don't get angry at your pet, it's your failure, not his. He didn't do wrong.

The process

When you first bring him home, take him outside. Try to use the same door to take him outside all the time. Start saying over and over again, 'Busy, busy, busy,' in low soothing

tones. As soon as he goes, get excited. Keep saying, 'Busy, busy, busy' and add 'That's a goooooood dog. What a goooooood dog you are.' Repeat these phrases as long as he is urinating. When he's finished, bend down and stroke him, still repeating, 'Break, break, break,' and 'That's a goooooood dog' in a happy and upbeat voice.

Take him inside and put him into the crate with an old towel, this will help comfort him. Try not to leave him alone at this point. If you do, he may start crying and whining.



David THE Dogman

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**Clarkson
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Some might say...



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.

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.'

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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 raise the insurance bill through the roof.

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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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Peugeot 3008 GT Line

PEUGEOT says its new 3008 will become 'a key player' in the booming SUV sector, and anyone who sees the car - a radically different design from its predecessor - and what it offers will find it hard to argue with that assertion.

The 3008, priced from €25,035 (£21,795), is very well kitted with even the entry level Active model having driver attention alert, programmable cruise control and speed limiter, auto emergency braking, large 31cm digital instrument display and a separate 20cm touchscreen infotainment system, dual-zone climate control

and rear parking sensors. Launched in two-wheel drive form, you can specify a Grip Control option which in effect provides a form of all-wheel-drive for slippery conditions. There are 1.2-litre and 1.6-litre turbo petrol engines and 1.6-litre and 2.0-litre diesels, each with two power versions.

But while the 3008's generous specification and multiple engine options are stand-out features, the car's stunning external styling and refined driving dynamics give it the sort of appeal that takes it to the head of the class. It has a beautifully designed and rather futuristic-looking quality interior and latest technology, and offers

practicality and versatility, and a smart upmarket appearance which exudes the cool persona the SUV market requires.

On the road, the 3008 - voted Car Of The Year at the Geneva Motor Show by 58 motoring journalists from 22 countries - reveals a neat balance of ride comfort with lots of grip and composed handling, taking corners with minimal body pitch and tackling rough surfaces with aplomb, despite its raised ride-height.

The 3008 is roomy for front and rear occupants and the boot space at 591 litres is one of the largest in the sector which also expands to a massive 1,670 litres with the rear seats folded.

The top-seller is likely to be the 1.6 diesel, but my test model was the three-

cylinder 1.2 litre PureTech GT Line turbo-petrol version which is smooth, fluent and surprisingly powerful. It packs 130 hp, has a nippy 0-100 kph time of 10.8 seconds, top speed of 190 kph and fuel economy of 19.61 kpl (55.4 mpg). This sporty GT Line version is €29,286 (£25,495) and extra kit includes 3D sat-nav, exterior sports trim, LED self-levelling headlights, and smartphone charging plate.

The new 3008 is an impressive new model in an SUV class already packed with impressive models, and I struggled to find any negative points. It is right at the top of the class.

Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

Stats panel:

Model: Peugeot 3008 GT Line
 Engine: 1.2 litre turbo-petrol
 Transmission: 6 speed manual
 Performance: 0-100km 10.8 seconds, top speed 190 kph
 Economy: 19.61 kpl (55.4 mpg)
 Emissions: 117g/km



GT LINE: Practical and versatile.

Brexit and electric black taxi cabs

MOTORING costs in the UK have soared by 10 per cent in the past year. Hard up British drivers are paying more for fuel, repairs, and higher taxes. All the while their cars are slowly losing value.

Average fuel prices leapt up 20p per litre from March 2016 to 2017 as the pound continues to struggle after the Brexit vote. The average cost per mile has jumped by around three pence to just under 30p for most cars. Factor in higher insurance costs and the prospect of difficulty importing parts after Brexit and British motorists are in pretty bad shape.

The stats come as the London Taxi Company, which produces all of the capital's black cabs, urged the government to protect the industry during Brexit negotiations. The manufacturer recently opened a huge production facility in Coventry that is the size of 20 football pitches.

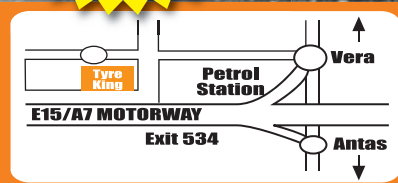
With more than €400 million of Chinese investment they plan to produce thousands of electric black cabs. But they are mindful of an alarming new report which suggests a hard Brexit might increase the cost of manufacturing a car in Britain by £2,370 (€2,740).

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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 B 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.



Wins for Northern Ireland, England and Scotland

Tony Matthews

International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

Maverick Vinales won the first MotoGP of 2017 in Qatar; Andreas Dovizioso came second and Valentino Rossi third.

The cars and motorbikes race again on April 9, in Shanghai and Argentina respectively.

ROUND-UP:

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

Also in WC qualifiers, the Republic of Ireland drew 0-0 with Wales, Scotland, following a 1-1 draw with Canada, beat Slovenia 1-0, Northern Ireland defeated

Austria 2-0 and Spain won 4-

1 against Israel.

• Dundee United beat St Mirren 2-1 in the

the

Scottish Challenge Cup final.

• Ronnie Moran, the former player, coach and assistant-manager of Liverpool, has died at the age of 83.

• This weekend's Rugby Super League games include Catalan Dragons v Wakefield, Leigh v Widnes and Warrington Wolves v Hull. The Wolves have yet to win this season!

• In the Aviva Premiership, Leicester beat Northampton 36-31 to move into fourth place behind Wasps, Exeter and Saracens.

• The Miami Open tennis championship is underway and is followed almost immediately by two more top events, in Mexico and in South Carolina.

• The Houston and Mississippi Open golf championships are taking place in the USA and Dustin Johnson won the recent match-play tournament in Texas.

• Thousands of runners are getting 'fit and well oiled' for the Boston and London marathons on the April 17 and April 23 respectively.

• On Saturday we have the Cambridge-Oxford University boat race.

WHO WILL WIN THE MASTERS?

The first major golf tournament of the year, the US Masters, starts in Augusta next Thursday (April 6) and

I believe one of these six players will end up wearing the green jacket.

* Home favourite Jordan Spieth from Texas, winner in 2015 and runner-up in 2014 and 2016.

* Recent Match Play winner and World Number One Dustin Johnson from South Carolina, sixth in 2015 and fourth last year.

* Ireland's Rory McIlroy with three consecutive top-10 finishes and a best of fourth in 2015.

* Australian Jason Day, second in 2011 and third in 2013.

* Reigning champion from England, Danny Willett, despite his poor form of late.

* Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, who ended up fifth and seventh in the last two years.

Another six to 'watch out for' are Emiliano Grillo from Argentina, Spanish youngster Jon Rahm Rodriguez, Bubba Watson from Florida, South African Charl Schwartzel and the Australian duo of Adam Scott and in-form Marc Leishman who won recently in Orlando.

And of course the winner, and the runner-up, may come from the following... the English quintet of Paul Casey, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Tommy Fleetwood, Tyrrell Hatton and Justin Rose... Germany's Martin Kaymer... Alex Noren and Henrik Stenson from Sweden... Italian Francesco Molinari... South Africa's Branden Grace... the Spanish duo of Rafael Cabrera-Bello and Sergio Garcia.

Plus the huge American

contingent which includes Texans Roberto Castro and Patrick Reed; Cleveland-born Jason Dufner; Californians Phil Mickelson (now aged 46) and Rickie Fowler; Charley Hoffman from San Diego; JB Holmes from Kentucky; Kevin Kisner from South Carolina; the Florida pair of Brooks Koepka and Matt Kuchar; 2012 US Open champion Webb Simpson from North Carolina; Nashville's Brandt Snedeker; Justin Thomas from Louisville; Jimmy Walker from Oklahoma City.

Or even Tiger Woods, if he competes! However, if he does, even his diehard supporters don't think he'll make the cut.

Watch and enjoy... it will be another excellent golfing weekend.



SEBASTIAN VETTEL: Winner of the first Grand Prix of 2017.

Royal British Legion Golf Tournament

At
Aguilon Golf Club

On
Saturday 27th May 2017

10.00 tee time - shotgun start
18 holes stableford competition

THIS EVENT WILL BE OPEN TO OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF LOCAL GOLF CLUBS AND ESTABLISHED GOLF SOCIETIES WHO HOLD AN OFFICIAL HANDICAP STATUS.

ALL 18 HOLES HAVE BEEN SPONSORED WHICH WILL PROVIDE OUTSTANDING PRIZES ON THE DAY FOR ALL GOLFERS IN THEIR TEE GROUP CATEGORY

HANDICAP STATUS WILL DETERMINE YOUR TEE OFF ZONE BEING RED, BLUE OR YELLOW, EXCEPT PLUS HANDICAP GOLFERS WHO WILL PLAY OFF THE WHITE TEES.

**ENTRY FEE: 5 EUROS
GREEN FEE AND SHARED BUGGY: 25 EUROS**

REFRESHMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CLUBHOUSE AFTER THE GOLF EVENT AND PRIOR TO THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES, DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

TO ENTER THIS EVENT PLEASE CONTACT:

Tom Tannant, Golf Venue Co-ordinator on: thomastannant@outlook.com

All proceeds raised at this event will go to the Royal British Legion in Spain 2017 Poppy Appeal Fund

LIVE ON 



JORDAN SPIETH: A home favourite to win the US Masters golf tournament.

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

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

19th Hole Golf Society at Aguilon Golf Resort

ON Thursday March 23 the venue for the 19th Hole Golf Society's Three Division Stableford competition was the exquisite Aguilon Golf Resort.

With the course and weather just about perfect for golf it was inevitable that scoring would be exceptional. But as with all forecasts the results rarely match expectations.

Only the overall winner managed a below par for the course score, Dave Denyer in division three scored a very neat 42 points to take the win and the abuse from the fellow players, which he sportingly shook off and graciously accepted the prize money.

Ellen Lea and Zeta Denyer were second and third in that division decided on a card countback both on 33 points.

Division one was again a tight affair with Tony Mackay and Paco Ocaña Grajal only being separated with a card countback. Di-

vision one was a decisive win for Mike Esposito with a score of 32.

Results

1st Division: 1st Mike Esposito, 32 points (12). 2nd Mark Coffey, 27 points (16). 3rd Steve Newberry, 27 points (10).

2nd Division: 1st Tony Mackay, 36 points (22). 2nd Paco Ocaña Grajal, 27 points (18). 3rd Steve Lawrie, 27 points (24).

3rd Division: 1st Dave Denyer, 42 points (28). 2nd Ellen Lea, 33 points (32). 3rd Zeta Denyer, 33 points (35)

Nearest the Pins: 2nd in two Mark Coffey, 3rd Ellen Lea, 8th Mike Esposito, 12th Pat O Dwyer, 14th Mark Coffey

Twos: 8th Mike Esposito and Steve Newberry, 17th Vince Swain and Dave Denyer.

The 19th Hole Golf Society arranges weekly games around the area playing Aguilon every other week. For more information call 634 315 813 or email gs19thhole@hotmail.co.uk.

Vettel secures first F1 Grand Prix win of 2017

by Tony Matthews

FOOTBALL:

THIS weekend's PL matches are Arsenal v Manchester City, Burnley v Spurs, runaway leaders Chelsea v Crystal Palace, Hull v West Ham, Leicester v Stoke, Liverpool v Everton, Manchester United v WBA, Southampton v Bournemouth, Swansea v Middlesbrough and Watford v struggling Sunderland.

The second tier matches include Brighton (second) v Blackburn, leaders Newcastle v Wigan, Huddersfield (third) v Burton Albion and Reading v Leeds (fourth); it's Bolton (second) v Chesterfield in FL1 and

Grimsby Town v high-flying Doncaster Rovers in FL2.

Also on Sunday, Coventry City face Oxford United in the Checkatrade Trophy final at Wembley.

Then, next Tuesday/Wednesday in the PL, we have, among others, Arsenal v West Ham, Chelsea v Manchester City, Hull v Middlesbrough (a real six-pointer this), Leicester v Sunderland, Liverpool v Bournemouth, Manchester United v Everton and Swansea v Spurs, plus Brentford v Leeds, Brighton v Birmingham, Huddersfield v Norwich and Newcastle v Burton in the Championship. Plenty of interesting fixtures all round, I would say.

• Arsenal are on their worst run of results for 21 years, six defeats in nine, and leaking goals galore.

• Everton has agreed building details for a new 50,000+ capacity stadium in the north of Liverpool.

MOTOR SPORT:

Around 118,000 spectators saw Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) win last Sunday's first F1 Grand Prix of 2017 in Australia.

The Mercedes duo of Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas were second and third. This was Ferrari's 225th F1 race victory.

And on two wheels, Spain's

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