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MALLORCA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Rental racket

Holidaymakers warned over Airbnb scam

By Francesca Souter

Police are warning people of a holiday rental scam using popular website Airbnb to reel people in.

The warning comes after one couple came forward to tell the story of how they were duped into believing they were renting an apartment through the credible site, when in reality they were being swindled out of over €2,000.

This is a highly intelligent operation, with some tricksters hijacking the identities of existing Airbnb hosts in a bid to deceive guests. Investigators are calling for prudence from users booking online, particularly in the face of Semana Santa.

As well as using Airbnb, the con artists are flooding popular rental websites with beautiful photos of apartments at very competitive prices. Punters are lured in by the apparent credibility of the deals available on the websites. It is at this point that the fraudsters use false emails to trick the cash out of unsuspecting users.

Police have tracked many of the criminals involved to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa, but some have learnt to cover their tracks, using servers which allow them to quickly delete all evidence.

Authorities are encouraging people to check and double check every interaction when booking rental properties this

BE AWARE: If it's too good to be true, it probably is.



year. Try to talk directly to the advertiser, rather than relying on email or WhatsApp.

Credible owners will never ask you for copies of passports

or driving licences, and Airbnb will never ask you to make payments outside of the website through the likes of Western Union or Moneygram.

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LOCAL NEWS

Royal visit

KING FELIPE is to receive Francina Armengol, president of the Balearic Islands administration alongside Joan Punset Miro, grandson of the artist Joan Miro, at la Zarzuela palace in Madrid today (Thursday March 30). Miro is responsible for management of his famous grandfather's artworks and legacy, with the Miro family having in 2015 renounced their rights to the Spanish 'brand' created by Joan.

Less promotions

THE ministry of tourism is continuing progress on their Better in Winter campaign, most recently through the Balearic tourism agency (ATB). The group are cutting the number of travel fairs that focus on summer season tourism from 38 to 24. Tourism councillor, Biel Barcelo, said that summer tourism is already more than sufficient.

Prison unrest

UNREST amongst prisoners in Mallorca penitentiary led to a major incident whereby after setting fire to items in his cell, one of the prisoners attacked a number of officers, threatening to kill them and trying to bite them with at least one requiring hospital treatment due to injuries sustained during the fracas.

Hidden weapons stash unearthed

Photos by Policia Nacional



ARSENAL OF WEAPONRY: Included rifle cartridges, handgun clips and other paramilitary items.

By Matt Ford

A MAN has been taken into custody in Palma de Mallorca after National Police investigators discovered an arsenal of weaponry at his place of work.

The cache included a Russian assault rifle with precision telescopic sight, a machine gun, a hand gun, smoke bomb, and a selection of knives and daggers.

More than 400 rifle cartridges, 100 9mm

cartridges, 20 shotgun cartridges of different calibres, two handgun clips, two hand grenade casings, a fuse and other paramilitary items were also seized.

The weapons were found during an inspection of a vehicle workshop located on the Son Castello industrial estate.

According to the police statement, investigators were suspicious that foreign nationals may have been working as mechanics despite lacking any form of training.

The premises in question were thus checked by a team comprising officials from the Ministry of Employment, Social Security and the Interior Ministry.

Two undocumented Senagalese immigrants were found to be employed without work permits, but that case has been temporarily shelved while detectives ascertain the origin and intended use of the guns, ammunition, and other weapons.

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Torrent of funding

THE Balearic government has substantially increased its investment into the maintenance of waterways after large amounts of rainfall lead to damages and flooding across the island.

The council approved the ministry of environment and agriculture's proposal for a €2.4 million investment into the cleaning of stream and riverbeds over the next two years.

The goal is to maintain standards and reduce the risk of flooding such as that seen in January. Many in parliament blamed the flood issues on a lack of funding from the regional government for maintenance, with the 2016 budget a mere €470,000.

Campos was one of the areas severely affected by the winter, and the town hall sent a letter months before the heavy rainfall highlighting their concerns. The work is set to begin soon, and will include the removal of vegetation and selected trees, plus residues and other materials which obstruct water flow.

Green light for mountain projects

THE Council of Mallorca will allocate just over €800,000 to projects based in the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range. Grants will fund restoration projects and maintenance of the cultural landscape.

In addition, subsidies will be allocated to aid in the control of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, also known as olive Ebola. Half of the funding will be shared among town councils, and the other portion will be handed to individuals and organisations.

An additional €30,000 will fund the promotion of land stewardship in order to prevent properties from remaining unused and deteriorating. Partial ownership of such properties would temporarily be given to those who in return will protect and maintain them.

Crazy car chase

AN unlicensed 21-year-old driver lead police on a high speed, seven kilometre chase in Palma.

The man was driving a BMW Cabriolet as he ran red lights, zoomed across footpaths and careered down

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.

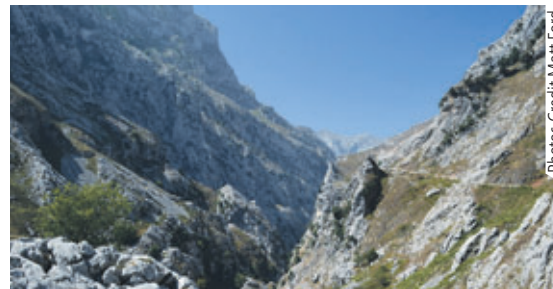
Life on Mars

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.

one-way streets in the wrong direction. His pursuers had to take a step back to protect the safety of nearby pedestrians and cyclists, but the suspect was arrested shortly after returning home.

Daylight depravity

A VIDEO recorded by a nearby driver

aided in the arrest by the Lluçmajor police of a drunken man assaulting his girlfriend while inside his car.

The woman tried to leave the scene as several passers-by alerted police that her partner was punching her and dragging her back into the vehicle by her hair. The victim refused to file a complaint but police are still investigating.

Out of danger

AN 18-month-old boy who was rushed to Son Espases hospital after being strangled by a rope is reportedly making clear improvements and is out of danger.

The boy accidentally wrapped himself in part of a child's climbing game while at nursery, and was found unconscious with the rope around his neck.

He was released from the hospital after over a week of care.

Witness intimidation in Cursach

TWO Romanian mercenaries have been arrested for their involvement in pressuring and threatening witnesses in the Cursach trial. Investigators detected the first known movements of witness tampering attempts, including the two men's threatening messages, earlier this week and quickly made the arrests.

Both men were promptly put before Judge Penalva, who is presiding over the entire trial. A third man, Tito's nightclub's former head, also testified regarding threats against witnesses and remains in custody.

Even though all measures have been taken to protect the identity of witnesses, many involved fear most of them are already known within the industrial community. This is the first known case in Mallorca of the hiring of thugs to intimidate witnesses. Investigators hope the tactics do not work and witnesses do not become scared and change their statements.

Judge Penalva and the inspectors working on the case have assured witnesses that the government is doing all they can to protect them, and lines of communication are open.

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.

INSIDE VIEW

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Gang busted

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

No deals

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

Food swoop

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

Eye on SPAIN

Around the nation in 7 stories

Postcard from GIRONA



Jolan Wikimedia

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

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

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

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

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

Mars goal

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

Time to pay up

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

What a find

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

Birthdays

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

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

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

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



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

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

Numbers that add up to local life

9,474,556

people in Spain now receive some form of State pension.

13.1 %

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

11%

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

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Company leads the Popular Party

THE minister of agriculture, Biel Company, has been elected the Popular Party figurehead in Mallorca. Company won with 72 per cent of the votes against the former president, Jose Ramon Bauza.

Company won the vote in most towns including the capital Palma where the vote was won by only 17 points, 685 to 668.

This year's voting turnout was especially low with less than a third of the 22,800 members able to vote doing so. Around 1,300 of Palma's 6,000 voters participated, an lower turnout than average.

Company represents a more modern party, presenting himself as a 'regionalist.'

Bauza on the other hand presented a more conservative platform.

Esperanza Aguirre, former leader of Madrid's popular party, commented on the results saying they were "very sad," and is not pleased with Company's views on Catalan requirements.

Language has been a large issue of debate among candidates. The same week as the party's election, the popular party passed an amendment in which parents can choose their children's languages at school, either starting with Catalan or Spanish, and gradually reaching half and half in each.

Company is a strong supporter of growing Catalan requirements including that those who work with the government must pass a Catalan test.

Company is including a large amount of the Catalan language in his speeches, which has prompted some to protest and demand "in Spanish please!"

"We need to recover the pride of belonging to the popular party," insisted Company.

Protesting noisy streets

RESIDENTS of Palma's Plaza Major have arranged a collective protest in regard to the noise and music coming from the streets. "To live like this is torture," said neighbour Agnes Coll.

"It is a nightmare for tourists and visitors," exclaimed the resident who has joined the protest. Residents have begun to hang sheets from their balconies with protest messages.

It is still early to tell the extent of the upcoming protests, but complaints of established hours of noise and music being breached has angered locals.

Coll said the allowed hours for music in the square is 10am to 2pm, and again from 5pm to 8pm, but establishments "do not comply."

Residents are also requesting a better quality and variety of songs and music, and not to subject neighbours to the same musical loop.



PLAZA MAJOR: A nightmare for tourists and visitors.

"We will protest against the city council because there is no clear rules, the Local Police does not know what to expect when we call them," continued Coll. The issue was already denounced weeks ago by Anna Moilanen, Palma's residents public advocate. She opened the file on the noise matter

while requesting explanations from the government.

"I'm sure they have a willingness to solve this problem but the answer is extended in the face of a conflict that already is set," Moilanen commented. A noise reform was approved last December but there is no date for the new regulation to be published and enforced.

Proposal to preserve Palma's old town

THE ARCA heritage preservation association is making a proposal to change road signs and remove yellow street lines in the old town of Palma.

The association suggests there are alternatives that are more culturally appropriate and aesthetically pleasing. Signs in the old town should be kept to a minimum and be well maintained according to the proposal. They also encourage the city to find a way to remove yellow street paint from the old stone roads without harming them. "The beauty of the street

“ Road signs are to be changed and yellow street lines removed.

does not deserve the paint" according to the association.

ARCA has already spoken to the councillor of Transport Joan Ferrer about the negative impacts of such issues and will formally submit their proposal to the ministry of transport and the Palma mayor's office.



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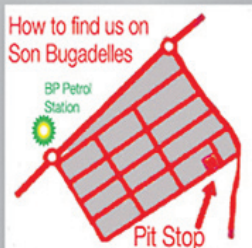
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Photo by @BombersdeMca

OVERTURNED LORRY: Fell down a wall near Soller.

Capsized butane truck

A LORRY full of butane gas bottles flipped upside down after falling down a wall while delivering near Soller.

The two delivery men inside were unharmed. Firefighters promptly arrived at the scene to deal with the potentially dangerous butane bottles.

Russian Mafia trial

SUSPECTED members of the Russian Mafia Tambovskaya will be prosecuted in June and July for their participation in criminal activities in Spain since 1996.

Crimes involve the enormous economic performance obtained through the commission of murders and beatings, money laundering and the smuggling and trafficking of drugs.

The anti-corruption prosecutor requests between five and half and eight and a half years in prison for

the two accused main associates, Alexander Ivanovich Malyshev and Olga Solovyeva.

In regard to Gennadios Petrov, the prosecutor is requesting the highest penalty for the Calvia based head of the gang who is currently fleeing and will not be present at the trial.

The prosecution also requests that the remaining 24 suspected members of the mafia be fined €100 million and a five and a half years prison sentence.

OUR VIEW

Wanton carnage

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now we want to hear your views.
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Palma neighbourhoods' plea for fewer hotels

THE Federation of neighbourhood associations of Palma has asked the government to temporarily suspend the opening of new city hotels.

The request has been made in the hope that the city takes the time to define where and when city hotels can be opened to tourists. This is one of many issues residents have with the rapid increase of tourists in Mallorca.

The federation has warned that by the end of this year, Palma will host almost 30 hotels with space for 1,200 guests, most of which are in the historic centre. The federation proposes that the government should not grant new licences for three years, giving the city ample time to effectively regulate the capital's main economic activity.

"We have to define what type of hotels we want in the centre of Palma, where they have to be located, what conditions must be met and, especially, that for every new hotel created involves the reduction of two existing ones," explained the neighbourhood federation.

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NEWS EXTRA**Two released**

TWO Palma police officers who have been in prison since last October have been released after the courts accepted their appeal. The two men were jailed after being accused of verbally attacking a lesbian woman.

Valtonyc rap

RECENTLY released from jail, rapper Valtonyc gave a speech to students in Santa Margalida causing outrage from those that are opposed to his views and actions insulting the crown.

LED lighting

THE local government are addressing the poor lighting issues in Playa de Palma by replacing LED spotlights on street lamps. The measures come after complaints from residents, hoteliers and restaurateurs.

Palma's airport becomes Mediterranean hub



PALMA AIRPORT: Is forecast to grow by more than 11 per cent.

NINE major airlines will have their Mediterranean base of nearly 30 airliners at Palma's Son San Joan airport over this year's summer season. easyJet recently opened up their newest base in Palma, their 28th in Europe.

They join carriers such as Ryanair, Jet2, Eurowings, Iberia Express, Air Europa, Norwegian, and Vueling in adding Mallorca's airport as a base.

The new bases will create hundreds of new jobs, with an estimated 1,000 flight crew members sleeping in Palma every night this

season. easyJet alone will create 120 new jobs.

Currently there is a large debate over whether there should be a limit on how many tourists are brought to the island each year. While many including the Spanish airport authority Aena welcome the growth, others worry towns and regulations, such as holiday rentals, are not prepared. Palma's airport is forecast to grow by more than 11 per cent.

There will be 47 more routes in and out of Palma than last year, bringing the total to 372.

Double break-in arrests

THE owners of a villa in Palma defended themselves against two thieves who came to rob their estate. Officers of the National Police arrested six people accused of assault during a violent robbery.

“The victims gave the intruders a brutal beating.

Two squatters who are reportedly drug addicts broke into a home nearby their temporary housing. The couple entered the home and began assaulting those inside and demanding money and valuables. The assailants

then threatened the victims, telling them that they would return the next day for more money now that they knew where to get it.

The following day the couple returned to the home just as they threatened, kicking in the door and demanding the money they previously spoke of. On the second day of break-ins, the residents had family staying over who woke up and defended themselves against the intruders.

The victims gave the intruders a brutal beating. Both were taken to the Son Llatzer hospital in a serious condition. The two assailants and four victims were all arrested in connection to the robbery and assaults.

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On the Padron, or do you need to confirm your registration?

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

The Padron is an administrative registration which provides proof of residence in your municipality. If you

live in several places you only need to register in the place where you live the most.

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

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

porarily), but are registered on the Padron, your Padron registration needs to be confirmed every two years.

If your Padron registration is due for confirmation, you can do this by signing a declaration form at your town hall. In some cases, your town hall may contact you in person (either an official from the town hall or the Local Police) or send you a letter asking you to confirm your registration.

If you change your address or personal details with your local town hall,

your Padron registration will be automatically confirmed.

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

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

Bike accidents reduced

THE number of accidents involving cyclists decreased by 15 per cent from 2015 to 2016 according to a report by Palma's Local Police. Cycling accidents only made up 5 per cent of all accidents in the capital city. Of those accidents, only 79 out of 205 were caused by the cyclist.

The report also noted that most of the accidents occurred off the bike lane, and less than 20 per cent involved pedestrians. The minister of transportation Joan Ferrer commented that the report is "good news for the advancement of bicycles in Palma."



CYCLING: In Mallorca is a popular and growing industry.

Permanent contracts

THE number of permanent contracts, or 'indefinidos,' reached a historic high in 2016 for workers over the age of 45 in the Balearic Islands.

Data provided by Randstad, revealed 9,600 permanent contracts were signed by the age group last year, which is 15 per cent more than the previous year and 52 per cent more than a decade ago.

Overall in Spain in 2016, a quarter of all permanent contracts signed were by those over 45-years-old. The Balearic Island's rise in these contracts was higher than the national average last year, showing the fourth most growth in Spain.

The agriculture sector has seen the largest increase in this age group's permanent work contracts. Although the growth has not been large, the service industry still supports the most permanent contracts for workers over the age of 45.

"Professionals over 45 years old have skills and competence that are increasingly in demand in the market," according to the director of Randstad Outplacement, Helia Tellez de Meneses, who added "effective communication and ability to solve conflicts and negotiate are some of such qualities."

Medical Union wants protection

PRESIDENT of the Medical Union (Simebal) Miguel Lazaro has requested specific protection measures for agents who work in hostile environments, such as visiting homes of mentally ill or violent patients. Workers have repeatedly denounced the situation claiming they work in a hostile environment.

Lazaro considers it embarrassing that the IB-Salut recently refused to supply protective vests for medical workers. He also calls for better coordination with the police in situations of probable risk, the workers are trained for risky situations and know the legal regulations.

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NEWS EXTRA

No apology

MARIO LABANDEIRA, one of the parents denounced at the children's football match in Alaro, has stated he refuses to support the apology given by the Alaro community, and would repeat his actions again.

Three caught

NATIONAL POLICE arrested three people and dismantled a collection operation of organised robberies in a flat in Palma's Son Gotleu district. The apartment was used as a drop off point.

Adoption bias

A RECENT survey concluded over half the Balearic population is against single men or women and same-sex couples adopting children. Thirty-six per cent are still against gay marriage.



Photo credit: commons.wikimedia.org

HISTORY MUSEUM: Is preparing for restoration, inside and out.

Facelift for Manacor

THE Torre dels Enagistes, the historic tower in Manacor, will receive a structural rehabilitation on the facade and parts of the interior.

The building was built in the 13th and 14th centuries and now houses the history museum of Manacor. The last restoration occurred in 1985,

and only general maintenance duties have been carried out since.

Manacor's tourism and culture board, directed by Antonia Llodra has commissioned the project to improve the building classified as a Property of Cultural Interest (BIC) with a

budget of nearly €105,000.

Problems include exterior walls detaching as a result of humidity, poor water drainage leading to leaks and flooding, and mould. Interior walls will be remodelled in order to update electrical wiring for better lighting on museum walls.

New sign code of good behaviour

THE largest car rental companies are refusing to sign the new code of conduct and good behaviour practices created to end fraud in the car rental industry.

Director general of consumer affairs Xisco Dalmau has stated that changes with immediate effect are coming with or without the signatures.

Dalmau and his department have decided to double the number of controls during the summer and will dedicate nine inspectors to monitor car companies' facilities and websites.

Over 15 smaller rental agencies have signed the agreement committing to act with transparency with the government. The bosses of larger rental companies including Belevel withheld signing, claiming they should hold a meeting with associates before acting.

"We do not want the

Balearics to lose tourists because of the bad practices of a few," expressed Dalmau. Commitments agreed upon in the code of conduct include the price on the website actually being the final price, insurance and services included. Another requirement includes the inspections upon delivery to ensure customers are not charged for damages they are not responsible for.

In return for accepting and adhering to these practices, the government will supply a badge for the cars to ensure customers know they comply with good practices.

Dalmau said that one of the goals now being marked by the government is to make this badge widely known among visitors with the launch of an information campaign, to the detriment of companies that do not get it.



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NEWS EXTRA**Police appeal**

A PALMA police officer has been penalised after participating in a risky river raft celebration while on medical leave after having a back operation. The officer has appealed the penalty which resulted in the loss of one month's work and salary.

Social work

THE Department of Social Services and Cooperation and the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) have agreed to start a social assistance service in the university beginning in April for students.

Discount cap

A NEW system allowing companies to put a cap on group discounts for residents has been postponed from Madrid. Many find flaws in the proposal and are glad to see it revoked.

Survey carried out on homeless population

VOLUNTEERS recently spent an evening counting the homeless on the streets to have a better number of the population and note living conditions.

On a recent Wednesday evening, 214 homeless were counted across Mallorca, and social workers noted the stark difference in living conditions to 10 years ago.

The recession has not only increased the number of homeless people on the streets, but has also seen a growth in camps on the edge of Palma.

Mallorca has facilities that can sleep a total of 600 people each night, with the rest out on the streets. As many banks have closed their doors, which is one of the few protected places a homeless person can access at night, the population has moved to the



Photocredit: flickr.com/endogamia.

edge of town.

There they can set up a camp, either off the roads or in abandoned buildings and construction sites with the lit-

tle supplies

they have.

The survey also found a large growth in young people living on the streets, many of whom had trouble finding

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Adapts to the growing homeless population.

work and lacked a support network able to assist.

Some of the volunteers were able to sit down and talk with some of the homeless, asking them about their history and how they ended up where they were.

Many of those interviewed said they felt safer on the streets or in their camps than in the bad environments of some shelters. The rise in housing costs growing much faster than the economy and wages only add to the number of residents unable to afford a roof over their head.

The government's first goal in care for the homeless is to hire more psychologists to improve mental health care.

Do you want to be a TV star?

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

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

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

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



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For pension
equality.

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 govern-

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

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

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.'

Improved care for cancer patients

THE IB-Salut and the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC) have signed an agreement to improve care among cancer patients in hospitals and primary care. The agreement will develop three programmes: volunteering, psychological care, and first impact. The proposal was signed by the general director of IB-Salut Juli Fuster and

president of the Balearic provincial board of the AECC Javier Cortes and will be valid for four years.

The volunteer programme regulates the performance of volunteers directed at cancer patients and their families and aims to improve their quality of life. The first impact programme aims to provide informa-

tion on all available resources to to recently diagnosed patients and their families.

Most important is the psychological care programme which will provide mental and emotional care to both patients and family members. Its purpose is to achieve different goals such as evaluate, guide and advise patients and families.



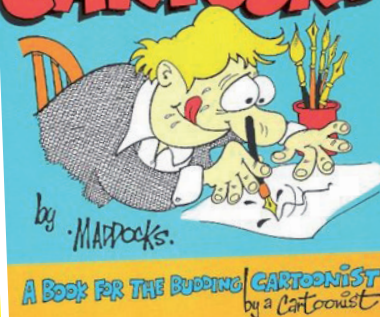
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Advertising Feature

Disappointing week for euro

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

Broadly it was a bad week for the euro and the US dollar, a good one for the pound and an even better one for the yen. The euro was unchanged against the dollar and both currencies lost a cent and a quarter to sterling. Investors tended to favour the Japanese currency for its perceived safe-haven quality, sending it two yen higher against the euro.

The euro did nothing to distinguish itself. Such economic data as did emerge from Euroland were of low importance and unremarkable. Against the dollar the euro covered a range of less than one US cent. Its range against sterling was double that. On Monday the pound fell to the back of the pack after the prime minister named March 29 as the day she would pull the Article 50 Brexit trigger. On Wednesday it raced to the front when UK inflation came in ahead of forecast at 2.3%.

USD weekly currency update

Neither the dollar nor the euro had a great week. Both lost a cent and a quarter to sterling and the dollar was down by two yen against the safe-haven Japanese currency. The dollar's problem was a gnawing suspicion that Donald Trump might not be able to deliver the stimulative programmes that enthused buyers at the end of last year. He is currently facing his first test in Con-

gress, with uncertainty about whether his health-care bill will pass the House of Representatives. Were it to be defeated it would cast doubt on Mr Trump's other legislative ambitions.

Sterling would have had a better week had it not stumbled when the prime minister named the day for triggering Article 50. It recovered after UK inflation came in well above forecast at 2.3%. No early interest rate increase is expected but it is likely that opinion is leaning in that direction in the Monetary Policy Committee.

AUD weekly currency update

It was a difficult week for the Australian dollar, which got caught up in a broad move away from 'risky' commodity-related currencies. Although it did nothing particularly wrong the Aussie managed to come away with the worst possible result, losing ground to all the major currencies. It lost two thirds of a US cent and fell by three cents against the pound. Other than a 7.7% annual rise for house prices there were no Australian data to inspire investors.

Sterling tripped on Monday when the prime minister said she would activate the Article 50 Brexit process on March 29. It recovered strongly two days later after UK inflation came in quite a bit higher than expected at 2.3%. Although there can be no suggestion that the above-target rate might prompt a rate increase from the Bank

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of England, at least it suggests that the MPC's thinking may be leaning in that direction.

AUD weekly currency update

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minister said she would activate the Article 50 Brexit process on March 29. It recovered strongly two days later after UK inflation came in quite a bit higher than expected at 2.3%. Although there can be no suggestion that the above-target rate might prompt a rate increase from the Bank of England, at least it suggests that the MPC's thinking may be leaning in that direction.

NZD weekly currency update

In a week that was hard going for all the supposedly 'risky' commodity-related currencies the Kiwi came away with a better result than its Australian and Canadian cousins. It lost nearly one and a half cents to sterling but it was able to pick up a sixth of a US cent and it was up by 1% against the Aussie dollar. Of the few NZ ecostats to emerge Fonterra's global dairy trade index was helpful, with milk prices up by 1.7%, and February's balance of trade figures weren't, because there was a small deficit.

Sterling took some stick on Monday when the prime minister announced she would activate the Article 50 Brexit process on March 29. Two days later it got a boost when inflation unexpectedly accelerated to 2.3% and it got another one on Thursday from surprising strong retail sales figures. It came away an average of 0.7% higher on the week.

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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.

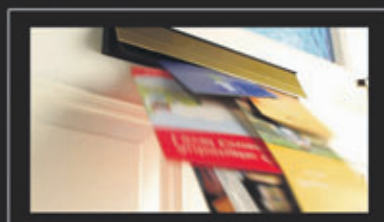
Europe protest march

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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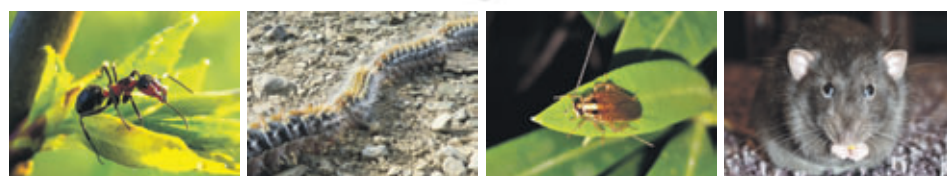
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Photo credit: mercadona.es, press page.

NEW DESIGN: Mercadona's efficient store model is a clean sleek look.

Mercadona opens new model supermarket

MERCADONA, the popular supermarket chain, has opened their first new model of an efficient store in Palma.

The new store is a result of a recent integral reform of the chain. The model store received an investment of €2 million and has employed 195 people during the reform phase.

Overall Mercadona will invest €180 million in renovations during this year.

The new design of the facilities present improvements for distribution, decoration and layout of sections with the aim of improving and optimising the customer's experience. The new efficient store model saves 40 per cent more

energy than traditional stores.

Palma's new supermarket hosts new colours and materials to match the new design. The store has 41 permanent staff members in the 1,600 square metre location.

Mercadona plans on renovating 125 stores throughout Spain in 2017.

Age Concern organises outing

AGE CONCERN MALLORCA is pleased to be able to offer an opportunity to attend the performance of Hamlet, one of William Shakespeare's most renowned plays, which is being produced by the Morgana Theatre Company.

The performance will take place at the Auditorium on Friday April 21 at 7.30pm. Age Concern is organising a group booking and needs a minimum of 10 people. Tickets cost €18 per person which includes a handling fee.

If you would like to see this interesting play please contact Jackie at Age Concern before April 6 in order to get the best seats. You can email mallorca@ageconcern.org.es or call 678 352 040 or 971 231 520 in the evenings.

Family fun day event

ON Friday March 31 Heroes in Portals Nous will be hosting a fundraising event for Comic Relief and the Allen Graham Charity.

The family fun day will have music from some of Mallorca's best singers and entertainers including the brand new comedy duo 'The Two Martins' as well as comedy, face painting and much more.

There will be happy hour from 5-7pm, children's fish and

chips for only €5 and raffle tickets, costing €5 will also be available with some amazing prizes to be won including two theatre tickets, a meal for two, a family ticket to the pirates adventure show and lots more.

All money raised will be donated to Comic Relief and the Allen Graham Charity who will purchase Easter eggs to be given to the orphans in Mallorca.

Call now to book your table on 971 676 467.



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Credit availability in the UK

By John Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social services

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

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

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

Quote of the Week

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



Boycott of YouTube

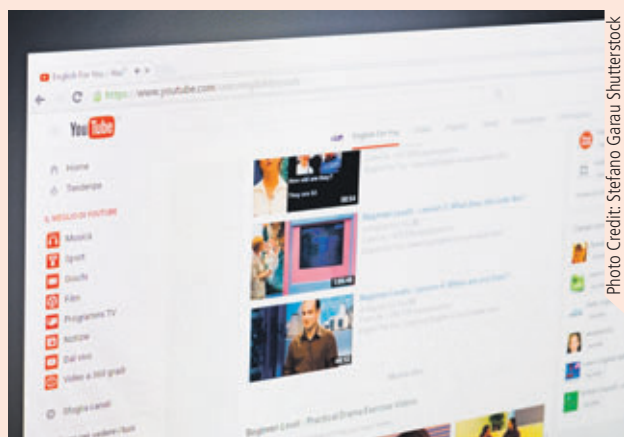


Photo Credit: Stefano Garau Shutterstock

YOUTUBE: Companies are pulling their ads.

By John Smith

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

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

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

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

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

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Public jobs

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

Port workers

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

Swiss charge

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

Trading benefits after Brexit

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

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

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UK airlines could lose routes in continental Europe after Brexit

By Jay Emeny

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo Credit: Ryanair

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

"mildly lunatic optimism" of the British government.

easyJet is reported to be in the process of estab-

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

Fashion fiesta for Madrid

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

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

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

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

Cost of death to increase in the UK

By John Smith

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

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

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

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

This is nothing to do with inher-



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

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

Under the new rules, anyone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dutch leader upsets Eurozone neighbours



Photo Credit: Carlos Delgado Wikimedia

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

By John Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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

UK state pensions reviews

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Let me just spell it out for you!

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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

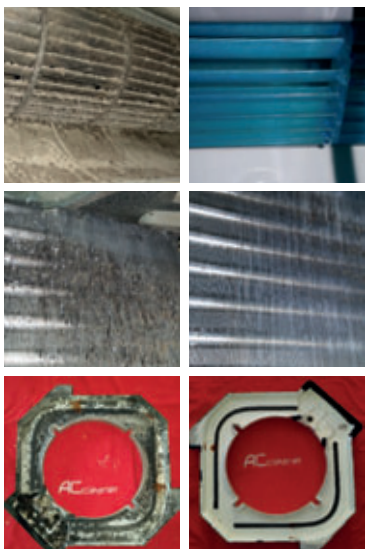
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30 MARCH	6:15pm	Pointless	5:15pm	8:00pm	5:00pm	6:00pm	
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	6:15pm	8:30pm	5:00pm	6:00pm	
	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:00pm	9:00pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	9:30pm	7:00pm	7:00pm	
	8:30pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	10:00pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	
	9:00pm	MasterChef	9:00pm	11:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	
	10:00pm	Galapagos	10:00pm	11:30pm	9:00pm	9:00pm	
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:00pm	12:00am	10:00pm	10:00pm	
	11:30pm	BBC London News	11:30pm	12:00am	11:00pm	11:00pm	
	11:45pm	Question Time	12:15am	12:00am	12:00am	12:00am	
	12:45am	This Week					
	31 MARCH	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	7:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm
8:30pm		A Question of Sport	7:30pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	7:00pm	
9:00pm		EastEnders	8:00pm	8:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	
9:30pm		MasterChef	9:00pm	9:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	
10:00pm		Decline and Fall	9:30pm	9:30pm	9:00pm	9:00pm	
11:00pm		BBC News at Ten	10:00pm	10:00pm	10:00pm	10:00pm	
11:25pm		BBC London News	11:00pm	11:00pm	11:00pm	11:00pm	
11:35pm		Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	11:30pm	11:30pm	11:00pm	11:00pm	
1:40am		Weather for the Week Ahead	12:05am	12:00am	12:00am	12:00am	
SATURDAY		7:35pm	BBC News	6:00pm	6:30pm	10:40am	4:20pm
	7:45pm	Regional News	6:30pm	6:45pm	12:00pm	5:15pm	
	7:48pm	Weather	7:30pm	7:00pm	1:30pm	6:15pm	
	7:50pm	Pointless	8:00pm	8:00pm	2:00pm	8:10pm	
	8:40pm	Who Dares Wins	9:00pm	9:30pm	4:30pm	9:00pm	
	9:25pm	Casualty	9:30pm	11:20pm	5:35pm	9:55pm	
	10:15pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	10:00pm	11:35pm	7:30pm	10:00pm	
	11:15pm	BBC News	10:45pm	12:35am	8:00pm	11:30pm	
	11:28pm	Weather	12:35am		11:45pm	11:30pm	
	11:30pm	Match of the Day			1:45am		
	1:00am	Cosmopolis					
	SUNDAY	7:25pm	BBC News	4:30pm	6:30pm	1:30pm	2:40pm
7:40pm		Regional News	5:00pm	6:40pm	2:50pm	4:55pm	
7:45pm		Weather	6:00pm	7:00pm	3:55pm	7:15pm	
7:50pm		Countryfile	7:00pm	8:00pm	5:30pm	7:20pm	
9:00pm		Antiques Roadshow	8:00pm	9:00pm	7:35pm	8:10pm	
10:00pm		Line of Duty	9:00pm	11:00pm	8:00pm	9:00pm	
11:00pm		BBC News	10:00pm	11:15pm	9:00pm	10:00pm	
11:20pm		Regional News	11:00pm	11:45pm	11:05pm	11:30pm	
11:25pm		Weather	11:45pm	1:30am	12:00am	1:00am	
11:30pm		Match of the Day 2	1:50am				
12:35am		I'm Different: Let Me Drive					
MONDAY		7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	7:30pm	6:00pm	3:20pm
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	4:20pm	
	8:30pm	Fake Britain	7:30pm	8:30pm	7:30pm	6:00pm	
	9:00pm	EastEnders	8:00pm	9:00pm	8:00pm	6:30pm	
	9:30pm	Panorama	9:00pm	9:30pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	
	10:00pm	Child of Our Time	9:30pm	10:00pm	9:00pm	7:30pm	
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	11:00pm	9:30pm	8:00pm	
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	11:30pm	10:00pm	9:00pm	
	11:40pm	Weather	11:30pm	12:15am	11:00pm	10:00pm	
	11:45pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	12:10am		11:50pm	11:00pm	
	12:45am	Have I Got a Bit			12:50am	12:05am	
	TUESDAY	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	7:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm
8:00pm		The One Show	7:00pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	7:00pm	
8:30pm		EastEnders	7:30pm	8:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	
9:00pm		Holby City	8:00pm	9:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	
10:00pm		Child of Our Time	9:00pm	10:00pm	9:00pm	9:00pm	
11:00pm		BBC News	10:00pm	11:00pm	10:00pm	10:00pm	
11:30pm		Regional News	11:00pm	11:30pm	11:00pm	11:00pm	
11:40pm		Weather	11:30pm	12:15am	11:40pm	12:05am	
11:45pm		The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2017	12:10am		12:35am		
12:30am		Galapagos					
WEDNESDAY		6:15pm	Pointless	6:15pm	6:00pm	5:00pm	4:15pm
		7:00pm	BBC News	7:00pm	7:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:30pm	7:30pm	6:00pm	6:00pm	
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	6:30pm	
	9:00pm	MasterChef	9:00pm	9:00pm	7:30pm	7:00pm	
	10:00pm	Benefits (w/t)	10:00pm	10:00pm	8:00pm	5:30pm	
	11:00pm	BBC News	11:00pm	11:00pm	9:00pm	6:00pm	
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:30pm	11:30pm	10:00pm	7:00pm	
	11:40pm	Weather	12:10am	12:15am	11:00pm	7:30pm	
	11:45pm	Match of the Day			11:30pm	8:00pm	
	1:25am	Weather for the Week Ahead			12:15am	8:30pm	
						11:15pm	
					12:15am		

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.

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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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.

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 Torre Vieja, 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.

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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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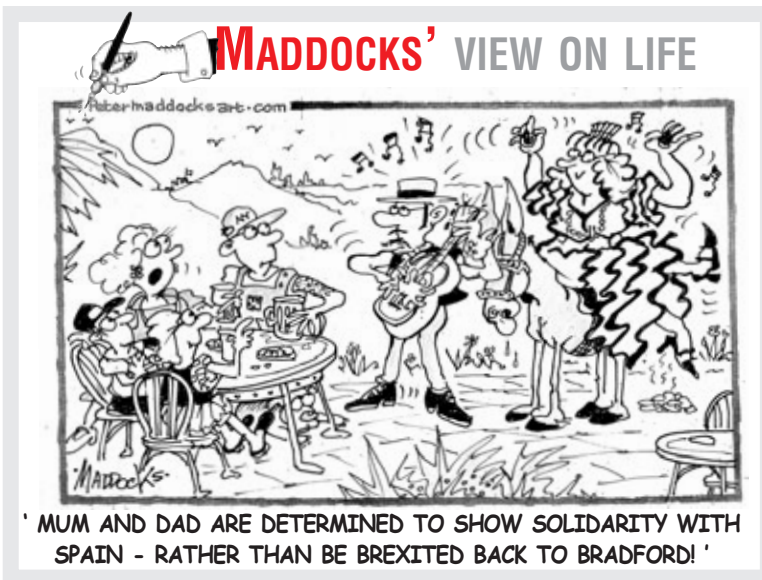
Kakuro

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			6		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

9	10		10	14
3	6		5	2
6	4	2	3	5
14	15	6	2	7
3	2	5	11	8
6	7	8	2	3
5	1		9	5



Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case N) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday March 25

39	48	52	BONUS BALL
53	54	58	28

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday March 25

1	4	6	BONUS BALL
16	18	27	28

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 21

1	20	23	BONUS BALL
44	47		11

Friday March 24

2	17	21	BONUS BALL
27	34		9

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday March 25

7	11	35	BONUS BALL
36	37	40	7

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

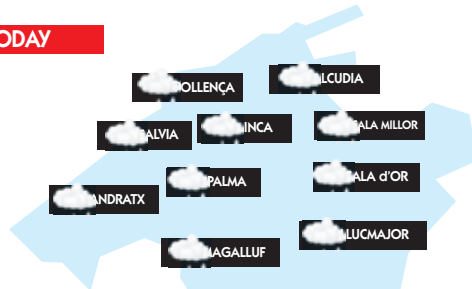
Sunday March 26

28	32	35	BONUS BALL
39	41		3

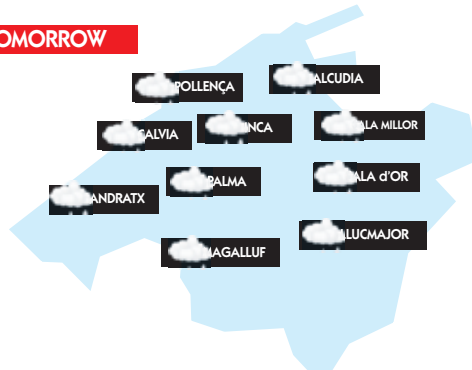
Mallorca

weather

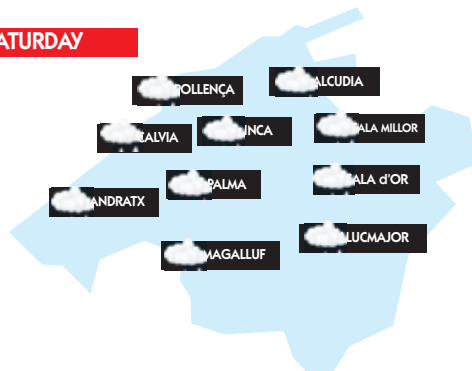
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 11 - CL

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

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 25, MIN 12 - C

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

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 13 - C

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

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 7 - C

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

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 8 - S

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

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10 - CL

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

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 11 - C

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

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 20 MIN 8 - S

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

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

Sudoku

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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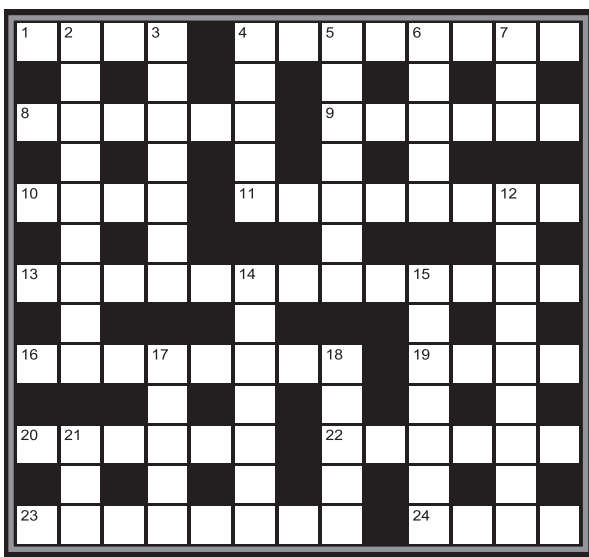
Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Cryptic



Across

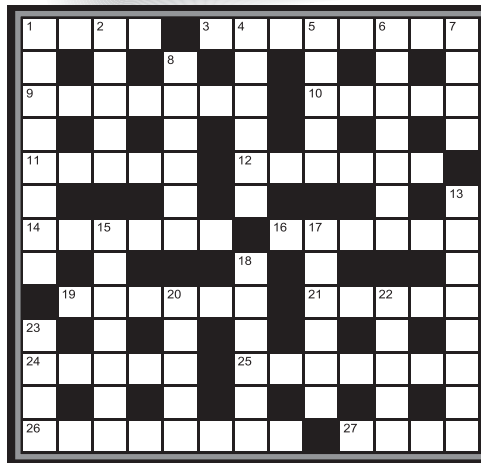
- 1 Small label for men only do (4)
- 4 Contrary for every stanza (8)
- 8 Heard a singer's note (6)
- 9 Building detail is closely followed (6)
- 10 Put up with a large carnivore (4)
- 11 Con isn't worried receiving a boycott (8)
- 13 Variety no longer lists famous rock group (7,6)
- 16 Admires spectres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

Down

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

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

Quick



Across

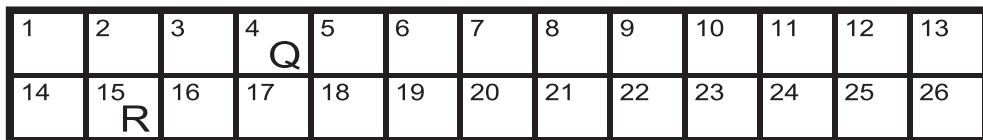
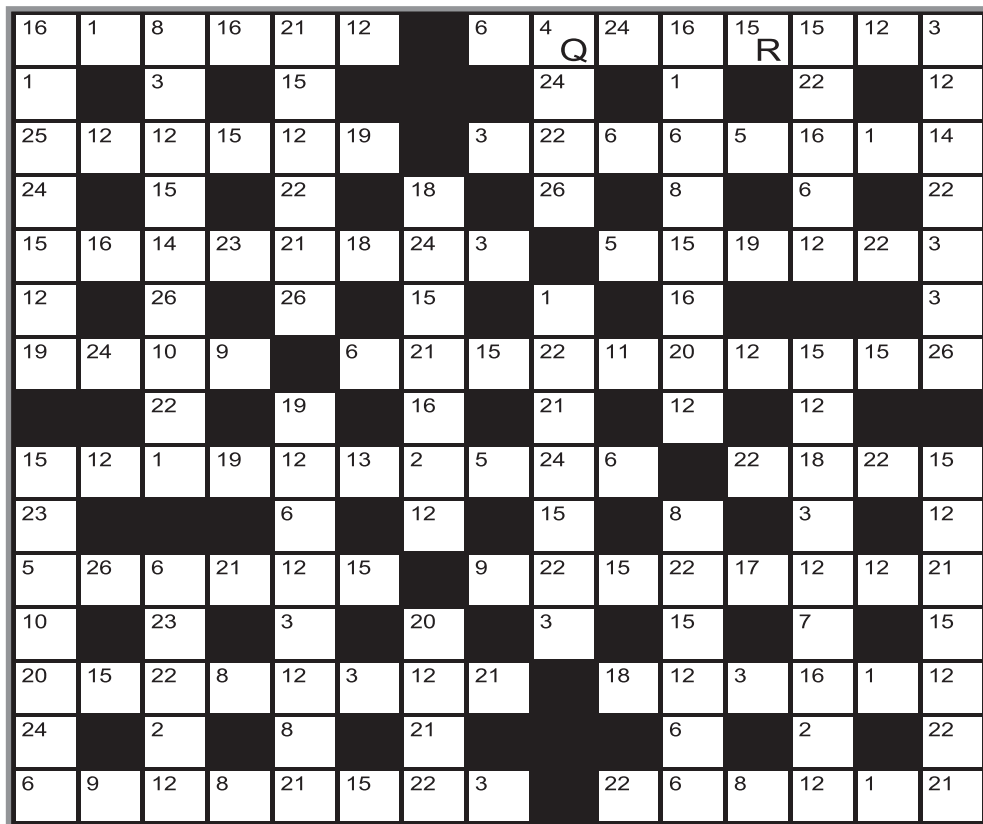
- 1 Horrifying beast (4)
- 3 Move hurriedly (8)
- 9 Give details (7)
- 10 Shares (5)
- 11 Cut by 50 per cent (5)
- 12 State of commotion and noise and confusion (6)
- 14 Confesses to (6)
- 16 Armed engagement (6)
- 19 Car repair shop (6)
- 21 Low in stature (5)
- 24 Common viper (5)
- 25 Sure, confident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

Down

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

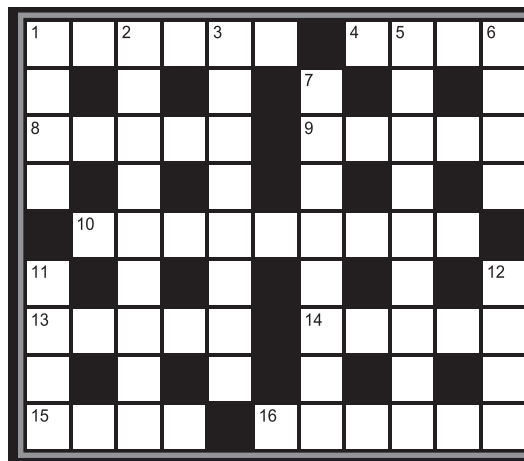
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents [letter] and 15 represents R, so fill in [letter] every time the figure 4 appears and R every time the figure 15 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Cercano (6)
- 4 Polvo (en el aire) (4)
- 8 Sobrina (5)
- 9 Envelope (5)
- 10 Bibliotecas (9)
- 13 Nail (metal) (5)
- 14 Bag (paper, plastic) (5)
- 15 Oriente (4)
- 16 Patatas fritas (de bolsa) (6)

Down

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

CRYPTIC

Across:

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

Down:

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

QUICK

Across:

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

Down:

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

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

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

Down:

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

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That's just rich! lies, predictions and the world's billionaires

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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



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

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

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

which seeks cures for infectious diseases.

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

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

Doubtless, of course, there'll be tweets from Trump just how wrong Forbes' accounting of his wealth is.

But how would we know whether this is true? Recently, we've had so much fake news, who knows what's truth, what's paid for or what's partisan nonsense.

News flash: Trump denies existence of the moon.

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

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

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



BILL GATES: Has done something worthwhile with his billions.

Make enjoyment your priority

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

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

importance 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.

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.



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Dr. Andreas Ludwig Jenke



OPEN SPACES: The countryside could reduce your chance of an early death.

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.



ODONTOPHOBIA: Fear of the dentist.

Almost half of all Spaniards fear the dentist

ALMOST half of 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 indi-

cates that up to 15.4 per cent of those with odontophobia use it as the habitual cause for not going to the dentist. In these cases, sedation is becoming more common to relieve feelings of fear and anxiety, and up to 52.3 per cent of patients who participated in the survey said they would prefer to have some form of sedation for certain treatments.

The Oral Health Study of Sanitas points out that 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).

Ask The
Doctor

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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

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Museum in Palma needs visitors

By John Smith

A SMALL mini-museum at the Jonquet Mills in Palma is not only endeavouring to help visitors learn about the history of this part of Mallorcan heritage but it is also working hard to assist a number of young handicapped people.

A number of guides who have Down Syndrome have

been recruited as part of a larger programme of assistance within Mallorca and they have been trained to show visitors around the museum and to answer their numerous questions.

It is thanks to these young men and women that the museum is able to stay open from Monday to Friday and a different guide is present each day.

Although situated near to the Paseo Marítimo, the museum isn't always busy so they are hoping that school classes can be persuaded to visit, not only so that the children can learn about the history of the mill but also to see the professional manner in which the guides present themselves and to remove possible prejudice.

Dance duets

THERE will be a four-handed piano concerto performed by the duo Blanco-Cortès as part of the 22nd Festival de Música Clàssica d'Hivern. The programme consists of a selection of compositions inspired by the popular dances of France, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain, Argentina, Russia, the Middle East and Mallorca. Tickets for the concert which commences at 8pm in the Casa Museu Dionís Bennàssar of Pollença start at €10.

RoadBIKE Festival

RUNNING until April 1, Garmin RoadBIKE Festival, sponsored by the German magazine is all about testing, cycling and racing, so following the highly successful event in 2016, this latest festival promises to draw large crowds to the road that joins Playa de Muro and Alcudia, on Plaza de Muro, to witness some of the racing scene's best athletes.

There will be representatives of some of the most renowned racing bike brands not only displaying their latest product but there will also be tests of their bikes around the island as well as guided tours with professional riders and visitors are invited to notch up the kilometres on their own bikes.

Festival of colours



Photo by Flickr.com/Pabak

COLOURFUL powders are thrown around to celebrate the spring season.

PALMA'S health minister Antonia Martín met with the president of the association of Huntingdon's disease in the Balearic Islands

to plan a charity event.

The team are working to find a venue for a festival of colours party, celebrating the Hindu spring festi-

val Holi. The party is planned for May 13 in Palma to raise money for the association regarding the hereditary brain disease.

Exhibition of world images

AN artist who is a world traveller and adventurer, Luis Maraver produces what he calls his own travel atlas as he journeys to different countries. Now a resident of Binissalem he has developed a successful

career as a painter and sculptor. A free exhibition based on many of the pictures and notes he has made during his different trips around the world will be open until April 27 at the Gallery Dionís Bennàssar in Pollença.

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A gay chorus

THE Mallorca Gay Men's Chorus will present a brand new performance with 30 voices and a full jazz band prior to its trip to New York in June, where it is due to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre.

The first part of the concert is dedicated to music from the 1940s and 1950s featuring standards from such stars as Frank Sinatra, Nina Simone and Ella Fitzgerald, whilst the second part opens with the choir of pilgrims from the opera Tannhäuser and continues with contemporary music from such diverse artists as Monica Naranjo, Bruno Mars and Coldplay.

The first performance starts at 8.30pm in the Teatre d'Artà on March 31 and there will be a second performance at the Centre Cultural Cap Vermell on April 22 at 9pm.

Tattoo in Santa Ponsa

By John Smith

FOR those who are into body art, the Third Traditional Tattoo and World Culture Festival will be held on the El Molino site in Santa Ponsa from May 17 to 24 and promises to be a real feast of traditional culture.

It is expected that some 200 artists will attend and over the week at least 6,000 visitors will come to the ground to view a selection of different artists from throughout the world, including a number of representatives from the South Pacific and other parts of the world where tattoos are more than just body decoration.

It is understood that in a number of old cultures, the addition of a tattoo often occurs as a ritual from youth to manhood and many traditional designs are believed to have magical properties.

There will be special lectures as well as a range of quite different exhibitions which range from Lemmy and Motorhead, to paintings by Javi Castaño to psychedel-



Photo by Istonehiv Flickr

TRADITIONAL TATTOO: Some 200 artists are expected to attend.

ic and shamanic tattoos.

There will be dance, bands galore, world cinema and political speakers so there is literally something for everyone and tickets which cost from €10 for a single day to €80

for the week are on sale now at the organiser's website www.traditionaltattoofestival.com together with more details of what is happening over the week and a link for hotel accommodation.

SOCIAL EXTRA

Nordic voices

DIRECTED by Berit Palmgren Wahlin, the Masthuggskyrkan Chamber Choir from Göteborg will present a free concert of lyrical pieces at the Coll Bardolet Foundation at 6pm on March 31 at the Fundación Cultural Coll Bardolet Valldemossa.

Mallorcan classics

THERE will be a recital for tenor and piano by Antoni Lliteres and Joan Ciria who will perform works for voice and piano (known as lieds) written entirely by Mallorcan composers. The concert starts at 8pm on March 31 in the Fàbrica Ramis, Inca and costs €10 in advance.

Mallorcan contemporary

MIQUEL VICENSASTRE is a Mallorcan composer who performs under the stage name of Marcel Cranc and he now has a new album which he will be performing at 9pm on April 1 at Sa Congregació. Espai Jove Sa Pobla with advance tickets including a CD costing €10.




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Rosana performs her new album in Palma

By John Smith

AFTER five years of relative silence, the singer and songwriter from the Canary Islands, Rosana returned to the musical scene with the release of her eighth studio album 'En la memoria de la piel' (In memory of the skin).

Currently on a tour which will take her through Spain, to South America and then the USA, this highly talented artist is stopping off at the Palma Auditorium on April 8 with her full band and by all accounts her performances have been very well received by audiences so far.

Rosana was clearly born to perform and started learning guitar at the age of five before eventually moving to Madrid to study music, which is also where she started composing songs which were picked up by a number of Spanish recording artists.

It was after she won the Benidorm Music Festival with her song 'Fuego y Miel' that she expanded her performances and concentrated on her own career as an artist mixing ro-

mantic lyrics with the sound of the guitar.

According to the singer, this new album represents her as she is today, but also is the culmination of a 20-year career where she has performed literally thousands of concerts and has sold millions of albums.

Tickets for this memorable gig which starts at 9.30pm cost €35 and are available from the Auditorium box office.



ROSANA in concert.

European Artistic Craft Days event

FOR the first time Mallorca will join the European Artistic Craft Days from March 31 to April 2. Organised by the French National Institute for Arts and Crafts, this year's events occur in 18 countries across Europe with the theme of 'forging links.'

The 22 activities are designed to give people a chance to see skilled craftsmen in action, and potentially try a new craft themselves. Activities are designed with open-door days at studios, training events, and special exhibitions and techniques.

Minister of economy and finance Cosme Bonet presented the programme of activities and stated, "the ini-

tiative seeks to bring the secrets of craftsmanship.

"We have to enhance the synergies between crafts and tourism because it is also an added value of our land," added Bonet.

Director of tourism and promotion Paula Ginard encouraged "the artisans of Mallorca to participate in the next edition of the European Craft Days to make it increasingly successful."

Crafts that can be explored this year include woodworking, stone carvers, ceramics, jewellery and textile making, metal forging, leather works and more. A complete schedule and more information can be found at www.diasdelaartesania.es.

Tragedy of Hamlet

ONE of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies will be presented in English by the Morgana Teatre Company at the Palma Auditorium on April 20 to 23 commencing at 7.30pm and with tickets costing €20 for each performance.

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark has been performed on stage all over the world in a number of different languages and there have been a myriad of films with the most bizarre Hamlet being Arnold Schwarzenegger.

For those who enjoy the works of the Bard or may be studying it for exams, this is one of his darkest plays which explores the mind of a young man possibly driven mad by the death of his father and the infidelity of his mother.

Brexit just won't go away

**GOOD FOOD,
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.

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Mallorca: the jewel of the Balearics

By John Smith

It is clear that the popularity of Mallorca as both a holiday destination and the place for a 'forever home' continues to grow and it now has one of the largest permanent international populations in Spain.

Without doubt it is a lively place in which to live and work, but that's not to say there aren't a number of quiet and restful areas on the island with prices to suit most pockets, from those on a budget to those who don't have to count the euros.

Constrained by its size and the fact the construction of new property is strictly controlled, prices on the island were not greatly depressed by the recession and property prices continue to be relatively buoyant.

For a small island, there is a large choice of towns and rural areas to choose from, with properties including apartments on the coast, fincas in the centre and villas around the island. Just few of the most popular areas are listed here.

Andratx is situated on the south west coast and its old

town sits in a valley, attracting many expats who enjoy both the town and the port which was originally a fishing village that was said to be one of the most picturesque on the island and still attracts many visitors to the sea-front restaurants.

Just six kilometres south of Andratx is what can only be described as the millionaire's playground of Port Adriano created by the design icon that is Philippe Starck. With shops offering some of the most well-known designer names, superyachts and the glitterati rubbing shoulders with the less affluent, who are attracted by the glitz and glamour as well as regular concerts and exhibitions, this is a truly international town.

Calvia, which includes the playground of Magaluf, is the second most inhabited town on the island and has a very large permanent expat population.

Moving slightly further south is the capital Palma de Mallorca which has a busy port with ferries to the other Balearic Islands and Barcelona and a lifestyle that is busy but not as frenetic as Magaluf.

Like any capital it offers a number of cultural options ranging from the Cathedral which took nearly 400 years to complete, to the municipal auditorium which sees some of the best international entertainment as well as local acts, plus the bustling marina.

Even further south and more inland, but with easy access to the coast, is the historical town of Lluçmajor which has a wide range of properties both in the centre of town and the surrounding countryside. There are a number of 'project properties' just waiting to be updated.

Another newer area is Puerto Portals which is in many ways the Mallorcan equivalent of Puerto Banus with its upmarket



ANDRATX PORT: Just one of Mallorca's many attractions.

marina, good bars and restaurants. Accommodation in the immediate area consists mainly of apartments but Portals Nous, just down the road, offers greater family accommodation.

These are just a few of the many attractive towns on Mallorca which regularly attract new property owners and local estate agents will help you reveal a number of ideal options.

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Ever heard of Lluçmajor? Nice town in the south eastern part of Mallorca, very well communicated with Palma and offering some of the most interesting coast sites on the island.

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Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

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



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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.

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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.

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.

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

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 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.



Photo Credit: Dusan Zidar Shutterstock

Fresh growing asparagus.

size without getting pricked. If some grow a bit quicker than I can harvest, I pick the tip and just let the branching shoots keep growing to form again.

When the first early harvest is finished or my next row is producing, I let the plants of the first harvest recuperate. The

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Rise of the tiny house

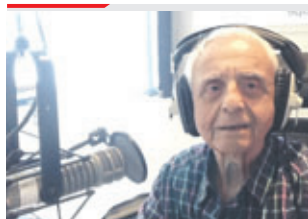
THE past few years have seen the rise of the Tiny House Movement. Starting in America, the initiative is an effort to return to a simpler way of living and although the houses are small, the philosophy is anything but!

It is an inspired and intentional form of extreme downsizing and these pocket-sized dwellings have become popular not just for their novelty and aesthetic, proving them to be incredibly practical.

Contrary to what you may think, the tiny houses are not just for the poor, the reality is two-fifths of owners are over 50 years old. These homes are not only simplistic, they are environmentally friendly. One of the most cited reasons people choose to 'go tiny' is the desire to live a more sustainable life.

With their size, the houses are also much more energy efficient.

House soiling cure - Part Two



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GRADUATE DAY: What a clever dog!

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 that 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 else, whenever 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 anything 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, preferably the one you want him to go to when he has to go outside. 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. That's a goooooood puppy.' 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.' Your tone of voice must be happy and upbeat. Act as if he has just given you the best present of your life.

Take him inside and put him into the crate with an old towel. He's used to lying against his

mother or his brothers and sisters and this will help comfort him. Try not to leave him alone at this point. If you do, he may start crying and whining.

Leave him in the crate except for when you can monitor him every second. He will need to go outside after every meal and every three to four hours. When you take him outside, behave just as you did when you first brought him home. Coax him into urinating with, 'Break, break, break' and praise him heavily when he does. Let him explore a little and remember that your command, 'Busy, busy, busy,' is just starting to mean something to him.

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

When he's finished, take him back inside and again monitor him. If he tries to repeat it, do the same thing as before. With a couple of repeats of this he'll catch on.

Use the same technique when he tries to defecate. If he manages to urinate or defecate away from your view, you will have set your training back several days, perhaps a week. If you try to discipline him after he's walked away from his mistake you'll only confuse him and teach him to be afraid of you. If he's more than two or three seconds from the act, he has no conscious memory of it.

He may try to duck out of your sight to urinate. Don't let him succeed in this. Follow him. He doesn't yet know that he's supposed to go outside, only that he's not supposed to go inside. He has to go and associates his unpleasant experience of being yelled at and shaken, with you, not with his inappropriate location to urinate.

At some point in his training he'll go to the door you've been using and whine or scratch to get outside. When he does this, praise him heavily as you open the door to let him out.

Peppy loves the flowers

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

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

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



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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

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

Some might say...



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.'

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

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Peugeot 3008 GT Line model

PEUGEOT says its new 3008 will become 'a key player' in the booming SUV sector, and anyone who sees the car 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 ex-

ternal 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 an upmarket appearance.

On the road, the 3008 - voted Car Of The Year at the Geneva Motor Show - 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 impres-

sive 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.

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Team EWN makes official racing debut

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

During the second race Shawn sped away and

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

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

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

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

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



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



FLOATING BRIDGE 6: Is now to be renamed.

Floaty McFloatface

AFTER the controversy over the naming of the new Antarctic polar vessel which the public voted to call Boaty McBoatface and was rejected in favour of RRS Sir David Attenborough, the British Antarctic Survey compromised by naming one of their underwater vessels Boaty.

Now another official organisation has caused a minor controversy as the Isle of Wight council initially refused to accept that its new floating bridge - which it had asked the public

to name - could be 'christened' Floaty McFloatface.

Following a flurry of criticism on social media and a petition which has gathered 2,000 signatures, the council has had a change of heart and has agreed that if that is the most popular name for the vessel which is currently known as Floating Bridge 6, then it would be accepted.

Time will tell whether a new contender comes along or whether the council will stick to its decision.

Drug arrest after crash

THREE men have been arrested on suspicion of drug offences in Cowes Harbour after a motor boat hit a mooring. One man was reportedly missing which started a sea search involving the UK Coastguard, a search and rescue helicopter, and Cowes and Calshot RNLi lifeboat crews. Several hours later the man was located.

The other three men navigated the Loose Cannon, their 20-foot boat, to Trinity Landing where paramedics met them. They were taken to the hospital with head, spine and chest injuries. Police have confirmed one of the three, a 39-year-old man from Waterlooville, has been charged with possession of a class B controlled drug. The boat was badly damaged after it hit the mooring.

34th Palma Boat Show getting close

By John Smith

THE 34th Palma Boat Show and the fifth Palma Superyacht Show are due to return to the Port of Palma running from April 28 to May 2 and this year, the combined shows promise to have something for everyone.

More than 35,000 people visited the Boat Shows last year which didn't coincide with a Bank Holiday and suffered from very bad weather, so the organisers have high hopes for the 2017 shows.

It is unsurprising that boat lovers from around Europe flock to Palma to view a fantastic display of yachts and superyachts worth hundreds of millions of euros and to enjoy the participation of more than 200 exhibitors.

With admission costing just €5 for adults and €4 for children, the shows are not just aimed at those who want to buy expensive yachts. There are plenty of educational displays, stalls showing different maritime hobbies, a second-hand market and a selection of bars and restaurants to suit all pockets and tastes.



BOAT SHOW: A scene from last year's show.

Opening hours will be from 10.30am to 8pm except for April 29 when the Night of the Sea, where exhibitors will be inviting customers and others to join them for different social events and the last day when the shows will close at 6pm.

Not only is this a great international festival attracting exhibitors and visitors from all over the world, it also gives a very useful boost to the local economy as so many temporary workers are needed to ensure a safe and efficient opening and breakdown.

Vanqraft 16 completes her first test drive

THE Netherland's Vanquish Yachts has announced their newest model Vanqraft 16 has completed her first test drive.

Vanquish owner Tom Steenjes is credited with creating the concept for the Vanqraft 16, which is a crossover between a water scooter and a superyacht tender. The vessel can transport up to five passengers,

powered by a 200 horse power Yamaha 1.8 litre engine with jet propulsion.

"With no other product in the world to compare

it too, the launch of the awesome Vanqraft 16 fun machine was always going to be a very exciting moment," Vanquish said in a statement.

The first units are scheduled to tour the south of France and the Balearic Islands in May and June of this year.



VANQRAFT 16:
Powered by a 200
horse power engine.

Fined for moving new fishing vessel

CORNWALL fishing company Rowse Fishing Ltd has been fined nearly €10,000 after admitting to moving a new build fishing vessel without the appropriate paperwork. Company director Mark Rowse please guilty on behalf of the fishing company in the case brought on by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Rowse requested the MCA undertake a load-line exemption survey of the vessel before it was to be moved but went on to arrange the tow of the vessel before it had been surveyed and the exemption certificate had been granted.

The MCA then discovered the boat, at the request of Rowse, had been shortened during her build without new stability measures being taken. Rowse was told he did not have authorisation to move

the vessel until new stability calculations were taken. He proceeded to move the vessel from Polruan to Newlyn without the appropriate load-line certificate and load-line markings on the hull.

"The fundamental aim of such a survey is to ensure the vessel is safe enough to go to sea. This was not done in this case, which was aggravated by the fact the structure of the vessel was not in accordance with the original plans," stated Tony Heslop, the MCA's Plymouth Marine Office's operations manager.

"This was a somewhat reckless decision by Mr Rowse that could have had some very serious consequences. The Merchant Shipping Act is there for a reason and cannot be circumvented by those who regard it as an inconvenience," stressed Heslop.

Wins for Vettel, Maverick and Dustin ahead of the Merseyside derby!

Tony Matthews

International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

FOOTBALL:

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 Bourne-mouth, 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 Checktrade 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 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 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.

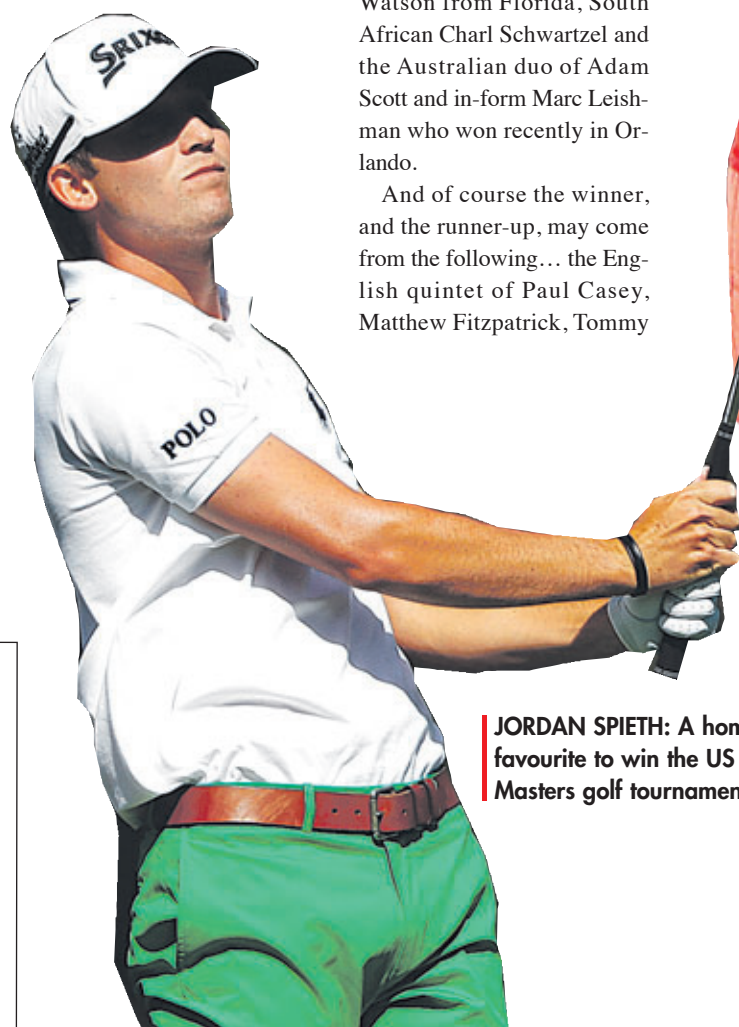
Plus the huge American contingent which includes Texans Roberto Castro and Patrick rReed; Cleveland-born Jason Dufner; Californians Phil Mickelson (now aged 46) and Rickie Fowler; Charley Hoffman from San Diego; JB Holmes from Kentucky;

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. |



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



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

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Mallorca's best guide to local sport

El Toro RC Senior League champions

AFTER fighting hard in second place all season El Toro RC finally made it to the top position of the Senior Balears League on Sunday after a tough match against Union RC. Even though El Toro RC has the same number of points as second place RC Ponent, they move ahead having scored 100 points more and had fewer points scored against them.

Union RC

was always going to be a tough team to play but have older players and not as much experi-

ence as their opponents. The final score was 29 points to 52 giving the visitors maximum points and the chance to celebrate the match win and the season's league title.

Bahia RC had a much easier game against Club Rugby Escolar who were down to 14 men but nonetheless presented a team. The visitors were on better form than in previous matches, were more organised and passed more accurately winning by 0 points to 99.

Ibiza RC turned up for their match against RC Ponent but as they were short of players the match was cancelled and considered to be a 7-0 victory for RC Ponent.

In the Balears U16 and U18 the two teams had a

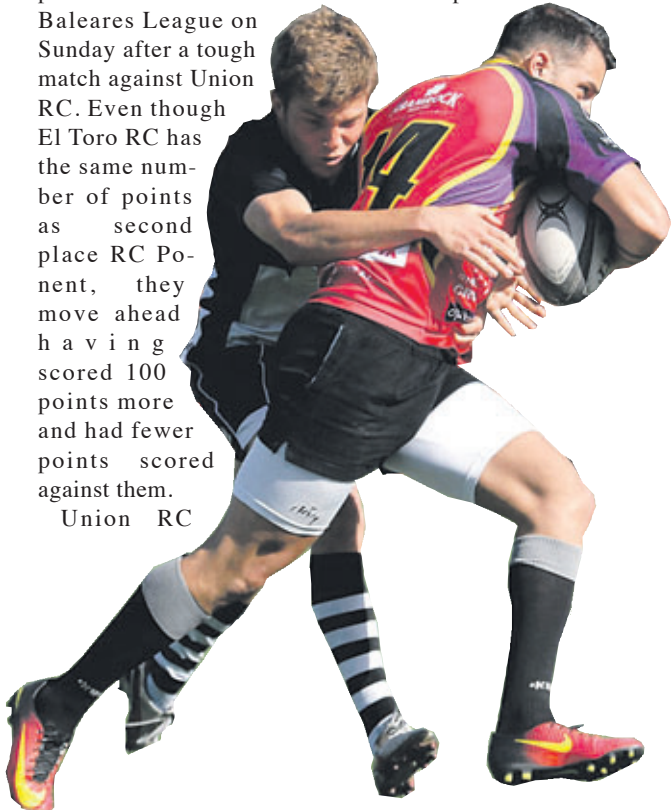
successful day in Navarra, maintaining their places in the A group of the Territorial championships, winning by six points to 35 for the U18's and by zero points to 19 for the U16.

Another successful rugby day was organised on a sunny Sunday with lots of youngsters turning up in Binissalem. El Toro RC U14 team continued to dominate their league, winning by 80 points to 26 against Trepitjadors.

There are no matches in the Senior League until the second week in April when the JJ Garcia gets underway which involves the top four teams in the Senior League.

RC Ponent will host the U14 league and the next matches in the Michel Rodier Trophy for the U16 and U18 teams. The girls have the next round of their league in Son Roca organised by Shamrock RC.

Lucas Muntz tackling for El Toro RC against Union.



A relieved and victorious El Toro RC.



El Toro RC youngsters against RC Ponent.

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