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Stop Press DON'T MISS OUR PALMA BOAT SHOW SPECIAL!
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Airport anarchy

Strikes to follow Easter chaos

By Matt Ford

Baggage handlers are to strike at Palma de Mallorca airport at the end of April and throughout May.

The strikes on April 29, May 3, 18, and 28 are likely to result in queues and delays for travellers passing through the Balearic hub.

Two unions are leading the outcry, which is focused on workers' rights during the upcoming summer season, which promises to break all records.

Employees are up in arms over their lack of job security in the face of such success, with zero-hours contracts offered to seasonal staff, who work an average of 15 hours per week.

Those who are on year-round fixed contracts are constantly pressurised to switch to zero-hours deals or directly leave the company, say union leaders.

The announcement follows a chaotic Easter Saturday which saw thousands of British travellers facing huge delays at



QUEUE'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING:
Easter bedlam at Palma airport.

passport control due to "increased security checks" according to a statement from low cost carrier Jet2.

Several readers contacted the *Euro Weekly News* to share their frustration, with one describing the queue as being "over 100 yards long," before blaming a new "photo and fingerprint procedure similar to machines at Stansted airport."

Olli Astley tweeted: "People passing out and huge problems at Palma airport, staff have no clue what's happening."

Ann Marie Mallon added: "What is happening at Palma airport? Medics even on standby as people were fainting."

It is estimated over 800,000 people passed through over the Easter weekend.

Poll pooper!

TENS of thousands of British expats will not get a vote in the UK General Election on June 8.

Six months ago the British government said it planned to change the law so long-term expats who had lived outside the UK more than 15 years could vote in forthcoming polls.

But the shock poll announcement has thrown a spanner in the works.

See us on page 24



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The secret is revealed on page 21

NEWS EXTRA

Corruption kings

ANOTHER arrest was made in the ongoing inquiry into the Palma Arena. Former Balearic president Jaume Matas is implicated in the scandal, which saw €1 million of public funds diverted into private hands.

Cruise visit

ALMOST 10,000 extra tourists crammed into Palma port on a packed Easter Monday when three massive cruise ships docked, including the 333 metre long MSC Fantasia.

Scary stats

AIR pollution in Palma is reaching the maximum limit. Nitrogen dioxide is now at 37 micrograms per cubic metre. Anything above 40 is considered extremely harmful to humans.

A life changer

Prize draw will see EWN reader win car

THE *Euro Weekly News*' 2017 survey prize draw is to take place in a glittering ceremony at La Sala Banus, Marbella, at 2pm on Friday April 21, and everyone is invited!

Sala Group chairman Ian Radford will pick out the name of the lucky winner, who will pick up a brand-new Dacia Sandero Ambiance complete with a full year's insurance courtesy of Abbeygate.

A celebratory lunch or dinner for two at the glamorous celebrity haunt completes the spectacular prize bundle, which is in total worth almost €15,000.

Readers are encouraged to head along to La Sala Banus between 1.30-1.45pm in anticipation of the dramatic moment when the winning entry is named.

The survey itself was a resounding success, and we are busy collating the many thousands of entries which flooded in by post, email or via our website.

We would like to thank each and every one of our fantastic readers who took time to fill out the survey. Your opinions

are incredibly valuable to us and we genuinely appreciate the feedback.

Spain's biggest and best English-language newspaper is always striving to improve. We will use your responses to take another leap forwards in what is set to be a defining year for the award-winning *EWN Media Group* following the recent acquisition of several titles, with more to follow.



Please be advised that no further entries for the survey will be accepted.

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Brit dies in horrific accident

AN 86-year-old British cyclist was killed when a drink and drug-fuelled driver crashed into him in Port d'Alcudia on April 18. The horrific incident occurred just after 2pm, and the Brit is believed to have died on the spot.

Police immediately arrested the driver, a 48-year-old Spanish man from Alcudia. He tested positive for alcohol and cocaine and has already appeared before an Inca court. He was driving a 4x4 at the time. Police say the cyclist was riding correctly and that the responsibility is solely the driver's.

The crash happened on the busy Ma-12 road connecting Alcudia with Arta, a popular but often dangerous spot for cyclists. Last summer saw a terrible spate of deaths on Mallorca's roads by booze and cocaine fuelled drivers.

Sadistic killer

A SOUTH AMERICAN killer has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for murdering a Swiss man at his Porto Pollensa home. The Uruguayan tied up and tortured his 78-year-old victim while his wife hid terrified in the bathroom.

The horrific incident occurred in 2013 when the Uruguayan broke into the couple's home. The killer had tried to break in with two sidekicks just days before but they retreated at the last moment.

When inside he tied the Swiss national to a chair and savagely beat him to extract the whereabouts of money he allegedly had hidden around the house. After the assailant left his victim was able to free himself and help his wife, but he died five days later from severe head injuries.

The convict has also been ordered to pay €104,000 compensation to his victim's widow. He will serve his time in Palma prison.

Thieving trio nabbed

THREE suspected thieves who robbed British tourists, sometimes violently, for more than a year have finally been cap-

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 10

UNCORKING A DILEMMA. Spain is the world's leading wine exporter, shipping 22.7 million hectolitres abroad last year, yet drinkers here baffle experts with their lower than expected consumption of a traditional tittle.

A homely need

SPAIN'S wine industry want to solve an ongoing enigma; why as the world leading exporter - the overseas market was worth €2.64 billion last year - it struggles to boost home sales.

New figures by the Spanish Wine Market Observatory provide some relief, consumption on home shores rose from between 2.5 - 4 per cent to hit the 9.8 million hectolitre level.

Director Rafael del Rey believes the home market has reached a turning point and said the industry must target younger drinkers to continue the upward trend and has called for government help.

He said rising sales can be attributed to Spain's improving economic situation and a more mature and competi-



WINE INDUSTRY: Benitachell vineyards.

tive industry; highlighting an increased variety of wines on offer, a change of the image of the drink, and improved branding and marketing by producers and regional wine organisations.

However, in the 70's average Spanish consumption of wine was 40 litres per head; but by 2014 this had nosedived to 21 litres according to global industry statistics and placing Spain at

the bottom of rankings for consumption in producer countries, despite average annual production at 42 million litres.

Countries annually drinking the most wine are: The Vatican at 53.8 litres per head; Croatia and Slovenia 44 litres; France 42.5 litres; Portugal 41.7 litres and Italy 33 litres. Consumption in the UK is 22 litres.

Cava cheer

SPAIN'S home grown sparkling wine 'cava' is no longer seen as a poor man's champagne and is increasingly seen gracing family celebrations both at home and globally.

The bubbly is principally produced in Catalonia and has Denominacion de Origen (DO) status but is also made in Aragon, Castille and Leon, Extremadura, La Rioja, the Basque Country, Navarre and Valencia. Once referred to as 'Spanish champagne' - outlawed under EU law as Champagne enjoys Protected Geographical Status - the Catalan word 'cava' means 'cave' or 'cellar.' Caves were once used to preserve and age the wine; the name was adopted in 1970 to distinguish it from the French drink.



HOME GROWN: Cava producer Freixenet.

tered by Guardia Civil officers. Dozens of mostly elderly holidaymakers were targeted by the gang, who followed them from Palma airport to their hotels.

They stole suitcases, bags, credit cards, electronics, purses and wallets. Credit cards were fraudulently used to the maximum until the victims took action. Nor was the gang limited to Mallorca. They also operated on the Canary Islands, moving across Spain to elude police detection.

Virgin love

SIR RICHARD BRANSON has bought back a glorious Mallorcan estate he sold more than a decade ago. The British billionaire is believed to have paid €11 million for the Son Bunyola property.

The luxury villa dates back hundreds of years and includes spectacular views of the sea from its northwest location.

The secluded space is Branson's third property on the island. He originally

bought it with the intention of converting it into a top tourist resort, but sold it in 2002 when planning permission was denied.

Aquatic aliens

AN invasion of jellyfish spoiled sea swimming for the first time this year. Bathers and tourists at Cala Figuera and Portals Vells were forced to settle for photos of the crystal waters.

The translucent hordes are a regular fixture in Mallorcan waters throughout summer but are arriving earlier and in greater numbers than ever before.

Speedy Moroccan sparks scare

TERRIFIED pedestrians thought they were in the midst of a terrorist attack when a Moroccan man mowed down five people in Palma as they waited for a bus. After Islamic terrorists used cars and trucks to kill dozens in Berlin, Nice and London, cities and citizens are on high alert across Europe.

But in this case the culprit was no terrorist but a 20-year-old speed demon who had only passed his test in February. He lost control of the car and it mounted a cen-

tral Palma pavement and knocked over five people.

Four of them were elderly tourists from Galicia. Fortunately no one was seriously injured but they were taken to hospital for treatment. Dozens of police were quickly on the scene. It was Easter Saturday and security was already tight during Semana Santa processions.

Witnesses to the incident told media how they feared the worst and it took some time to dispel the initial panic.

Postscript to ponder

30.8%

The percentage of the Spanish population who smoke daily, with statistically more men than women. Smokers far outweigh drinkers, with 9.8 per cent of the population drinking daily.

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54 + 56

Royal spend takes tumble

ROYAL household spending fell almost €1 million last year compared to 2015 as political stalemate in Spain prevented overseas trips and visits by foreign dignitaries.

The monarchy spent just 88.4 per cent of its €7.8 million budget; the same amount it was given in the two previous years as part of the plan to make savings, as Madrid aimed to meet EU commitments to reduce the nation's deficit.

Spending fell largely because of the result of inconclusive general elections in December 2015 and June 2016 and subsequent caretaker governments. During the first 100 days of last year, King Felipe and Queen Sofia postponed trips to the UK, Saudi Arabia, Japan and South Korea.

Sky-high aims

NORWEGIAN airlines is expanding its operations from Madrid's Barajas airport, with the low-cost carrier looking to offer flights to Latin America.

In a battle with the IAG Group, which includes British Airways and Iberia, and a new airline Level, that boasts America-bound flights from Barcelona; Norwegian airline chief Bjorn Kjos describes Spain "as a great market; everyone wants to come here."

Load of bull

THE designer of the iconic Osborne bull - and the 14m high black billboards dotted across Spain - has a major Madrid exhibition.

Manolo Prieto drew the bull image in 1956 for Osborne's 'Veterano' brandy and it has since risen to 'national symbol' status, appearing on a

Eye on SPAIN

Around the nation in 7 stories

Postcard from Zaragoza



DAWN is tipped as the best time to be on the banks of the mighty River Ebro in Zaragoza, a regional capital and once the heart of the Kingdom of Aragon.

Boasting Roman, Moorish, and medieval Christian architecture as well as the hand of 'local boy made good,' artist Francisco de Goya, born in 1746, the reflected image of the iconic Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Pilar can be seen from first light.

And a dawn view, according to Traveller's guide Lonely Planet, "is reason alone" to visit 'one of Spain's most underrated regional capitals.'

Historically the home of Catherine, Henry VIII's first wife and the first female ambassador in Europe, as Spain's fifth largest city Zaragoza currently has a population of just over 661,000.

The city came under the international spotlight when it hosted the 2008 World Expo.

It has space-age bridges, including the Third Millennium Bridge; a tribute to engineering and the world's largest concrete tied-arch bridge, as well as plush new bus and railway stations, and the largest freshwater aquarium in Europe.

The turreted Palacio de la Aljaferia - said to have an interior to match Granada's globally famous Alhambra Palace - was originally built by Moorish rulers and was later adapted to the Christian tastes of Aragon royalty following the reconquest. It now shows off the restored influence of both dynasties.

Zaragoza also invites visitors to explore the Basilica, a beautiful Cathedral del Salvador, and the Ibercaja Goya Museum.

The city also enjoys a fine reputation for gastronomy.

wealth of objects including t-shirts and car stickers.

His work, including his most famous creation, can be seen at the Museum of Decorative Art until October 22 and features work for Spanish railway company Renfe, airline Iberia, and Nestle as well as 618 book covers.

Caught short

A BARCELONA policewoman reprimanded for briefly abandoning her post to visit the toilet has accused a senior officer of harassment. In a Guardia Civil patrol car in March - on International Women's Day - she rushed off for the unauthorised short break, but later faced an official reprimand, and possible two-day suspension without pay, leading her to claim for alleged harassment

Ace to appear

BRITISH tennis Number One Johanna Konta will compete in next month's first women's Tie Break Tens event in Madrid.

Ranked 146th in the world in June 2015 Johanna has soared to seventh; and will compete with seven other players including Maria Sharapova.

The tournament winner will receive US\$ 200,000 (€188,679) and US\$ 100,000 (€94,334) will be donated to a charity working to combat domestic violence.

Killer jailed

THE killer of a tourist walking the historic Santiago Way pilgrimage route has been jailed for 23 years for murdering and robbing the 41-year-old American Arizona woman.

A jury in Leon found Miguel Angel Munoz guilty of killing Denise Pikka Thiem in April 2015, after she took a detour from the main route. Her body was found minus the hands.

Birthdays

• **George Takei, Actor, April 20, 80**
American actor who starred in the Star Trek television series and films playing the role of Mr Sulu, the helmsman of the USS Enterprise. He was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his work in TV.

• **Queen Elizabeth II, April 21, 91**
Queen of the United Kingdom and other commonwealth realms who has reigned for 65 years since her father, King George VI, died in 1952. She is Britain's longest-lived and the world's oldest reigning monarch. The Queen and Prince Philip will celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary (70) this year.



• **Louis Smith, Gymnast, April 22, 28**
British artistic gymnast who won bronze in the pommel horse at the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing and then silver for the same discipline at the 2012 London Olympics and then again at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. He is the only British gymnast to win medals at three separate Olympic games.

• **Brendan Cole, Dancer, April 23, 41**
Ballroom dancer from New Zealand who specialises in Latin American dancing. He is a professional dancer on the BBC's hit show Strictly Come Dancing which he won in the very first series with celebrity dance partner Natasha Kaplinsky.

• **Barbara Streisand, Singer/Actress, April 24, 75**

One of the best-selling music artists of all time the American singer has sold 145m records worldwide. She is also an accomplished actress having starred in films such as Funny Girl which earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress. She also won an Academy Award for the Best Original Song with Evergreen from the film A Star is Born.

• **Melania Trump, First Lady, April 26, 47**
Married to the US President Donald Trump since 2005 she became the new First Lady of the United States in January this year. The former model met her husband at a New York Fashion Week party in September 1998 and they have one son together, Barron.

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NEWS EXTRA

Fantasy fishing

EL TORO near Calvia is officially the most abundant fishing spot in Spain. Researchers were stunned to find a marine animal biomass of 49 kilos per 250 cubic metres, almost 25 times normal volumes.

Second life

AN innovative charity foundation has started recycling used school desks and tables. The newly fashioned pieces will then be distributed freely to needy schools across Mallorca.

Stepping out

A BEACH club shifted its terrace which separated the two beaches of Can Pere Antoni after a police complaint that the steps prevented wheelchairs and prams from moving freely between the beaches.

Rental scam

A REAL estate firm was given an earful by an angry judge after demanding that potential tenants pay a hefty non-refundable fee to reserve a Palma apartment, a condition deemed unlawful by the court.

More beds

AN extra 34 beds for elderly patients will be available at Son Espases and Inca hospitals to help cater for chronically ill people who suffer frequent medical emergencies.

Heroic priest

A MISSIONARY priest who founded a Mallorcan school dedicated to educating poor children has died aged 91. Father Sebastia Arrom Coll was presented the Ramon Llull Award for his services to the community.

Royal return for famous five

By Matthew Elliott

KING FELIPE VI and his wife Letizia were snapped outside Palma Cathedral where they attended the traditional Easter service with their two young daughters, Leonor and Sofia.

The Queen Mother, also Sofia, joined them too. Thousands of curious tourists and locals gathered outside for a glimpse of the Spanish royal family, who regularly visit Mallorca.

This was the third year running that the royals have enjoyed Easter in Mallorca. King Felipe waved to crowds from his black Volvo and the family were greeted at the Cathedral entrance



ROYAL FAMILY: Smile for the crowds in Palma.

by local delegate Maria Salom.

The extended family stayed at Palma's Marivent Palace, the King's favourite summer retreat, after warmly entertaining the crowds.

Thousands of curious tourists and locals gathered to catch a glimpse.

King Felipe, who only recently ascended to the throne after the abdication of his father, is scheduled to travel to the UK for a formal state visit this summer.

Hollywood rescue



CAVE DIVER: Spent more than 60 hours trapped in an underwater labyrinth.

A FAMOUS cave diver was rescued after spending more than 60 hours trapped deep in an underwater labyrinth near Manacor. Xisco Gracia was saved by a squadron of specialist divers and greeted by startling scenes of joy and relief when he reached the surface.

The 54-year-old speleologist had been waiting in a small air chamber from the afternoon of Saturday April 15 until help finally arrived at 11.30pm on the Monday evening. His two fellow divers had left to seek help when the highly experienced trio realised a rope was torn and their oxygen supply was running low.

Relatives, journalists, fellow scientists, firefighters,

divers and residents had gathered tensely at Cala Romantica awaiting news of the rescue attempt.

The outpouring of joy and relief when he appeared safe and sound was reminiscent of the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners who spent 69 days underground.

Xisco himself has since admitted that he thought his time was up after spending more than two days alone in the dark with only a pocket of air and a small bottle of water. He says he lost all sense of time and concentrated on breathing calmly while simply hoping for a miracle.

Around 60 people, including elite Guardia Civil divers, were involved in the spectacular rescue attempt.

They spent hours combing more than 600 metres of muddy subterranean caves with extremely poor visibility.

The rescue attempt was hampered by the fact that the man they were searching for is perhaps the biggest cave diving expert on Mallorca. Xisco is a renowned biologist who has covered more than 50 kilometres of underwater caves over the past 20 years.

Last year he published his doctoral thesis on what he calls the 'Mallorcan Caribbean,' the mysterious underwater caves around the Llevant. In 2013 a documentary about his exploits was entitled 'On the Edge of the Impossible.'



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Allergy agony hits hard

ALLERGY sufferers are having an especially hard time of it on Mallorca. For funding reasons the island has simply stopped measuring the levels of pollens and pollutants in the air.

Public awareness of pollen levels in a certain area or season is vital for sufferers who may need to increase their medication.

Pollen testing is regularly conducted in almost every region in Spain. But absolutely no measurements have been taken since July 2016 on Mallorca. From 2006 until 2010 scientific collaboration and proper funding meant that frequent pollen tests were carried out in Palma and Manacor.

However after the University of the Balearics ceased its involvement, testing became the responsibility of a one man biologist team. The botanical specialist heroically kept up testing, working some 30 hours a week for years, but packed it in last year because he wasn't getting paid.

The bad news for the estimated 20-25 per cent of the Balearic population, and millions of tourists, who suffer from allergies is that there is no solution in sight.

The islands are also the only region in Spain which does not employ allergy specialists in the public health service.

OUR VIEW

Panic sets in at Semana Santa

IT must be terrifying to be caught up in a stampede which was the case for those attending the Semana Santa celebrations in Malaga and Sevilla.

On the first occasion, in Malaga, there was an altercation between two or three young men at the back of the parade. Panic and rumours spread suggesting that there had been a shot and that a vehicle was hitting people.

Most people are alert to the very recent events in London and Stockholm and with so many in one place, panic set in. In many ways it was lucky that only two people were slightly injured.

The second stampede was certainly more sinister as it appears that three separate groups thought that it would be amusing to frighten those in the crowd by making loud noises and shouting 'Islamic' phrases.

Reports suggest that more than 100 people were injured in some way, one very seriously and at least seven arrests were made.

These were irresponsible and senseless acts rather than an escalation of terrorism, but we must also be cautious to not give into the sense of public fear that certain organisations are attempting to instil.

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Photo by Terraferida Facebook Page

CALA MARMOLS: Nowhere is completely safe from partygoers.

Tranquil beach hijacked

ACTIVISTS from green group Terraferida have furiously denounced an invasion of young foreign tourists who left a terrible mess around one of Mallorca's most tranquil beaches.

The environmentalists claimed dozens of youngsters spent the Easter weekend drinking and dumping rubbish around Cala Marmols in Santanyi on the far south of the island.

Terraferida have published an official complaint they sent to

the regional government online, calling for tougher laws to prevent vandals ruining the few remaining peaceful parts of the island.

Cala Marmols has long enjoyed relative anonymity thanks to its isolation and difficult accessibility. It can only be reached by boat, or by taking a long complex walk on steep terrain.

But that didn't stop the tourists, believed to be mainly French and Italian, playing music, drinking beer, screaming, shouting and then leaving the quiet area in a state with rubbish everywhere.

Terraferida has an established history of publicising environmental scandals across Mallorca.

Last year it exposed superyachts polluting pristine protected coastal waters and a golf course pinching from a village's water supply to quench its greens and hedges.

NEWS EXTRA

Golden mile

POPULAR shopping street Paseo del Borne in Palma is officially the most expensive on Mallorca. Monthly rent for premises are around €200 per square metre, double the city average.

Drug queen

AN underworld informant made the shocking claim that former Gypsy Queen of drugs, La Paca, earned 18 million pesetas, well over €100,000, a day during her reign of terror over Palma.

No burkas

POLICE are investigating claims that women pretending to be pollsters were handing out anti-Burka leaflets in Palma making 'rascist' criticisms of the Islamic attire.

Secret home

A POLICEWOMAN has been accused of squatting in a Palma apartment she and her colleagues evicted drug dealers from, secretly using it with her partner as an informal second home.

Clean up

MORE than 1,000kgms of waste was cleaned up from the Calvia seas last year. The monstrous operations offer a stark reminder to tourists and beachgoers to clean up after themselves.

Coke king

A GERMAN drug kingpin was nabbed in the Portuguese city of Porto with 35 kilos of pure cocaine destined for Palma, where the gangster has powerful connections.

A mystery

A MASSIVE wooden cross mysteriously appeared at a small bay in Andratx standing dramatically in the sand. No one is sure who put it there, or why.

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NEWS EXTRA

Monster collision

A FIVE car collision on the Lluçmajor motorway in the direction of the airport caused major traffic jams on Tuesday April 18. Luckily no injuries were reported though some cars suffered substantial damages.

Yacht crash

A YACHT rented by five young men crashed into a rock off the coast of Calvia. The stranded five were rescued by a lifeboat dispatched by coastguards, fortunately with no injuries.

Spying bosses

AN admin assistant at Andratx Council claims to have been harassed and abused during just one month on the job. The disgruntled employee accused bosses of spying on his computer.

Tears of guilt?

By Matthew Elliott

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Balearic Islands Biel Barcelo publicly broke down in tears and admitted making 'political mistakes' but has so far resisted growing calls for his resignation. The leader of Mallorcan political party Mes, and the head of tourism across the islands has been at the centre of a growing scandal that threatens to tear apart the ruling coalition.

Barcelo, a Mallorcan native and still young veteran of Balearic politics is accused of giving out public contracts to a company run by Mes' campaign chief Jaume Garau. The scandal has already seen the dismissal of Mes councillor Ruth Mateu.

Now both Podemos and the Popular Party, traditional enemies, want Barcelo's head to roll too. That could precipitate the fracturing of the already fragile PSOE-led government of president Francina Armengol. Both parties are demanding Barcelo's dismissal as a precondition of any future cooperation with Armengol.

Barcelo has admitted that it was a mistake to award his political ally with a €56,000 public contract but claims it was all out in the open and

devoid of corrupt motivation, saying Garau's company was the best for the job.

He argues that he should remain in office for the sake of the government's stability.

But, even at the time of writing, it seems clear that he faces dismissal at any moment.



BIEL BARCELO: Vice-president facing calls to resign.

Saving species

GENETIC samples will be taken from a variety of stunning but potentially endangered indigenous Balearic breeds. The regional government has pledged to invest €75,000 to collect more seeds and tissues for the islands' germplasm bank.

Among the breeds in need of conservation help are the Balearic donkey, native Mallorcan black boars, sheep, and goats. Other indigenous cattle to Ibiza and Minorca will also be sampled.



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Islands in the beam

By Matthew Elliott

TOP scientists from across the planet are in Calvia as Mallorca holds the first ever Smart Island World Congress. Taking place on April 20 and 21 it is billed as the first global event dedicated to the future of islands.

An estimated 1,000 high profile guests will attend conferences, workshops and debates organised by 100 top speakers. Topics include sustainability, protecting the environment, technology and innovation.

It follows the successful Smart City Congress which takes place regularly in Barcelona. But Mallorca's



CAP DE FORMENTOR: Vision of Mallorca's isolation.

event recognises the very specific challenges that islands face.

Calvia mayor Alfonso Rodriguez welcomed the guests.

"Our territory is finite and fragile, but at the same time it is the most valuable treasure we offer our residents and visitors," he said.



TOP SCIENTISTS: Will attend the Congress.

As one of the world's most popular tourist islands Mallorca is a perfect example of the challenges isolated paradises face across the world. Its ongoing struggle to balance a tourist economy with the preservation of the natural resources that attract so many millions is one of the defining ecological chal-

lenges of the 21st century.

Still that hasn't stopped the Congress being tarnished by political bickering. Both of the Popular Party government ministers invited to the event declined to participate as there are 'too many' PSOE representatives, including former Spanish prime minister Jose Zapatero.

NEWS EXTRA

Grisly Easter

HIKERS made a grisly discovery on Easter Sunday when they came across the body of a 63-year-old man who has been missing since January. The Santa Maria resident was found near the s' Avenc de Son Pou cave in Alaro.

Park life

A HOMELESS man from Morocco has erected a tent and installed cooking facilities in Palma's Parc de les Estacions after giving up on finding work. He lost his job during the recession but is proving an unlikely hit with local residents.

Bad deal

A BRITISH fund which allowed Mallorcan tour operator *Orizonia* to go bankrupt will pay €10 million compensation. *Orizonia* was the third biggest tour operator in Spain but was abandoned by owners *Carlyle* with 5,000 jobs lost.

Tax trouble

A RESIDENT of Ibiza launched a complaint after she was asked to pay the tourist tax while staying at a Mallorca hotel. Critics claim Balearic residents should be exempt.



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Tragic tipping point

TWO boats packed with African refugees were discovered off the coast of Mallorca within 24 hours. The first was found floating just off the southern coast only hours before a second was found closer to the shore in Cabrera.

Between them the boats held around 30 people, a few of them children. All were alive and well and brought to Palma for questioning. They will then be sent to a detention centre on the mainland.

Four refugee boats have arrived on Mallorca in 2017. Only three were stopped in 2016 and 2015 respectively. Mallorca has avoided the refugee rush that is wreaking havoc on Spain's southern coast.



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General Election could be Second Referendum



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THERE was considerable surprise when Theresa May announced on April 18 that she wished to call a snap General Election.

All opinion polls suggest that the Conservative party is in a very strong position, whilst support for Labour has steadily waned.

Having been accused of being a leader without a mandate as she simply replaced David Cameron as Prime Minister and despite the fact that parties not the electorate vote for the leader, she clearly wants to be seen as a leader supported by the people.

She argues that it is better to have the election now so that she is in a position to negotiate Brexit from a position of strength rather than wait and to be 'hamstrung' by



Photo by Jay Allen Crown

THERESA MAY: Wants to be a leader supported by the people.

opposition parties in the lead up to Britain's departure from the European Union.

Under recent legislation, the only way in which an election can be held is if there is a vote of no confidence in a sitting government or if two thirds of MPs (434) vote to agree an early election.

The vote will be held presently and Labour has already indicated that it will support the motion so that the election will almost cer-

tainly be held on June 8 of this year.

There has been such division over the results of the referendum that not only will this election be addressed on party political terms, it will also give those who are for and against Brexit an opportunity to align themselves with the political party that offers the best solution for them.

In theory, this should be a 'walkover' for the Conservatives

but because the referendum result caused so much dissension, voters could either support the Brexiteers en masse or could conceivably switch should the LibDems for example promise to reverse the decision if elected, perhaps in coalition with the SNP.

One thing is for sure and that is that those expatriates who had been out of the country for more than 15 years and were looking forward to being able to vote in the planned 2020 general election are going to continue to be disenfranchised as far as this election is concerned.

With just eight weeks before the expected election, there are bound to be some very forthright exchanges between a number of politicians and some very nervous opinion pollsters who seem to have the ability to get everything wrong at the moment.

Some of those no longer in the House of Commons could find themselves in a position where they will be lobbying against the parties that they have been involved with for their entire political careers and to a limited extent, this general election could be considered a second referendum.

EU on France and Turkey

THE focus of the European Union moved away from Britain and Brexit over the last week to consider France and Turkey.

The French Presidential elections are now moving forwards with the front runners being the Nationalist Marine Le Pen and the Centrist Emmanuel Macron.

The other nine candidates are likely to be dropped before a showdown between the two front runners if opinion polls are to be believed and in the event that Ms Le Pen is elected she has promised to stop all immigration to France until a new way of controlling it can be introduced.

In the meantime, the Turkish referendum has seen a narrow majority in favour of turning Turkey into a presidential republic and seeing incumbent Erdogan in power until 2029.

As the 'threat' of Turkey joining the European Union appears to drift away with this latest news, many who were worried about the possibility of thousands of Turks sweeping across Europe will be more comfortable.



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NEWS EXTRA

Picture perfect

THE second phase of Pollensa's revamped promenade plans has now been launched. The €2.1 million project will include cobblestone streets, a bike lane, new street lamps and a repaired beach wall.

Too late

A GERMAN tourist died after he suffered a heart attack while hiking in Alcudia. A helicopter was dispatched to help the 59-year-old but unfortunately doctors couldn't save him.

Hiking hostel

A NEW hostel exclusively for hikers will be built on the Planicia estate on Mallorca's west coast. The 442 acre space is owned by the government and offers breathtaking views of the sea.

Busy spring

HOTELS on the packed Playa de Palma hit an occupancy rate of 74 per cent in March, a big jump on February. Almost three out of every four hotel guests came from Germany.

SPANISH hoteliers predict that Brexit will exert no effect on tourism in either 2017 or 2018, despite the weak pound.

According to initial figures, the UK was once again the market leader over the Easter period, and Juan Molas, president of the Spanish Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation (CEHAT), said that the trend should

No Brex-effect, yet

continue into summer.

Molas added that Brexit is a cause for concern within the hotel sector "in the future, and we have to proceed carefully, with caution, intelligence, goodwill and our hand extended."

In 2016, 23.2 million airliners were contracted by British companies to fly to Spain, an increase of 3.8 million compared with 2015, and the total is predicted to rise to 24.6 million this year.

The number of Britons visiting Spain also jumped by over 12 per cent, to 17.8 million, with security fears in countries including Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt leading sun-seekers to book closer to home.

In view of these figures, hoteliers are urging the Spanish government to play a key role in Brexit negotiations.

The Horseshoe Whip hunters

HUNTERS are laying hundreds of traps across Mallorca for the infamous Horseshoe Whip snake which is slithering back into its predatory ways now that the weather has warmed up.

The first traps were laid on April 15 and thus far at least eight snakes have been captured and killed.

The Horseshoe, which is non-venomous but sometimes aggressive, has expanded its

habitat across the island since arriving roughly a decade ago. It is an invasive species thought to have smuggled in amid an olive tree shipment from Extremadura.

The snakes tend to feast on small mammals, including hares, rabbit and quail, thus competing with hunters and farmers across Mallorca.

They are also becoming increasingly bold, entering homes and terraces as their population expands.

Traps consist of wooden boxes with two compartments. One contains a live mouse and food for it to blissfully nibble. The other is an entrance for the snake, which cannot escape once it slithers inside.



WILD: Horseshoe Whip snake is colonising Mallorca.

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Sneaky traffic cameras live

TWO new smart traffic cameras have been installed on Mallorca to check whether drivers and passengers are properly buckled into their seatbelts. One is on the Ma-20 Palma ring road, the other on the Ma-13 motorway between Palma and Sa Pobla.

They join 225 similar cameras across Spain as the entire country cracks down on dangerous driving. For the first two

months of operation the cameras will not issue fines. Instead they will send letters to any drivers caught not wearing their seatbelt. Drivers are also responsible for passengers.

An estimated 180 people are killed each year across the country as a direct consequence of them, or somebody else, not wearing a seatbelt. The smart cameras join others in Mallorca which can check whether a car has a valid ITV.

Award for cultural gem



CULTURAL HERITAGE: Dry stone wall on the Ruta de Pedra en Seco hike.

THE dry stone walls typical of much of Mallorca and the other Balearic Islands is set to be declared an official UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. There are hundreds of kilometres of dry stone walls across the island, all of which would gain international protection if the UNESCO plan succeeds.

Drystone walls are culturally significant as their simple,

yet delicate, technique has been passed down the generations for at least 500 years, possibly much longer. Mortar and cement are not used to build the walls, which are rather a symbol of skill and craftsmanship.

The number of contemporary builders educated in the art form is dwindling by the day. UNESCO is stepping in to protect Mallorca's sites be-

fore there is no one left who knows how to duplicate them.

Some believe Mallorca's Moorish population was the first to develop the craft. Some dry stone walls in Soller and Fornalutx date as far back as the 14th century.

The island is now trying to establish more walking routes which take in the walls, both to protect their heritage and attract cultural tourism.

NEWS EXTRA

Vulture volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are still wanted for one of Mallorca's most successful conservation projects. Fundacio Vida Silvestre (FVSM) protects wild birds of prey and is looking for German speakers and others to help with guided tours and landscape work.

Bus boycott

ANGRY commuters are calling for a boycott of intercity TIB buses across Mallorca. They are livid over constant delays and break downs. Car pool groups have been floated as a cheap alternative.

Use bins

REMOVING plastic waste from toilet pipes cost Calvia a staggering €350,000 last year. The council blames the cost on tampons and other sanitary towels which are not biodegradable and urges residents to use bins instead.

Spree over

A KNIFE-WIELDING robber who terrified staff at eight shops in Inca and Sa Pobla in a two-month crime spree was finally captured by police. The 24-year-old had thousands of euros in cash in his possession.

Dogs kill

AUTHORITIES are urging all cattle herders who encounter dangerous dogs to contact emergency services on 112 rather than trying to fend them off themselves. The number of cattle killed by dogs has shot up lately.

House hit

A MAN was killed after he spun off the road from Sineu to Palma after a traffic accident and crashed into a house. The 30-year-old died instantly.



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Brexit advice on Facebook

THE British Government used social media site Facebook for a live broadcast to address concerns and uncertainty sparked by Brexit and the start of the process to leave the EU.

The Foreign Office Director for Consular Services Julia Longbottom gave answers based on questions submitted by expats across Europe; many from the estimated 300,000 living in Spain.

More than 9,600 people listened live to the unique use of new technology, and

by Monday afternoon almost 57,000 had accessed the relevant page of www.facebook.com/fcotravel.

As expected, questions centred on status and rights for expats; health, pensions, education, voting, property, and dual nationality were the most common subjects addressed.

Ms Longbottom apologised, as so many answers are dependent on the results of the forthcoming negotiations between the British government and Brussels.

“But it is very important we capture these questions and issues; they are all things that government departments in the UK need to think about, and they are all being put together by the Department of Leaving the EU,” she said.

“So many answers are dependent on the results of forthcoming negotiations.”

“We are looking at all of them together and making sure as soon as possible that we know what it is we have to secure; it is looking to a future where we remain part of Europe but not in the EU.”

And she underlined that nothing would change during the two year period of negotiations while the UK remained a full member of



APOLOGISED: Julia Longbottom and Alicante Consul Sarah-Jane Morris, wait for forthcoming negotiations.



Julia Longbottom on the Facebook opening page.

the bloc.

Ms Longbottom said: “We aim to make sure you can continue to live legally in other countries in the EU. We need to clarify how that will work and will get you the information as soon as we can.”

She said Prime Minister Theresa May had made it clear clarifying the status of British people living in Europe and EU citizens in the UK was “of the highest priority”; and had wanted to reach an agreement before Article 50 was triggered last month.

“She believes it can be agreed in principle very quickly and all nations have indicated it is a priority; one of the first priorities of the talks.”

Ms Longbottom said the government wanted to secure reciprocal deals for all expats. “The reason the Prime Minister was not prepared to unilaterally secure the status of EU citizens living in the UK is because we wanted to make sure, first and foremost, that we secure the rights of UK citizens; and any deal takes into account their interests.

“As long as the UK remains part of the EU, your rights, as an EU citizen do not change; nothing has changed in your status.”

She said it was “very important” to recognise the significant contribution that expats made in their host countries. “All parties have a keen interest in reaching an agreement.”

Ms Longbottom said she appreciated there were not as many “concrete answers” as hoped for at present but warned against rumour “and picking up the wrong end of the stick; suggesting using official channels instead, including www.gov.uk/fco.”

The broadcast lasted about 35 minutes. Afterwards a Foreign Office said the department was “very pleased” with the interest shown and it was likely Facebook would be used again in future.

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Record-breaking Semana Santa

SEMANA SANTA 2017 surpassed all expectations across the length and breadth of the Spanish peninsula.

This year has seen a record-breaking week, with over 5.1 million people travelling on 31,220 scheduled flights, and a further 14.8 million using the country's motorways. Even rail travel saw an increase of 9.5 per cent on 2016, with 2.4 million seats allocated over the week.

As hotels and restaurants surpassed profit expectations, with an average increase in turnover of 10 per cent, the tourism sector has highlighted the good weather as a major factor in the week's success.

Latest figures from the Spanish Confederation of Hotels show the average hotel

was at 90 per cent capacity and President of the Andalusian Tourism Board, Miguel Sanchez, said that "it's been a long time since we've had a Semana Santa like this."

Bar and restaurant owners estimate that they have made around 6 per cent more cash than in 2016, describing the week as phenomenal.

At El Pimpi, one of the oldest Bodega-bars in Malaga, excellent sales have been attributed to the glorious weather. Manager Elena Cobos said "last year, the first few days were weaker due to rain, but this time the forecast was good every day, leading to more tourists coming and, consequently, a boost in sales."

Despite mid-week techni-

cal difficulties at Palma airport, which led to delays of up to five hours, as well as multiple cancellations, the Mallorcan city enjoyed a prosperous week. La Playa de Palma beach was at 75 per cent capacity, with local bars and chiringuitos welcoming the boost in profits.

However, focus wasn't just concentrated at the beaches, as tourists made excursions to local landmarks. The Alcazaba in Almeria was visited by almost 11,000 people, celebrating the area's cultural heritage and capacity for sustainable tourism.

Unfortunately, not everything went off without a hitch, as traffic throughout the provinces suffered under the increased number of

road users. Easter Monday saw queues of up to 20km on stretches of the A-3 towards Valencia, and up to 10km around Alicante, as

revellers made their way back inland towards the capital.

Semana Santa often sets the tone for the summer

months, so naturally business owners in the tourism sector are hopeful that 2017 could be a historic, record breaking year.





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NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER REGIONS

Having a good time

■ ALMERÍA



GOOD TIMES: Expected at the new Cantoria social centre.

» By Matthew Elliott

A NEW social centre for elderly residents has opened in Cantoria. With a bar and other facilities it promises to be a terrific community meeting point.

More than €300,000 was invested in transforming the Plaza del Convenio into a modern space where locals can chat, play games and make new friends.

Mayor Puri Sanchez said the centre met long-standing demands from local seniors for a dedicated new space. Naturally the bar was the first place to open, proving an instantly popular hit over the Easter rush. The rest of the centre will open in due course.

Should the retiree bar be a success there are plans to convert the site into a dual day care centre and social hub with a combination of long term residents and guests meeting friends for a good time.

■ AXARQUÍA

Bullet-proof

ALMUNECAR'S Council has made investments in the safety of the town's firemen and police officers finding €20,000 to provide all police officers with bullet-proof vests as well as new communications systems and safety harnesses for firemen.

Golf vetoed

LOCAL residents in Maro, a hamlet within Nerja are up in arms over a planned golf course. Already 700 signatures have been received on a petition which wants to block the building of an 18-hole golf course, hotels and apartments.

Full house

HOTELS in Almuñecar and La Herradura reached 90 per cent occupancy over this year's Semana Santa. The town's council has attributed the high numbers to unseasonably good weather that has drawn crowds to the town.

Check mate

MOTRIL has organised its first open chess tournament, labelled 'The Art of Chess,' which took place on Easter Sunday.

New tricks

CROOKS continue to think up new versions of old scams and now they call up to make appointments to rob people! This has occurred in Nerja where common telephone elderly foreign residents to advise that Endesa employees will be visiting to check the electrical system.

Black out

THE worst fears of councillors and commercial operators in Almuñecar came to fruition when there was another major power cut. So damaging to the town's economy are these regular cuts the council has indicated it is considering taking legal action against the company

■ COSTA DEL SOL

Hopping mad

A 21-YEAR-OLD man is being treated for injuries in Marbella, after a car caught up in a chain pulled out a concrete post which landed on his foot.

Air arrest

A RYANAIR flight travelling to Pisa was diverted to Malaga due to the 'unacceptable behaviour' of a passenger. The company stressed that it won't tolerate inappropriate conduct, and the traveller was arrested by police.

Request denied

THE mayor of Istan has rejected a request from a local group to celebrate the 86th anniversary of the proclamation of the Second Republic of Spain, classing it as a 'political act.'

Man down

TWO people were seriously injured in a road accident between Ronda and San Pedro on Thursday 13. The accident occurred when a motorcycle ran over a pedestrian walking on the road.

Contreeversy

OVER the last two years, a total of 734 trees have been removed from the streets of Malaga. Despite over twice as many being planted during this time, many residents are unhappy with the felling.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Jabs back

THE regional Health department resumed vaccinating against tetanus and whooping cough for six- and 14-year-olds. The campaign was halted months ago when laboratories ran out of supplies.

High time

FIREMEN cut down a disused antenna and lightning conductor at Pago's Ambra castle. A helicopter removed it from the Moorish stronghold which is 264-metres above sea level.

Welfare state

BENITACHELL Town Hall plans to engage a new social worker. The cost will be met by a €27,231 subsidy from the regional government, announced Social Services councillor Jacinta Pastor.

Rent-free

OLIVA Town Hall will economise by moving the lorry park from Paseo Joan Fuster to the El Brosquil industrial estate. It owns this land and will not pay rent.

Kitchen fire

A MAN was lucky to escape his home unharmed following a fire which engulfed his kitchen in Polop. Noticing smoke billowing out of the property, a neighbour immediately alerted the Local Police who, in turn, called the fire brigade.

■ COSTA DE ALMERÍA

Foggy flight

TWO flights bound for Almeria, one from Luxembourg, another from Brussels, were diverted to Malaga due to a dense Easter fog around the airport.

Robot army

GOOGLE chose two University of Almeria professors to participate in its prestigious Summer of Code program. The software project is part of the American giant's plans to create artificially intelligent robots.

Juicy delights

SEEDLESS watermelons will constitute around 75 per cent of the 130,000 tons of fleshy fruit produced by Anecoop Almeria in the upcoming harvest. 20 per cent of Spain's watermelons grow in Almeria.

Top detective

SIX police officers arrested a Vicar man for burglary. His victim found his own furniture for sale in a local second-hand shop and quickly called police.

Eastern promises

A BAR owner in Tabernas is facing two years in prison after authorities found eight maltreated and badly paid east European workers at the premises, including a Russian smuggled into Spain illegally.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

New hotel

PLANS were approved for a 150-room hotel in Los Urrutias. The €15 million complex will have five tennis courts, two swimming pools, a gym and sailing facilities.

More jobs

MURCIA created more employment than any other Spanish region in March with a 1.96 per cent increase, with 10,567 more Social Security contributors.

Split up

THIRTY-EIGHT Elche state schools voted for a continuous school day and 11 for split sessions. Four are in the city centre and eight in rural Campo de Elche.

Bills paid

PILAR DE LA HORADADA Town Hall allocated €2,859 to eight needy local families. Just over half of this will be spent on their light and water bills.

Bank bailout

VANDALS set alight a dumped mattress in Santa Pola's Avenida Portugal, damaging a bank façade. Firemen called to the scene controlled the fire before it could spread further.

Sad farewell

IT was time to say goodbye to Pirata, the much-loved Torrevecija harbour cat. With kidney problems and FIV, it was kinder to put him to sleep, vets decided.

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NORWAY**Cheap flights**

NORWEGIAN airline has launched special flights to the USA from the UK with prices from as low as £91 (€107) so if you can get a cheap flight back to the UK, then happy flying!



NORWEGIAN: Are offering cheap flights to the US.

Lost and found

A BALL lost by an under 19's football club in Aberdeen after it was kicked into the River Dee, has been found more than 1,000 miles away washed up on the north coast of Norway.

Terror prank

A RUSSIAN teenager has been re-

manded in custody in relation to a bomb scare in Oslo. The 17-year-old is charged with terror offences but his lawyers said the incident was just a prank.

Going down

THE Norwegian birth rate has decreased for the seventh consecutive year with the birth rate now 1.71.

GERMANY**Cyber crime**

A MAN has been convicted and fined €4,800 for a hate speech against a Green Party politician. The Berlin court found the 57-year-old guilty of verbally insulting the politician in two Facebook posts.

in May and address the protestant church's annual assembly to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Obama visit

FORMER US President Barack Obama is reportedly set to visit Germany

Maypole theft

MUNICH'S maypole has been stolen. But it was all part of a spring tradition where rival towns try to steal each other's maypoles. This year, the village of Neufinsing beat a Goliath as

they managed to steal Munich's maypole.

Costly digs

MUNICH has been named as having the most expensive rent for students with a typical student apartment measuring 30 square metres close to a university costing €634 a month including utilities.

FRANCE**Bike hike**

ANNUAL subscriptions for the Velib bike rental scheme in Paris are expected to rise by as much as 35 per cent in January 2018 when the new provider Smoove comes into force and introduces new bikes and new stations.

Mosque threat

A MOSQUE in the eastern suburbs of Paris has been closed as authorities deemed it 'a threat to security' believing radical ideology was being preached.

Borders closed

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Marine Le Pen has said if elected she would immediately move to close France's borders and deport foreigners on a watch list of Islamist radicals.

Pet travel

PARIS has relaxed its rules on dogs travelling on the Metro. Previously only small pooches were permitted but larger dogs can now take the Metro although they must have a ticket and will not be able to travel for free.

BELGIUM**Passenger increase**

BRUSSELS Airport had a record month in March with some 1,879,510 passengers going through the terminal, an increase of 9.8 per cent compared to March 2015. The airport was closed due to terrorist attacks in March last year.

Begging in Brussels

BRUSSELS Public Prosecutor has said that the problem of begging is now a priority. Begging is not a punishable offence but the Public Prosecutor can intervene to prevent potential human trafficking or in cases concerning minors.

Job move

INSURERS Lloyd's of London is planning to move jobs out of London to a new Brussels office post Brexit to secure its presence in the EU.

Chippy demolished

ONE of the most famous chippies in Brussels, Maison Antoine, in the European district, has been demolished. A new one is being planned, but a mobile chippy will supply local workers in the meantime.

NETHERLANDS**Assisted suicide**

OFFICIAL cases of euthanasia rose 10 per cent in the Netherlands last year, accounting for 4 per cent of all deaths in the country. Of the 6,091 euthanasia cases, 87 per cent of assisted deaths involved people with cancer, serious heart or lung problems.

Permission granted

THE Junior Justice Minister Klaas Dijkhoff, has allowed 240 refugees to stay in the country even though their earlier appeals had failed. He received 780 requests for clemency in the last two years.

Benefits bill

MORE jobs in the Dutch market helped reduce the bill of unemployment benefits by 7 per cent last year. The number of unemployment benefit claims fell from 446,000 to 412,000 over the year.

Easter break

THE national tourist board expected almost a million foreign visitors to the Netherlands over Easter weekend, with around 65 per cent of them from Germany.

DENMARK**Guilty plea**

A FATHER, aged 38, has pleaded guilty to the murder of his three children and their mother who were found in an apartment near Copenhagen. A police statement said that officers were greeted by a 'terrible scene.'

Security concern

THE mayor of Copenhagen has told the public the Danish capital is well prepared to defend itself against any possible terror attack and said the city will continue to work to secure itself.

Unusual beer

IT may not be to everyone's taste but Danish farmers have reportedly brewed a beer using the urine collected from music festivals. It was used in fertilising malting barley used in the beer process.

Dignified death

A DANISH nurse broke protocol and allowed a dying man a final cigarette and a glass of wine within the hospital grounds surrounded by his family.

SWEDEN**Terrorist in court**

THERE was armed security around Stockholm District Court as 39-year-old Rakhmat Akilov, appeared and admitted to committing a terrorist crime. He is the man suspected of driving a truck into pedestrians killing four people.

Cash-less theft

THIEVES have used a mobile phone app to rob a man. The gang threatened the man in Gothenburg making him send them cash using the money transfer app Swish.

No claim

A COURT has ruled that a midwife who refused to carry out abortions based on her religious beliefs, was not discriminated against as her employer required abortions to be carried out by its staff.

Music boost

MUSIC sales in Sweden increased 6.2 per cent last year with 1.1 billion kronor generated from music sales with Swedish artists accounting for 28 per cent of that.

Shift away from over the odds oil

SPANISH olive oil prices have again increased following a brief respite at the end of March.

Since the start of the 2016/17 season last October, the average price of a kilo of oil has caused domestic demand for the product to fall as consumers move towards cheaper products, particularly sunflower oil.

According to Ministry of Agriculture data, 213,000 tonnes of olive oil have been snapped up by the domestic market over the last five months, a 9 per cent drop compared with figures for 2015/16.

1.6 million tonnes

of olive oil was produced by Spain in 2011/12, a national record.

However, the Association of Industrial Packers and Refiners of Edible Oils (ANIERAC), which handles 70 per cent of all sales within Spain, estimates the reduction to be as much as 12 per cent, with a resultant boost to the

sunflower oil market.

In February, sales of olive oil handled by ANIERAC dropped from 28,114 tonnes in 2016 to 21,226 tonnes, while the cheaper sunflower oil jumped from 19,300 to 25,320 tonnes.

In recent weeks, unrefined lampante olive oil has been selling for around €3.70 per kilo, virgin oil for €3.75 and extra virgin oil for €3.80.

These prices have been reflected in a final cost of €4.50-5 per litre to the consumer, and a near-total absence of special offers in supermarkets and other shops, while sunflower oil, which retails at around €1 per litre, has been flying off the shelves.

Olive oil exports, meanwhile, increased by 30 per cent despite the price hike, the situation triggered by poor harvests across Europe.

More bank notes

THE production of fake €20 and €50 bank notes continues to be investigated by the authorities and three women have been arrested in Oviedo.

Investigations by the National Police revealed the fact that these three women had been producing and distributing these counterfeit notes for three years through shops and small businesses in the north of Spain.

They were quite blatant about their activity, spending the notes on a daily basis and when officers raided the property where the fake notes were produced, they found €5,000 in printed fakes and sufficient paper to produce additional notes to a value of €10,000.

Quote of the Week

"The Banco Popular does not present solvency problems," according to the Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Irene Garrido on the financial position of the Spanish bank.



Abengoa Group moving forward



CRÉDIT AGRICOLE: The main shareholders.

By John Smith

MAJOR investors are divesting themselves of shares in the Abengoa Group which was previously close to bankruptcy on a worldwide basis.

By the end of 2016, the organisation had managed to put a recovery plan into place and was even able to take one of its main US based subsidiaries out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as the business started to turn around.

Santander bank which was the largest single shareholder has reduced its shareholding from 9.63

per cent to 2.4 per cent without materially hurting the business which is refinancing and now French bank Crédit Agricole has taken over as the largest shareholder with 8.77 per cent of equity.

The next chapter in the future of the company will see it concentrate more on engineering activity undertaking third party projects, which whilst showing smaller margins of profit, are less risky.

In order to succeed however, the group recognises that it will need to continue to reduce its financial exposure and debt.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Economic move

THE Junta de Andalucía is considering the possibility of purchasing properties where owners are no longer able to afford to pay the mortgage and then renting them back to those in the properties. The idea behind this is that if it can save families from going to court and being evicted then it will be good for the economy in the long run.

Inflation down

THERE has been some good news for consumers in Spain as the Consumer Price Index for March fell to 2.3 per cent, from 3 per cent in February. The bulk of this fall is thanks to drops in the price of fuel and energy although vegetable prices have also dropped following increases due to the appalling winter weather.

Nissan news

JAPANESE car manufacturer Nissan has seen some exceptional results in sales within Europe in the 12-month period from April 2015 to March 2016. Overall sales were up by 2.6 per cent but in Spain the increase was a phenomenal 13.3 per cent with the sale of just over 69,000 vehicles.

Trump makes settlement

A SPANISH chef has settled a lawsuit with the Trump organisation after pulling out of a deal with a Trump hotel.

Originally celebrity chef José Andrés who is considered responsible for promoting the concept

of quality tapas in the USA was due to open a Spanish restaurant in one of the Trump hotels in Washington DC, but pulled out after the presidential candidate made depreciating remarks about Mexicans.

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CLOSING PRICES APRIL 17

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,170.25	-0.65	-0.06	16,447.83
Associated British Foods	2,708.50	78.49	3.00	20,702.28
Admiral Group	2,029.00	16.39	0.82	5,726.98
Ashtead Group	1,652.00	-27.16	-1.62	8,377.01
Antofagasta	835.75	10.37	1.26	8,128.39
Aviva	517.50	-0.27	-0.05	21,094.65
AstraZeneca	4,742.50	4.03	0.09	59,919.93
BAE Systems	642.50	-3.90	-0.60	20,547.03
Babcock International Group	885.50	1.69	0.19	4,466.95
Barclays	212.65	-1.05	-0.49	36,285.70
British American Tobacco	5,381.00	2.67	0.05	100,340.90
Barratt Developments	572.25	-1.34	-0.24	5,674.27
British Land Co	652.50	-0.85	-0.13	6,724.39
BHP Billiton	1,269.00	-8.62	-0.68	26,781.07
Bunzl	2,365.50	-5.51	-0.23	7,957.80
BP	471.13	-1.62	-0.34	92,993.05
Burberry Group	1,762.50	-5.10	-0.29	7,733.03
BT Group	313.10	-2.27	-0.72	31,445.10
Coca-Cola HBC	2,095.50	1.85	0.09	7,608.95
Carnival	4,558.00	5.54	0.12	9,673.68
Centrica	216.30	-1.05	-0.48	12,044.48
Compass Group	1,550.50	2.44	0.16	25,454.72
Croda International	3,625.00	25.11	0.70	4,723.61
CRH	2,701.00	-39.29	-1.43	22,918.17
ConvaTec Group	289.10	1.12	0.39	5,622.19
DCC	7,135.00	-41.95	-0.58	6,377.02
Diageo	2,298.00	-10.47	-0.45	58,021.58
Direct Line Insurance Group	343.80	2.08	0.61	4,699.75
Experian	1,621.00	-5.73	-0.35	15,365.01
easyJet	1,064.00	2.35	0.22	4,210.41
Fresnillo	1,641.00	24.96	1.54	11,908.20
GKN	352.70	-1.69	-0.48	6,089.50
Glencore	309.05	-2.99	-0.97	44,623.70
GlaxoSmithKline	1,647.00	0.31	0.02	80,914.17
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,919.00	0.49	0.03	4,612.39
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,344.00	0.91	0.07	6,370.10
Hammerson	585.50	-0.11	-0.02	4,663.95
HSBC Holdings	643.90	-10.30	-1.57	129,915.69
International Consolidated Air	540.00	4.37	0.82	11,290.78
InterContinental Hotels Group	3,934.00	11.44	0.29	7,782.59
3i Group	771.75	4.29	0.56	7,451.71
Imperial Brands	3,933.50	18.79	0.48	37,567.09
Informa	659.00	0.60	0.09	5,413.71
Intu Properties	287.05	-1.33	-0.46	3,905.23
Intertek Group	4,062.50	8.60	0.21	6,546.00
ITV	217.40	-0.23	-0.11	8,735.14
Johnson Matthey	3,016.00	-5.14	-0.17	5,831.16
Kingfisher	327.00	-0.97	-0.30	7,284.26
Land Securities Group	1,117.00	-0.20	-0.02	8,840.58
Legal & General Group	251.60	2.76	1.11	14,864.11

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	62.71	0.07	0.11	44,691.06
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,227.50	4.11	0.13	11,275.90
Micro Focus International	2,534.00	43.26	1.75	5,681.57
Mediclinic International	759.50	24.36	3.31	5,429.80
Merlin Entertainments	486.40	2.43	0.50	4,911.44
Marks & Spencer Group	346.80	2.34	0.68	5,590.69
Mondi	1,979.00	-7.44	-0.38	9,512.00
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	234.40	1.76	0.76	5,418.61
National Grid	1,036.00	-5.56	-0.53	39,036.08
Next	4,193.00	38.62	0.93	6,104.32
Old Mutual Group	194.90	3.19	1.66	9,495.12
Provident Financial	3,122.50	21.54	0.69	4,596.09
Paddy Power Betfair	8,525.00	-12.43	-0.15	7,158.90
Prudential	1,663.50	-1.55	-0.09	43,025.03
Persimmon	2,221.00	33.67	1.54	6,748.77
Pearson	632.50	-6.31	-0.99	5,227.54
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,448.50	-18.26	-0.25	52,488.57
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	228.40	-3.03	-1.31	27,403.25
Royal Dutch Shell	2,106.50	-9.00	-0.42	95,398.38
RELX	1,583.50	-8.18	-0.51	17,141.46
Rio Tinto	3,121.00	-27.02	-0.86	43,505.12
Royal Mail	423.95	4.49	1.07	4,192.00
Rolls-Royce Group	828.50	-1.89	-0.23	15,282.31
Randgold Resources	7,540.00	83.23	1.12	6,978.34
RSA Insurance Group	597.00	-0.54	-0.09	6,024.23
Rentokil Initial	253.10	0.96	0.38	4,631.92
Sainsbury (J)	258.40	0.60	0.23	5,644.51
Schroders	3,112.00	-2.11	-0.07	7,018.00
Sage Group (The)	663.50	13.51	2.08	7,025.59
Shire	4,585.25	21.26	0.47	41,119.05
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,066.00	-2.58	-0.12	4,897.08
Sky	982.50	1.96	0.20	16,777.61
Standard Life	368.70	2.29	0.63	7,473.79
Smiths Group	1,617.50	-8.24	-0.51	6,426.08
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt	368.50	-1.61	-0.43	5,034.92
Smith & Nephew	1,259.00	-8.92	-0.71	11,016.97
SSE	1,495.00	-11.13	-0.74	15,274.43
Standard Chartered	709.50	-10.92	-1.51	23,697.44
St James's Place	1,066.00	-0.11	-0.01	5,590.08
Severn Trent	2,444.00	6.35	0.26	5,727.83
Tesco	181.50	-2.63	-1.42	15,074.78
TUI AG	1,094.00	-2.92	-0.27	6,439.81
Taylor Wimpey	196.90	2.08	1.07	6,409.22
Unilever	4,033.00	-27.28	-0.67	52,179.04
United Utilities Group	1,014.00	1.16	0.11	6,907.53
Vodafone Group	204.00	-0.30	-0.15	54,388.91
Wolseley	4,926.00	-16.08	-0.33	12,436.52
Worldpay Group	300.00	-1.72	-0.57	6,034.00
WPP Group	1,738.00	0.79	0.05	22,214.07
Whitbread	4,175.00	23.94	0.58	7,555.03

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CLOSING PRICES APRIL 17

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
3M	188,650	-0.55%	-1,050	112M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	75,8000	-1.15%	-0,8800	68M
APPLE	141,050	-0.53%	-0,750	740M
BOEING CO	175,620	-0.24%	-0,430	106M
CATERPILLAR	93,100	-1.86%	-1,760	54M
CHEVRON	106,10	-2.63%	-2,87	201M
CISCO SYSTEMS	32,420	-0.61%	-0,200	162M
COCA-COLA	42,79	-0.35%	-0,15	183M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	77,4400	-1.26%	-0,9900	66M
EXXON MOBIL	81,69	-1.54%	-1,28	338M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,5600	-0.71%	-0,2100	257M
GOLDMAN SACHS	223,32	-1.08%	-2,43	88M
HOME DEPOT	145,9100	-0.43%	-0,6300	175M
IBM	169,53	-0.66%	-1,13	159M
INTEL CORP	35,2500	-1.07%	-0,3800	166M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	84,4000	-1.17%	-1,0000	300M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	124,9900	-0.33%	-0,4100	338M
MC DONALD'S CORP	130,7600	-0.38%	-0,5000	107M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,61	-0.70%	-0,44	171M
MICROSOFT	64,950	-0.43%	-0,280	501M
NIKE	55,34	-0.41%	-0,23	73M
PFIZER	33,8800	-0.12%	-0,0400	201M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	90,030	-0.31%	-0,280	230M
TRAVELERS CIES	120,53	-0.77%	-0,93	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	112,09	-0.13%	-0,15	89M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	164,96	-0.36%	-0,60	157M
VERIZON COMMS	48,62	-0.61%	-0,30	198M
VISA	88,87	+0.21%	0,19	165M
WAL-MART STORES	73,1500	-0.39%	-0,2900	221M
WALT DISNEY CO	113,2000	+0.14%	0,1600	179M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 17

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Nexvet Biopharma plc	\$ 6.62	2.57 ▲ 63.46%
Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.	\$ 45.30	4.48 ▲ 10.98%
ImmunoGen, Inc.	\$ 3.24	0.28 ▲ 9.46%
SkyWest, Inc.	\$ 33.05	2.65 ▲ 8.72%
Acceleron Pharma Inc.	\$ 28.69	2.16 ▲ 8.14%
Enzymotec Ltd.	\$ 8.70	0.65 ▲ 8.07%
Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 42.27	2.92 ▲ 7.42%
Flexion Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 27.97	1.82 ▲ 6.96%
Alder BioPharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 21.70	1.40 ▲ 6.90%
Blueprint Medicines Corporation	\$ 45.59	2.81 ▲ 6.57%
Okta, Inc.	\$ 24.49	1.49 ▲ 6.48%
Most Declined		
SkyPeople Fruit Juice, Inc.	\$ 2.94	2.39 ▼ 44.84%
DAVIDsTEA Inc.	\$ 6.25	1.30 ▼ 17.22%
Papa Murphy's Holdings, Inc.	\$ 5.66	0.92 ▼ 13.98%
China TechFaith Wireless Com Tech Limited	\$ 2.41	0.38 ▼ 13.62%
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 50.72	7.36 ▼ 12.67%
Oncobiologics, Inc.	\$ 2.05	0.20 ▼ 8.89%
Smart Sand, Inc.	\$ 14.18	1.35 ▼ 8.69%
Selecta Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 13.95	1.28 ▼ 8.40%
ObsEva SA	\$ 7.40	0.65 ▼ 8.07%
Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc.	\$ 18.90	1.60 ▼ 7.80%
Xcel Brands, Inc	\$ 2.45	0.20 ▼ 7.55%

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Price Movement

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

DEALING PRICE

€0.9844.....-€0.0001
 €0.9631.....-€0.0003
 £1.1476..... £0.0008
 €1.0772..... €0.0001
 £1.2825..... £0.0017
 €1.1937..... -€0.0023
 £1.4074.....-£0.0049
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Sultans of bling

THERE are 25 Spaniards on the most recently published special 30th anniversary edition of the Forbes Rich List. For the first time ever, in 2017 the iconic list registers more than 2,000 billionaires on the planet.

The total net worth of the 2,043 richest people on earth rose by 18 per cent to clock \$7.67 trillion for the April 2017 round up. Bill Gates continues to lead the rich pack with his \$86 billion fortune.

With just 25 names, Spain is somewhat unfairly misrepresented on the list. Forbes names only individuals rather than families, meaning that the heir to a family fortune is not included.

That minor caveat excludes major Spanish financial players such as the March brothers, the Riberas and the Botin family from the list.

The four brothers from Mallorca who lead Banco March have combined assets of €4.4 billion but since there is no undisputed leader who can claim it as his own, all four are left off the list.

The vast majority of Spain's super wealth is in the hands of family firms. The exceptions are Amancio Ortega, founder of Zara, and Juan Roig, the president of Mercadona.

ON THE LIST:
Mercadona
founder Juan
Roig.



Black day for banking empire

By Matthew Elliott

ONE of Spain's biggest banks registered another black day in its steadily downward trajectory. Banco Popular now has a stock market value barely north of €3 billion after losing more than €780 million in just 12 days.

Investors are deeply upset. The dramatic loss comes after Standard and Poor dropped Popular's credit rating from a B+ to a B and projected a negative outlook for the bank's future.

Moody's are similarly pessimistic, while most analysts see little choice ahead except for a massive corporate overhaul. A capital increase planned for the third quarter of 2017 would be the fourth in five years, scant encouragement for the future.

Banco Popular is now trading at just 0.28 times its book value, by far the lowest in Spain. Sabadell is trading at 0.71, Bankia at 0.96 and BBVA at 0.98. Caixa and Santander fare even better.

Popular is also out on a very dangerous limb thanks to its deep exposure to brick, with tens of billions in problematic assets. Perhaps more than any other bank, Popular is fearful of the impending mortgage-floor clause reckoning.

The bank, along with many others, will



BANCO POPULAR: Cannot count on foreign investors to save the day.

fork out billions in compensation to homeowners in the next decade or so after a transformative judgement from the European Court of Justice.

Nor can Banco Popular count on the intervention of foreign investors to save the day. Spain is almost alone among major western economies in proving completely resistant to foreign banking success stories. No foreign

entity has ever been able to develop commercial banking in Spain.

One glimmer of hope comes from Banco Popular's new management, led by president Emilio Saracho and CEO Ignacio Sanchez. Neither have deep personal ties to the bank and are believed to be far more open to radical remodelling policies than their respective predecessors.

Spain leads high flyers

SPAIN leads a newly published ranking of the top 120 fastest growing companies in Europe. Of the 120 high flying firms, 30 are in Spain, more than any other country.

The list was published by British newspaper the *Financial Times*, which compiled an enormous list of the 1,000 fastest growing companies on the continent between 2012 and 2015.

Most of the companies are relatively new, which accounts for their extremely fast growth rates. The top Spanish performer for instance is 14th placed Lookotels, which saw revenue grow by 3,491 per cent in just four years after its founding in 2010.

Other high performing Spanish companies include Biomasa Forestal, which has just 22 employees yet came 16th with a revenue of almost €7 million, up from just pennies in 2011.

Spain is abundantly represented in the construction, design, energy, tourism and food sectors.

One private international school, the Aquinas American School in



MADRID: One private international school increased its revenue tenfold.

Madrid increased revenue tenfold from €302,117 in 2012 to more than €3 million in 2015.

In the top 120 only Britain and Germany came close to Spain. But when extrapolated to the top 1,000

fast growing companies, Spain falls back into fifth place with 104 companies, behind Germany with 237, the UK with 236, Italy with 188 and France with 140.

At the very top is HelloFresh, a

German meal delivery service which is now present in various European and North American countries, plus Australia having increased revenue by 13,159 per cent.

Gangsters paradise

A BESTSELLING crime author has pinpointed Andorra as the place Spain and Spanish banks keep their secret cash reserves. Roberto Saviano is best known for his expose of the Italian Camorra crime syndicates but has focused his financial telescope on legitimate European politics.

The expert on organised crime, who has been in hiding for more than 10 years, says cash-strapped European banks are embracing organised crime to keep reserves flowing. He explicitly targets Spain for its tax havens in Andorra, and claims the UK is the most financially corrupt country in Europe.

There are no controls over the flow of cash from London to Gibraltar he claims. Every country has its ways of laundering money, while all of them continue to use Swiss accounts to escape proper scrutiny. Brexit, he says, is part of a plan to make Britain an offshore banking paradise.

Spain's taxi empire turmoil

By Matthew Elliott

SPAIN'S taxi driver empire may crumble earlier than expected. Uber, the popular taxi firm, is now developing expansion plans in Madrid after being banned from the country.

Uber allows people to hire taxis and pay for them online using an easy smart phone application. Cheaper rides and faster, cash free service have seen it challenge the hegemony of Black Cabs in London and taxi unions across the US and Europe.

But in Spain taxi drivers revolted and demanded protection from the state. Many pay upwards of €130,000 for a taxi licence, akin to taking out a mortgage, and weren't prepared to be undercut by Uber.

Popular protests saw Uber kicked out of Spain in 2014. It returned in 2016 under somewhat more muted terms than enjoyed in the free-wheeling UK and US.

Drivers have to go through rigorous licensing requirements and the state has imposed an artificial cap on the number of drivers allowed in Madrid, to tip the balance in favour of traditional taxis.

But now Uber is in discussions with Spanish transport authorities, asking them to loosen up the marketplace and let con-



UBER TAXIS: Want to expand into other Spanish cities and relax driver regulations.

sumer choice, rather than taxi unions, do the talking. They want to expand into other Spanish cities and relax driver regulations. In the UK for example almost anyone with a clean licence and no criminal record can become an Uber driver.

A strong moonlighting economy has developed in both the UK and US with many Uber drivers having second or third jobs. They don't possess the hard fought for legal rights enjoyed by taxi drivers, and that laissez-faire approach

translates into cheaper fares.

Uber is now counting on the strong economic argument that, with unemployment at 20 per cent, traditional cabbies might have to stand aside to grant younger generations better job opportunities.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Plastic not cash

MORE than half of Spanish consumers now pay with plastic instead of cash. A recent consumer survey found that 54 per cent of all payments made in Spain are now completed with debit or credit cards. Comfort, security and ease of use are key driving factors behind the growing move towards a cashless economy.

Ice cream kings

SPAIN has a new undisputed king of ice cream. The Farga family from Catalonia secured the purchase of Grupo Kalise La Menorquina of the Balearic Islands. With the acquisition the family will now produce an incredible 40 million litres of ice cream each year with a turnover that should exceed €140 million.

Electric avenue

AFTER just six years operating in Spain, Amazon, the American delivery giant, is already more popular than El Corte Ingles. Electronic commerce was worth a staggering €11.64 billion last year, of which €871 was facilitated by Amazon.es. Like millions of consumers across the western world, Spanish people are embracing online shopping.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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

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



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I feel this is only the beginning

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT**



I CERTAINLY didn't expect my gloomy forecast regarding the Gibraltar dispute to manifest quite so quickly. In a recent edition I stated that the idiotic statements of Lord Howe, coupled with the British underestimation of the Spanish passion for Gibraltar sovereignty, could bode very badly for British citizens.

My memories of the Falkland crisis, when Brits were spat on in Spanish streets, were, as usual, dismissed by some as yet another 'Leapy rant.' Well, although the situation hasn't yet quite come to that, the recent hold up of British tourists at Palma airport, where passengers were made to queue for so long that some actually required medical attention; all under the excuse of a 'question of security,' is I feel only the begin-



COMMON SENSE: Or relations between our two countries could become very fraught.

ning of what could become an extremely serious situation.

It's not exactly rocket science to realise that this type of attitude helps no one, including the Spanish economy. If British holiday-makers are made to feel unwelcome and begin to choose more



The British government must introduce clear legislation.

hospitable destinations, the effect on many Spanish holiday areas could be disastrous.

Unfortunately, as emotions and tempers begin to rise, I feel, that if the dispute is not somehow kept in check and common sense takes a back seat, relations between our

two countries could become very fraught indeed.

All this is of course not helped by the looming spectre of Brexit. The position of British expats must undoubtedly be at the top of Theresa May's negotiation list.

It is entirely wrong, that those who embraced the spirit of the new 'European dream' and moved to foreign climes; most of them burning all their bridges en route, should be left in a limbo land of uncertainty and doubt as to the future in their adopted countries.

The British government must introduce clear legislation, protecting the many thousands of Spanish and EU citizens that work and reside in the UK, in a reciprocal agreement with remaining EU members, which subsequently ensures and protects the rights of all British EU residents abroad. And the sooner the better.

Keep the faith.

Love Leapy.

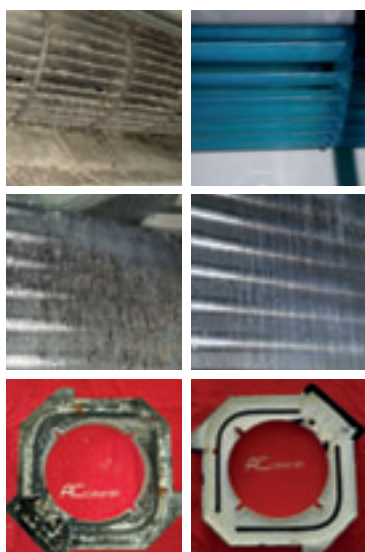
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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
20 APRIL	7:00pm BBC News at Six	2:00pm Snooker	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	7:00pm Barclays Premier League World
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm Trump: The First	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	7:30pm Darts Gold
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Debatable	100 Days - Tonight	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:45pm Darts Gold
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Great American	Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	8:00pm Live Premier League Darts
	9:00pm MasterChef	Railroad Journeys	9:30pm Joanna Lumley's Postcards	9:00pm The Supervet	9:00pm On Benefits	11:00pm Premier League Match Pack
	10:00pm Mind Over Marathon	9:00pm The World According to Kids	10:00pm The Detectives	10:00pm Born to Kill?	10:00pm Rich House, Poor House	11:30pm La Liga Show
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	10:00pm The Last Kingdom	11:00pm The Nightly Show with Dermot O'leary	11:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?	11:00pm Murder on the Internet	12:00pm Premier League Match Pack
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:00pm Match of the Day	11:30pm ITV News	12:00am Confessions of a Junior Doctor	12:05am Immigration: Tearing Our Family Apart	
	11:45pm Kirsty Wark: The Menopause and Me This Week	11:30pm Newsnight	12:00am ITV News London			
	12:45am	12:15am World Championship Snooker Highlights				
FRIDAY 21 APRIL	7:30pm BBC London News	2:00pm Snooker	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	11:00am Live ATP Masters 1000-Monte Carlo
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	7:30pm Debatable	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm The Gadget Show	8:00pm Football
	9:00pm EastEnders	8:00pm Great American	9:00pm Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast	11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview
	9:30pm MasterChef	Railroad Journeys	9:30pm Coronation Street	8:30pm Unreported World	10:00pm Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi	11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club
	10:00pm Have I Got News for You	9:00pm Gardeners' World	10:00pm Lethal Weapon	9:00pm Posh Pawn	11:00pm Building the World's Most Luxurious Ship	12:45am Football Gold
	10:30pm Hospital People	9:30pm Springwatch	11:00pm The Nightly Show with Dermot O'leary	10:00pm Gogglebox	12:05am Cruising with Jane McDonald	1:00am Premier League 100 Club
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	10:30pm Versailles	11:30pm ITV News	11:00pm The Last Leg		
	11:25pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	12:00am ITV News London	12:05am First Dates		
	11:35pm The Graham Norton Show	12:05am Later... with Jools Holland				
12:25am Witless						
SATURDAY 22 APRIL	5:40pm Regional News	5:30pm Final Score	5:30pm Britain's Got More Talent	6:35pm Grand Designs	7:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	12:30pm Football
	5:45pm Weather	6:15pm Flog It!	6:30pm Catchphrase	7:30pm Channel 4 News	8:10pm NCIS: Los Angeles	3:45pm Sporting Triumphs
	5:50pm Match of the Day Live	7:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	7:15pm Regional News and Weather	7:55pm Making Western Flag	9:00pm NCIS	4:00pm Gillette Soccer
	8:20pm Doctor Who	8:00pm Snooker	7:30pm ITV News	8:00pm Escape to the Chateau	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	6:30pm Saturday Football
	9:10pm Casualty	BBC Young Dancer	7:45pm Take Me Out	9:00pm Earth From Space	10:00pm Football on 5	8:30pm Boxing
	10:00pm BBC News	2017 Grand Final	9:00pm Britain's Got Talent	10:00pm Dracula Untold	11:30pm The Funny Thing About Growing Up	12:30am Dr Steelhammer: Wladimir's Story
	10:15pm Weather	11:00pm QI XL	10:20pm Through the Keyhole	11:45pm The Eagle	12:30am Comedy Bigmouths with Rory Bremner	1:00am Football
	10:20pm All Round to Mrs Brown's	11:45pm Versailles	11:25pm ITV News	1:55am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:00am Super Casino	1:30am Football
	11:20pm Match of the Day	12:45am Snooker	11:40pm Bend It Like Beckham	2:45am Hollyoaks Omnibus		2:00am Football
	12:20am Murder in Successville		1:45am Jackpot247			
SUNDAY 23 APRIL	7:50pm Regional News	1:15pm MOTD2 Extra	6:45pm ITV News	1:30pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild	5:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:55pm Weather	2:00pm Snooker	7:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special	2:30pm Robots	7:50pm 5 News Weekend U-571	Liverpool v Crystal Palace
	8:00pm Countryfile	7:00pm London Marathon Highlights	8:00pm Bigheads	4:20pm Mission: Impossible	7:55pm 5 News Weekend U-571	7:30pm Froch Groves 2: History at Wembley
	9:00pm Antiques Roadshow	8:00pm Snooker	9:00pm The Durrells	6:25pm George Clarke's Old House, New Home	8:55pm 5 News Weekend U-571	8:00pm Football
	10:00pm Line of Duty	9:00pm Top Gear	10:00pm Grantchester	7:30pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm 3 Days to Kill	11:00pm Real Madrid v Barcelona
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years	11:00pm ITV News	7:50pm Thor	11:00pm 5 News Weekend 3 Days to Kill	11:30pm Football
	11:20pm Regional News	11:00pm The Rack Pack	11:20pm Lethal Weapon	10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	11:05pm 3 Days to Kill Chaos	12:00am Football
	11:25pm Weather	12:30am Snooker	12:20am The Nightly Show	11:00pm Gogglebox		
	11:30pm Match of the Day 2		Best Bits	12:00am Earth From Space		
	12:20am Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights		Peston on Sunday			
MONDAY 24 APRIL	8:00pm The One Show	2:00pm Snooker	9:00pm Devon and Cornwall Cops	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:00pm 5 News at 5	7:30pm Froch/Groves II: History at Wembley
	8:30pm MasterChef	7:00pm Eggheads	9:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:30pm Neighbours	8:00pm Klitschko: Behind the Ropes
	9:00pm EastEnders	7:30pm Debatable	10:00pm Little Boy Blue	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:00pm Home and Away	8:30pm Football
	9:30pm MasterChef	8:00pm Snooker	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm Warship	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	11:15pm Klitschko: Behind the Ropes
	10:00pm Trump's First 100 Days	9:00pm Nature's Weirdest Events	11:30pm Regional News and Weather	10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	8:00pm Moto GP: Americas	11:45pm Dr Steelhammer: Wladimir's Story
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	11:45pm Don't Ask Me Ask Britain	11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats	9:00pm Police Interceptors	12:15am Great Sporting Moments 2016
	11:30pm Regional News	Beyond the Lobby	12:45am Joanna Lumley's Postcards	Does Countdown	10:00pm Inside the Tube: Going Underground	
	11:40pm Weather	Mock the Week		12:05am The Knowledge: The World's Toughest Taxi Test	11:00pm All New Traffic Cops	
	11:45pm All Round to Mrs Brown's	11:30pm Newsnight			12:00am Welcome to the Jungle	
	12:45am Have I Got a Bit More News for You	12:10am Weather				
TUESDAY 25 APRIL	8:30pm EastEnders	2:00pm Snooker	9:00pm Don't Ask Me, Ask Britain	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	7:30pm Klitschko: Behind the Ropes
	9:00pm Holby City	7:00pm Eggheads	10:00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs: India	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	8:00pm Joshua: Behind the Ropes
	10:00pm Peter Kay's Car Share	7:30pm Debatable	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	8:30pm Football
	10:30pm Our Friend Victoria	8:00pm Snooker	11:30pm Regional News and Weather	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Police Interceptors	11:15pm Joshua: Behind the Ropes
	11:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Bake Off Crème de la Crème	11:40pm Little Boy Blue	9:00pm Obsessive	9:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	11:45pm Dr Steelhammer: Wladimir's Story
	11:30pm Regional News	Horizon	12:40am The Detectives	10:00pm Compulsive Cleaners	10:00pm Soham Revisited: 15 Years on	12:15am The Countdown
	11:40pm Weather	Later Live... with Jools Holland		10:00pm One Born Every Minute	11:30pm Britain's Worst Crimes	
	11:45pm Anthony Joshua: The Road to Klitschko	11:30pm Newsnight		11:00pm First Dates	12:30am Shannon Matthews: The Mother's Story	
	12:45am Mind Over Marathon	12:10am Weather		12:05am Single Mums Club		
WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL	6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	7:15pm Froch/Groves II: History at Wembley
	7:00pm BBC News	7:30pm Debatable	9:00pm Tonight at the London Palladium	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	7:45pm Great Sporting Moments 2016
	7:30pm Regional News	8:00pm Snooker	10:00pm Benidorm	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	8:00pm Joshua/Klitschko: The Knockouts
	8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Me and My Dog	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm How to Live	8:00pm Ancient Mysteries	8:30pm Football
	9:00pm MasterChef	10:00pm Second Chance	11:30pm Regional News and Weather	10:00pm Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	12:15am Joshua/Klitschko: The Knockouts
	10:00pm Reported Missing	Summer: Tuscany	11:40pm Paragon	10:00pm Confessions of a Junior Doctor	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	12:45am Froch and Mccracken: Back in the Ring
	11:00pm BBC News	Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience	12:40am British Touring Car Championship Highlights	11:00pm My Online Nightmare	11:00pm One Night with My Ex	
	11:30pm Regional News	Newsnight		12:05am Gogglebox	12:05am Violent Child, Desperate Parents	
	11:40pm Weather	Weather				
	11:45pm Peter Kay's Car Share	12:10am Snooker				

Is the Lady for turning after all?

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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



WITH the despatch of Article 50, the gauntlets have been thrown down, the opening cards played, the warning shots fired (mainly over Gibraltar). Now there is the lull before the storm as we await the response of the remaining 27 EU member states as they confer over dinner after dinner.

Maybe they're even shipping Immodium to the Commission HQ in Brussels by the crateload as I write. Too much Crème Merklée or Luxembourgish Juncker Gâteaux?

However, the direction in which PM Theresa May now appears to be taking us - her apparent conversion (U turn?) to a half-in, half-out of the EU model already followed by other countries - points to a better outcome than her previous hard Brexit approach of "no deal's better than a bad deal."

Maybe the rationalisations and concessions are now emerging as the reality of leaving dawns?

Two years is a long time, but it's now possible we'll end up with a Norwegian-style model, but for political reasons not called as such. But let's face it, we're hardly in a great bargaining position: it's claimed that over 40 per cent of UK exports go to the EU, but only about 8 per cent from the EU to the UK.

Additionally, countries like Slovakia (per capita, Europe's largest car manufacturer) will pick up business as companies like Nissan inevitably reduce UK operations after initial guarantees.

Lloyds of London has already chosen Brussels for its European hub, and the failed merger of the German Börse/Stock Exchange won't do London any favours either.

So Mrs May has two options: a soft Brexit with free movement of labour in the EU and a trade deal that mirrors the single market, or a disaster that'll be blamed on the EU. Maybe we'll end up with a bit of each?

Finally, whoever picked March 29 as Article 50 Day clearly has a wicked sense of humour and encyclopaedic knowledge of chart-toppers. Fifty years ago on that date, Engelbert Humperdinck was at Number 1 with Release Me. On the same day in 1975, it was the Bay City Rollers with Bye Bye Baby. 'Nuff said.

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.



THERESA MAY: Perhaps a better outcome lies ahead.

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You couldn't make it up

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I AM still very unhappy that we have a reality TV show host, aided by his failed fashion designer daughter, running the USA with a press secretary that spends most of his days apologising for what he said the day before.

This week they dropped the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast on Afghanistan. I'm not getting into the rights and wrongs of that but why give the weapon a friendly name? To make it sound nicer they call it the 'Mother of all Bombs.' Why? It's a nonsense.

Call it what it is - the biggest bomb they have before you get nuclear. Did you see dimwit Donny talking about how delicious the chocolate cake he was eating was when he sent the tomahawk missiles to bomb Syria? Anyway time will tell where this is all headed.

I saw an advert for Pepsi this week. It was the one with Kendall Jenner. Google it. It's such an embarrassment. It got me thinking about why Pepsi even bother to advertise.

Think about who ever orders a Pepsi? Their slogan should be 'Sorry it's Pepsi, is that ok?' Because that's how it's sold. You go into a restaurant and say, 'Can I have a Coke please

and that's when you hear their slogan, 'Sorry it's Pepsi ...'

I've been trying to organise a trip to the USA. It's not a straightforward trip as it's a multi-city one so I have to try and match up the airlines that I need to use to get from city to city. This is where the problems start because my computer has stored cookies and every time I go back to compare prices, times etc the price seems to keep creeping up.

Some will say I'm being paranoid but the sites know I've been there because even though I close them and then reopen them again, they still have my dates in and this is because of the cookies they store with your information on them. I have found that if I log on at the same time from another laptop the prices can be slightly cheaper.

So I downloaded a web browser that doesn't store all your information only to be told by Bill Padley from Talk Radio Europe that this is the browser that is used to hack into all the big companies and governments. WikiLeaks use it via something called the dark web!

Oops, I just wanted to look at airline ticket prices without them stalking me and I've finished up not being stalked by easyJet, Virgin, BA and Ryanair but now possibly of great interest to the CIA, MI5 and GCHQ. You couldn't make this stuff up.

Email me: mikesenker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Warning of fake notices and new traffic cameras

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



TRAFFIC EYE: Smart cameras are the new eyes on the road.

Fake news

A WARNING has been issued over a fake notice that is being distributed through social media, warning that it is now mandatory for all vehicles in Spain to have portable breathalysers within the vehicle.

The N-332 Guardia Civil team wish to confirm that this notice is completely fake and it is not a requirement for drivers to carry any kind of breathalyser in the car. There are also currently no plans for this type of legislation to be brought in.

The adverts and notices are a scam, aimed at encouraging innocent victims to visit a website, view fake news reports and then purchase the breathalysers direct from the supplier.

Seatbelt reminder

A quick reminder that new traffic cameras

have been recently installed, on the look out for those not wearing seatbelts.

A total of 225 smart cameras are known as 'Traffic Eye' and are the new eyes on the road being put to good use helping people, spotting infringements such as not wearing a seatbelt and speeding and checking established databases to see if your vehicle is correctly insured by reading the licence plate number.

Previously, only Pegasus equipped helicopters have been able to monitor the roads so closely, but Traffic Eye will allow for round the clock monitoring as they are able to be operated at night also. Nineteen of these cameras are in place in the Valencia Region. The full list of the location of the cameras can be found on the DGT website at www.sede.dgt.gob.es.

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

Was he notified of the AGM?

Q. Like your questioner last week, I have some issues with the Administrator of our Community about irregular practices in the past. Now, with this year's AGM approaching, an e-mail calling of the meeting has been sent out

to the members. However, I only know this because a friend has forwarded a copy to me. I myself have received no notification directly and I do not live full-time in Spain.

C R (Costa del Sol)

A. In principle, any member of the Community who has not been informed of the AGM can go to court and seek to impugn the results of the meeting as he has been deprived of the right to vote.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



However, you may have received notification at your property in Spain, without

being aware of it. If you cannot attend the AGM in person, I would name a proxy to represent you and bring up the problem at the meeting. Try to get the issue on the official Agenda to be published before the meeting.

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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Barrier breaker did a good job

THERE was discussion between Washington and the US ambassador to Madrid regarding Carme Chacon's appointment as Defence minister in 2008.

Minister of Housing until then, she was 39 and pregnant but Eduardo Aguirre commented that although young and inexperienced "she should not be underestimated."

Spanish president Jose Luis Zapatero regarded her as 'a strong manager' and Aguirre patronisingly predicted that given time she would 'grow into the job.'

Tragically, Chacon no longer has time. Having left politics she was found dead in her Madrid home, the victim of a heart condition that she had lived with since she was 10.

She was Spain's first female Minister of Defence, she reviewed troops in a maternity smock, visited

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

troops in Afghanistan when she was seven months pregnant and refused to observe the convention that women should wear a dress at the Armed Forces' big day, the Pascua Militar.

She ignored many barriers, including that of her health, but would have preferred to be remembered as Defence minister not because she was a woman, but because she did a good job.

If only

IF Carme Chacon had collected 22 more votes in 2013, she would have become secretary general of the PSOE socialist party.

The former Minister of Defence had challenged the incumbent secretary general Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, a decent man and respected politician who didn't have what it took to connect with the public.

As happens too often, Rubalcaba had what it took to connect with the party hierarchy and Chacon lost out by an ironically small margin.

It's hard not to regard Rubalcaba as a dog in the

manger because he resigned a year later and was succeeded not by Chacon, who had retreated to the sidelines, but by Pedro Sanchez.

The rest, as they say in history, but there would be an entirely different story to tell if 22 party members had voted differently in February 2013.

Heart of the matter

WINNING Hearts and Minds failed miserably in Iraq although the concept is sound enough. Instead of referring every Catalan transgression to the tribunals, perhaps Mariano Rajoy could try winning some Hearts and Minds himself.

On second thoughts perhaps it would make as little impression on Cataluña as it did on Iraq.

Not my fault

JORGE FERNANDEZ DIAZ, former Interior minister, is suspected of waging a dirty war to discredit secessionist Catalan politicians.

He told a parliamentary commission that possibly he had not kept a close enough watch on subordinates.

Which means he is either lying or incompetent.



Advertising feature

Portals Fish and Chips is far from the typical British chippy

DURUM, kebabs and falafel was not what I expected when I visited the local chip shop, but that is what I found when I visited Portals Fish and Chips recently.

They say variety is the spice of life well that's exactly what's on the menu here. Variety in almost everything that is served such as their delicious home-made pies coming in five different flavours, steak & Guinness, steak & kidney, chicken & mushroom, mince & onion as well as cheese and onion.

The obvious speciality is the Fish and Chips which are cooked in beef dripping but owner Tony was quick to add that "a vegetarian option is available on request." The chips are hand cut and double cooked to perfection.

Far from the typical chippy back in the UK, Portals features a wonderful chill out area where you can relax with a drink before you tuck into your tasty meal or sit on the beautiful sun drenched terrace

which is one of the most impressive in the area. They have a full bar service with bottled and draught beers and a wide variety of spirits and mixers.

“Portals has quickly gained a reputation as one of the finest most consistently delicious eateries on the island.”

They also serve up a full range of fresh home-made salads, wraps, sausages and burgers as well as decadent desserts, like home-made cakes and ice creams (once again with several varieties).

Widely recommended by expats and locals throughout Mallorca, Portals has quickly gained a reputation as one of the finest most consistently delicious eateries on

the island.

A full take-away service is also available.

The kitchen is open from Tuesday to Saturday (1pm – 10pm) and they have a dish of the day at lunchtime which starts from as little as 5 euros.

So if you're looking for delicious food with a difference, somewhere new to enjoy a brilliant meal with family and friends, then why not give Portals a try?

You can find them at the corner Carrer Panoràmica and Ctra Andratx in Portals Nou Village. Phone 971 418 593 for reservations or to order a take-away.



PORTALS FISH AND CHIPS: The fish and chips are cooked in beef dripping, although a vegetarian option is available.

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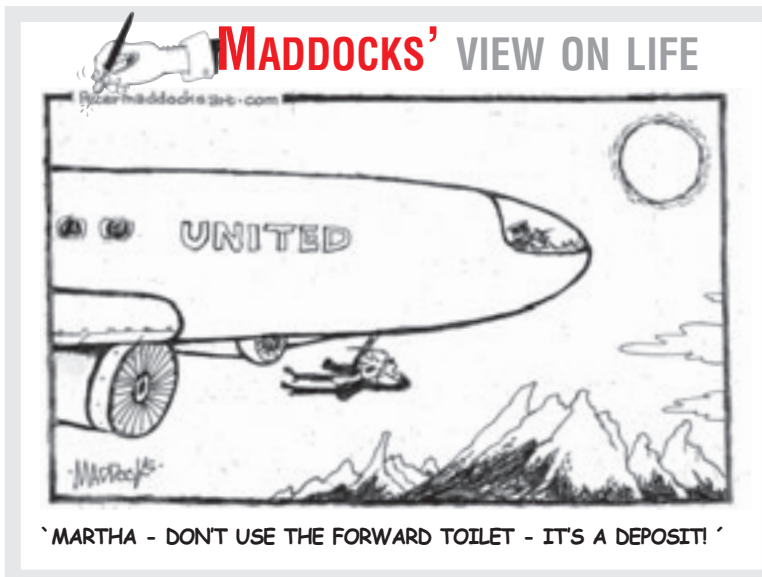
Kakuro

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.

	6	3	27	17	16
24					
19					
	13	11			
10				17	5
23					
24					

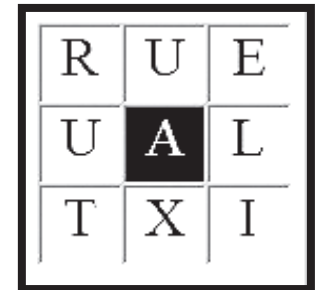
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	12	6	25	21	
30	3	4	1	2	
23	9	2	4	1	7
14	5	3	2		
20	3	4	6	2	5
18	7	3	5	1	



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 A) 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: 15 • Excellent: 20

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

anti barn bran hint inly lain lint nail nary
rain rani rant tanh tarn than thin tiny yarn
bairn binal blain brain brant briny inlay
linty rainy train binary brainy litany rhinal
thinly trinal LABYRINTH

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday April 08

8	10	16	BONUS BALL
19	23	31	48

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday April 08

7	9	16	BONUS BALL
26	40	45	13

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday April 04

5	21	22	BONUS BALL
31	49		8

Friday April 07

4	14	20	BONUS BALL
23	33		10

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday April 08

6	14	24	BONUS BALL
30	35	48	0

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

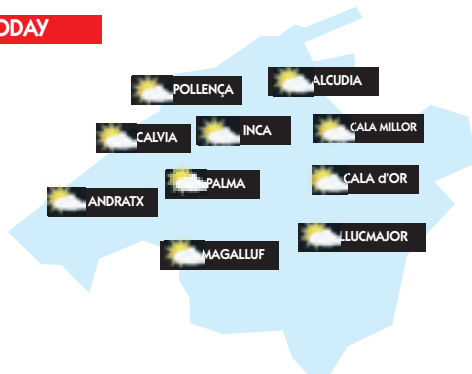
Sunday April 09

6	14	17	BONUS BALL
39	41		6

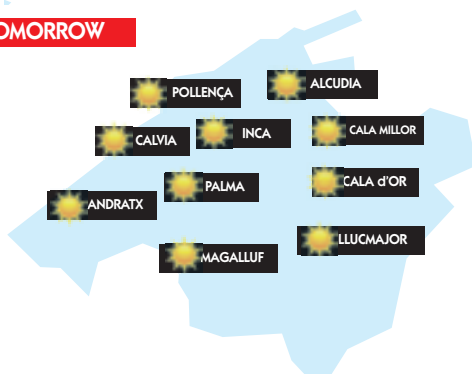
Mallorca

weather

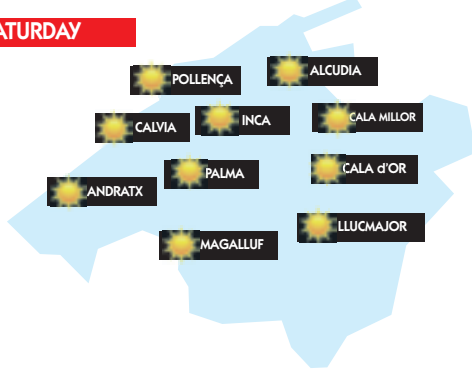
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 11 - C

Fri - 17	11	S
Sat - 19	11	S
Sun - 20	12	Cl
Mon - 21	12	S
Tues - 21	12	Cl
Wed - 20	11	Sh

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 5 - S

Fri - 18	7	S
Sat - 20	7	S
Sun - 19	7	Cl
Mon - 18	8	S
Tues - 16	7	Cl
Wed - 15	7	Cl

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 11 - Cl

Fri - 18	11	Cl
Sat - 20	13	Cl
Sun - 21	13	Cl
Mon - 22	14	Cl
Tues - 21	14	Cl
Wed - 21	13	Th

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 4 - Cl

Fri - 20	4	S
Sat - 22	5	S
Sun - 23	7	S
Mon - 24	8	S
Tues - 22	7	S
Wed - 20	6	Cl

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 8 - S

Fri - 16	8	S
Sat - 18	10	S
Sun - 19	11	S
Mon - 19	11	S
Tues - 18	11	S
Wed - 17	10	Sh

Malaga

TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 12 - Cl

Fri - 19	11	Cl
Sat - 20	12	Cl
Sun - 20	11	Cl
Mon - 21	11	Cl
Tues - 22	12	Cl
Wed - 23	11	Th

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 11 - C

Fri - 17	11	S
Sat - 18	11	Cl
Sun - 19	12	Cl
Mon - 20	12	S
Tues - 20	12	Cl
Wed - 19	10	Sh

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 18 MIN 9 - Cl

Fri - 19	8	S
Sat - 21	8	S
Sun - 22	9	S
Mon - 22	10	S
Tues - 22	10	S
Wed - 20	10	Cl

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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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

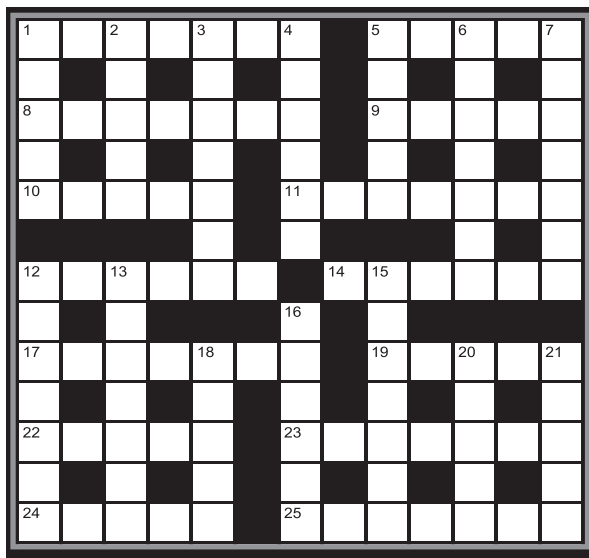
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Have doubts about American President in religious order (7)
- 5 January events in universal establishment (5)
- 8 Bands' trip to England in a ship (7)
- 9 Vessel seen in Victoria or Tasmania (5)
- 10 For example, brown back or elbow (5)
- 11 Add to cooked gnu meat (7)
- 12 Defend model after work (6)
- 14 Very cold beer (6)
- 17 Around lake there's poor protection (7)
- 19 Food for Salvation Army boy (5)
- 22 Command from prediction (5)
- 23 Can bale out for stability (7)
- 24 Is backing First Lady to sort things out (5)
- 25 Excited Reds ran household tasks (7)

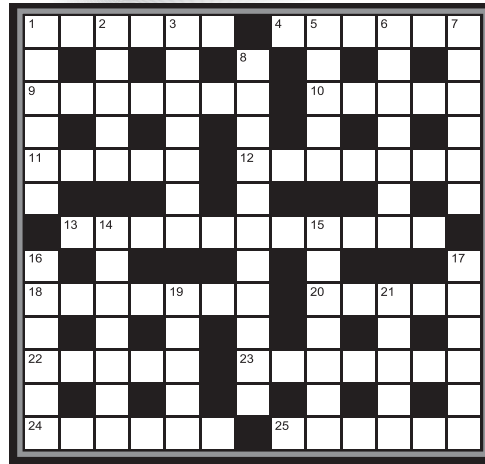
Down

- 1 Poles taking in country girl (5)
- 2 A little bit of quiet colour (5)
- 3 Quick to communicate (7)
- 4 In France you study Italian dialect (6)
- 5 Some careless language (5)
- 6 Biggest triangles not in order (7)
- 7 Fiddle car test and take flight (7)
- 12 Yes, sort out marine molluscs (7)



- 13 Authentic made up recipes (7)
- 15 Closed vandalised urinals (7)
- 16 Drink outside bar put back, ready for ploughman (6)
- 18 It is included in the tax (5)
- 20 Fifty nine overturned revolutionary leader (5)
- 21 Owing a pound, skinhead gets into fights (5)

Quick



Across

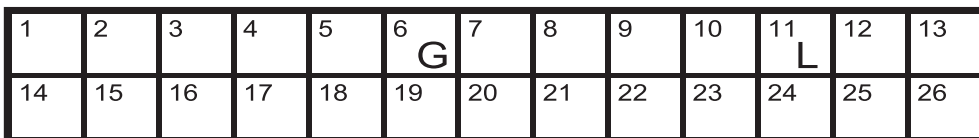
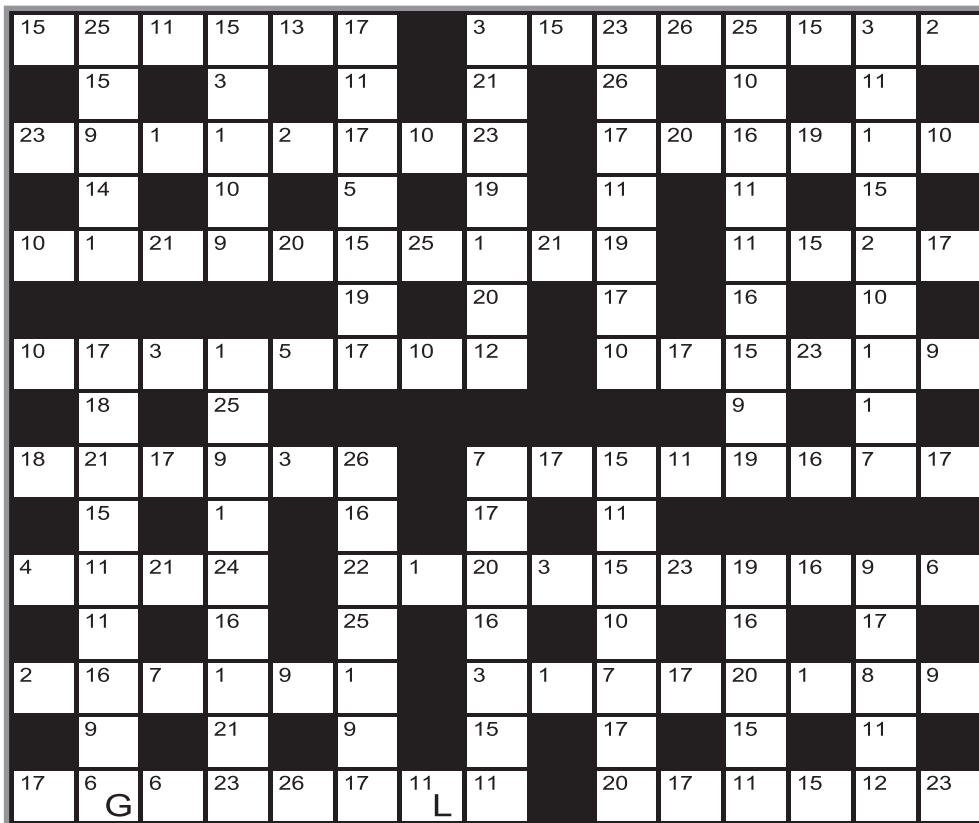
- 1 Bad handwriting (6)
- 4 Compassionate (6)
- 9 Pilot (7)
- 10 Indicate pain, discomfort or displeasure (5)
- 11 Separate part of a whole (5)
- 12 Outer boundary or face of anything (7)
- 13 Plant-eating insect with hind legs adapted for leaping (11)
- 18 Collection of weapons and military equipment (7)
- 20 Shin bone (5)
- 22 Meet at a point (5)
- 23 Hug (7)
- 24 Profoundly (6)
- 25 Group of six (6)

Down

- 1 Seafood (6)
- 2 Bring up (5)
- 3 Testifier (7)
- 5 Wrath (5)
- 6 Set apart. (7)
- 7 Male goose (6)
- 8 Safety headgear for motorcyclist (5,6)
- 14 Give or bring back (7)
- 15 Suitable for drinking (7)
- 16 Smelling of fermentation or staleness (6)
- 17 Express grief verbally (6)
- 19 Relating to the nose (5)
- 21 Brag (5)

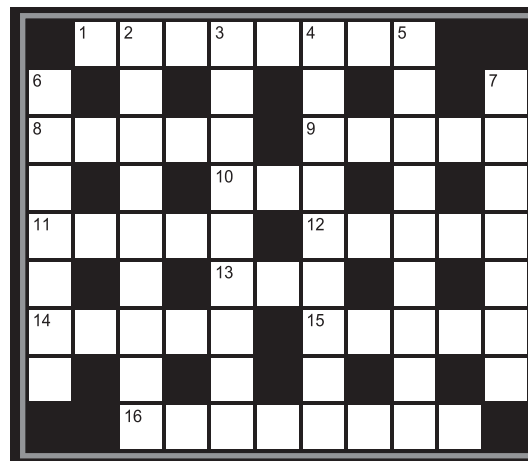
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 6 represents G and 11 represents L, so fill in G every time the figure 6 appears and L every time the figure 11 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 Lamps (8)
- 8 Shout (loud cry) (5)
- 9 Switzerland (5)
- 10 Gordo (persona) (3)
- 11 Aceituna (5)
- 12 Gust of wind (5)
- 13 Esquí (3)
- 14 Notice (warning) (5)
- 15 Ready (prepared) (5)
- 16 Caballito de mar (3,5)

Down

- 2 Aptitudes (9)
- 3 Teacher (in secondary school) (f) (9)
- 4 Rake (9)
- 5 Maletas (para equipaje) (9)
- 6 To ignore (7)
- 7 Winner (7)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Gear, 3 Vacation, 9 Embargo, 10 Pleat, 11 Ocean, 12 Nectar, 14 Lichen, 16 Castle, 19 Dahlia, 21 Appal, 24 After, 25 Skillet, 26 Purchase, 27 Used.

Down:

- 1 Grenoble, 2 Amble, 4 Adorns, 5 Aspic, 6 Inexact, 7 Note, 8 Fringe, 13 Deflated, 15 Chatter, 17 Adagio, 18 Pauses, 20 Larch, 22 Polls, 23 Carp.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Slow, 3 Proposal, 9 Natters, 10 Swaps, 11 Sushi, 12 Shroud, 14 Enlist, 16 Eczema, 19 Karate, 21 Share, 24 Alike, 25 Enlarge, 26 Together, 27 Fees.

Down:

- 1 Sinister, 2 Oaths, 4 Resist, 5 Poser, 6 Statute, 7 Less, 8 Genius, 13 Careless, 15 Leading, 17 Costly, 18 Delete, 20 Adept, 22 Agree, 23 Bait.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

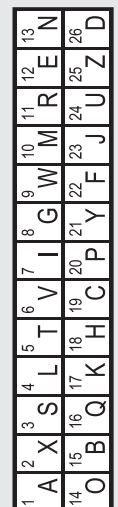
Across:

- 1 Sting, 3 Miedo, 8 Dirigir, 9 Relampago, 12 Clothes, 13/6 Day off, 14 Stair, 15 Smile.

Down:

- 1 Soon, 2 Godfather, 3 Mariposas, 4 Engaged, 5 Otro, 7 Fregona, 10 Ices, 11 Tyre.

CODE BREAKER



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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

Brexit: the great game

SIR,

Imagine the scene; just finished a wonderful dinner - paid for by somebody else - and now politicians come to the important discussions. How does the EU show those arrogant Brits who's the boss? Around the table various ideas are floated and rejected.

Then Mr Rajoy has his say: "Why not threaten Gibraltar again? Give Spain a veto on any arrangement." Picture lots of giggles and bouts of euphoria, and the reply: "Absolutely brilliant. That will show them that they can't mess with us. It will of course be against our wishes but they have asked for it."

Do you think that they ran the idea past Mr Enda Kenny in Eire? Virtually all of his trade travels through the UK. If the EU decides that the Gibraltar border needs every car checked because of rules and there is a five-hour wait, so be it. It might make them change their minds. The same rule that the Spanish use would also apply to goods travelling to Ireland. They cross borders twice over; coming in and going out of the UK.

Now Gib has some 30,000 inhabitants and at a push can be supplied by air and sea without too much hardship (they have had practice) but can Enda supply 5,000,000 if the ferries are working at the same speed as the Spanish customs? Have a word with your 'friends' Mr Kenny or you could find life gets quite difficult.

Matt Archer,
Mijas Costa

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

Art attack

“ AS a regular visitor to this beautiful part of the world I am dismayed by the amount of graffiti that is simply everywhere.

I have noticed that one particular misunderstood youth signs his work with the name 'Read.' Now I am assuming that this is a surname and that some parent somewhere is at this stage putting two and two together and coming up with a son or daughter who is defacing the urban landscape.

If your surname is 'Read' - or you have a child with the name of 'Read,' please look very carefully and ask yourself what do they get up to when they are out playing with their mates in the evening.

Patrick Jordan



GRAFFITI: Street art or vandalism?

Crossword concern

LOOKING at the Cryptic Crossword in the Time Out section of the EWN (Issue 1657) I for one will not be bothering despite my liking for this type of puzzle.

For me the puzzle must be large enough so that I am not erasing the number when I put in the answer. With more

than 100 pages this week is this all the space you can spare !!

I do not normally do 'Quick' crosswords, but look at the one this week. What sort of eyes and pen must you have to cope with that?

Is the Ed a teenager?

Terry White,
Costa Blanca

Editor's note: Thank you for

your e-mail and every attempt will be made to address your concerns in the near future. While we have a cosmopolitan editorial team made up of some in their 20's, and others in their 60's, none is a teenager.

Praise for hospital

I HAVE recently had bronchitis; never had it before and don't want it again. I thought it was the so-called Benidorm cough. Anyway I took myself off to the National Health hospital at Villajoyosa.

The emergency staff there were really helpful, although not many spoke English. Everyone was wonderful. The doctors took great care of me.

They made sure I knew how to take my prescription properly. I went back later and they checked me out; although I should have gone to the local clinic. I only have praise for the hospital staff.

Mrs J McKee,
Leicestershire

Brain teaser

REGARDING the Time Out pages, I very much appreciate the recent layout of your crosswords and code breaker. It is so much easier to do them when they are the current sizes.

They've also become a bit more difficult recently. That may be a good thing for our brains - but don't make them harder than they are now!

M M, Portals Nous,
Mallorca

COMMENTS from EWN Online

» Leapy Lee gloves discarded

I ONLY wish some people would talk less from misguided ideas and more from facts with regard to the people of Gib, they voted overwhelmingly to remain part of the UK and democracy and therefore will still be part of the UK after Brexit.

And as for Northern Ireland, I have lived there for a number of years and the idea of them joining the south is as remote as H Rowlands getting his (or hers for that matter) facts right!

I am pretty sure that somehow the politicians will get the situation sorted, maybe more by luck than design, and I just hope sanity will prevail, in Gib and NI. God help us all from such dangerous people like those in the house of Lords!!!

Mr E, Sheffield

WE have to remember that Spain can't really complain about the UK owning Gibraltar all the time they own Ceuta on the opposite side of the Straits of Gibraltar and also Melilla just along the coast from Ceuta.

Lord Howard is another good reason to dump the House of Lords, especially as I read in the last week that they turn up, sign in and claim their £300 per day and then walk out again and do a speech at some big company for £10,000.

CF

» Boxer attacked CDS

PRESUMABLY, after being dealt with by the Courts here, she will be deported back to England, banned from returning and have her passport rescinded.

This sort of criminality gives English people a bad reputation.

Drew Edgar

WHAT you're saying there Drew, can that actually be enforced by the Spanish authorities?

Adam my man, fair play to you resisting knocking her block off. Hope you're well mate! I can imagine the uproar had the roles have been reversed and you were the aggressor!

See you soon big lad!

Watson

TWENTY-FOUR per cent increase in knife crime in England last year. Now they are bringing their evil criminality here.

Leapy Lee Give us a break.

Paul Wheelan

» Passengers faint, long border checks

ONLY two gates open on Friday as we travelled home. Waited in the queue for about an hour. Maybe more gates should be opened. We were lucky our plane was delayed and not in a rush to get through. Nice to see them stepping up security.

Clare Fenwick

NOTHING to do with Gib or anything else, just staff doing their job properly, I'm pleased to see this and hope that when I travel later the same thing happens.

Ted Milsom

» Football thug enjoys holiday

I'M not bothered that he is on holiday in Spain just baffled as to how he has only served three months for GBH.

Felicia Ang

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

A nation of coffee lovers

IT'S true that whether home or away, most Brits love the routine of a daily coffee. Whether that's a visit to the beach to watch the morning sun rise over a shot of espresso or a latte, or a visit to a warm and cosy coffee shop in the UK for a hot drink and a slice of your favourite cake.

This routine is now a booming business, particularly in the UK where according to Mintel research, the UK coffee shop market has enjoyed its biggest period of growth since 2008, when the market was valued at £2.2 billion (€2.6 billion). Over the last five years, the market rose by 37 per cent, up from £2.4 billion (€2.8 billion) in 2011 to reach an impressive £3.4 billion (€3.8 billion) in 2016. What is more, between 2015 and 2016 sales increased an impressive 10.4 per cent, representing the biggest year-on-year boost witnessed in the last five years.

It seems the market is brewing up for further success, as over the next five years coffee shop sales are forecast to jump a further 29 per cent,



COFFEE SHOPS: Are now a booming business in the UK.

reaching £4.3 billion (€4.8 billion).

According to the survey, 65 per cent of Brits questioned had visited a coffee shop in the past months, but half (51 per cent) of coffee drinkers admitted they still prefer to drink hot drinks at home.

“Coffee shop sales are forecast to jump a further 29 per cent.”

Coffee shop users also showed their environmentally conscious side with almost nine in 10 (87 per cent) saying they tried to dispose of their packaging waste in recycling bins. Around six in 10 (58 per cent) also said they would like coffee shops to offer a discount to customers using their own travel mug and 40 per cent of coffee drinkers said they don't mind being charged extra for hot drinks served in 100 per cent recyclable coffee cups.

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Dr. Andreas Ludwig Jenke

Get checked out for safer sport activity

WE all think we must partake in lots of physical activity to remain fit and healthy, but there are risk factors involved, such as sudden death syndrome, which can arise during everything from football to running marathons.

The Sports Medicine Unit of HLA Clínica Vistahermosa in Alicante said sport is synonymous with health and in recent years recreational sports has increased, but said it should not be forgotten that competitive sport is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular complications such as myocardial infarction or sudden death in susceptible individuals.

The clinic recommends those due to embark on an increased fitness regime or take up physical sports, should undergo a medical assessment first.



NATIONAL HEALTHCARE: Your legal advisor can also help you apply.

Are you covered?

TODAY in Spain there are several ways to get national healthcare cover for you and your family which many people are still not aware of.

According to Pellicer and Heredia Lawyers, in order to receive Spanish national healthcare you must meet one of the following conditions:

You must be working and enrolled in the social security system in Spain, being either self-employed or employed by a company on a contract. Receiving a Spanish pension or be in receipt of periodic

“ You must meet various conditions to receive healthcare.

benefits from the Spanish social security system, including unemployment benefits and other similar benefits.

If you have reached the limit of receiving unemployment benefits or other similar benefits of the Spanish social security system and can no longer receive these

benefits or you are the beneficiary of a family member who is entitled to national health care coverage in Spain, you will be covered.

If you do not meet these requirements, you should contact the National Institute of Social Security and / or your nearest health centre to find out if there are any special agreements between Spain and your home country.

You can also contact your legal advisor who can help you apply for health care in Spain for you and your family.

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Protect your skin from the sun



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

SUNBURN is skin damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays. It usually causes the skin to become red, sore, warm, tender and occasionally itchy for about a week. While sunburn is often short lived and mild, it is important to try and avoid it in order to avoid serious problems later in life.

What should I do if I get sunburn?

Firstly, you should avoid further exposure to the sun. If you do decide to head outside, protect your skin with a t-shirt, trousers, or a high factor sunscreen. A hydrating moisturiser is essential to repair the damage to your skin and should be used often. In more extreme cases, an anti-inflammatory cream and painkillers may be necessary. Symptoms should disappear in a few days.

Are some people more prone to sun damage?

Absolutely. People with fair skin which isn't often exposed to the sun are more likely to suffer from burns, but it does depend on the person, as there are those with darker skin who also burn easily.

What are the short term consequences?

The most serious short term consequences are pain, stinging and redness, but a burn could develop skin ulcers which could lead to skin cancer in later life.

When should I see a doctor?

You don't always need to consult a doctor, only if the burn is severe or you develop unusual lesions which you suspect could be cancerous.

How can I prevent sunburn in the first place?

Skin should be protected from strong sunlight, especially at certain times of the day when the sun's rays are stronger. It is absolutely essential to use protective creams or clothing, hydrate yourself and avoid intense physical exercise.

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

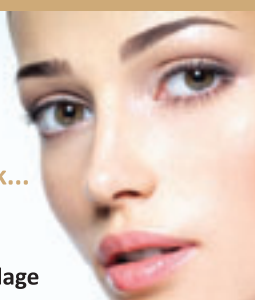
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Italian film soundtracks

THERE will be an unusual presentation by Mallorcan guitarist Jaime Tugores performing the works of three Italian film composers.

Entitled *El so del cinema Italià* this is a tribute to tribute what he considers to be the three great composers of film soundtracks, Ennio Morricone, Nino Rota and Nicola Piovani.

Accompanied by Biel Fiol on cello and Jordi Monserrat on flute, alto sax and soprano sax, he will present tunes that represent the magical Mediterranean sound of cinema.

As well as being a guitarist, the multi-talented 43-year-old Tugores who hails from Palma has also composed music for dance as well as songs for plays.

Starting at 8pm on Thursday April 27, the performance is free of charge and is due to take place at the Claustre de Sant Vicenç Ferrer in Manacor and details may be checked at the website www.manacor.org.

Revolver goes full circle

AS part of a nationwide tour, veteran rocker, Carlos Goñi who performs under the name Revolver will be playing Palma in June.

Since starting his career in Madrid at the age of 18, the 56-year-old has released 12 very well received albums and he is currently touring his most recent, *Capitol* which brings him to the Palma Auditorium on Friday, June 9.

Having been highly successful, recording with Warner Music for almost all of his career, the singer and guitarist has decided to release *Capitol* - which sees his music return to some of his earliest styles and influences - on an independent



Revolver in concert.

Photo by Claudeteu Wikimedia

label which allowed him complete artistic control.

Known for a number of very distinctive numbers including one which was regularly used for a Mahou Five Star beer advertisement, he has also experimented with ethnic music, with one album *Argan* recorded in Marrakesh with a band of Moroccan musicians.

Always interesting and considered a complete musician, many of his gigs scheduled for mainland Spain are already sold out and to obtain tickets which cost €35 visit the website www.auditoriumpalma.com.



Photo by Mallorca Gay Men's Chorus/Facebook

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: The group are getting ready to perform stateside in the summer.

AS Mallorca Gay Men's Chorus prepares for their imminent trip to Barcelona in May, they continue their performances on the island with a brand new spectacle entitled 'Jazz do it!'

The group invites you to travel the world without leaving your seat. Dancers, live musicians and about 30 singers will take you on a glamorous and sophisticated

Let's Jazz do it

journey through music.

In the first part of the show, Frank Sinatra, Nina Simon and Ella Fitzgerald are just some of the voices who will be honoured, as the group make their way through the 40's and 50's.

The second half will take on more modern day divas

(and divos) with musical stylings from Monica Naranjo, Bruno Mars and Coldplay to name a few.

Join them at Center Cap Vermell, Carrer Sant Andreu in Cala Ratjada. Tickets will be €8 on the door and €6 if bought in advance.

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BELLVER CASTLE: The idyllic setting for this traditional pilgrimage.

Angel Sunday in Palma

SUNDAY April 23 is the yearly celebration of 'Diumenge de l'Angel' (Angel Sunday) honouring Palma's one-time patron, the Guardian Angel.

Thousands of people are due to make the annual pilgrimage to Bellver Castle

for a fun-filled day of activities, beginning at 11am and finishing at 6pm.

Highlights included the 'stroll of the Angel,' in which the figure of the Angel is carried through the courtyard accompanied by giants, big pup-

pets and music.

The event will also feature folk dancing, workshops, pipers and the famous 'Castellers,' precarious human towers.

The event is a wonderful slice of Mallorcan history and culture.

Bach Cycle continues



BACH CYCLE: Is a choral and instrumental programme celebrating spring.

THE penultimate concert in the Bach Cycle arrives in Esglesia de Santa Tereseta, Palma this weekend. The concert will begin at 8.30pm on Saturday 22.

The Bachrooc Ensemble will perform two pieces, Cantata Non Sa Che Sia Dolore and Sonata En Mi Menor for Flute.

The Ensemble will be joined by soloists Mayte Abargues on the flute, and Laura Holm singing Soprano.

The Bach Cycle is a celebration of spring with a choral and instrumental programme performing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Pere Bonet, president of the Association of Music in Lle-

vant, promoters of the event, are hoping that the classical music extravaganza can continue in the future and become a fully fledged yearly festival.

Bonet said "the cycle has gone very well, we have presented a viable and quality series of concerts and we believe the music has been appreciated. Our intention is to turn it into a stable festival dedicated to Bach and do not give up the hope of finding funding which will allow us to repeat it next year."

The organiser added that "we appreciate the support of the institutions and audience we have encountered in Mallorca."

Bach Cycle is the first musi-

cal event to be offered a grant from the Balearic Tourism Agency when applications for aid were opened.

Just as spring is a season of contrasts, so too is Saturday's concert. Bonet was keen to express his delight at the juxtaposition between the vocal cantata and instrumental sonata in store for audiences.

In the aftermath of Semana Santa, there will be no shortage of sacred music, with performances of the Arias of the Passion according to St Mark.

The night promises to be a delightful celebration of baroque music and Bach's masterpieces, and not to be missed.

Saint's day celebrations in Muro

EVERY year in 1714, on the first Sunday after Easter, Muro has honoured Sant Francesc de Paula and this year, the celebrations are taking place on April 23.

The town celebrates local commerce, organising arts and crafts exhibitions and stalls, concerts and bands, and of course, local produce is on sale.

Churches will be packed during high mass, a

solemn affair celebrating the saint's religious devotions, later spilling out into the streets for the revelries to begin.

One tradition of the festival is a little unusual and a sight to behold, where people work to bring down a rabbit from the top of a greasy pole.

The celebration will conclude with a bright and colourful fireworks display bringing the Easter revelries to a close.

What's on!

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MICHAEL BOLTON: Performing as part of his Greatest Hits World Tour.

Michael Bolton plays Palma

THE singer and songwriter Michael Bolton comes back to Mallorca on June 15 at Son Fusteret, Palma, as part of his Greatest Hits World Tour.

Originally the singer for a heavy metal band and a failed applicant to take over from Ozzy Osborne in Black Sabbath, the 64-year-old Michael Bolton discovered a whole new and far larger audience when he switched to song writing and singing rock ballads in the 1980s.

Having written hits for Cher and Laura Branigan, he went on to re-interpret many classic soul numbers and has even covered the Sinatra songbook.

Promising a memorable night under

the stars, the internationally renowned singer will perform all of his classic hits including 'How am I supposed to live without you,' 'When a Man Loves a Woman' and 'Time Love and Tenderness.'

Bolton recently released his 'Songs of Cinema' album, which is a compilation of iconic movie classics. Fans can expect to hear their favourite movie tracks played by one of the most charismatic and elegant voices of the planet.

With 27 albums (plus one as Michael Bolotin) under his belt, this charismatic singer will have plenty of numbers to choose from when he arrives in Mallorca following a performance in

Barcelona as part of a tour that then takes him to back to the USA. This world class act will be the best welcome to the summer in Mallorca.

Michael Bolton said: "I am really looking forward to performing all my hits on the beautiful Island of Mallorca."

Ticket prices range from €35 for general admission, €55 for grade tickets, €80 and €90 for VIP seating and €1,500 for a VIP box seating 10 people.

Tickets are available through all usual agencies, and www.crazymusicproductions.koobin.com as well as www.legendsvip.com.

Swan Lake returns to Mallorca

THE Moscow Ballet will once again bring this classic piece from its repertoire to the stage of the Auditorium de Palma.

Swan Lake is the first of the three ballets composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and is one of the most famous and well-loved of his ballets.

The work, based on a German legend, moves between love and magic, linking the eternal struggle of good against evil as it tells the story of Prince Siegfried and love for Odette, a young woman turned into a swan by an evil spell and Odile, the black swan and daughter of a wizard.

Swan Lake is undoubtedly the most popular ballet of all and with lead dancer Cristina Teremtiev, showing the eventual victory of love, the evening promises to bring a feeling of

inspiration and magical performance to Mallorca.

This is just one of the many Romantic ballets that sprang from the genius of 19th century composers which still manage to captivate audiences around the world.

First presented in 1877 at the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre with the choreography of Julius Reisinger, it was not very well received but when re-worked by choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in 1895 it was acclaimed as the classic it is today.

Although founded as recently as 1989 by Timur Fayziev, the Moscow Ballet is remembered for having toured England, Norway and Sweden with legendary dancer and choreographer Rudolf Nureyev in his

last performances.

The performance will take place on Wednesday May 3 at the Palma Auditorium commencing at 8pm with tickets costing between €20 and €39.



CHORUS of Swans. |



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Clients can be strange

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GOOD FRIENDS**
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I THINK I MAY HAVE MENTIONED this sort of thing in a previous article. I don't mean 'clients' that eat in restaurants - although there are plenty of them too - but the clients I have to deal with in the course of my Consultancy work. It is a strange business. Often when people come to people like me it is normally after they have exhausted not only their ideas and effort but their money!

Having said that, I am not sure that is the case with a prospective client I met last year.

He had established that he needed help, but was not

sure in which way. He was advised to get in touch with me via an old client of mine that frequented his establishment. I often find that simple consultancy work is to help the client 'see the wood from the trees!' Then you can identify a problem a lot easier. The only real problem that this guy had was that he was not a professional or even experienced in the industry and failed to employ the right staff.

After our first meeting I went away and put together some ideas together with a cash flow forecast, which is something I do for all prospective clients. I didn't hear back from him and later managed to contact him and he told me that he was closing for some months and he would contact me prior to reopening.

As some time had passed since we were last in contact I tried to contact him to little avail.

Eventually he said he would contact me on his return from abroad. I thought nothing more until I received an email from a good client of mine who informed me that he had given my name to the gentleman in question.

I replied and told him that I had already spoken, but that I would rekindle our correspondence. Even after that he still was not quite sure what he was up to as he had further complicated his situation and was attempting to do something that I feel will backfire on him. He's a nice guy and I wish him well. He knows that if things don't work out that I am available. I don't charge for 'waiting time.'

SOME YEARS AGO, I had the privilege of working at the Puente Romano and Marbella Club Hotels with a charming man called Alex Führer who was the MD at the time and I his Assistant. He was a Swiss German who had spent a lot of his career in Africa. He was looking to do something with the Food and Beverage operation to improve and increase turnover. For those of you that remember the Puente Romano more than 20 odd years ago, apart from the main restaurant downstairs there was the Cascada Lounge (with the atrium) and banqueting suites and that was about all. The Chef at the time was Simon Padilla, a very amiable and capable chef and I wanted to create a showcase for his unused talents by creating a 'restaurant d'autor' under the atrium while pinching a bit of the banqueting suite to build a service kitchen.

I also designed an Italian style restaurant with food stations for show cooking, in conjunction with the very charismatic and classy General Manager at the time, Frank Pfaller. There were a lot of things that could have been done, but for some reason they did not get very far off the ground at that time.

But visitors to the iconic hotel will have seen the development around the Plaza which now boasts a plethora of eateries under the watchful eye of the very talented and extremely personable Executive Chef, Thomas Stork, whose previous successes have included the Los Monteros Hotel and the beautiful



Thomas Stork executive chef Puente Romano.

Las Dunas Hotel on the 'new golden mile' working with the great three star Michelin chef Heinz Winkler.

Places like the Sea Grill, Dani Garcia's Bibo, Dani Garcia's, Serafina, Thai Gallery, not forgetting Suite and very soon Japanese culinary genius, Nobu make this wonderful plaza a one stop gastronomic journey.

“

Skilled chefs aren't cheap - Cheap chefs aren't skilled.
(Anon: but definitely a disgruntled Chef!)



Hutcheson and Ramsay in better days.

REGULAR READERS will recall that I wrote recently about the trials and tribulations of the 'marmite' celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. He had been involved in legal action with his wife's father Chris Hutcheson claiming he had hacked into company computers. Well Gordon will be pleased that his father-in-law and his two brother-in-laws have been found guilty of conspiring together to cause a computer to access programs and data held in any computer without authority, contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977. They were granted bail pending sentencing. The maximum sentence for the offence is two years gaol. (*) Hutcheson's other daughter was found not guilty. Sentencing will take place on June 2.

YOU WIN SOME YOU LOSE SOME. Ramsay's misfortunes continue in as much as he has lost his multi-million pound High Court claim that his aforementioned father-in-law fraudulently used a 'ghost writing' machine to sign him up for a pub deal. The 50-year-old chef must now pay the estimated £1m plus legal costs of the failed claim.

He had alleged that Hutcheson had used the ghost writing signature machine without his authority to make him a personal guarantor for the £640,000 a year annual rent for the historic 160-year-old York & Albany pub in an exclusive area near Regent's Park, London. He sought a declaration that because his signature was not 'lawfully authorised,' he was not bound to the 25-year lease signed in 2007. He took the pub's owner, American-based film director Gary Love, to court in a bid

to get out of the deal. But Mr Justice Morgan dismissed his claim and ordered him to pay all of Love's estimated £652,000 bill, with £250,000 to be paid within 28 days. He must also pay his own costs, estimated at around £400,000, taking the final bill to over £1m. He must also pay the £1.3m owing in rent. The judge ruled that Ramsay may not have known of the intended guarantee prior to the grant of the lease, but added: "Mr Ramsay's own evidence establishes the very extensive, if not total, trust which Mr Ramsay placed in Mr Hutcheson to deal with business affairs on behalf of both the companies and Mr Ramsay himself." He said he had given Hutcheson "wide general authority" to act for him, having told him: "I don't have strong business acumen. Look after me."

EVEN AFTER PAYING HIM OVER £2 million his embittered father-in-law then tried to declare Gordon Ramsay Holdings insolvent. Apparently there are tax irregularities which occurred under the previous management (Hutcheson?) about which Ramsay's company is cooperating with HMRC.

Having said that, I don't suppose it will make much of a dent in Gordon's savings. With an estimated €60 million a year salary and a worth in excess of €180 million made from his 20 odd restaurants, airport catering and umpteen TV programmes with a new one starting on British TV (Culinary Genius) he won't need the soup kitchen just yet. The fact that Jamie Oliver is far more financially successful with a worth of more than €400 million does upset him more.

(*) gaol or jail? I would welcome your comments! (some detailed content thanks to the Caterer and Hotelkeeper)

I WAS VERY SURPRISED that when I popped into an OpenCor last week, on the way to a friend's for an after dinner drink, I was unable to purchase a couple of bottles of wine as it had gone 10.00pm!! I didn't realise that we were following UK archaic rules. Wasn't it always better when the vendor could determine if it was a bunch of kids out on the lash or a fall-over-drunk in which case - don't serve them!!

Still, I do understand that a simple cover all rule is probably the easiest way!!

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.

Protecting owners of property

NEW banking regulations will protect Spain-based homeowners from foreclosure or eviction but critics say they don't go far enough. With social unrest in its cities, and under intense pressure from the EU, Spain has passed new measures which prevent banks from initiating foreclosures until the default reaches between 3 and 5 per cent of the credit.

That's a bold move for Spain, which has traditionally had some of the more lax mortgage regulations in Europe. But it still falls far short of the tighter regulations which lawyers and activists alike have campaigned for. In Germany for instance, the default band is between 8 and 10 per cent, granting property owners more leeway.

The EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg has also



NEW REGULATIONS: The European Court of Justice, Luxembourg.

ruled that specific provisions should be introduced into all mortgage contracts when vulnerable parties, such as the unemployed, are involved. As yet, Spain has no such provisions.

Questions also remain over higher interest rates and

more easily attained loans. Spanish banks are still getting accustomed to the new safety first regime that has defined the property market since the recovery began.

New players on the mortgage scene will also soon make an impact. The banks

are now readying themselves to hand out billions in compensation over unfair mortgage terms. New online companies are looking to step in with tailor-made mortgage offers far more flexible than previously available.

Spain: Investment superpower

INVESTMENT in property assets in Spain rose to an impressive €3.4 billion in the first quarter of 2017. That is a huge 50 per cent increase on the first three months of 2016.

The optimistic findings from real estate consultancy group CBRE show that Spain continues to strengthen its appeal to powerful international investors, who remain extremely confident in the Spanish market's long term future.

Analysts expect the trend to continue throughout 2017. Total investment in the region of €10 billion is being floated as a serious possibility. If that figure is reached, property investment in Spain would exceed even the historic pre-recession cash flow of 2007.

This time around the

bulk of investment is in retail, including some of the vast shopping centres due for expansion in Spain's top cities. Multi-billion commercial projects in Madrid and the Costa del Sol will spearhead a new breed of gigantic shopping zones packed with hotels, cinemas, even ski slopes.

Retail accounts for around 40 per cent of the investment, compared to residential real estate's 13 per cent.

As much as 70 per cent of all the money came from foreign sources, especially in America, with US companies contributing a full 33 per cent. Investment from domestic Spanish companies was around 11 per cent, while British firms are also playing a central role, contributing 29 per cent.

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Other opportunities

SPAIN isn't the only country enjoying a vast resurgence in property investment.

The trend is blossoming right across the EU, which saw a total sales volume of €207 billion in 2016, the third highest year on record.

Research from Savills Investment Management predicts fast growth in the rental markets of Madrid and Barcelona, as part of a growing trend of top European cities attracting serious investment from the US and Asia.

The good news for residents is that investment is growing across the board. Both the real

estate and commercial markets have seen tremendous results but alternative property markets are also leading the way as the core demographics of Europe change.

Care homes for the elderly and student accommodation are the main drivers of the new alternative property market. In Spain student digs in particular are seen as a ripe investment. Hundreds of thousands of foreign youngsters now study in Granada, Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia each year.

In the UK that market, combined with care homes, is now worth almost €10 billion.

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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.

Ref 3052, Lluçmajor, 280,000€

MUST BE SEEN! Beautiful completely reformed townhouse with small garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace and American kitchen. Air con warm & cold. living area 215m².



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

Semi-detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with American kitchen, garden and roof terrace. 75m² living area.



Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

Townhouse with 40m² courtyard. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, toilet, lounge, kitchen/diner, garage, 230m² living area.



Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

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



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





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Your Hermann Köppler

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Judas tree opens up at Easter

By Graeme Tyrrell

EASTER is always a time of flowers in Spain as so many wild flowers have emerged to brighten up the countryside and the gardens are flourishing with moist soil and warmer, longer days giving them more sunlight.

A striking flowering deciduous tree that blossoms at this time of year is the *Cercis siliquastrum*, more commonly known as the Judas tree or, in relation to its heart shaped leaves, the Love tree. It is so stunning because it is covered in flowers, even emerging from the branches and trunk, before the leaves appear.

It is not a very large tree unless in ideal conditions, so it can suit even small gardens and large containers if kept well pruned in late spring.

If you are in a region where there are colder winters the leaves will turn bright yellow before falling in autumn. The pods also mature in autumn with a brownish red colour.

The tree structure has a hint of eastern Mediterranean form that is very



Photo by Alextype Shutterstock

JUDAS TREE: Is stunning when it is covered in flowers.

noticeable in winter when bare of leaves. It is important to consider the form when pruning to allow the retention of its natural shape by only removing unwanted new growth as preventative pruning to

maintain the natural form rather than wait for the tree to exceed the desired height and spoil the tree with corrective pruning that requires pruning off the mature branches that produce the flowers.

So with the right care, it is a tree of year round interest with a beautiful spring display, summer shade, autumn colours, an interesting inherent sculpture like design structure and the advantages of deciduous trees that allow

in sunlight during winter.

There are legends that the Judas tree was the type of tree that Judas Iscariot hung himself from after betraying Jesus and that it was once a white blossom that turned pink after the occasion. The story fits very well with the blossoms appearing at the time of year the incident occurred, the manner in which the flowers and seed pods hang from the tree and that it is a native of the Mediterranean region.

It is a tree that needs some care as it grows best in a protected zone such as courtyards rather than open fields. It is best to improve the soil with compost and loosen the natural soil to give it a good start. Most Mediterranean soils are ideal for the Judas tree and once established they don't need additional soil improvement fertilisers.

Once established it will need minimal watering but it will respond well if given additional water, especially if you wish to have a large tree during its first few years.

It is relatively hardy in a warm position with a long summer.

Pool maintenance

A POOL is a lovely feature for any garden, but unless it's well-maintained, it will spoil the beauty of the rest of the garden area. After all, the pool is regarded as a luxury item, adding glamour to a property.

It is important to have a pool maintenance routine that includes a few simple steps, then your pool can be something to be proud of.

First, it is essential to skim the surface, on a daily basis. If there's an algae build-up on the sides, this needs to be scrubbed, which can be done every two weeks.

Filters do a great job of removing impurities, so it's a good idea to clean out the pipes and filter basket, once a month. The filter can be put on a timer, to run for at least six hours a day, rather than switching it on and off.

To keep the water swim-

friendly, the chemical levels should be tested, once a week, according to the Centre for Disease Control. Test kits are easily available and straightforward to use.

'Shocking' is another effective cleaning method, which requires a drastic rise in chlorine levels for a short period, to kill bacteria. Also, keep the pool water level halfway up the opening of your skimmer.

Tennis balls are good for cleaning the water, as the fibres absorb hair products and suntan cream. Power washing around the pool area can get rid of stains and rust, while getting an annual service for the mechanical equipment is advised.



TESTING KITS: Easily available..



Keeping your cool at home

IT is possible to cool down a home, as the days grow warmer with a few solutions to help staying indoors more comfortable.

Ceiling fans could replace existing light fittings and can be more economical than air conditioners. Portable fans are also useful all around the home and if a large mixing bowl full of ice is positioned in front of the fan, this can be very effective for a small area.

When deciding on the colour of blinds and curtains, it's better to go for light colours, as these reflect the heat away from the house. The colour of the roof and walls can also help keep the heat away. Keeping blinds closed can prevent the 'greenhouse effect,' and for extra protection, place cardboard up to the window, but only when there are no guests coming to visit!

Appliances can generate extra heat, and planting trees and shrubs to shade air-conditioning units can keep the house cooler. Inside, there is the oven, washing machine and light bulbs that will heat up the house if used, so it would be a good idea to use them at night and change bulbs to energy efficient.

Cooling of the house can also be achieved, by adding shades, awnings and shutters. On the inside, keep the doors open wide throughout the whole house, allowing air to flow freely and turn on the bathroom exhaust fan for at least 20 minutes after showering.



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Losing weight is a sign of stress, Ferguson is recovering at home

SOME pets are more sensitive than others, as we hear on a regular basis on David the Dogman's radio show on TRE each Saturday morning. Ferguson is just one of these sensitive types according to his owners. They went on holiday and left him in a cattery and came home to find that he had lost a significant amount of weight. This happened once before but this time his weight loss was worrying.

So they are now going to prepare ahead of their next holiday by finding house-sitters to come to their home to care for him.



FERGUSON the cat. They'll maintain his routine, check on his well-being and generally take care of him. He has reached the ripe old age of 17 years now, and stays fit and healthy most of the time. He simply doesn't seem to like change or the absence of people from the house.

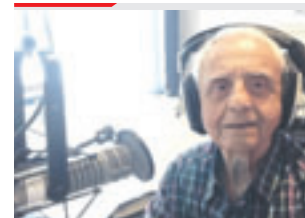
Ferguson's owners have written us a special brief, asking for cat lovers to apply, and for people to be present in the evening so that they know the cat will have company and there'll be someone to watch over him.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting, and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 50 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code SPECIAL50. To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HousesitMatch.com or call Lamia on 00 44 (0) 777 214 2742.



ANIMAL ALLERGENS: Become stuck on fur and airborne during grooming and petting.

Dog and cat allergies



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THERE is no breed of dog not even a Poodle or Chihuahua that will not trigger sneezes, rashes or asthmatic reactions.

Allergic reactions can vary from dog to dog or cat to cat according to Jonathan Corren Clinical Professor of medicine and Director of the Allergy Research Foundation at the University of California.

It is the dander and top skin and certain proteins in saliva and urine that cause people allergy problems according to Emily Rothstein, a resident in dermatology at Cornhill College of Veterinary Medicine.

Any dog or cat that uri-

“ It is recommended that dogs should be kept outdoors at night.

nates or licks has the potential to be an allergic-type breed.

Most research on pet allergies has centered on allergies to cats, maybe this is no surprise because they are twice as likely to make their owners sneeze as dogs. Longer haired cats tend to shed less allergen and consequently owners with allergies have fewer reactions. Cats that are short haired traditionally give off more allergen, it is not known if this is true for dogs.

How to beat pet allergies

Research has shown that if a cat or dog is washed about once a week the airborne allergens are cut drastically. It is recommended that dogs should be kept outdoors at night. Dogs and cats that live indoors should not spend any time in the allergic person's bedroom and never allowed on beds.

Dander collects in the car-

pets, upholstered furniture and bedding, so for those suffering allergies it is better to be without carpets and have wooden furniture or leather. Bedding should be encased in plastic and if it is impossible to remove carpets then these should be steamed cleaned every three months to remove allergens. It is also advisable to wash walls and floors.

Animal allergens are very small and very sticky and once they are secreted they dry on the animal's fur, become stuck on fur and become airborne during petting and grooming. According to Bonnie Eiche a spokeswoman for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation "They are so small that they can stay airborne for a long time and because they are sticky, they adhere to walls, clothing, and heating and cooling ducts."

About seven years ago I gave up smoking and noticed that I was coughing and choking when handling dogs. After a few tests I was duly informed "Mr Dogman you are an asthmatic and allergic to dogs." "No not me... not possible that's my job" but sadly I now have to take all kind of things to help control my allergic symptoms from medication to inhalers and most important I wash my hands more than a surgeon and change my clothes about three times a day and wash my dogs every week.

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Classic Mini remastered

WITH modified suspension, British leather, wood-rimmed steering wheel and a push-button start, the Mini is making a masterful comeback. April 20 sees the launch of the Mini Remastered in Monaco with the iconic car given a modern make-over by Coventry-based David Brown Automotive.

Famous for its manufacture of limited edition cars, David Brown puts the DB in Aston Martin and Jaguar remodels and has turned its attention to Mini with two special editions, one in cream and white, the other red and black.

The DB Mini is said to be 50 per cent more powerful than the original, louder and with 21st century handling and brakes. It has a full on infotainment system with Apple Carplay, USB ports and four speakers. At the back there are LED tail lamps, while the interior is lavishly furnished with quality materials.

It takes an estimated 1,000 hours to convert an original Mini into a DB reinvention. And it shows in the hefty price tag. The DB Mini will start at £50,000 (€59,000). Production will move from Coventry to facilities near Silverstone to help meet demand, expected to be far higher than for the Speedback DB.

Best car in the world

By Matthew Elliott

THE best car in the world is officially the Jaguar F-Pace, which scooped the award at the 2017 New York Motor Show. It won the overall prize for the World Car of the Year contest, which is divided into distinct categories.

The F-Pace is Jaguar's first foray into the lucrative SUV market and it beat off stiff competition from more established rivals the Audi Q5 and Volkswagen Tiguan. The performance SUV has state-of-the-art in car technology, a light-weight body offering fantastic fuel efficiency, and a range of five different models.

Available engines include the 380hp 3.0L super-charged V6, and a 2.0 litre turbocharged diesel. Prices range from €40,000 to over

€60,000 with plush family-friendly extras. Swooning reviews acclaimed it as the best all-round vehicle Jaguar has ever produced.

Down to the different divisions and the best luxury car in the world award was won by the Mercedes-Benz E-Class, which triumphed over German rival BMW's 5 Series, and stiff Swedish competition from the Volvo V90 Estate.

BMW did scoop an award with its i3 94Ah win-

ning Best Urban Car courtesy of a powerful, long-life electric battery that won over the judges ahead of the extremely well received Citroen C3 Supermini.

World Performance Car of the Year went to the Porsche 718 Boxster. It skirted controversy over the new four cylinder turbo engines to edge out the 570S Sports Series from McLaren thanks to its all

round brilliance.

The Green award went to the Toyota Prius Prime. The Japanese car proved more practical, affordable and simpler than the heavily hyped Tesla Model X. The American brand might be more revolutionary in its design, but when it comes to actual purchases from real life drivers rather than Silicon Valley big shots, Toyota wins hands down.



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The latest insurance data shows that insurance premiums have risen by 16 per cent this year to over €850. If that trend continues next year, a new record high will be reached.

Young males in the UK face astronomically high charges.

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Better not feed the trolls

Trudy Stewart



THE internet can be a wonderful thing. We have so much information at our fingertips. From finding recipes to reconnecting with old friends it's never been easier to access information.

I rely on social media to keep in contact with friends and family. I was a late starter with Twitter but did eventually become a Twit and found it fascinating. It felt more grown up than Facebook and the character limit meant people had to be snappier leading to punchier updates.

The best thing (for a fan-girl like me) was that celebrities could be contacted directly. Not only were they accessible, you could ask questions and usually receive an answer. I couldn't believe it.

What I found exciting was the discussions sparked when a group of fans would get involved in a Tweet.

It was usually good-natured fun with like-minded people. Everyone already had something in common in that they were a fan of that particular comedian or actor.

And then, out of nowhere, a different type of contributor would raise their ugly head. Either attacking the celebrity directly with unnecessary criticism or posting inflammatory comments specifically to elicit a response from the other people in that group.

The worst possible thing to do in that situation is fall into their trap. These people are called Trolls and when you engage them, you give them exactly what they want.

Although now used to describe anyone who is mean on the internet, initially the word was used to describe those who troll the internet, baiting their hooks, casting their nets wide

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and hoping for a bite.

Safe behind the mask of anonymity provided online, a certain type of person will say things that they would never dream of uttering face to face. Can you imagine walking over to a complete stranger and telling them they look awful and you hate their clothes?

Removing the eye contact and replacing it with a username frees certain types to do just that, albeit in a virtual sense. In my experience, no matter how well-balanced your argument or how eloquently you are able to express it, there is no point trying to converse with someone like that.

We all make judgements every day based on people's appearance or behaviour - there's a dark bridge in all of us providing perfect living conditions for the trolls of fairy tales.

If we're honest, maybe some of us have been on the verge of posting a comment which upon final review just might come across as a little trollish.

And that's the difference between us and them. We have that inbuilt self-edit that allows us to realise the implications of what it would actually mean to post those comments so we don't.

Of course, some people just don't care and there are those who have built careers around trolling when their reality TV shows end and they need attention and publicity by any means necessary. If you don't care about being reviled, it's probably quite easy to post hateful things.

I prefer to stick to the old adage "if you can't say anything nice, don't go posting your bile for the whole online world to see."

There are probably always going to be trolls out there but as long as you remember not to feed them, you should be quite safe.

trudystewart75@gmail.com

Cancer 'cure' con is deplorable

Ian Franks

Guest Columnist

I FIND it absolutely disgusting and deplorable that people with cancer, and their families, have been tricked into buying a supposed 'cure.'

What is even worse is that, apparently, those behind the con trick in Palma were not traditional con artists but university professors. What is the world coming to? Now we cannot even believe the very people in whom we are expected to place our trust.

Now, we mustn't get too carried away here because, while the National Police have made five arrests, all those are innocent until proven guilty. And that is why I am being careful about what information I can share with you.

But, it seems the crime itself is beyond doubt - at least as far as the police are concerned. They have described it as a clear case of aggravated fraud.

Let me be clear here, as yet there is no drug approved as a cure for



BALEARIC ISLANDS UNIVERSITY: Those behind the con trick were professors.

cancer! Not by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS) nor with any other regulatory body worldwide; yes, there are approved treatments, but no cure.

Trickily, the fake 'cure' in this

case, for that's the right word to describe it, was sold in an underhand way. The victims, or 'marks' as I believe they are known by con artists, were invited to make significant donations to a foundation set up by the

fraudsters. It seems that each one was relieved of more than €25,000.

The organisation had been created as a way to avoid them being accused of defrauding their patients but, very astutely, the National Po-

lice saw right through that ruse and moved in to make the arrests. Good for them.

To make matters even worse, police say that the group was about to use the same foundation to sell a fake drug to treat Alzheimer's but, those timely arrests stopped that before it could start.

I find it so very difficult to understand how anyone, not least a professional we should be able to trust, can prey on those of our community who find themselves living with such illnesses and who become so desperate that they are ready to cling to the flimsiest of straws they are offered.

It is time that we stood up to such vile behaviour.

The justice system must now run its course and, for that, we need to wait. However, for anyone found guilty, I hope that the full weight of Spanish law is brought to bear.

I, for one, will be watching for the outcome with great interest.

This guest column refers to a story from the Euro Weekly news Mallorca edition which subsequently appeared online as 'Cancer victims swindled in Palma.'

Look no further for a boat.
2-page special starts here...

Two boat shows for the price of one

By John Smith

FRANTIC activity started several weeks ago as an army of workers prepared for the opening of the 34th Palma Boat Show and fifth Palma SuperYacht Show.

With a total area of 72,000 square metres and with the need to construct pavilions to house 200 stands as well as sea front access for at least 200 vessels ranging in size from the modest to floating palaces, the logistics involved are tremendous.

All this for two exceptional shows which take over the waterfront in Palma from April 28 to May 2 and promise to enthrall what is hoped to be a record crowd of more than last year's 35,000.

Boat lovers from all over Europe make their way to Palma for one of Europe's most important and influential international boat shows where they have a chance to view the latest innovations and designs together with a selection of superyachts worth hundreds of millions of euros.

Admission costs just €5 for adults and €4 for children but the shows are not just aimed at those who want to buy expensive yachts as there are plenty of educational



Photo by Palma Boat Show

EXCEPTIONAL SHOWS: Are expected to draw in record crowds.

displays, stalls showing different maritime hobbies, a second-hand market and a selection of bars and restaurants to suit all pockets and tastes.

Opening hours will be from 10.30am to 8pm except on April 29 where the organisers present the 'night of the sea,' when ex-

hibitors 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 an important market place and enjoyable festival for visitors, it is an incredibly important sales operation,

not just for those exhibiting but for the whole of Mallorca as an ideal spot for those with boats of all sizes and for holiday makers who wish to enjoy a nautical experience.

Boating employs large numbers of people in a whole range of positions on the Island and is an important contributor to the economy, not just in the area of pleasure boating, but in fishing and as an important link to the mainland and neighbouring Islands.

So important and popular is this annual event that it has just been awarded the Onda Cero Mallorca in the category of tourism as the jury recognised the work of the Palma Boat Show promoting nautical tourism and the industry sector as well as its role in showcasing Palma during the event.

Wherever you are in Mallorca you are never far from the sea and this pair of popular shows highlights the excitement and interest that people around the world feel for a life on water.

In addition, the shows reinforce the fact that the port of Palma is home to the biggest and best infrastructure, industries and specialist technical service networks in the whole of the Mediterranean.

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Businesses set to face Dragon's Den

SO important is the boating industry to the economy of Mallorca that the Institute for Business Innovation (IDI) is inviting investors to consider their options.

Having seen the regular growth in the annual number of visitors to the Palma Boat Show, the IDI which is part of the Ministry for Employment, Trade and Industry is endeavouring to arrange for potential investors and start-up businesses to network and discuss financial opportunities.

A special conference room at the boat show has been set aside for this purpose and will have room for up to 40 investors to consider eight projects from an initial 24 that have been selected as possible successful co-operative ventures.

All are either recent business start-ups less than two years old or growing businesses more than two years old but in need of a capital injection.

They are all related to the nautical sector in its broadest sense and cover information and communications technologies, energy, port management, materials, engines and others. Five of them are based in the Balearics, two are in Barcelona and the other is in Valencia.

The IDI says that it mainly expects to attract local investors, though it also anticipates that foreign investors will be attending this networking session which takes place on April 28. The projects, it notes, are ones with

the type of risk that make bank financing difficult and that they require between €50,000 and €300,000.

The concept of this type of introduction to facilitate the meeting of potential backers with those in new areas of business is becoming increasingly more popular, perhaps thanks to the success of TV programmes such as Dragon's Den and there is no doubt that for new and smaller companies it is often difficult to obtain significant but not excessive amounts of funding.

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Premiership race wide open, Cup glory awaits semi-finalists and Vettel wins

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:

• ON Saturday, we have Chelsea-Spurs and Hibs-Aberdeen in the first semi-finals of the FA Cup and Scottish Cup competitions, followed on Sunday by Arsenal-Manchester City and the old firm derby between Celtic and Rangers. A total of 282,000 fans will attend these four matches.

• There are also several important Championship matches coming up, including Burton-Leeds, Huddersfield-Fulham, Nottingham Forest-Reading, Sheffield Wednesday-Derby and Aston Villa-Birmingham, plus action in the Premiership as well. And don't forget El Clasico, potentially this season's La Liga decider between Real Madrid and Barcelona on Sunday at the Bernabeu.

• Last weekend, after Tottenham Hotspur (2nd) had hammered Bournemouth 4-0, Manchester United beat leaders Chelsea 2-0 to technically

throw the Premiership title race wide open. With six games remaining, Chelsea are just four points clear of Spurs with Liverpool (1-0 winners at WBA) and Manchester City (3-0 victors at Southampton) 3rd and 4th.

• Congratulations to Brighton & Hove Albion – they'll be in the top flight next season! Newcastle will join them for sure, along with one of five teams chasing play-off places - Huddersfield, Reading, Leeds, Sheffield Wednesday or Fulham.

• Birmingham, Bristol City, Blackburn, Burton Albion or Nottingham Forest will be demoted along with Wigan Athletic and Rotherham to FL1.

• Bolton Wanderers are favourites to join Sheffield United in the Championship and Doncaster, Plymouth Argyle and Portsmouth will, it seems, climb out of FL2.

• Sadly, Leyton Orient have lost their League status and will be joined in the National League by Cheltenham, Hartlepool or Newport County.

• Lincoln City are set to return to the Football League, probably along with Tranmere Rovers, but spare a thought for

Coventry City, a Premiership club in 2001, who have slipped into FL2.

• And Hibernian are back in the SPL

• On Tuesday, Leicester, trailing 1-0, met Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid, leading 2-1, played Bayern Munich in the second legs of the Champions League quarter-finals, followed last night by Barcelona, 3-0 down, against Juventus and Monaco, 3-2 up on Borussia Dortmund. Tonight, Manchester United play Anderlecht (level at 1-1) in the return leg of their last eight Europa League tie.

• The biggest Championship crowd of the season – 52,301 – saw Newcastle held 1-1 at home by Leeds on Good Friday.

• Last week, Maryhill midfielder Gavin Stokes

scored what could be the fastest-ever goal in world football, after just 3.2 seconds against Clydebank in a West of Scotland League game.

• Forty-seven FL club managers have lost their jobs this season.

RUGBY:

• This weekend we have the semi-finals of Rugby Union's European Champions Cup and Challenge Cup competitions. In the former, it's Munster-Saracens (Saturday) and Clermont-Leinster (Sunday) and in the latter it's Stade Rochelais-Gloucester (Saturday) and Stade Francais-Bath (Sunday). And tomorrow night, Munster 'A' play Jersey in the British/Irish Cup final. Meanwhile, Bristol have been relegated from the Aviva Premiership.

• In Rugby's Super League, the top matches ahead are

Widnes-St Helens (tomorrow), Warrington-Wakefield (Saturday) and Hull-Castleford and Wigan-Catalan Dragons (Sunday).

ROUND UP:

• Sebastian Vettel, Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas finished 1-2-3 in last Sunday's excellent Bahrain F1 Grand Prix. The next race is in Sochi, Russia on April 30.

• The overall winner of Easter's Donington Park BTCC was Aiden Moffat with Matt Neal second and Rob Austin third.

• At the start of this week, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Mark Selby and Stuart Bingham were all going well in the world snooker championships at the Crucible in Sheffield.

• GB have won five individual medals at the world track cycling championships in Hong Kong: Elinor Barker (gold and two silver), Katie Archibald (silver) and Chris Latham (bronze), plus another gold in the women's Madison event

(Barker and Emily Nelson).

• The third Moto-GP of 2017 takes place at the Circuit of the Americas on Sunday when Spain's Maverick Vinales will be going for a hat-trick of victories.

• Division One County cricket matches this weekend feature Hampshire-Yorkshire, Lancashire-Somerset, Middlesex-Essex and Warwickshire-Surrey.

• The British swimming championships are currently taking place in Sheffield, likewise the world ice hockey championships in Belfast and on Sunday, up to 40,000 runners could compete in the annual London marathon, sponsored this year by Virgin Money.

• GB boxer Ricky Burns lost his WBA super-welterweight belt to Julius Indongo in Glasgow.



BAHRAIN F1: Vettel, Bottas and Hamilton on the podium.



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DID YOU KNOW?

MANCHESTER CITY paid £26.2m to agents last season; Chelsea handed out £25m and Manchester United £19m. The lowest Premiership fee-payers were Hull City with £1.9m.

The other divisional pay-out specialists were Newcastle United (£10.4m), Charlton Athletic (£608,000) and Portsmouth (£175,000) whereas Hartlepool's output was nil; they never deal with agents!

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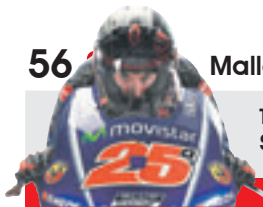
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THE third Moto-GP of 2017 takes place at the Circuit of the Americas on Sunday when Spain's Maverick Vinales will be going for a hat-trick of victories.

TO READ MORE

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

Easter weekend activity for El Toro RC

TWO visiting teams made the most of the sunny Mallorquin Easter weather to combine a visit to the island with a fun game of rugby against one or the other of the El Toro RC teams.

Friday evening was the turn of the U23 El Toro RC team against a French team from Argeles Sur Mer. The visitors were on good form and given their greater experience won by five points to 21. On Saturday it was the return of the Mavericks RFC, frequent visitors to Son Caliu, and this time there were games for the El Toro RC U17, whose A team lost by 10 points to 22 and B team who also lost zero to 40. The final score, although irrelevant, was 33 points to 22 for the hosts.

Making the most of the warm, sunny weather and a chance to spend some time on the beach, a group of players and members from EL Toro RC spent the morning on Son Maties beach in Palma Nova in a massive clean up to help the local community.

Preparations are well underway for the annual beach rugby tournaments that will be played over the holiday weekend at the end of April. The 10th Majorca Beach Rugby tourna-



AFTER THE MATCH: El Toro RC and Mavericks RFC relax.

ment takes place in Magaluf. The 4th HM Palma Beach Rugby Tournament this year runs alongside a volleyball series and takes place on the beach in front of Palma Aquarium.

The final of the JJ Garcia Cup is coming up and will be played in Ibiza between El Toro RC and RC Ponent for first and second place and between Shamrock RC and Union RC for third and fourth places. El

Toro RC also hosts the final matches in Son Caliu in the U18 and U16 Michel Rodier Trophy, the final Rugby Day for the younger categories and the last in the U14 and Girls' League.



EL TORO RC: Tackle the ball against Argeles RC.



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