



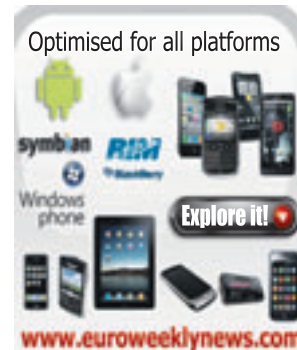
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COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Stop Press

DON'T MISS OUR PROPERTY
SPECIAL INSIDE! **PAGES 37 - 44**

Dramatic paws

Fate of more than 500 pets in doubt

By Matthew Elliott

Hundreds of pets are feared to have been secretly killed at Almeria's municipal Zoosanitary Centre.

Disturbing data from the public facility appears to show a total of 523 pets that are no longer on the centre's books, but unaccounted for anywhere else.

Socialist councillor Ines Plaza, who exposed the alarming discrepancy, claims the evidence suggests that 523 animals were killed without any official control, possibly to reduce overcrowded conditions.

Plaza and other councillors spent one year lobbying the Popular Party-led government to release the input and output figures of the centre. She claims that the council executive repeatedly tried to fob her off and imposed all sorts of bureaucratic obstacles in her path to obtaining the information.

Finally able to analyse the data, researchers noticed that from 2013-2016 a total of 523 animals disappeared from the official record. They were not included in natural deaths, euthanasia, adoptions, escapes or thefts.



ALARMING DISCREPANCY: Animals may have been killed without any official control.

Ms Plaza alleges that there are only two explanations for the anomaly. Either the centre has muddled its figures for three consecutive years or a secret killing campaign has taken place for reasons unknown.

The Zoosanitary Centre takes in thousands of animals each year which have

been abandoned, handed in by owners, and found on the roadside. It has the capacity to hold roughly 100 animals in humane conditions but, at any given time, will have five or six times that figure.

The PSOE, spearheaded by Ms Plaza, has suggested that the unexplained disappearances may be an at-

tempt to reduce an overflowing population. Visitors have found four or five pets to a cage designed for just one animal.

Regardless of what has happened to the missing 523, critics allege that the cramped conditions cause infections and needless deaths.

Winner of EWN car contest



VIRGINIA DELATORRE

UNCETA from Marbella is the winner of the EWN 2017 Win-a-Car readers' survey prize draw.

Her name was picked out from thousands of entries by Sala Group Chairman Ian Radford and former professional footballer Stephen Carr.

» Full story: page 3

Fake bomb threat

A MANHUNT lasting months finished with the arrest of a man who falsely claimed to have planted an explosive device outside an Almeria apartment complex.

The suspect told police the bomb was so powerful it could destroy 200 homes, sparking a major security incident.

Elite explosive specialists were called in to defuse the device, which turned out to

be a hoax. Police tracked the anonymous number to a phone used by a Romanian individual.

With the international collaboration of police databases in Romania they eventually identified their man, sending armed officers to arrest the 31-year-old on April 21.

He is charged with making false threats and serious offences against public order.



NEWS EXTRA**Public holidays**

SPAIN celebrates Labour Day on Monday May 1, coinciding with the May Day Bank Holiday in the UK, meaning the majority of shops, supermarkets, banks and other public services will be closed.

Water attack

POLICE arrested a local man who savagely attacked two maintenance workers in Huercal de Almeria with a baseball bat. It is believed they had just carried out a water inspection at his home.

Teachers off

TEACHERS went on strike at various local primary schools to demand better classroom conditions and stable employment. Some of the classes still continued as around 70 per cent of teachers took the day off.

Platinum-selling hero

By Matthew Elliott

POP sensation David Bisbal has been declared an official Ambassador for UNICEF in recognition of his many years spent helping impoverished children around the world. Until now Bisbal, Almeria's most famous musical export, has been a 'friend' of UNICEF, the United Nations agency which helps millions of children.

The upgrade to Ambassador puts the 37-year-old in elite company among the likes of Roger Moore and Ricky Martin. Bisbal has visited Nepal to help children affected by the devastating double earthquake in 2015 and helped teach music to Venezuelan street children.

The platinum-selling artist will be performing in Almeria on July 2. He has done perhaps more than anyone else to showcase the province to the world, appearing in promo-

tional videos and dozens of Costa de Almeria tourist advertisements.

Bisbal said he was honoured to be declared a UNICEF Ambassador and will strive to bring dignity to the lives of the poor children he is pledged to represent.



GOLDEN BOY: David Bisbal is new UNICEF Ambassador.

Blackspot backpedalling

A NOTORIOUS Los Gallardos blackspot that links the N-340 and A-370 and is crucial in reaching the Mojácar coast will have to wait for urgent safety improvements due to investment cuts from Madrid. Summer sees especially heavy traffic on the route, which averages one serious accident each month, many involving heavy trucks.

The crossing just in front of the Los Gallardos petrol station is considered one of the most dangerous traffic points in Almeria. With 10,000 plus vehicles passing through each summer and many tourists on their way to the beach, demands for more roundabouts and traffic lights have been largely ignored for years.

Last year's budget saw some €1.6 million earmarked for improvements. But with Madrid slashing infrastructure spending in Almeria by 80 per cent, more than any other province, that budget has been recalculated.

Mayor Maria Gonzalez says she was personally assured by the national Ministry of Development that safety works were a priority. She now accuses Madrid of not taking coastal Almeria seriously.

Burglary is on the increase.

Over recent years the threat of burglary has increased all along the coast and in many inland areas. The unfortunate thing is that in many cases it is often expats and holiday home owners that are the target. Often the criminals that commit these crimes work in groups and are often never caught or convicted.

Unfortunately the British mentality is "It will not happen to me" That's why most people will always wait until they are burgled before they do anything about it.

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Off the hook after teenage tantrum

A FATHER from Olula del Rio has reacted with relief after a judge acquitted him for confiscating his teenage daughter's mobile phone.

He took the decision as punishment after the 14-year-old performed poorly at school, but quickly discovered that she had another handset hidden in her room, which he also took away.

His daughter was so angry that she marched to the Local Police station to file an official complaint, claiming that her parents were mistreating her.

A few days later, her father was gobs-macked after two social workers accompanied by Guardia Civil officers turned up at his house and informed him that he must appear before a judge.

The girl had apparently faked injuries before making her police visit, leading to the prosecution requesting a 10-month prison sentence and three year restraining order. After the trial, which concluded this week, the vindicated father criticised the legal system as he said: "If we cannot punish our children, how are we going to educate them?"

More migrants saved

THE Spanish coastal rescue service Salvamento Marítimo on Tuesday rescued 62 people, including 13 women, from two dinghies adrift off the Almerian coast.

A spokesperson confirmed the two groups were transferred to the Guardamar Polimnia vessel before being shipped to the mainland.

The 219 helicopter spotted the first dinghy, with 27 men and six women, while the second was picked out from a distance by the boat's crew as they arrived at the scene.

An additional 22 men and six women were plucked from the sea.

Pot wheels

FOUR people have been arrested after 480 kilos of Moroccan hashish was unearthed inside the wheels of an articulated lorry.

The Spanish gang had apparently

We have a winner!

EWN reader wins car in €15,000 draw



GRAND DRAW:
Took place at La Sala.

IAN RADFORD:
With EWN's Steven Euesden.

VIRGINIA DELATORRE UNCETA is the winner of the *Euro Weekly News* Win a Car competition.

Her name was picked from thousands of entries submitted to *EWN* over two months as part of a readers' survey.

The prize, a new Dacia Sandero Ambiance, plus insurance and a luxury meal for two, is worth almost €15,000.

Joining *EWN* publisher Steven Euesden for the glittering prize draw at La Sala Banus, Marbella, were Sala Group Chairman Ian Radford and former Premier League and international footballer Stephen Carr.

He picked Virginia's number, and when Ian called her to break the news, she at first found it difficult to fully accept that she had not only won a new car including tax supplied

by *EWN* Media Group, but also that her prize included a year's free insurance from Abbeygate and a grand dinner at La Sala Banus.

EWN, Spain's biggest and best English newspaper, will use information from the surveys to take another leap forward in what has so far been a defining year for the *EWN* Media Group with the acquisition of several new titles and more to follow.

Dirty cash

A 43-YEAR-OLD man is in trouble after the Guardia Civil found €600,000 of undeclared cash in the boot of his car.

The Gergal resident was stopped in his SUV near Guadix, Granada, after he attempted to flee when he spied a patrol car. During a search of the vehicle, three plastic containers each containing €200,000 were discovered.

been known to police for a number of months, with the wheels of the lorries changed under the guise of maintenance once they had reached Almeria from North Africa.

The narcotics were then stashed in a garage close to the A-92 motorway, where they were processed into smaller bundles ready for sale. When investigators became aware of a particularly large shipment, they decided to swoop.

The cash was seized and placed into a holding account after he failed to hand over the correct documentation, and its origin is now under investigation.

Wild winds

A CANOEIST was rescued by Salvamento Marítimo agents in a helicopter after high winds left him stranded at sea off the coast of Cabo de Gata's San Miguel beach at the weekend. The dramatic rescue came just hours after a kitesurfer found himself in trouble in front of the Best Indalo Hotel on Mojacar Playa.

Cleaners down tools over wages

ALMERIA airport may face a grimy start to the summer season after cleaners became involved in a pay dispute with their new bosses.

A statement reads: "Since the service company KLE took over the cleaning contract for Almeria airport, staff have not received their wages on the day stipulated by law.

"Some were paid at the end of the month, but others are now two months late, for example in March they didn't receive their pay or the extra hours they did.

"This is causing serious problems and in some cases is

affecting families dramatically, since this is the only income some have."

The furious cleaners have decided to take matters into their own hands, and over the next few days they are to carry out a series of strikes and demonstrations which they say will continue until the conflict is resolved.

They have also filed claims with the company's management via the USO trade union, with the latter also having made an appeal to state airport management body AENA.

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Postscript to ponder

19.8

The number of lifts per 1,000 Spanish citizens, placing the country at the top of the global ranking, owing to the fact that 65 per cent of the population live in apartments, the most in Europe.

Spain shows WhatsApp

SPAIN'S National Police triggered an international investigation into a paedophile network using WhatsApp to distribute images of child pornography; leading to the arrest of 39 suspects.

The force discovered dark web sites directing users to private WhatsApp groups used to share illicit images. Arrests in Europe and South America followed after action involving Europol and Interpol. Searches of homes led to the seizure of hundreds of devices containing images of child sexual exploitation.

Rajoy star witness

PRIME MINISTER Mariano Rajoy will have to appear as a witness in the ongoing Gurtel corruption trial, the huge investigation into 'kickbacks-for-contracts' that has plagued the Spanish leader's Partido Popular.

Rajoy was general secretary of the PP while Luis Barcenas, who is accused of running a massive slush fund and squirreling away millions of Euros in tax havens, was treasurer.

Power surge

PEOPLE in Catalonia want greater powers for the region rather than independence from Spain, new opinion polls suggest.

The results indicate 46 per cent of Catalans would support remaining within Spain if the region was granted new and guaranteed exclusive powers. This and the 19 per cent said to be against independence is seen as weakening the case for the region to go it alone.

The poll is said to show pro-independence leaders have misjudged the



Postcard from San Juan de la Pena



THE religious complex of San Juan de la Pena, a medieval mountainside monastery in Aragon, is once said to have sheltered the Holy Grail.

Part of the community of Santa Cruz de la Seros, the spectacular site is around 90km from the provincial capital of Huesca.

Legend is that the chalice used at the Last Supper was sent to the monastery for protection and to prevent it being captured by Moorish invaders. It is said Alfonso V of Aragon presented the cup to Valencia Cathedral in 1438.

One of the most important monasteries in Aragon and within the Pyrenees; it is partially carved into a cliff face that overhangs the buildings; the name translates as 'Saint John of the Cliff.'

The original monastery was built in 920, devastated by fire in 1675, but then restored, with the older parts declared a national monument in 1889.

In the 11th century the monastery became part of the Benedictine Order, and it is believed to have been the first monastery in Spain to have used the Latin Mass.

The cloister was built around 1190 and features biblical scenes.

The second floor of the monastery contains a royal pantheon of kings of Aragon and Navarre; and is a final resting place of royalty.

Modern marble and stucco work recalls historic battles and were added during in the time of Charles III of Spain; around 1770.

mood of voters after months of battling Spanish government in a series of court cases.

Police protest

BAYERN MUNICH has accused Spanish police of 'violent attacks' on supporters during its Champions League defeat at Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The club filed an official complaint to UEFA saying riot police actions were "completely misplaced and excessive" and demanded an explanation. Witnesses claimed police stormed the visitors' section to remove a banner and Bayern fans retaliated; there were some 4,500 at the match.

Big Foot

SCIENTISTS say a fossilised footprint discovered in the north eastern Pyrenees in Spain was left by a previously unknown species up to 248 million years ago.

The print was amongst other tracks made by the ancestors of crocodiles and dinosaurs, a group known as archosaurs – and the reptile looked like a crocodile but had wider legs and measured 1.5 metres long.

Alternative medicine

MORE than half of Spaniards continue to believe homeopathy remedies work and have a basis in science.

In a survey by the Spanish Federation for Science and Technology (Fecyt) 6,300 people were asked if they believed Homeopathic products work.

Despite a lack of scientific evidence to support the curative properties; more than half of the sample group believed the remedies could make a difference.

Birthdays

• **Tess Daly, TV presenter, April 27, 48**

British TV presenter who co-presents BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing. She has hosted a range of other shows including SMTV Live, Make Me a Supermodel and Children in Need. The former model is married to fellow presenter Vernon Kay.

• **Bradley Wiggins, Professional cyclist, April 28, 37**

The British former professional cyclist competed professionally from 2001 until 2016. In 2012 he won the Tour de France and he has amassed a total of a total of 28 medals including five gold, one silver and two bronze Olympic medals. He was awarded a CBE in 2009 and in the 2013 New Year Honours received a knighthood.

• **Willie Nelson, Musician/Actor, April 29, 84**

American country singer had hits with songs such as On the Road Again, To All the Girls I've Loved Before and Hello Walls. He has starred in more than 30 films including The Electric Horseman, Barbarosa and The Dukes of Hazzard. He has also been an activist for the use of biofuels and the legalisation of marihuana.

• **Joanna Lumley, Actress, April 30, 71**

Best-known for her role as Patsy in the sitcom Absolutely Fabulous the English actress has also starred in many other TV shows and films including The New Avengers, Sapphire and Steel, The Wolf of Wall Street and Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie. She has won two BAFTA awards and at the 2013 National Television Awards she received the Special Recognition Award.

• **Princess Charlotte, May 2, 2**

The youngest child of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge who is fourth in line to the throne after her grandfather, father and big brother. On her first birthday she received gifts from 64 countries around the world and these included a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale book and a £30,000 (€35,700) gemstone-studded white gold toy rattle.



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OUR VIEW**Still disenfranchised**

ON more than one occasion Theresa May said she would not call an early election, but she now believes she can defeat Labour.

It is most infuriating for those expatriates who were promised the right to vote in the last Conservative manifesto to miss out not only on the referendum, but now what could be the most important general election for decades.

Whilst civil servants will shortly go into 'purdah' which means that they cannot comment on political matters for six weeks prior to the election, it was clear there was insufficient time to introduce legislation to return the franchise to those who had left the UK more than 15 years ago.

We make no secret of the fact that at the *EWN Media Group*, we are committed to life and business in Spain but as British passport holders, we feel it only fair that we should be able to have an element of input to the future of the country which many of us didn't last year and won't again this year.

It seems that the UK is divided regardless of what Mrs May says and it is too early to know too much about manifesto policies from each party, but within the next few weeks we will see whether this snap election becomes a second referendum.

Now we want to hear your views.
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Huge drug haul made in Murcia

By John Smith

A MASSIVE drug smuggling operation has been smashed in Murcia by officers of the Guardia Civil.

Nine people of Moroccan and Spanish nationality have been arrested and 1.2 tons of hashish, recently imported from Morocco, was seized from speed boats.

Officers were alerted to the possibility of smuggling when they became aware of the existence of a high speed boat known as a 'planeadora' (glider) - which is highly manoeuvrable and often used in fast transfer of drugs from Morocco - in one of the marinas of the Mar Menor in Murcia.

Being suspicious of the reason for ownership of this vessel, investigators discovered that a group of people had moved from Almería and established 'headquarters' in a villa in La Manga del Mar Menor

with access to the beach.

Officers found out that the gang intended to smuggle drugs into Spain during Semana Santa when the crooks assumed that many police officers would be on duty at the parades, but they were actually under surveillance at all times.

They were tracked as the speed boat travelled from Morocco to Murcia and arrived at the villa where it was removed from the water and it was then that the officers pounced and simultaneously arrested five members of the group who were driving in a vehicle in La Manga del Mar Menor, two more members inside the villa, and the two crew members of the boat.

The nine members of the gang were residents of Almería, Barcelona, Málaga and Murcia and, apart from the huge haul of hashish, officers also seized an expensive car and a number of different speed boats.



SEIZED: One of the boats used by the gang.

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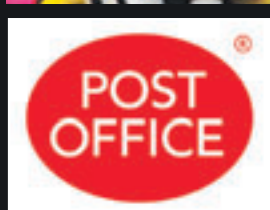
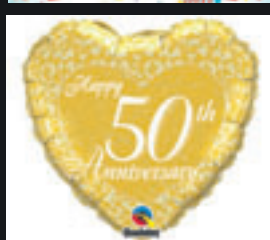
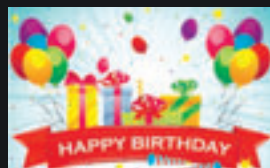
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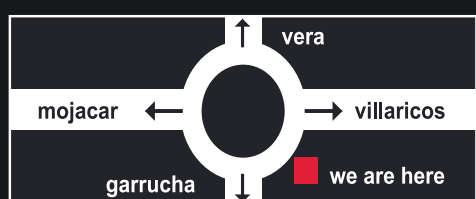
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Almeria turning Japanese

JAPAN has developed an appetite for olive oil, wine, grapes, dried fruits, vinegars and Iberian ham. Exports from Andalucía last year reached a record €130 million but Almeria only accounted for a paltry €170,000 of that vast wind-fall.

With Japan now the third biggest buyer of

southern Spanish foods and goods, after the EU and USA, a group of Almeria producers travelled to Tokyo to woo top class hotels, restaurants, and department stores.

Almeria is in dire need of a selling point if the province is to profit from the great eastern gold rush and keep up with its neighbours.

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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER:
King Felipe and
Queen Letizia.

It's a right royal mess

POLITICIANS have once again caused the King of Spain's state visit to the UK to be postponed.

The planned June visit by King Felipe VI and his wife Queen Letizia has been rescheduled to avoid clashing with the snap General Election called by Prime Minister Theresa May.

Buckingham Palace said in a statement: "Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain have agreed that, in light of the General Election, the planned State Visit to the United Kingdom from June 6 to 8 by King Felipe and Queen Letizia should be postponed. The visit will now take place from July 12 to 14."

The rejig came after Spain's foreign minister, Alfonso Dastis, indicated that the country would not find it appropriate for the visit to go ahead during an election campaign.

This is the second time in just over 12 months that politicians have been responsible for a state visit cancellation, as the King was supposed to visit in March last year.

On that occasion, the visit was axed due to political uncertainty in Spain, after a spate of inconclusive General Elections soured by bickering and failed deals left the country without a government.

King Felipe's UK state visit will be the first by a Spanish monarch since that of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia in 1986.

NEWS EXTRA

Book balancing

SPAIN ought to take a lesson or two from Vera's accounting team. The town slashed its debts after managing a €15 million surplus at the end of the 2016/17 tax year.

We believe

THE Popular Party held its 13th provincial conference, declaring that its new motto is 'We believe in Almeria,' despite the leadership recently slashing Almeria's budget by 80 per cent.

Telly trick

ONE thief knocked on a door in Almeria to ask the owner for help with his car engine, while another snuck in and stole the TV. The devious pair were quickly apprehended.

Flimsy boat

ANOTHER 32 migrants were rescued off the coast of Almeria having set sail from Morocco. Three women were on the flimsy boat which was tugged into Almeria port.

Cheap work

A TABERNAS hotel owner was jailed for a year for hiring eight illegal immigrants, paying them shameful wages and hiding it from the taxman.

Stones hurt

A NIJAR man who smashed a rock against the head of a driver passing through a Campohermoso farm has been jailed and fined. His victim suffered severe facial injuries.

Plastic beach

THE beachfront at El Toyo was denounced as a dangerous disgrace by a local councillor who claimed rusty railings, broken glass and filthy streets left an appalling impression.

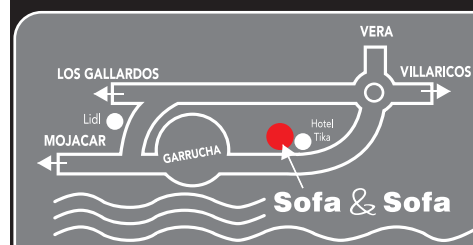
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Secret tape sparks inquiry

THREATS made in an attempt to silence an Albox politician have had the opposite effect.

Last week the *EWN* reported that Popular Party spokesman Juan Pedro Quiles was accosted and abused outside his home by local businessman Francisco Sanchez.

Sanchez warned Quiles to backpedal from comments he made on television implicating his company, Alcaina Ingenieros, in a corruption scandal at Albox Town Hall.

Quiles is investigating invoices of €1.7 million which he believes the previous PSOE administration paid connected companies for work which was never done.

Until now his work had largely been a one man pursuit but Sanchez's violent threats, so extreme that a restraining order was issued, have proven just the breakthrough Quiles needed.

Quiles recorded the volley of abuse he suffered outside of his home. Judges are viewing the tape as evidence that Sanchez is undoubtedly involved in some nefarious activities and have launched an investigation into his connections with the town hall.

Already they have uncovered that he is the son-in-law of former Albox mayor Perez Conchillo who is at the centre of various executive scandals.

Lawyers now believe they have enough to go on to finally find out where the town's missing €1.7 million went and bring those responsible to justice.

A JUDGE has reopened a controversial case which saw a religious educator fired because she married a divorced man.

Resurreccion Galera, aptly named for her profession, was dismissed more than 10 years ago from her teaching post in a Catholic school run by the Almeria diocese.

Her crime was marrying a divorcee, a sinful act according to stricter inter-

A question of faith

pretations of the Catholic faith. The bishopric of Almeria argued that her presence as a sinner would offend the constitutional right of children to freely practice their religion and enjoy a 'pure' education.

The case began in 2001 and has been meandering around various courts of appeal since then. A 2012 ruling dismissed the church's case and demanded Galera's immediate reinstatement but that decision was itself appealed.

Now Galera is herself past retirement age but the case has found its way to the high court. Judges are now determining whether to grant her token reinstatement as well as the back payment of more than 15 years worth of wages.

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By Matt Ford

CORDOBA is set to burst into bloom this May as the city's annual patio festival takes place from May 2-14.

The doors will swing open on over 200 private patios, or courtyards, in a colourful contest patronised by the city council for almost 100 years, during which rival residents battle to put on the most stunning display.

A typical feature of Cordoban homes,



PERFECT PATIOS: The festival is an underrated gem.

the courtyards tend to be the central feature around which each house is built, and normally have a fountain or well in the centre to collect rainwater.

This is a Roman design aimed at re-

ducing exposure to unforgiving summer temperatures, and was later adapted by Moorish conquerors who added features such as a direct entrance from the street, and introduced flowers planted

in beds or pots to bring freshness.

The tradition persists today, offering an authentic feast for the senses, as colourful flowers complement stone mosaics, water features, antique furniture and ceramic items, mixed with the aromatic combination of orange blossom, jasmine, and countless other flowers.

This being southern Spain, the competition is accompanied by live performances from renowned flamenco artists and other musicians throughout the city, while local wine and tapas are a must.

There are a number of different zones to visit, each with a unique look and feel, and a map is available at <http://patios.cordoba.es/en/patios>.

Entrance to the courtyards is generally free, although you will often spot a collection box for tips by the door, while visiting hours for 2017 are 11am-2pm and 6pm-10pm.

NEWS EXTRA

Brutal beating

A JUDGE gave a Laroya resident who beat a neighbour with a garden hoe in a dispute over fences eight years in prison. He left his victim with brain injuries and a personality disorder.

Poor grades

A FATHER who confiscated his teenage daughter's phone was found innocent of mistreatment by Almeria judges after she took him to court. He was angry over her smoking and poor school grades.

Clean power

A €250 MILLION investment in the Endesa energy plant in Carboneras will reduce noxious gas emissions by 80 per cent and create 500 jobs as Almeria moves towards clean energy.

Golden deal

A COSMETICS company headquartered in Almeria struck gold with a lucrative Mercadona deal. Starhealthcare was on the verge of collapse in 2015 but its anti-ageing products are now selling wildly in supermarket aisles.

Thirsty lot

A NEW pipeline will connect the Carboneras desalination plant with Palomeras, with the clean water to be brought to Vera in time for summer. Vera has very low reserves for a growing population.

Beautiful trail race

REGISTRATION for the second San Jose - Isleta del Moro trail race is now open. The gorgeous 12-kilometre route takes in the scenic sights of the Cabo de Gata-Nijar natural park on May 14.

It is open to anyone over 14, whether a professional athlete or a weekend warrior.

The trail runs along Monte Pelado from San Jose, passing through Calahiguera and Los Escullos until arriving at the magnificent Isleta del Moro.

It is partially organised by Nijar Council and anyone interested in participating can register at www.cruzan-dolameta.es.

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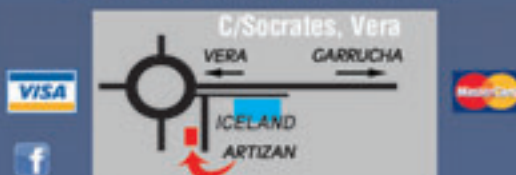
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Summer of fury

MASS protests could take place in Almería at the end of June. A political platform calling for investment in the province's neglected railways wants thousands of people to march on the city demanding better transport.

Severe budget cuts issued by Madrid slashing infrastructure spending in Almería by 80 per cent was the final straw for the Railway Defence platform. Consisting of a loose alliance of politicians, businessmen and residents, the platform said that Almería is turning into an island.

Should the protest go

ahead, demonstrators will demand an urgent timetable on the delayed Almería-Murcia high speed line. It has already been pushed back from 2019 to 2025, meaning Almería will be the last major Spanish city to have high speed rail.

Accusations of bias have been levelled against the national government, which is currently financing a multi-billion euro rail service in Galicia, which is far less important than Almería when it comes to trade.

Local PSOE leaders have demanded a €500m investment in the railways by 2020.



PLAZA DE TOROS: Councillors want it to be declared an official site of Cultural Interest.

Bull fighting pride

LOCAL councillors are hoping to have Almería's Plaza de Toros declared an official site of Cultural Interest by the national government. The request is being supported by Almería's tourism and culture department and would grant the bullring international protection from any future threats to its integrity.

It is not the first time the council, together with the bullring's owners, have sought to

have it declared a national heritage site. But with more and more buildings, monuments, plazas and natural phenomena being selected for protection, they are optimistic that 2017 is the year of the bullring.

Almería's Plaza de Toros first opened in the summer of 1888 as a prestigious symbol of the city's new found mining and trade wealth. It stands on two floors with the capacity for almost 10,000 spectators.

NEWS EXTRA

Peace pupils

CHILDREN from more than 50 schools visited Vicar to learn about peaceful conflict resolution in the classroom. Psychologists and teachers are trying to combat domestic violence and bullying from an early age.

Secret stash

POLICE stopping a driver with a smashed back window in Tabernas found 101 grams of marijuana and a sizeable quantity of amphetamine powder stashed in his car.

Five injured

FIVE people were injured in a serious collision between two vehicles in San Isidro de Nijar. Two of the injured were children and both drivers young adults. All five were taken to hospital.

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TOMATOES: Cheap as chips in Almería.

Prices spark food frenzy

FURIOUS food producers dished out 20,000 tons of free courgettes, aubergines and tomatoes in protest over astonishingly low prices. The horticultural platform 'Agriculture Live in Action' said the stunt expressed the basic financial reality that prices are so low they may as well be throwing the food away.

Residents of Federico Garcia Lorca

street in Almería were understandably delighted to be on the receiving end of the farmers' fury. Vegetables may be cheap, but budgets are also tight.

Jesus Fuentes, president of the Live in Action platform, claims that around 70 per cent of the fruit and veg grown across Almería are sold under price in supermarkets, some fetching just 50

cents per kilo.

He described the 20,000 ton fruit and veg giveaway as a 'wake up call' to marketers who are involved in a competitive race to the bottom as they try to attract customers. Fuentes said prices as the stand are 'ridiculous' and artificially cheap, helping impoverish farmers who are the backbone of the economy.

No more skeletons in the river

MORE than 15 million kilos of rubbish has been collected from the river Adra since a massive clean up operation began in October.

It is the first proper scouring of the river basin since the great flood of 1973, more than

four decades ago.

Horse, goat, pig and sheep skeletons were found alongside plastics, fertiliser drums, demolition materials and construction debris. Concrete blocks, tyres, furniture and hundreds of tons of household

rubbish make up the bulk of the embarrassing haul.

With a budget of €1.7 million the cleaning project will continue until 2018, with a break over summer. The Adra is one of Almería's most important rivers but has become

an environmental hazard and severe flood risk.

Guardia Civil officers have urged residents and farmers not to pollute the Adra or any other Almería rivers as the threat of ecological catastrophe looms large.

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NEWS EXTRA**Customs control**

TWO fugitives wanted for armed robbery and drug trafficking offences were arrested when they swanned into Almeria port on the Vronskiy ferry from North Africa and went through customs.

Food festival

DOZENS of chefs brought the flavours of Almeria to the Hall of Gourmets in Madrid. Delicious Almerian produce was a huge hit at the event, one of the biggest food fairs in Europe.

US appetite

AMERICAN appetite for everything Almeria has seen the province double its exports to the US in the past year with sales of fish, frozen veg and olive oil totalling €15.2 million.



TRAVELLING MAN: Domingo Fernandez plans to meet the people.

Meet and greet

A NEW democratic exercise will see Domingo Fernandez, mayor of Huerca-Overa, travel around the municipality, meeting and greeting residents while hearing their complaints. The 'Mayor in your Hamlet' initiative began on April 25 in El Saltador and will see Fernandez shuttled around 20 villages over the coming weeks and months.

Town hall meetings will begin at 11am and allow residents to publicly vent their

various frustrations and hopefully get an answer from the man in charge. Fernandez claims he wants to bring the city council to the people, admitting its pointless saying his door is always open when it's impossible for most people to get there.

His mayoral tour will be next be in Urcal on May 3, Los Menas on May 10, El Pilar on the 18th, La Concepcion on the 24th and San Francisco on the 31st.

Light for lovers

ALDOUS HUXLEY, one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century, wrote a poem entitled 'Almeria' almost 90 years ago in the autumn of 1929. Which is largely why the Sixth International Aldous Huxley Symposium was held at the University of Almeria from April 19-21.

Dozens of prestigious scholars gathered in the province to pay tribute to and study the works of the visionary British novelist

and scientist who penned 'Brave New World' and 'The Doors of Perception.'

Hailing from as far afield as Japan and the US, the scholars gave talks on Huxley's interpretation of Almeria, seen through the lens of its arid land and powerful desert light.

Huxley is said to have been so impressed by the fierce Almerian sun that he extended his stay for three nights while travelling across the Mediterranean.

ALMERIA BY ALDOUS HUXLEY

Winds have no moving emblems here, but scour
A vacant darkness, an untempered light;
No branches bend, never a tortured flower
Shudders, root-weary, on the verge of flight;
Winged future, withered past, no seeds, nor leaves
Attest those swift invisible feet: they run
Free through a naked land, whose breast receives
The whole fierce ardour of a naked sun.
Thou hast the Light for lover; fortunate Earth!
Conceive the fruit of his divine desire.
But the dry dust is all she brings to birth,
That child of clay by even celestial fire.
Then come, soft rain and thunder clouds, abate
This shining love that has the force of hate.

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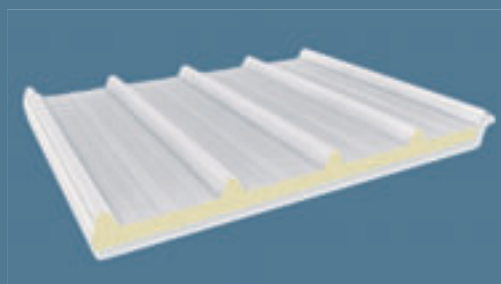
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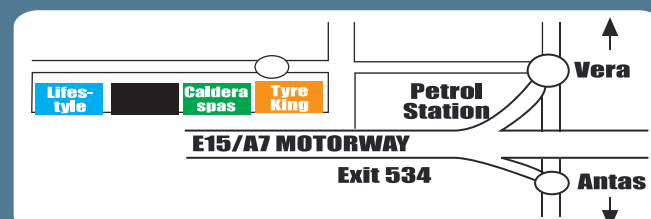


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NEWS EXTRA

Melon
mayhem

DEMAND is higher but the harvest behind, leading to a surge in watermelon prices. Even fresh from the farm the juicy fruits will cost upwards of €1 until production catches up.

No sharing

A PROPOSED dog beach was abandoned due to health and safety. The site at El Perdigal couldn't guarantee that humans and animals wouldn't be sharing the same sea water.

Phone blip

A CUT in the fibre optic network running through Granada meant that thousands of Vodafone users across Almeria suffered a brief blip in their phone and internet service.

Furious OAP

A PENSIONER went wild and attacked his 70-year-old wife and 50-year-old daughter. He even threatened to throw his 89-year-old mother-in-law out the window before being subdued by police at their Almeria home.

Guilt free decadence

A VEGGIE black pudding sausage has been created by a Pulpi-based company. With no meat, blood or animal fats, the Pulpi Eya sausage is 100 per cent vegetarian-friendly, yet has had rave reviews from local tasters including even dyed-in-the-wool carnivores.

The 'blood sausage' is made from onions, aubergine, nuts, cereals, spices and a generous dash of olive oil. It looks almost identical to the famous Spanish dish and a month-long survey found that many people couldn't even taste the difference.

Encarna Belmonte, manager of



GUILT FREE: Blood sausage soon to have veggie makeover.

Pulpi Eya, says her veggie special is the perfect alternative for people who either oppose eating animal products, or who are simply looking for a healthier alternative.

The artisan dish will soon be launched on the local market, on sale in Pulpi and across Almeria. There are even plans to expand to North Africa and the Middle East. Many Arabian sourced spices are used in this, and traditional blood sausages, but millions of Muslims can't go near the classic Spanish dish as it includes pork.

Pueblo patter brought to life

MOJACAR celebrated the publication of a fascinating dialectical dictionary that charts the pueblo's unique and indigenous expressions over the decades. The Mojaquero Dictionary was written by native son Esteban Carrillo Flores and presented posthumously at a ceremony on Saturday April 21.

Born in Mojacar in 1922, Carrillo spent a great deal of the 1950s and 60's painstakingly collecting, recording and analysing thousands of words and expressions he found to be either unique

to Mojacar, or spoken with a Mojaquero twist.

A renowned poet and writer in his own right, almost single-handedly he helped restore Mojacar's dialectic heritage, rescuing words and phrases which might easily have been diluted by globalisation, standard Spanish or the passage of time.

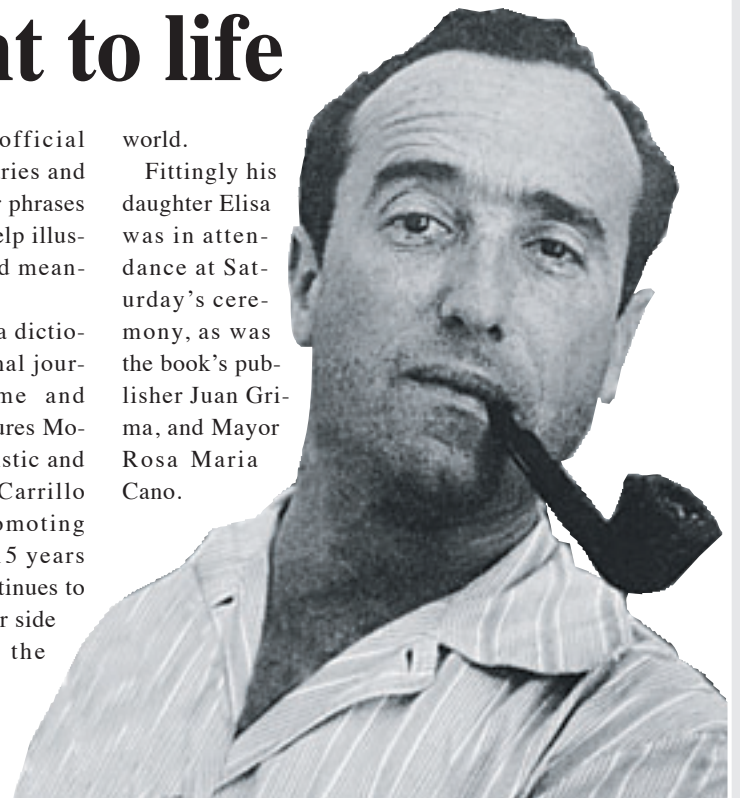
The dictionary, which he worked on throughout his life before passing away in 2002, contains more than 1,500 words. Each are

compared with official Castilian dictionaries and come with popular phrases or poems which help illustrate their use and meaning.

More than just a dictionary it is a personal journey through time and meaning that captures Mojacar's rich linguistic and cultural history. Carrillo spent his life promoting the pueblo and, 15 years after his death continues to show a whole other side of Mojacar to the

world.

Fittingly his daughter Elisa was in attendance at Saturday's ceremony, as was the book's publisher Juan Grima, and Mayor Rosa Maria Cano.



ESTEBAN CARRILLO: A renowned poet and writer born in Mojacar.

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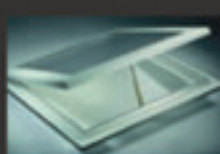
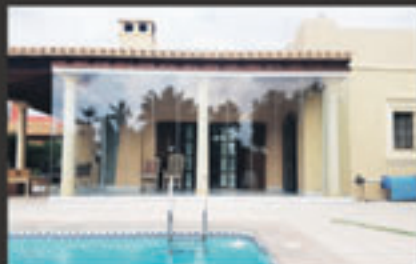
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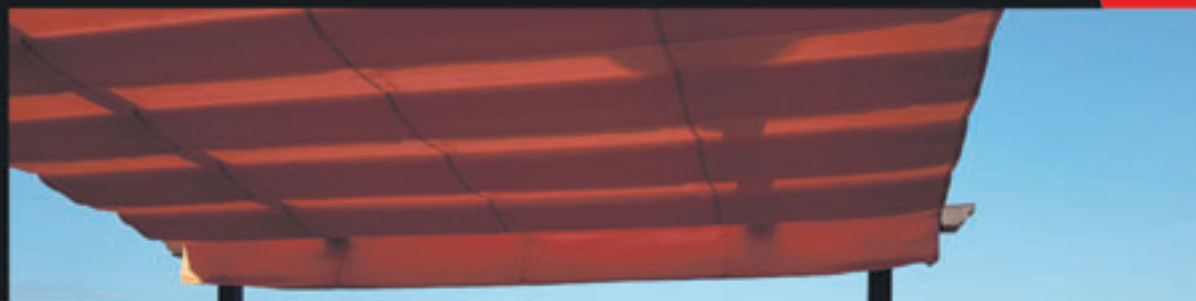
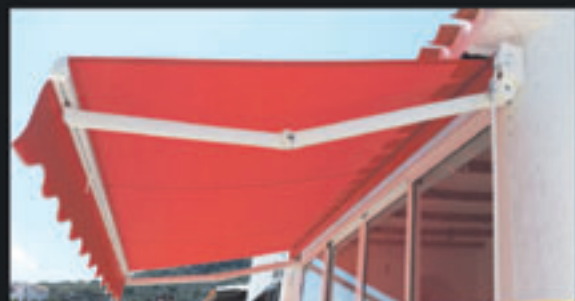
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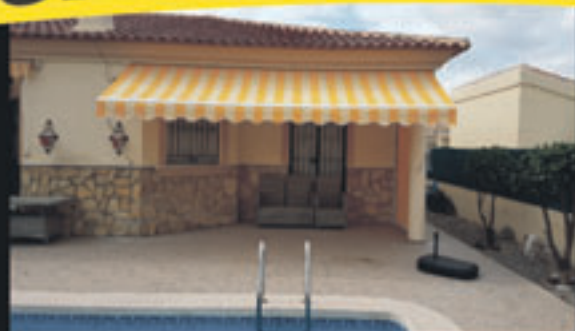
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Brexit likely to decide General Election



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

AS the various political parties gear up to campaign for the General Election, Brexit will form an important platform for each of them.

Currently, opinion polls which have been notoriously inaccurate over the past few years indicate that the Conservatives are gaining ground in both Scotland and Wales with potential losses for the SNP in Scotland and Labour in Wales.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has come out, suggesting that the calling of the snap election was a cynical ploy by the government to be re-elected prior to the prosecution of current Tory MPs for election irregularities although this is denied by the party which accepts that its 'battle bus' is being investigated.

The Lib Dems are appealing to



Photo Credit: Chatham House flickr

SIR KEIR STARMER: The man behind Labour Brexit strategy.

Bremainers and promise to run a second referendum if they are elected and many 'big names'

such as Nick Clegg, Vince Cable and Ed Davey, who lost their seats in the last election, are expected to

stand again with a much better chance of getting back into parliament.

Labour in the meantime had been accused of not knowing what to do but its shadow Brexit Sir Keir Starmer has confirmed that if elected it would honour the referendum result but would effectively scrap the government's current Brexit plans and focus on protecting the rights of EU residents as well as British passport holders in the EU.

The Labour party clearly recognises that those areas in the Midlands and the North of England which voted to leave the EU are vulnerable to a Conservative party which is determined to take Britain out of the EU and is trying to maintain its traditional blue collar support.

UKIP in the meantime is planning to ban the burka and full face covering in the event that it comes into power. However, more importantly, in real terms the party has indicated that it will not field candidates in marginal areas where the sitting MP is known to be strongly pro-Brexit.

Both major parties united in support

THE next six weeks will see plenty of bitter rhetoric and fights between political parties but little in the way of Brexit progress.

Even though the current Conservative government seems likely to return to power, possibly with an increased majority, it is highly unlikely that there will be any headway in negotiations with the European Union until the result of the General Election is known.

What is almost certain however is that unless the Lib Dems surprise everyone and are elected as the next government, Brexit will go ahead and the only question will be whether it is negotiated by Mrs May or Mr Corbyn as Labour will not ignore the will of the referendum.



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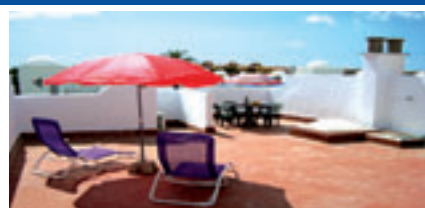
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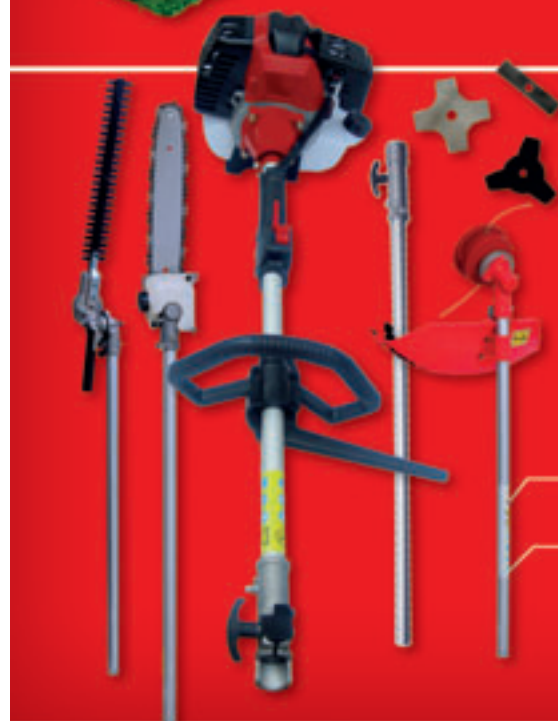


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Charity says thank you

ANIMAL charity PAWS-PATAS would like to say a big thank you to its most recent supporters and fundraisers who in total have helped to raise more than €1,300.

So here goes... thank you to Tony Matthews for helping to raise €150 from a recent quiz night he hosted. Also to Ruth Wood, Director of the Robinson Crusoe Panto, for the €383 it helped to raise.

Last but not least thank you also to Annabelle and Jim Dale-Gray who raised a staggering €850 from the recent production of Hotel La Resistance which, due to public demand, will return after the summer with more shows.

Thanks also to everyone who supports the charity including Sam Spencer, manager of the cattery; Bill White, president of Indalo Players; Sue Mehmet, producer of the panto; and finally Jill Hussain, treasurer of PAWS-PATAS.

All of the funds raised will help the cat neutering programme, puppy vaccination,



PAWS-PATAS: Recent fundraising raised more than €1,300.

medical needs and any other general requirements. PAWS-PATAS continually needs your help be it with donations to its shops, financially or volunteer work. Please visit www.paws-patas.org for more details.

If anyone has any fundraising ideas please contact Chrissie Cremore at

chrissie.3@hotmail.co.uk.

The next fundraising events will be two spring concerts that will be held on Friday May 5 at 8pm and Saturday May 6 at 3pm in the Salon Tercera Edad, Mojacar Multi-use Centre.

There will be songs from stage shows, film ballads, love songs, easy listening, light clas-

sical, opera and sacred music so there really will be something for everyone. The shows will be performed under the musical guidance of David Murphy.

Tickets cost €5 and they are available to buy from PAWS-PATAS in Las Buganvillas, PC Playa in Mojacar or Connexions in Turre.

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Royal British Legion lunch

ON Sunday April 23, some 68 people from the Mojacar branch of the Royal British Legion, the churches of Costa Almeria and Calida and friends enjoyed a lunch to celebrate St George's Day in Mojacar.

The next RBL meeting will take place on May 4 at the multi-use centre in Mojacar Pueblo. The guest speaker at the meeting will be Tony Matthews who will be speaking about his career in the police force as well as his experience as a footballer, football coach and author.

Then on May 18 there will be a coffee morning and wine tasting event which will include lunch at the Hotel Tikka in Garrucha. Anyone interested should contact Rhoda via email at rblmojacar.socialevents@gmail.com.

Finally on May 27 the RBL golf day will be held in aid of the Poppy Appeal at Aguilion Golf Club. Please contact Tom Tannant at thomastannant@outlook.com

Wacky Races in Villaricos

FIRSTLY Wacky Races Villaricos would like to thank everyone who contributed to its 2016 event where once again more than €1,300 was raised and then subsequently distributed in September 2016 to the beneficiaries.

The first beneficiary was Daniela, an eight-year-old who is undergoing chemotherapy for a bone condition. Her mother works at La Cantina de Floor on Paseo Malecon, Garrucha. This bar/cafe is a regular supporter of Wacky Races Villaricos. Daniela received a 'Baby Alive' doll and accessories, sent over from the USA.

Wacky Races Villaricos will also be providing an air-conditioning unit and new flatscreen TV for the reception classroom at Villaricos school in time for the

new intake in mid-September. These gifts were only possible because of the support from businesses and people of the area.

It is hoped that this support will be continued again this year when then 2017 Wacky Races Villaricos will take place on May 13. If you would like to sponsor, contribute or provide entertainment on the day please contact Wacky Races Villaricos. More teams are required so please consider getting involved. Anyone wishing to have a stall to sell or present their crafts should also get in touch.

For more information please contact the organiser on 634 368 243 or the secretary on 950 467 590. You can also email wackyraces2017@gmail.com or find Wacky Races Villaricos on Facebook.

Bows and ribbons dancing

ELEANOR and Gilly's Monday afternoon line dance class at Maloan's Bar in Albox, held its ninth annual Easter bonnet parade on Easter Monday. This is the second successive year that the event has been held at the popular Albox Bar.

Class organisers Eleanor Tolman and Gilly Elliott-Binns were both pleased and surprised that so many class members had joined in the spirit of the event. This year the event was judged by the secretary of FACE (Fundraising in Arboleas, Caring for Everyone) Lorraine Cundy and committee member Nicki Wakeman along with eight-year-old Daisy Wakeman.

The judges this year, as usual, had a particularly difficult job to do because once again the standard of the competition was so very high. The winning bonnets this year were, in reverse order, third Margaret Farmery, second Gaynor Nunn and the winner was Sue Ficham.

All winners received Easter eggs plus complimentary tickets for future line dance classes.

However, everyone in the class was a winner this year, because everyone who attended received an Easter egg from the organisers. Eleanor and Gilly would like to thank Jacqui Burnside of Sol Supermercado for supplying so many Easter eggs.

In addition, FACE were also winners



EASTER BONNETS: All winners received Easter eggs.

as a raffle was held during the afternoon and a further €55 was raised. This was added to monies the group had raised at previous events and a grand total of €350.70 was presented, in an Easter bonnet made by Alice Bradbury, to the two FACE representatives, Lorraine Cundy and Nicki Wakeman.

Eleanor and Gilly's line dance class is held every Monday afternoon, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Maloan's Bar in Albox. It is a venue where people can

make new friends and meet up with old friends using line dancing as its main attraction. However throughout the year it organises various parties and other activities and it has always supported FACE since its original inception at the old Bar Rojo over nine years ago.

In that time class members have raised almost €3,000.

For further information please call Eleanor Tolman on 950 439 003.

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Sandy star turn

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Photo by Campello Town Hall

WINNER: Oscar Greca also will also appear in the video.**»** By Linda Hall

BENIDORM'S Poniente beach was the backdrop for an Amstel Radler videoclip featuring popular singer David Otero.

The resort appeared thanks to Oscar Greca, a 27-year-old local resident who entered Amstel Radler's competition to decide the settings for its latest publicity campaign.

Celebrating the arrival of spring this centres round Otero's song, Sal a la Calle (Go out to the street) as well as Amstel Radler's beer and lemon juice combination.

The photo of the Poniente beach that Oscar Greca uploaded to the social media was one of the winners, together with Madrid's Plaza de Oriente and the Puente de Hierro bridge in Salamanca.

Oscar also won a year's supply of Amstel Radler and was declared #Benilover by the Benidorm Tourism Board.

The Benidorm section of the video, which is due to air in mid-May, was recently filmed at the Poniente beach and Oscar was invited along to participate and meet David Otero.

■ AXARQUÍA

Studying fruit

IN the search for sustainable fruits, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and IHSM in La Mayora, Axarquía will be undertaking a joint project. They will initially be studying the pawpaw which is not widely cultivated in the USA.

Verdial oil

THE town of Periana hosted a party to welcome the latest pressing of olive oil. Unique to Axarquía, the particularly sweet and fruity verdial version is much prized and this year's harvest provided 1.6 million kilos of tasty oil.

I am Legion

SOCIAL media was all a twitter when a video showing 20-month-old Yoel Extramera from Velez-Málaga went viral. The toddler, dressed as a legionnaire executed a number of moves normally undertaken by the soldiers at the Holy Thursday parades.

Nasty accident

FIVE people were injured in a serious accident on the N340 near Almuñecar. The three men and two women had to be transferred to hospital in Motril for emergency treatment.

Another fire

YET another fire broke out in the Salobreña area which required 40 firemen to tackle it. As the weather was particularly windy, officers attended from Motril and Salobreña together with others from the Infoca forest brigade.

Arms raised

THE funeral of former Franco supporter and minister José Utrera Molina took place in Nerja on April 23. A small number of supporters stood outside the church and raised their arms whilst singing the fascist anthem.

■ MALLORCA

Brexit news

DURING what will possibly be his last statement on Brexit prior to the General Election, British Ambassador Simon Manley addressed an audience in Palma confirming the British government was committed to protecting expatriates rights.

Briton killed

A MAN believed to be a 40-year-old Briton was knocked down and killed by a car in Magaluf early on April 23. Reportedly, the Spanish driver tested positive for alcohol and cocaine has been arrested.

Mutual interest

AS part of a short visit to Mallorca, British Ambassador to Spain Simon Manley met with Francina Armengol, President of the Balearic Islands to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Novel auction

IN support of the British Benevolent Fund charity, Lord Jeffrey Archer travelled to Mallorca to conduct a charity auction. The event, catered by Michelin star chef Marc Fosh raised in excess of €5,000.

Power struggle

THERE is huge disagreement between Endesa and the Council of Mallorca over an old power station in Alcanada. The council wants to keep the building but Endesa wants to knock it down.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Tax breaks

TEULADA Town Hall will lower death duties on bequests of urban land to family members. This applies to spouses, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren and siblings.

Nursing shifts

NURSES at the Denia Hospital will now work 12-hour shifts. In recent trials at the hospital the new working pattern resulted in less absenteeism, happier staff and happier patients.

Building fine

ALCOY Council has been ordered to pay €104,000 to the construction company building the Barranquet centre for the mentally ill in the town. The high court made the award because of delays on the council's part.

Fire victim

A GANDIA man died in hospital after being pulled from his blazing home by firefighters and suffering 80 per cent burns. A medical team attempted to revive the 43-year-old victim at the scene but without success.

Murky waters

RESIDENTS in La Nucia were shocked to discover a tea coloured substance coming from their taps. Staff at the local Aqualia office said that it was part of a maintenance schedule for cleaning pipes.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

Levelling out

IN preparation for the forthcoming holiday season work is taking place on the beaches of Torremolinos. The idea is to repair all the beaches affected by the March storm by levelling the sand.

Drain in Spain

WORK is now being undertaken to improve the storm drains on the Paseo Marítimo in Torreblanca, Fuengirola). The work which is expected to take 21 days attracted 36 bids and the final award was €84,804 cheaper than originally budgeted.

Police update

THE Local Police in Marbella have received 10 defibrillators and new drug testing equipment. This is part of a €400,000 investment to ensure they are able to cope with the requirements of a modern police presence.

Flats evacuated

A FIRE occurred in the car park of a block of apartments in Huerta Nueva, Málaga which left a number of cars damaged. The fire started in one of the vehicles and spread, causing the evacuation of the building.

Fibre optics

AFTER a lengthy delay, it has now been agreed that fibre optic broadband will be installed in Mijas Pueblo. This should benefit everyone who has been demanding faster more efficient internet connections.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

Rail link

CARTAGENA'S mayor visited Madrid to take part in a meeting of the organisation bringing the high speed rail link to the city. He is calling for the government to accelerate its environmental impact studies ahead of construction of the railway.

Mean streets

TWO ROBBERS who raided the Elche headquarters of an organisation supporting people in need have been arrested 10 months after the burglary. The 21-year-old villains stole a 'multitude' of items from the Non-Governmental Organisation in the Carrus district.

Water filter

THE National Government is to create a €4.2 million 'green' filter in the Mar Menor (Murcia) to naturally treat water and allow it to be used in the agricultural sector.

No insurance

POLICE have arrested an insurance salesman in Santa Pola who pocketed €22,000 in premiums leaving unsuspecting clients without cover.

Young population

MURCIA has one of the highest populations of young people - those aged between 15 and 29 years old - across Spain, according to new figures which show that the young represent 16.9 per cent of the total population.

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NORWAY**Beggars belief**

BEGGARS in Bergen have said they no longer feel safe in the city following a documentary that followed residents of a house connected to the Romanian begging community which was sending large sums of money to Romania.

Green monitoring

THE opposition party wants to create a committee in order to monitor how effective the country's various green energy initiatives actually are.

Smarter transport

DRIVERLESS public transport



BERGEN: Beggars no longer feel safe.

could be in place within a few months following a parliamentary proposal which would see 100 million kroner available for projects to develop smarter city transport. Driverless vehicles are currently not legal on Norwegian roads.

Staying put

NORWAY is refusing to lift Russian sanctions. The Trade Minister, Monica Maeland, returned from Russia and disappointed officials by saying she had no intention of lifting the sanctions yet.

GERMANY**Cold feet**

A GERMAN man went missing as he suffered cold feet over his upcoming marriage. The groom was reported missing by his sister over Easter on what would have been his wedding day.

Top tax

GERMAN workers are complaining about taxes as socialists and taxpay-

ers organisations want tax reform. It is reported that one in 11 workers are paying 42 per cent tax on their income. Anyone earning over €50,000 a year is in the top tax bracket.

Rule change

CALLS are being made for the dual citizenship rules to be changed. It

comes after German Turks mainly voted in favour of expanding the Turkish President's powers.

Second vote

THE SPD party leader, Martin Schulz, said the UK should hold another EU referendum now that it is clear what PM Theresa May's plans for Brexit are.

FRANCE**Attack foiled**

POLICE have arrested two men in Marseille as police say they foiled an imminent attack planned for the lead up to the French election. The two Frenchmen arrested met in prison and had converted to radical Islam.

Extreme eggs

FRANCE'S most extreme artist has spent three weeks in a glass box in an art museum in Paris sitting on 10 eggs waiting for them to hatch. He will spend the first 48 hours of their life with them before they live on a farm.

Birth defects

A STUDY has reported the epilepsy medication valproate is responsible for 'severe malformations' in 2,150-4,100 children since the drug was first available in France in 1967.

Breastfeeding petition

A COUPLE has launched a petition against the police officers who told a mother to stop breastfeeding at a police station in Paris as the couple carried out paperwork. They claimed the officer tried to humiliate the woman.

BELGIUM**Fruit frost**

A LATE frost has potentially damaged crops in the fruit region of Haspengouw. As temperatures dropped below freezing farmers tried to protect crops but it's feared the damage may have been done.

Doggy DNA

OSTEND is taking action against dog mess as it plans to use DNA technology to identify the dogs responsible. Owners who are found guilty of not cleaning up after their pets face a fine of up to €1,000.

Borrowing benefits

WANT to buy a house but can't save enough for the deposit? You might want to consider moving to Belgium as they are proposing the possibility of allowing buyers to borrow the entire cost of a home.

Rail boost

BELGIAN RAIL has announced ambitious plans to improve rail transport, offering more services and shorter travel times.

NETHERLANDS**Female discussion**

QUEEN MAXIMA is joining German chancellor Angela Merkel and US president Trump's daughter Ivanka in Berlin to participate in a discussion on female entrepreneurship at the Women20 Summit.

Happy rabbit

DUTCH animal rights groups have joined with pet shops to launch the 'Happy Rabbit' project to remind owners of their responsibilities and to how best to care for their rabbits. Rabbits are the fourth most popular pet in the Netherlands.

Cambodia arrest

A DUTCH Catholic church official has been arrested in Cambodia accused of creating child pornography. Over 1,000 nude photos were found on his camera and phone.

Job satisfaction

A STUDY has found that youngsters look for an interesting job over one that is the best paid. Over 70 per cent of the Dutch millennials questioned said they favoured job satisfaction.

DENMARK**Night shifts**

WORKING nights could lead to brain damage. That's according to a Danish study which found that night shifts increased the risk of Alzheimer's and dementia.

Cold spring

DENMARK has recorded the coldest April temperatures this century. Temperatures at Karup airport in Jutland were -6 degrees centigrade, the coldest morning temperature since 1997.

Newer production

DENMARK could remove 3,300 of its 4,200 onshore wind turbines, if they were to be replaced by larger, more modern turbines, and still produce the same amount of energy.

Poverty plight

SINCE 2002, the number of poor people has doubled in Denmark. The total number of people considered to be living in poverty rose to 44,141 in 2015.

SWEDEN**Shorter days**

AFTER two years of trialling six-hour work days at an elderly care home in Gothenburg, staff have gone back to eight-hour shifts after the government couldn't afford to pay the extra staff needed. However, staff had less sick days and were healthier with the shorter days.

Homeless help

A WOMAN who tried to buy food from McDonald's for a homeless man claims she was told by staff she was not allowed as he had been taking leftover food from customers. She said she gave the meal to the man anyway.

Half overweight

OVER half of the Swedish population is overweight. That's according to a study by the Public Health Agency which reported that 51 per cent of those aged between 16 and 84 were either overweight or obese.

Teachers wanted

MORE Swedish teachers are needed to cut the waiting times for foreigners wanting to learn the language. Foreign residents are entitled to free language lessons with some municipalities having waiting lists of up to six months before classes start.



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189,950€ | cla 6885

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**3 bed 2 bath villa
Los Carrascos**

174,950€ | cla 6941

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plot with pool and views
Cucador**

139,000€ | cla 6928

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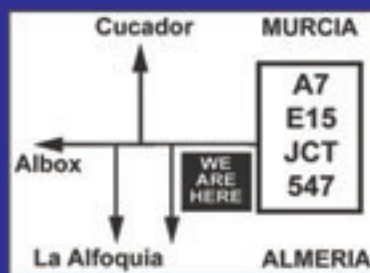
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RUSSIAN PRESS



LAWLESS LAND: Ingushetia is one of Russia's wildest regions.

Bride kidnapping

■ A CRACKDOWN on bride kidnapping will take place in the southern Russian republic of Ingushetia. Young girls are routinely abducted by wannabe husbands in the deeply conservative society. But if the kidnappers release the girls they face no charges. Now they will get a three-year prison term.

Floating cars

■ HUNDREDS of people were evacuated during the worst floods in recent memory in the Ural region of Orenburg. A state of emergency was declared after the river rose 1.27 metres in just 24 hours. Heavy rainfall combined with melting snow has seen homes flooded and cars floating down the street.

Tense lecture

■ A STATE university showed a film comparing Russian anti-corruption crusader Alexei Navalny to Adolf Hitler. Students at Vladimir University protested and accused lecturer Alla Byba of being a liar. She said they were raised like animals and that cyber warfare is trying to turn Russia's youth against the state.

Shifting alliances

■ WHILE America braces for nuclear war with the mad hermit kingdom of North Korea, Russian propaganda outfit Pravda published a piece celebrating the life of its founder Kim Il-sung. Russia has moved closer to North Korea recently, even im-

porting slaves to work on its world cup stadiums.

Bigoted bakers

■ AN organic food shop in St Petersburg has banned gays from its premises. 'Bread and Salt' is owned by Orthodox religious activist and businessman German Sterligov. A wooden sign outside reads simply 'faggots are banned.' LGBT groups have complained to police arguing that the sign incites hatred.

Holy mobile

■ A CHRISTIAN mobile phone company has debuted in Russia. Blagovet provides internet, calls, and also text alerts from Patriarch Kirill of the Orthodox Church. It helps the faithful find local parishes and is proving an instant hit across the country as ministers convince their flock to sign up.

Killer portrayal

■ KILLER Vitaly Kaloyev has lambasted Arnold Schwarzenegger's new film on his unusual life. Arnold stars as Vitaly in 'Aftermath,' the true story of how Vitaly travelled to Switzerland to murder the air traffic controller whose mishap led to a plane crash which killed his family.

ARNOLD: Showed too much pity according to Vitaly.



New EWNMG takeover

Sol Times acquired by parent company

EWN MEDIA GROUP (EWNMG) has further expanded its portfolio of newspapers by taking over the Sol Times publications.

The takeover announcement comes just weeks after EWNMG, the parent company of Euro Weekly News, added the well-established three-edition RTN Costa Blanca newspaper firm to its expanding empire.

Originally launched in the Almería area in 2005, since then the Sol Times has further expanded into Costa Calida, Mar Menor and Costa Blanca.

After completing the latest takeover negotiations earlier this month, Michel and Steven Euesden, owners of EWNMG, instigated internal restructuring.

This has today led to all four editions of Sol Times being back on the streets with a greater print run and improved distribution, upgraded paper quality and size, and increased news content.

Michel said: "The aim of EWNMG is to offer all media clients the very best advertising and marketing opportunities to suit their target au-

dience needs as well as their budgets.

"With the four additional Sol Times titles added to the group we now offer the widest choice of advertising and reading options along the Costas with three newspaper brands and a total of 13 editions.

"Based on more than 20 years' experience and local knowledge origi-

nally gained by EWN - the founding and ever-present strength of EWNMG - I know that exciting times lie ahead for the Sol Times publications and team members as part of a much larger media family."

The Sol Times was originally founded by Rob and Chrissie Matthews and they have run the titles for the last 12 years.

Quote of the Week

The risks are deeper and more serious than a few months ago,"
Luis de Guindos Spanish Finance Minister on European economy.



IMF comments on Spain growth



Photo Credit: IMF Twitter

SPANISH ECONOMY: Was discussed by IMF.

DURING an International Monetary Fund (IMF) briefing on the April World Economic Outlook, much mention was made of the Spanish economy.

It was suggested by a member of the invited audience that one possible reason for the recent growth in the Spanish economy was thanks to the increasing inequality of wages, the decline of collective agreements and the weakening of the trade unions.

Responding on behalf of the IMF, Gian Maria Milesi-Ferretti gave some historical insight for the reasons of the sudden decline in the economy and ac-

knowledgeed that wage inequality was bound to become a factor as unemployment grew so quickly.

Spain has suffered from the fact that as part of the eurozone it has been unable to benefit from the usual advantages of declining exchange rates when the economy was bad and therefore the only way to regain competitiveness was to see wages decline.

As the economy continues to recover, so he believed that inequality would shrink, but one of the ongoing problems in Spain is the fact of the volume of seasonal work.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Rare metal

THE BBC and other media outlets are reporting the discovery of a 'rare' source of Tellurium near the Canary Islands. At first this seems to be a useful new source of this element used in the production of solar energy panels but some scientists claim it is an easily extracted side product of copper worth only €20 per kilo.

Rodrigo Rato

ONE small crumb of comfort for Rodrigo Rato, disgraced former government minister is he won't face charges over a Lazard Bank loan. Prosecutors were alleging a €2 million payment to him was a form of illegal commission but the presiding judge has ruled this was not the case and accepted it could have been a loan.

Migrants up

DESPITE high unemployment figures in Spain, foreign workers continue to arrive with Romanians representing the largest number of EU migrants. The total number of foreign workers enrolled in the Social Security system increased by 37,473 in March bringing the total to 1,739,720, a 2.2 per cent increase.

Brazilian energy venture

ACCORDING to reports appearing in a newspaper in Sao Paulo, Spanish energy company Iberdrola could create a major new entity in Brazil.

It appears that Iberdrola may decide to bid for the shares in Neoenergia which are currently

owned by the Banco do Brasil and insurance company Previ which would then allow a merger with Elektro, a company which it currently controls.

The resulting energy group would then become a major operator within Brazil.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 24

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,132.00	14.50	1.30	15,963.24
Associated British Foods	2,844.50	30.50	1.08	21,850.21
Admiral Group	2,024.00	17.00	0.85	5,724.13
Ashtead Group	1,611.50	27.50	1.74	7,887.77
Antofagasta	826.50	8.00	0.98	8,143.18
Aviva	525.25	15.25	2.99	20,606.44
AstraZeneca	4,630.75	64.75	1.42	58,148.09
BAE Systems	629.25	8.75	1.41	19,688.92
Babcock International Group	905.50	2.50	0.28	4,449.25
Bardays	215.10	7.15	3.44	35,275.40
British American Tobacco	5,263.50	63.50	1.22	97,283.31
Barratt Developments	582.25	8.25	1.44	5,800.14
British Land Co	656.75	12.25	1.90	6,672.90
BHP Billiton	1,209.75	18.25	1.53	25,408.22
Bunzl	2,357.00	21.00	0.90	7,753.07
BP	449.73	8.33	1.89	87,905.50
Burberry Group	1,598.50	16.50	1.04	6,979.02
BT Group	315.78	4.83	1.55	31,031.74
Coca-Cola HBC	2,115.00	18.00	0.86	7,619.84
Carnival	4,621.50	70.50	1.55	9,714.28
Centrica	197.85	-9.85	-4.74	11,319.83
Compass Group	1,513.50	-0.50	-0.03	24,731.20
Croda International	3,582.00	41.00	1.16	4,615.98
CRH	2,789.00	80.00	2.95	22,358.38
ConvaTec Group	298.00	2.50	0.85	5,669.03
DCC	7,232.50	87.50	1.22	6,274.88
Diageo	2,231.75	23.75	1.08	55,479.21
Direct Line Insurance Group	341.85	3.95	1.17	4,677.75
Experian	1,611.00	15.00	0.94	14,950.00
easyJet	1,159.50	24.50	2.16	4,480.51
Fresnillo	1,462.50	-35.50	-2.37	11,178.68
GKN	360.50	9.20	2.62	6,025.96
Glencore	301.73	3.08	1.03	43,249.00
GlaxoSmithKline	1,583.25	17.75	1.13	76,832.81
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,838.00	17.00	0.93	4,427.61
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,373.00	17.00	1.25	6,422.27
Hammerson	596.25	8.25	1.40	4,683.78
HSBC Holdings	635.45	11.45	1.83	123,393.14
International Consolidated Air	554.50	12.50	2.31	11,512.37
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,993.00	74.00	1.89	7,717.11
3i Group	788.00	13.00	1.68	7,524.67
Imperial Brands	3,792.50	47.50	1.27	35,980.42
Informa	640.25	5.75	0.91	5,253.03
Intu Properties	278.05	3.75	1.37	3,723.65
Intertek Group	3,976.00	26.00	0.66	6,366.86
ITV	219.20	2.70	1.25	8,755.27
Johnson Matthey	2,919.00	63.00	2.21	5,614.41
Kingfisher	344.00	15.80	4.81	7,358.02
Land Securities Group	1,115.50	18.50	1.69	8,769.41
Legal & General Group	258.30	3.80	1.49	15,072.54

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	65.61	1.24	1.93	45,777.25
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,280.00	68.00	2.12	11,163.84
Micro Focus International	2,480.50	13.50	0.55	5,732.05
Mediclinic International	737.50	13.00	1.79	5,374.51
Merlin Entertainments	476.25	1.15	0.24	4,828.14
Marks & Spencer Group	365.55	5.05	1.40	5,746.66
Mondi	1,979.50	35.50	1.83	9,400.32
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	235.85	4.55	1.97	5,416.27
National Grid	1,011.75	9.75	0.97	37,134.90
Next	4,336.50	57.50	1.34	6,299.90
Old Mutual Group	195.50	4.10	2.14	9,475.40
Provident Financial	3,185.50	48.50	1.55	4,627.21
Paddy Power Betfair	8,450.00	130.00	1.56	7,007.48
Prudential	1,685.50	45.00	2.74	42,559.62
Persimmon	2,291.00	35.00	1.55	7,023.42
Pearson	640.00	11.50	1.83	5,161.73
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,247.00	32.00	0.44	50,968.28
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	246.15	6.35	2.65	28,362.48
Royal Dutch Shell	2,040.25	47.75	2.40	89,578.68
Royal Dutch Shell	2,103.25	46.75	2.27	76,951.03
RELX	1,569.50	7.50	0.48	16,775.38
Rio Tinto	3,105.75	47.25	1.54	42,439.97
Royal Mail	416.50	3.20	0.77	4,150.00
Rolls-Royce Group	807.50	1.00	0.12	14,813.08
Randgold Resources	6,777.50	-292.50	-4.14	6,644.69
RSA Insurance Group	583.50	10.50	1.83	5,820.20
Rentokil Initial	239.45	0.25	0.10	4,453.70
Sainsbury (J)	269.25	3.25	1.22	5,813.03
Schroders	3,118.00	49.00	1.60	6,945.67
Sage Group (The)	658.75	3.75	0.57	7,079.63
Shire	4,537.25	39.75	0.88	40,334.75
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,042.00	59.00	2.98	4,646.07
Sky	983.75	4.25	0.43	16,915.13
Standard Life	365.55	5.55	1.54	7,113.56
Smiths Group	1,606.00	25.00	1.58	6,291.63
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt	368.15	5.95	1.64	4,913.94
Smith & Nephew	1,252.50	14.50	1.17	10,745.70
SSE	1,409.00	-36.00	-2.49	14,502.58
Standard Chartered	709.45	23.55	3.43	22,534.57
St James's Place	1,101.50	15.50	1.43	5,695.75
Severn Trent	2,325.00	5.00	0.22	5,515.69
Tesco	177.45	3.65	2.10	14,240.92
TUI AG	1,127.50	22.50	2.04	6,439.81
Taylor Wimpey	203.00	2.90	1.45	6,615.34
Unilever	4,022.50	85.00	2.16	50,696.65
United Utilities Group	979.00	3.50	0.36	6,665.46
Vodafone Group	202.20	3.45	1.74	53,057.80
Wolseley	4,869.50	70.50	1.47	12,148.18
Worldpay Group	301.50	3.10	1.04	6,000.00
WPP Group	1,714.50	20.50	1.21	21,753.68
Whitbread	4,289.50	85.50	2.03	7,736.57

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3M	191,500	+0,18%	0,340	114M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	79,5900	-0,54%	-0,4300	71M
APPLE	142,270	-0,12%	-0,170	746M
BOEING CO	180,380	+0,60%	1,080	109M
CATERPILLAR	94,320	-0,36%	-0,340	55M
CHEVRON	104,89	+0,01%	0,01	198M
CISCO SYSTEMS	32,820	-0,03%	-0,010	164M
COCA-COLA	43,07	-0,05%	-0,02	184M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	78,6500	+0,46%	0,3600	68M
EXXON MOBIL	80,69	-0,40%	-0,32	342M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,5500	-2,38%	-0,7200	257M
GOLDMAN SACHS	216,86	-0,55%	-1,20	86M
HOME DEPOT	150,0000	+0,86%	1,2800	180M
IBM	160,38	-1,18%	-1,92	151M
INTEL CORP	36,3200	+0,39%	0,1400	171M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	84,5200	-1,20%	-1,0300	300M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	121,7600	-0,09%	-0,1100	330M
MC DONALD'S CORP	133,4100	+0,11%	0,1400	108M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	61,89	-1,06%	-0,66	169M
MICROSOFT	66,400	+1,37%	0,900	513M
NIKE	55,85	-0,98%	-0,55	73M
PFIZER	33,6400	-0,30%	-0,1000	200M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	88,620	-0,79%	-0,710	226M
TRAVELERS CIES	119,10	+0,19%	0,22	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	114,99	+0,92%	1,05	92M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	171,16	-0,22%	-0,38	163M
VERIZON COMMS	47,25	-2,40%	-1,16	192M
VISA	91,15	+0,00%	0,00	169M
WAL-MART STORES	74,9400	+0,19%	0,1400	227M
WALT DISNEY CO	114,4400	-0,30%	-0,3500	180M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 24

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Covenant Transportation Group, Inc.	\$ 19.28	2.22 ▲ 13.01%
Virco Manufacturing Corporation	\$ 4.45	0.5001 ▲ 12.66%
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.	\$ 3.71	0.41 ▲ 12.42%
Cidara Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 7.05	0.75 ▲ 11.90%
Rocky Brands, Inc.	\$ 12	1.10 ▲ 10.09%
Hydrogenics Corporation	\$ 7.20	0.65 ▲ 9.92%
Proofpoint, Inc.	\$ 77.65	6.65 ▲ 9.37%
Changyou.com Limited	\$ 30.54	2.60 ▲ 9.31%
Northwest Pipe Company	\$ 14.21	1.18 ▲ 9.06%
Marten Transport, Ltd.	\$ 23.95	1.95 ▲ 8.86%
PC-Tel, Inc.	\$ 7.89	0.60 ▲ 8.23%
Most Declined		
XBiotech Inc.	\$ 10.23	6.79 ▼ 39.89%
Flex Pharma, Inc.	\$ 3.08	0.50 ▼ 13.97%
Mattel, Inc.	\$ 21.79	3.42 ▼ 13.57%
Electronics for Imaging, Inc.	\$ 44.16	6.69 ▼ 13.16%
Immunomedics, Inc.	\$ 5.20	0.78 ▼ 13.04%
Atara Biotherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 16.90	2 ▼ 10.58%
Applied Genetic Technologies Corporation	\$ 5.575	0.625 ▼ 10.08%
Real Industry, Inc.	\$ 2.025	0.225 ▼ 10%
Manhattan Associates, Inc.	\$ 45.76	4.82 ▼ 9.53%
China TechFaith Wireless Com Tech Limited	\$ 2.22	0.21 ▼ 8.64%
InVivo Therapeutics Holdings Corp.	\$ 3.90	0.35 ▼ 8.24%

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Sterling Fixed Income B

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Price Movement

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€0.9526

€-0.0010

-£0.0013

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B

EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

£0.9843.....

£0.9629.....

£1.1372.....

£1.0673.....

£1.2648.....

£1.1768.....

£1.3814.....

£1.2921.....

£-0.0001

£-0.0002

£-0.0104

£-0.0099

£-0.0177

£-0.0169

£-0.0260

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House prices on the up

SPANISH bank BBVA has released a fairly upbeat report on the property market and forecasts overall price rises of 2.5 per cent in 2017.

Perhaps not a huge amount but certainly positive if you are a seller and unlikely to put off those who want to purchase a property in Spain.

Not only does the bank see a likely increase in prices but it expects a significant increase in the number of transactions around the country with an uplift of some 7 per cent to nearly 500,000 sales during the year.

In support of this view, a second report, this time by property valuers Tinsa has already seen an overall increase of 1.8 per cent in prices for the first quarter of 2017.

Despite restrictions oil price remains volatile



PRESS CONFERENCE: Will be held on May 25, to which non-OPEC members will be invited.

INTERNATIONAL oil prices are currently quite erratic due to mixed messages from suppliers.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has indicated that it intends to continue to restrict production in order to force prices of crude oil up, but there have been as

many drops in the wholesale price as rises in the past few weeks.

All eyes are now on the OPEC conference to be held on May 25 to which non-OPEC members will be invited to agree continued cuts in supply, but with plenty of US shale oil being made available, their efforts may well

be frustrated.

Iran has benefited from the removal of international export restrictions and has assisted in keeping prices down with its large scale exports in a bid to bolster its economy, but prices of fuel in Spain appear to have drifted upwards rather than stabilise.

New green taxes being introduced

AS Britain prepares to penalise drivers of diesel cars entering into polluted cities, the EU continues to encourage 'green taxes.'

A report based on 2015 data compiled by the Institute for Economic Studies compares the percentage of such taxes collected by all member states and shows that a number of the most successful economies such as France and Germany are below the EU average of 6.8 per cent.

Spain sits relatively comfortably at 5.6 per cent but has already announced that it will be introducing new 'green taxes' which should raise income and combat some environmental problems.

Safer credit cards

WITH banks and consumers around the world worried about credit card fraud, MasterCard has unveiled a new safer card.

After trialling the concept in South Africa it has announced that it will be introducing a new style of card which includes a fingerprint sensor whereby users hold their fingers over the sensor whilst making a payment.

It is not completely fool proof as fingerprints can be removed from glass objects, but it is believed to be much safer than the current pin and chip cards currently in use.

This is believed to be the first card of its type that does not require a separate fingerprint sensor but there is one drawback as it can only be used for 'in-store' purchases and gives no additional safety for online transactions.

The card should find its way into Spain as it is rolled out throughout Europe, but retailers will need to obtain adapted card readers.

One 'ghost' airport may see life

By John Smith

SPAIN has a reputation for building regional airports which never open but now it appears that Corvera in Murcia might just.

At the time that work started on the airport in 2008, it appeared that by the time it opened in 2013 it would be able to take over all of the internal flights from San Javier airport which is limited by the fact that it is shared with the Spanish Air Force.

All seemed to be going to plan and an agreement was reached with a management company to allow for the opening and at the same time, negotiations commenced with international airlines who were interested in operating new European routes.

Unfortunately, nothing was completed and the government of Murcia was forced to cancel the contract with the intended management company due to the fact that they did not comply with time clauses.

Whilst this is the matter of a legal dispute, the government has decided to issue a new tender inviting bids to manage the renamed Region de Murcia International Airport which will need



LYING UNUSED: Corvera, an airport without planes.

little additional construction work to complete.

According to the call for tender, those who are interested will have until early May to register for the opportunity to obtain a franchise to run the entire airport for 25 years, but they will be required to submit a bond in the sum of €9,917,752 in order to establish their

seriousness and financial worth.

The local government believes that there is a need for this airport which has the ability to handle hundreds of thousands of passengers each year through its single terminal and that over a period of four years it would generate €1 billion in income through taxes and handling fees and create

20,000 jobs for the region.

Anyone who takes on the project will be required to pay a number of fees to the government and apart from leasing costs it will make a payment for each passenger who travels through the airport, although as passenger number increase so the individual fee will reduce.



Photo Credit: Renault-Nissan Alliance

AVILA PLANT: Farewell to the versatile NT400.

Hundreds of jobs saved in Avila

By John Smith

FOR 60 years, there has been vehicle production in Avila but in September 2019 this will all come to an end.

Unable to justify the cost of converting the NT500 truck engine to meet new European Union regulations, Nissan Spain announced in February of this year that it would discontinue that model and that it was also reviewing the future of the factory as the NT400 was due to be discontinued in 2019.

There appeared to be every likelihood that the eventual decision would sound a death knell for the Avila plant, but

the president of the Renault-Nissan Alliance in Spain, José Vicente de los Mozos has announced that the factory will remain open protecting the 471 workers currently employed there.

The NT500 will be phased out but the company has, after discussions with the Junta de Castilla y Leon, agreed to invest €40 million in retooling the factory so that it can produce spare parts for Alliance cars.

The involvement of the Junta was important as there will be a need to build a stamping plant and to expand the overall size of the facility, so in principle planning

permission was vital but with assurances from the authorities, the jobs and the factory are now safe.

This will mean that those who are currently employed will have to enter into new work agreements with the company, but it is likely that they will be no worse than those entered into by workers in other Alliance factories in Spain.

Production of the NT400 will cease as planned in 2019 and it is expected that by 2020, the new facility will be producing 80,000 spare parts per month of which 70 per cent will be for Renault cars and the balance for Nissan.

Debenhams, for and against

BRITISH department store group Debenhams has been receiving a grilling in the British financial press as it is considered to be outdated.

One of the few British stores to set up a special .es website and to advertise its goods in Spain priced in euros with free delivery, it is still

thought to be out of touch with modern trends and needs to reposition itself on the British high street.

Having recently granted a franchise to operators in Gibraltar, it seems to operate in a twilight world of innovation and stagnation.

Flying high in Sevilla

HAVING signed a new contract with the government of Kazakhstan, Airbus will be producing two new military aircraft in Spain.

This will then mean that the Kazakh Air Force will have taken eight of the C295 transport aircraft as an extension of a con-

tract for aircraft and parts signed in 2012.

This particular model as well as the similar long range A400M are produced at the Sevilla factory of Airbus Defence and Space and are expected to be delivered before the end of 2017.

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WELL, not many of us saw that coming. Theresa May's announcement of an early election caught just about everyone on the hop.

Not least the SNP's pincer mouthed pain in the butt Nicola Sturgeon. I'd like to be a fly on her bedroom wall. Instead of waking up every morning screaming 'freedom,' she now actually has to think of other benefits and policies her tunnel vision party can produce for her Scottish constituents.

Corbyn couldn't wait to jump up on his wobbly, geriatric soap box. Not having time to liaise with his speech writers, he proceeded to spout rhetoric which is so archaic he has undoubtedly blown the cobwebs off diatribes he wrote and delivered as a Hammer and Sickle inspired student decades ago.

This Dinosaur throwback will never be happy until the

Red Flag flutters atop parliament and he and his cronies travel to work in special 'party member' transport lanes, while his supporters all line the route wearing those silly brown Mao hats.

UKIP's initial gambit has been predictably unpredictable, announcing its manifesto will include the banishment of the Burka in public places (don't forget millions scorned their announcement of their Brexit intentions!) And finally, despite their denials,

Lib Dems are hoping once again to scrape into power on the coattails of... well, just about anyone. The only thing the Conservatives have to worry about is complacency. Nothing in this world is a foregone conclusion. Let's hope the weight of turnout reflects this attitude across the nation.

Meanwhile, over the Channel, the fiery right wing challenger Le Penn continues to gain popularity. If she is successful, be prepared for a 'Non, je ne regrette rien' 'Frexit' and the subsequent 'Dominex-it' effect I forecast some time ago.

Well this week has been quite an eventful occasion for me personally. At one mixed emotional point, I found myself driving my twins, now approaching 17, to their first job interview. As a single parent for the past five years or so, it has been a long old haul and not always easy to achieve my

avowed intent to make up, both physically and emotionally, for the lack of a Mum in our household.

However with prayers and a little help from friends along the way, they are now just about ready to venture into those great areas of adult uncertainty. No one could be more proud of them than I, they are a true credit to their old Dad and I wish them a positive deluge of love and luck in their future endeavors. Having been circumstantially forced to become a bit of a reclusive homebody over the last few years, I now find myself with a little more time on my hands.

So look out all you socialites, the old Leaper is back! My eldest Granddaughter has also informed me that in six months I will become a GREAT! Love, peace and congrats all around. Funny old life ennit?

Keep the faith

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Caught just about
everyone on the hop.**



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DKV prize for sales team at Abbeygate Insurance

A PRIZE for success in reaching a second category target in health insurance sales has recently been awarded to the sales team of Abbeygate Insurance, from the international specialists in health insurance, DKV Seguros SA.

Abbeygate Insurance has a great working partnership with DKV, which has resulted in its appreciation, in the form of a prize of €900, which will go towards a day out, where the team can have a bonding experience and a lovely meal out to celebrate their achievement.

Abbeygate said, "We are delighted to have been awarded this prize, it is always fantastic for our team of staff to be recognised for their hard work and dedication to excellent customer care."

Abbeygate Insurance offers a variety of insurance for health, motor vehicle, home, travel, marine, funeral, life, pet, golf and commercial including public and employment liability insurance. The head office is in Estepona and the company also has offices in Portugal, Cyprus and the United Kingdom.

Abbeygate, the largest independently owned expat insurance in Spain, offers tailored health packages with optional excess amounts available to best suit their client's needs. Abbeygate is famous for the professional friendly service it provides. Caring for clients is the basis of its success.

The reason it is special is because of the great team of dedicated English-speaking sales professionals it has. The team assess the needs of the client on an individual basis, through an underwriter, to ensure that they receive the best service and the best advice.

The underwriter houses medical professionals who assess each application accordingly and therefore gives the best advice.

Abbeygate Insurance



TOP TEAM: All smiles from the winning sales team at Abbeygate Insurance.

MAIN OFFICE: Cares for expatriate and local clients.



has accumulated many years of experience in caring for expatriate and local clients, giving an appropriate service that is tailor-made to each individual. The company is special in the way that it offers a service that focuses on the needs of the individual and it is able to put the customer's mind at rest.

For the remainder of 2017 it is offering discounted rates of 25 per cent. There's an offer you shouldn't miss!

Abbeygate's partner in health insurance, DKV Seguros SA is a specialist in health insurance and has an extensive network of branches, sales branches and exclusive agencies throughout Spain. This allows it to provide a personal and quality service to all its clients.

In recent years it has become one of the top five medical insurance companies in the country, through its two commercial trademarks in Spain: DKV and ERGO. Studies have also recognised them on numerous occasions as the insurance company with the largest number of satisfied clients.

Its managerial policy is guided towards the client, guaranteeing them strength, security and an excellent quality service. Its focus is on innovation, which includes new specialised products that are introduced into already existing coverage and products, ensuring that clients are made aware of these as part of their individual.

The staff at Abbeygate are always at your service, so if you happen to be in the area, just call in anytime to make some enquiries.

The team includes Adam from Manchester, who has a background in management and has lived in Spain for over nine years. Then there are the twin girls, Holly and Toni, along with their older sister, Charlie, who have all been educated and living in Spain for 17 years. Sandy was born and raised in India and studied in Barcelona. Matthew is from Birmingham and has lived on the coast for five years. Simona is the visiting rep from DKV and is of Spanish nationality.

The team plans to start celebrating the prize money with a trip on Saturday April 29 when they will visit the Estepona Go Kart Track. They will be joined by the dedicated renewals department and also the claims and accounting team.



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A deal you deserve

By Matthew Elliott

PLACES like Mojácar and Albox are, of course, no strangers to the limelight given their renowned beauty and small, vibrant communities. They are two of the fiercest stars in the stunning universe of Almería, a region often overshadowed by its louder neighbours but which has been steadily improving under the radar and is now ready to stake its claim as one of Spain's brightest property hotspots.

A dynamic local property scene complements the welcome international attention and together they ensure that there is an unusual stability to the region which is especially appealing to expatriates and Spanish nationals alike.

Throughout these pages you will find a select number of local specialists who have been hand-picked for their dedication, knowledge and experience in securing the best property deals throughout the region.

They are names whom you can trust, and this is one of the key advantages in doing business in more community-based areas

like Almería.

Fortunately, for anybody looking to buy or sell property in Almería, not only is the local market full of knowledgeable estate agents and specialists you can trust, the broader picture is also far rosier, with great national indicators.

Across Spain there has been record-breaking improvements in sales and transactions, as well as healthy measurements in related markets, including the rental, construction and legal sectors. All of this points towards a property economy standing on firm foundations.

The good news for those considering buying property in Spain is that the property market recovery is progressing with a stability not seen for many years. The headlines of 2016 thus far reflect the solid figures coming through from last year and offer a genuine cause for real optimism.

Another key reason to consider making your move in the property market today is the vast arsenal of resources that you now have at your disposal as a consumer. Mobile applications, enhanced analysis, and, of



ALMERIA REGION: Staking its claim as a property hotspot.

course, the magnificent input of local experts, means that consumers today are in a far stronger position that they ever were before.

Just remember that if you do want to consider buying or selling a property, it is al-

ways best to consult with a local specialist on the matter. Read through these pages to discover a wide variety of trustworthy, transparent, fair and professional experts who will be able to make a huge difference to the deal you deserve.

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Spain embraces 'Prop-tech'

SPANISH real estate is being colonised by new companies who are determined to simplify and shake up the marketplace with technological tools. The phenomenon has been baptised 'prop-tech' after the 'fin-tech' which radically changed the financial world.

Prop-tech is a broad umbrella term that includes all manner of exciting new entrants to the property market. Among them are crowdfunding schemes, big data companies, virtual reality-using marketeers, and countless other start up groups who bring their own unique ideas to the table.

Crowdfunding for instance enables large groups of people to pool together their money to allow a company or individual to buy a property. It negates the need for bank loans and is a revolutionary model of fundraising that is transforming charities, businesses and even politics.

Big data companies are able to offer clients an in-depth perspective on particular property markets. They use advanced computer software to analyse and predict trends in different neighbourhoods, putting together a complete analytical package that gives potential buyers a better idea of whether their investment will pay off.

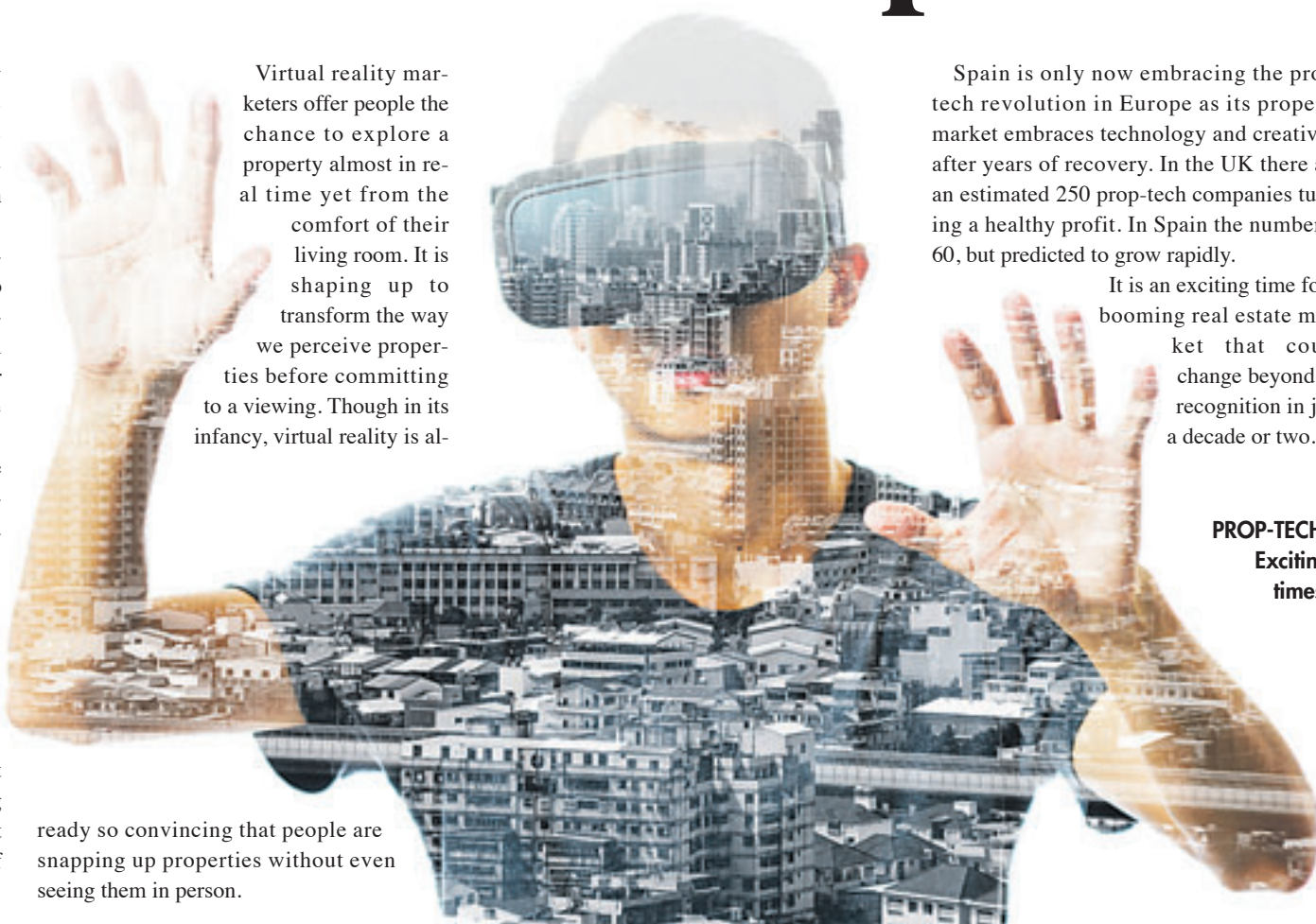
Virtual reality marketers offer people the chance to explore a property almost in real time yet from the comfort of their living room. It is shaping up to transform the way we perceive properties before committing to a viewing. Though in its infancy, virtual reality is al-

ready so convincing that people are snapping up properties without even seeing them in person.

Spain is only now embracing the prop-tech revolution in Europe as its property market embraces technology and creativity after years of recovery. In the UK there are an estimated 250 prop-tech companies turning a healthy profit. In Spain the number is 60, but predicted to grow rapidly.

It is an exciting time for a booming real estate market that could change beyond all recognition in just a decade or two.

PROP-TECH:
Exciting times.



Plush billionaire bunkers

WITH the world teetering on the brink of nuclear war or environmental ruin, many with money to burn are buying so-called 'billionaire bunkers' to protect them during the apocalypse.

Bunkers deep underground and dotted around the American countryside are sell-

ing for millions of dollars. Far from the modest bunkers of the London blitz, these plush affairs come with all the luxuries your average billionaire expects.

Bombproof and with artificial stars and sunlight, they offer vast entertainment suites, food storage facilities and connec-

tions to the outside world, should anything be left of it.

And it's not just in America. Europe is well used to the threat of nuclear annihilation. Nuclear bunkers in the old Soviet bloc are now being spruced up and rented out as the new cold war threatens to turn very hot.



PROPERTY ASSETS: Handed to the next generation.

Passing down wealth

PROPERTY assets worth almost €500 billion will be handed down to younger generations of Brits in the next few decades according to a survey of homeowners.

Royal London found that baby boomers, generally now aged over 60 expect to leave an estate worth between €450,000 and €600,000 on average. Those figures were averages from a survey of over 5,000 people. There are roughly one million such people leaving estates in

their will, with the resulting asset avalanche totalling around €500 billion.

Most of the money will be passed on to the next generation, typically people aged 45-64. The survey found that some of these people felt pressure to pass down at least a portion of the windfall to their own adult children, people aged 25-44 who have endured the bulk of the crisis and typically don't have properties to call their own.

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Ref: B1017 • Valle Del Este • 159,950€

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This beautiful 2 bedroom, 3 bathroom townhouse is a fantastic property located on the small, quiet, yet well-kept community of Los Alamos, situated right on the very edge of the Valle del Este Golf resort. 10 minutes from the coastline, 5 minutes from market town of Vera.

Ref: B948 Located on V/D/ Este
129,995€



3 bed, 2 bath apartment located on Valle Del Este golf resort. Lift access.

Ref: B934 Located on Valle del Este
99,950€



This is a lovely 2 bed, 2 bath penthouse with roof solarium. Communal swimming pool.

Ref: B878 Located on Valle del Este
99,950€



A beautiful 2 bed, 2 bath apartment with communal pool and only 15 minutes to the beach.

Ref: B851 Located in Mojacar
179,950€



Beautiful south facing penthouse apartment located on a beautiful community.

Ref: B843 Located in Mojacar
328,000€



Spectacular 3 bed, semi detached villa close to the beach with private pool. Stunning!



Ref: B992 • Mojacar • 160,000€

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This is a 3 bed, 2 bath end position townhouse with communal swimming pool, air conditioning, central heating, private parking, located 10 minutes to the beach and only 5 minutes to the local shops and all amenities. EPC F 119 - F 29



Ref: B1005 Located in Cabrera
149,950€



This is a beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath villa in a spectacular location, with communal swimming pool.

Ref: B345 Located on Al Andaluz
79,950€



Beautiful 2 bed, 2 bath apartment, indoor/outdoor communal pools, private parking. First floor.

Ref: B452 Located in Vera
139,500€



Large 3 bed, 3 bath townhouse located on 4 floors and with communal swimming pool.

Contact us on 950 615 388 or 653 722 290
email: country@spanishpropertychoice.com
www.spanishpropertychoice.com

Want to splash out this summer? Get clever with currency

Sun, sea, sand – Spain offers all the key components of a perfect summer.

While spending a few weeks getting bronzed with a book sounds pretty good, you might take the opportunity to travel and try out activities unavailable back home. If you're hoping to spend your summer entertaining family or embracing new experiences, you might find that you need to transfer money to Spain to finance your plans. But could you get more for your money by being clever with currency? Here are some top tips to help...

Keep an eye on the exchange rate

Exchange rates are notoriously volatile, and their habit of reacting dramatically to all sorts of political and economic news can make it annoyingly difficult to pick a good time to make a currency transfer. For example, UK PM Theresa May's surprise decision to call for an early general election saw GBP/EUR jump from €1.1762 to €1.1990 – a 2017 high. If you'd been planning to move £100,000 to Spain, your money would have been worth €117,620 before May's announcement but €119,900 after, a difference of over €2,000!

While some market moves can be impossible to predict, you've got a better chance of picking the right time to move your money abroad if you follow the latest currency news. To do this, simply sign up to receive free market updates from a leading currency transfer provider.

Don't let fees spoil your fun

Most banks apply fees when transferring money abroad – but you don't always have to pay to send funds overseas. Some currency transfer providers work on a fee-free basis, and the money you save by avoiding added fees can really add up if you send money to Spain regularly.

So, if you were moving to Spain monthly and were being charged £25 a time by your bank to do so, by the end of the summer you'd have an extra £100 to spend on treating yourself – that's a lot of ice creams!

Time is precious, don't waste yours

Organising regular currency transfers to Spain with your bank can be time consuming and (as mentioned above) pretty costly. Save yourself time, money and hassle by using a currency transfer

provider with the specialist services and expertise you need to make the process a breeze.

With providers like Currencies Direct you can use a regular transfer service to set up a weekly, monthly or quarterly Direct Debit and lock-in a rate for future transfers, while also benefitting from no fees, bank-beating exchange rates and access to a dedicated currency expert.

Find out how to get more from your currency transfers now so you can make the most of summer.

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

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

Get in touch - Costa de Almería

Mojácar

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VH1110 €95,000 CEE F94 30

NEW LISTING



- 5 bed, 2 bath Village Villa
- Garage, patio, sun roof
- Walk to amenities
- 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1107 €119,950 CEE E206 43

NEW LISTING



- 2 Country Houses in 1
- 2 bed, 2 bath & 2 bed, 1 bath
- 7,672m2 of land
- 15 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1100 €189,950 CEE F57 77

NEW LISTING



- 3 / 4 bed, 3 bath Country House
- 1,400m2 of land (more available)
- 8m x 4m swimming pool
- 14 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1108 €129,950 CEE TBC

NEW LISTING



- 3 bed, 2 bath Country House
- 3,494m2 of land
- Great views
- 15 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

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VH1102 €58,000 CEE TBC

NEW LISTING



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- Remote location, good access
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VH950 €184,950 CEE E49 45

QUALITY VILLA



- 3 bed, 2 bath Quality Villa
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- Walk to amenities
- La Alfoquia / Zurgena area

VH852 €129,950 CEE G45 33

NEW LISTING



- 2 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 346m2 garden with pool
- Walk to amenities
- La Alfoquia

VH972 €148,950 CEE G188 47

REDUCED



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



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Advertising feature

Sun, Sea And Selling Houses

Has made the Garners of Spanish Property Choice a household name

BUSINESS is booming for this top Almeria real estate agency following regular appearances on a successful UK property show.

Spanish Property Choice run by the Garner family from the Midlands, who have lived and worked in Spain for the past 12 years, was one of only two family estate agents featured on the popular Channel 4 series, Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. The Garners covered the Almeria area.

The 20-hour long programmes follow the day-to-day business of this agency selling dream Spanish properties to British and international investors.

“We now have almost 7,000 followers on Facebook and have over 75,000 hits a day on our website.”

It also chronicles family adventures along the way. And it seems Mum Sharon, Dad Steve, daughter Emma, son Shaun and son-in-law Matt have made quite an impression on the viewers following their trials and tribulations.

But the firmly established agency has also seen a big demand from those seeking properties in the sun. So much so, their Facebook page has been swamped with messages and enquiries causing a few late nights in the Garner family household. Sharon takes up the story: “It was a great pleasure to be asked to take part in the series. Although other agents in our area were filmed for the taster show, we were so proud to be one of only two, the other being the Rodriguez family in Alicante, to be offered the series. We’re all absolutely overwhelmed by the huge response. We’ve actually had a few sleepless nights just trying to keep up with the enquiries, currently around 30-50 emails an hour at some points.



We now have almost 7,000 followers on Facebook and have over 75,000 hits a day on our website.

We have clients who watched the show contacting us from not only the UK, but from Ireland, Florida, Paphos, Crete, Portugal, France, Italy and all over Spain asking us to find them their dream home in the sun. Business has always been good, but this extra exposure has really fired things up. We hoped it would go well. But this has all been well above our expectations.”

So what’s been the secret of the family’s success? Steve told us: “I think viewers and prospective buyers have seen just how honest we all are. We’ve just got on with things and been ourselves throughout the filming. In fact, it was so well done we sometimes

forgot the cameras were there. We are all passionate about delivering a first class

service and helping people to fulfil their dreams along the way. When we recommend a property, it’s almost as if we are thinking of buying it ourselves. We always offer advice and guidance relating to the real day to day world in Spain, and people appreciate that.

Shaun added: “I think viewers have identified strongly with the family feel of the series. They can see we are all genuine people who have just the same ambitions and dreams as them. Potential buyers need to know they can fully trust those advising them, and we look upon each client as a new friend we’re trying to help. It’s strange at first, to see yourself on telly, but it was great fun to do.

When Stephen and Sharon moved to this beautiful province of Costa Almeria, their original intention was to semi

retire. Their son Shaun attended a Spanish public school, and Emma found employment initially for a Spanish recreational company. However after a very short period of time, Stephen and Sharon were head hunted by a Spanish Property Developer in Olula del Rio, who saw potential in the historical experience they both had to offer the Spanish real estate market. Consequently they opened their first office predominantly selling old farmhouses, cave houses and traditional Spanish village houses full of charm and character. The rest as they say, is history.

Spanish Property Choice have successfully developed into the region’s leading Real Estate Agency, now leading the market for inland and coastal resale properties and long term rentals.

Rob Butterfield, Executive Producer for Ricochet (Warner Bros) said: “We can all relate to wanting to give up Blighty to go live in sunny Spain. This series is following the Brits chasing that dream, and the people helping them make it a reality, living the dream themselves. Our two families featured in the show, are very much at the heart of their communities and enabled us to see what life in the sun is really like. The Garners, are making waves on the Spanish property scene in Mojacar. Mum Sharon and Dad Steve may be the bosses, but the agency is a real family affair.”

Sun Sea and Selling Houses was commissioned by David Sayer for Channel 4, Executive Produced by Rob Butterfield and Series Produced by Emma Walsh for Ricochet.



| THE GARNERS: left to right - Son Shaun, Mum Sharon, Dad Steve, Granddaughter Alicia-Mae, Son-in-Law Matt, Grandson Lucas and Daughter Emma.

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309 

THURSDAY		BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1					
27 APRIL	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:30pm	Neighbours	5:00pm	Ringside Special
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:30pm	Debatable	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:00pm	Sporting Triumphs
	7:30pm	BBC London News	8:00pm	Snooker	8:30pm	Tonight	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	6:30pm	Joshua/Klitschko: The Knockouts
	8:00pm	The One Show	9:00pm	The World According to Kids	9:00pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Secrets of Great British Castles	7:00pm	Ffc: Merse Meets Carrick
	8:30pm	EastEnders	10:00pm	The Last Kingdom	9:30pm	Joanna Lumley's Postcards	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	On Benefits	8:00pm	Football
	9:00pm	MasterChef	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo	10:00pm	The Detectives	8:00pm	The Supervet	10:00pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords		Manchester City v Manchester United
	10:00pm	Mind Over Marathon	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Born to Kill?	11:00pm	Murder on the Internet	11:30pm	Carling: In Off the Bar
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	12:15am	World Championship Snooker Highlights	11:30pm	ITV News London	10:00pm	Locked Up	12:05am	Me... And My Body	12:00am	Factual
	11:30pm	BBC London News	1:05am	Top Gear	11:40pm	Piers Morgan's Life Stories	11:00pm	One Born Every Minute				
	11:45pm	Question Time			12:40am	Tipping Point	12:05am					
12:45am	This Week											
FRIDAY	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:30pm	Coronation Street	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	6:30pm	Joshua/Klitschko: The Countdown
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	Debatable	9:00pm	Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	6:00pm	Couples Come Dine with Me	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	Ffc: Merse Meets Carrick
	8:30pm	A Question of Sport	8:00pm	Snooker	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:00pm	Football
	9:00pm	EastEnders	10:00pm	Versailles	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	11:15pm	Joshua/Klitschko:the Countdown
	9:30pm	MasterChef	11:00pm	QI	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	The Gadget Show		
	10:00pm	Have I Got News for You	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:30pm	ITV News London	8:30pm	Unreported World	9:00pm	Barging Brits in the Sun	11:45pm	Froch and Mccracken: Back in the Ring
	10:30pm	Hospital People	12:05am	Later... with Jools Holland	11:40pm	Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous	9:00pm	Posh Pawn	11:00pm	Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi	12:00am	Factual
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	1:05am	World Championship Snooker Highlights	1:45am	Jackpot247	10:00pm	Gogglebox	12:30am	The Bruce Forsyth Story		
	11:25pm	BBC London News	2:55am	Trump's First 100 Days			11:00pm	Sarah Millican		Peter Kay: The Early Years		
	11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show		Doctor Who			12:05am	First Dates				
12:25am	Witless											
SATURDAY	7:20pm	Regional News	5:30pm	Snooker	7:15pm	Local News and Weather	6:35pm	Location, Location, Location	6:10pm	Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies	12:30pm	Football
	7:25pm	Weather	6:30pm	The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years	7:25pm	ITV News and Weather	7:35pm	Channel 4 News	7:10pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	3:30pm	Sporting Triumphs
	7:30pm	Pointless	7:30pm	Dad's Army	7:45pm	Take Me Out	8:00pm	Resto Revisit	8:05pm	NCIS: Los Angeles	3:45pm	Rugby Gold
	8:20pm	Doctor Who	8:00pm	Snooker	9:00pm	Britain's Got Talent	9:00pm	Walking Through Time	9:00pm	NCIS	3:55pm	Rugby Union
	9:10pm	Casualty	10:30pm	St. Stephen's Night	10:20pm	Through the Keyhole	10:00pm	Transformers: Dark of the Moon	9:55pm	5 News	6:15pm	Football
	10:00pm	BBC News	12:05am	Versailles	11:15pm	ITV News and Weather	12:20am	Zombieland	10:00pm	Football on 5	9:00pm	Scottish Football Highlights
	10:15pm	Weather	1:05am	Rabbit-Proof Fence	11:30pm	Yes Man	2:00am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11:00pm	Football on 5	9:30pm	Nissan Game of the Day
	10:20pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's	2:30am	This is BBC Two	1:20am	Jackpot247			11:15pm	The Expendables 2	11:30pm	Nissan Match Choice
	11:20pm	Match of the Day							1:05am	Super Casino	12:30am	Football
	12:30am	Murder in Successville										
SUNDAY	7:50pm	Regional News	12:45pm	Simply Nigella	7:35pm	Local News and Weather	4:10pm	Formula 1	10:45am	Football on 5	8:00pm	EFL Goals
	7:55pm	Weather	1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra	7:45pm	ITV News and Weather	5:30pm	The World's Most Expensive Cars	11:00am	Great Birmingham 10k	8:30pm	La Liga Gold
	8:00pm	Countryfile	2:00pm	Athletics: World Relay Championships Highlights	8:00pm	Bigheads	6:30pm	George Clarke's Old House, New Home	1:00pm	Michael	8:40pm	Football
	9:00pm	Antiques Roadshow	3:00pm	Snooker	9:00pm	The Durrells	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	3:00pm	Getting Even with Dad		Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao
	10:00pm	Line of Duty	7:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	10:00pm	Grantchester	8:00pm	The Supervet	5:00pm	Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves	10:40pm	La Liga Gold
	11:00pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Snooker	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	9:00pm	Escape to Costa Rica	7:00pm	5 News	10:50pm	La Liga Gold
	11:20pm	Regional News	12:00am	Drive	12:20am	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	10:00pm	Gogglebox	9:55pm	5 News	11:00pm	Football
	11:25pm	Weather	1:35am	Question Time			12:20am	Mud	10:00pm	Greatest Ever 90s Movies	11:30pm	Football
	11:30pm	Match of the Day 2					1:25am		12:50am	Football on 5	12:00am	Football
	12:50am	The Women's Football Show									12:30am	Goals on Sunday
MONDAY	8:00pm	The One Show	11:25am	Talking Pictures	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	Home and Away	7:30pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:30pm	MasterChef	12:10pm	Around the World in Eighty Days	8:30pm	Coronation Street	8:30pm	Travel Man: 48 Hours in Vienna	8:00pm	FIA World Rally Championship Highlights	8:00pm	Football
	9:00pm	EastEnders	3:00pm	Snooker	9:00pm	Devon and Cornwall Cops	9:00pm	Britain's Biggest Hoarders	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	12:00am	Watford v Liverpool
	9:30pm	Saving Mr. Banks		Coverage and reaction from the latest Snooker event taking place.	9:30pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	The Island with Bear Grylls	10:00pm	The Miranda Hart Story	12:00am	Scottish Football Round Up
	11:30pm	BBC News	7:00pm	Top Gear	10:00pm	Little Boy Blue	10:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	10:00pm	The Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2016	12:15am	Premier League Legends
	11:50pm	Regional News	8:00pm	Snooker Margin Call	11:00pm	ITV News	11:00pm	Confessions of a Junior Doctor	11:30pm	Super Casino	12:45am	Football Gold
	11:55pm	Weather	12:00am		12:20am	Joanna Lumley's Postcards	12:00am		2:15am		1:00am	Mnf Pre-Game Show
	12:00am	All Round to Mrs Brown's									2:00am	Football
	1:00am	Have I Got a Bit More News for You										
TUESDAY	4:00pm	Live Indian Premier League	6:15pm	Flog It!	6:00pm	Babushka	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:30pm	5 News	10:30am	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:30pm	Top 14 Highlights	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	6:30pm	Extreme Cakemakers	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	11:00am	Premier League Daily
	9:00pm	Indian Premier League	7:30pm	Debatable	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:00pm	The Simpsons	9:00pm	The Yorkshire Vet	12:00pm	Football
	1:30am	Super League	8:00pm	Great British Menu	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	10:00pm	Elizabeth I	3:55pm	Cricket
			9:00pm	Bake Off Crème de la Crème	8:30pm	Save Money Good Food	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	11:00pm	The Last Days of Mary Queen of Scots	11:00pm	La Liga World
	2:00am	Fulltime 2017	10:00pm	Horizon	9:00pm	Don't Ask Me Ask Britain	9:00pm	Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners	12:00am	Restless Legs Syndrome: Desperate for Help	11:30pm	Scottish Football Round Up
	3:00am	Sky Sports Originals	11:00pm	Later Live... with Jools Holland	10:00pm	Paul O'Grady	10:00pm	One Born Every Minute		Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi	11:45pm	Football Gold
	3:30am	Top 14 Highlights	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:40pm	Little Boy Blue	11:00pm	First Dates	1:00am		12:00am	Premier League Review
		Sporting Rivalries	12:10am	Weather	1:35am	The Chase	12:05am	The Break-Up				
						Jackpot247						
WEDNESDAY	6:15pm	Pointless	4:50pm	Red Rock	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	2:45pm	Football Gold
	7:00pm	BBC News	6:15pm	Flog It!	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News	3:00pm	Premier League Legends
	7:30pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Celebrity Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Chris Tarrant: Ice Train to Nowhere	3:30pm	Football Gold
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:45pm	Debatable	8:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	How to Live	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	3:45pm	Football Gold
	9:00pm	MasterChef	8:30pm	Great British Menu	9:00pm	Tonight at the London Palladium	10:00pm	Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny		Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	3:55pm	Cricket
	10:00pm	Panorama	9:00pm	Trust Me I'm a Vet	10:00pm	Benidorm	11:00pm	Confessions of a Junior Doctor	10:00pm	One Night with My Ex	11:00pm	Barclays Premier League World Review
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Second Chance	11:00pm	ITV News	12:05am	My Online Nightmare	11:00pm	Violent Child, Desperate Parents	11:30pm	Premier League Legends
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Summer: Tuscany	11:40pm	UEFA Champions League Highlights		Gogglebox	12:05am			
	11:40pm	Weather	11:30pm	Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience	12:40am	Sports Life Stories						
	11:45pm	Peter Kay's Car Share	12:10am	Weather								
12:15am	A Question of Sport											
12:45am	Mind Over Marathon											

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

The early years in Mojacar

Ric Polansky



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

THE Mojacar that I discovered when I first set foot here in September, 1969 was totally different than today. That Mojacar could only have been the village as on the beach were no more than six houses anywhere. The resident English controlled the village in that they were the only ones that could be seen (sitting on the terrace of the Hotel Indalo drinking).

There weren't but a handful of shops and about 20 bars to accommodate the English when they decided to go for a stroll. All else lived in the 'campo' and arrived on the backs of burros or walking. Non foreigners always dressed in black, head to toe and avoided the colourful foreigners never getting close enough to step on their shadows.

The English that controlled the chairs and table rights to the hotel's



MOJACAR: Was totally different back in 1969.

all exclusive patio were varied too. Many upper crust and well to do. Lots of movie hangers-on that pretended they were stars and middle class English that pretended triple hard to be upper class and spoke with stifled forced accents so phoney and stilted they were easy

to spot. And hippies, unkempt and easily noticeable they fluttered everywhere and didn't care how loud or rambunctious they became; no one else mattered. Spanish village folk hid most of the day coming out only on missions of essential purpose. Stray dogs abounded as did cats. Burros were everywhere

and always left their calling cards to remind you to walk with your eyes focused down (a fact of life that hasn't changed yet due to doggie doo and missing paving stones). The village was still very much in ruins, ie, all the houses hadn't been given away.

Artists abounded and they liked

you to know they were different from the rest. I rarely ever saw any of them paint or write as they seem obsessed about getting noticed and leaving their mental contributions on the table to save the world.

It was a popular conversation to slag off the Americans concerning Vietnam. Other than that the gab concerned who got pissed the worst and what dastardly deed he might have done to uphold their claim. Nine times out of 10 it was stealing someone's burro and taking him on an excursion. But, none of them ever got too far as the burros instantaneously recognised a stranger on board and never wandered far.

Show time was nine in the morning, noon and 6-8 in the evenings unless one of the itinerant local foreigners had gone far a field to Garucha for unknown reasons and returned, pandemonium would break lose celebrating the prodigal son's miraculous return from tierra incognita.

Hold it, maybe we haven't evolved as much as I thought.

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LETTERS**YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION**

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

Watch out, thieves about

AS a regular visitor to Spain, I look forward to spending time with family living locally and to some of wonderful sunshine. But one thing I remain dismayed by is the lack of warnings over theft in public places.

Two years ago my wallet was stolen when I was visiting Fuengirola market, and friends who live in Almería had valuables - hidden under the passenger seat - stolen from their hire car after it was broken into when visiting Torre last summer.

I have also heard of thefts from cars when drivers have been distracted... only to find once they have told a seemingly innocent inquiring pedestrian a direction, that their shopping has been stolen, along with their handbag or wallet.

While warning signs will not solve the problem, they are essential to make everyone - including all first-time visitors - that while Spain is a wonderful place to visit, and probably to live, it is far from crime free.

So come on local authorities: put up signs; admit the risk of theft; and stop helping criminals by ignoring a problem that is not going to go away.

JM
Calahonda

Share Spanish experiences

I NOTICE that the correspondence column is pretty short in the paper. Can that be expanded as it is always good to see what others

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

Royal prank at marathon beyond a joke

“ TODAY I noticed something that should be brought to the public. In today's London marathon someone sprayed water on to the future king who was stood next to his wife. Where was security??

This could have easily been an acid attack on them both! There is a problem as with all these runners it would have been easy for someone to mingle in and carry this out. Thank god it did not happen but let's hope it's a wake-up call for the protection of the Royals. I have also sent an email to the BBC on this subject as I think it's important.

Bob



think and experience in Spain?

Quite often I have noticed that those who write in the English papers are complaining about Spanish matters. That may be fair enough but I suspect that such complaints will go unnoticed by the Spanish because such complaints are not in Spanish papers.

It is necessary to mention such complaints in the Spanish press and, of

course, to the relevant Spanish agency which might be able to do something about it. The latter point necessitates having some knowledge of the language to make a point.

So, English and foreigners who speak and write in English and spend several weeks a year visiting Spain, and such people who live here, need to learn Spanish.

They should learn the language of the country they

are visiting or living in.

Graeme Bennett

Wrong island

I WOULD like to point out the great John Surtees won the motorcycle TT on the Isle of Man which is held every year and not the Isle of White as printed in *Euro Weekly*.

Geoff Scott
Ciudad Quesada

Divine intervention

Reply in response to Roy Leon's comments

FIRSTLY, regarding the 'Theory of Evolution;' all the 'missing links' for all species are still 'missing.'

Therefore, as there is not any evidence to support the theory, it is, at best, unproven, and probably cannot be proved.

Secondly, the cherished 'Big Bang Theory' is dismissed since radioactive material and the theory of radioactivity has concluded that at some point in time matter did not exist. If there is no matter, there is no bang.

President Dwight D Eisenhower was told he would have to have a limb amputated. He prayed overnight and walked out of hospital intact.

I have had many experiences that substantiate the words: 'Prove me and know my works' said the Lord.

D L Griffiths
Orihuela Costa

COMMENTS from EWN Online

» Expats left out of vote

YOU mean emigrants whose tax and NI contributions lapsed over 10 years ago when they chose to take up foreign residency.

Drew Edgar

EXPATS, please remember you need to re-register every year to avoid losing your voting rights even if you have been living abroad for less than 15 years. It is utterly shocking that we who pay taxes in Britain are not allowed to vote.

'No taxation without representation' was the cry as far back as 1761 when American colonists objected to being taxed by the British government without being allowed to vote. And look what happened to America! Revolution! Independence! That's what. Astonishing so little has changed in nearly 300 years.

Even if you voted in last year's Brexit referendum or the previous General Election you will not be allowed to vote in this one if you registered more than a year ago and have not re-registered. I wrote a comment about that in the *EWN* months ago when I predicted the likelihood of a snap election this year. (smug grin, tee hee!) Of course if you had been only 14 years as an expat last year I don't need to tell you what happens to your voting rights now!

Brian Eagleson

WHY should people living in another country be able to vote in UK elections, we can't vote in their country. As for tax, I used to live in Spain and had the option to be pay in Spain or uk. Most expats like to keep a foothold in the UK 'just in case.'

Maureen Quarrington

» Snap election

WELL I guess it's impossible for the wingers to rest, they couldn't understand it is better for the UK and its people to leave the EU, they can't see it is better for Scotland and the Scottish to remain in the UK and now we hear them whinge everywhere firing more proverbial at the PM when she calls a general election because of the MP's who cannot accept the referendum vote... they just can't see they all work against the UK and they have brought this on.

The Tory party would have been happy to trundle on carrying out the wishes of the majority of the vote but it is the whingers who are to blame, no one else... but they have not got the nuts in their cookies to see even that, and still whinge :-)

Personally, I just look at them as losers and the sooner the election comes the better so we hopefully bury most of them :-)

Mike in ESP

» Dog protest Almería

I LIVE in Spain and have been here 12 years. The way they treat the animals here is appalling to say the least. They treat them as if they are not living breathing feeling animals.

The authorities are to blame as they are as bad and they don't see anything wrong in letting the animals suffer like they do. The laws are there but are not acted upon. Spain is judged by how they treat the animals and at the moment quite frankly it stinks.

For God's sake the laws are there for a reason. We must stand together and make them listen. The law is on our side now we just have to make them use them for what they were meant to be used for and stop the suffering of the animals and stop it now.

Good luck with the protest I hope the people in authority take heed and look at the terrible way that these animals are being kept.

This makes my blood boil. For God's sake authorities use the power you have been given!!!

Lynn

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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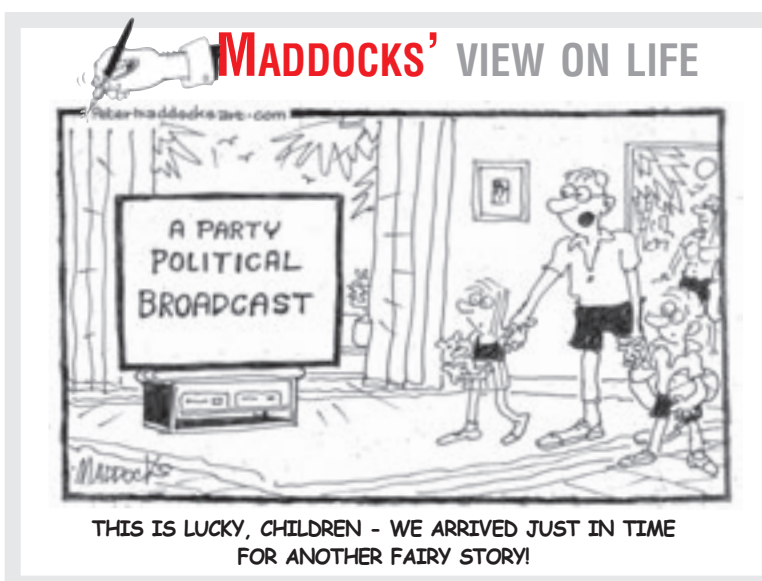
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Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	6	3	27	37	16	
34	5	1	6	3	9	
39	1	2	3	8	5	
			38	7	6	2
33	2	3	5	17	5	
23	8	1	2	9	3	
34	3	7	4	8	2	

**Nonagram**

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

**TARGET:**

- Average: 12 • Good: 17
- Very good: 24 • Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

alit aril axel axil axle earl lair late liar lira
luau rail rale rate real rial tael tail tale tare
taxi teal tear urea alert alter exalt extra
irate later latex laxer ratel relax taxer trail
trial ultra auteur retail ritual LUXURIATE

LOTTERY**UK NATIONAL LOTTERY**

Saturday April 22

**IRISH LOTTO**

Saturday April 22

**EURO MILLIONS**

Tuesday April 18



Friday April 21

**LA PRIMITIVA**

Saturday April 22

**EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA**

Sunday April 23

**YOUR STARS FOR 7 DAYS****GEMINI ♊**

(May 22 - June 21)

Everything seems an effort at the beginning of this week but as energy levels pick up you will gain momentum. Tackle one thing at a time and realise that Rome was not, indeed, built in a day. As the weekend approaches you will begin to realise that you have been far more effective than you thought.

CANCER ♋

(June 22 - July 23)

You really do need to come to an understanding with friends over a social matter, although this may take a little effort this week. It is clear that there are those who are less helpful than others, but this could be because of a misunderstanding.

LEO ♌

(July 24 - August 23)

Be a social animal this week and you will strengthen both people and business contacts. After being busy last week, you may be inclined to take it easy. If it is the case that you really are low on energy, then use the telephone or email to full advantage to keep in touch.

VIRGO ♍

(August 24 - September 23)

Someone well and truly treads on your toes this week and it really puts your teeth on edge. There are some bridges that may not be mended at the present time and are best left alone. Show your generous side but resist the urge to give in on an important issue because you are likely to regret it later.

LIBRA ♎

(September 24 - October 23)

What a lovely surprise to find that

TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)

The brick wall that you start banging your head against this week is not an illusion. It is, indeed, true that others are not responding to you in an expected way. By Wednesday this wall will start to fall and people will be more receptive.

something you have always wanted is coming your way at last. Keep a firm hand with finances and take control if you want to organise things for the better.

SCORPIO ♏

(October 24 - November 22)

Be cautious this week with your money. You have been aware for some time now that a change in your finances is likely. You have this in common with many others in your situation. Seeking professional help can be free and can make a big difference.

SAGITTARIUS ♐

(November 23 - December 21)

A special chance to try something new should not be passed over. No one expects wonders from you, they are happy just to see you enjoying life. A recent change in your attitude to your future is already showing. Luck is just waiting for you to invite her in.

CAPRICORN ♑

(December 22 - January 20)

Your home life gives you the most satisfaction at the moment even though someone seems to be challenging you. Some things are best ignored until they go away of their own accord and that also often applies

to people. There is a time for everything and choosing it will make a task that could be difficult that much easier.

AQUARIUS ♒

(January 21 - February 19)

Involvement in a situation connected with someone close may not be the best option this week. Giving advice is all well and good so long as you are sure of your facts.

PISCES ♓

(February 20 - March 20)

Some disruption to your plans annoys you but there's no point getting in a huff. Outside influences cannot be stopped but you are able to keep calm yourself. Rising to the bait will play into someone else's hands. Although a situation must be dealt with, do it in your own time and in your own way.

ARIES ♈

(March 21 - April 20)

It seems that you are putting a lot of effort into whatever you do without getting as much out as you would like. However, as the week goes by, you will realise that it is only a temporary situation. Sometimes, it takes others a period of adjustment before they are ready to accept changes of a personal nature.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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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

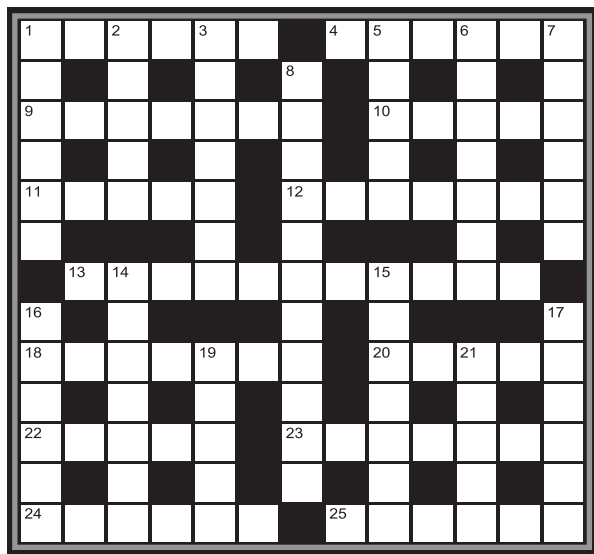
Across

- 1 Row made by fiddle (6)
4 Opts for the soft pieces (6)
9 Whirlwind rent-a-party (7)
10 Sailor, dry, disheartened and late (5)
11 Bird hiding in farmhouse loaf (5)
12 The lion made a stone tool (7)
13 Characters can't mention policy (11)
18 Upset by putting it in quartz (7)
20 Tremble when she swallows a little potassium (5)
22 African antelope from Cleveland (5)
23 The weather worried Tim and Alec (7)
24 Transparencies of playground structures (6)
25 To laze around with a fanatic (6)

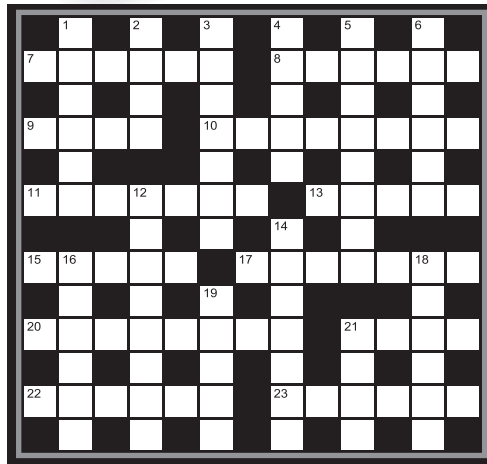
Down

- 1 Limit an allowance (6)
2 Spades, for example, for California roads (5)
3 Lee put a buckle on shoulder ornament (7)
5 Plenty to join in game (5)
6 Mantra I made up for someone from another planet (7)
7 Dreadfully chesty grass cutter (6)
8 Company events said to be happening at the same time (11)
14 I'm a Giro criminal, manipulating paper (7)

- 15 Dud is confused if miser (7)
16 Russian leader swears at lively clubbers (6)
17 Choose some wise lecturers (6)
19 Confuse the theologian with the French (5)
21 Exercise that makes a small number suffer (5)



Quick



Across

- 7 Containing salt (6)
8 View comprehensively (6)
9 Ready for harvest (4)
10 Example (8)
11 Dream (7)
13 Of no importance (5)
15 Frightening (5)
17 Windlass (7)
20 Pasta in the form of slender tubes (8)
21 Remain (4)
22 Extreme (6)
23 Interfere with (6)

Down

- 1 Boat harbour (6)
2 Eat (4)
3 Continue to exist (7)
4 Requested information about (5)
5 Soft running shoes (8)
6 Imperfection (6)
12 Menace (8)
14 Assortment (7)
16 Dry red wine (6)
18 Rhododendron (6)
19 Assembly of witches (5)
21 Identical (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Suspect, 5 Sales, 8 Stripes,
9 Aorta, 10 Nudge, 11 Augment,
12 Oppose, 14 Bitter, 17 Shelter,
19 Salad, 22 Edict, 23 Balance,
24 Sieve, 25 Errands.

Down:

- 1 Susan, 2 Shred, 3 Express,
4 Tuscan, 5 Slang, 6 Largest,
7 Scatter, 12 Oysters, 13 Precise,
15 Insular, 16 Arable, 18 Tithe,
20 Lenin, 21 Duels.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Scrawl, 4 Caring, 9 Aviator,
10 Groan, 11 Piece, 12 Surface,
13 Grasshopper, 18 Arsenal,
20 Tibia, 22 Cross, 23 Embrace,
24 Deeply, 25 Sextet.

Down:

- 1 Scampi, 2 Raise, 3 Witness,
5 Anger, 6 Isolate, 7 Gander,
8 Crash helmet, 14 Restore,
15 Potable, 16 Rancid, 17 Lament,
19 Nasal, 21 Boast.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Lamparas, 8 Grito, 9 Suiza,
10 Fat, 11 Olive, 12 Racha,
13 Ski, 14 Aviso, 15 Listo,
16 Sea horse.

Down:

- 2 Abilities, 3 Profesora,
4 Rastrillo, 5 Suitcases,
6 Ignorar, 7 Ganador.

CODE BREAKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	A	I	E	Q	T	D	U	P	S	X	B	H

Code Breaker

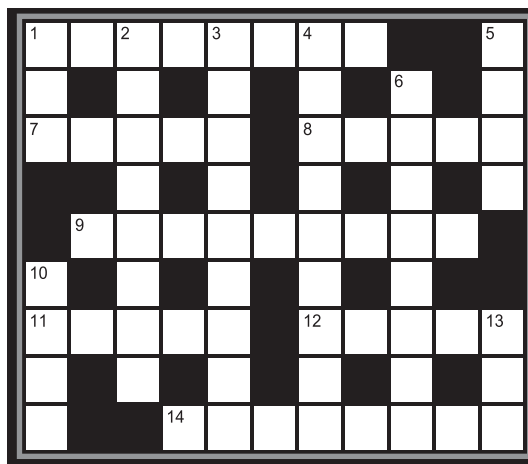
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 13 represents G and 26 represents Z, so fill in G every time the figure 13 appears and Z every time the figure 26 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters 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.

17	5	5	2	19	20	23	1		3	15	21	20	12	2
5		8		16		20			6		21			5
3	12	23	16	5	20	15	5		21	20	2	3	5	15
15		18		20		18		15		3		4		23
6	22	5	20	1		3	12	6	5	16	4	5	12	5
11		9				5		5		22				12
	7	14	24	25	5	16		25	21	5	20	15	5	2
25		5		10					21		6			15
5	20	16	25	21	14	13		23	10	21	21	20	16	
12				11		14		20				6		19
2	5	23	20	6	18	21	10	12		20	16	5	12	20
14		16		18		17		6		22		15		13
21	5	20	2	5	16		24	20	13	20	26	3	12	5
14		26		12				6		16		2		21
24	20	11	18	5	24			15	20	24	5	12	5	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
												G
												Z

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Souvenir (8)
7 Where (5)
8 Siete (5)
9 Sillones (9)
11 Desván (5)
12 Vaso (para beber) (5)
14 Timbre (8)

Down

- 1/5 Vino tinto (3,4)
2 Hormigón (8)
3 Exercise (physical) (9)
4 To unload (9)
5 See 1
6 Adelantar (vehículo, rival) (8)
10 Lighthouse (4)
13 Sun (3)

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I am grumpy this week!

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



AS I've said many times I love living in Spain but there are still some things here that I don't think you could get away with living in the UK.

I've found out this week that along the paseo where we like to go to walk the dog and have a coffee, the town hall has said that over the next few years every cafe, bar and restaurant has to change their frontage to have raised wooden floors, glass curtain style fronts and different seating areas outside. I'm not saying it won't look nice but, me for one, I actually like the rough and ready looking tapas bars and the little family-owned cafes that I have been visiting for years. It's something that happens a lot here that you are forced to do things with no consideration to the expense involved.

I had a shop in the square in Fuengirola buying and selling gold and jewellery. Some of you might remember it. It was called the Old Gold Company. When we opened it we had to jump through hoops to get the four or five licences you needed just to get going. We had to do so much paperwork just to buy a single item it was crazy. But then it seemed that every week they changed the rules. In the end it was getting impossible to actually abide by all the regulations.

One, for instance, was that you couldn't buy broken jewellery. How crazy is that? Much of the time people wanted to sell us stuff that was broken and which couldn't be repaired but which, as it was gold, had scrap value. Sometimes the value was even more than when the item was new because, at that time, gold prices were rocketing. People in the UK who were doing the same thing laughed at me when I told them about all the Spanish red tape.

Another thing that happened recently was that we had some work done on our pools where we live and, to be honest, we were conned. (Mrs S wasn't President then) We called the company back to tell them there were some problems with the work and they just looked at us like we were mad. They did the 'shrug' and told us the bits that had gone wrong was nothing to do with them it was some other reason blah, blah, blah and they were absolutely not interested in doing anything about it. Denounce them, you might say. Everybody throws that word around like it's some kind of magic wand. Have you ever tried it? It's not that easy to get any type of result.

The UK system of the county or high courts was much better and didn't take the years that it takes to get things done through the legal system here. Needless to say we just had to leave it because here everybody knows the system of not paying if you don't want to.

Wow I am grumpy this week! Email me at mikesenker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Smart roundabouts

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.



RAMP METERING: Could restrict access when traffic is too busy on roundabouts.

ROUNDBABOUTS are often a cause of consternation for many drivers. But despite them causing confusion and dread to some, they provide a unique way of allowing traffic to flow freely through road intersections. However, when the volume of traffic is high, congestion can result which can end up in big traffic jams with no vehicles able to move.

Now, researchers from the Politecnica University of Valencia (UPV) have come up with what they think is a revolutionary system of implanting sensors in the road to ease congestion. These sensors would detect the passage of vehicles and determine when the volume of traffic was very high. At this point, they would then activate traffic lights to slow down vehicles on approach, allowing extra time for those in the area to manoeuvre through the roundabout, and in some cases, stop traffic on quieter roads to allow the con-

gestion to ease. This would then in theory, prevent a situation in which the excessive entry of vehicles causes such a jam that no one is able to move in any direction. The sensor system would allow for normal traffic flow to be restored in a short space of time, managing the troublesome situations in a simple and effective way.

The system used, known as ramp metering, is already used in some countries on access routes to motorways and main roads, restricting access when traffic on the main roads is too busy. Now the team at the UPV believe they can adapt and customise the system so it can be used on roundabouts.

Easter deaths

Figures from the DGT show that a total of 29 people lost their lives in road traffic accidents during the busy Easter weekend. This is a fall of 12 deaths compared to last Easter.

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

Can they re-assess the value?

Q. In 2015 we purchased a house in Guardamar Del Segura. We paid €85,000, which was entered on the 'escritura.' We paid €3,000 extra for furniture, wardrobes, and white goods. This was not entered on the escritura. Now we have re-

ceived a notice from Valencia regional tax office to say they want to re-assess the value of the sale. I am told this may be because they think the amount declared in the escritura was too low. Can they do this?

R W (Costa Blanca)

A. Most of Spain's individual regions have established a list of official property valuations for tax purposes. Have your lawyer consult the Valencian Region list to discover what is the minimum value you can de-

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



clare for your purchase. You should have done this before you went to the Notary. And,

yes, if the value declared is too low, the tax office can claim tax on the difference. This official list was established because people formerly declared ridiculously low amounts on property sales to minimise transfer tax.

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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Will Theresa May's snap election u-turn deliver a Brexit blank cheque

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

THERESA MAY has done a u-turn (I wrote about a possible Brexit u-turn last week), calling a snap election in which she'll aim to crush Brexit opposition by seizing a big parliamentary majority.

So, good on the PM for taking a decision in the best interests of the country and taking a swipe at Labour, the Lib Dems, SNP etc with their counterproductive whining and talk of coalition, collaboration and tactical voting.

The fact that it is in the best interests of the Conservatives is happily convenient for her, but not the driving force. She wants a strong hand in Brexit negotiations and she didn't

have one. This is also good news for Gibraltar and expats in Spain since the increased flexibility increases the likelihood of a better deal for us all. The effect on Labour should be akin to Trump's Mother of all Bombs, with Labour's pro-Brexit voters, polls claim, already deserting Corbyn.

To accusations from Corbyn, Sturgeon etc that May's 'breaking' repeated promises she'd never hold an election before 2020, she's a politician (the clue's in the word) and politics by its nature requires that positions are 'adjusted' to suit a change in circumstances.

She'd be a foolish leader not to take advantage of opportunities when they arise.

Doubtless she'll have a hard time not to put Brexit details into her manifesto and election campaign. How is she going to combine that with keeping her negotiation cards close to her chest? Easy! She just

needs to remain consistent. The negotiations with the EU will hardly have begun by June, so keeping her cards close to her chest is not only consistent but canny.

Why give the EU any extra help by showing her hand? All she needs to do is keep to her mantra that she'll 'negotiate the best deal for Britain' ad nauseam.

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have purchased my crime thrillers (all profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity), following my piece here two weeks ago about the true stories behind them. And keep those donations going to Cudeca!

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.

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Freedom is no longer enjoyed

Cassandra Nash
A weekly look

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

HOLY WEEK shows Spain at its most quaintly religious with processions, hooded penitents and outpourings of devotion as statues are hauled through the streets.

The rest of the year churches are sparsely occupied except for births, marriages, first communions or funerals, and Spain's hierarchy is hitting out. "Secularism threatens religious freedom," thundered the Cardinal-Archbishop of Valencia not long ago.

What he was actually expressing was regret that the Church no longer enjoys the freedom to impose its will on Spanish society.

Beat the clock

CATALAN president Carles Puigdemont recently toured the US, touting for support for independence.

He didn't get many takers and both the US ambassador and the Jimmy Carter Foundation later hinted that neither thought secession was good for Catalonia or Spain.

Polls show that Catalans want more autonomy, not secession, but although pro-independence politicians are still planning a September referendum, five months is hardly long enough to get it off the ground, experts in electoral logistics say.

Brings to mind a bridegroom arriving late at the church in the hope that everyone, and especially the bride, has gone home.

Hanger-on

PODEMOS, which shores up Castilla-La Mancha's PSOE government, refuses to support its Budget.

The Podemos regional leader Jose Gracia Molina - doubtless on the orders of party supremo Pablo Iglesias - is instead flexing his muscles.

"People have regarded us as an appendage to the PSOE," he complained.

Nearly right, but it might be more accurate to reduce that to 'appendage' full stop.

A transgression too many

ENGLISH writer Richard Ford who spent three years here in the 1830s declared that Spain was governed by "corrupt rogues."

Nearly two centuries later, their descendants would greet this information with a jaded "so what's new?"

The Barcenas scandal, the Gurtel scandal, the Punica scandal, the little-discussed Acuamed scandal, former Industry minister Jose Manuel Soria's offshore money scandal - the list prompts shrugs, mutterings and a few obscenities. But then, overshadowing them all, comes Rodrigo Rato.

Fury and smouldering resentment are reserved for the disgraced ex-vice president, ex-Minister of Hacienda, ex-Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and ex-president of Bankia.

On current political form, the charges of fraud, embezzlement, money-laundering and undeclared assets are par for the course. But the latest revelation that Rato salted away €7 million in an offshore account while Hacienda minister will be neither forgiven nor forgotten. Not because he was a corrupt rogue but because he announced "Hacienda somos todos" in a television and press campaign, exhorting the Spanish to pay their taxes.

A rogue? Pass. Corrupt? Pass. A hypocrite? Wheel out the tumbrils.

Rodrigo Rato.



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I HAVE always loved to play video games. In the same way that books provide sheer escapism and entry to another world through your imagination, video games do it with aplomb!

Love them or hate them, in an industry with sales of around \$91 billion worldwide last year and an estimated 1.8 billion gamers around the globe, they are here to stay.

Every so often, video games are subjected to criticism usually directed towards the violence some contain. They are however subject to a rating system (PEGI) similar to that of films. Their content is always clearly labelled. As an avid gamer, I can definitely agree that there is material that is unsuitable for children, but those games are not for them in the same way an over 18 horror film isn't.

What might surprise you is that there are actually more people over

the age of 50 playing games than those under the age of 18. Far from the image of children glued to their consoles, the average male game player is 35 years old. The most frequent female game player is on average 43 years old. We're also catching up with the boys with females accounting for 44 per cent of worldwide gamers.

Someone needs to try telling that to the staff in the high street games shops. I've lost count of how many times I've gone to buy the latest title only to be asked what console my son or daughter (of which I have neither) plays on to make sure I get the right version! You might not think it to look at me, but I've played enough games to feel fairly confident I could hold my own in a zombie apocalypse.

I feel fortunate that I've been able to watch the evolution of games. From my first glimpse of 'Pong' in the 70's through to the newest generation of consoles, it's incredible how far the technology has come. Whenever I start a new game and watch the cinematic intro, I am astounded by

how realistic the scenery and characters are. Thanks to motion capture technology, characters now move freely around their environment no longer bobbing about jerkily slightly above the scenery.

With so many ways to play and vastly different genres there is something for everyone available. PC gaming still dominates the market accounting for 62 per cent, but with games like Bejewelled and Candy Crush coming pre-loaded on smartphones, everyone is a potential gamer - you don't have to have a console or computer to play. I think people who say they hate games fall into the same category as those who have also never tried scuba diving or eating calamari, but instinctively just know they wouldn't enjoy it.

I don't know why some of us are predisposed to enjoying games while others see them as a waste of time and money. Maybe it's a part of the brain that craves the approval bestowed in electronic congratulations every time we do well in a game. Perhaps it's to do with suspension of dis-

belief and some can't disconnect the part of the brain required to get fully absorbed in it. I do feel you're missing out a bit though if you don't enjoy games. Some of the best nights I've had have been spent gaming into the early hours with a group of friends.

There are a plethora of games across a vast amount of genres appealing to all ages and interests. There even exists a game where you can pretend to be a goat! Don't believe me? Go and do a quick search for it now. It's called Goat Simulator. I'll wait.

Over the decades that I've been playing games, their evolution has been phenomenal. With Sony expanding into virtual reality at the end of last year and Microsoft set to follow suit at the end of this year, it's exciting to see how far that's come. It's almost inconceivable when you see the games of today compared with those early cartridge-based games and I cannot begin to imagine what they will look like in another 20 years.

One thing's for sure (if we

make it through the next two decades), I'll still be playing those future releases. Hopefully, by that time we'll be using our minds to play them as by then, my 'controller claw' will have settled nicely into arthritis!

**VIDEO
GAMES:
Here
to
stay.**



Advertising feature

Yearly Travel Insurance dilemma unravelled

**Christina
Sharp**

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL
christina@globelink.co.uk



IT'S refreshingly reassuring that the slump in Sterling hasn't diminished our appetite to travel, with holiday bookings for this summer up by 7 per cent on 2016 according to ABTA, the Association of British Travel Agents. If anything, we are more determined to get the most out of our much-needed getaways, and hunt down the best bargains. There are certainly some excellent deals available, as operators compete for our custom and websites like Secret Escapes and Voyage-prive tempt us with exclusive, luxury breaks for a fraction of the usual cost.

We are tending to stick closer to home, with Spain, Greece, Portugal and Cyprus all attracting high bookings, partially due to travellers steering clear of the Eastern Mediterranean due to heightened security concerns. We are also increasingly opting for short city breaks for a 'travel fix.' Rome, Bruges, Venice and Barcelona remain hot favourites, while Tallinn, Gothenburg and Valetta have joined our mini-break radar too.



TRAVEL INSURANCE: What's best for you?

Whatever your holiday habits, don't be foolhardy by leaving home without travel insurance. UK Travel Insurers shell out £365 million per year on claims, so you can be sure that holiday mishaps do happen! However, is it better to buy an Annual Multi Trip or a Single Trip Policy? We look at this Travel Insurance dilemma facing holiday-makers each year. To get it right, ask yourself some simple questions and decide what's best for you:

- Are you considering two trips outside your home country? Include weekends and visits to family back home too.

- Will you travel outside Europe for one of these trips?

- Might you have a winter break as well

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as a summer holiday, and weekend away?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then odds are it's more cost effective for you to purchase an Annual Multi Trip policy.

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Advertising feature

MACS, breaking down barriers

CANCER is not choosy, it can affect anyone at any time in their lives, young or old, rich or poor and people of either gender. It can strike the fittest of people, those who have suffered from the disease in the past and it affects people of all nationalities.

Cancer has no boundaries and for that reason, nor does MACS.

Since its inception in 2007, MACS Cancer Support Group has helped more than 500 people of no fewer than 11 nationalities including, British, Romanian, Indian and German along with many others.

People from all different backgrounds have benefited from the support of MACS and the group has helped men, women and children of all ages, the youngest being three years old and the oldest, a 100-year-old gentleman.

Currently being supported by MACS is 11-year-old Alejandra (Alex). Alex's journey began in 2015, when she was diagnosed with cancer of the kidney.

The brave youngster undergoes Chemotherapy every three weeks despite recently having a



BRAVE YOUNGSTER: Alex likes to look pretty and take care of her appearance.

bad reaction to that particular treatment.

Thankfully, Alex is responding well to the treatment and says she is feeling good at the moment. Due to the treatment, she has not attended school since September but tries to keep up with her studies and a teacher from the Junta

de Andalucía visits her at home when she is feeling well enough.

Just like any young girl, Alex likes to look pretty and take care of her appearance. Qualified beautician and MACS assistant, Shannon, regularly visits to do a manicure and have a

girlie chat. Alex's mum, Aurora said that the support from MACS has been very helpful and it helps to know that there is emotional support on hand when things get tough.

MACS volunteers also come in all shapes and sizes! MACS eldest volunteer, Daphne is almost 87 years old and is a popular face in one of the shops.

The youngest volunteer is just 16 and the group has had a number of youngsters join us on part of their 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' placements.

MACS can't do its valuable work without its kind donors which also come in many forms, businesses big and small, individual people who just want to help in their own small way and the numerous groups and organisations which donate regularly from their fundraising events.

For MACS it doesn't matter where you come from or how old you are, whether you are male or female, adult or child, the group is there for you... with no boundaries.

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PALM OIL: Devastating deforestation in Malaysia.

War on palm oil

SPAIN is looking at reducing the amount of palm oil in food and products sold in supermarkets.

Palm oil, which is high in saturated fat, is derived from the fruits of the African palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and is mainly cultivated in Indonesia and Malaysia which produces 85 per cent of the world produc-

tion. However, it is the environmental impact such farming has, that is causing concern. Due to the increase in demand, rainforests in Malaysia, Indonesia, and South America are being cut down and replaced with African oil palm plantations. This deforestation has endangered or wiped out local wildlife on an enormous scale.

To try and counter the damage to the environment, a Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), was formed in 2004 to try and prevent the negative environmental impacts of palm oil production, but Spain is wanting to take further action.

With the ingredient listed on the labels of many types of food from hamburgers and chips, to cereals and chocolate, as well as cosmetic products, Spanish supermarkets are wanting to limit its impact.

The Dia Supermarket, said as part of its commitment to quality and sustainability, they are asking their suppliers to replace palm oil with another product and, if it is used, they want to see a certificate of sustainability

to show it has been farmed and produced in the best possible way.

Not only is palm oil in focus, but a lot of fats and sugars are also under study by the Ministry of Health which aims to follow the guidelines of the European Union to reduce the use of ingredients that promote obesity, by 2020.

Meanwhile, studies on the potential harmful effects of palm oil are continuing. Last week the El Pinar Institute of Alhaurin de la Torre initiated a campaign on change.org addressed to the Ministry of Health and the Andalusian government to try to end the distribution of palm oil saying it was too high in saturated fats and should not be consumed.

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SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

AROUND 10 million people, including many children, suffer from arthritis in the UK alone. Here, our resident doctor answers some frequently asked questions.

What is arthritis and when does it usually appear?

- Arthritis is the term we give to inflammation of the joints. Not all joint pain has to be arthritis, in fact most joint pain is due to other causes which are not really arthritis.

The reasons it can appear are varied and it can be caused by many things ranging from autoimmune inflammatory conditions, infections, systemic illnesses to trauma etc therefore the moment it appears depends on the type of arthritis. Joint pain can be influenced by weather changes, diet, exercise and other factors meaning it can worsen in the winter.

What are the most common symptoms?

- Arthritis causes joint pain along with swelling in the joints and surrounding areas which can lead to redness, increased temperature, stiffness and is also sometimes related to fevers and a general feeling of being unwell. It can appear in one or more joints and can affect any joint in the body.

How is it diagnosed?

- Diagnosis is initially reached by examining the patient's medical history and listening to a specialist. This is followed by blood tests, x-rays of the affected joint and sometimes analysis of liquid from within the joint although this depends on the

area and whether it is safe to draw off liquid.

Are there any good treatments?

- The usual treatment for arthritis involves resting the joint/s and use of anti-inflammatory medications to reduce the pain. Sometimes the joint can be injected with specific medication and in severe cases surgery is an option.

What about diet?

- Diet is important for almost all ailments. In this case it is of importance especially for those who suffer secondary arthritis due to gout. These patients should avoid products high in uric acid such as red meat, seafood and alcohol.

Is exercise helpful or will that make it worse?

- Exercise should be avoided while the pain is at its worst but added gradually to daily life as swelling reduces.

Is there any way of preventing arthritis before it appears?

- Many forms of arthritis are unavoidable as it is a sign of other problems. Yet those caused by trauma or substance build-up can be avoided by following a healthy, balanced diet, taking moderate daily exercise such as walking to maintain a healthy weight and avoid overstretching joints and keep joint-supporting muscles toned.

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

Work and bullying a concern for students

SCHOOL work, anxiety and bullying are the main causes of concern in the life of teenagers. That's the findings from a 'Student's Well-being' study carried out by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

The study analysed for the first time students' motivation to perform well in school, their relationships with peers and teachers, their home life, and how they spend their time outside of school. The findings are based on a survey of 540,000 students in 72 participating countries and economies.

The study found that many students are anxious about school work and tests and the analysis reveals this is not related to the number of school hours or the frequency of tests, but with how supportive they feel their teachers and schools are.

On average across OECD countries, 59 per cent of students reported they often worry that taking a test will be difficult, and 66 per cent reported feeling stressed about poor grades. Some 55 per cent of students said they are very anxious for a test even if they are well prepared.

In all countries, girls reported greater school work-related anxiety than boys.

But teachers and parents can make a

difference. Students whose parents reported "spending time just talking to my child," "eating the main meal with my child around a table" or "discussing how well my child is doing at school" regularly were between 22 per cent and 39 per cent more likely to report high levels of life satisfaction. The academic impact is also significant; students who spent time talking with their parents were two-thirds of a school year ahead in science learning.

Bullying was seen as an issue in schools. On average across OECD countries, around 4 per cent of students, roughly one per class, reported that they are hit or pushed at least a few times per month. Bullying is lower in schools where students have

positive relationships with their

teachers and girls are less likely than boys to become victims of physical aggressions, but are more likely to be the object of nasty rumours.

On average across OECD countries, most 15-year-old students said they were happy with their lives, reporting a level of 7.3 on a scale of life satisfaction that ranges from 0 to 10.

SCHOOL WORK: One of the main causes of concern in a teenager's life.



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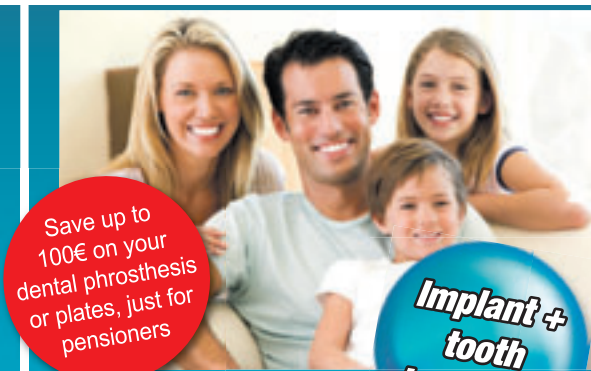
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Refugee shelters and the cinema

YOUTH cinema will be celebrated in Almería this weekend from April 28-30. The film and television festival 'Cinejoven' will show dozens of local and international films at Almería's famous Apollo Theatre.

It is the fifth edition of the popular festival which strives to show young people in a different light, as artists, writers and dreamers, rather than the lazy scroungers often portrayed by the media. The cultural affair will include guided tours of the Civil War refugee shelters and the Alcazabra. There will be also be a short film shown on projectors in local bars around the Apollo as the entire community gets behind Cinejoven.

Shakespeare live

IN little over two weeks the Classical Theatre company of Sevilla will be arriving in Almería for a series of live performances of Hamlet.

On Saturday May 6 the esteemed theatre group will be in Vera's auditorium bringing a bold vision of Shakespeare's masterpiece for those eager for a

cultural night out.

Tickets cost just €12 and can be bought online. The performance begins at 9pm and is expected to last just a few hours. Sevilla's Classical Theatre company is considered one of the best in Spain and is certain to bring an impassioned and powerful display to the stage.

Let the battle commence!

POSTERS are designed and the preparations well underway as Mojácar and Vera gear up for the fabulous annual spectacle of the Moors and Christians festival. Both will be celebrated in June and look set to be the very best in a long and glorious history of Andalusian magic.

In Vera the council is already working on a new website specifically devoted to the festival. It will be the fourth year of the celebration in the town, a relative latecomer to the party.

Vera's grand parade is now set for Friday June 9 and the new website will contain all the information curious visitors could possibly wish to know.

The fascinating history of the Moorish-Christian wars of the Middle Ages is all online as well as a heart-stopping account of how Vera was under siege by the Moors. More importantly a graphic illustration of the parade routes, cultural shows, and best places to eat will be displayed online at



ANDALUCIAN MAGIC: The Moors and Christians festival is among the biggest in Spain.

www.morosycristianos.com.

Meanwhile the dates have been set for Mojácar's very own Moors and Christians festival, considered one of the best in Spain. This year the fiesta will run from Friday June 9 until Sunday June 11. Widely regarded as Mojácar's most important festival its historical relevance to the pueblo stretches back more than five centuries.

Almost everyone in Mojácar gets involved, dressing up as either a Christian soldier or a Moorish warrior and embracing a fun-packed, and extremely loud, weekend of faux fighting, music, food, dance and song.

Attracting curious minds and fancy dressers from across Spain and even beyond, Mojácar's Moors and Christians festival simply cannot be missed. Preparations are already in full swing and anyone interested in joining should get cracking on their costumes too.



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Credit: Loco Steve, Flickr

ZURGENA: The train station is to be the venue for an exciting spring market.

Fabulous first ever spring market

A HISTORIC market takes place on Sunday April 30 when Zurgena train station transforms into a cultural playground. All manner of gifts, goods, games and exhibits will be on display and on sale to celebrate the Almazora town's first ever spring market.

The theme is 'tradition and art.' The dozens of stalls and exhibitors will bring a terrific variety of

cultural artefacts, cuisines, costumes and clothes from different regions across Almeria. As a traditional Spanish spring market there will of course be song, dance, music and food in abundance.

A brand new event, the spring market is the brainchild of the employers association of Lubrin, Zurgena and Arboleas (ALZA). Heads were knocked togeth-

er and the decision was made in early 2017 to generate a fiesty regional fair and give the local community and economy a much needed boost.

On the commercial side of things, expect to find handcrafted pottery, homemade sausages, herbs from Granada and beyond, traditional dresses, quilts and materials for tilling, weaving and sewing. There will

even be lectures and workshops on Zurgena's history and organic gardening and farming.

If you are bringing children along there will be dances, a judo competition, poetry recitals, games, storytelling and magic shows.

All in all Zurgena's first spring market will be a cracking day out, helping locals celebrate their community while snapping

up some unique odds and ends.

Dreambeach

ONE of the biggest music festivals on the planet will once again be taking Almeria by storm this summer.

The lineup for the Dreambeach Festival in Villaricos has now been announced and tickets are on sale for the award-winning event that draws some of the best names in electronic music to the province.

Confirmed acts include David Guetta, Chase and Status, Netsky, Wilkinson and Paco Osuna. The outdoor festival can hold more than 50,000 people each day during its five-day run from August 10-15. A full festival pass costs €67.50 with camping tickets extra.

Old folk's tales

FANTASY adventures and old folk's tales will be enchanting Vera until May 3. The Second Museum of the Tales of Vera is an exhibition running in the Casa de la Cultura.

It involves creative works from students at schools across the Almeria town and immerses visitors in an imaginative universe of fable, theatre and song.

There will be hundreds of book readings, puppet shows, and plays.

A truly community focused endeavour the festival is open to all with free entry.

It is a key part of Vera's International Book Day celebrations which are embracing the written word. A terrific day out for children and adults alike.

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California dreaming

CULTURE vultures have a unique opportunity to see the impressive works of Eduardo Cruz, an Almanzora Valley-born artist. After decades setting California alight with his fiercely creative sculptures and paintings, Cruz has returned to his native Almeria for perhaps his most substantial exhibition yet.

Hailing from Macael, where he was born into a family of stonemasons in a village globally famed for its quarries, Cruz embraced his artistic spirit as a young boy in the 1930s. The family soon moved to Argentina, where he honed his skills and emerged as a young prodigy in the vibrant 1950's Latin American social scene.

By the 1970s Cruz was so well regarded that the American government requested he come to Los Angeles to teach.

There he became an integral part of the almost mythical arts and celebrity scene.

He personally completed sculptures for such stars as Charlton Heston, Woody Allen, Steve McQueen and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Across the US his works received rave reviews for their powerful themes of fear, magic, destruction and childhood innocence.

In his old age Cruz has returned to Macael, living among the rocks and stones that first inspired his craft. His latest exhibition is entitled 'The Imaginary World of Eduardo Cruz' and includes a selection of the finest sculptures and ceramics made during his 60-year professional career.

The exhibition opened on April 20 and will run until the end of June at the Roquetas de Mar Auditorium.



BEN HUR: Hollywood star Charlton Heston loved Cruz's work.

A touch of class shown in sisters' art exhibition

RUNNING until Sunday April 30, an astonishing art exhibition is winning accolades and acclaim across Almeria. Two artistic sisters have brought their beautiful project, entitled simply 'From Cabo de Gata,' to Vera's Convent of Victory for a very special celebration of Almeria's iconic natural landscape.

Featuring original pictorial pieces capturing Mediterranean panoramas and incredible views of the beaches, coves and sea, the works are all painstakingly hand-crafted to create an unforgettable image.

Sisters Myriam and Raquel are skilled not just in painting but also in crafting and

Featuring Mediterranean panoramas and incredible views of the beaches, coves and sea.

polishing the delightful wooden frames that enclose their works. Vera mayor Felix Lopez has already gone along for a glimpse of the magic. It is strongly recommended that Almeria art lovers do so too before the exhibition ends this Sunday.

Wild flamenco

MOJACAR Council has announced the famous San Isidro festival will be topped up with a terrific series of live 'flamenco fusion' performances from local musicians.

The late night gig will be held at Barrio de la Fuente on May 13 at 11pm, with the after-party certain to continue into the early hours.

It is to be held on a Saturday evening.

Mojacar's Pilgrimage of San Isidro will take place on the Sunday after and see carriages, bands, and hundreds of people march to Sopalm in one of the busiest ferias before summer gets into full swing.

Art and active ageing programme

WHATEVER it is that floats your boat, the growing scientific consensus suggests that doing something, anything, is crucial in combating ageing and different age-related symptoms. Which is why Mojacar has launched a new activity program for active ageing.

Part of the council's innovative new promotion and prevention campaign, Active Ageing is aimed at anyone over 60 who would love to roll community-minded fun, friendships, physical and mental exercise into one excellent day out.

Until May 25 the council is holding workshops on laughter therapy, dance, writing, meditation and different cognitive games. The workshops take place in the basement of the Centro Usos Multiples where information on class times can also be found.

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TRIPADVISOR HAS RELEASED STATISTICS that show that Aqua Shard in London is the UK's most reviewed restaurant, while Park Plaza Westminster Bridge is the most reviewed hotel.

The news came as the customer driven review platform announced that it now has more than 500 million reviews and opinions on its website, and receives 290 pieces of user-generated content every minute of every day.

Aqua Shard, which sits within the 95-storey Shard building in Southwark, has received more than 11,000 reviews and sits 737th out of 17,953 restaurants in the capital. Meanwhile Park Plaza Westminster Bridge has received more than 15,000 reviews and is 192nd out of 1,087 hotels in London.

The most reviewed hotel in Spain would appear to be the Hotel Becquer in Sevilla with 3,866 posts. Locally the lovely Hotel Molino de Santo in Benaocan has 1,119.

The most reviewed UK tourist attraction is the London Eye, which has more than 57,000 reviews.

Worldwide, the most reviewed hotel is the Luxor Las Vegas, with 29,000 reviews. The most reviewed restaurant in the world is Pasteis de Belem in Lisbon, with 26,000 reviews, and the most reviewed tourist attraction is the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, with more than 107,000 traveller reviews.

Stephen Kaufer, chief executive officer and co-founder of TripAdvisor, said: "Many savvy businesses report seeing incremental increases in the ratings and rankings



The first stone was laid on March 19, 1882 following the Neo-gothic design drawn up by the architect Francisco de Paula del Villar y Lozano. Antoni Gaudi took over the design of the Sagrada Familia in 1883 until his death on June 10, 1926 due to a traffic accident. The central tower of 172.5 metres (566 feet) will make it the tallest cathedral in Europe, because the tallest tower in Europe is Ulm, at 162 metres (531.5 feet). Construction has entered its final period. The project should be completed by 2030/32, 150 years after the first stone was laid!

on TripAdvisor when they engage with travellers by responding to reviews and using the feedback to improve their customers' experience."

Nonetheless, not all hospitality businesses are happy with the way in which reviews are handled on the site, with some complaining of difficulties having reviews they see as malicious or inaccurate being taken down by the website.

I have said before I am not convinced about the service and have never understood their use of 'algorithms.' I have personally taken their 'content integrity department' to task over simple readings with questions like, "If restaurant A has 150 reviews of which 140 are excellent and have been posted within a two-month period and restaurant B has less reviews with more good than excellent over the same period of time how come B is higher in the rankings?" The reply was more like a Chicken or The Egg conundrum!!

(Content information courtesy of TripAdvisor and The Caterer and Hotelkeeper)

ONE OF THE REASONS that I opened Restaurant Nueva Campana, in Nueva Andalucia, Marbella some years ago was because of the highly successful restaurant next door, Il Ristorante.

Based on the old adage of 'never open a newsagent where there isn't a newsagent'! A couple of years ago they moved away to bigger - and better premises - in Golf Valley. It took them a while to find their pattern but they are back to their old selves again and a visit with some of my favourite clients/friends last Friday proved very enjoyable.

While Location, Location is very important if you don't serve quality and value for money it's all for now!! Menu del Día's abound on our Costas ranging from €7.50 to €30. Pitch it at €15 with extras available then you have a good chance of capturing the local market. Thanks to Renée and Sabine and staff at Conrad's and especially to my friends, for a splendid lunchtime.

If you have a favourite lunchtime venue, dear reader, wherever you live please let me know, I would like to get a list of Value for Money Eateries in your area.

“

I cook with wine -
sometimes I even add it
to the food.”
W C Fields



Are traditional pubs losing out to trendy bars and restaurants?

WE CONSTANLY HEAR ABOUT the number of British pubs that close in the UK every year. Now the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has pledged to help halt the decline in the number of pubs in London, as new figures show the city has lost 1,220 pubs since 2001.

That's around 80 a year. There have been many studies about why this has been happening but I'm not sure that anyone has studied the 'fashion' element.

Are there more trendy wine bars/pubs meaning the younger crowd are moving away from the traditional pub? Have communities changed? Are country pubs losing their appeal? Is it the fact that some of the established pubs don't serve food? Or maybe the food they serve is poor.

Or of course there simply could be too many pubs for the amount of people. Lon-

don's population is 10 million. Let's assume that three million of those are children - that leaves, say, seven million adults.

Now, obviously, not all these adults go out to drink, but if they did, with 3,615 pubs in the whole of the city that would mean less than 2,000 customers for each pub. I'm not going to carry on with figures, but you see what I mean?

As the article on this page re TripAdvisor tells you there are nearly 18,000 restaurants in London - five times more than there are pubs! And getting a seat in a restaurant in London is a lot harder than finding standing room in a pub. Must tell us something don't you think?

I remember in the early 80's the trend in the cities was to turn banks into modern pubs. Can we think of something else to reduce the population of bankers?

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.



IN MY WINE CORNER this week, I dusted off a bottle of Corral Gran Reserva 1987. From Rioja Alta and made with 80 per cent Tempranillo, 15 per cent Garnacha and 5 per cent Mazuelo, I was pleasantly surprised that it was in very good condition for a 30-year-old wine. Hav-

Taken from my own 'cellar.' I've had it for more than 20 years.

ing said that, while it was still pretty good on the nose it would be fair to say it had lost a little of its finesse. Having left a glass in the bottle overnight (I know!!!) it hadn't kept up the next day despite being vacuumed. It certainly wouldn't last much longer in my opinion. So if you've got any, I suggest you start drinking it!!

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.



STONE QUARRIES: Almería's secret weapon at recent tourist exhibition.

Hands of stone

THE stone quarries of Macael and the incredible art and engineering works they have inspired proved the Costa de Almería's secret weapon at a major tourist exhibition in Barcelona, B-Travel 2017.

“Macael and its stone quarries are gaining more and more exposure.”

Although such major international events are usually left to the major players, coastal

Almería, the city and the Cabo de Gata-Níjar park, this year it was Macael Turismo which stole the show.

B-Travel 2017 focuses on 'experiential tourism' which values emotions and culture above sun and sea. Many of the exhibitors are rural towns and villages which offer a uniquely personal touch to the travel experience that simply can't be found in Barcelona or Madrid.

Macael and its stone quarries are gaining more and more exposure through local companies, such as Cosentino, and artists, including Eduardo Cruz, who have used Almanzora materials to make a worldwide impact.

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Everyone very welcome

THE Albox branch of the Royal British Legion is holding an open meeting on Thursday May 18 at 11am at La Parrilla in Albox.

All veterans, families and friends are welcome. Not a member? Not a guest? Not a veteran? No problem, just go along as everyone is welcome!!

If you want to know about the following then please go along and have fun at the same time:

- What is accurate, and what is not, around health care.
- Social services assistance.
- Information and support provided by the Royal British Legion.
- With whom the Legion works, both in the UK and Spain.
- Exportable benefits from the UK.



OPEN MEETING: Veterans, families and friends welcome.

- How to get a blue badge and lots more.

Take part in a short quiz, try the raffle and buy items from the poppy stall, all to raise money to support veterans and their families.

If you are not a veteran go along and see the added value of

being a member of the Royal British Legion and meet current members.

For more information information contact the chairman Ken on 679 605 320.

The usual coffee morning will be held at Café Bar Oasis (off Avenida America, Albox) on

Thursday May 4 starting at 11.30am with nice nibbles, bevvies and plenty of chat. There are more new members so do go along and welcome them.

Guests are welcome to any of the events when accompanied by a member. New members are welcome to join the branch at any of its meetings or contact Sandy, the membership secretary, by calling 648 049 491 or email stucker99@hotmail.co.uk.

The Legion does vital work providing practical support to serving men and women, veterans (ex-service of all ages) and their families and is there to serve you.

Get in touch for information by calling 676 451 780 or email assistance.rbl.dns@gmail.com.

Gentle gymnasts take part in championship

A SPORTS club from Macael journeyed all the way to Albacete, halfway to Madrid, to compete in the Spanish gymnastics championship for people with mental disabilities.

After months of gruelling training, five

members of the Los Carriles Sports Club departed with their coaches to compete against 12 top teams from across the county in a week long contest.

They are representing young people with

disabilities from the Almanzora Valley and across Almeria. Los Carriles have had great success in the past competing in national sports and often help raise funds and bring attention to disabled causes.

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Hiking gone wild

ALMANZORA Sports Club celebrated a newly established and impressively tough 50km mountain biking trail as members and other local athletes competed in the sixth annual Sierrecica run on April 23.

Two hiking trails, one of 16km, the other 11km, were also completed by healthy locals from Huercal-Overa and across the Almanzora Valley. Mayor Domingo Fernandez said the new cycling trail would be protected by the council and help promote sport and other healthy habits to residents.

Sunday's event served as a memorial for Club Almanzora member Antonio Martinez who recently passed away and as a charity fundraiser for MS. More than 500 people competed, whether by hiking, running or cycling. A new children's route was also set up with an obstacle course and games.

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Kevin Lewis
where Insurance Matters

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Celtis australis - the European Hackberry

By Graeme Tyrrell

THE Hackberry or Nettle tree is one of the Mediterranean's hardiest native large trees that you will probably see lining streets and boulevards and standing as a valued specimen in private and public gardens as well as in native forested areas.

They are a very attractive deciduous shade tree of the Elm family with a smooth greyish bark, small leaves, small edible fruit, long lived (to around 500 years), fast growing in good conditions, drought tolerant once established and will grow in most soils in Spain below 1,000 metres.

If you don't have the space to grow a large tree they are also very hardy in containers, tolerating constant pruning to maintain a suitable size.

They are a favourite for bonsai enthusiasts as the trunk develops strongly but can be supported by a few healthy branches with the small leaves giving the good proportions required for a bonsai tree.

In my vegetable garden, I have a large one that is trained, by pruning, to act as an umbrella to add shade during the middle of the day in summer but allow morning and afternoon sun.

In winter there is enough sun after the tree loses its leaves. The leaves provide a very good addition of mulch to the garden. I collect the self sown seedlings to make bonsai trees.

The fruit is edible and can be used to make jams. It was a food source when other food was scarce. Collecting the small

berries is a lot of work as they are best when black in colour. They ripen at different times so collecting the best ripe fruit is tedious. Many birds are attracted to the trees when the fruit is ripe.

The flower is insignificant in size, with its main interest being that it doesn't have flower petals.

The seed sprouts very easy to grow new trees, in fact birds spread the seed so young trees can appear throughout the gardens when a tree is fruitful.

Fresh seed needs stratification by exposure to cold to simulate winter conditions, such as storing in a fridge for several weeks, before it will sprout. This follows the natural process of the seeds passing winter in

the soil and emerging in spring to grow when conditions are more favourable.

The wood of the Hackberry tree is very useful for making tool handles, walking sticks, whips and items made by wood turning.

The qualities of the wood are that it is flexible without splitting easily.

The roots of the tree give a yellow dye that has been used for colouring silk cloth. The leaves and fruit have been used as remedies for various stomach region problems.

They have few pest and disease problems making them a healthy addition to the garden as they require little corrective maintenance other than pruning of excess branches.

It's all Greek to me

MOST know the beauty of Greece and its simplicity. There is no other place in the world that presents the colours white and blue as successfully as the Greeks do. The little white houses looks as if they are part of the landscape, carved out and designed by a mythical God.

It is possible to achieve a Greek-style in your home by following a few simple rules, using natural colours and materials; keeping it simple and achieving symmetrical balance, applied through shape, texture and colour.

This creates a sense of calm, which is probably why Greece has always been a popular holiday destination, for those

that seek tranquillity.

Start by whitewashing walls, painting window frames blue and adding stone colours to give more depth. Greeks use marble or limestone for flooring but there are other options, which include vinyl flooring that mimics marble and cement limestone. Once the blank canvas has been created, you could lay down a traditional striped patterned rug or one that has a classic motif.

There are two prominent styles in Greece, which include the 'Cycladean' and the 'Hellenic' styles. The former adheres to the simple medieval style of the white houses on the islands, which were built for defence against the sun. The latter hails from the golden age of

classical Greece, which used a more decadent and ornate design and materials, including brass and marble.

Choose furniture and decoration, including wooden tripod tables and stools; carvings; embroidered tapestry; glazed pottery; coloured glassware. Other furnishings to include are: mosaic tiles for the bathroom, floors walls and shower; white linen for the bedroom and hardwood dining table and chairs.

If the space requires a touch of serious Greek style and glamour; use faux columns, as a pedestal to hold a sculpture or planter and to go even further, the use of mouldings that replicate classical decorative motifs will complete the look.

GREEK-STYLE:
Applied through shape, texture and colour.



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Advertising feature

Pool heating: booming green business?

WHY is pool heating becoming more and more popular?

Albert from Poolworx: "Swimming whenever you want, whatever the season, that's what our customers are looking for and that's what we make possible. The Spanish property market is lifting up and home-owners simply want to get the most out of their pool and enjoy time off on their own or with family and friends."

A Belgian company with roots in Spain... why is that?

Albert: "Already before I started Poolworx my wife and I invested our first savings in a second home in Spain. Pretty soon we found that there were no (truly) efficient, affordable, durable heating solutions available in the larger costa areas of Spain. A lot of 'bricolage' but no professional products. In Belgium though, a lot of pools and domestic heating is provided for by using Duratech heat pumps. This is a high end Belgium-made product, developed in cooperation with Belgian universities. It absorbs heat from the ambient air and transfers it into the water from the pool, like a reverse aircon. For each kW consumed by the heat pump, 6 kW can be returned to the pool. So five out of 6 kW are for free. Combined with our LED lighting



solutions, this saves a whole lot of energy!"

"I initially shipped a Duratech heat pump to Spain for myself and quickly found that in Spanish climate conditions, these heat pumps are ridiculously efficient! So, a few years ago, I decided to start off as official distributor for Duratech! Since then, it's going well and we are working on the marriage between digital services and hands-on installers."

So, you are looking for partnerships with

installers?

Albert: "Poolworx is growing and the Spanish costa is very long! We focus on distribution to professionals or directly to end-customers while liaising with local installers for installation. So naturally, we are eager to build up a better local network of skilled installers."

"At the same time, we centralise customer service and do all of the marketing to end-customers ourselves. This is the only way to offer the unique low prices we publish on our website for a professional product such as Duratech. On top of that we make sure that for every larger region there is a premium partnership in place for second line service, to guarantee our two year warranty, and help our customers for many years."

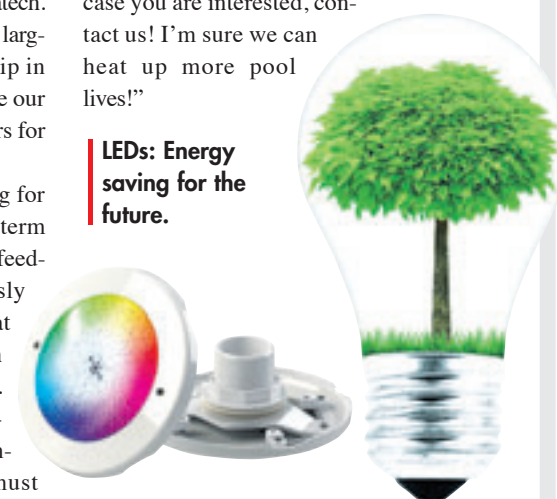
"We believe this is the way of working for the future, the only way to ensure long-term quality and stay in touch with customer feedback. We learn and improve continuously and are always fully transparent on what we can, or cannot make possible with our LED and heat pump technology. Our way of working also enables installers to focus on what they do best: installation and service! Any installer must

adhere to our factory instructions and guidelines."

Do you think of yourself as a disruptive start-up?

"Not really. We always think win-win, maybe that is disruptive? We invest big in digital services and are reaching out to interested customers via our state-of-the art website, via Google and Social Media. For this, we involve our installers in order to increase our knowledge and visibility along the Spanish costas. In case you are interested, contact us! I'm sure we can heat up more pool lives!"

LEDs: Energy saving for the future.



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Smart homes are the future

IT could be said that our homes are smart enough, with most members of the family already in possession of a smart phone, television and car. Installing a digital assistant could be a wise decision for many reasons.

The current use of digital assistants, including Amazon Echo's 'Alexa' is the beginning of a new way of interacting with technology. Lives are busy and it would be comforting to know that everything involved

in running a household, could be taken care of using the voice to command a smart personal assistant.

Mintel research has revealed that Americans are mostly interested in smart home prod-

ucts, including outdoor security, window and door sensors and even indoor security, as worried parents wish to keep an eye on their children and pets.

Having a smart home system is good for the environment, which includes energy efficient products. If the technology is saving money and helping the environment and securing the home, then it's smart to invest.

There is the added bonus that there is no need to be chained to the house permanently, for fear of people breaking in. Smart home systems allow the homeowner to control the functions of the house, while being miles away.

Bougainvillea in all their regalia

THE bougainvillea can be found all over the Mediterranean, but it's not originally from this area. These plants are natives of Brazil, a tropical plant that can grow red or purple flowers.

In 1768, it was named by the French botanist, Dr Philibert Commerson in honour of his ship's Captain Admiral Louis-Antoine de Bougainville and became an official species in the 1980s. English and French breeding nurseries sent these plants all over the world.

There are 14 species, but only three types have cultural importance: glabra, peruviana and spectabilis.

To maintain a bougainvillea in a pot, it must be placed in an area

that receives at least six hours of sunlight each day. If it's outside, then make sure it's elevated above a drainage dish, so roots can grow out of the drainage holes. The roots need room to spread.

It's important to let the soil dry out between watering. Water the plant until it drips out of the drainage holes, then discard the water in the drainage dish to prevent the soil from remaining soggy.

During spring and autumn, feed them every two weeks and every three to four weeks during winter.

If the plant needs repotting, take out the soil, handling the roots very carefully and place in a larger container with drainage holes.

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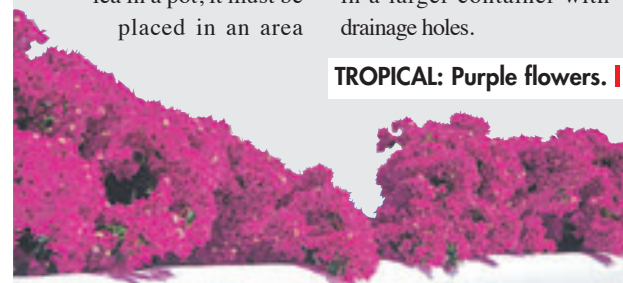
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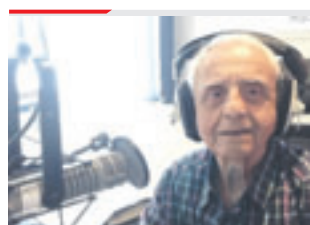
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SOME cats and dogs can have the best start in life and still grow up with behavioural concerns being fearful. Others that missed out on critical socialisation experiences such as puppies or abandoned kittens which impacted their development. But what about dogs who can have it worse?

How does trauma impact our pets?

Some of the cats and dogs we take into our homes don't just come from neglectful pasts but have lived with outright abuse. Sometimes this

Trauma in pets, part 1

abuse has been due to mistreatment at the hands of a past owner, and sometimes it has happened in the current home despite the owner's best intentions. Trauma has a lifelong impact on many cats and dogs.

Dog Training is still an unregulated field, which means there are still many so-called trainers who use aversive training techniques to address behavioural problems. This is the reason why there are many organisations for the premier experts in animal behaviour.

Although much progress has been made, many trainers and people have a position statement regarding the use of punishment in training.

Manufacturing fear or avoidance in an already panicked animal does not create an environment where critical learning can take place.

I have heard of trainers in this day and age using elec-

trical collars on dogs who suffer from separation anxiety for barking, hanging dog-aggressive dogs by their neck when they lunged at others, and strapping electronic collars to dogs' genitals in the name of behaviour modification.

Remember that you are your pet's advocate. If something doesn't seem right to you, it is up to you to put your foot down and protect your pet. Even something as seemingly mild as squirting a reactive pet with a water bottle or gently placing a frightened

cat or dog into a fear-inducing situation and preventing that cat or dog from leaving can have long-lasting consequences.

While you may have had the best intentions when you followed the advice of the trainer on TV or tried a technique that your 'friend' swears by, if your dog responded by panicking or shutting down and if you've noticed your dog's

behaviour has deteriorated since then, it's possible that your dog could be experiencing a canine version of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS). It is time to discuss this with your vet who might well refer you to a behaviour consultant.

More to follow...

TRAUMA: Can have a lifelong impact on cats and dogs.



How fit is that doggy

SPRING is about new beginnings and brushing away the cobwebs, after being cooped up inside.

Dogs are out on the streets and in the parks with their owners, but are they protected enough?

The warmer weather could easily present issues for your dog's health, including heartworm, so make sure the dog receives a year-round monthly heartworm preventive.

This is also the time of year for mosquitoes, fleas and ticks; so protect your dog well in advance and your dog will thank you.

Dogs need exercise, especially after living the lifestyle winter encourages. Don't rush your dog, as he needs to warm up before doing anything too strenuous. Build up a fitness regime gradually.



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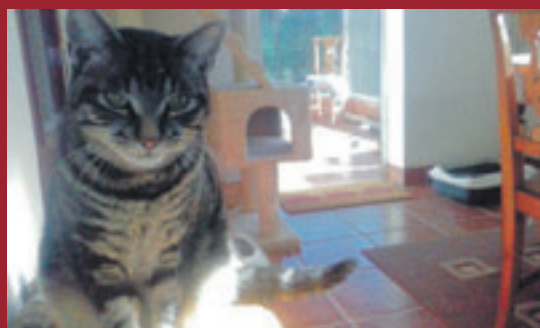
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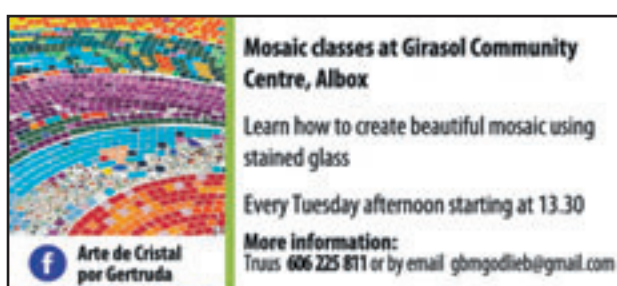
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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

“You can’t be a true petrol head until you’ve owned an Alfa Romeo.”

Some might say...



Top ten popular classics

By Matthew Elliott

THE biggest classic car trading website in Europe now has more than €1 billion of stock on its books. Classic Trader is a site

where classic car lovers can swap and buy timeless motors from enthusiasts across the continent.

To celebrate crossing the €1 billion milestone, Classic Trader released a list of the 10 most popular models on the site.

The list serves as a kind of informal referendum among European car lovers on which classics have best stood the test of time.

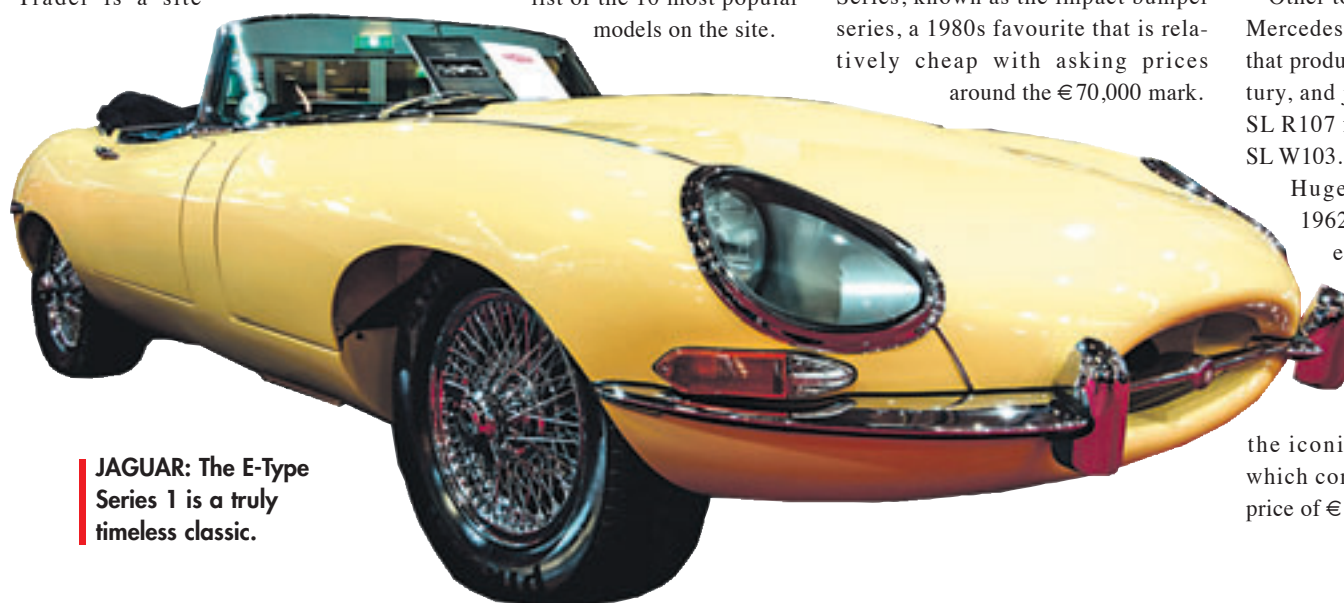
Topping the table is the Porsche G-Series, known as the impact bumper series, a 1980s favourite that is relatively cheap with asking prices around the €70,000 mark.

There are three other Porsches in the top 10, the 901 from 1965, later renamed the 911; the 964 with its all wheel drive system, and the last air cooled model, the 993 from 1994.

Other top tenners include the 1989 Mercedes-Benz SL R129, so popular that production ran until the 21st century, and joined by sister models the SL R107 from '79 and the beautiful SL W103.

Hugely popular is the classic 1962 Alfa Romeo Giulia. Going even further back in time is the 1957 Fiat Nuova 500.

Easily the most expensive yet popular car found on Classic Trader is the iconic Jaguar E-Type Series 1 which commands an average asking price of €150,000 second-hand.



JAGUAR: The E-Type Series 1 is a truly timeless classic.

Motoring shorts

Testing out the satnav

BRITISH learners will have to pass satellite navigation tests as part of their official exam. The new law comes into effect in December as part of a testing shake-up from the DVSA.

Studies have found that more than 50 per cent of British drivers now use satnav, making it an essential part of the driving experience.

Distractions are already a major safety issue thanks to mobile phones. The DVSA fear novice drivers messing around with their satnav could seriously threaten other road users.

Other new requirements include manoeuvring into public car parks, which will replace the three-point turn. Motorway driving will still be off limits until drivers have passed their test, a decision which has proved controversial for years.

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Tesla's silicon surge

CAR industry insiders got a glimpse of the future when share prices in Tesla suddenly leapt up, making it the most valuable manufacturer in the US, despite having never turned a profit.

The Silicon Valley giant, which is determined to become the 'Apple' of cars, raced past Ford and General Motors to become the motor-ing world's number one on the New York Stock Exchange.

Valued at \$50.9 billion, Tesla just edged out General Motors,

which is behind Buick, Cadillac and Chevrolet. In 2016 Tesla sold just 76,000 cars, compared to almost 10 million punted by GM.

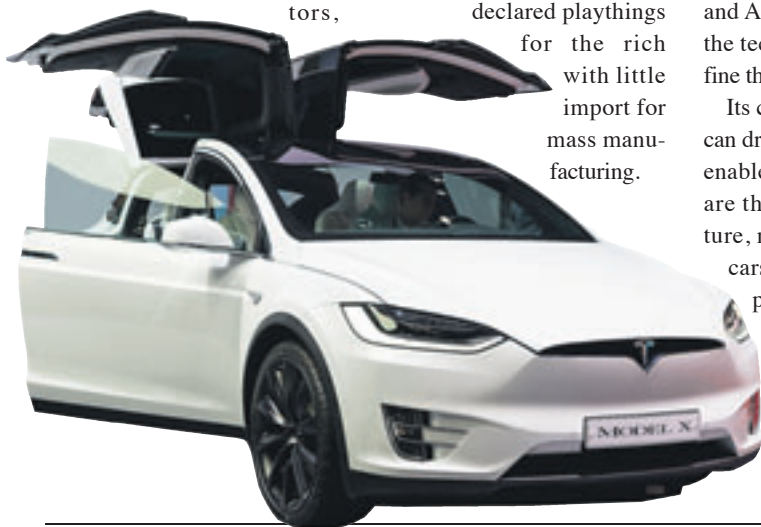
The tech firm also made a loss of almost \$1 billion last year. A sharp contrast with the earning of more than \$9 billion secured by GM.

Tesla has endured an embarrassing series of setbacks and malfunctions with its expensive electric and autonomous cars. Its elaborately designed vehicles have been declared playthings for the rich with little import for mass manufacturing.

Why Tesla's shares suddenly surged is a mystery. Some investors see it as a sign of market confidence in Tesla's eco-friendly, uber modern concept. Others wonder whether shares were somehow artificially inflated, a possibility given Tesla's connections to the billionaire playground of Silicon Valley.

Nevertheless Tesla is expected to become one of the top five profit making car companies within a few years. The firm, alongside Google and Apple, has a firm grip on the technologies that will define the auto-industry's future.

Its cars are entirely electric, can drive themselves, are wifi-enabled and functional. They are the smart cars of the future, making today's regular cars appear as dated as old phones.



MODEL X: Slow sales for Tesla's latest car.

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VW's Dieselgate disaster drags on

A UK government report has revealed that Volkswagen's Dieselgate fix for the EA 189 diesel engine has caused numerous breakdowns, increased fuel consumption and reduced performance.

Owners who have had a 2.0-litre diesel engine fix issued have also reported an increase in exhaust smoke and diesel particulate filter (DPF) regeneration and outright DPF failure.

The report also concludes that exhaust gas regeneration (EGR) valves have failed, that vehicles have entered 'limp

mode,' and that some engines are noisier post-fix.

Volkswagen has previously said that the software-based fix would have no impact on performance, claiming that it had been 'extensively tested' on over 200,000 vehicles.

The report believes that the number of complaints about the fix far exceeds Volkswagen's own figures, and that the company has not maintained an exhaustive log of those received.

Models affected include the Beetle, Polo, Golf Plus, and Passat.

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Edgy Toyota C-HR

COMPACT SUV models have experienced a massive sale boom in recent years and one of the latest contenders to attack this crowded sector is Toyota with its funky-looking and head-turning C-HR.

The initials stand for Coupe High Rider and the cool and distinctive styling gives this Toyota an edge, and with a more upmarket interior than many rivals and a choice of turbo-petrol or frugal hybrid engines.

Priced from €24,832 (£20,995), it is well-equipped even at entry level, but there should be plenty of demand for the upper-spec versions which are laden with extra kit and a raft of technology and connectivity features for which many buyers are prepared to pay a premium. My test model was in mid-range Excel trim, and with the 1.2 litre petrol engine costs €28,380 (£23,995).

The C-HR is similar in size to the Nissan Qashqai, the sec-

tor leader and a hard act to beat, but this Toyota does pack a few aces, notably a wow-factor wraparound dashboard, stand-out exterior styling with rocket-ship-type protruding rear light clusters, and impressive driving dynamics.

It has coupe design cues with a mix of curves and sharp angles, steeply sloping roofline and 'hidden' rear door handles. Beneath its smart exterior suit is the chassis used on the latest Toyota Prius, which on the C-HR delivers superb ride quality and assured handling.

There is a 1.8 litre petrol-electric engine, likely to be the choice of around 75 per cent of buyers, but the 1.2 turbo-petrol in my test model has a lot to offer - 114 hp to give punchy per-

formance, a 0-100 kph time of 10.9 seconds, top speed of 190 kph (118 mph) and fuel economy of 16.6 kpl (47.1 mpg).

Front and rear occupants have plenty of space though the rear windows are quite small and restrict the view. The 377 litre bootspace is typical of class standards and the rear seats fold down for extra load versatility. Front-wheel drive is standard across the range along with a six-speed manual gearbox. CVT auto transmission is available on some models, so too four-wheel drive.

All versions get alloy wheels and distinctive LED running lamps, climate and cruise control, automatic lights and wipers, an auto dimming rear view mirror and seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system.

The Excel test model adds sat-nav, online connectivity, keyless entry, heated seats and park-assist among extra features.

Stats panel:

Model: Toyota C-HR Excel
Engine: 1.2 litre turbo-petrol
Transmission: 6-speed manual
Performance: 0-100 kph 10.9 seconds, top speed 190 kph (118 mph)
Economy: 16.6 kpl (47.1 mpg)
Emissions: 136 g/km

C-HR EXCEL:
With cool and distinctive styling.



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

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It's a London Cup final, Messi scores his 500th goal and Nadal wins again

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 Torre.

Costa de Almería

DIARY OF EVENTS:

• Starting with football and tonight it's the Manchester Premiership derby, City v United followed on Saturday by Crystal Palace (terrific winners at Anfield last Sunday) v Burnley Southampton-Hull, WBA-Leicester, Stoke-West Ham and Sunderland-Bournemouth. On Sunday, Everton face leaders and double-chasing Chelsea, Spurs (2nd) play Arsenal, Manchester City visit lowly Middlesbrough and Manchester United meet relegation-threatened Swansea; Watford play Liverpool on Monday.

• Championship games include Cardiff-Newcastle (tomorrow) and Brighton-Bristol City, Birmingham-Huddersfield, Blackburn-Aston Villa, Fulham-Brentford, Leeds-Norwich, Ipswich-Sheffield Wednesday and Reading-Wigan on Saturday.

• Celtic and Rangers meet again - this time in the SPL.

• Manchester City Ladies, 3-1 down to Lyon, and PSG, 3-1 up on Barcelona, play the second legs of their Women's Champions Cup semi-finals.

• Also on Saturday, GB heavyweight Anthony Joshua, 18 bouts unbeaten, fights Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley.

• Twenty-fours later, 100,000 fans will attend the Russian F1 Grand Prix in Sochi.

• The World Snooker

championship continues in Sheffield where Ronnie O'Sullivan is seeking glory (again).

• And Rugby's big Super League game is Castleford (top) against Wigan (3rd).

ROUND-UP:

• Congratulations to Lincoln City who return to the Football League in place of Leyton Orient who drop out after 112 years.

• The FA Cup final on May 27 will be Arsenal against Chelsea. In the semis, the Gunners beat Manchester City 2-1 after extra time while Chelsea, without a Brit in their lineup, defeated Spurs 4-2. This was Spurs' seventh semi-final loss on the trot.

• The Scottish Cup final, also on May 27, will see Aberdeen, 3-2 semi-final victors over holders Hibs, face treble-chasing Celtic who ko'd Rangers 2-0 in their semi-final.

• The Champions League semi-finals are Real Madrid-Atletico Madrid and Monaco-Juventus and it's Manchester United-Celta Vigo and Ajax-Lyon in the Europa League semi-finals.

• Lionel Messi scored a dramatic 92nd minute winner - his 500th goal for Barcelona - in last Sunday's 3-2 El Clasico win over Real Madrid. The teams stand level on points at the top of La Liga, but Real have a game in hand.

• John Terry with 704 appearances for Chelsea, will leave the club in May.

• Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters tennis final for a record 10th time as GB's women's Federation Cup team lost to Romania in their Division Two play-off encounter which saw Ilie Nastase banned from the stadium after verbally abusing

two GB players and the umpire.

• British F4 driver Billy Monger, 17, who crashed at Donington Park 10 days ago, has had both legs amputated. A fund has already raised over £1m.

• Last Sunday, 40,000 runners competed in the London marathon and the winners were Daniel Wanjiru (men) and Mary Keitany (women), the latter in a world record time. David Weir (for the seventh time) and Manuela Schar won the wheelchair races.

• In Rugby Union, Munster 'A' beat Jersey 29-28 in the British Isles Cup final and it's Wasps (79 pts), Exeter (74) and Saracens (72) 1-2-3 in the Aviva Premiership. Saracens will play Clermont Auvergne in the European Champions Cup final while Gloucester will face Stade Francias in the Challenge Cup final.

• Britain's Ellie Downie won all-round gold, vault silver and bars bronze medals at the world gymnastics championships; Courtney Tulloch won rings silver.

• In the British swimming championships, Duncan Scott became the first Brit to break 48 seconds for the 100m freestyle... James Guy won gold in the 100m and

200m butterfly and 400m freestyle races... Adam Peaty triumphed in the 50m and 100m breast-stroke finals... and Chris Walker-Hebborn took the 50m freestyle and the 50m and 100m back-stroke titles. Other golds went to Max Litchfield, Dan Jervis and Ross Murdoch (men) and Freya Anderson, Charlotte Atkinson, Georgia Davies, Anna Hopkin, Hannah Miley, Rosie Rudin and Jocelyn Ulyett.

• Welshman Geraint Thomas has become the first Brit to win cycling's Tour of the Alps.

• It was Marc Marquez, Valentino Rossi and Dani Pedrosa 1-2-3 in last weekend's MotoGP in Texas. Rossi now

leads the rider's championship.

• Ex-athlete Brendan Foster, 69, is to retire as a BBC commentator.

• Vicente won last Saturday's Scottish Grand National for the second year running.

• The 2017 PFA Footballer of the Year is Chelsea's N'Golo Kante.

• Sad news, GB's Beijing Olympic long jump silver medallist Germaine Mason (34) has died in a motor-bike accident in Jamaica. First on the scene was his friend Usain Bolt. Also, the former WBA, Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Rangers, Sheffield

United and England footballer Ugo Ehiogu died last Thursday, aged 44. He suffered a cardiac arrest while coaching Tottenham's U23 squad. And Italian cyclist Michele Scarponi (37) has been killed in a road accident.

LIONEL MESSI:
Scored his 500th goal for Barcelona.

RAFAEL NADAL:
Won the Monte Carlo Masters for the 10th time.



GERAINT THOMAS:
Won the Tour of the Alps.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE first football club with city in its name was Lincoln in 1892. And Stanley Matthews' 1953 FA Cup and Ray Wilson's 1966 World Cup winner's medals will soon sell for £225,000 and £135,000 respectively at auction.



THE Professional Footballers' Association announced that Chelsea's N'Golo Kante is the 2017 Footballer of the Year.

TO READ MORE

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

Badgers Bar Golf Society

ON Wednesday April 19 Badgers Bar Golf Society travelled to Lorca Golf Resort, always a tough ask for players who are not long hitters off the tee.

A Better Ball Stableford, where you play as pairs to get a result, was played and coming in first was Christa Hagen and Steve Dodd.

Full results: 1st Christa Hagen and Steve Dodd 44 points. 2nd Duncan Smart and John Conley 39 points. 3rd Steph Glynn and Martyn England 39 points. NTP: 4th Martin Cahill, 8th Wendy England, 12th Duncan Smart and 18th Wendy England. Phil Bridge came in with the only two of the day.

Contact Duncan Smart on 634 331 059 for info.

Carbrera's Almanzara Drawn Hong Kong Pairs

THE first competition of the new season was hosted by Cabrera Lawn Bowling Club when it played the Almanzara Drawn Hong Kong Pairs between April 12-16.

As you would expect there was some very good rounds with the standout pair throughout the whole competition being John Beaumont and John Wilson. They met Tony Turk and Chris Hughes-Jones in the final with Tony and Chris receiving two byes after the first round due to illness of their opposition.

This did not detract from a wonderful final and Tony and Chris were actually leading after four ends 5-1 but then on the next end they dropped a five followed by a three and after that their opponents kept on the pressure scoring steadily to win the final 19-13.

Many congratulations to



STEADY WINNERS: John Beaumont (L) and John Wilson (R).

John Beaumont and John Wilson for deservedly winning the competition after playing so well throughout and commiser-

ations to Tony and Chris. It was a great final which was enjoyed by the many spectators who turned up to watch.

Windy day's play at Aguilon

WITH a gale force wind sharp enough to fillet a hering the 19th Hole Golf Society played its monthly medal at Aguilon Golf Resort on Thursday April 20.

Brian (Dee) Lowden playing off 19, and of late showing no form at all, took the men's medal with a very creditable nett 69 making him the only player from 40 to break nett par, beating Peter Death into second place on nett 71.

A brilliant result for Pete Dow who took third with nett 73 and an equally impressive display from new member Neil Munsford taking fourth with a nett 74.

Pete also collected a Nearest the Pin, which he converted, into a Two on

the tricky 17th.

Zeta Denyer just nicked the ladies medal from Chrissie Dow decided by card countback with both having scored nett 72.

Results - Men's medal: 1st Brian Lowden, nett 69 (19). 2nd Peter Death, nett 71 (10). 3rd Pete Dow, nett 73 (27). 4th Neil Mansford, nett 74 (28).

Ladies medal: 1st Zeta Denyer, nett 72 (35) on a card countback, 2nd Chrissie Dow, nett 72 (32).

Nearest The Pins: 3rd John Kennedy, 8th Paco Ocana Grajal, 11th (in two) Gerry Edwards, 12th Norman Taylor, 14th Nekane Galindez and 17th Pete Dow. Twos: 17th Christine Edwards and Pete Dow.

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