





Issue No. 1661 4 - 10 May 2017

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Low budget

Almerians take to streets in protest

By Matthew Elliott

Protests, strikes and public anger look set to dominate Almeria's political scene after thousands of people took to the streets for a May Day

It was one of the biggest marches in the country, reflecting the very real fury that has been generated by the slashing of Almeria's budget by Madrid.

Organised by two of Spain's biggest trade unions, the UGT and CC OO, the protest march saw an estimated 4,000 people walk loudly through the city. They described the day as a 'turning point' to fight back against tough austerity measures.

Marching past the Purchena Gate and stopping at almost all of Almeria's key landmarks, the protestors waved flags demanding fair wages, social security and guaranteed pensions.

Fury in Almeria has been bubbling under the surface of public dialogue after the province's infrastructure budget was cut by a shocking



SHOCKING CUTS: Fair wages is just one of the issues people are protesting about.

80 per cent. No other region in Spain suffered anywhere close to such a dramatic cut.

The decision has meant that public wages across Almeria have been frozen. Key work projects designed to improve life for residents in Mojacar, Carboneras, Albox, Nijar and right across the province have been axed.

Protesters denounced the 'false recovery' sold to the public by the government and made the startling claim that newly released unemployment figures are lies. There were calls to strike, following the example of long distance train staff across the country.

Angry mention was also made of the postponed high speed rail project that has infuriated politicians and unionists alike. The unusual alliance has seen both urge a summer of strikes to grind public service to a halt and show the worth of workers.

See us on page 36 **Abbeygate** www.abbeygateinsure.com

New flights of fancy

FIVE new destinations have been added to Almeria airport's connections to the UK.

A flight landing from Edinburgh was received by a Champagne-fuelled ceremony to celebrate a new Scottish connection.

The other destinations are also in the north. Jet2 will fly from Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and the East Midlands from May until October. An estimated 28,000 people will fly direct to Almeria from the five cities, Edinburgh included.

Last year an estimated 430,000 foreign visitors arrived in Almeria, almost half of them British.

A recent Spanish survey found that most Brits consider a holiday a necessity rather than a luxury. On average British tourists spend at least €103 per day during their trips to Spain, spending an average of eight days in the

Fatal car accident

EMERGENCY services in Andalucia have reported the death of a 21-year-old girl in a traffic accident at kilometre 49 of the A-334 at the entrance to the town of Purchena.

112 Andalucia have also confirmed that four other young people have been injured in the accident which occurred in the early hours of May 2. Three of them are apparently related to the dead woman while the fourth was her boyfriend.

The Guardia Civil's traffic division has started its investigation to discover why the vehicle left the road.





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NEWS EXTRA

Domestic discipline

A MAN who mistreated his wife for 15 years has been imprisoned for two years and 10 months by Almeria's provincial court, the judge condemning his behaviour, which included physical violence.

Work woe

THE death of a cook who worked in an Almeria retirement home led union activists onto the streets to protest against substandard working conditions in the province, with 17 workplace deaths already this year.

Fast fines

A TOTAL of 326 drivers were sanctioned for speeding on Almerian roads in seven days in April, during which 8.017 drivers were stopped at police controls.

A Fistful of History

By Matthew Elliott

A NEW book from a Spanish writer explores the fascinating story of Clint Eastwood's years spent shooting in Almeria. Francisco Reyero has done, by all accounts, a remarkable job in capturing the roots and revelations from Eastwood's formative period in Spain from 1964 to

Though A Fistful of Dollars is today celebrated as an iconic film, Reyero shows how obscure it truly was when filming first began in Almeria's Tabernas desert more than 50 years ago.

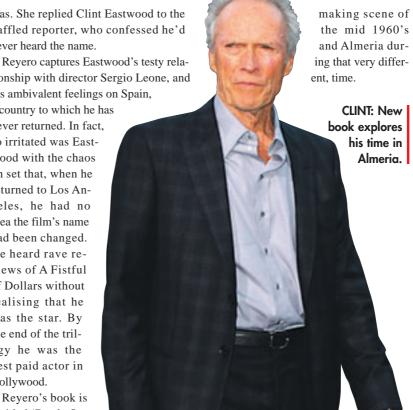
Eastwood arrived in Almeria considered a lost cause whose name was dirt in Hollywood after he got a married woman pregnant. Under such circumstances the offer from an unknown Italian director to travel to an empty desert in Franco's Spain to shoot a western with a \$24,000 budget seemed oddly appealing.

The rest is history. Eastwood's time in Almeria spawned the spaghetti western trilogy and the 'man with no name' became a household name, in Europe at least. In one fantastic anecdote Reyero reveals that in the late 60's Italian actress Sophia Loren was asked by an American journalist who her favourite film star

was. She replied Clint Eastwood to the baffled reporter, who confessed he'd never heard the name.

tionship with director Sergio Leone, and his ambivalent feelings on Spain, a country to which he has never returned. In fact. so irritated was Eastwood with the chaos on set that, when he returned to Los Angeles, he had no idea the film's name had been changed. He heard rave reviews of A Fistful of Dollars without realising that he was the star. By the end of the trilogy he was the best paid actor in Hollywood.

Revero's book is entitled 'Desde Que Mi Nombre Me Defiende' (Since my name defends me) and also offers terrific insights into the film-



Ship shape smash

A FERRY that was scheduled to cover the Almeria to Melilla route was put out of action after it crashed in Malaga, leading to a series of cancellations and seven arrests.

The Pinar del Rio crashed into a dock at the Costa del Sol capital's port following a mechanical failure, although none of the 143 passengers were injured.

Parent shipping company Balearia immediately dispatched a highspeed ferry to cover the return leg to Melilla, which was postponed for two-and-a-half hours.

Seven people were arrested after a number of stowaways were found hiding in the bowels of the vessel.

They had been trying to reach Europe from the African Spanish enclave.

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

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

Simply by taking a few precautions you can prevent yourself from becoming the next target.



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Costa del Sol set to get new paper

A NEW free weekly English-language newspaper is to be launched tomorrow (Friday) on the Costa del Sol.

The first edition of the 64-page RTN Costa del Sol will be available from numerous key local distribution points from Torremolinos to Sotogrande.

The RTN brand of community newspapers was launched successfully on the Costa Blanca 18 years ago.

The brand with various editions covering the Valencia, Alicante and Murcia regions was earlier this year taken over by EWN Media Group (EWNMG), publishers of six editions of this newspaper, and also the Sol Times brand.

Now with tomorrow's launch on the Costa del Sol, the brand further increases its footprint area and provides readers and advertisers increased choice.

RTN Costa del Sol will increase the number of weekly publications owned and handled by EWNMG to 13, and further expansion is also on the cards.

Terrifying timber

A GIANT tree crashed down on the tables of a popular Almeria bar. The tree, several metres in height, had rotted from the inside and keeled over without so much as a warning creak.

Startled customers celebrating May Day on Plaza Espana lept out of the way before police moved in to cordon off the area. Fortunately no one at Lenguetas was hurt, though several tables and chairs were smashed to pieces. A huge crowd gathered under the 7pm sun to snap selfies and enjoy the spectacle

Prices hit record low

FARMERS are trying to deal with market forces and wild fluctuations of the price of fruit and veg in the last days of the 2016/2017 Almeria season. Courgette prices have tumbled to a record low at supermarkets across the province at just 11 cents per kilo, witnessing a 36 per cent fall in just three days.

Tomato prices also fell sharply but are still almost twice as expensive as they were this time last year. It's good news for shoppers but bad for local farmers who have angrily protested against su-

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...11

Driving force

SEAT is now part of the massive Volkswagen Group, but was founded in 1950 as a state-owned Spanish company

Based in Martorell, not far from Barcelona, the present SEAT (Sociedad Espanola de Automoviles de Turismo) headquarters, which has the capacity to annually produce around 500,000 vehicles, was opened in 1993 by King Juan Carlos.

As the nation's only major car manufacturer able to develop its own designs in-house, its range of models are frequently named after places in Spain, and include Ibiza, Leon, Toledo, Alhambra and Altea.

A number of town halls are now competing to have a new model named after their municipality.

SEAT, with a workforce of more



SEAT: Was opened in 1993 by King Juan Carlos.

than 14,000, showed a €6 million after tax profit in 2015.

With around 80 per cent of its cars exported, SEAT also has manufacturing plants in Portugal, Germany, and Slovakia.

However Martorell produces vehicles and is also home to the brand's technical centre, research facilities. development and design branch, customer services division, and a genuine parts factory for SEAT, in addition to 'stablemate' brands Volkswagen, Audi and Skoda.

Meanwhile Barcelona's Zona Franca site, the original home of SEAT, boasts the company's training centre, and manufactures stamped body parts and gearboxes for all VW group cars.

The iconic **SEAT 600**

SEAT produced the classic 600 city car in Spain from May 1957 to August 1973 with nearly 800,000 made, including many for ex-

The model kickstarted the economic boom known as the 'Spanish miracle' that ended the country's slow recovery from the Civil War.

Made under licence through a partnership with Italian manufacturer Fiat, it was relatively inexpensive and frequently the only car within the economic means of many Spanish families

Walk around any Spanish town and the chances are a SEAT 600 can be spotted, often lovingly restored.



SEAT 600: Kickstarted the economic boom.

permarkets for dropping the price. They are facing tough competition from greenhouse growers in Holland and rivals across the border in Murcia.

School's out

THE Junta de Andalucia has confirmed that the Francisco Fenoy preand primary school in Albox is to close and its students sent to the Virgen del Saliente institution.

After 31 years and countless protests from local parents and children, the school will close its doors and the 133 youngsters relocated, said official messages posted on social media.

The school has been barred from taking in additional children for the last three years, and the regional council has now confirmed the village's worst fears

Complete disaster

A FURIOUS female councillor described the latest botched attempt to

spruce up a centre Almeria park as a 'monumental fudge up.' Ines Plaza claims the council spent €61,000 on somehow making Los Molinos worse than it was before.

She castigated the works, which removed the large shade-offering trees from the park and replaced them with nothing but harsh sky. There are no longer any waste bins and only half the grounds were asphalted, leaving the impression that workers ran out half way through.

Pet owners are particularly upset as there is nowhere to put the mess, or water taps for the approaching summer

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Employees work even when sick

A REPORT from the European Union found that more than half of all Almerian employees go to work even when they are sick. Now standing at 53.4 per cent, the number who work despite having a problem more serious than the cold has risen sharply during crisis years.

The national average across Spain is, however, 60.2

per cent, meaning Almerians are more likely to take a rest day at home. It was also found that company employees are twice as likely to take a day off than the selfemployed. Recent changes to statutory laws make it possible for employers to begin deducting wages after the fourth day of illness.

Postscript to ponder

18.6%

Spain's unemployment rate is expected to fall in 2017 and 2018 reports the IMF, although youth unemployment is 40 per cent. GDP is rising but more work is needed to recover from 'La Crisis.'

Cold threat to wine crop

THE entire wine harvest of northern Spain is under threat after temperatures plummeted to -5°C before the weekend.

Some growers in the Ribera del Duero, Castilla v Leon, resorted to hiring a helicopter to fly above their vines and prevent frost from forming, but others suffered significant losses.

A state of catastrophe has been declared in the Bierzo area, Leon, where 70-80 per cent of the harvest was lost. Galician growers have lost an estimated 21.7 million bottles of wine with a market value of €72 million, with up to 95 per cent of vines affected in

Need for speed

A TOTAL of 31,086 drivers were handed speeding fines by the Spanish Directorate General of Traffic (DGT) from April 17-23.

The penalties came after a weeklong monitoring and control campaign during which the Guardia Civil stopped 581,294 vehicles after zapping them with fixed or mobile radars.

Four motorists were arrested for exceeding the speed limit by more than 80 km/h and may face three-tosix month prison sentences, while the remaining offenders must pay fines ranging from €100-€600.

Noise annoys

ONE in four Spaniards are exposed to unsafe levels of noise pollution caused by levels of traffic on the roads, a new EU report reveals.

It claims around 12 million of the population, about 26 per cent, suffers high noise levels, defined as being



Postcard from Burgos



EL CID, the Castillian nobleman, military hero, and diplomat, is a historical hero of Burgos, being born nearby and raised and educated in the northern city.

At the edge of the Iberian central plateau, the Gothic beauty of the Cathedral plus a large numbers of churches. palaces and other buildings from medieval times saw the city declared a World Heritage Site in 1984.

With a population of around 180,000 and once the capital of the Crown of Castile, the city forms a crossroads on the historic route of the pilgrimage Camino de Santiago, which runs parallel to the River Arlanzon.

Early humans made their home in the area as long as 800,000 years ago, the Romans occupied the city, and in the 5th century, the Visigoths conquered.

The Moors occupied almost all of Castile in the 8th century but only for a short time and there is little sign of their influence, while in the middle of the 9th century King Alfonso III the Great of Leon took it and built a castle 'in defence of Christendom,' giving the region its name 'land of castles.'

Founded in 884 Burgos was an outpost of the expanding Christian frontier and the start of the reconquest of Spain.

With the Duke of Wellington besieged and forced to retreat with his allied army in the Peninsula War, the city was the scene of battles during civil wars of the Spanish succession, and during the Spanish Civil War, was the base of General Franco's Nationalist government.

above a daily average of 55 decibels.

The report shows railways are the second main source of noise, with 19 million affected; the third cause is air traffic, affecting 4.1 million living near airports.

Not so popular

HUNDREDS of people demonstrated outside the Madrid headquarters of the ruling Partido Popular to protest against corruption.

The protest was organised through social media and was not officially sanctioned. People were warned they could face fines under Spain's controversial new Citizen Security Law; labelled 'the Gag Law' because of its clampdown on public protest.

Power down

IBERDROLA, Spain's largest power company, blames a fall on its first quarter profits partly on the weakness of Sterling following the Brexit vote.

The energy giant - which generates a quarter of its earnings in Britain where it owns Scottish Power - said net profit from January to March fell by 4.7 per cent to €827 million.

Grotty grub

EUROPEAN police have seized around €230 million of 'potentially harmful' counterfeit food and drink in a four month operation.

Almost 10,000 tonnes of counterfeit or harmful food and drink were grabbed by officers following around 50,000 checks at shops, markets, airports, seaports, and industrial estates.

In Spain 530kg of clams 'unfit for human consumption' were found, across the border in Portugal more than 300,000 cans of sardines in tomato sauce were seized among 13 million items taken into custody.

Birthdays

Rory McIlroy (28), May 4, **Professional Golfer**

This Northern Irish golfer has won four major championships - the 2011 US Open, 2012 PGA Championship, 2014 Open Championship and the 2014 PGA Championship. He is one of only three players to have won three majors before the age of 25 and has twice been named RTE Sports Person of the Year, in 2011 and 2014.

• Adele (29), May 5, Singer

Award-winning English singer-songwriter whose many hit songs include Hello. Someone Like You and Rolling in the Deep. Her debut album has been certified seven times platinum in the UK and three times platinum in the US. She is one of the bestselling recording artists in the world having sold more than 100 million records.

• Tony Blair (64), May 6, Politician

Former UK prime minister who held office from May 1997 until June 2007 after the Labour party won a landslide victory at the General Election. He became the youngest prime minister, at the age of 43,



since 1812. During his term his government introduced the National Minimum Wage Act, the Human Rights Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

• David Attenborough (91), May 8, **Broadcaster**

Much-loved English broadcaster and naturalist who has presented many popular nature documentary series for the BBC including The Blue Planet, Planet Earth, Frozen Plant and Life. During the 60's and 70's he was director of programming for the BBC. In 1985 was bestowed a knighthood for his services to television.

• Billy Joel, (68), May 9, Singer

American singer and songwriter whose career has spanned five decades and seen him sell more than 150 million records worldwide. His hit songs include Uptown Girl, Tell Her About It and We Didn't Start the Fire. He has been nominated 23 times for a Grammy Award and has won six.







Six Weekly Editions

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OUR VIEW

Freedom of the Press

WITH World Press Freedom Day falling on May 3, it is perhaps appropriate to consider the situation as it currently exists in Spain.

When in 2015, the government - which at that time had a significant majority - introduced the Citizen Safety Law it received a great deal of criticism and was nicknamed the 'Gag Law.'

It is argued that due to the problems then with the Spanish economy, it was considered a useful way for the authorities to crack down on impromptu demonstrations which were being organised quickly through social media.

Generally speaking, there wasn't any significant gagging of the press although it is no longer acceptable to show the faces of members of the various police forces in an apparent effort to protect the identities of the officers and their fami-

Indeed just one journalist was charged with a breach of the law in 2016 and fined €601 but after a 12 month review, just one week before his appeal the government reversed the fine saying that there had been irregularities in the paperwork

Both the PSOE and Basque parties have now tabled motions in the Spanish Parliament calling for amendments in the law and it is anticipated that some changes may take place by 2018.

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No compensation

IN October 2014, Spanish nursing assistant Teresa Romero became the first recorded victim of the Ebola disease outside of West Africa.

She was a nurse at the Carlos III hospital in Madrid and was helping to treat two Spanish missionaries who had contracted the disease in Africa but when one died, she was tested and was found to have contracted the virus herself

Whilst she was given the best treatment possible and recovered, her dog, Excalibur which was a trained rescue dog was seized by the authorities. declared a possible carrier and

was put down despite opposition from the political party Pacma, animal lovers and even some scientists who thought that it would be very valuable as a subject for tests.

After her recovery and with the support of her husband she sued the Spanish Ministry of Health for damages of €150.000 for the loss of Excalibur and the heartbreak caused but the Supreme Court has not only dismissed her claim but has awarded costs against her.

Political party Pacma formed in Spain to protect the rights of all animals is blaming the government for incompetence.

4 arrested in baccy sting

OFFICERS from the National Police stopped four cars in La Linea de la Concepcion and discovered 26,600 packs of smuggled cigarettes valued at €50,000.

The officers were convinced there was something underhanded going on when they saw the four vehicles leaving La Linea and heading towards San Roque in what appeared to be a convoy and all of the drivers were using mobile phones.

All four who were arrested were Moroccans living in Spain.

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Leo the Lion flies back to Spain for welcome

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www.eurochange.es (+34) 615 403 877 (S) (f) (S) (S) (S) BRAVE four-year-old Leo Bermejo from Almeria has finished his 31 sessions of proton beam therapy in Oklahoma and is on hiw way home to Spain via Toronto

The proton treatment in the States followed Leo's fourth brain tumour operation in the Alder Hey Children's Hospital in the UK.

and Manchester

On Sunday (May 7) supporters of Leo the Lion will gather in Vera, Almeria for a welcome home party and a belated ninth birthday party for his sister Sofia.

Mum Karen said: "Everything has been like a whirlwind over the last few months and things have progressed so quickly. I do not think we have really had time to sit down and com-

prehend everything that has happened.

"We have achieved the unbelievable. Leo has proven to us all yet again that he is not ready to give up and he still continues to give us all a smile that lightens up people's lives."

She went on to praise Team Leo who helped raised thousands of euros to fund Leo's specialist treatment to give Leo the chance in life he deserves.

And she offered a big 'thank you' to the anonymous donor who paid the balance to reach the fund's target.

She said: "I hope you are reading this and continue to follow Leo's story and progress. We cannot thank you enough. Reaching the target before Leo's operation meant that we could relax and enjoy the time with him without stressing about the fundraising. I have no idea who you are or where you live but my whole family thank you from the bot-

tom of our hearts."

Karen told us how happy it makes her to share every step of Leo's journey knowing it has brought people together, changed people's mentality of life, and made people realise that the little silly things in life do not really matter any more, odds can be defeated, living life to the fullest is the most important thing in the world.

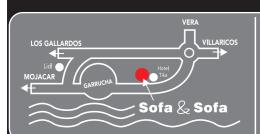
"If a little four-year-old boy can still smile every single day whilst going through horrific, cruel treatment then everyone can smile a bit more every day.

"We have met the most amazing inspirational people on this journey, people who will be friends for life.

"I feel like we have also learned some lessons ourselves and who are our true friends through the good and bad times, people who have stuck by and supported us no matter what." You can follow Leo's journey on the fund's new Facebook page: www.face book.com/leothe lionsfight/



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Los Gallardos - 85,000€ (ref: HNOH) 2 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 196m³ • Build: 77m³ et on a larger than average plot for this develo nent the property has east and west facing aspects, air conditioning, mains gas powered boiler for hot water and rniture is included in the sale price.



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Located just a few minutes' walk away from the beautiful beaches of Vera Playa this villa be the perfect mix of generous outside space with ideal internal living space.

The villa offers a large open plan kitchen with dining area and lounge area with marble floor and air conditioning; the kitchen is fully equipped with ample storage and workspace facilities while the lounge diner has a statement feature brick fireplace.

Leading out of the lounge/dining area and through the hallway there are three spacious double bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes and air conditioning and two bathrooms.

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British woman may have been pushed

By Jack Troughton

SPANISH police are investigating whether a British holidaymaker who plunged to her death 10 floors from a holiday apartment in Benidorm was intimidated or pushed.

The victim, who has been named as 27-year-old Kirsty Maxwell, was in Benidorm with 21 friends for a hen-do.

A 32-year-old British man who was arrested on suspicion of homicide hours later has been released following a court appearance.

He has not been charged or banned from leaving Spain despite the investigation remaining open after he admitted to having been under the influence of alcohol and cocaine.

The young Scot, from Livingston, West Lothian, was staying on the ninth floor at Apartamentos Payma in the 'Little England' area of the resort, while some of the group were on the 10th.

Just before 8am on Saturday morning she is believed to have left her room, with police suspecting that she wanted to find a friend, but it appears that she knocked on the wrong

The suspect, who according to Spanish media has a previous sexual assault charge in the UK, answered, and shortly afterwards Kirsty fell to her death.

Her body was found close to a swimming pool, which investigators say she may have tried to jump into after becoming panicked.

Kirsty tied the knot recently, marrying husband Adam, also 27, last September.

Friends launched a crowdfunding campaign on a Just-Giving donation page to repatriate her body. By Tuesday morning, this had collected more than £24,000, more than doubling the initial target.

The page described Kirsty as 'beautiful' and asked for

help to bring her 'home to where she belongs after this terrible tragedy.

KIRSTY MAXWELL: Was on a hen-do.

NEWS EXTRA

Smashing time

A SORE loser was arrested after smashing a slot machine smithereens, causing €500 of damage and terrifying patrons at the mini Nijar arcade.

Black day

IINION members marched on the streets of Almeria and released 17 black balloons, symbolising the 14 people who died in workplace accidents in 2016 and the three who have perished this year.

Pile up

FOUR people were badly injured in a four car and one truck pile up on the A-7 motorway at Viator. All four were taken to $Torrecarden as\ hospital$ for treatment.

Red faced

ASKED at a public meeting why lights in Pescaderia kept flickering, a councillor accidentally revealed police plans for a raid on a suspected marihuana factory, giving the crooks the exact time of the operation.

Land slide

THE Guardia Civil rescued four people, including two children, who were trapped in their car near Velez-Blanco following a mudslide over the Bank Holiday weekend which covered the vehicle in wet earth and mud.



Greenhouse gangsters



DRUGS: Police seized plants from illegal operation.

POLICE raided two marihuana greenhouses and set the stashes alight in the latest incarnation of Operation Choclo. Properties in Tabernas and La Canada were targeted as armed Guardia Civil officers made two arrests

and seized €6,000 in cash, 494 marihuana plants and complex growing equipment.

It was the latest flash in a province-wide crackdown that has seen police seize thousands of plants and dozens of kilos of prepared marihuana. All the targets have been part of the same criminal enterprise, which has tentacles stretching across Spain and the European mainland.

The two dealers arrested in this latest raid are suspected of masterminding smuggling operations across the continent. They are also charged with siphoning off thousands of euros worth of electricity to power the enormous plantations.





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On the brink of disaster

ECOLOGISTS claim that the Aguas river is being overexploited and is facing an environmental catastrophe. Pollution at the Sorbas point has reached critical levels, leading to the intervention of national NGO Ecologists in

The group has lodged an official complaint with the prosecutors office of Almeria Province. They want all extraction works and the dumping of hazardous materials to stop before the damage to the river becomes irreversible.

Ecologists in Action believe that intentional pollution from local companies constitutes a criminal offence. The river's delicate ecosystem is now under grave threat. The NGO is urging residents to demand that the entire river bed be cleaned by putting pressure on their local politi-





Still no change following protest

By Jay Emeny

THE man accused of mistreating more than 60 dogs denies any wrongdoing during a protest at his Huercal-Overa property.

Police were called to the demonstration after the man's mother allegedly threatened protesters.

When questioned by Euro Weekly News reader Kerry Matthews, the owner claimed he cleaned the room where they were kept in once a week, and that the dogs were used for hunting between October and February which is when they are al-

He also explained it was 'impossible' to keep dogs tick-free in the rural area, but Matthews pointed out that her own 25 dogs are fit, healthy and parasite-free despite living close by.

The man declined to comment on the uncontrolled breeding occurring in what is essentially a concrete box

He assured the protesters he would endeavour to let the animals out more, but neighbours claim he continues to bring live pigs to be torn to pieces, and that the situation has made it impossible to sell properties in the area due to the noise and smell.

Ms Matthews told the Euro Weekly News the



man has 'not changed anything' since the protest and refuses to meet with her.

With the summer fast approaching, there are added fears for the dogs' safety as there is very little ventilation in the building they are kept

Despite the demonstration, authorities have not yet intervened in the situation, but Local Police attended the protest to keep the peace.

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

NEWS EXTRA

Warning shots

SHOTS were fired during a wild brawl on a central Almeria street. Police are hunting a gang of 15 youths after they fired two warning shots at rivals before fleeing in several cars.

True thanks

AN earthquake survivor from Chile travelled all the way to Almeria to personally thank the city's football team, UD Almeria, which raised millions after the tragic 2010 quake which killed 525 people.

Slow justice

CRIMINAL courts across Almeria are being overwhelmed with cases, dealing with almost 5,000 per year. The backlog is postponing justice and creating more anxiety among

Old guards

TO celebrate 250 years since its construction, the Guardias Viejas (Old Guards) Castle of El Ejido, which defended the Almeria coastline from pirates for centuries, has been declared a property of cultural interest.

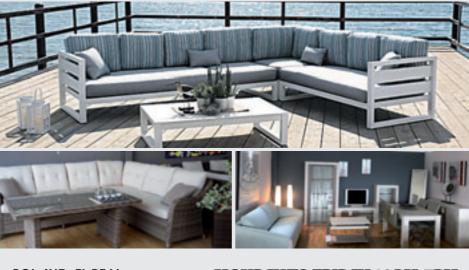
Eco elite

TWO schools in Almeria won the Eco-schools Green Flag for their commitment to the environment. The honour puts them among an elite group of global schools given top marks for their green creden-

Rural army

A STARTLING 98.1 per cent of female farm workers across Almeria are on 'informal' contracts. Described as the province's invisible workforce, rural women have little legal protection.





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NEWS EXTRA

Life savers

MEDICS across Almeria have been trained in using new state-of-the-art defibrillators that are expected to save hundreds of lives in the event of a cardiac emer-

Bad bank

SAREB, known as the 'bad bank' has sold 1,500 properties for less than €60,000 across Spain. At 202, more have been sold in Almeria than in any other province.

New look

AN investment of €250,000 will remodel. Almeria's famous Pescaderia bridge to give it a 'unique and original' flair and transform the neighbourhood into a modern attrac-

Operation Six Pack

SUPERSTAR singer David B i s b a l stripped off to grace the cover of top global magazine Men's Health. The Almeria native showed off his beach body and spoke to an interviewer about his diet and training secrets.

The photo shows a topless Bisbal

playing air guitar with the headline 'Operation Six Pack.' Bisbal, 34, will have his image displayed on millions of the popular magazine, distributed around Spain and Latin America.

BISBAL: On the cover of Men's Health.

He discusses hiking, cycling, swimming and going to the gym while paying tribute to Almeria's fantastic great outdoors. A video of the interview can be found online on Men's Health's Spanish edition.

Bisbal has sold countless millions of records alongside regular appearances on Spanish television. He returns to Almeria for a much-awaited concert on

/Catchup

Dirty dozen plus one

A MASS escape saw 13 immigrants smash through the back door of the Almeria Port detention centre. sparking fury from the Federal Police Union (UFP). Only four policemen were guarding the facility, despite there being an estimated 140 just rescued migrants.

A manhunt is now underway for the escapees, some of whom have already been captured. The detention centre was full to the brim with the recent rescue of four boats stranded at sea. All four were discovered within a hectic 24-hour spell for the coastguard.

UFP officials say that, with only four on-duty officers, it was impossible to perform proper security checks on the new arrivals. The four were tasked with overseeing a quiet skeleton night shift and were totally unprepared for a violent escape plot.

Police have been demanding better security facilities and more personnel since 2010. The number of migrants has increased almost 300 per cent since May 2016, yet staff numbers are the same.



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Place II Si





Environmentally savvy shoppers

A POLL found that three out of four Almerians prefer cardboard packaging to plastic. More than half believe it is more hygienic and the vast majority consider plastic a major cause of pollution.

Conducted by Afco, a packaging association, the survey found that consumers are becoming much more environmentally conscious and determined to cut down on their carbon footprint.

More than 80 per cent believe that care for the environment is a deeply pressing concern and that they can contribute to sustainability through smart shopping

But it also found that most Almerians have little idea of how much waste goes into their products. An estimated 50 per cent of all packaging is unneeded material which is rarely recycled by shoppers.



Avalanche of rocks

DISASTER was narrowly averted when a huge landslide almost destroyed dozens of homes in a hilly Almeria neighbourhood.

Rescue teams evacuated seven properties and cordoned off the entire Pescaderia La Chanca area, near the Alcaz-

The ground shuddered as an entire hill collapsed, flinging tons of earth, rocks and soil towards houses. One enormous rock rolled right into someone's living room. A van was seriously dented by a boulder that ploughed right into it after rolling 50 metres downhill.

Miraculously there were no major injuries, although one man was mildly hurt when a rock ran over his foot. The entire area is now sealed while investigators determine how to make the neighbourhood safe

Around 50 residents are waiting to be rehoused, among them families with a total of six children. They face months in temporary accommodation.

Subsequent rainfall and the catastrophic erosion of local terrain make future landslides a distinct possibility. Mayor Pacheco visited the scene and pledged to begin urgent repairs.

Critics have noted that an urban reform plan approved 27 years ago called for more protection against landslides. Ciudadanos spokesman Miguel Cazorla said it was a 'disgrace' that such essential public safety needs were neglected for decades.

NEWS EXTRA

Baby on board

A CAR carrying a baby flipped over while leaving the A-7 motorway at Pampanico. The driver managed to extract his infant son from the backseat before firefighters arrived and took the two to hospital.

Census stats

A NEW census found the official population of Almeria City stood at 196,192 on January 1, 2017 with more women than men. Foreigners account for 19.033, with just 4,891 from the EU.

Good work

THE best jobless figures since 2008 show there are 78,000 unemployed across the province. The jobless rate of 21.37 per cent is better than the Andalucian average of 27 per cent.



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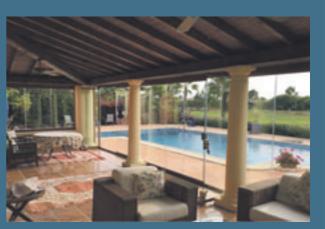












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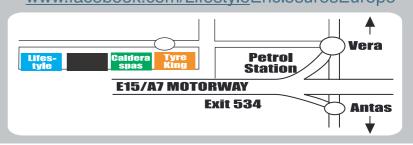


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EWN pre €15,000 car reader survey Smiling Virgin

T was a day of lasting smiles for Vir-

Thanks to the EWN Virginia is now the owner of a new Dacia Sandero Ambiance car, complete with a year's insurance.

ginia de la Torre Unceta.

She collected her prize in a special presentation at the Rombosol Renault showroom in Fuengirola after her number had earlier been picked to find the winner of the EWN 2017 Win-a-Car Readers' Survey prize draw.

The prize, worth €15,000 in total, also included a fabulous meal-for-two at La Sala Banus in Marbella.

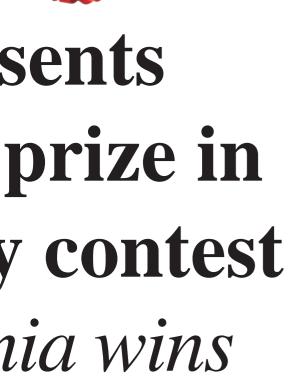
"I still can't believe it!" Virginia said as she was handed the keys to her prize car.

"When you called on Friday I thought it was a joke and only started to believe it when I checked Facebook!"

Virginia's number was drawn by Sala Group Chairman Ian Radford and international footballer Steven Carr in a glittering draw also attended by EWN Publisher Steven Euesden.

It was the first time an English-language newspaper in Spain has ever given a car as a





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prize, with this including the bonus of tax supplied by EWN Media Group in addition to one year's insurance from Abbeygate.

"It really is wonderful," added Virginia.
"I move up and down the coast a lot to sell property and now I have my own car to use!"

An avid *EWN* reader, Virginia moved to the United States more than 20 years ago when she was 19, where she became fluent in English.

Since returning to Spain and to Marbella where she lives "I read the paper every week and spend quite a lot of time doing so. I therefore decided to enter the Survey Win-a-Car draw because I wanted to give my opinion.

"What a good investment those few minutes turned out to be!"

Thousands of entries were submitted in the eight weeks that the highly successful readers' survey ran, with the information and suggestions received now being studied.

Once fully monitored some further improvements to the *EWN* will be introduced as the *EWN* Media Group, the parent company of three newspapers bra

company of three newspapers brands - the $\it EWN$, $\it RTN$ and $\it Sol\ Times$, plans further expansion later in the year.

DACIA SANDERO AMBIANCE: The prize car.

WONDERFUL: Virginia just can't believe it! of the community

Special thanks from all at the EWN Media Group to Peter Sheppard, Managing Director of Abbeygate Insurance Group and his team, plus La Sala Group Chairman Ian Radford and his team at La Sala Banus for their support.





WN 17

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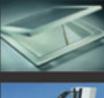
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MT/SRL - Lovely 3 bed/2 bath apartment on front line to golf course, 100 metres to beach, full a/c, pool, fully furnished.

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Pinball wizards



POLICE in Mojacar have a new pair of twowheeled crook catchers at their disposal. The brand new motorbikes will be used to cruise around busy beach areas and the Paseo Mediterreano during summer.

Perfect for whizzing in and out of traffic, the bikes will be a major boost for local officers, who are all too often confounded by absurdly busy high season traffic. Nipping in and out of traffic they will perform breathalyzer tests and make sure passengers are properly strapped in.

There are now 12 vehicles in the Mojacar force, including an SUV, camouflaged car and several off-road bikes. With just 23 officers in the Local Police force, numbers will be bolstered by eight other nearby patrols in summer.

In addition to the bikes, officers also have a new drone to play with. The unmanned aircraft will record potential crimes and deter would-be thieves from above. Soon they will also have a new 500 square metre police headquarters with newly minted jail cells downstairs.



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NEWS EXTRA

Agua villains

A GANG of thieves crept over the border from Murcia into Sorbas to steal batteries worth €200 a piece from two key water tanks used to filter chlorine from drinking water.

War games

SOLDIERS, legionnaires under the King Alfonso XIII regiment, police and **Guardia Civil officers** gathered in Viator to carry out intense armed combat drills in preparation for a potential security threat.

Red revenge

A YOUNG boy aged under 14 who stabbed one of a group of older bullies who tormented him at his Andarax school will spend two years at a young offenders insti-



| HEALTH TOURISM: Chinese delegation arrives in Almeria.

Natural medicine

A CHINESE delegation visited Almeria from the tropical island of Hainan to explore new tourism possibilities with the province. The guests were especially interested in health tourism, eager to bring thousands of curious Chinese over to sample new foods and the abundant natural medicine of the sun and sea.

The visit was largely organised by Almeria's Euroseniors Club which hopes to combine tourism to the province with healthcare. Chinese tourists place a high value on traditional forms of healing, such as exposure to organic foods and nature. They are willing to pay top dollar to travel to Almeria for a dose of goodness to counteract severe pollution at home.

For Almeria the benefits are almost endless. International tourism from outwith the EU shot up by 50 per cent last year. Chinese tourism is a gold rush sweeping across Europe and the twinning of Almeria with Hainan will be a major boost to the local economy.

Three arson suspects freed

A JUDGE released three youths suspected of involvement in the deadly cave fire that shocked Almeria in early April. Two girls, aged 12 and 15, and a 21-year-old man burned to death when a sofa caught fire, blocking them inside the popular La Molineta hang out spot.

Five suspects were immediately arrested on suspicion of starting the fire. The three released were given restraining orders, banned from approaching other young witnesses, amid fears they might try to influence their testimony.

Two others remain in a juvenile detention facility. All five could still face murder charges. They are also accused of threatening others involved to keep silent and obstructing justice by lying to police.

All suspects are aged under 18. The two still in custody blame each other for starting the fire, but claim it was just a joke. One boy who managed to escape the fire says it was deliberate and the two did nothing to help once the blaze spiralled out of control.

Detectives and forensics investigators are putting together a case. But it is expected to be a long time before it goes to trial, especially considering the age of the sus-



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Spare parts

A MAN was arrested after he tried to smuggle parts from 16 stolen cars from Almeria to North Africa. The local man was stopped at the port with the gear, worth thousands of euros.

Food fair

ENTREPRENEURS from Singapore, China and Israel were dazzled by Almerian cuisine at a food fair in Madrid. They pledged to buy fresh produce and other specialities in future business with the province.

Charity cash

SHAMELESS thieves stole money and t-shirts from four charity collection boxes used to raise funds for children with cystic fibrosis. The boxes were snatched from outside the ONCE lottery headquarters in Almeria.

Skincare role models

PLAYERS from UD Almeria showed their commitment to skin safety and set an example to millions of followers by embracing annual dermatology tests. Prestigious skin doctor

Jose Luis Amo visited the players to perform a full check up on their various moles and screen them for early warning signs of melanoma.

Though young and largely

Latino, the players set a perfect example of the importance of sun protection according to Amo. They spend hours each day playing and training under the hot Spanish sun and were ea-

> ger to spread the message to fans, both young and

Italian defender Marco Motta told fans that he wears protection even dur-

ing light training and finds the Almeria heat far stronger than he ever expected. Defensive midfielder Borja Fernandez says he has had several moles removed and regularly smothers himself in factor 50. having grown up in the milder climes of Gali-

Dr Amo stressed that

regular check ups are essential to a possible disease developing in the future and advises against 'binge sunbathing.

Clean as a whistle

THOUGH it may not seem like it in the heat of the moment, Almeria's drivers are actually behaving more responsibly than ever before. New statistics reveal that 97.3 per cent of Almeria drivers kept their licence completely clean during 2016.

The squeaky clean provincial record means that just three out of every 100 drivers committed some form of offence, whether speeding or simply not being properly strapped in.

It is almost 11 years since the points system was introduced to Almeria. Since then 75 per cent of all drivers have accumulated some black marks on their licence. The vast majority were punished for speeding.

Last year more than 22,000 tickets were issued by speed cameras across the province. Police also confiscated the licences of 200 people for serious offences, including drunk and reckless driving.

Enhanced police scrutiny has also contributed to the improved safety record. Officers are regularly conducting seatbelt checks. Six of the 30 deaths on the road this year have been a direct consequence of failure to strap in.

While road deaths are at their lowest levels in recorded history, problems related to mobile phones and drugs continue to plague young drivers. Police conducted 78 drug tests last year, with 65 giving a positive response.

More than 1,500 people were penalised for driving while talking on the phone, an offence which generates three penalty points and a €200





NEWS EXTRA

George's pride

A NEW coat of arms was revealed for Almeria. It keeps the crown and cross of St George and includes extra details symbolising the Mediterranean Sea and battles at the Alcaza-

Gypsy House

AFTER enduring a winter of controversy over funding corruption, El Meson Gitano is set to open in the summer. The restaurant and gypsy attraction will be also have a tourist office and muse-

Pantry power

A HEALTH campaign across Almeria hopes to reignite local passion for the famous Mediterranean diet. Like many Spanish, Almerians are forgetting the foods their grandparents ate and opting for processed quickies.

Mixed up

AUTHORITIES are investigating after personal health data from a Torrecardenas patient was illegally given to an insurance company, which mixed up its files and revealed one woman's gynecological history to another patient.

Boat crisis

JUST days after Salvamento Maritimo rescued a record 140 people from Almeria waters in 24 hours, another 87 were saved from three sinking boats requiring a major helicopter operation.

Plastic veg

GREENHOUSE initiative Hortiespana is fighting against the conception that fruit and veg grown indoors are dangerous, unnatural and have no flavour, opinions shared by most Almerians.

GUIDED tours of some of Almeria's most fantastic film locations will be created in the Tabernas desert and Cabo de Gata Nijar natural park.

Directors and artists are scouring the top locations until the end of May as they work on the tours, which will be a major tourist attraction in the years to come.

Sponsored by the provincial min-

Hollywood style

istry of culture the tours will offer a tremendous route right through the stunning natural park, taking in the Rodalquilar Valley and Isleta del Moro. Tours will take people around

old castles, fortresses, aquaducts and

They will have a maximum of 50 people and can be booked on the 'Filming Almeria' website. Films shot in the iconic locations include Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly,

Far from a purely filming endeavour, the tours will also capture Almeria itself. The province's unique history, culture and style will be explored in the tours, which will also include food and narration from local film buffs.



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Stage Door 31

WOULD-BE gangsters and molls please read.

Last week Stage Door 31 had the first casting meeting for its murder mystery 'Murder in the First.' There was lots of brilliant suggestions and lots of laughs, especially when a few of the members attempted the Charleston. It is set in 1920's Chicago with over the top characters from that era.

The next reading is on Thursday May 11 at 3pm in Bar Solare, Turre. Please make every effort to be there, you will enjoy it. Stage Door 31 has already had a lot of interest shown from local

bars who want a performance in their venues. These murder mysteries are fun to rehearse and perform and audiences really do enjoy them.

Some of you may know that Stage Door donated a share of its panto profits to PAWS and they are also about to make another donation, this time to the Vera orphanage. Stepping Stones, who operated the bar during the panto, also benefited and altogether donations of more than €1,000 were made to local charities. Something everyone can be very proud of.

Once the murder mys-

tery has been cast Stage Door 31 will start spreading its net for those who want to be in a pantomime that it intends to stage in late January 2018. Oh yes they are! Sounds a bit early but pantos, although a lot of fun, are quite complex so rehearsals need to start as soon as possible.

Altogether it's going to be quite a busy time, so if you want to join one of the most well-established, well-equipped and active drama groups in the area call Bill White on 671 810 819 or send an email williamwhite9552@aol.c

Ground force day

CALLING all budding gardeners and DIY enthusiasts, PAWS-PATAS animal charity needs you!

The charity invites you to a social day with a free buffet and drinks and a chance to meet other like-minded people who are good at gardening and/or have a love of animals. Go along and have some fun whilst helping to smarten up the shelter and

Ground force day will be held on Saturday May 13 from 9.30am until 5pm and also on Sunday May 14 from 9.30am until 2pm. Please bring your own gloves and tools, if possible.

PAWS-PATAS shelter is situated on the track by the trees opposite the Night Club on the Garrucha to Los Gallardos Road, close to Turre. For more information please call 629 252 292.

Fish frenzv

AFTERNOON shoppers will be in luck if negotiations to open Almeria's central market early are successful. Fresh fish. fruit and vegetables would be sold from noon to boost the local econo-

NEWS EXTRA

Hug thief

A TEENAGE girl was among a trio of thieves who were arrested after hugging their victims while picking their pockets. They were caught after an old woman in Dalias screamed for help.

Say cheese

A CHEESE producer from Seron won a key prize in the 2017 Spanish Cheese Championships. Serones Artesano won fourth place out of 3,500 entries for its gourmet goats cheese.



Superb times at Indalo festival

TOP prize of the Indalo de Flores 2017 was awarded to the Casa Minguito restaurant in Mojacar. Residents, guests, and tourists have been flooded by tapas, flowers, flamenco, music and celebration during the iconic festival.

The winner was chosen by a professional hand-picked jury of nine judges who sampled fare and ambiance at dozens of restaurants across the pueblo. Organised by the Association of Merchants and the town council, the Indalo celebration is only in its second year but has fast become one of Mojacar's top attrac-

Tourists gladly joined residents in dressing up in style. An estimated 6,000 carnations were used to decorate the indalos from April 29-



MERCHANTS: Association members celebrate in Moiacar.

May 1. Public officials and local businesses worked overtime and, despite some bad weather on the first day, the entire celebration was a huge

The Indalo is the enduring symbol of Almeria. Considered magical by many, it is a good luck charm that has inspired countless artworks over the past several thousand years. The arrival of the Indalo de Flores to Mojacar shows the pueblo's perfect commitment to the traditional symbols, culture and fascinating history of the province.

Dynamic duo celebrated

POPULAR Spanish flamenco-inspired pop duo Andy & Lucas were in Almeria this week to present a book about their lives and careers.

Andy & Lucas, Road to a Dream is written by Angel Acien, an Almerian journalist and television presenter.

Bringing together stories and anecdotes from

the pair's 15-year career, the book also includes a number of unpublished photographs.

Andres Morales and Lucas Gonzalez first met as neighbours in La Laguna, Cadiz, and formed a musical group while at school

Four years later they recorded their first album, which sold 200,000 copies.





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available. After-market parts are parts made by a company other than your vehicle's manufacturer. They are new and the spec should be very close to the original specs. However, some minor fitting adjustments may be required by the body shop. Used parts come from the scrap yard. Cars involved in accidents, engine trouble or age, mean that scrapped cars will have some working parts, which can be resold. The used parts are usually OEM parts.

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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest. imum, only paying for OEM parts if no other parts are If you would like to contact Linea Directa please call 902 123 309 More information about Linea Directa online at www.lineadirecta.com

German paper says Britain and Europe at loggerheads



BREXIT PAGE By John Smith

MUCH is being made in the UK of a report in a German newspaper of the recent meeting between Theresa May and Jean-Claude Juncker

According to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Prime Minister May and EU Commission President Juncker found little to agree on and supposedly after the meeting, Mr Juncker called German Chancellor Angela Merkel and told her that Mrs May was "living in another galaxy" and was "deluding" herself.

Reportedly, he told Mrs May "I'm leaving Downing Street 10 times more sceptical than I was before" as they disagreed on so many matters crucial

The main areas of disagreement cover the time it will take to settle the rights of EU citizens in Britain and British migrants in the EU which Mrs May believes can be resolved by the end of June.

The other main 'bone of contention' raised during the meeting concerned Britain's ongoing financial obligations to the European Union once it leaves which has been cited by EU representatives as being between €50 million and €60 million.

report, the prime minister said that the UK had no legal obligation to make any payments to cover expenses such as pensions once it

According to the

er saying that unless Britain agreed to pay what the Union believed it owed, there would be no trade deal.

Finally, there also appeared to be a major difference over confidentiality

and the negotiations which the British side wish

to keep secret

Mrs May has dismissed this report as being "Brussels gossip" but took the opportunity to confirm that talks are likely to be tough and that she is the only politician strong enough to be able to cope with the demands of the

27 states which form the European Union.

until the l a s t MRS MAY: With $m\;i\;n\;u\;t\;e$ Mr Juncker outside whilst the 10 Downing Street. EU intends to

EU Brexit strategy

EUROPEAN COUNCIL president Donald Tusk wrote to the heads of the 27 states meeting in Brussels to discuss Brexit terms on April 29.

In this letter, delivered prior to the physical meeting, he made it clear that three matters in particular had to be agreed with Britain prior to negotiations over future relationships with the UK and these were "people, money and Ireland."

He expects to see guarantees over the safeguarding of the rights of EU citizens in the UK, an agreement from Britain to honour long-term financial obligations which may amount to €60 billion and the rights of movement between the Republic and Northern Ireland.

It took minutes for the leaders to confirm their agreement to the negotiating guidelines issued by Mr Tusk on March 31 and he tweeted after the event that a "firm and fair political mandate" for the talks had been



DENMARK

Viking wine

RESEARCHERS claim that Danish Vikings could have made their own wine as studies of grape pips point to early wine production during the time of the Vikings.

Smuggler caught

A WOMAN, aged 43, has been arrested after being caught smuggling gold and cash on a Denmark-Norway ferry. She was carrying khat, a chewable leaf which is illegal in Norway.

Press freedom

DENMARK has ranked fourth in the Reporters Without Borders in-



GERMANY

Father's love

GERMAN police reported the second case in a week of a father murdering his children. In the latest case a man is believed to have stabbed two of his children, aged five and eight, before taking his own life.

Refugee sanctuary

GERMANY offered sanctuary to almost 300,000 Syrian refugees last

year. This was a substantial number of the 406,000 refugees given protection in Europe in 2016.

grees in Denmark, but since

Biography damages

GERMANY'S former chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has been awarded €1 million damages over an unauthorised biography which a judge said 'deeply violates' the retired politician's personal rights.

Jail sentence

A GERMAN man of Lebanese origin has been jailed for being a member of Daesh. The former Berlin taxi driver went to Syria in late 2014 to join the terrorist group. He was arrested when he returned to Germany in 2015.

FRANCE

Final two

FRANCE is on the brink of a new dawn of politics. The first round of voting in the presidential election has seen the two main political parties knocked out. The battle is now on between National Front candidate Marine Le Pen and independent centrist Emmanuel Macron.

Parliament protest

THE European Parliament is accusing presidential candidate Marine Le Pen's party of defrauding it of nearly €5 million with the European money allegedly being used to pay assistants for work outside the assembly.

Island arrest

TWO French police officers were shot and injured on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean as they raided a house and tried to arrest a suspected radical Islamist.

PM burglary

FRENCH Prime Minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, has been targeted by burglars. His Paris apartment was broken into but no sensitive documents were in the property.

BELGIUM

Lighter art

THE Antwerp Museum for Contemporary Art, has reopened its doors after extensive interior renovation works. Extra light is used to give an extra dimension to works from the likes of Luc Tuymans and Jan Fabre.

Bus day

A TODDLER spent an entire day on a school bus in a municipality east of Leuven, that was parked up after the morning school run. The youngster, who was not hurt, was not spotted by the driver as he locked up the bus.

Weekly journeys

BELGIUM took part in a European study which found Europeans spend nearly 10 hours using transport each week, with cars being the most popular form for daily journeys.

Taxi protest

AROUND 70 taxi drivers stationed themselves in front of the Brussels parliament as Brussels minister of Mobility, Pascal Smet, discussed the new taxi plan, which, despite opposition. Smet said was intended to liberalise the sector.

NETHERLANDS



Energy use

A COLDER winter in the Netherlands led to a 2 per cent increase in the amount of energy used last year compared to 2015. Oil, gas and coal accounted for 92 per cent of the country's total energy use.

Pay cap

A CAP on public sector pay, set at €181,000, is resulting in a difficulty to fill senior executive positions within hospitals. The pay limit is aimed at stopping public sector managers earning more than government

Emoji forever

AN architect has cast 22 emoji in concrete and used them to decorate the facade of a new building in the Amersfoort district of Vathorst. The architect said they will be some of the most recognisable icons of the 21st century.

Tattoos honour

A DUTCH tattoo artist, who has fought for acceptance for tattoo culture, is among 2,819 people recognised in king Willem-Alexander's traditional birthday honours list.

NORWAY



Wrong diagnosis

A REPORT has shown that around one third of of epilepsy diagnoses in Norwegian children were wrong. Epilepsy is the most common childhood chronic neurological disease.

Beef investment

NORFUND; the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries, is to invest €6.76 million in an Ethiopian beef producer. The company aims to become the largest cattle processing operation in Eastern Africa.

Child abduction

AN arrest warrant has been issued for a Norwegian man in connection with the abduction of his four yearold daughter in Cyprus on her way to nursery. The man is separated from her Greek Cypriot mother.

Falling figures

AIRLINE Norwegian has recorded significant losses of 1.5bn Norwegian kroner in the first quarter of 2017, despite an increase in the number of passengers using the airline.

SWEDEN



Facebook rape

THREE men have been sentenced in Sweden to 27 months in jail for participating in a gang rape that was streamed live on a Facebook

Dolphin language

A SWEDISH start-up is using artificial intelligence technology and language analysis software to help understand the language of dolphins.

Researchers will monitor bottlenose dolphins at a wildlife park south of Stockholm

Fifth victim

WEEKS after the Stockholm terror attack and the number of fatalities has increased to five after a woman injured in the attack. has now passed away in hospital as a result of her injuries.

Litter louts

BETWEEN 2015 and 2016, litter thrown on the ground increased by 13 per cent in Swedish municipalities which were keeping records as part of the Keep Sweden Tidy campaign and Statistics Sweden.

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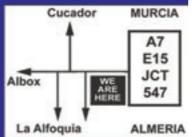




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AEROFLOT: Accused of sexist behaviour.

Fat shaming

■ AEROFLOT defended its policy of punishing flight attendants for being overweight. The Russian airline is being sued by two stewardesses who claim they were sidelined to short night flights for being 'old and fat.' Aeroflot says passengers pay a premium for appearance and the punishment is really an incentive.

Replica Reichstag

■ THOUSANDS of young cadets let off steam by storming a replica Reichstag during a reenactment of the Red Army's defeat of Nazi Germany in May 1945. It took six months to build the fake target before it was pulverised with heavy artillery and explosions.

Extreme exile

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS-ES have been banned from Russia under a new law which labels them an extremist organisation. The law describes the religious sect as a threat to public security and also cites its opposition to blood transfusions as problematic. There are thought to be more than 100,000 Witnesses in Russia

Cold shower

■ HOT water will be turned

off in Moscow from May 10 for 10 days. The annual maintenance measure will affect hundreds of thousands of apartments. Similar spells will occur through to August, until supply to every home in the city has been checked.

Virtual cash

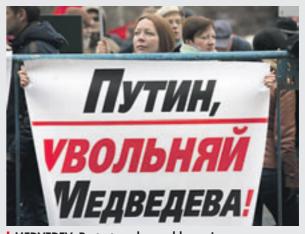
CYBER currencies, including Bitcoins, may be legalised in Russia next year as the country combats illegal transactions online. Growing demand for Bitcoins, an internet currency, means that legalisation could also stimulate the flagging economy. Switzerland, South Korea and Venezuela are also studying the possi-

Wealth divide

■ TAX releases from April show that Russia's richest MP is Andrey Palkin, head of United Russia. He earned 678 million roubles (€11 million) in his role last year, 100 times more than the richest female MP. Elena Strokova, head of the Liberal Democrat Party, was paid a more modest 6.7 million roubles (€110,000).

Putin's puppet

■ A POLL found that almost half of all Russians believe prime minister Medvedev should resign. Corruption allegations and economic problems have blighted the reputation of the former president, widely considered Putin's puppet. Mass protests against growing inequality called for Medvedev's head to roll.



MEDVEDEV: Protesters demand he resign.

Rental rates rise across Spain

A REPORT from a Spanish property portal suggests that the price of renting a property is shooting up.

With hundreds of thousands of properties rented out during the past 12 months the company Fotocasa produces a quarterly report on the state of the rental market and finds that average rents in Spain have increased by 5.9 per cent in the first quarter of

Although rental prices have fallen by 21.7 per cent overall since their peak in 2007, this increase is actually the highest quarterly rise since

€7.93

is the average cost per square metre to rent property across Spain.

records were started in 2006.

There is an enormous difference in the cost of rents across the country, with Catalonia seeing average costs of €11.22 per square metre, compared to rents in Extremadura which are the

lowest in Spain at €4.77 per square

Madrid and the Basque Country have seen significant increases over the national average and the main reason appears to be the fact that there are more prospective tenants than there is available property.

According to the report, it would appear that Spain is beginning to question the long-held tradition of property ownership especially as so many people are still worried about their long term job prospects and the availability of mortgages at affordable rates.

It looks therefore that those property owners who have been deterred from short term holiday lets due to new legislation may well drift towards the long term residential letting mar-

No case to answer

SAID by Spanish police to be 'one of the biggest swindlers in Spain,' Antonio Arroyo has won the first case brought against

Hundreds of alleged victims who were leant money by his firm and then charged enormous amounts of interest before losing their properties had been waiting for the first case to be brought against him, but sadly for them it was dropped by the court as it had exceeded the statute of limitations.

Victims of his alleged scam were waiting outside the court in Madrid and roundly abused him as he left, accusing him of being a 'thief and con artist with blood on his hands.'

More private prosecutions are due to

Making life easier

Quote of the Week

Why does Esperanza Aguirre resign and not Mariano Rajoy?" former PSOE leader Pedro Sánchez after former Madrid PP leader resigns

Unemployment on the increase



NEWLY UNEMPLOYED: The majority are women.

By John Smith

UNEMPLOYMENT in Spain rose during the first quarter of 2017 according to the Institute of National Statistics (INE).

To some extent this was expected as the major losses were in the private sector and many people had been employed on short term contracts in the lead up to the busy Christmas and New Year periods.

There are now 4,255,000 people unemployed in the country which represents 18.75 per cent of the working population but the good news for Andalucia is that it

currently has seen major employment growth during the last 12 months.

The other good news is that over the last year, although temporary contracts have increased, there are an additional 195,600 people in full time employment.

The number of self-employed has dropped slightly but self-employed foreigner figures have remained basically static.

One figure that does deserve mention is the majority of those newly unemployed are women which won't be encouraging news for those looking to promote equality in the workplace.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Helping to see

EXPERIMENTAL Spanish company Eyesynth has created an audio visual system for the blind to help them 'see.' The concept which transmits images to sound via a computer is said to give a 3D sense of perception and development is now being backed financially by the European

Book sales

ALTHOUGH the sale of e-books has dropped in the UK the kindle still holds attraction to those in Spain. The cost of English language novels is still very high and apart from the odd bookshop it is often easier to simply download and keep novels on a tablet, although many will still want to purchase printed non-fiction.

Spain penalised

THE US is to introduce antidumping duties on Spanish exporters of finished carbon steel flanges. The US Department of Commerce announced it has identified these flanges, used to connect pipes, had been sold by Spanish exporters at prices below those charged to the domestic market. Duties will be between 18 and 25 per cent.

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Invest in Unicaja shares FOR those who believe that the banking sector

in Spain is bouncing back, there will soon be a chance to invest in Unicaia.

A shareholders meeting held in Malaga approved the issue of 625 million new shares as the bank is to be listed on the Spanish stock exchange. Initially, the shares which have a nominal value of €1 each will be sold only to qualified investors, but should eventually be traded freely on the Bourse.

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Anglo American	1,106.50	21.77	2.00	15,282.01
Associated British Foods	2,810.00	-18.32	-0.65	22,420.21
Admiral Group	2,011.00	-14.86	-0.73	5,769.69
Ashtead Group	1,631.00	-0.71	-0.04	8,122.40
Antofagasta	838.00	18.52	2.26	8,069.24
Aviva	524.50	0.13	0.03	21,481.15
AstraZeneca	4,637.50	-60.83	-1.29	59,457.99
BAE Systems	627.50	-3.21	-0.51	20,054.41
Babcock International Grp	899.00	-7.09	-0.78	4,603.46
Barclays	212.25	-11.93	-5.33	38,026.12
British American Tobacco	5,215.00	-30.26	-0.58	97,618.90
Barratt Developments	580.00	-8.51	-1.45	5,920.98
British Land Co	656.50	-3.23	-0.49	6,817.07
BHP Billiton	1,175.00	21.50	1.86	24,362.75
Bunzl	2,408.00	13.50	0.56	8,085.34
BP	442.50	1.26	0.28	87,118.25
Burberry Group	1,614.00	4.33	0.27	7,057.92
BT Group	304.75	-3.33	-1.08	30,688.11
Coca-Cola HBC	2,142.00	-20.88	-0.97	7,855.92
Carnival	4,766.00	65.07	1.39	10,017.72
Centrica	197.90	-1.33	-0.67	10,913.59
Compass Group	1,558.00	14.95	0.96	25,487.60
Croda International	3,764.50	-13.23	-0.35	4,969.04
CRH	2,818.50	-3.14	-0.11	23,611.65
ConvaTec Group	307.25	-0.69	-0.22	6,004.68
DCC	7,130.00	-123.42	-1.70	6,434.75
Diageo	2,246.50	-9.33	-0.41	56,775.57
Direct Line Insurance Group	349.20	3.12	0.90	4,757.50
Experian	1,658.50	-8.71	-0.52	15,732.87
easyJet	1,168.00	13.53	1.17	4,587.75
Fresnillo	1,452.00	16.12	1.12	10,581.79
GKN	358.90	5.05	1.43	6,077.48
Glencore	303.73	5.03	1.68	43,133.84
GlaxoSmithKline	1,550.00	-8.16	-0.52	76,636.12
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,937.00	-21.94	-1.12	4,717.98
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,378.00	-27.60	-1.96	6,668.92
Hammerson	587.50	-8.06	-1.35	4,727.41
HSBC Holdings	636.50	-1.68	-0.26	127,021.18
International Consolidated Ai		6.89	1.26	11,575.68
InterContinental Hotels Grp		16.07	0.39	8,090.16
3i Group	793.50	-11.44	-1.42	7,831.11
Imperial Brands	3,782.00	-38.06	-1.42	36,622.76
Informa	642.00	1.71	0.27	5,290.11
Intu Properties	275.75	-2.35	-0.84	3,771.08
Intertek Group	4,066.00	-27.62	-0.68	6,594.42
ITV	210.00	-0.50	-0.08	8,473.49
Johnson Matthey	2,979.00	-20.79	-0.24	
Kingfisher	341.20	4.91	1.46	5,806.00 7 505 54
				7,505.54
Land Securities Group Legal & General Group	1,106.00 246.10	-12.00 -0.80	-1.07 -0.32	8,840.58 14,703.32
Legal & General Group	240.10	-0.80	-0.32	14,703.32

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London Stock Exchange	Grp 3,383.00	-8.84	-0.26	11,874.72
Micro Focus Internationa	al 2,588.00	36.44	1.43	5,853.67
Mediclinic International	821.00	-38.00	-4.42	6,332.92
Merlin Entertainments	506.00	0.04	0.01	5,134.92
Marks & Spencer Group	366.40	2.35	0.64	5,951.38
Mondi	2,001.00	2.21	0.11	9,779.05
Morrison (Wm) Superma	arkets 240.10	5.66	2.41	5,474.66
National Grid	1,000.00	-15.45	-1.53	37,761.13
Next	4,301.00	-0.13	0.00	6,327.84
Old Mutual Group	194.10	-1.50	-0.77	9,638.09
Provident Financial	3,204.00	-35.35	-1.09	4,809.51
Paddy Power Betfair	8,600.00	10.56	0.12	7,247.23
Prudential	1,717.00	-12.06	-0.69	44,938.41
Persimmon	2,332.00	-4.16	-0.18	7,220.91
Pearson	639.00	1.03	0.16	5,252.22
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,111.00	-78.86	-1.10	50,400.80
Royal Bank of Scotland	Group 265.40	11.74	4.63	30,008.57
Royal Dutch Shell	2,003.50	-2.35	-0.12	90,003.96
Royal Dutch Shell	2,052.50	-2.21	-0.11	77,138.30
RELX	1,566.00	-9.57	-0.61	16,969.19
Rio Tinto	3,062.00	32.21	1.06	41,914.31
Royal Mail	402.50	-16.34	-3.90	4,189.00
Rolls-Royce Group	812.00		0.61	14,886.69
Randgold Resources	6,805.00		1.36	6,296.95
RSA Insurance Group	596.00		-0.05	6,044.64
Rentokil Initial	248.95		0.04	4,584.15
Sainsbury (J)	275.40	0.99	0.36	5,994.69
Schroders	3,187.00		-0.12	7,244.02
Sage Group (The)	670.00		0.16	7,241.76
Shire	4,538.75		-1.31	41,731.07
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,062.00		-0.60	4,925.49
Sky	992.00	3.07	0.31	17,001.08
Standard Life	363.90	2.82	0.78	7,157.10
Smiths Group	1,640.00	3.10	0.19	6,477.49
Scottish Mortgage Invstr			0.42	5,077.06
Smith & Nephew	1,270.00		-0.31	11,139.48
SSE	1,391.00	-9.19	-0.66	14,157.28
Standard Chartered	721.20	-17.49	-2.36	24,351.14
St James's Place	1,148.00	14.39	1.26	6,018.05
Severn Trent	2,325.00	5.00	0.22	5,468.55
Tesco	183.25		0.54	14,919.45
TUI AG Taylor Wimpey	1,123.00 200.00		-0.44 -0.75	6,639.40 6,595.71
Unilever	3,972.00		0.08	50,934.09
United Utilities Group	972.50		-1.13	6,709.78
Vodafone Group	199.05		-1.53	53,816.53
Wolseley Worldney Croup	4,904.00		-0.16	12,461.81
Worldpay Group	300.00		-0.13	6,074.00
WPP Group	1,653.00		-1.56	21,485.12
Whitbread	4,034.00	-17.15	-0.42	7,426.66

Kleinwort Benson Elite PCC Ltd

DEALING PRICE

Distributing Funds

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

EUR Fixed Income B Sterling Fixed Income B

Accumulating Funds	DEALING PRICE	Price Movement
GBP Currency B	£0.9842	£0.0001
EUR Currency B	€0.9627	€0.0002
Multi Asset Conservative B GBP	£1.1427	£0.0055
Multi Asset Conservative B EUR	€1.0719	€0.0046
Multi Asset Balanced B GBP	£1.2804	£0.0156
Multi Asset Balanced B EUR	€1.1907	€0.0139
Multi Asset Growth B GBP	£1.4074	£0.0260

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

€1.3156..... €0.0235

Prices correct as at 26/04/2017

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	_			
COMPANY	PRICE		%CHANGE	VOLUME
<u>3M</u>	195,830	-0,14%	-0,280	116M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	79,2500	-1,34%	•	71M
APPLE	143,650	-0,10%	-0,140	753M
BOEING CO	184,830	+0,88%	1,610	111M
CATERPILLAR	102,260	-0,41%	-0,420	60M
CHEVRON	106,70	+1,17%	1,23	202M
CISCO SYSTEMS	34,070	+0,95%	0,320	170M
COCA-COLA	43,15	+0,33%	0,14	184M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	79,7500	-0,47%	-0,3800	69M
EXXON MOBIL	81,65	+0,48%	0,39	346M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	28,9900	-0,31%	-0,0900	252M
GOLDMAN SACHS	223,80	-0,89%	-2,01	89M
HOME DEPOT	156,1000	-0,01%	-0,0200	187M
IBM	160,29	-0,02%	-0,03	150M
INTEL CORP	36,1500	-3,42%	-1,2800	170M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	87,0000	-0,70%	-0,6100	309M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	123,4700	-0,22%	-0,2700	334M
MC DONALD'S CORP	139,9300	-0,67%	-0,9400	114M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,33	-0,40%	-0,25	170M
MICROSOFT	68,460	+0,28%	0,190	529M
NIKE	55,41	-0,11%	-0,06	73M
PFIZER	33,9200	+0,18%	0,0600	201M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	87,330	-0,41%	-0,360	223M
TRAVELERS CIES	121,66	-0,41%	-0,50	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	118,99	+0,18%	0,21	95M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	174,88	+0,14%	0,25	168M
VERIZON COMMS	45,91	-1,63%	-0,76	187M
VISA	91,22	-0,41%	-0,38	168M
WAL-MART STORES	75,1800	-0,34%	-0,2600	227M
WALT DISNEY CO	115,6000	-0,21%	-0,2400	182M

NASDAQ

Movement

€0.9543 -€0.0127

£0.9460 -£0.0066

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Strattec Security Corporation	\$ 32.15	7.45 ▲ 30.16%
The Bancorp, Inc.	\$ 6.45	1.39 ▲ 27.47%
eHealth, Inc.	\$ 14.18	2.44 ▲ 20.78%
Synchronoss Technologies, Inc.	\$ 16	2.71 ▲ 20.39%
Cowen Group, Inc.	\$ 15.90	2.40 🛦 17.78%
Olympic Steel, Inc.	\$ 22.55	3.32 ▲ 17.26%
P.A.M. Transportation Services, Inc.	\$ 18.77	2.47 ▲ 15.15%
Tivity Health, Inc.	\$ 33.60	4.05 ▲ 13.71%
SteadyMed Ltd.	\$ 7.20	0.85 ▲ 13.39%
trivago N.V.	\$ 17.12	1.90 ▲ 12.48%
Align Technology, Inc.	\$ 134.62	14.53 ▲ 12.10%
Most Declined		
Matrix Service Company	\$ 11.75	5.125 ▼ 30.37%
athenahealth, Inc.	\$ 98.01	23.44 ▼ 19.30%
PDF Solutions, Inc.	\$ 19.02	4.12 ▼ 17.80%
Proteostasis Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 6.045	1.205 ▼ 16.62%
PCM, Inc.	\$ 25.20	4.95 ▼ 16.42%
Cohu, Inc.	\$ 18.73	2.54 ▼ 11.94%
Rocket Fuel Inc.	\$ 5.025	0.495 ▼ 8.97%
ABAXIS, Inc.	\$ 45.03	4.32 ▼ 8.75%
Digirad Corporation	\$ 4.70	0.45 ▼ 8.74%
Spok Holdings, Inc.	\$ 17.95	1.65 ▼ 8.42%
Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc.	\$ 13.15	1.20 ▼ 8.36%



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"Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International Money Transfer Index" (IMTI").

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GBP/EUR down from 2017 highs on French election result

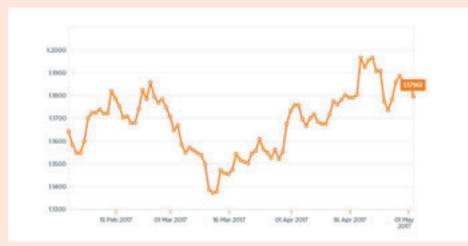


AFTER an exciting end to March (with the long-awaited activation of Article 50) the first couple of weeks of April were a little flat in terms of currency market movement.

While the week beginning April 17 was expected to be a fairly quiet one in terms of currency news too, markets actually opened with a bang after the Easter break. Surprising political developments saw GBP/EUR rocket from €1.1799 to €1.1990 – its best levels for nearly 10 months.

Meanwhile, the euro was kept under pressure ahead of the first round of voting in the French Presidential election, leaving the EUR/GBP exchange rate to slide from £0.8628 to a low of £0.8339.

However, with the French election resulting in the outcome economists hoped for, the pound dropped by over 1 per cent against the euro, with the common currency surging across the board.



| POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: Saw GBP/EUR rocket to its best level in 10 months.

What's been happening?

Without doubt, UK PM Theresa May's unscheduled announcement on Tuesday April 18 was the news grabbing the most headlines. The PM shook the currency market when she declared her intention to call for a June 8 general election.

The general belief that the election will see the Conservative party increase its majority (an outcome which could improve May's negotiating power during Brexit discussions) was the driving force behind the

pound's gains.

But the euro fought back in the wake of the first round of the French Presidential election. Centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right Marine Le Pen secured the largest proportion of votes.

As Macron is expected to trump Le Pen in the second round, the odds of France remaining part of the EU were seen to increase and demand for the euro surged.

What do you need to look out for?

Both the pound and euro are more likely

to be driven by political news than economic news over the next few weeks, with polls relating to the UK General Election and French Presidential Election having the potential to create volatility for both curren-

If it looks like the Conservatives will secure a greater majority in June, the pound may return to its recent highs. However, if French polls continue favouring a Macron victory, the prospect of economic and political stability in the Eurozone's second largest economy would limit GBP/EUR gains. Conversely, any sign that Le Pen is pulling ahead would be euro-negative.

In terms of economic news, the most influential developments on the horizon include the European Central Bank (ECB) interest rate decision and UK GDP data for

Hints of a rate cut from the ECB could send the euro lower, while the pound could suffer if UK growth slowed considerably in the first quarter of 2017.

At Currencies Direct we're here to talk currency whenever you need us, so get in touch if you want to know more about the latest news or how it could impact your currency transfers.

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Newcastle United and West Ham United offices raided by HMRC

By John Smith

TAX authorities around Europe are cracking down on football clubs suspected of helping players or agents to avoid paying tax.

After Lionel Messi faced a very high profile investigation and significant fine by Spanish authorities and subsequent ongoing probes into the affairs of Neymar and other players, the spotlight has now moved to England and France.

Officers from HMRC (UK tax office) descended on both Newcastle United and West Ham United looking for evidence linking those two clubs with financial irregularities which are also being investigated in France.

There has been a number of transfer deals between the two Premier League clubs and Marseilles which is reportedly the seat of investigations in France undertaken at the request of HMRC.

The managing director of Newcastle United Lee Charnley was one of a number of people arrested and questioned during the raids, although he was later released without any charges being laid.

This sudden investigation must have come as something of a surprise and disappointment to Newcastle manager Rafael Benitez who has seen the club gain promotion back into the lucrative Premier League at its first attempt.



RAFAEL BENITEZ: Spanish manager of Newcastle United.

Chelsea were also visited by some of the 180 HMRC officers involved in this investigation although officials at that club have gone to great length to explain that it was asked to hand over documents relating to players or individuals who are being investigated and are not directly connected with the club.

Football is big business which attracts the mega rich to take over different clubs with Mike Ashley of Sports Direct owning Newcastle United and West Ham United owned by David Sullivan former owner

of the Sport and David Gold owner of Ann Summers.

Marseilles, which had been going through serious financial difficulties, was taken over by American billionaire Frank McCourt in late 2016 and it is thought that the investigations may well be into transactions that occurred prior to his involvement.

Whilst no specific targets of the investigation have been named, the HMRC has confirmed that their enquiries are directed to what they believe may be a £5 million (€5.9 million) income tax and national insur-

Power giants do not agree

THERE is a serious difference of opinion between the two main shareholders in the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant in Burgos.

Currently, as it is not producing electricity due to financial constraints, the president of Iberdrola, Ignacio Sánchez Galán, one of the two companies owning Nuclenor the power plant management company,<Ninguno> wants to see it decommissioned.

Borja Prado, president of other shareholder Endesa disagrees and whilst respecting Iberdrola's position will not sanction any closure at this stage as there is to be a government review of whether it would be viable to extend the life of the facility.

As the government decision is due by August of this year, Endesa believes it sensible to await the review and seems to favour the possibility of the plant coming back on line, but Iberdrola simply doesn't consider that this is a viable option as it claims that the cost of production is too high.

Bidding for European Medicines Agency

By John Smith

SPAIN is making a determined bid to move the headquarters of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) from London to Barcelona.

Firstly, Minister of Health Dolors Montserrat spoke at an information breakfast organised by the Nueva Economia Forum to put forward Spain's claim for the siting of the new headquarters and was supported by European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis.

She recognised that there were some obstacles such as the question of Catalan sovereignty and the fact that Barcelona already has four European agencies, but believed that the city was ready to take over this agency with a seamless transfer.

Spain has one of the best health services in Europe and Barcelona is an international city.



DOLORS MONTSERRAT: Speaking at the breakfast.

with space available to host this prestigious body.

Subsequent to this, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sent a formal offer to host the agency to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the President of the European Council Donald Tusk and it is believed that the Spanish offer is the only one that is being supported by its government.

Spain economic forecast ready

ALL members of the European Union are required to supply annual economic forecasts to Brussels each April and Spain is now readying its presentation.

Having had some difficulties over the past two years and facing threats of significant fines, the government is now in a much more comfortable position as it considers the economic situation from 2017 to 2020.

It will upgrade its economic growth forecast for 2017 from 2.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent and it is content to assume continued average growth of 2.5 per cent for the following three years.

Coupled with this growth is an undertaking to continue to drastically cut unemployment and the expectation that the value of exports will continue to exceed the cost of imports.

In addition, the government is confident that there will be a general reduction in consumer debt and all of this will help to lead to a stable economy.

At this stage there is no suggestion that there will be any increases in taxation or any new taxes, although there may be action against high sugar content drinks at some time in the future.

Better salaries for some Spanish workers

Ingles and Carrefour who are members of the trade body Anged have agreed staff pay rises.

Employing between them 230,000 people they have said that they will increase contracted staff salaries by 2.5 per cent backdated to January 2017.

This falls short of the 3 per cent requested by the unions but is in an increase over the ini-

In addition and as part of a four-year agreement, employers will increase salaries by at least 1 per cent each year from 2018 to 2020

regardless of the performance of the stores or the economy.

As more stores wish to open on Sundays and public holidays, the employers have also agreed to establish a maximum number of unsociable working days although staff will be allowed to volunteer if they wish to work additional 'rest days' and receive enhanced payment.

There will also be improvements in the number of days that may be taken to care for close relatives who fall sick with full salary being paid in the case of serious illness such as

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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Let's consider the alternatives

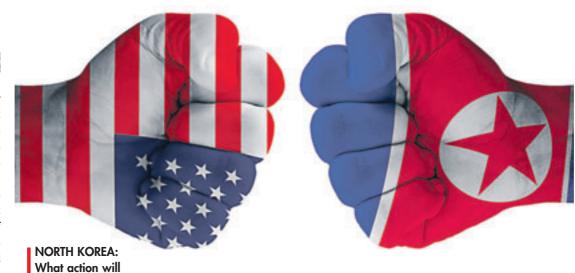
LEAPY LEE SAYS IT OTHERS THINK IT

AS far as I'm concerned, the answer to the North Korean problem would have been to drop a half dozen 'Mother of all' bombs right in the middle of their recent 'birthday celebrations.

A few well-placed hits from this mighty non-nuclear deterrent, would have wiped out a large chunk of their military hardware, a good percentage of their army personal and most, if not all, of their despotic regime leaders. Job done.

OMG I hear the luvvies bleat. How can this old hack condone the slaughter of all those Fathers. Mothers and fellow human beings? How can he encourage violence and death on such a vast scale? Has he finally proved to his superiors that he has now lost it and should be put out to grass among all the other mentally spent scribblers of yore?

Well, before we decide, let's



consider the alternatives. To my mind, with the emergence of Kim Jong-un, the human race faces one of the biggest threats to its survival since the Ice Age. This demented man/boy psychopath, has turned PlayStation fantasy into grim, terrifying reality and MUST be dealt with. Forget the simpering, Corbyn inspired seekers of 'diplomatic' solutions. Any approaches from that

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America take?

angle will get us all killed.

How can I excuse the use of such lethal and destructive force against this evil regime? Ask me that same question, when - if not stopped, they drop a nuclear device on Seoul, Tokyo or the shores of California. Ask me when millions of men. women and children are vapourised

Ask me when newly released

clouds of toxic radiation spread across the planet, causing agonising tumours and death to a billion more human beings. Well I'll tell you, if this nightmare scenario does unfold, dropping a few 'Mothers' on some birthday celebrations, will seem like a grain of sand in the desert, compared to the ensuing Holocaust that could ultimately engulf the human

Of course, the chance may be lost. We may never again see such a gathering of North Korea's armaments and military hierarchy in the same place at the same time. If this does prove to be the case, then heaven

Finally, you may wonder - should America decide on this course, what reaction could they expect from the rest of the World? Well in my opinion, it will take the form of bluster, condemnation, shocked disbelief and high handed moral indignation for about a month. After that, with great sighs of private relief and a few peaceful nights' sleep, the World will return to the far less threatening, but none the less equally important job of Islamic extremist annihilation.

In the words of my American Gunn'y Sergeant friend. 'I believe totally in peace and love in the world, I also believe that some of us are put here to preserve it - by whatever means necessary!'

> Keep the faith Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com



Let your creativity flow and you will feel more relaxed and at peace



www.sallytrotman.com

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

Astrology: Make practical plans

SUN in Taurus: This month the sun is influenced by the earthy sign of Taurus. This persistent sign will give you the stamina you need to achieve goals which require patience and perseverance.

Taurus will help you to ground the ideas which came to you as flashes of insight during last month. The influence of this sign is also encouraging you to develop your creative side. Take up a creative hobby, or return to something you used to enjoy doing as a child.

Make your creative pursuit a priority twice a week. This will be time well spent as you will feel more relaxed, peaceful, and present as you let your creativity flow.

Get in tune with the moon: The full



moon, this month, on May 10, is in the sign of perceptive Scorpio. Let your intuition guide you around the time of this full moon. Record your dreams and make a note of your insights. Scorpio sees the truth. Is there a situation in your life which feels a little confused? If so, ask for clarity around the time of this full moon, and trust the guidance which comes to you

On May 25, the new moon in Gemini will help you to communicate your truth. Let fears go around how your truth will be received, put your needs first, and ask for divine guidance in regards to the timing of speaking up. When you know and act on your truth, the universe will conspire to help you in magical

Numerology: Free your mind!

Number 5: This number reminds you of the power of your mind. Either you can use your thoughts positively to create a feeling of upliftment, or you can dwell on the negative, which will bring you down. Whilst acknowledging your deepest feelings is important, make sure you centre your thoughts in positivity and gratitude. By focusing on what is right in your life, you make space for more of the same. So keep your eye on your inner vision this month in order to create the positive shift you need to move forward with

The Tarot: Study something new

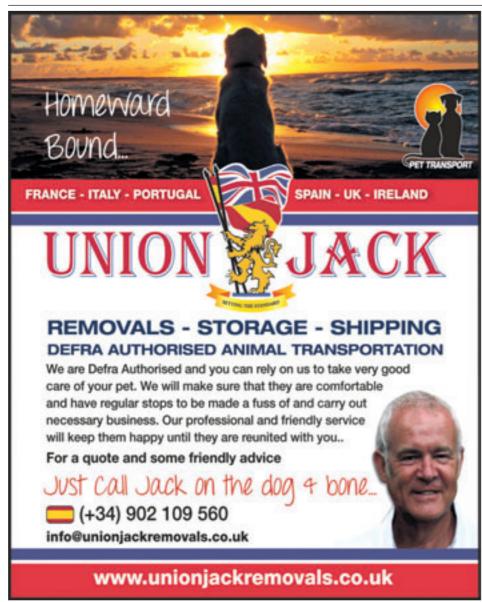
The fifth card card in the Major Arcana Tarot deck is the Hierophant. Make some time to study something new this month. Is there a course you are drawn to or even a new language you would like to learn? This is the month to begin!

When you learn something new, you are absorbed and fully present in what you are doing. This will help you to relax and feel good about yourself. So seize the moment and enjoy studying

May Special offer!

When you book in for a one-hour Astrology, Numerology and Tarot Consultation via Skype this month, receive a FREE Guided Meditation straight to your email in box to help you relax into the new beginnings of spring. To book in contact me on 07944 744493 or at sally.trot man@btinternet.com.

Visit my website for more tips to help you make the most of the month ahead. www.sallytrotman.com.





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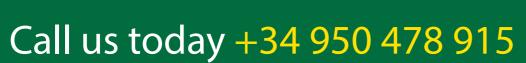
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Ref: A034 Located in H/Overa 349,000€



One of the finest villas in the area. 5 beds, 4 baths, pool, hot tub & american enclosure.

Ref: A706 Located in Arboleas



Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath villa located on an elevated plot with stunning mountain views.

Ref: B1069 Located in Mojacar



Lovely 3 bed, 2 bath townhouse with large terrace, roof solarium & communal pool.

Ref: A582 Located in El Pinar



Wonderful 3 bed, 2 bath luxury villa with bespoke swimming pool & stunning sea views.

Ref: A660 Located in Cucador



3 bed, 3 bath cortijo, located in a small hamlet. Private pool and easy access to the motorway.



Ref: A743 • Just off Junction 547 • 95,000€ REDUCED IN PRICE TO AID A QUICK SALE

Are you looking for a bargain? Are you looking for a detached villa? Are you looking for an investment? Yes? Well take a look at this. Well why not make an offer on this 5 bed villa? It has a terrace to the front, enclosed terrace to the rear and a garage. It must be sold.

Ref: B896 Located on Vera Playa 109,995€



2 bed, 2 bath penthouse with communal swimming pool and walking distance to beach.

Ref: A569 Located in Arboleas 167,750€



If you are looking for a villa that stands out from the rest take a look at this colourful 3 bed.

Ref: A125 Located in El Contador 54,950€



This is a great 5 bed, 2 bath townhouse located in a lovely village. Absolute bargain!

Ref: B374 Located in Turre



Luxury villa with 4 beds, 3 baths, private pool and located only 8 minutes from the beach

Ref: A511 Located in Bedar



villa with breathtaking views of the sea & mountains.





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Ref: B948 Located on V/D/ Este



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 anartonly 15 minutes to the beach.

Ref: B851 Located in Mojacar



Beautiful south facing penthouse apartment located on a beautiful community.

Ref: B843 Located in Mojacar



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

Ref: B992 • Mojacar • 160,000€ NEW AND EXCLUSIVE TO SPC

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€



located on 4 floors and with communal swimming pool.

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VH1110 €95,000 CEE F94 30



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

VH1114 €169,995 CEE G282 71



- · 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 8m x 4m private pool
- 810m2 landscaped garden
- · Zurgena area

VH1100 €189.950 CEE F57 77



- 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



- 3 bed, 2 bath Country House
- 3.494m2 of land
- Great views
- 15 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

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VH1102 €49,950 CEE TBC



- 3 / 4 bed, 1 bath Country House
- Off Grid with solar power
- · Remote location, good access
- 20 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1109 €139,950 CEE TBC



- 3 bed, 3 bath Country House
- Incl 1 bed, 1 bath apartment
- 15,000m2 of flat land
- 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1096 €195,000 CEE F242 38



- 3 bed, 2 bath Country House
- 139,000m2 of land & pool
- · Beautiful views
- Zurgena countryside

VH972 €148,950 CEE G188 47



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









Travel

Adventures in Africa

ONE of the best perks about living in southern Spain, or visiting there often, is the amazing travel opportunities to exotic destinations. Madrid, Barcelona, Galicia, Granada, Ibiza, Portugal and France are all completely different from one another yet right on your doorstep.

But what about Africa? A quick glance on the map tells you that a vast continent is just a sail away, or even a swim if you're fit enough. But travelling there for the first time can be quite a daunting prospect, especially with visas, vaccinations and language issues.

Enter the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Just as the UK has maintained Gibraltar. Spain has its own overseas territories, both claimed by Morocco. Ceuta is an old Spanish penal colony with a fascinating history, while Melilla has been under the Spanish flag for more than 500 years.

Both are excellent travel destinations in their own right and, by travelling to Africa, you can certainly tick off the 'something different' box.

Ceuta and Melilla are not in the same region. Ceuta is near the Moroccan port of Tangier, about a six-hour drive from Melilla to the east.

Ceuta doesn't have its own airport but you can fly from Malaga by helicopter if you're feeling adventurous. Most people opt for the

Golden Leaves International



fast ferries from Algeciras which run several

Melilla is less touristy but does have its own airport with flights arriving from Malaga, Madrid, Almeria, Granada, Valencia and Barcelona. A more leisurely option for those

times a day and take just 45 minutes.

who don't get sea sick are ferries from Malaga, Almeria and Motril, which take from three to seven hours

Which city you choose for your North African adventure depends on what you're looking for. Ceuta is a perfect destination for

those interested in exploring beyond the border and seeing the real Morocco. After all, having gone all the way, it would be a shame not to visit the bustling medinas of Tangier, just a short bus ride away.

Entering Ceuta from Morocco will be a genuinely eye-popping experience as you see first hand the many challenges faced by border police. If that discourages you, worry not, Ceuta has some the best duty-free shopping in Spain courtesy of its autonomous status!

Melilla on the other hand is much more interesting as a tourist destination in and of itself. Walking tours of the old city and its many museums present a fascinating insight into the region's maritime history. You can explore the legendary Caves of the Convent, relax at the beach, or go sailing or fishing in the glorious blue waters.

The city will have a familiar vibe for Spanish residents, flush with tapas bars, flamenco music and an abundance of tourists from the mainland. A perfect easing in to your African adven-

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GOOD NEWS FORYOUR CAR 902 123 309 Linea directa



THURSDAY	BBGONE BBGTWO		itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1	
O4 MAY	7:00pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm BC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News 11:45pm Question Time 12:45am This Week	4:50pm Red Rock 5:30pm Red Rock 6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:45pm Debatable 8:30pm Great British Menu 9:00pm The World According to Kids 10:00pm Match of the Day 11:30pm Newsnight 12:15am Horizon	9:00pm	5:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 12:00am 6:00pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm	6:30pm Neighbours 7:30pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Secrets of Great British Castles 9:00pm On Benefits 10:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords 11:00pm Mind the Age Gap Danniella Westbrook: In Therapy	1:00pm Football Gold 1:15pm Football Gold 1:30pm Football Gold 1:45pm Football Gold 2:00pm Great Sporting Moments 3:00pm Live Indian Premier League 8:30pm Live EFL Football 11:00pm School of Hard Knocks 12:00am	
FRIDAY 05 MAY	7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm MasterChef 10:00pm Have I Got News for You 10:30pm Hospital People 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show Witless	5:35pm Red Rock 6:15pm Flog It! 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:45pm Debatable 8:30pm Great British Menu 9:00pm Gardeners' World 9:30pm Grand Tours of Scotland 10:00pm Versailles 11:00pm Ql 11:30pm Newsnight 12:05am Later with Jools Holland	8:00pm 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Judge Rinder's Crime Stories 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Lethal Weapon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London 11:40pm American Gangster 2:20am Jackpot247	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 12:05am Four in a Bed Extreme Cake Makers The Simpsons Hollyoaks Channel 4 News Unreported World 9:00pm 10:00pm Fosh Pawn 10:00pm 11:00pm	6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 6:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:	4:00pm Spanish Football Gold 4:15pm Spanish Football Gold 4:30pm Football Gold 5:00pm Football's Greatest 6:00pm Boxing Gold 6:30pm Barclays Premier League Preview 7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club 8:00pm Football 11:30pm Carling: In Off the Bar 12:00am The Fantasy Football Club	
SATURDAY 06 MAY	7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm A Question of Sport 9:00pm Enders 9:30pm MasterChef 10:00pm Have I Got News for You 10:30pm Hospital People 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show Witless	5:55pm Gardeners' World 6:25pm Springwatch 7:25pm Japan's Northern Wilderness 8:20pm Trump and Culture: Brave New World 9:30pm Jad's Army 10:00pm Nightcrawler 11:55pm QI XL 12:40am Versailles	5:30pm 6:30pm 7:10pm 7:10pm 7:25pm 7:45pm 7:45pm 10:15pm 10:15pm 10:45pm 11:45pm 11:2:05am 6:30pm Britain's Got More Talent Local News and Weather Take Me Out Britain's Got Talent The Keith and Paddy Picture Show 10:45pm 11:45pm The 40 Year Old Virgin The 40 Year Old Virgin	3:30pm 4:00pm 4:35pm 5:35pm 6:35pm 6:35pm Come Dine with Me A Place in the Sun Big House, Little House Location, Location, Location 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm The Restoration Man 9:00pm 10:00pm The Fault in Our Stars Ghost	4:15pm Nightmare Neighbour Next Door 6:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 8:00pm NCIS: Los Angeles 9:00pm NCIS 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves 12:45am Football on 5	9:45am The Fantasy Football Club 10:45am Soccer A.M. 12:30pm Football 1:30pm Football 4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday 6:15pm Live EFL Football 9:00pm EFL Goals 9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day 11:30pm Nissan Match Choice 12:30am Pl100 Club - Peter Crouch 1:00am	
O7 MAY	6:55pm Weather 7:00pm Countryfile 8:00pm Antiques Roadshow 9:00pm Babs 10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys 11:00pm BBC News 11:20pm Regional News 11:25pm Weather 11:30pm Match of the Day 2 12:40am Show	6:30pm Flog It! 7:00pm Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods are Made 8:00pm P:00pm Mexico 10:00pm Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay 11:00pm Kajaki - The True Story 12:40am The Reluctant Fundamentalist	5:05pm 7:35pm 7:40pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:20pm 12:20am 7:35pm	5:30pm World's Most Expensive Cars 6:40pm George Clarke's Old House, New Home 7:35pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Escape to Costa Rica 9:00pm Captain America: The First Avenger 11:25pm Prometheus 1:45am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	7:00pm 5 News 7:05pm Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 8:00pm One Day International Cricket 9:00pm Football on 5 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Comedy Gold: Tv's Funniest Ever Sketches 11:30pm 12:30am Football on 5	9:00am Premier League Highlights 9:30am Premier League Highlights 10:00am The Sunday Supplement 11:30am Goals on Sunday 1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 1:50pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 1:00am Fremier League 100 Club	
MONDAY 08 MAY	8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Panorama 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm MasterChef 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Match of the Day 12:15am Have I Got a Bit More News for You	4:50pm Red Rock 5:30pm Red Rock 6:15pm Antiques Road Trip 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:45pm Debatable 9:00pm Nature's Weirdest Events 10:00pm Mock the Ueek 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	7:00pm 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 7:00pm Little Boy Blue 11:00pm 11:50pm Don't Ask Me, Ask Britain Joanna Lumley's Postcards	7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Party Election Broadcast 9:30pm Dispatches 9:30pm The Island with Bear Grylls 11:00pm Loaded 11:55pm Gogglebox 12:55am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 7:55pm Party Election Broadcast 8:00pm MotoGP 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm Inside the Gang: Young Blood 11:00pm Mind the Age Gap 12:00am Rise of the Krays	3:00pm Premier League Legends 4:00pm One2eleven 2016/17 5:00pm Football's Greatest 6:00pm Football's Greatest 7:00pm Premier League Legends 7:30pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17 8:00pm Football 12:00am Scottish Football Round Up	
TUESDAY 09 MAY	8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:45pm Weather 11:45pm Side of the Beautiful Game 12:45am The Truth About Stress	7:00pm 7:45pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 12:10am Celebrity Eggheads Debatable Separative Menu Bake Off Crème de la Crème Second Chance Summer: Tuscany Later Live with Jools Holland Weather	7:00pm	7:30pm	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 7:55pm Party Election Broadcast 8:00pm Police Interceptors 9:00pm The Yorkshire Vet 10:00pm Elizabeth I 11:00pm Mind the Age Gap 12:00am 20 Moments That Rocked	10:30am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17 11:00am Premier League Daily Live ATP Masters 1000 - Madrid 10:00pm Premier League Review 11:00pm La Liga World 11:30pm Scottish Football Round Up 11:45pm Sporting Triumphs 12:00am Premier League Review	
10 MAY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm Panorama 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm A Question of Sport 12:15am Teenage Knife Wars 12:45am Home	3:00pm 3:50pm Who Do You Think You Are? 4:50pm Red Rock 6:15pm 7:00pm 7:45pm Beatable 8:30pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 11:30pm Newsnight Weather	7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Tonight at the London Palladium 10:00pm Palladium 11:00pm ITV News 11:50pm UFFA Champions League Highlights Sports Life Stories	6:30pm Extreme Cakemakers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Party Election Broadcast How to Live Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny 10:00pm Confessions of a Junior Doctor 11:00pm Quadruplets and Homeless 12:00am Gogglebox	6:30pm Neighbours 7:30pm 5 News 7:55pm 5 News 8:00pm Chris Tarrant Extreme Railways 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 11:00pm Mind the Age Gap Violent Child, Desperate Parents	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Premier League Review 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Live ATP Masters 1000 - Madrid 11:30pm Barclays Premier League World 12:00am Premier League Legends 12:30am Premier League Legends 1:00am Premier League Legends 1:00am Premier League Logends 1:00am Premier League Logends	

Please say "hello" to your neighbour!

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.

ON those rare occasions when I meet some of the other golden oldies like myself often the conversation comes up that the new arrivals are just not as interesting as in the past. 'Boring folk are coming to live here' is the warning bantered about politely.

Really, nothing could be further from the truth. You see, it is us, those rare folk that consider themselves a tad more clever than the new arrivals - simply for having survived here longer. Worse yet, our circles of influence and recognition has diminished so substantially that we are in fact, not meeting or getting to know and learn about the newcomers.

There has just been so many of them, spread out over a staccato attendance. Maybe we should have them wear green arm bands or silly pledge hats so we can spot them easier. You know, to separate them from the itinerant tourist that is just passing through and we won't see again for



three to five years, whereas those new members of our tribe need to be noted or somehow distinguished so we may get to know them better and offer direct assistance to get them settled in and enjoying our local life style magic.

My personal biggest quibble with new ones is they don't read enough. There is a boat load of information

concerning every topic pertinent to living here right in this paper. Cover to cover it's a damn good read with advice on doggies, gardening, psychological dilemmas and what's going on and where. Within two to three editions they could improve their mental aptitudes some 800 per cent more than what they knew before about residency in this corner of Spain. That, and talking with others that reside here and they see consistently. Somehow, that traditional English reluctance to not intrude must be overcome.

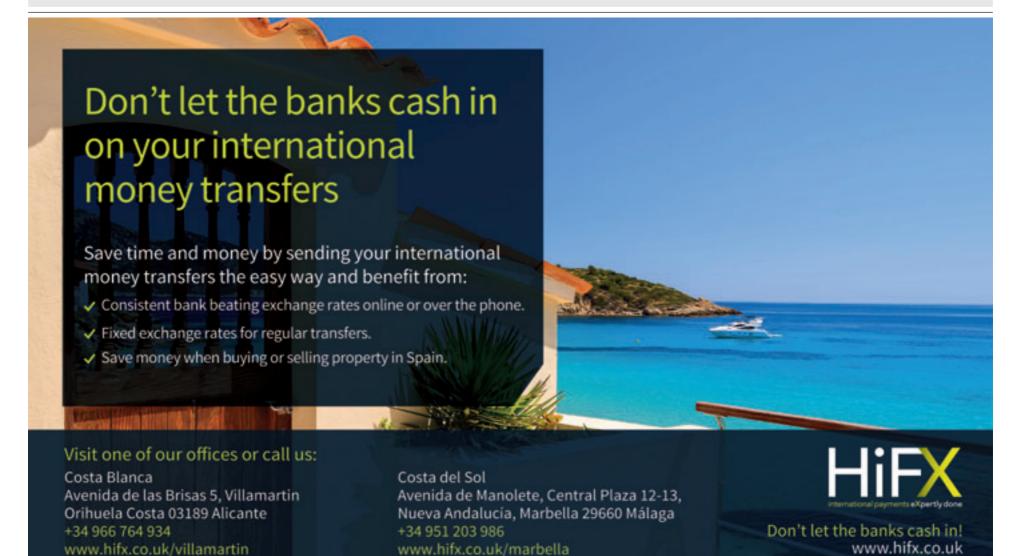
It might be considered an English urban myth, but once there was a report of a United Nations plane going was an unusual flight in that its passengers were from 180 different countries. They glided to a safe landing on a remote but fruitful island that had all the complements for sustaining life if not thriving.

The American started to parcel off the island and sell plots of land. Whereas the Irishman opened a pub providing fermented coconut juice. The Belgians adjudicated the entire set up while the Indonesians became personal helpers and cooks.

Two years later when rescued the ship's captain was most amazed to see how enterprising they all had become in helping the community prosper. All except the Englishman who lived by himself and refused to talk with the others. Asked why he simply replied, "because he hadn't been properly introduced to anyone."

The good weather is again upon us and beckons for outside living and barbecues. Invite some new folk to share your time and situation. You might be quite shocked how much authentic news and information you can gather.

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LETTERS

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Plea to apartment dwellers

SPAIN has the highest proportion of apartment dwellers in Europe (65 per cent compared with 14 per cent in the UK), and for anyone who has visited or lived in a large Spanish town or city this is probably no great surprise.

Can all the noisy people please try to be a little bit quieter? I have elderly Spanish neighbours to the side of me. They like to invite people round most nights and make merry until between 1.30-2am.

When seeing their guests out they slam the front door, presumably waking every apartment dweller within a four-floor radius, and then begin moving their heavy table and chairs back into place.

Heaven knows what the noise is like for the people underneath. When they have finished I can at last begin to nod off, but not for long as my neighbour



above has other plans. Having been silent all day, between 2-2.30am, they start moving furniture directly above me.

Surely it is just common sense to understand that at 2am in the morning, there is a very good chance that the neighbour below you or to the side of you is trying to get to sleep?

But my plea is just for everyone to be considerate and remember you have neighbours who can probably hear every hard-heeled footstep. If just one person gets more sleep because of this article I can rest easy at night - assuming my neighbours let me of course.

Angus Silvie, Malaga

The naked ape

HELEN from Malaga (Dodgy walk April 13) is not alone with this naked men problem.

Here in Gran Alacant. where there are wonderful dunes for all the naturists. there are these men who hang about close to the lifeguard's hut and then spring into action when anyone with young children ap-

There are no notices to inform you about the side of the beach accepted as the nudist colony but when these men make a point of strutting about on the open public beach and even queue up at the ice cream stalls where small young children are about, it is another matter.

Does Spain not have a problem with paedophiles? I never see any articles on the TV about this matter, although I understand not much publicity is given to children who disappear. Maybe it is one of these things they keep behind closed doors.

I wish they would do the same with these odd men. Perhaps someone can tell us if this is illegal in Spain.

> Ann Paterson Gran Alacant, Elche

Let us be entertained

WHATEVER has happened to Benalmadena? Elefante and Bonanza used to be great with good entertainment. If you weren't there before 9pm you couldn't get

When you think that there are so many holidaymakers and those of us who live here that like to enjoy entertainment, but it all seems to be in Marbella or Puerto

Jackie and Gordon Sharp, Benalmadena

Trump card

IT is obvious from reading Leapy Lee's comments on Donald Trump, that he is neither a woman, a disabled

person, a non-Caucasian, a refugee nor an asylum seek-

If he even felt a minimal empathy or solidarity with any of these areas of society he would not make a remark that ennobles a person who has consistently humiliated and insulted them.

He would have some respect for the millions of people who have borne the anguish of seeing that other millions could actually support and elect such a candidate to the most powerful political post.

It is hurtful for those of us falling into these categories to acknowledge this situation: to extol it is a further insult to us all.

Nicola Barker

COMMENTS from EWN Online

>> British woman dies from **Balcony fall**

TOO many people over the years have died from balcony accidents in Spain. Clearly there is a massive shortfall in building regulations there. Maybe the solution is to boycott the whole country for a full holiday season and force the Spanish authorities to realise that we demand change, they do after all earn billions of Euros every year from tourism and should take responsibility for changes to be made.

Robert Anderson

SO many people have died from balcony falls, and the reason for this is that the railings around them are not high enough. On our balcony the railings only come up to the bottom half of the hip and it would be easy to fall.

The Spanish builders need to raise these railings up to waist height at least. They just do not do their job properly.

Roy Peters

>> Gibraltar could be Spanish in four years time

SPAIN and the rest of the EU need to start paying their proper contributions to NATO before any discussions can start. As an opening agenda, perhaps they would like to discuss with Morocco about handing over Melilla and Ceuta!

Sava Sendiri

HE makes some good points. Maybe the Gibraltar people will see some advantages in staying and not be as bigger saps as many in

MANY people believe Spain is on the verge of bankruptcy, and that it owes a considerable amount of money to the EU. If that is actually the case, perhaps the minister is trying to promote a feeling of optimism in the Spanish people. Or perhaps he is hoping that Gibraltar will bail Spain out... He is certainly toeing the government line, perhaps trying to make his own job a little more secure?

TO Saya Sendiri - I agree entirely with you, and to Peter - the bigger sap is you, along with all the other remoaners who cannot see how awful the EU is for everybody not only the UK.

INSTEAD of focusing on trying to get Gibraltar into Spanish hands maybe Mr Margallo should focus on sorting out his own challenges in Spain first. Why not try reducing the highest unemployment in Europe and the crazy outdated labour processes? There are areas 100 times the size of Gibraltar that are already in Spainish territory that need serious help first.

>> No vote for long-term expats

SO we knew when we vacated the UK we wouldn't be eligible to vote after a period of time, since learning to Speak Spanish fluently and assimilating into the Spanish culture.

Then why bitch on and why call ourselves 'expats' not the 'Johnny foreigner' type eh? No, we are emigrants who have the privilege to live/work in another country. Oh I see why, it's the 'bremainers' unable to accept the democratic vote for a clean Brexit, seeking to cause mischief and division. ¡Qué sorpresa!

CJ

HAVE YOUR SAY

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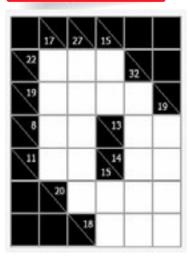
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Kakuro



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Punchy Mars and the heady Sun are set

for a scramble with touchy Pluto.

You've been there before, so despite

whirls or curious rejections, don't be

achieved, subtract your fears and keep

Upfront Mars and the upbeat Sun will

be at loggerheads with powerful Pluto.

Friday or Saturday's antics, so be ready

You might not appreciate some of

to use your charm, or perhaps your

equally wicked sense of humour will

do the trick. Whatever comes up for

with some useful tactics.

(July 24 - August 23)

LEO 6

VIRGO

review, a cool rethink could inspire you

This is an intense week, and if you get

stuck with a particular issue, jumble your

words, or just can't seem to do anything

right, it might be worth finding out if the

Quirky planetary niggles will surface

without warning. A variety of talks,

news and last-minute changes surround

your family members, friends or

colleagues. No matter what affects your

personal or occupational activities, stay

focused, decide what your goals are and,

just as importantly, find the easiest way

to move forward without losing your

grass is greener on the other side.

(August 24 - September 23)

any administrative bumps, gossipy

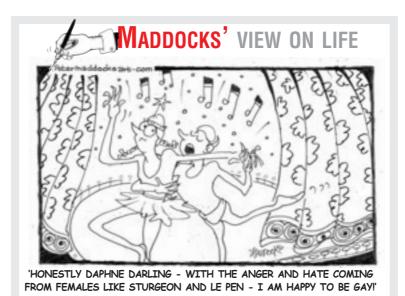
too sensitive. Add up what you've

your emotions under control.

CANCER 63

(June 22 - July 23)

GEMINI X (May 22 - June 21)



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 R) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE **LETTER WORD.** Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

• Average: 14 • Good: 19 • Very good: 28 • Excellent: 36

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

aeon ante earn erne etna nape neap near neat neep nope note open pane pant pean peen pent peon pone pont porn rant rent roan tarn teen tern tone torn antre apron atone eaten enate enter noter oaten panto paten preen prone ranee tenor toner enrapt entrap napper neater opener ornate parent patron poteen reopen repent tarpon trepan operant pronate propane protean NOTEPAPER























































LIBRA 🕰 (September 24 - October 23) Even the best-made plans can suddenly

healing sense of humour.

YOUR STARS FOR

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Astrologically, it's not unreasonable to assume that when sparky Mars and the zesty Sun conflict with restless Pluto, life could become a tad frustrating. You might find it hard to tolerate hypocrisy and setbacks, but fortunately, it's all just a passing cloud. Regardless of any lack of continuity, concentrate on keeping going and prepare for next week's brighter outlook.

sink without a trace. Your dreams for a fresh start in one particular direction still need tender, cautious care, and you may equally need to be wary of overstepping the mark where money's concerned.

SCORPIO M.

(October 24 - November 22)

You will need bucketloads of humour and understanding as impatient Mars and the sprightly Sun engage with touchy Pluto. Stay well clear if you want to escape potential power struggles.

SAGITTARIUS X

(November 23 - December 21)

If you suspect that some things are not what they seem, you could be right. Repel doubts, ban anxieties and stick to facts and tact. If certain individuals or situations continue to conspire against you, change course and do something entirely different. What goes around will come around quicker than you think.

CAPRICORN To

(December 22 - January 20)

Storms in tea-cups need loads of sweettalking. Of course, if you can't be bothered with it all, fair enough; keeping quiet could be the best way to deal with problems, glitches or sudden backfires. If you can't take a break, at least chill out with whatever or whoever brings you the greatest

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

You are about to tackle some tough tests. Work and personal hurdles could preoccupy you, but after the weekend you'll be able to sort out the ice from the cream. No matter how awkward things seem on Monday or Wednesday, trust your ability to wait for the right moment, rather than risk spoiling your plans.

PISCES

(February 20 - March 20)

Feisty Mars and the fiery Sun are warring with changeable Pluto, so avoid any tearaway temptations on Thursday or Friday. You could be emotionally vulnerable, or even lulled into a false sense of security. However confusing the planets may seem, even out the odds as best you can by ensuring your worries take second place.

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)

Hassles and battles are on the cards. If things don't happen as fast as you'd expected, or domestic and workaday blips assail your patience, transform them into an opportunity to show your special qualities. Potent planetary influences urge you to look, listen, learn and refuse to allow petty stumbling blocks to undermine your confidence on Tuesday and Thursday.

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.

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

Z	7	4	6	9	1	8	3	5	2
≥	9	3	5	2	7	6	8	4	1
	1	8	2	3	4	5	7	9	6
	4	2	1	5	8	7	9	6	3
	3	6	7	1	2	9	4	8	5
	8	5	9	4	6	3	1	2	7
	6	9	8	7	5	1	2	3	4
AST	2	7	3	6	9	4	5	1	8
Y	5	1	4	8	3	2	6	7	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 Client has some EU services (4)
- 4 Tried SAS manoeuvre, but it was a catastrophe (8)
- 8 Roman emperor took vehicle around wild sea (6)
- 9 Song birds with no ribs broken (6)
- 10 French sea with English pond (4)
- 11 Tory with impenetrable contract (8) 13 Sailor convert at sea is doubtful (13)
- 16 Met green characters coming out (8)
- 19 Judge accepting Ecstasy and rocks (4)
- 20 Dogs one missed in French resort (6)
- 22 Plumbing fixture for a baby party (6)
- 23 Kitchen items made at stores (8)
- 24 Hardy character in United States Secret Service

- 2 Arrange more toast for the guest cabin (9) 3 Honour pastor in cult after religious education (7)
- 4 In Colorado, rich men give the order (5)

Code Breaker

15

12

12 **C**

13

15

13

Т

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13 24

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- 5 Queer Street has scope (7)
- 6 Sale includes British fur (5)
- 7 A long time sheltering in Sierra Leone (3)
- 12 Cooking meals, she's audacious (9)
- 14 Keep an eye on past, understand? (7)

- 15 Arrange to tour school building (4.3)
- 17 Places stinking Stilton first (5)
- 18 Team leader requests jobs (5)

18

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16

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24

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21 A bit of publicity that leads to nothing but trouble (3)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In

English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you

13

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12 **C**

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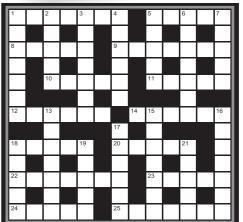
24

13

this week's puzzle, 5 represents T and 12 represents C, so fill in T every time the figure 5 appears and C every time the figure 12 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the

discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the

Quick



Across

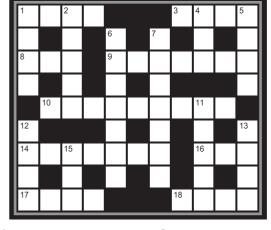
- 1 Obstreperous (7)
- 5 Fragment (5)
- 8 Lawful (5)
- 9 Afro-Caribbean music (7)
- 10 Illumination (5)
- 11 Informed (5)
- 12 Become larger (6) 14 Thrust or throw into (6)
- 18 Lizard (5)
- 20 Precise (5)
- 22 Do away with (7)
- 23 Enthusiastic (5) **24** Wear away (5)
- 25 Italian rice dish (7)

1 Raising of sunken or wrecked ships (7)

- 2 Royal (5)
- 3 Closed plane figure bounded by straight sides (7)
- 4 Sailing boats (6)
- 5 Bohemian folk dance (5)
- 6 Make plain and comprehensible (7)
- 7 Call out (5)
- 13 Small flute (7)
- **15** Heads (7)
- 16 Government order imposing a trade barrier (7)
- 17 Tie an animal with a rope or chain so
- as to restrict its movement: (6) **18** Glower (5)
- 19 Like a sheep (5)
- 21 Closely constrained (5)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Bandera (de país, ciudad) (4)
- **3** Gemelo (4)
- 8 Mentira (embuste) (3) **9** Poppy (7)
- 10 Gotas de Iluvia (9)
- 14 Cencerro (7)
- **16** Mar (3)
- **17** Hormigas (4)
- 18 Ass (donkey) (4)

www.hifx.co.uk/marbella

Down

- 1 Película (4)
- **2** Bee (5) 4 Quién (3)
- 5 Ordenado (4)
- 6 Pintor (7) 7 Barriles (7)
- **11** Raisins (5)
- 12 Minutes (of a meeting) (4)
- 13 Hand (4)
- 15 Mojado (3)

CRYPTIC

- 1 Racket, 4 Plumps, 9 Tornado, 10 Tardy, 11 Ousel, 12 Neolith,
- 13 Containment, 18 Agitate,
- 20 Shake, 22 Eland, 23 Climate.
- 24 Slides, 25 Zealot.

- 1 Ration, 2 Cards, 3 Epaulet,
- 5 Lotto, 6 Martian, 7 Scythe.
- 8 Coincidence, 14 Origami. 15 Misfire, 16 Rayers, 17 Select.
- 19 Addle, 21 Avail.

QUICK

Across:

- 7 Saline, 8 Survey, 9 Ripe,
- 10 Specimen, 11 Fantasy,
- 13 Petty, 15 Scary, 17 Capstan, 20 Macaroni, 21 Stay, 22 Severe,
- 23 Tamper.

- 1 Marina, 2 Dine, 3 Persist,
- 4 Asked, 5 Trainers, 6 Defect,
- 12 Threaten, 14 Variety, 16 Claret, 18 Azalea, 19 Coven, 21 Same.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

1 Recuerdo, 7 Donde, 8 Seven, 9 Armchairs, 11 Attic, 12 Glass, 14 Doorbell.

1/5 Red wine, 2 Concrete, 3 Ejercicio, 4 Descargar, 6 Overtake, 10 Faro, 13 Sol.

CODE BREAKER





16

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23

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Elton played at my 21st

Mike Senker In my opinion Views of a **Grumpy Old Man**

FROM the amount of emails I receive I know that the readers of this rambling old grumpy sod's column are more mature in years and we remember how things used to be.

For instance, a stag night was a visit to the pub to get the groom suitably inebriated and to try and return him home with enough time to scrub off the marker pen and get rid of the ladies underwear we had stuffed in his pockets.

Hen nights were pretty much the same but with a male stripper gram chucked in who usually started off as a policeman. The cost involved was a few quid and all was done and dusted in a few hours.

Let's jump forward to now. Dr S is maid of honour for her friend's wedding and it's up to her to organise the hen do. Down the pub is now an absolute non-starter. They were looking at going abroad for a few days. Why? I haven't a clue. These are all young ladies just starting out in life and all dating and getting married and now every time one of them decides to get cut and carried (married) it costs all their friends a fortune!

I'm talking about paying for flights, hotel bills etc, etc. We see hen parties all the time here tottering about the streets of the Costa del Sol usually in stupid t-shirts with dumbass remarks on them and the bride having to wear a veil as well and, most likely, carrying a blow up something. What a waste of money they can mostly all ill afford.

Not only that, what about the pressures of organising the whole event? I know for a fact that it's stressful and trying to make sure that everything goes to plan is an absolute nightmare. In the end the girls decided that it was too expensive to go abroad so they are now staying in the UK and doing a weekend of celebrations. It's still expensive but common sense prevailed to a certain degree.

Last year was my Godson's 21st birthday. What did we do? We went to Miami for a week and had the most fantastic time. When I was 21 I had a party in a club called the Speakeasy in the West End of London.

Well I say a party: I went there with two mates and had a spag bol and apple pie and cream with a candle in it. It was a club, Well musicians came there after their gigs and then whoever was there got up and played. That night it was Elton John and for years I have told people that Elton John played at my 21st which, although technically true he didn't have a clue it was my birthday or even a clue I was there! And he certainly did not know who I was. But, hey ho!

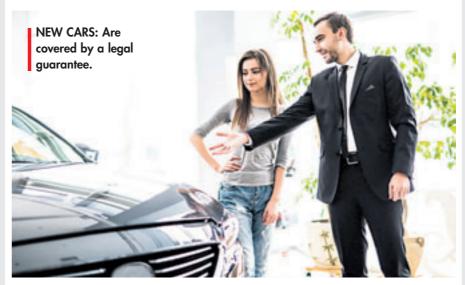
Email me: mikesenker@gmail.com.



LEGALLY SPEAKING

Buying a new car

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.



WHEN you purchase a new car from a dealer, many do so for the peace of mind they believe accompanies such a purchase and whilst it is true, they do give a certain assurance, it is still important to know your rights.

New cars are covered by a legal guarantee of two years without a mileage limit, whereas the manufacturer has to take care of the faults and breakdowns that have arisen with the car, so long as they are not caused by misuse, lack of maintenance or wear.

Factory defects are also covered by the legal guarantee, but in this case, the claim must be made during the first six months from the date of delivery of the vehicle. After six months. you must prove that the defect was actually caused at the manufacture stage and to do this, an expert report must be presented to prove it.

The Madrid based Asociación Madrileña de Distribuidores de Automoviles (AMDA), also

advises owners that you also have consumer rights if you have to visit a garage for repairs. In the event the vehicle suffers a fault covered by the warranty, the time spent in the garage for repair will not count as part of the warranty period and that time will be added to the original end date of the warranty. To enable this to happen, it is important to get a receipt from the garage with the date of delivery and return of the vehicle, together with a repair report.

Work carried out in an authorised mechanic's garage is also guaranteed, whether it is a maintenance check or a repair. It is however necessary to differentiate between the two situations; when it is a repair covered by the legal guarantee, in this case the period of cover is six months, or if it is a repair outside the warranty period in which case the garage will be responsible for its work for three months or

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

What is correct notification?

As I read the Ley de Propiedad Horizontal, it specifies the procedure for notification of the AGM in Section 16. Para 2 and distribution is defined in Section 9. Para H. There is no mention of email communication. The AGM is a very

important meeting for owners as it sets the programme for the year, the budget and the fees. To send it by email does not give proof of service. Some owners may not have email. Have you any comments?

R P (Costa del Sol)

Yes, the law specifies notification shall be made by any means that provides proof of service. This usually means a normal letter. This notice must contain the time and date, the official Agenda, and a list of the



debtors who cannot vote. This notice will be sent to the property itself, or to an ad-

dress specified by the owner. This address must be in Spain. An owner who is not notified can impugn the results of the voting. The email notification, even if not strictly legal, is useful for absentee owners in other countries.

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

Jumbo bunny dies in latest PR disaster for United Airlines

on flexi-

b l e



DO you possess exceptional interpersonal skills? Are you equally skilled at customer care and PR? Yes? Then, read on! (And no, I'm not offering you a job, but

you might find that a certain air-

line may in the near future.)

United Airlines is facing another PR disaster after a potentially record-breaking giant rabbit perished en route to Chicago from London. The 90cm-long bunny, called Simon - 10-month-old son of Darius, the current Guinness World Record holder for the world's biggest rabbit (at 1.3m-long) and expected to have grown larger than his dad - was found dead on arrival.

United is still trying to tackle the public relations disaster after passenger, Dr David Dao, lost two front teeth and suffered a broken nose when forcibly removed from a flight at Chicago airport in order to make space for crew from a partner airline. The incident caused outrage and widespread condemnation after footage was watched by millions online. And not helped by United's CEO describing Dr Dao being dragged from the seat he had paid for as being

GIANT RABBIT:

Was found dead on

arrival in Chicago.

'reaccommodat-

tickets, but UK airlines do it even All airlines overbook as the system is based on a presumption of a percent-

where passengers are on non-refundable tickets. How are airlines age of 'no allowed to sell the same seat shows.' In twice and then eject one of their the USA it's passengers? Imagine the same happening at hotels or theatres; designed to cope with there'd be riots! passengers

Airlines also put their own and partner airline staff on flights at the ex-

paying customers. Is this really an industry problem or one more characteristic of certain airlines like, err. United?

Now, I admit I'm a nervous flyer after experiencing, at the tender age of seven, a forced landing in Tunisia when the plane was aiming for Malta. And all because of a storm over Malta, ending up in a different continent!

So, now there's not just the worry of attacks on planes, strike action or weather delays, but of being 'deplaned.' Or 'reaccommodated.' Next scandal, please!

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





Bidding her a fond farewell

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

- and not entirely impartial reaction to the Spanish political scene

INSIDERS now doubt that Esperanza Aguirre will ever hold a prominent position again in the Partido Popular.

One thing is certain: Spain's president and PP leader Mariano Rajoy is unlikely to stick his neck out for Aguirre as he did for the late Rita Barbera.

Aguirre challenged Rajoy's leadership after he was defeated yet again at the polls in the 2008 general election. The former Valencia City mayor stood by him then and when she was mired in illegal party funding and corruption accusations, Rajoy faced ridicule rather than throw her to the wolves.

In contrast Aguirre's second self-defenestration will be a dish that Rajov can eat cold and without

the need for a long spoon.

An ancient query

THE Anti-corruption Public Prosecutor tried to limit the investigation that matured into Ignacio Gonzalez's Lezo operation.

Justice minister Rafael Catala

and Attorney General Jose Manuel Maza must soon answer tricky parliamentary questions about removing two public prosecutors whose investigations led to the resignation of Murcia's regional president Pedro Antonio Sanchez.

As Juvenal said, "Who guards the guards?" in a question that remains unanswered 2,000 years la-

Words of praise

IN a bugged conversation Ignacio Gonzalez poured vitriol on Critina Cifuentes, his successor as Madrid Community

president who handed over evidence of his shady goings and eventually triggered Operation Lezo.

"That gilipollas won't cover anything up," Gonzalez complai-

> What greater praise could politically ambitious Cifuentes ask for?



with Jose Maria Aznar and former president of the Madrid Community resigned as councillor and the Partido Popular's spokeswoman at Madrid city hall.

In 2014 Aguirre ostentatiously resigned as president of the Partido Popular party in Madrid when the region's former vice-president Francisco Granados was swept away by the Punica corruption case. It happened on her watch and Aguirre said she was prepared to take the can back.

Now, thanks to Ignacio Gonzalez, her former righthand man who took over as Madrid Community president when she resigned on health grounds in 2012, she has taken back another can.

Gonzalez, already implicated in the Punica

scandal plus the dodgy provenance of his Marbella apartment, is now remanded for diverting public funds, commissions and raking in countless other goodies in the Lezo case.

Canny Aguirre has never put her name to anything less than above board. Noone doubts her affirmation at the time of the Punica case that she had never received 'one cent.' But too many others did, all were close to her and it always happened on her







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Are you in the know?

CURRENTLY, just two in every 10 Spaniards know that there is a vaccine to protect against pneumonia. That's the findings from a study carried out by the PneuVUE (Adult Pneumonia Vaccine Understanding Europe). Their results showed that in Spain, much work remains to be done in terms of knowledge of this disease and its prevention.

PneuVUE records the long road that remains to be covered in the knowledge of pneumonia in Spain. The study found that 84 per cent said they know what it is, and 85 per cent identify it as a lung infection. The problem, the study authors said, is it is not enough to know that pneumonia exists, but it has to be understood and there are gaps in the knowledge of the transmission of the disease, the risk factors for contracting it and the number of peo-

tion to this last point, 41 per cent of the respondents considered that traffic accidents are the greater cause of death in Spain; compared with 3 per cent who selected pneumonia. In fact, pneumonia caused four times more deaths than traffic accidents at the time of the survey.

Sixty-one per cent of the population is unaware that pneumonia can be prevented in addition to being treated, and 78 per cent do not know that it is possible to get a vaccination.

Pneumococcal disease is one of the most common causes of pneumonia. In Spain, in 2011, 10,861 hospital admissions were recorded for pneumococcal disease in adults, with an estimated cost of €57 million. Of these, 92 per cent were exclusively for pneumococcal pneumonia and the infection





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We speak





Taking a risk

ARE you an over-protective parent? Well according to a new report, you could be limiting your child's happiness as a bit of rough and tumble is reported to be good for them.

Researchers from New Zealand had eight schools increase their 'risk' element in their outdoor areas. These included play areas that had more physically vigorous activities, less rules and more 'loose' parts such as tyres. Another eight schools kept their playgrounds the same.

These were in place for two years with questionnaires being completed by children, parents and teachers after the first and second year.

The scientists concluded that children in more risky environments reported being happier at school and playing with more children.



Trials for malaria vaccine

A MALARIA vaccine could be available next year.

A vaccine has been created. known as RTS,S which is reported to make the immune system attack the malaria parasite. It is set to be tested on

million people are affected every year

around 120,000 children aged five to 17 months old in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi, where there is a high number of malaria cases. The treatment would require four doses of the vaccine, with the final one being some 18 months after the first, before it would be completely effective.

The World Health Organisa-

tion said if successful, the treatment could potentially save tens of thousands of lives as the condition affects more than 200 million new people annually and around half a million people die every year from the disease, most of which are chil-

Malaria is a serious tropical disease spread by mosquitoes which, unless treated promptly, can be fatal. It is mainly a problem in countries such as Africa, Asia, Central and South America, but can be prevented through the use of insect repellent, using mosquito nets and antimalarial medication.





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Dealing with a personal problem



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

DEAR Doctor.

I have an embarrassing prob-

I am within the Spanish health system but I speak no Spanish and my doctor speaks no English so, on my visits to my doctor my translator is always there and knows everything I wish to discuss, this can be most embarrassing.

I'm a 70-year-old man and when I was 45 I developed Familiar Nervosa more commonly called essential tremor for which there has been no cure, but to some degree it can be controlled with varying success with one of only two drugs available.

I have tried both and Proprananol proved to help a bit. I currently take 40mg twice a

One of its side effects is impotence and, largely because of this my marriage failed 10 years ago and I'm now a reluctant single man because of my inability to have an erection.

I understand that a cure involving a small 10-minute brain operation has been achieved in USA & UK but it's not available yet to the public; that's no good to me.

At my age it appears there's no hope of a new relationship and I'm unable to even discuss it.

Dear Patient,

Essential tremor is a neurological illness which, although not particularly serious, can cause important disruption to daily life and activities. Some medications such as propanolol are useful to manage the symptoms, but can have unwanted side effects which include reduced libido and impotence.

If these effects seriously affect your life there are other types of treatment which could be tried including primidona, clonazepam, gabapentina or mirtazapine which may help control your symptoms while avoiding those unwanted side effects.

However if the propanolol is working well and controlling your symptoms, you could try another type of treatment for your erectile disfunction such as Viagra or Cialis. Your doctor would have to supervise this treatment, after ruling out any possible reasons not to go ahead such as heart disease. or other medications.

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

What protection do you need?

SUMMER is just around the corner so it's time to think about pro-

With the towel in one hand, book in the other as you head to the beach to take in some rays, in your bag?

Although awareness about how important it is to protect skin from the sun is increasing, there are still many who forget to always have their faces protected to avoid wrinkles, blemishes and signs of early ageing, even as you go about daily life and are not consciously basking in the sun, stay protect-

But there are also many products on the

market, so what should you choose to best protect yourself?

Skin with acne

In adolescence in particular, it is very important to take care of the face, not only to protect against future ageing, but with acne, exposure to the sun can lead to scaring and marks from spots. When using a cream avoid oily lotions and use a high protection product with a dry touch finish.

Atopic skin

Those who suffer from atopic skin, which is skin which is prone to inflammation, redness or eczema, always need special care. The best option is a sunscreen with very high protection which is labelled as being suitable for fragile skins with atopic tendency, as these creams tend to be less sticky.

Anti age

The sun is the worst enemy for those who are getting a little older or are showing the signs of ageing, so whilst it is still important to enjoy an outdoor, active life, use a minimum factor 50 protection on the face, which protects against both UVA and UVB rays.

Pale skins

If you don't want to hit the beach looking too pale, but at the same time want to protect your face, try a light moisturising tint with



Be gentle to keep your brain sharp

WANT to stay sharp during your retirement in Spain? Then book into a tai-chi or yoga class as research has found that gentle exercise can help boost the brain power of the over 50's.

Experts in Australia said they found that doing a 45-minute session at least once a week helped to improve cognitive skills such as thinking, attention and memory. Other activities such as gentle aerobic activities like swimming and resistance training, are also beneficial, but it was the ancient Chinese art of tai-chi that was found to be particularly helpful as it was easier for older people to undertake.

It is estimated that around 200 million in China people practise the gentle sport daily as the slow exercises and movements help build muscle and bone, improve balance and strengthen joints. It also requires concentration, which could be one of the reasons it





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Rock 'n' Roll

MUSIC festivals in Spain don't all have to be flamenco or electronica. Almeriabased rock 'n' rollers are in for a treat in the coming months. A new rock festival has just been announced. Tickets are now on sale for the Juergas Rock Festival 2017 to be held in August.

Perhaps Almeria's first exclusively rock festival, Juergas has already seen some of Spain's top hard rock bands sign up for the

action on Thursday August 3 at the festival grounds in Adra. Previous versions of the festival have seen more than 20,000 people attend.

VISIT WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM/FEATURES/RESTAURANTS

The best news is that, as well as being dedicated to rock, the festival is one of Europe's cheapest.

Tickets start at just € 30 and even include free camping alongside some of the best punk and rock artists on the international scene.

Uni race for all

RUNNERS and sports lovers can attend the fifth Popular Race held by the University of Almeria this weekend.

More than 600 adults, teens and children will participate in the five and 10 kilometre races held on May 6

Competitors will take in a scenic route through La Canada, starting and finishing at the campus.

They will also be divided into age categories, with Seniors, plus 35s, plus 45, and plus 55s.

Theoretically fit students are in their own category.

Pilgrims and parties

PARTIES and pilgrimages pairing together is surely among Spain's more symbolic sights. As Almeria welcomes May a whole range of popular fiestas and iconic religious celebrations are firmly on the agenda.

First up, in just over two weeks, is the festivals and pilgrimages associated with San Isidro. The saint lived almost 1,000 years ago but today his legend and influence is stronger than ever, especially in Nijar and Mojacar.

His official day is on May 15, which runs on a Monday this year. Nijar will stay true to the date with an abundance of celebrations, especially around the San Isidro part of town. In Mojacar the party is even more potent and will run through the weekend on Saturday May 13 and the following Sunday.

Traditionally the Mojacar pilgrimage always takes place on the Sunday nearest the 15th. This year it will see hundreds, perhaps thousands, of believers and others there for the community, or cultural spirit, take part.



PILGRIMS: Hundreds will take part in the pilgrimage this year.

Pilgrims will depart from La Fuente at 11.30am with a free light snack provided by the council. They will then walk, accompanied by the terrific Mojacar Municipal Band, to Sopalmo. A mass in honour of San Isidro will be held at Sopalmo at 6pm before the pilgrims venture back to the town centre to continue the celebrations.

The bigger party will take place on the Saturday before. Parades, food, drink and music will take over the town centre in the evening.

This year Mojacar residents will have very special guests along to get the festival started, music group Noches de Candela, who will have everyone on their feet.





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MASTERS TOURNAMENT: Will feature 16 finalists.

Beach tennis

ELITE beach tennis will be dazzling spectators in Vera this weekend at the very first Beach Tennis Masters tournament in Spain. Played at the Playazo de Vera, the contest will feature the 16 finalists from the 2016 Spanish Beach Tennis Championships.

The event is jointly organised by the Royal Spanish Tennis Federation and the Indalo Beach Tennis Club. There will also be competitive matches between amatuer teenage players in the under 14s and under 18s categories.

Winners of the first Beach Tennis Masters will go on to represent Spain in the European Beach Tennis Championships held this summer in Bulgaria. Winners of the under 14s will go on to play in the World Championships later this year.

Mayor Felix Lopez expressed his joy that Vera was chosen to hold such a prestigious sporting event. Beach tennis is growing in worldwide popularity. Rackets resemble those from padel, and once the ball strikes the sand the point is over, making it a game of volleys. The tournament is played on May 6 and 7 at the beach with all tennis fans welcome to pop along for the atmosphere.

For adrenaline addicts

THE Sierra Cabrera Xtreme La Mojaquera is back for its sixth edition on Sunday May 7. The furious cycling extravaganza pits some of Andalucia's most ferocious athletes on two-wheels against one another and some of the most torturous trails in Almeria

The 52km marathon takes in mountainous twists and turns under what is usually a fair hot spring heat. Tickets are available online for the best spectator spots, though anyone in the area will find the 500 plus brightly coloured huffing and puffing racers hard to miss.

The trail expands well beyond Mojacar and takes on some magnificent coastal views. Best times are expected to be around the three-hour mark, with winners able to compete at higher level events on the Spanish and international extreme cycling calendars.

With the weather now hitting that sporting sweet spot, the Xtreme race isn't the only event in Mojcar's May adrenaline circuit.



CYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA: Takes in mountainous twists and turns.

On Sunday May 28 athletes from across Spain will compete in the fifth edition of the Mojacar Triathlon. Participants will run 6km, cycle 20km and then swim a final 1,000m in their quest for sporting glory.

Thousands will likely be raised for charity so make sure you show your local support, or get ready to compete if you're brave enough!



All major sporting events shown live in HD on 5 large screens including 1 on the terrace, SKY, BT & 2 beIN sports systems

Friday 5th May West Ham v Spurs 9pm

Saturday 6th May

Man City v Crystal Palace 1.30pm Two 4pm games TBC see boards Swansea v Everton 6.30pm

Sunday 7th May iverpool v Southampton 2.30pm Arsenal v Man Utd 5pm

Monday 8th May Chelsea v Middlesbrough 9pm **Wednesday 10th May** Southampton v Arsenal 8.45pm



Thursday 11th May

Manchester United v Celta de Vigo 9.05pm

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Disabled access at the rear past the pharmacy

Musical marathon

TICKETS are now on sale for the second edition of Niiar's acclaimed 'New Talent' music festival.

Held in San Isidro on May 20 the show is a collaboration between local youth association 'Sol Barefoot' and the council's Youth department.

It allows musically-minded young people from Nijar to express their talents on the big stage and possibly catch the attention of national scouts.

Singers, dancers and DJs will dominate a marathon musical day slated for a full 10 hours of activity and competition.

The festival kicks off at 11am on Saturday May 20 and will involve at least 30 youngsters aged between 14 and 23. Tickets for this terrific community event can be ordered from the council website at www.nijar.es







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CLOSED WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY - FRIDAY 5TH MAY OPEN AS USUAL FROM MONDAY 8TH MAY

Creative Stitches

TWO fantastic art exhibitions are taking place throughout May in Mojacar, offering an excellent day out for culture lovers and anyone who enjoys doing something a little different.

First up is a special exhibition entitled 'Creative Stitches' which features Sheila Dickson, Beverley Michael, and Elaine Palmer. Creative Stitches focuses on the artistry behind fabric art, quilting and jewellery.

Opening day is Monday May 15. The exhibition will be inaugurated at 7pm at the Centro do Arte, 'Mirador del Castillo.' It runs right through until the end of the month on May 31 and is a terrific opportunity for anyone in or near Mojacar to embrace the magic behind Creative Stitching.

The second event well worth a visit is a painting exhibition at the Centro de Art de la Fuente Mojacar. Featuring works from Beatriz Segovia and Ionut Buruian, the grand opening is on Sunday May 7 at 12pm. It will also run until the end of the month.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT: Focuses on fabric art, quilting and jewellery.

Slings and arrows

IT'S the last chance saloon for anyone wishing to get tickets for this weekend's performance of the immortal Shakespeare classic Hamlet in Vera. On Saturday May 6 at 9pm the Classic Theatre Company of Sevilla will put on a first class interpretation of the powerful play at the municipal auditorium Ciudad de Vera.

Directed by Alfonse Zurro, Hamlet will feature stage stars from Spain's National Theatre Company, the Royal School of Dramatic Art, and even famous faces from Span-

Zurro's version of Hamlet has won 19 awards since beginning its acclaimed run across Spain and comes highly recommended by the Spanish Theatre Network.

With universal plots of murder, revenge, corruption, fear, love and manipulation, Hamlet is a play for the ages that offers an intense escape from the typical beat of southern Spanish life. Tickets cost from €12 and can be purchased from the Convento de la Victo-

HAMLET: With plots of murder, revenge, corruption, fear and



The UK government has suddenly woken up!

GOOD FOOD, **GOOD WINE AND GOOD FRIENDS** WITH **GARRY WAITE**

CCORDING TO REPORTS, a Common's select committee has said they have found out that we waste millions of pounds a year by throwing away 'out of date' food stuffs and is urging the industry to change its classification on packeted goods to avoid customer confusion.

Now I'm not pretending that I aspire to be a Jeremy Paxman, I am but a humble columnist, but if any of you avid readers out there (apparently I have a few!) will recall that in the March 9 edition of this esteemed publication I wrote about exactly that. But now the Government has been told that it should establish a national food waste reduction target to drive efforts to reduce the food waste costing the average person in the UK £200 per year and supermarkets should publicly report data on the amount of food they bin and relax rules that prevent the sale of 'wonky vegetables' to combat food waste, the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee says in its report.

Committee Chair Neil Parish MP declared to the gathered throng that "one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally and in the UK over £10 billion worth of food is thrown away by households every year. Food waste has grotesque economic, social and environmental costs. Economically, food waste costs households hundreds of pounds a year and causes in-



AMUSING? But taste not waste!!

creased disposal costs to local authorities, pushing up council tax bills.

"Socially it is a scandal people are going hungry and using food banks when so much produce is being wasted. And environmentally it is a disaster, because energy and resources are wasted in production only for the food to end up rotting in landfills where it produces methane - a potent climate-changing gas.

"We commend Tesco for publishing its food waste data from across the supply chain. Sainsbury's is moving in the same direction, but needs more transparency. The fact that no other retailers have followed their lead shows that a voluntary approach is inadequate. The Government needs to step in and force other major supermarkets to be transparent about

food waste. We welcome the will shown by retailers to redistribute surplus food. However, we believe that more must be done. There is a huge amount of surplus food that is currently not being redistributed."

If the demand for 'straight' vegetables and 'round' fruits was removed from the scenario and supermarkets were to put them up for sale - at discounted prices if necessary - the wastage would be cut by millions. In another previous article I mentioned about the meat buyer for M&S who had to buy only the reddest meat as shoppers didn't like seeing the real colour of beef. If supermarkets won't sell them, then at least they could ship them round to the nearest food



THIS FOOD REALLY IS RUBBISH! Which could be the slogan for the restaurant started by the young entrepreneurial chef Adam Smith in Leeds. The Real Junkfood Project in the city of West Yorkshire, only serves meals created from food destined for landfill. Since opening, he has been joined by five more directors plus an army of volunteers,

The team approached restaurants and cafes across the city and asked them to give their leftover food to the project rather than throw it away. An army of volunteers drive around the city collecting food stuffs from shops, supermarkets and hotels. Numerous restaurants, supermarkets and cafes in the city have now got behind the scheme and donate food on a daily basis after they were approached by project leaders.

Volunteers collect the unwanted food and turn it into their own meals - which vary each day but normally include a meat and vegetarian option, sandwiches and sometimes a dessert. Unwanted food donated so far ranges from bread and broccoli to caviar, truffles, a kilo of smoked salmon, luxury cheeses, extravagant vegetables and spices.

Customers at the radical restaurant, thought to be the first in the country, then pay what they want for the food. The cafe is now open five days a week to serve breakfast and dinner. It has also started catering

for outside events.

One of the directors believes that this year his cafe has already saved more than a tonne of food from going to waste. Commenting, he said, "we get a real mix here from locals in the areas who come in and spend the day here to students. We are very busy and are probably doing between 15 to 30 meals a day. (Doesn't seem much - considering they're giving it away!!!)

bank!!

The pay as you feel concept makes people think about what is on offer and what they think it is worth. "We like to think if somebody has a little more money they might pay a little more," he continued, "But if a person did not have the means to pay we are not going to not serve them, if they

to wastage.

Let's kiss goodbye

are hungry we are going to give them food."

Reminds me of a similar operation we wrote about a few months ago, 'The Robin Hood' in Madrid.

FOOD

1.- Buy it with thought 2.- Cook it with care

3.- Serve just enough

4.- Save what will keep

5.- Eat what would spoil **6.-** Home-grown is best

DON'T WASTE IT

WINE CORNER: ONE OF THE BEST UP AND COMING **WINE MAKERS IN SPAIN**

A native of Cognac, Olivier Riviere studied oenology in Bordeaux with an emphasis in biodynamic farming practices.

Olivier was always passionate about terroir expression, gaining valuable insights whilst working in Burgundy including at Domaine Leroy; however, Olivier's dream was always to set up his own project.

After years of hard work he was able to set up his winery and now with 25 hectares of land under vine (some owned. some rented) in Rioia Alta, Rioja Baja, Rioja Alavesa and in up and coming DO of Arlanza, Olivier is living out his dream.

One of his wines is Ganko, which comes from 60-90-year -old Garnacha and Mazuelo vines planted in sandy and red clay soils at a site 600 metres high. Olivier considers this wine to be his 1er Cru Rioja and he is not alone: Luis Gutierrez awarded it 94 points, stating in

his tasting note that he 'almost fell out of his chair' when smelling it!

And why Ganko? Simply, Ganko is the nickname he was given by his Japanese importer. It means 'stubborn' which is apt to say the least... but as this wine shows, stubbornness can yield great things.

The featured

wine here is El Cadastro; a blend made from four parcels of older vines that were planted in the 1930s and 1950s. Most of this cuvée comes from

the sub-zone of La Tizona,

which Olivier feels gives this wine its innate floral aromatics, to which he adds a portion of fruit from the sub-zones of La Mula, El Amesado and La Ouemado - the high plateau considered by most to be the Grand cru of Covarrubias.

TASTING NOTES COUR-TESY of Luis Guttierez of Robert Parker (95 pts) 2 0 1 4 Vina del Cadastro, Olivier

"There is a lot more depth and complexity here: it's not heavy at all and it's very balanced, and it feels like a very good vintage for this wine. It was produced with extremely low yields, some 1,500 kilos of grapes from a hectare, but it doesn't have the astringency you often find in very low yields; the vines seem to have achieved very good balance.

It combines floral notes with some red and black wild berries and just a spicy twist. The wine opens up nicely with time in the glass. The tannins are very fine

a cheap wine a bottle.

Again - not With the subtle austerity from **about 30**€ the stony, deep gravel soils, com-

ing through as extremely elegant and definitively fresher than 2012, with the alcohol pretty integrated despite having some 14.5 per cent by volume.

This is a superb Arlanza, by far the best wine I know from the small appellation. This isn't cheap,

(around €30 a bottle) but for the quality, it still represents very good value. Six thousand bottles were filled in September 2016. Drink 2017-2024.

(Some content thanks to Daily mail.online.)

IL CADASTRO

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.

Cleared of cheating

FORMER Albox mayor Francisco Granero escaped political exile when an Almeria criminal court acquitted him of cheating British nationals who bought illegally-built homes.

Between 2004 and 2005 construction began on 11 single family homes in the La Aljambra area without any request for proper building permits. Regardless, the properties were sold to unwitting British citizens, who lost a considerable amount of money when the construction was eventually halted.

Prosecutors had urged Judge Marta Ines to ban the former

Trailers and towbars

Lock repairs and replacements

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Popular Party leader from holding any public office for at least 10 years. They also advised a one-year prison sentence as punishment for his role in one of Albox's most poisonous property

But the judge saw things differently and ruled that Granero had done what he could to stop construction of the homes once it became evident that they were illegal. She said there was no compelling evidence that he was in cahoots with the developers, profited from the deal, or intentionally tried to mislead the vic-



AN award-winning travel writer visited Macael to test its accessibility to wheelchair users. Miguel Nonay is one of the most followed and read travel bloggers in Spain. His work is considered essential reading by many disabled Spanish travellers and their families.

His blog 'Viajeros Sin Limite' has received numerous awards and accolades from Spanish journalists and disabled activists. And Macael passed his various tests with flying colours.

Nonay visited the site of the largest mortar in the world, took a tour of the Marble Centre and journeyed out to Macael's world famous quarries, which are indeed wheelchair accessible.

He was especially enthused by the beautiful Plaza de la Constitucion and its fountain of lions and congratulated town

planners on making Macael accessible to those with reduced mobility.

There are an estimated 500 million disabled people in the world with a serious travel bug, eager to explore but restricted in the choice. Blogs like Nonay's seek to expand that choice and encourage top destinations, both small and large, to embrace disabled travellers with better local infrastructure.



Stolen car wheels

A PAIR of young troublemakers were sentenced to four months in prison for stealing car wheels. The two local men, both 27, stole the wheels from four cars in Purchena during a March crime spree.

One of the men had a lengthy criminal record. The wheels stolen were valued at €770 and were put up for sale online. They were caught after a neighbour saw them trying to take the wheels off a Seat Ibiza.



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Fabulous facelift

ESSENTIAL roadworks expected to beautify one of the busiest intersections of Zurgena has begun in earnest. Construction of a new roundabout on Avenida Andalucia will improve traffic flow and safety.

An estimated timescale of four months shouldn't cause substantial delays over summer as a smooth diversion has already been established. The entire intersection at La Alfoquia de Zurgena will be given a new look to complement the new roundabout and otherwise jazz up an expensive investment.

Mayor Luis Diaz said the work is essential for improved road safety, but will also serve to attract more tourists to the area. noting the stiff competition for attention provided by other Almanzora





Another one bites the dust

THE mayor of Partaloa, Antonio Penuela, has been found guilty of administrative malfeasance and banned from holding public office for seven years. The decision makes it almost a certainty that the new mayor will be an expat.

The first two names on the short life to replace him as the head of the local Socialist party, the PSOE, are foreign nationals. A judge found that Penuela had unfairly fired a council employee who was investigating a corruption scandal related to property.

Alfredo Najas was cooperating with police in their inquiries into the sale of 29 illegally built homes sold to British buyers. The court found that his dismissal was entirely sparked by his collaboration with the investigation and was 'manifestly illegal.'

Partaloa has a population of just 979 people but is now at the centre of national media coverage thanks to the mayoral scandal and the likelihood of a foreign mayoress.

Business brains

ONE of the Almanzora Valley's most successful entrepreneurs took part in an exclusive skills workshop for future Spanish business leaders. Francisco Martinez-Cosentino joined around

40 other top financial minds at the Alme-

Cosentino is renowned for its kitchen tops and stone and quartz materials mined from nearby

Cosentino will explain his business model and the secrets to his success at a series of exclusive talks and workshops between now and December. His business has remained a family affair, resisting moves towards a more corporate personality despite its global success.



FRANCISCO MARTINEZ-COSENTINO: His business has remained a family affair.

Pride and prejudice

A GYPSY group held an official presentation in Albox designed to help raise awareness of Romani culture and conquer negative stereotypes.

Gitana Orchiri hopes to help create a positive image of the local Gyspy community and forge stronger, deeper ties with the people of Albox.

The presentation was held at the town hall and involved poetry recitals and flamenco music. It was organised by local councillor Lorena Ibanovich who said that

many Gypsies living in Spain still experience vivid discrimination.

While the persecution of the past has waned over time, Ibanovich said that cultural conflicts and misunderstandings contribute to a complex place for Gypsies in Almeria

She said that it is essential that Albox's Gypsy population can express their culture clearly and proudly, without fear of rejection or discrimi-

Latin charm

TOP executives from 14 countries visited the quiet pueblo of Cantoria. They were celebrating the 13th edition of the Latam Summit with dozens of distributors and entrepreneurs.

The conference was held at the Cosentino headquarters and focused on trade between Almeria and Latin America.

Cosentino, famous for its kitchen tops, has recently opened a Latin American headquarters in the Brazillian city of Vitoria.

Business leaders from Ecuador, Chile and Mexico lent the event an international flair. There are hundreds of Latin American distributors based in Almeria, which enjoys an excellent export market to the continent.

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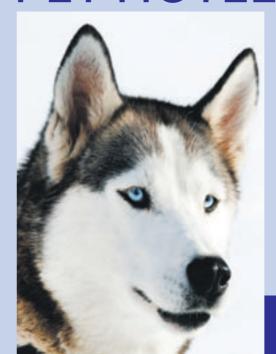
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Speed demons unite

A HUGE horde of around 15,000 people descended on the Almanzora Valley to

watch the 12th edition of the Baia Almanzora Rally over the weekend. The test rally is

an integral part of the Spanish Championships, on the same level as its counterparts in Catalonia and Guadalaiara.

Hotels from Olula to Albox. Seron and Baza have been packed with motorheaded guests, many of them professional racers and sporting scribes

An estimated two million people watched the two-day event live on television or online through social media channels.

Described as the purest

Dakar-style rally race on the Spanish circuit, the Baja Almanzora brings millions of euros in tourist money to towns and villages scattered across the region.

The vast 750-kilometre trail takes in Seron, Oria, Purchena, Armuna and dozens of other speedy spots across Almeria Province.

It was won by the pairing of Antonio Fortuny and Guifre Pujol who covered the race in a record time of nine hours and 31 minutes.





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Advertising feature

Bargain 'off grid' property near Huercal-Overa

RECENTLY listed and open to reasonable offers - A spacious three / four bed, one bath, two storey, 'off grid', mostly renovated, full of character, country cottage with annexe which could be renovated to make a guest apartment, garage etc on approx 900m2 of land.

With beautiful unspoilt views in a very peaceful location with good road access. Twelve mins drive to amenities, 20 mins drive to Huercal-Overa town and 45 to 50 mins drive to the coast.

This property is ideal if you are looking for a rural retreat, a little bit of a project and want to have solar power etc but still want good access (last mile is via a good compacted but not tarmac road) and not too far away from neighbours and amenities. The garden is ideal for growing your own fruit and veg and having a few chickens etc.

The property has a basic solar power electricity system to run the lights and TV. If you wanted to upgrade the electrics there are plenty of installers around.

Downstairs Casa Relajante consists of a traditional fitted kitchen leading on to the dining room. From here you have



access into a room which would make an ideal double bedroom. Also from the dining room is access into the lovely living room with stone clad walls and impressive fireplace and then into two bedrooms and a small room which could be used as a WC

Stairs lead up to the huge master bedroom (22ft long x11ft 6) plus en suite shower room and access to a fly free

terrace with fantastic views over the countryside. The terrace has external stairs which means the upstairs could be used as a separate apartment as the room is large enough to have a kitchenette or to use as a gym or games room with ie, pool table.

Water is by a water deposit tank. The deposit tank holds approx 20,000 litres. A delivery of 18,000 litres usually costs around €90. Due to the distance from the mains supply this property will not get mains electricity or water.

Outside is a garden of approx 900m2 and another peice of land separate from the house which could make a nice allotment or garden.

A second part of the house is in need of renovation or knocking down. It would make an ideal workshop or fur-

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For more information and to arrange a viewing of VH1102 Casa Relajante or a meeting in our office in Huercal-Overa please contact Voss Homes on 0034 950 616 827 or 0034 678 002 006. Our office is just 1km off exit 553 of the A7 motorway 100m from Lidl.

I TOURIST RENTALS: Are preferred.

Profit potential

SPAIN'S property market is surging on all fronts but perhaps nowhere quite as strongly as the country's booming rental market. In key cities rental rates have risen by as much as 20 per cent in the last year alone.

Savvy investors are now embracing the buy-to-let market that created so many property millionaires in the UK from the 1990s onwards. The potential profits are increasingly difficult to

Spain's rental boom has three distinct branches. There is the controversial rise of tourist apartments whereby landlords prefer to rent out apartments for a few days or a week, charging tourists €300, rather than renting to a local family for one month for the same price.

A swiftly growing student population is also contributing. There are over 100,000 foreign and Spanish students seeking accommodation each year, more than student lodgings and parental homes can keep up with.

Young professionals are also on the rental bandwagon. Many have spent the past decade stuck at home or forced to move abroad while Spain recovered from the crisis. They are now older, employed and eager for their own space. But with hefty mortgage deposits and tighter rules, buying is no longer the simple process their parents en-

Mortgage consolidation taking place

SEVEN months of consecutive increases in the number of mortgage loans ground to a halt in February. Just shy of 25.000 loans were granted across Spain, less than in February of 2016. On a month by month level both the volume and total capital of mortgage loans fell from January to February, the biggest drop since 2013.

Despite this, the average amount borrowed increased to €115,883, bringing the total borrowed capital to €2.82 billion. Interest rates fell to an average of 3.17 per cent with just six out of 10 owners now on variable-rate mortgages.

Experts have dismissed February's figures as an anomaly and expect the banks to continue the upwards trend of granting mortgages. Data from March and April will soon be released. A period of mortgage consolidation is taking place, leading to less loans issued while new refinancing packages are developed.



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You'll have to wait for James Corden's

Carpool Karaoke spin-off

Richard Shanley Dishing the Dirt OF EUROPA DIGITAL



IT looks like James Corden's The Late Late Show Carpool Karaoke spin-off may be further away than first thought, as Apple is delaying the release of the project.

The series was supposed to premiere in April on Apple Music, but Reuters is reporting the show will now debut 'later this year.' The news was confirmed by an Apple spokeswoman. The spinoff - aptly titled Carpool Karaoke - was scheduled to begin this month with its first half-hour episode. Plans to extend the popular The Late Late Show segment were first announced in July 2016, as part of Apple's venture into original programming.

As such, we're rather excited about the project, especially as the trailer saw celebrity hosts pair with other celebrity guests including Ariana Grande and Alicia Keys to cover all their greatest hits out on the open road. James Corden will feature as a guest on the series after hosting the original show, with Will Smith one of the stars filling the presenting role, so we have that to look forward to.

The Late Late Show will also come to the UK this summer, while Harry Styles will appear for a full week next month.

Comic Relief 2017 is in the clear despite there being 338 complaints about this year's Red Nose Day broadcast. Ofcom will not be investigating the complaints which largely centred around Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer's sketch with Susanna Reid as the pair brought back The Stotts from their stand-up series. Onehundred and seventeen complaints were received by the regulator for 'sexual material' over the fact that Vic was reportedly seen flashing a prosthetic penis from un-

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> JAMES CORDEN: Will feature as a guest on the spin-off series.



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Monthly gardening tasks - May



AS I am still frequently asked some basic questions about Spanish gardens I decided to come out of retirement just once a month with a practical look at what needs to be done in our Spanish gardens each month.

As a result of my recent 80th birthday I can claim to have had a personal garden for 75 years and indeed eaten crops from them for that time as well as having sustained flower displays.

Although I have given up a large allotment and olive growth due to the long droughts of recent years, rising costs of agricultural water, increased thieving and the number of marauding wild boar, I still rarely

need to buy vegetables and

The garden in Spain is almost 30 years old and has seen a few changes in plantings due to the changing patterns of rain falls which have ranged from thunderstorms every month in the summer to 630 centimetres in a day one November and then some years later three years of almost total drought.

There have also been wide variations in temperatures from minus 15 to plus 47 degrees centigrade. Most of the early plants that have survived are essentially highly drought resistant or have been coached to be so

Ten actions for May gardens

1. Trim off frost damaged leaves on succulents now that emergent new growth

2. Prune out excess flowers on citrus and olive trees to stimulate larger

3. Tidy up spring bulbs as their flowers and stems die back and put the prunings on the compost heap.

4. Start to cut lawns regularly.

5. If not done over Easter clean up and start using al fresco cooking facilities on a regular basis. For me. as illustrated in the

photograph, that has meant the paella rings and pans, tagines, a Mexican cooker, an earthen ware Moroccan bread cooking plate and the one-metre diameter solar

All have now been used at least once. From now on



SOLAR COOKER: Kits are available online.

most cooking will be done in the garden until the autumn rains. If you are tempted by a solar cooker kits are available from www asol es

6. If not done during April complete the spring trimming of all hedges.

7. Clean out the end of early cropped overwintered vegetable crops such as broad beans, peas and lambs lettuce and fill gaps with summer crops such as tomatoes, peppers and

8. Recognise that the temperatures and moisture levels during May are normally perfect for germinating and stimulating the growth of weeds so keep on top of

If you have not done much mulching to control them continuously have a look at the list of 35 possible actions in chapter 4.7 of 'How to use less water in your garden.' Mulching also reduces watering needs. The book is easily obtained from Amazon Books along with Dick Handscombe's other books still in print.

9. Cut off any new spikes on thorny shrubs and trees.

10. If the current dry spell continues start to gradually increase your watering around the garden.

Guess who is coming to visit

TRAVELLING to different destinations and having the opportunity to experience a bit of luxury is not only a pleasant thing to do, but it also allows you to pick up a few ideas for your guests.

Most households receive visitors from time to time, so it might be a good idea to make your guests feel as if they are on holiday. There is so much scope, and obviously it's not always possible to provide the balcony looking out onto palm trees and the blue ocean.

However, it is easy to make your guests feel like they're being pampered with some attention to detail and a bit of imagination. First, the most important thing is to make sure the bed is comfortable and adorned with high quality sheets,

Add a variety of pillows from firm to soft and fluffy; and for a special touch, spray scented pillow mist, to make bedtime even more

It is also useful to include a folding luggage stand as there is nothing worse than a suitcase lying open on the floor for the entire stay.

Think about small details, which include flowers, candles and rugs, which make the room feel cosy. White cotton robes and slippers can also help to give the room a luxurious hotel vibe.

On a more practical note, make sure they have the necessities of extra towels, toothbrushes, extra toilet paper, hairdryer, iron, and hangers in the wardrobe.

A guest room cart with a selection of goodies including fruit, biscuits, chocolate, crisps and water can be a welcoming sight, for those that are especially partial to midnight snacks.

The possibilities are endless, but there are so many ways to make a room inviting, so just think about the things that you would appreciate and get started, preferably before they arrive.



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Marvellous mulch, great for the garden

By Graeme Tyrrell

SUMMER preparations need to be in full swing in the garden if you want your plants to survive and thrive.

Plant selection is the most important consideration for a healthy summer garden. Native plants to the local Mediterranean climate will always tend to survive the best with minimal care.

We all like variety though and if you are growing plants in containers, fruit trees or a vegetable garden, you will need to provide care of the garden plants that are not well adapted to the environment. This is what gardening is about.

Watering is the most necessary activity to assist survival in summer. There are various ways to ensure plants can stay moist for longer periods that will reduce the need for watering.

One of the best ways to reduce evaporation from the soil around your plants is to apply mulch.

Mulching is the placing of material on top of the soil to benefit the soil and plants.

Whether its a container garden or open ground, mulch provides an insulation from the scorching sun that keeps soil temperatures cooler, thus reducing evaporation. Mulch also acts as a barrier to protect moisture escaping into the air, reduces the sprouting of many

MULCHING TOMATOES: Straw is great to apply around the vegetable garden as it is easy to handle.

weeds and may provide nutrients to the garden soil

There is a wide variety of materials that can be used to mulch. The choice should consider what is easiest to apply and what is the most beneficial. Stone mulches are great for containers as they last and allow water to flow freely into the container without absorbing any themselves.

Organic materials such as shredded branches or even coarse potting mixture work well in the garden as it gradually breaks down into

compost to feed the plants, although it needs reapplying as it breaks down.

Straw is great to apply around the vegetable garden as it is easy to handle, and remove or dig in when not needed, and may only last for one summer season before breaking down.

I prefer not to mulch the vegetable garden in winter, mainly to reduce saturation after rain as it can encourage various fungal, insect, snail and slug problems.

Certain mulches such as pine and cypress can repel some insects, such as ticks, and provide an acidic element to the soil which can be beneficial to the alkaline soils of the Med, especially if you are growing acid preferring plants such as strawberries. Plants such as strawberries also have less soil contact when mulch is used so they are cleaner and healthier.

There are various synthetic mats and products, such as weed mats, that are manufactured to provide the benefits of mulching. They can be beneficial in various ways when used appropriately but often have long term problems of not breaking down, becoming difficult to remove when plants have grown and may stop the natural ecology of the soil.

Mulch can look good, saves water, keeps plant roots cooler, reduces weeds and can add nutrients to the soil resulting in less work overall and healthier plants.



Get the Loewe down

SPANISH luxury clothing brand Loewe has become the latest fashion house to expand into the lifestyle sector with a range of homeware. The new collection Loewe: This is Home, made its debut at Milan Design Week 2017 in April.

The eclectic range features contemporary modular seating solutions with a flavour of American minimalism, wool throws knitted into male silhouettes, rugs dotted with stars and hand-carved oak items made in Yorkshire.

It is the brainchild of Irish-

born designer Jonathon Anderson, who was installed as creative director at the end of 2013.

"I like the idea that fashion can explode into the household, bringing artisans together to design new physical forms and apply craft in a home," he said.



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Bunny benefits

RABBITS can be beneficial to own since they don't need to be taken for a walk. They are very quiet animals, have distinct personalities and are affectionate and interactive.

Rabbits can get very attached to their owners, in the same way that dogs and cats do. They recognise voices and their owner's appearance and may even follow them around and jump on laps.

Rabbits don't need a lot of room, but in their cage they need enough for them to stretch out completely, leaving room for a litter tray and a feeding station. They also need at least two hours of exercise each day, outside their cage.

Rabbits are also easy to train, if the owner uses 'positive reinforcement training.



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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS is most well-known as a disorder frequently experienced by elderly felines and canines however any survivor of trauma may experience the symptoms. Little is known about why some experience symptoms from mild to debilitating while others can be unscathed.

Extreme fear often results in altered perceptions of the event. Triggers associated with the fearful event do not engage the hippocampus, which is usually responsible for memory, but rather the amygdala, which is responsible for emotions.

Trauma in pets, part 2 Strong flashbacks to the

stantaneous, and are not under

the pet's conscious control. Just as you're unable to control the contraction or dilation of your pupils when you feel strong emotions, a cat or dog experiencing Post Traumatic Stress symptoms such as this are unable to stop feeling the way

they do in the moment. Fear Fright and Bite

original panic state can be in-

The triggers for this flashback state may not make logical sense. Scents, textures, certain movements, and even the time of day can all trigger this instant fear reaction. While some triggers are easily explained like the first time I carry a rolled up newspaper into a room many dogs drop to the floor or a cat runs away and hides if he smells alcohol on a visitor's breath, others are less easy to tease apart and may never be completely identified.

I knew a dog several years ago that would occasionally yelp when he was touched, but the vet could find nothing physically wrong and his quick fear reaction never manifested twice when the same area of his body was touched.

Whilst trauma can have lasting consequences due to its huge impact on the way the brain develops and processes information, patient behavioural modification and an environment of safety can have equally powerful effects.

Finally I would mention that about 12 years ago I saw a Rottweiler tied to a post attached to a restaurant on the beach. Some youths were throwing sand and stones at her. I put a stop to that and cut the rope and took her home she is called Sheba.

In the first six years Sheba never wagged her tail and when my wife or I asked her to come to us she could not do so without crawling and urinating. Now she is 14 so loving, happy, content, and wags her tail whenever we talk to her.







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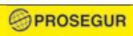
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Clarkson **Quote of the Week**



By the end of the night I was hoping to be in a rather different kind of hedge, but there you go."

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Festival of Ferraris

By Matthew Elliott

FERRARI will hog the limelight at the 2017 Goodwood Festival of Speed with a red army of 70 supercars to celebrate the Italian firm's 70th anniversary. The first car with a Ferrari badge was produced in 1947. It was a 125 S with a V12 engine.

Goodwood spectators will be in for a treat from June 29 to July 2 when the legendary summer speed festival kicks off again in the Sussex countryside. Cars from every Ferrari-influenced motoring era will be on display with 25 racers expected to compete on

Other Ferrari supercars and vintage metal marvels will be dotted around the 22,000 acre space, doubtlessly complementing what is already lined up to be a smashing collection of the motoring world's biggest beasts.

The Goodwood theme this year is



SPEED: A classic Ferrari at the 2016 Goodwood Festival.

'Peaks of Performance - Motorsport's Game Changers' which promises an extremely high level of competition. Already confirmed are an intoxicating

variety of 1,000bhp-plus supercars from the circuits of the 1980s, and the very best of the rally world. A Mercedes W125 and Penske PC23 will

celebrate the 70th anniversary

add more than a touch of power to the proceedings.

Goodwood's Festival of Speed is one of the most hotly anticipated events in the motoring world. It sees beasts from all nations and eras take on the famous 1.16 mile hill climb. The Goodwood Estate has almost a century of history at the very centre of the industry. Famous faces to be expected include Lewis Hamilton and Sir Jackie Stewart.

Tickets for this year's event have already sold out for the weekend, but some for the Thursday and Friday are still up for grabs.

Motoring shorts

Fines and flying taxis

TOUGHER speeding fines will charge British motorists at least 150 per cent of their weekly income. Anyone caught going more than 20mph above the speed limit will face the hefty new penalties. Maximum fines remain fixed at £2,500 (€3,000).

The strict judicial guidelines came into effect at the end of April but polls show most drivers are clueless about the new regime. Last year 244 people were killed by speeding drivers on British

Meanwhile across the pond, Uber has pledged to get a 'flying taxi' service up and running by 2020. The appbased taxi group, previously banned in Spain, is working on giant drones. Much as Amazon can now deliver post and parcels by drone, the future flying taxi fleet will have humans as their cargo.



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The Big One 2017 State of the art some of the sleekest supercars on the planet could be found to be incredible. The Market of the sleekest supercars on the planet could be found to be incredible. The Market of the incredible The Market of the

Largest collection of Classic Jaguars ever in Spain

by Eric Arnold

AFTER 18 months of planning The Big One 2017 actually happened. A joint event between The Jaguar Enthusiasts Club, Spain, The Jaguar Enthusiasts Club, South of France, plus some very enthusiastic members from the JEC in the UK. The result was 100 cars, but as a result of three breakdowns, only 97 fabulous Jaguars cleaned and polished to 'within an inch of their lives' actually made it with 201 very enthusiastic Jaguar owners.

The main event involving everybody took place on Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23, but many of the participants took two or three days or more to travel to and from their home to the event in Parador de Leon in northern Spain.

Cars and owners came from all over Spain, France and the UK and finally congregated at the Parador de Leon Hotel. This is Parador's flagship five-star hotel, a stunning 16th century Military Headquarters that has been converted into a luxury

On the way up many members from the Costa Blanca region stopped off at Segovia to take the chance of seeing this World Heritage City. Members from the UK came from as far as Plymouth, Lancashire and



the event after three breakdowns

North Wales with some round trips of around 3,500 miles for those who took the scenic routes over many days.

Special permission had been granted by Leon Town Hall to park this outstanding collection of Big Cats on the amazing St Marco's square in front of the hotel. If you want to see just some of them, visit the website www.jec-spain.com and see the Events and Gallery pages where you can see examples of 'just the best motors in the



at the incredible Top Marques Monaco show. A selection of the fastest, wildly designed supercars hiding in billionaires' basements today sped around the Principality's famous F1 circuit and wooed an exclusive crowd of buyers and journal-

Among them were dozens of cars that, despite their impressive stats, are relatively obscure. Some of them so obscure as to be unpronounceable. There was the robotic sounding Sin R1 550 which is surprisingly built in Daventry, Northampton-

It is bright yellow with a carbon fibre body and seven litre V8 engine, perfect for getting around the wet East Midlands.

One powerful yet mysterious beast, reserved for the exclusive Monaco crowd, was the Calafiore C10, a hypercar hunk of black and gold which provides 1,000hp and supposedly merged supersonic jet power with classic racing cars.

Prize for innovation went to the Slovak-built 'flying car,' the AeroMobil. More a sleekly designed small aircraft that can drive than a car which can fly, the Aeromobil is slated for production in 2020 and will cost a cool €1 million.









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Joshua on top of the world as Sunderland gets demoted

Tony Matthews

International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

DIARY OF EVENTS:

- FOOTBALL... tomorrow night Spurs (2nd) visit West Ham, followed on Saturday by Manchester City v Crystal Palace, lowly Swansea v Everton and Hull versus demoted Sunderland, while Arsenal and Manchester United face each other on Sunday as do Liverpool and Southampton before champions-elect Chelsea play relegation-threatened Middlesbrough on Monday.
- Either Birmingham (away to Bristol City), Blackburn (at Brentford) or Nottingham Forest (v Ipswich) will join Wigan

and Rotherham in FL1 next

- On Tuesday and last night we had the first legs of the Champions League semi-finals, including the Madrid derby, while tonight it's likewise in the Europa League. All second legs take place next mid-week.
- Tomorrow, Bristol hosts the first England v Ireland One Day Cricket International... the World ice hockey championships start in France/Germany so does the three-week long Giro d'Italia cycle race.
- The Badminton Equestrian Horse Trials began yesterday and on Saturday the world's top horses will race in the Kentucky Derby in Louisville and the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, Aiden O'Brien's Caravaggio is my each-way tip.
- On Sunday, we have the fourth MotoGP of 2017 here in Spain (Jerez) with home stars

Marc Marquez, Maverick Vinales and Dani Pedrosa all in action, and the BTCC at Thruxton where Matt Neal, Gordon Shedden and Colin Turkington will aim to do better this time

• And this weekend's Aviva PL rugby matches include Gloucester-Exeter, Northampton-Harlequins, Sale-Bath, Wasps-Saracens and Worcester-Leicester.

ROUND-UP:

- Last Saturday, 90,000 fans saw Anthony Joshua become the unified world heavyweight boxing champion with an 11th round stoppage of Wladimir Klitschko in a thrilling fight at Wembley.
- On Monday Mark Selby

ANTHONY JOSHUA: World heavyweight boxing champion.

became the 2017 World snook er champion after beating John Higgins.

- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) won the Russian F1 Grand Prix: Sebastian Vettel was second, Kimi Raikkonen third and Lewis Hamilton fourth.
- In tennis, Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem

Barcelona Open final.



CHARITY QUIZ & MUSIC SHOW

THERE'S a special charity quiz/music show with myself and top vocalist Kay Frances at Fatima's Riad Restaurant in Cabrera on Sunday, May 14, 5pm till 9pm. Entry is just €7 per person to include tapas. Please come

SIERRA CABRERA LA **MOJAQUERA XTREME**

THE annual cycle race takes place on Sunday with 500 riders starting the 74km course at the football stadium on Mojacar playa at 9am. After taking the beach road to Macenas, they'll climb 3,000 metres into the mountains via La

Parata and Mojacar Pueblo before heading back along the sea front to the finish at the football ground. Many top cyclists will be on their bikes!

DID YOU KNOW?

FOOTBALL is officially the world's most watched sport. Indeed, considering the various criteria its popularity is unmatched with millions of fans in the far East, North and South America and throughout Africa and Australasia, but nowhere is it more popular than here in Europe where it's not just a game, it's a way of life.

A recent survey revealed that 3.85 billion fans watched football last year. The other most popular sports are cricket (2.56b), field hockey (2b), tennis (1b), volleyball $(900m),\,table\;tennis\;(851m),\,baseball\;(500m),\,golf\;(452m),$ basketball (401m) and American football (400m).



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Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

Valle del Este Golf

Society

ON Thursday April 27 it was a Stableford game for Valle del Este Golf Society who decided it would be a good day for golf until the rain came and everyone ended up soaking wet.

Results: 1st Sally Hill, 31 pts. 2nd Bill Foster, 31 pts. 3rd Linda Bawden, 29 pts. Nearest the pin in two on the 5th Sean Halligan, nearest the pin on the 14th Patrick Vickery.

Valle del Este Golf Society is affiliated to the Valle del Este Golf Resort in Vera and plays every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Singles competitions are played every Thursday including a monthly medal.

Visitors welcome subject to available tee times, call Alan Townsend on 634 379 887.

Triples yardstick played for the Avalon Trophy

THIS competition at Bowling Club de Zurgena was sponsored by Avalon Pre-paid Funeral Plans and was played during the St George's Day event at the club which had a 'red and white' theme.

A large entry, including the club's three junior members, ensured a very enjoyable competition which was in the form of a triples yardstick with a twist. The yardstick is the measure used after each end and any bowl within a yard of the jack received one point for its team. The twist came in the form of changing rinks and opponents after each five ends.

Most of the bowlers had never played this type of competition before and there was, understandably, some learning required. It wasn't long, however, before everyone had mastered the measuring and started to employ different tactics.



PRIZE PRESENTATION: To the winners and runners-up.

Changing rinks after each five ends kept everyone 'on their toes' and made for a sociable and competitive event.

Two teams scored 60 points so the winners were decided after taking into consideration the total points conceded. The winning team was Dave Cooper, Christina Friend and Angela Atkinson and the runners-up were Betty Edens, Nina Rhodes

and Shirley Marriott.

The 'wooden spoon' prize went to the team of Cliff Smith, Hilde Brisbane and Ruth Davis.

Prizes were presented by Julie from Avalon Pre-paid Funeral Plans who provided some magnificent trophies.

After the bowls everyone enjoyed a superb hog roast with entertainment from Dave South and his country music.

Walking footballers celebrate anniversary



ON Easter Sunday Terreros Beach Walking Football Club, which is based in San Juan de Los Terreros and whose members play at the Venus Sports Centre in the village, held its second anniversary celebration.

The evening started with an exhibition game with 24 players involved and was followed by a celebratory dinner with family and friends which included presentation of medals and certificates by the mayor of Pulpi.

The club plays every Sunday morning. The concept is different from other walking football clubs as it encourages all age groups, male and female, to play the game. The one thing they have to do is 'walk' and this enables people of all ages to compete and enjoy the game.

To play or watch just turn up on a Sunday morning. The game starts at 11am and finishes at midday. The stadium is easy to find just listen out for the cries of 'no running!'



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