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ISSUE No. 1662 || 11 - 17 May 2017

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# Flagged down

## Island loses awards as standards slip

By Matthew Elliott

This summer the number of blue flags on Mallorca's beaches will sink to a record low. Just 32 beaches will fly the coveted emblem in 2017 which is an international mark of purity, water quality and sustainability.

It is the second year running that Mallorca's numbers have dropped, now down from 36 blue flag beaches in 2015. A decision from the Spanish branch of the blue flag foundation stripped seven Mallorcan beaches of the accolade on Tuesday May 9.

The disappointed seven are in Peguera, Pollensa, Palma, Alcudia, Tamarells, Ses Penyes Rotges and

Son Moll. At the same time Illetes, Cala Comtesa, Can Pere Antoni and Son Serra have regained their blue flags, making the total loss for Mallorca just three beaches.

Pollution has played a role. As has the Mallorcan government's refusal to pay €21,000 to ferry blue flag judges around the island. That meant prime beach areas including Lluçmajor and Manacor were once again not even considered for the award. Meanwhile several Tramuntana beaches have renounced all artificial insignia and want no part of the blue flag system.

With just 32 out of the 579 blue flags flying along the Spanish coastline, Mallorca represents one in 18 of

**BEACH FLAGS:**  
Seven beaches lost the accolade.

all Spanish blue flag beaches. A figure which doesn't do justice to its superior leadership in beach tourism and sustainability initiatives.

Mallorca has also lost two blue flag ports, the Club de Mar and Palma's Royal Nautical Club. Only in the field of sustainable 'blue flag tourist boats' has Mallorca increased its numbers.



See us on page 26



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## Godfather of the night

LAWYERS for jailed Megapark owner Tolo Cursach have demanded his immediate release. The godfather of the Palma and Magaluf nightclub scene is still awaiting formal charges related to allegations of corruption, extortion, drug trafficking and murder.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Fishy trips**

FISHERMEN in Palma are now offering a trip on their boats to tourists eager to live the life for a day. The men will catch fish while the tourists snap selfies. In bad weather tours are forbidden.

**Tragic tot**

THE 20-month-old baby who last week survived after plunging from a fifth floor Palma apartment onto a clothes line has tragically since died of her injuries. She accidentally fell from the window.

**Fine flurry**

A TOTAL of 94,172 fines were issued by Palma traffic police last year to people driving illegally into the old town, earning the city €13 million. One in four fines went to tourists.

# Will Eurovision Brit face a Brexit backlash?

THE 62nd edition of the world's longest running annual singing contest will take place this Saturday in Kiev, Ukraine, but Britain's entry is not the bookies' favourite.

Ahead of the spectacle, bookmakers Ladbrokes have reported that the UK are looking fairly friendless, with the odds on them taking home the title being bigger than ever before at 50/1.

The bookmakers have even taken several bets on UK entrant Lucie Jones receiving nil points at odds of 14/1.

Nicola McGeady of Ladbrokes told TellyMix: "Punters are preparing for a Brexit backlash from voters judging by the lack of support for Lucie Jones. Usually we are knocked over with patriotic support, but for the first time ever, punters aren't getting behind the UK."

BBC Eurovision host Graham Norton previously admitted

**SLIM CHANCE: Will Lucie Jones face Brexit backlash?**



he didn't rate Lucie's chances at Eurovision 2017.

He told the *Daily Star* newspaper: "I'm just not sure it will happen for us this year. I mean, I could be wrong as Germany have won, Austria have won. So, I suppose people who never

win, win.

"On the night, anything can happen. I'm just not sure it will for us, though."

Celebrities across Europe are preparing for the showdown.

Enrique Iglesias has shirked Spain in favour of Montenegro's

Slavko Kalezic.

Enrique is no stranger to Eurovision. His dad Julio Iglesias represented Spain in 1970 but only finished in fourth place, and Enrique himself was the interval act at the first Eurovision Dance Contest.

Meanwhile, Russia's 2009 winner Dima Bilan is backing 17-year-old Bulgarian superstar Kristian Kostov. He mentored Kristian on the children's version of *The Voice Russia* and the pair performed an incredible duet together.

Hope may not be lost for Lucie Jones as former One Direction singer Liam Payne cheers her on. Liam's girlfriend Cheryl was Lucie's mentor on *The X Factor* in 2009 and they're getting behind the UK's Eurovision entrant.

Eurovision 2017 will air on Saturday on BBC One from 8pm.

## Foxes and hounds

POLICE and environmental activists have formed an unusual alliance as parts of Mallorca initiate bans on tourist cars. Officers are positioned along the four access roads to s'Almonia, checking licence plates and resident cards.

It is a small taste of how the entire island may look by next summer when almost all coastal areas will have some form of transport ban in place.

Residents will be exempt meaning policing will be needed to ensure no tourists or beachgoers from the other side of Mallorca attempt to sneak into exclusive areas.

The developments come as municipalities across Mallorca confront the reality of excessive tourist numbers and noise.

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## Segway sergeants spark giggles

LAUGHTER and derision greeted the decision by Calvia authorities to have police patrol the resorts of Peguera and Magaluf on segways. Local retailers expressed doubt that officers floating around on the futuristic tourist hoverboards would pose much threat to local thieves and villains.

Calvia has forked out €32,000 on the segways, which are typically used by tourist groups to roam around promenades without having to use their feet. Unfortunate officers, who would likely prefer to be at thick end of serious crime fighting, are being filmed by laughing tourists on their patrols.

The segway patrols are supposed to keep an eye on the beaches of Portals Nous, Palmanova, Magaluf and Santa Ponsa, looking out for any nefarious activity. A key question posed by locals is what happens when the segways try to run on sand?

## Rainbow warrior

A LESBIAN policewoman who was subjected to vicious homophobic harassment by colleagues has accused the police union of favouring the bullies. Two senior officers were last year jailed for the extreme and constant stream of abuse they inflicted on Sonia Vivas at their Palma station.

The culprits have since been released though they face an upcoming trial and potentially lengthy prison sentences. They are receiving top legal aid from the UGT police union, a move that Ms Vivas says effectively condones the abuse she suffered at their hands.

She was forced to leave the front line over the abuse, which caused an uproar when it was exposed in 2016. Now she works as a racial equality councillor fighting for justice within the police system.

## Fatal hike

EMERGENCY services went into action when a roommate of a Bolivian woman advised that she had gone hiking in Arta and hadn't returned.

Thanks to the fact that the friend had some idea of where the 34-year-old intended to walk, the search operation concentrated on the area be-

## Cold killer handed life sentence

A MALLORCAN man has been sentenced to 36 years imprisonment for murdering his neighbour. The shocking crime saw him confess to killing a prostitute who lived in the same building.

Miguel Antonio, 36, had known his victim since childhood, knew her profession and knew that she kept substantial cash in her apartment. He asked to make an appointment under an alibi and, after drinking and taking drugs, stormed inside

He brutally beat his 45-year-old victim before strangling

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 12

**SPAIN SO CHEESY!** Spaniards love their local cheeses as much as their nationally produced wines, with a Denomination of Origin upholding quality nationwide of some leading brands.

## Cheesy cheer

AROUND 100 different varieties of cheese are produced in various regions of Spain ranging from fresh to cured and some fermented to blue.

The key characteristic of each is the type of milk used with currently 13 cheeses with Denominations of Origin - or DO - across the country.

Dependent on the area, time of year, climate and tradition, cheese is produced with milk from cows, goats or sheep, and some products include a mixture.

Each cheese also differs due to varying ageing or curing production processes, with these frequently decades old and identifying with local history and tradition.

Flavours normally fall within three



categories: light, medium or strong, with the latter typically produced with a long curing process and from sheep's milk or a blend.

The Spanish frequently eat cheese daily, and as a general rule, cheese from cows' milk comes from the north in inland areas from Cantabria and the

Basque Country to Castilla-Leon, Castilla La Mancha, Aragon and Extremadura.

The Mediterranean coast from Catalonia to Andalusia is mainly famed locally for goats-milk cheese, while the Canary and Balearic Islands are largely known for goats' cheese.

## Majestic Manchego

MANCHEGO is the most famous Spanish cheese, wholly made from the ewe's milk of the Manchega breed of sheep. It is firm and aged from two months to two years.

Protected under the DO classification schemes of both Spain as well as the European Union, it is named after the La Mancha Province where it is produced and which was the home of Don Quixote.

Mild with a taste of salty nuts, it was originally produced to barter at market and to provide a durable food for Spanish shepherds.



**MANCHEGO CHEESE:** Mild with a taste of salty nuts.

tween Betlem and the Cape of Ferrutx.

The hunt continued until dogs from the canine unit of the Mallorca Fire Brigade discovered a trail and the body was eventually found by members of the Guardia Civil Mountain Rescue and Intervention Group (GREIM) at the bottom of a cliff.

## Posh property

OWNERS of some of Mallorca's most

decadent historic homes are being encouraged to open them up as cultural attractions. There are hundreds of giant estates and glorious mansions which have been passed on down through the ages but are now in a state of terrible disrepair.

Slick entrepreneur Diego Zaforteza, himself descended from a noble Port Adriano family, wants them to open up their homes to his Mediterranean historic homes tour. By sacrificing a little privacy families can earn enough

to fund expensive repairs.

## Buddha says no

TOURISTS copying backpackers in Nepal who build little rock towers as a metaphor for their travels are actually disturbing vulnerable ecosystems. Eco group Terraferida and the Balearic Council have sounded the alarm over the practice, which is becoming something of a fashion among young travellers.

Dozens of mini pyramids can now be found dotted around the Mallorcan coast, especially at Cap Ses Salines. However, fragile habitats around the coast depend on the stones for shelter and stability.

## Postscript to ponder

**2,905**

The average number of sun-filled hours on the Costa del Sol, making it the sunniest place in Spain with nearly 100 hours more than the Canary Islands in second spot.

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## Bitter pill to swallow

CATALONIA has introduced a controversial sugar tax on a range of soft drinks including some of the world's most famous brands.

Already tagged a 'soda tax,' it could raise as much as €41 million a year for the regional government's coffers, despite an insistence the aim was to improve public health by reducing sugar consumption according to World Health Organisation recommendations.

The tax hike depends on the amount of sugar in a drink, and customers will have to pay more for products like energy drinks, fruit juices made from concentrate, chocolate drinks, sports, and cold tea and coffee drinks.

The central government has previously looked to introduce such a levy nationwide – it is already policy in France and Denmark – but has always backtracked.

## USA, USA, USA

MANY students aim to work abroad after finishing studying, and 70 per cent of those graduates look to the USA.

A study by a prestigious Barcelona university found more than half preferred to work overseas, with just 46.6 per cent wanting to find a job in Spain.

From a poll of 500 it was discovered only 8.56 per cent wanted to work in Britain and 6.6 per cent in Germany.

## Donkey work

VANDALS poured yellow paint onto a donkey's back and released it from its enclosure, with its young, in La Pereda de Llanes, in Spain's Asturias region.

They sneaked into the enclosure and poured several litres of plastic paint on the back of four-year-old donkey, Marina, before destroying the enclosure allowing the animal and its two offspring,



## Postcard from Merida



The Temple of Diana. |

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993, Merida is renowned for its Roman architecture and was built as a stylised provincial capital of Rome, centre of an empire.

Founded in 25BC, with the name Emerita Augusta, it has some of the most well-preserved archaeological remains in Spain and was once the most important city in Roman Iberia.

The city was founded by the Emperor Augustus and his discharged soldiers were employed to protect a pass and bridge over the river Guadiana; the Puente Romana is still used by pedestrians and is the longest of all existing Roman bridges.

Merida remains the capital of Extremadura. Historically its strategic importance was one end of the Silver Way – the Via de la Plata – the route between the gold mines of Asturica Augusta and Rome.

Visitors can explore Roman reservoirs still in use, the aqueduct, the Circus Maximus – one of the best examples in the world – and villas with precious mosaics. The Forum includes the Temple of Diana and the theatre is still used to stage Greco-Roman classics or modern plays set in ancient times.

After the Romans, Merida was important to the Visigoths and by the sixth Century was dominated by bishops as the capital of Hispania and the occupation of the Moors meant the ancient buildings were re-used or expanded but maintained their splendour.

Guía and Guadalupe, to wander free.

The donkeys' owner was alerted by neighbours of what had happened and searched the area until he located the animals. The crime was reported at the offices of the Guardia Civil who are investigating.

## Buds of May

THOUSANDS of people arrived in Madrid's historic Puerta del Sol square on May Day to attend a rally against corruption.

The demonstration vented its anger against the ruling Partido Popular; after the PP found itself embroiled in a new bribery scandal involving a former regional president of Madrid.

Following a series of accusations against political parties, unions, and companies, corruption has become a main concern for Spaniards after the country's ongoing unemployment woes.

## Free Press

WORLD Press Freedom Day has prompted calls for journalists in Spain to be free of the 'pressures and threats' of political parties.

The Madrid Press Association accuses politicians of trying to undermine the work of the press and calls for the right of the media to comment on events without being bullied.

It has also demanded the repeal of the so-called 'gag law' to allow free speech to be protected to the same standards as under international law.

## Crowning glory

A NEW book is attempting to restore the tarnished reputation of King Carlos I following the 'errors' leading to his abdication in 2014.

King of Democracy looks at how during his reign the royal was not a mere spectator but helped bring Spain democracy and economic prosperity.

## Birthdays

• **Pam Ferris (69), May 11, Actress**  
British actress best-known for her role as Ma Larking in the popular TV show The Darling Buds of May. She has also starred in Rosemary and Thyme and Call the Midwife and has featured in films such as Matilda and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

• **Catherine Tate (49), May 12, Comedian/Actress**

The English comedian's hit comedy series The Catherine Tate Show saw her play the well-known characters of Nan, the Cockney grandmother, and teenager Lauren Cooper whose often copied catchphrase was 'Am I bovvered?' She has appeared in TV shows such as Doctor Who and the US version of The Office.

• **Stevie Wonder (67), May 13, Musician/Singer**

One of the world's best-selling artists the American singer is known for his many hit songs such as I Just Called to Say I Love You and Superstition. He has won 25 Grammy Awards and also an Academy Award for Best Song. He has been blind since just after he was born and he was only 11 years old when he signed for the Motown label Tamla.

• **George Lucas (73), May 14, Filmmaker/Director**

American filmmaker who created and directed hit films such as the Star Wars and Indiana Jones series, American Graffiti and Willow. He also founded the companies Industrial Light & Magic and Lucasfilm, which he sold in 2012 to The Walt Disney Company, reportedly for \$4.05 billion.

• **Andy Murray (30), May 15, Tennis player**

Scottish professional tennis player who is currently the men's world number one. He has won three Grand Slam tournaments, two Olympic golds for the men's singles and a silver for the mixed doubles. In 2017 he won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for a record third time.



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**OUR VIEW**

**Prince Philip retires**

TO some a bit like marmite, love him or hate him, the often controversial Duke of Edinburgh has decided to take retirement from Royal Duties.

There was a huge flurry of interest in the Royal Household when an almost unheard of call for all members of staff to attend a special meeting which included video conferences was announced.

In the end it was simply to confirm that shortly after his 96th birthday, Prince Philip, would retire from public functions and his diary would be cleared with effect from August 2017.

Recently, a number of duties previously undertaken by the Queen who is now 91 were handed over to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and after 65 years of service, that Queen Elizabeth and her Consort want to scale down their activities.

This doesn't mean that we have seen the last of the sometimes amusing, sometimes grumpy and sometimes embarrassing Prince but he will simply turn up to events and functions that take his fancy rather than make advance commitments to attend.

When you are married to one of the richest women in the world, you can be fairly certain that medical support will be of the highest quality but at 96, time is not on his side and he wants a bit of a rest.

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**RONALDO:** With new girl soaking up the Balearic sunshine.



**Celeb summer lovin'**

GLOBAL superstar Cristiano Ronaldo and English reality TV celeb Megan McKenna were both on the Balearic Islands, meaning that summer is well and truly upon us.

They are the first stars of the season to draw dozens of paparazzi to the shores of Mallorca and Ibiza.

Model McKenna was showing her new looks and bikini at various photo shoots on Mallorca's beaches. Star of the hugely popular reality TV show The Only Way Is Essex (TOWIE), she

and her co-stars have made Mallorca a favourite spring getaway.

Meanwhile one of the richest sportsmen on the planet, and no stranger to pouting himself, Ronaldo was on Ibiza with his latest beau, Spanish model Georgina Rodriguez. The pair arrived in style, flying in from Madrid by private jet. Having been loudly accused of being a Barbie doll by Real Mallorca fans clearly hasn't dampened the striker's Balearic passion.

**DJ icon dies on Ibiza**

DANCE music icon Robert Miles has died on Ibiza, the island the Swiss-born star made his home. The artist and DJ stormed onto the world music scene in 1996 with his hit song Children.

The 47-year-old is believed to have died from cancer on Tuesday May 9. Tributes have poured in from across the music world. Boy George wrote 'RIP Robert Miles. Very sad news' on his Twitter feed. Radio One DJ Judge Jules wrote 'Deeply saddened to hear about the loss of a true dance music legend.'



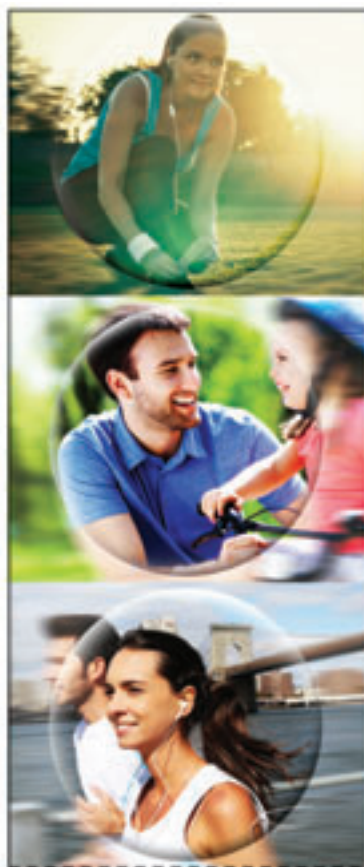
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# Landlord gold rush on rentals

By *Matthew Elliott*

GLOBAL accommodation platform Airbnb has announced that it generated €551 million worth of Balearic business last year. The American company, which has revolutionised travel by enabling people to offer homes and rooms to tourists, said it and homeowners earned €115 million in 2016.

The rest of the money was spent by Airbnb guests on food, shopping and exploring on Mallorca and the islands.

An estimated 590,000 people stayed at Airbnb rooms on the Balearics last year, an increase of 93 per cent on 2015. Around 15 per cent come from

Spain, 16 per cent from Germany and 15 per cent from the UK. They stayed at 24,000 different properties, the vast majority of which lie outside traditional hotel districts.

The average homeowner who rents out rooms to Airbnb guests earned €6,300 in 2016 for sharing their homes 42 nights a year. Around 13 per cent of the temporary landlords rely entirely on Airbnb guests to make ends meet.

Airbnb claims the financial data shows it brings an incredible financial benefit to the islands with its guests spending hundreds of millions of euros. Airbnb rooms are typically much cheaper than hotels, meaning many people

would look elsewhere if it wasn't an option.

The company has come under heavy criticism from both the hotel industry and local residents who say they are being pushed out of the neighbourhoods as landlords prefer the high short term rents paid by international guests.

But a new report into holiday rentals on Mallorca found claims of localised disaster to be exaggerated. It found that the vast majority of rooms offered were sub-lets rather than entire properties, meaning the number of families denied access to apartments was far lower than groups like Podemos and Terraferida claim.

**NEWS EXTRA**

## Hot sauna

HUNDREDS of people were evacuated when a fire broke out in the sauna of the Flamenco hotel in Cala Millor. It was under control by the time firefighters arrived.

## Tax man

**TAXPAYERS can apply for free consultations with the tax office to ask any questions. Appointments will be held between May 15 and June 29. The deadline for foreigners submitting income tax returns is June 26.**

## Well done

*THE election of centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron to the French presidency was warmly welcomed by Balearic president Francina Armengol and political parties across Mallorca.*

## Heavy levy

LEFT-WING party Podemos has called for an increase in the tourist tax to make it a serious environmental tax. Podemos also want a cap on tourist numbers each year and a ban on holiday rentals in Palma.

## Pool savvy

SWIMMING pools are more important than ever on the Mallorca property scene. There are now over 41,000 private pools on the island and a record 1,000 requests to build pools were made last year.

## Royal mess

*SEVERE pollution has transformed the formerly pristine Es Trenc beach into a giant dump. Cans, bottles and rubbish are buried under sand and vandals have targeted chiringuitos due to be knocked down this week.*

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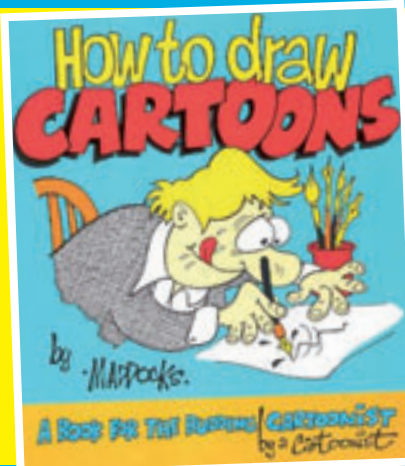
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# Adrenaline alliance

By Matthew Elliott

MOUNTAINEERS, climbers, canoeists, canyonists, hikers and cave divers are fighting back against hefty tolls being imposed to access remote beauty spots around Mallorca.

The rough alliance of adrenaline junkies has formed a new group, Mallorca Without Taxes, and started a petition on [Change.org](http://Change.org).

Their manifesto notes with alarm the government's growing tendency to regulate and prohibit human activity in some of the island's wilder reaches. They argue for years wealthy landowners in the Serra Tra-



## OFF LIMITS: Tramuntanas heavily restricted to hikers

muntanas have banned them from land. Now the government has joined the crusade, limiting their options.

They want realistic environ-

mental regulations that protect local ecosystems but also encourage people to explore the stunning mountain range which is worthy of more than just being fenced off. Extreme new penalties mean hikers wandering into protected areas could face criminal charges on top of financial penalties.

Mallorca Without Taxes accepts protection is essential but claims the government is victimising the wrong group. Publishing pictures of rubbish around sa Calobra they say the real villains are tourists with no concern for the environment.

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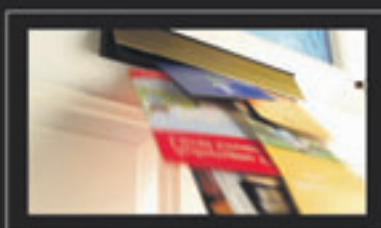


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## NEWS EXTRA

### Fond farewell

ONE of the oldest hotels on the Playa de Palma, the 'Playa Park' will be demolished by the Riu hotel group to make way for a modern new building. The iconic Playa Park had 362 rooms and a three-star grade.

### High risk

AN Irishman who clamoured recklessly across from his to another guest's balcony at a Magaluf hotel to steal valuables has been sentenced to 11 months in prison in his absence.

### Waste show

BINMEN performed a televised song and dance routine from hit Hollywood film *La La Land* in a bid to explain basic waste separation techniques to Palma residents. Budget officials were not amused.

### Wild weeds

WEEDS are slowly wrapping around historic monuments in Palma obscuring their beauty, camouflaging rubbish, and threatening their longevity. Historians have called for a major weed cull to save the city.

### Ghost trip

HUNDREDS of British holidaymakers were left fuming when they arrived at the Alua Soul Resort Cala d'Or to find it was still closed for repairs, despite the tour operator happily selling rooms.

### Dog killer

POLICE are hunting a suspect who shot dead a dog in Porreres and hid the animal's body in a sack for building materials. Another dog was found with a bullet wound and survived.



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# Only fools and horses



**GALERA:** Tough gig for horses in hot Palma summer.

DESPITE demands from animal rights activists horse-drawn carriages will not be banned in Palma.

City authorities have, however, pledged to improve working conditions for the animals.

The precise details of the new regulations remain sketchy. Nothing will change until after summer, meaning the 'Galeras' have an extremely tough few months ahead of them. They often lug five people plus the coachmen along cobbled roads in fierce summer heat.

Today there are just 28 carriages and 61 horses operating in the Mallorcan capital after the government made licences more difficult and expensive to obtain. Tensions have risen between carriage drivers, who ar-

gue the tradition supports their families, and activists pointing to the horrendous conditions suffered by the horses.

One novel idea put forward is electric carriages that would keep the traditional razzmatazz but spare the horses blood and sweat. The idea may soon take off but has faced fierce opposition from the coachmen.

In related news police are investigating after a carriage veered off course and ploughed into a delivery van injuring the driver. It is unclear whether the horse was exacting revenge.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Super stamps**

POSTAGE stamps with a numbered QR code are proving a hit among locals and tourists on Mallorca. The bar code stamps are available at campsites and supermarkets and offer safer, trackable postage.

**Huge waste**

FOOD wastage in Mallorca is estimated at a hefty 23.8 million kilos per year, roughly 27.7 kilos per person. The government is urging people use food wisely and consider recycling and donating.

**Sunny spell**

A WARM weekend is to be expected across Mallorca with temperatures reaching 29 degrees in some parts while nights will be slightly chilly at around 13 degrees with clear skies.

**Fire fleet**

A NEW fleet of fire engines on Mallorca will include eight trucks, two special off-piste mountain vehicles and another 50 staff to add to the only 200 professional firefighters on the island.

**Mass brawl**

DOZENS of police officers broke up a mass brawl on the Son Castello industrial estate where at least 50 people were fighting outside a nightclub. None were sober enough to explain what happened.

**Road trip**

A GERMAN man is planning to ride an electric bike from Lower Saxony to Port Soller, only stopping to catch a ferry. He will have to carry several batteries to charge up on the way.

POLICE have pledged to boost security around the Playa de Palma to placate hotels and holidaymakers who feel uneasy in the evenings. A meeting between the hotel association and National Police discussed pirate street sellers, pickpockets and gambling.

They agreed it was paramount tourists feel secure along the busy mile

**Pirate police shake up**

of sand and stalls if the Playa is to remain a top attraction. National Police will now bolster efforts of their local colleagues in combating aggressive

street vendors punting pirate goods to increasingly annoyed travellers.

In just the past two years the Guardia Civil has confiscated some

100,000 counterfeit goods and products worth a street value of €15 million. But attempts to drive the traders out entirely have abjectly failed.

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# Euro is the top performer

## Commentary by Moneycorp

### EUR weekly currency update

With the French presidential election on Sunday in the bag for Emmanuel Macron - the opinion polls gave him a 66/33 advantage over Marine Le Pen - the euro took advantage of a politically risk-free week.

It was the top performer among the major currencies, strengthening by 1.1% against sterling and the US dollar which shared third place behind the Swiss franc. The economic data from Euroland were suitably robust: inflation accelerated to 1.9% and first quarter growth came in at a provisional 0.5%, beating Britain's 0.3% expansion and the United States' 0.2%.

Sterling continued to enjoy the boost it received following notification of the early UK general election. Over the last month it led the other major currencies by an average of 4.2%. Unexpectedly strong purchasing managers' index readings allayed some of the concern that Britain's economy might at last be feeling the Brexit heat.

### USD weekly currency update

Last Friday's provisional figures for first quarter growth were disappointing in two directions: Britain's economy expanded by 0.3% in Q1, less than half the 0.7% clocked in the last three months of 2016, while the States managed just 0.2% growth. Both were easily beaten by the eu-

ro zone's 0.5% expansion. Because of that, and as a result of greater relaxation about Sunday's French presidential election, the dollar and the pound both lost out to the euro. They were down by -1.1% against the single currency and unchanged against one another.

As expected, the US Federal Reserve held back from raising interest rates. The Fed's statement did, however, keep alive investors' expectations that rates will go up at the next policy meeting on June 13. And at least one more increase beyond that is expected this year. That expectation could give the dollar the edge in coming weeks.

### CAD weekly currency update

A surfeit of supply took oil prices 10% lower over the course of the week, making life difficult for the Canadian dollar. The Loonie lost two cents - 1.1% - to sterling and it was down by a similar proportion against the US dollar. Some of the Canadian economic data helped: manufacturers reported a slight increase in activity and the trade deficit narrowed almost to nothing. Some didn't: economic growth in February was zero.

Economic growth in Britain and the States was disappointing too, with first quarter expansion of 0.3% and 0.2% respectively. But sterling continued to feel the benefit of an early general election and the strong government it is likely to deliver



Clarisse Musselwhite



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and the US dollar remains supported by the prospect of an interest rate increase next month and the possibility of at least one more rate hike later in the year.

### AUD weekly currency update

Energy and metals prices all moved lower over the week, hurting the currencies of commodity-exporting countries. The price of iron ore, one of Australia's main exports, was down by -8%, leaving it -15% below its level three months ago. The jury is out on whether or not this is merely a glitch or if it represents a structural shift. Either way, it was bad news for the Aussie. It lost two and a quarter cents - 1.3% - to sterling and suffered a proportionally-similar loss

against the US dollar.

Meanwhile sterling continued to feel the benefit of the early general election announced last week and the US dollar took advantage of the upward drift in interest rates. No increase appeared from Wednesday's Federal Open Market Committee meeting but investors are fairly confident that rates will go up at the next one on June 13.

### NZD weekly currency update

With commodities and metals on the retreat and a 10% fall in oil prices it was not the best week ever for commodity- and energy-oriented currencies. The Kiwi, however, managed to avoid the damage meted out to its Australian and Canadian cousins. A couple of things helped. First, the GDT index of milk prices enjoyed a fortnightly rise of 3.6%, following a 3.1% increase over the previous two weeks. Second, the employment data for the first quarter looked even healthier than expected with 1.2% more people in work and a fall in the rate of unemployment from 5.2% to 4.9%.

Sterling received support from some decent economic data and the US dollar was helped by the prospect of higher interest rates next month. They therefore did better than the NZ dollar. The pound added two fifths of a NZ cent - 0.2% - and the US dollar went up by a similar proportion against the Kiwi.



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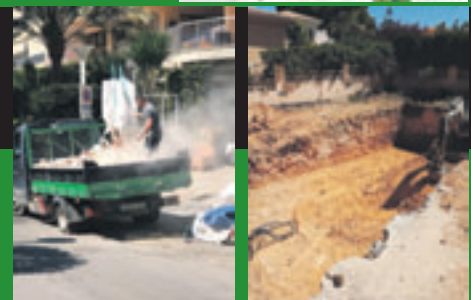


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**NEWS EXTRA****Motor  
mystery**

A MAN from Murcia was puzzled when he was fined €720 for making a phone call while allegedly riding his motorcycle in Palma. Ruben Concha has a motorbike but has also never visited Mallorca in his life.

**Child's play**

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl was accidentally shot in the neck by another child wielding his parent's shotgun in Palma. Fortunately she suffered only minor injuries and the shooter faces only parental punishment.

**Deep treasure**

A SHIPWRECK was found by divers at Buganbilia beach in Cas Catala, southwest Mallorca after metal began floating to the surface. Marine archaeologists carefully removed the wreck for inspection.

**Awful error**

A GYNAECOLOGIST faces charges after he cut off the outer labia of a young girl during a botched operation. The girl had gone in to get a cyst removed but now has permanent scarring.

**Plastic  
menace  
banned**

STRICT new laws will ban the sale of plastic plates, cups, and cutlery across Mallorca from January 2020. The legislation comes from Brussels where the EU is pushing a total ban on disposable plastic products throughout its territories.

The first step is a ban on plastic bags at supermarkets and shops which comes into force in 2019. It has already proven controversial among shopkeepers who typically order them by the thousands.

Handing out free plastic bags of a certain thickness is already banned by the EU, with consumers expected to pay two or five cents for a new one.

The Balearic government is set to work closely with local businesses during the year to help them prepare for the new regime.

**Mirror mirror on the wall**

THE picturesque Mallorcan pueblo of Fornalutx has officially unveiled its new poster crediting it as one of the 57 most beautiful villages in Spain.

Fornalutx is the first Balearic village to join the prestigious club of pretty pueblos.

Only villages with a population below 15,000 are considered for inclusion in the beauty shortlist.

Partnerships with similar lists across the world mean that Fornalutx is also officially one of the top 500 most beautiful villages on



**I FORNALUTX: Architectural heritage was a criteria.**

the planet.

Close to Soller in western

Mallorca, Fornalutx was

given the award in October

last year but now has its official stamp of approval from the elite club.

Mayor Antonio Agullo said it was a matter of immense pride for local residents. Fornalutx's new found stature would be used to attract more funding and publicity he continued.

The judges who scoured Spain for its most beautiful pueblos had several criteria. Top among them was architectural heritage, cleanliness, the facades of local homes, plants, water piping and a lack of fly posters on the walls.

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## Join Age Concern Mallorca

FANCY something that will challenge the old grey matter? If so then feel free to join Age Concern Mallorca for a quiz evening.

Teams of four are being encouraged to participate in the quiz which will take place on May 26 from 7.30pm sharp at Restaurant Olivia, Son Caliu. Entry will cost €10 per person donation which will also include a meal.

Places are limited so to book please contact Jackie Hendry on 663 016 061 or 971 683 741 or email [mallorca@ageconcern.org.es](mailto:mallorca@ageconcern.org.es).

## Help us to help!



**PASSAGE OF HOPE: Proceeds will help refugees.**

MALLORCA HUMANITY presents an inspirational evening of hope, music and art to support the refugees and associations/organisations which help them during the crisis.

The event 'Passage of Hope' will be performed by almost 30 collective artists (singers, musicians, actors, yogis, dancers, photographers and writers). It will also be supported by different associations/initiatives, groups and companies such as Sa Nostra, Earth Yoga CB, Lucky Bodies and Happy Souls SL, CineConCiencia, etc.

All proceeds based on ticket sales will be donated to two charities. Firstly Dignity 360 which is a group of volunteers

who have developed projects for emotional and psychological help for refugees in Europe.

To find out more about the group visit <https://www.facebook.com/Dignity360/>. Secondly, PROEM-AID which is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works primarily in Greece with the rescue at sea of castaway refugees. For more information about this group visit <http://www.proemaid.es/>.

The event will be held on May 19 at 8pm, with doors open 7.30pm, at Centre de Cultura 'Sa Nostra,'C/Concepcion 12 in Palma. Entry costs €45 with all proceeds donated to the charities. Reserve by emailing [passagehope@gmail.com](mailto:passagehope@gmail.com).

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# Made in Mallorca

LAST Sunday, May 7, saw Puerto Portals Farmers' Market open its doors for the first time offering a range of fresh products, the best crafts on the island, activities for the children, a concert by the group Piolet Swing and a delicious 100 per cent Mallorcan brunch.

The market will return every Sunday in May from 10am until 3pm offering the best leisure and at the same time support the consumption of local products and seasonal foods.

To start the day with energy Zunray Yoga proposed to 'salute the sun' in its open-air masterclass. After that visitors could regain their strength or simply try the delicious products of the Farmers' Market.

They could enjoy a healthy and savoury brunch which could be chosen from a range of tasty food available from ensaimadas, cremadillos and empanadas with a smoothie, to a cheese board with



**FARMERS MARKET:** Offered a range of fresh products and best crafts on the island.

craft beer or organic wine.

Children had the best entertainment with fun activities geared towards environmental awareness so that they could enjoy their surroundings to the maximum.

The first Farmers' Market workshop entitled 'Plant a Wish' was accompanied by a variety of arts and crafts, games and a picnic.

Music and dancing was also present at this magical market. The Mallorcan group Piolet Swing was in charge of offering visitors animation and rhythm on this first Sunday.

The Farmers' Market will promote solidarity and conscious purchase through the 'One for One' movement. With every purchase made of fresh products marked this way, Puerto Portals will provide another unit of the same product to the big solidarity basket that will be delivered to the NGO Mallorca Sense Fam.

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## Success at wordsmith's contest

AN important speech contest, organised by Toastmasters club Mallorca Wordsmiths and sponsored by Caixabank, took place on April 29 and 30 in Palma's Hotel Amic Horizonte.

The event gathered together the best speakers of Alicante, Murcia, Valencia, Barcelona and Mallorca.

A competition was held in the framework of the Toastmasters programme, a non-profit organisation which has been operating for more than 90 years to promote leadership and communication skills.

The following were the contests held and the winners:

Speech in Spanish: 1st

David Conte, 2nd Eva Pomar, 3rd Sandra Almeida.

Evaluation of speech in Spanish: 1st Alba Lucía Hincapié, 2nd Dimitri Uralov, 3rd Sandra Almeida.

Evaluation of speech in English: 1st Catrine Bergeron, 2nd Nicole Peters, 3rd Julia Pardo.

International Speech in English: 1st Julia Pardo, 2nd Diane Oatley, 3rd Sebastián Lora.

Members of Mallorca Wordsmiths won second place in the Spanish speech contest (Eva Pomar) and second and third places in the English speech contest (Diane Oatley and Sebastian Lora respectively).



**WINNERS:** In the International Speech in English category.

Both the winners of the English speech and evaluation contests will represent Division K, to which Mallorca Wordsmiths belongs, in Winterthur, Switzerland, on May 14. The winners from there

then go to the World Speech Contest in Vancouver, Canada.

For further information visit [www.walkthetalkinmallorca.com.es](http://www.walkthetalkinmallorca.com.es) or search for Mallorca Wordsmiths on Facebook.

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# Welcome home Leo the Lion



TEAM EWN: Jackie and Matt hand over a gift.

By Matt Ford

BRAVE cancer battler Leo Bermeja is back in Almeria after undergoing six weeks of ground-breaking proton beam therapy in the United States, and the *Euro Weekly News* was on hand to join the celebrations at his homecoming party.

A sizeable group of friends, family members and supporters gathered at the Laguna restaurant in Las Marinas, Vera, to welcome him back from his six weeks of treatment in Oklahoma and wish a belated happy birthday to big sister Sofia, who recently turned nine.

Among the many gifts on display was a framed copy of one of the first double-page spreads that we ran as part of our ongoing Leo the Lion campaign.

Leo, mum Karen and Sofia were all in high spirits despite suffering from jetlag, having only travelled to Spain from Canada three days beforehand and losing some luggage along the way.

Karen kindly agreed to an exclusive chat with us, during which she explained what will happen next as four-year-old Leo's fight against a rare form of brain cancer continues.

"We're still catching up to be honest," she laughed. "Over the next two weeks I'm planning to let Leo chill a bit and get over the jetlag.

"After that we'll see how he is about starting at the special needs school in Vera again, then once we've got the clear scan over with we're thinking about hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which they have in Malaga."

She went on to explain how this type of treatment exposes the patient to high oxygen concentrations, which can help stimulate the growth of new brain cells before the delayed effect of the proton therapy kicks in.

Due to a lack of knowledge about the type of cancer he has, Leo must also undergo a brain scan every six weeks for the next two years before any definitive evaluation can be made, and he



THE FAMILY: Karen, Leo, Sofia and Jorge.

also needs an intensive rehab programme.

"The fundraising doesn't stop since we don't know the cost," says Karen. "They've recommended he needs a walker which costs about €4,000, for example, and he hasn't had any benefits from the Spanish government yet, which won't be backdated when they finally come through."

Overall though, Karen remains incredibly upbeat despite the family's ordeal, and she was keen to express her gratitude to *EWN* readers and others who have helped Leo's cause.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported us from day one, there are no words to describe it and it is overwhelming how Leo has touched so many people's hearts.

"It is crazy how people who don't know him feel like they love him and relate to him.

"Even if the worst happens to Leo at least he's done that, at least he's given hope to others."

At least Leo has given hope to others."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Sofia celebrated her 9th.



HOMEcoming: Many people attended the party.

To give your support to the ongoing Leo the Lion fundraising campaign you can donate in the following ways:

DONATE

Spanish account • Bank: Banco Sabadell  
Account Name: Leo James Bermejo  
Account Number: ES69 0081 0597 0900 0602 1116 • Swift: BSAB ESBB

UK account • Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland  
Account Name: Alda Keefe  
Account Number: 17485819 • Sort Code: 16-24-06

DONATE

[www.gofundme.com/leothelion3](http://www.gofundme.com/leothelion3)



# Spain is a popular holiday destination for Muslims

By John Smith

RESEARCH on the preferred destinations for Muslim travellers has shown that Spain has jumped in popularity considerably.

The 2017 MasterCard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) published in Jakarta, Indonesia shows that Spain is now the ninth most popular non-Islamic country for Muslim visitors out of the 130 which were reviewed.

Only Britain and France within Europe are more popular destinations which is explained in part by their relatively large Muslim

**\$220 billion (€201 billion)**

*is the estimated annual value of Muslim tourism to non-Islamic states by 2020.*

populations, although the top two were Singapore and Thailand and unsurprisingly the USA has dropped into 10th position following the presidential election.

This particular market sector

which sees increasing numbers of young affluent Muslims exploring the world is forecast as continuing to grow and travellers will be attracted to destinations which adapt to the needs of the Muslim tourist.

The GMTI is the most comprehensive research available on one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in the world, which represents 10 per cent of the entire travel economy.

Factors considered when producing the rating included Muslim air connectivity, visa restrictions, suitability as a family holiday destination, ease of communication, the level of services and facilities any destination provides, accommodation options, marketing initiatives and the availability of special food such as Halal meat.

## La Zagaleta expands

THE owners of luxury urbanisation La Zagaleta are about to expand following their purchase of the Valderrama II estate near to Sotogrande.

Once approval for the work is received from the local council, plans exist for the construction of a luxury hotel, a new golf course and up to 200 new homes.

Work budgeted at €200 million is hoped to start by 2020 and the company plans to build the development on an American style with long roads and no fences.

Each property will cost between €3 million and €5 million and will be aimed at the Cadiz and Gibraltar market with off-plan purchase.

### Quote of the Week

Talking to the opposition is like banging your head against a brick wall." Mariano Rajoy on calls to increase spending in the 2017 budget.



## Oil reservoir over fault line scrapped



Photo by Greenpeace

**PROJECT CASTOR: Platform is to be dismantled.**

AFTER commissioning a report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, the Spanish government has decided to scrap Project Castor.

This is a pipeline and reservoir for natural gas off the coast of Castellon which happens to be situated over the Amposta fault line and is believed to have caused 500 small earthquakes before it was closed in 2013.

The concept of using a deplet-

ed oil cavity in the Mediterranean appeared sensible when it was first mooted in 2007, but Spanish Energy Minister Álvaro Nadal has now confirmed it would be against all sensible advice to re-open the reservoir.

It will be dismantled in due course but as the area is currently stable, time is not of the essence although the government has already compensated construction company ACS to the tune of €1.2 billion and more may follow.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

#### Banking hours

LA CAIXA Banking Group has reached an agreement with the majority of unions to extend opening hours at 200 of its branches. It is intended branches will remain open from 8.30am to 6.30pm from Monday to Thursday although they will close at 2.30pm on Friday.

#### Directors resign

THREE non-executive directors of Spanish telecoms company Telefonica have tendered their resignations from the board. César Alierta, former president of the company, Pablo Isla president of Inditex, owner of Zara and Gonzalo Hinojosa former president Cortefiel have severed their ties on an amicable basis in order to allow new directors to become part of the telecoms industry giant.

#### Shocking idea

THE Directorate General of the Guardia Civil has revealed a committee has been set up to investigate the financial viability of obtaining tasers. There are a number of different models on the market and unions representing officers have demanded the Guardia Civil should follow Mossos d'Esquadra in Catalonia which uses tasers.

## Review of Spanish budget

DESPITE the fact that the first two votes in the Spanish Parliament were tied, the proposed budget will now move forward for further review.

A number of parties on the left wanted to

see the budget defeated but with a straight tie after more than one vote, it became possible for the budget to move forward, although the final vote required before the end of May will require a majority for one side or the other.

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# LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MAY 8

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
3i Group PLC	819.75	2.50	0.31	111.89
Admiral Group PLC	2101.50	15.00	0.72	83.35
Anglo American PLC	1018.50	-12.00	-1.16	1,028.31
Antofagasta PLC	756.00	-13.00	-1.69	570.91
Ashtead Group PLC	1603.50	-7.00	-0.43	191.90
Associated British Foods PLC	2781.50	10.00	0.36	101.29
AstraZeneca PLC	4605.00	-1.00	-0.02	189.12
Aviva PLC	529.75	-2.00	-0.38	931.66
Babcock International Gr	909.75	-6.00	-0.66	151.69
BAE Systems PLC	642.25	-5.00	-0.77	910.82
Barclays PLC	208.75	2.45	1.19	8,868.28
Barratt Developments PLC	591.75	1.50	0.25	306.72
BHP Billiton PLC	1120.75	-19.50	-1.71	1,717.57
BP PLC	454.82	3.45	0.76	4,836.42
British American Tobacco PLC	5286.50	-1.00	-0.02	216.21
British Land Co PLC	668.75	5.50	0.83	80.16
BT Group PLC	310.40	0.80	0.26	1,215.25
Bunzl PLC	2398.00	-8.00	-0.33	37.86
Burberry Group PLC	1626.50	0.00	0.00	195.02
Carnival PLC	4815.00	-7.00	-0.15	21.51
Centrica PLC	196.55	-2.10	-1.06	6,607.38
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2152.50	-12.00	-0.55	44.87
Compass Group PLC	1568.50	-0.10	-0.01	588.77
ConvaTec Group PLC	294.20	-1.60	-0.54	185.63
CRH PLC	2902.50	-17.00	-0.58	142.66
Croda International PLC	3836.00	0.00	0.00	35.68
DCC PLC	7287.50	-50.00	-0.68	12.30
Diageo PLC	2275.75	-1.50	-0.07	298.40
Direct Line Insurance Gr	358.20	1.70	0.48	222.90
easyJet PLC	1265.50	5.61	0.45	506.82
Experian PLC	1679.50	-14.00	-0.83	150.99
Fresnillo PLC	1399.00	-19.00	-1.34	182.84
GKN PLC	358.70	-0.70	-0.19	463.80
GlaxoSmithKline PLC	1594.25	6.50	0.41	1,388.02
Glencore PLC	285.57	-3.60	-1.25	8,378.29
Hammerson PLC	593.00	5.00	0.85	244.89
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	1389.50	2.00	0.14	45.20
Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC	1982.50	10.00	0.51	33.35
HSBC Holdings PLC	661.75	3.20	0.49	5,185.46
Imperial Brands PLC	3638.00	10.75	0.30	154.33
Informa PLC	662.75	2.50	0.38	301.95
InterContinental Hotels Gr	4121.00	0.00	0.00	56.80
International Consolidated	601.75	-1.50	-0.25	1,315.65
Intertek Group PLC	4146.00	-14.00	-0.34	26.05
Intu Properties PLC	273.55	3.80	1.41	295.44
ITV PLC	203.75	1.90	0.94	2,435.66
Johnson Matthey PLC	3116.00	-4.00	-0.13	53.41
Kingfisher PLC	338.65	1.10	0.33	1,871.90
Land Securities Group PLC	1130.50	20.70	1.86	349.42
Legal & General Group PLC	252.25	1.50	0.60	2,541.61

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	69.80	-0.22	-0.31	17,167.72
London Stock Exchange Gr	3397.50	8.00	0.24	93.27
Marks & Spencer Group PLC	376.00	0.85	0.23	853.85
Mediclinic International PLC	810.50	3.50	0.43	128.80
Merlin Entertainments PLC	504.25	-0.95	-0.19	174.95
Micro Focus International PLC	2647.50	-3.00	-0.11	38.99
Mondi PLC	2038.50	-5.00	-0.24	159.52
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	239.65	0.52	0.22	796.78
National Grid PLC	1026.25	6.35	0.62	1,102.18
Next PLC	4258.50	25.00	0.59	50.48
Old Mutual PLC	192.60	0.50	0.26	835.82
Paddy Power Betfair PLC	8110.00	30.00	0.37	9.45
Pearson PLC	726.25	-13.50	-1.83	1,616.10
Persimmon PLC	2411.00	20.00	0.84	294.13
Provident Financial PLC	3213.00	19.00	0.59	19.21
Prudential PLC	1755.25	-3.50	-0.20	804.94
Randgold Resources Ltd	6757.50	-115.00	-1.67	127.39
Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	7170.00	-1.00	-0.01	53.78
RELX PLC	1587.50	-9.00	-0.56	480.59
Rentokil Initial PLC	253.45	-0.90	-0.35	292.43
Rio Tinto PLC	2932.50	-47.00	-1.58	614.57
Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	839.50	-14.00	-1.64	1,169.27
Royal Bank of Scotland Gr	265.75	-3.20	-1.19	1,736.15
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	2133.25	15.50	0.73	1,303.51
Royal Mail PLC	413.25	-0.20	-0.05	345.92
RSA Insurance Group PLC	625.75	4.63	0.75	228.76
Sage Group (The) PLC	703.75	4.00	0.57	511.55
Sainsbury (J) PLC	268.05	3.00	1.13	1,148.34
Schroders PLC	3226.50	7.00	0.22	28.61
Scottish Mortgage Invest	378.20	0.64	0.17	321.28
Severn Trent PLC	2373.00	-0.33	-0.01	80.36
Shire PLC	4662.50	10.00	0.21	133.49
Sky PLC	994.25	1.50	0.15	191.08
Smith & Nephew PLC	1298.50	-7.00	-0.54	288.09
Smiths Group PLC	1659.50	-24.00	-1.43	179.94
Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	2173.50	-18.00	-0.82	46.95
SSE PLC	1436.50	12.72	0.89	568.35
Standard Chartered PLC	715.20	-2.40	-0.33	1,144.47
Standard Life PLC	379.45	0.35	0.09	324.91
St James's Place PLC	1166.50	-2.00	-0.17	126.14
Taylor Wimpey PLC	196.65	0.60	0.31	1,642.24
Tesco PLC	180.95	1.55	0.86	1,649.53
TUI AG	1176.50	-9.00	-0.76	166.42
Unilever PLC	3995.00	6.50	0.16	405.75
United Utilities Group PLC	1000.50	4.65	0.47	93.24
Vodafone Group PLC	206.60	1.65	0.81	6,919.07
Whitbread PLC	4107.50	35.00	0.86	67.78
Wolseley PLC	5032.50	-35.00	-0.69	29.99
Worldpay Group PLC	314.70	0.40	0.13	846.04
WPP PLC	1672.50	-4.00	-0.24	628.44

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AMERICAN EXPRESS	78.16	-0.20%	-0.16	69M
APPLE	153.01	2.72%	4.05	797M
BOEING CO	186.02	0.55%	1.01	112M
CATERPILLAR	99.37	-0.27%	-0.27	58M
CHEVRON	106.68	0.84%	0.89	202M
CISCO SYSTEMS	34.29	-0.29%	-0.1	171M
COCA-COLA	43.89	0.46%	0.2	187M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	80.26	-1.08%	-0.88	69M
EXXON MOBIL	82.89	1.06%	0.87	351M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29.07	-0.51%	-0.15	252M
GOLDMAN SACHS	225.03	-0.81%	-1.84	88M
HOME DEPOT	156.89	0.74%	1.16	188M
IBM	153.03	-1.30%	-2.02	143M
INTEL CORP	36.54	-0.76%	-0.28	171M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	87.1	0.11%	0.1	309M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	123.25	-0.21%	-0.26	333M
MC DONALD'S CORP	144.24	0.19%	0.28	117M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	64.01	0.06%	0.04	175M
MICROSOFT	68.94	-0.09%	-0.06	531M
NIKE	54.3	0.65%	0.35	71M
PFIZER	33.45	-0.09%	-0.03	199M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	86.55	0.06%	0.05	221M
TRAVELERS CIES	121.01	-0.24%	-0.29	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	121.08	-0.22%	-0.27	97M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	174.44	0.18%	0.32	168M
VERIZON COMMS	46.63	-0.13%	-0.06	190M
VISA	91.92	-0.18%	-0.17	169M
WAL-MART STORES	76.12	-0.50%	-0.38	230M
WALT DISNEY CO	111.42	-0.51%	-0.57	176M

# NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MAY 8

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
<b>Most Advanced</b>		
Universal Display Corporation	\$ 111.30	21.45 ▲ 23.87%
Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.	\$ 55.96	9.15 ▲ 19.55%
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.	\$ 9.08	1.41 ▲ 18.38%
Immunomedics, Inc.	\$ 6.36	0.95 ▲ 17.56%
Fluidigm Corporation	\$ 5.90	0.88 ▲ 17.53%
Synchronoss Technologies, Inc.	\$ 17.99	2.54 ▲ 16.44%
MercadoLibre, Inc.	\$ 275.16	38.65 ▲ 16.34%
Renewable Energy Group, Inc.	\$ 11.80	1.65 ▲ 16.26%
Johnson Outdoors Inc.	\$ 41.34	5.74 ▲ 16.12%
Sierra Wireless, Inc.	\$ 28.45	3.65 ▲ 14.72%
Computer Programs and Systems, Inc.	\$ 30.55	3.90 ▲ 14.63%
<b>Most Declined</b>		
Brightcove Inc.	\$ 6.025	2.675 ▼ 30.75%
National CineMedia, Inc.	\$ 8.665	3.055 ▼ 26.07%
ArcBest Corporation	\$ 19.75	6.50 ▼ 24.76%
YRC Worldwide, Inc.	\$ 8.575	2.115 ▼ 19.78%
American Superconductor Corporation	\$ 4	0.85 ▼ 17.53%
Ocular Therapeutix, Inc.	\$ 7.63	1.47 ▼ 16.15%
Puma Biotechnology Inc	\$ 30.70	5.85 ▼ 16.01%
InVivo Therapeutics Holdings Corp.	\$ 2.90	0.50 ▼ 14.71%
IES Holdings, Inc.	\$ 17.10	2.65 ▼ 13.42%
Digi International Inc.	\$ 10.70	1.60 ▼ 13.01%
Gibraltar Industries, Inc.	\$ 34.425	4.575 ▼ 11.73%

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 Multi Asset Balanced B EUR  
 Multi Asset Growth B GBP  
 Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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 €0.9625 ..... -€0.0002  
 £1.1419 ..... -£0.0008  
 €1.0710 ..... -€0.0009  
 £1.2779 ..... -£0.0025  
 €1.1881 ..... -€0.0026  
 £1.4025 ..... -£0.0049  
 €1.3108 ..... -€0.0048

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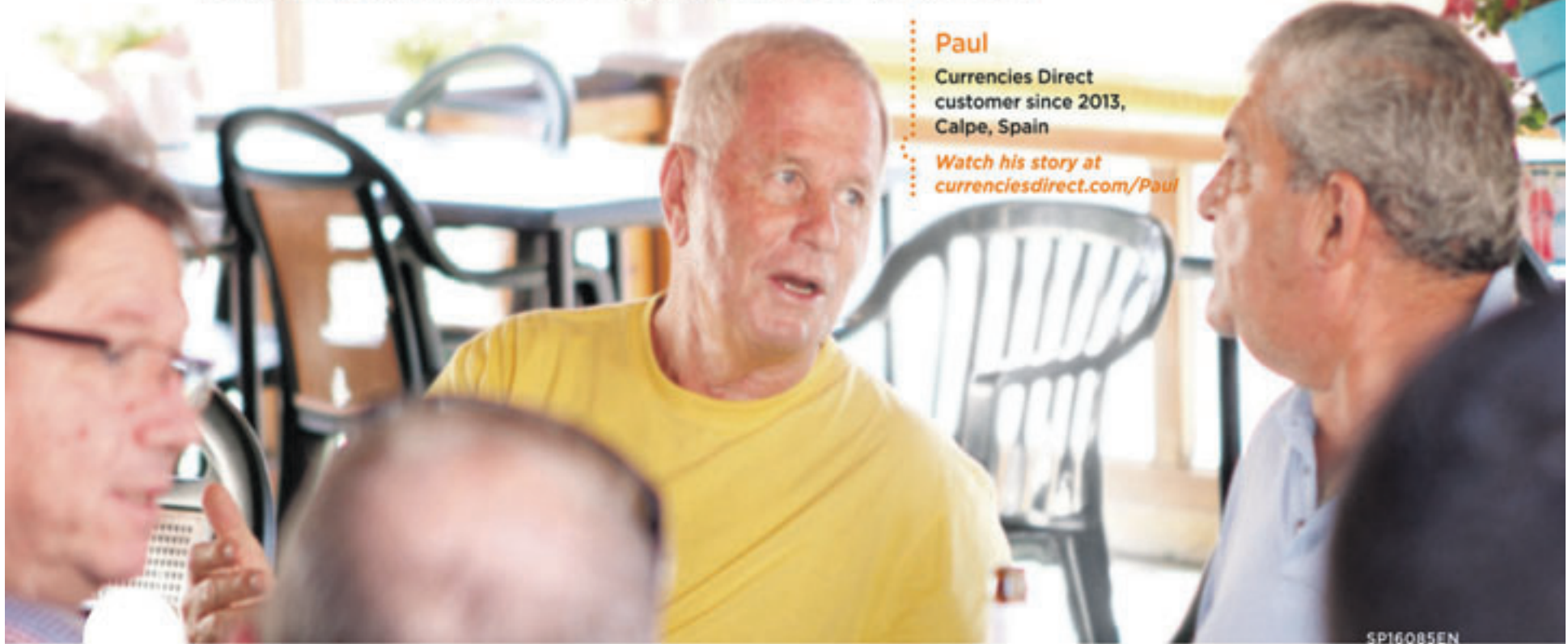
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# Property help for young and elderly

IN an effort to assist those who have found it difficult to find affordable accommodation, the Spanish Minister of Development has unveiled the 2018 plan.

Iñigo de la Serna has made it clear that the government is dedicated to helping those that need it the most, namely the young, the elderly and those who have been evicted.

In the case of those aged under 35, the state will make up to €10,800 available to anyone with a salary of less than €22,365.42 so that they can purchase a property, but the maximum of the grant will not exceed 20 per cent of the purchase price.

Provided that recipients earn less than €1,597.53 per month (which is three times the average monthly rent) then financial aid will be made available to assist in the rental of a property.

So for this group, if they are not purchasing, the government recognises that rental prices are increasing dramatically, especially in certain areas of Spain and will aid those renting a property and pay 50 per cent of the cost of rent which does not exceed €900 per month



Photo Credit: fizkes Shutterstock

**GOVERNMENT PLAN:** Will help those that need it most afford a new home.

for three years.

For those aged 65 with income also less than €1,597.53 per month and a net worth of less than €100,000, they will receive a similar amount to cover rent up to €900 per month for three years or if the property is owned, there will be a

contribution of up to €200 to help with maintenance and utility bills.

There will be cash assistance to companies building apartments to house low income families and the ministry will also help those who have lost their properties or been evicted from rental accommodation

by taking properties held in the Sareb 'property bank' and renting them out at heavily subsidised prices.

With this plan to run from 2018 to 2020, the government expects to spend €321 million a year in overall support and assistance.

# Spanish banks to be questioned over movement of funds for HSBC

ALTHOUGH British-based high street bank HSBC came through the banking crisis relatively unscathed, it has been accused of a number of irregularities over the years.

Having been fined billions of dollars by the US authorities and also shelling out to the British government, it is now under investigation in France and Spain.

“The various bankers will be questioned about their knowledge and involvement.”

The Spanish High Court has ruled that seven current and former employees of Banco Santander and three from BNP Paribas Spain must be questioned over allegations of collusion in moving funds for HSBC to an account in Switzerland.

According to the judge who made the decision, the transfers estimated at €74 million were made in a manner which protected HSBC customers from national tax authorities and as such could be considered money laundering once the whole trail is unravelled.



Photo Credit: Nicolas Vigier flickr

**WHISTLE BLOWER:** Hervé Falciani behind the microphone.

This current investigation started as long ago as 2008 when a self-proclaimed whistle blower Hervé Falciani leaked details of large numbers of customers who had accounts with HSBC's private bank in Switzerland and details were sent to tax authorities in a number of different countries.

The Swiss responded by sentencing the French citizen 'in absentia' to five years imprisonment for industrial espionage.

The various bankers will be questioned about their knowledge and involvement in this matter by way of assistance to the French investigation which is concentrating on the period between 2005 and 2010.

Should any evidence of wrongdoing emerge concerning the Spanish banks involved, a decision will then have to be made as to whether the courts will need to consider further action to establish if any Spanish laws have been broken.

## Another bank will transfer staff to Frankfurt

ONE of Britain's largest banks Standard Chartered has confirmed that it will be moving several hundred jobs to Frankfurt in advance of Brexit.

This announcement follows one from US financial giant JP Morgan, which employs about 16,000 people in Britain, which is also planning to move hundreds of jobs from London to Frankfurt, Luxembourg and Dublin.

Although considered a UK bank, Standard Chartered which recently appointed former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Spain and Director of the International Monetary Fund Jose Vinals as Chairman only receives about 5 per cent of its income from the UK market.

Although it currently intends to keep its headquarters in London, its interests in Asia and Europe mean that it cannot afford to chance any banking restrictions following Brexit.

## Airbnb still under review

FOLLOWING the example of the Barcelona City Council, Madrid is investigating ways of 'policing' untaxed property rentals.

Although there are a number of property portals which offer short term rentals in Madrid and other large cities in Spain, American company Airbnb is the most prolific and successful in the market place.

As previously reported, Barcelona has tried to levy significant fines of the company which has successfully appealed against them, but it has also offered a compromise whereby it will not accept multi-property lets from professional landlords.

The main bone of contention appears to be the fact that significant amounts of local tax may be evaded if short term lettings are made through these portals.





Photo Credit: Vinod Divakaran flickr.

**FACING CHARGES:** Neymar de Silva Santos Jnr.

# Barcelona star Neymar is to be charged with fraud

By John Smith

FOOTBALL finance just can't keep out of the news and it has been confirmed that Barcelona star Neymar will be charged with fraud and corruption.

Like so many South American superstars, the Brazilian's parents are involved in his management as well as day-to-day financial affairs and his father at least will also be charged.

The reason for the prosecution centres on Neymar's transfer from Santos in 2013 with his transfer fee being declared at €17 million, when it was once suggested that the actual fee was €57 million. However the court now suggests the real fee was nearer €25 million.

Following the example of a number of other players, Ney-

mar had a deal with a third party group, in this case the Brazilian investment company DIS which was entitled to 40 per cent of any transfer fee.

**“The Brazilian's parents are involved in his management.”**

They received €6.8 million but the court believes that they were 'short changed' by €3.5 million which is the reason for the charges which also include Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his predecessor Sandro Rosell, who it is suggested were aware of the deception.

Originally in 2016, a Spanish

court ruled that the matter should be subject to a civil action but has now been persuaded by the prosecutor that the player and his father were aware of an allegedly fraudulent arrangement between Barcelona and Santos to defraud DIS.

Prosecutors are calling for a two-year prison sentence and €10 million fine for Neymar whilst DIS want to see five years and at the very least a suspension of his right to play in Spain for the period of any sentence, even if a suspended one.

The Barcelona club has already paid a €5.5 million fine in order to settle a different case with similar circumstances, but these accusations still continue to arise and there is a separate investigation taking place in Brazil.

## Production on the up, unemployment down

INTERNATIONAL analysts Markit have released the results of their April survey which shows that Spanish manufacturing is speeding up.

To go with this news is an announcement from the Ministry of Employment and Social Security which says that unemployment in Spain fell by 129,281 in April which is a record.

Whilst encouragingly, unemployment amongst those under 25 has dropped, the percentage of young unemployed is still at a high level.

Following some poor figures recently, Andalucia has been one of the leading areas for the fall in the unemployed with its drop exceeding the combined drops of Barcelona and Madrid

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# They honestly haven't got a clue

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



PERSONALLY I think the voting age should be raised to 21. It's not that I consider the young lacking in intelligence, or am ignorant of the view, that if your old enough to die for your country you should at least have a say in who runs it.

The fact is they lack experience; they simply haven't been around long enough. An 18-year-old today wasn't even born when the last Labour government was first elected, and were still children when they lost power.

They have no idea what it is like for adults to exist under the depressing, inept incompetence of a left wing government. They have never experienced the sight of the fat cat bully boys of the unions, tanned and fresh from their Marbella villa holidays, emerging from Downing Street and announcing that half the nation would be on strike, if the 'workers' weren't given what they (the unions) demanded.



**YOUNG ADULTS:** They simply haven't been around long enough.

Of times when 'everybody out' issued from the employees of one vital institution after another, until the whole country staggered from one crisis to the next and employers were blamed for everything from the price of soap to the shortage of cat litter.

They have no knowledge of a country, run by a party who bribes its

constituents by creating whole cultures of benefit scroungers, and to pay for these free handouts, taxes those with any initiative to create jobs and wealth to such a degree that they leave the country in droves.

Labour is, and always has been, a party that has no idea how to actually create resources and always uses the

wealth, painstakingly earned by previous governments to create the illusion that they are a successful organisation, by pouring investments into popular schemes that will ingratiate them to their constituents.

When there are no longer any previous legacies to lay claim to, they borrow, beg and steal (Brown stole

the country's gold reserves and sold it for a pittance!) until finally there is nothing left and they are finally voted out, leaving the incoming party to once again pick up the pieces.

Margaret Thatcher summed up this bunch of incompetent con artists perfectly, when she stated that the Labour party are fine, until they run out of other people's money. Thank the Lord for Corbyn and the likes of Diane Abbott. They are the true face of the left, and not in fact the false faces of Tony Blair and his henchmen of yore.

So, to all the young voters, who believe that the 'all men are equal, tax the rich and ban the bomb' tirade that issues from the left is the answer to what ails us, I suggest you all think again. I'm not saying it's going to be plain sailing. But at least with Theresa May we have a chance. And be honest, do you really want Diane Abbott to be in control of the nation's police force? Ha!

*Keep the faith*

*Love Leapy.*

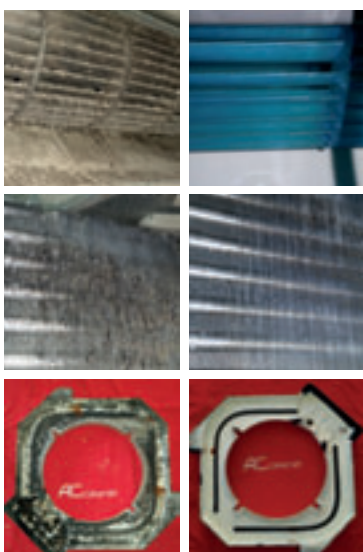
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# Double trouble ahead for Rajoy

**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

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

OF course Pablo Iglesias and Podemos want a vote of no confidence in Mariano Rajoy and his party.

Proving how reasonable he was, Iglesias emphasised that he would raise no problems regarding an alternative candidate put forward by either the PSOE socialists or the 'C's,' the centrists.

"The candidate isn't important," he said, which is why he was so magnanimous. If the candidate were that important he would never have offered.

For Iglesias, putting the PSOE on the spot with primaries coming up is as important as ousting Rajoy.

By shunning the mo-

tion, he can imply they are shoring up the PP as they did by abstaining to allow Rajoy to form a government.

That could goad enough of the membership into backing Pedro Sanchez as the next PSOE secretary general.

Only the paid-

**PABLO IGLESIAS:**  
Hopes to annihilate the PSOE.



up members – all 187,949 of them – are enamoured of Sanchez. Two general elections and two regional ballots demonstrated that Sanchez does not attract socialist voters.

That's why Iglesias, who

hopes to annihilate the PSOE, wants him as secretary general.

## Power play

WITH the possible exception of the former Spanish vice-president and Hacienda minister Rodrigo Rato, all of the disgraced PP politicians enriched not only themselves but also the party.

The latest in this long line of shysters, the erstwhile president of the Madrid Community Ignacio Gonzalez, used the Canal de Isabel II water utility to raise money for electoral campaigns.

If all power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely, wanting to gain or retain power obviously corrupts

to the same extent.

## In black and white

MARIANO RAJOY will always be haunted by the 'Stay strong' text message he sent to disgraced PP treasurer Luis Barcenas when the latter's dodgy bookkeeping emerged.

Likewise, Justice minister Rafael Catala will be dogged forever by his mes-

sage to Ignacio Gonzalez: "Let's hope the mess gets sorted out."

Catala did some fast-talking to explain that he didn't mean Gonzalez's mess or the PP's mess or a mess of his own. He meant general mess.

What's written can't be unwritten and some text messages should never be sent in a country where "Think the worst and you'll always be right" is a favourite proverb.

## Not today, thank you

CATALUÑA'S pro-independence president Carles Puigdemont cancelled this month's visit to Morocco.

No politician "at any level" would be available to receive him and his party, Puigdemont was told.

Catalan insiders say Morocco was responding to pressure from Spain and the US but it would be truer to say that no one outside Cataluña is that interested in Puigdemont. Or quite a few inside.

# War of words over the EU's "plot" to sabotage Brexit

**Nora Johnson**

*Breaking Views*

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



THERESA MAY'S searing attack on unelected Eurocrats for trying to sabotage both the general election and Brexit is unprecedented. She said she wanted to reach a Brexit deal, and for the EU to succeed: "But the events of the last few days have shown that whatever our wishes and however reasonable the positions of Europe's other leaders, there are some in Brussels who do not want these talks to succeed."

Not totally surprising you might think, given the hostile leaks and threats from that recent 'car crash' dinner. What's perhaps more surprising is that she's going flat out and

calling on voters to tool her up to 'fight for Britain' against Brussels at such an early stage in this election and leading in the polls.

Much was made of alleged Russian interference in the US presidential election. There are parallels domestically, too, as the EU attempts to influence with whom in the UK it negotiates. It's clear from recent 'leaks' that the EU would rather not deal with Theresa May, and certainly not if she wins a commanding majority. They'd much prefer dealing with Corbyn or Farron, wouldn't you?

Basically, according to Iain Duncan Smith, former Conservative leader, the EU Commission "doesn't care if negotiations succeed, they're obsessed with the idea of the EU: it's where their money, jobs and power come from."

But surely all this will backfire on them. Already former hard-nosed

Remainers as well as reluctant Leavers I know have switched sides and are now pro-Brexit. A number that will inevitably increase with time and more EU threats.

So, another day, another EU threat/leak - the dirty games of a rattled European Commission. My boots are worn out with quaking. Soon I'll be terrified of Timmy Farron.

Finally, it's interesting that all French politicians end speeches with 'Vive la République' and Americans with 'God bless America.' What's the British equivalent?

Well, with a stiff upper lip our politicians would probably say: 'Mind how you go,' 'What a lot of weather we're having,' 'Chin up' or 'Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a train to catch.'

*Nora Johnson's psychological/*

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



**THERESA MAY:**  
Wants a deal.



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11 MAY	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours	1:00pm Premier League Legends
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	9:30pm Joanna Lumley's Postcards	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm Home and Away	2:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:45pm Debatable	10:00pm Car Crash Britain Caught on Camera	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	8:00pm The One Show	8:30pm Great British Menu	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:55pm Party Election Broadcast	5:00pm Football's Greatest
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm The World According to Kids	11:40pm ITV News London	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Secrets of Great British Castles	6:00pm Premier League Legends
	9:00pm MasterChef	10:00pm Morocco to Timbuktu: An Arabian Adventure	11:50pm UEFA Europa League Highlights	8:55pm Party Election Broadcast	9:00pm On Benefits	7:30pm Barclays Premier League World
	10:00pm The Truth About Sleep	11:00pm Match of the Day	12:50pm Tipping Point	9:00pm The Supervet	10:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	8:00pm Live Premier League Darts
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	1:45pm Jackpot247	10:00pm Born to Kill	11:00pm Mind the Age Gap	11:00pm School of Hard Knocks
	11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am Second Chance Summer: Tuscany		11:00pm How to Get a Council House	12:05am Inside the Gang	12:00pm Premier League Match Pack
	11:45pm Question Time			12:00am First Dates		
12:45am This Week						
FRIDAY	7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:30pm Red Rock	8:30pm Coronation Street	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm Neighbours	10:30am Premier League Match Pack
	7:30pm BBC London News	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm Royal Windsor Horse Show Special	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	11:00am Premier League Daily
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	9:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	12:00pm Live ATP Masters 1000 - Madrid
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	7:45pm Debatable	10:00pm Lethal Weapon	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:55pm Party Election Broadcast	6:00pm Football Gold
	9:00pm EastEnders	8:30pm Great British Menu	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:55pm Party Election Broadcast	8:00pm The Gadget Show	7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club
	9:30pm MasterChef	9:00pm Gardeners' World	11:40pm ITV News London	9:00pm Posh Pawn	9:00pm Ancient Mysteries	8:00pm Football
	10:30pm Have I Got News for You	10:00pm Versailles	11:50pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	10:00pm Gogglebox	10:00pm Inside the Houses of Parliament	11:15pm Carling: In Off the Bar
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm QI	12:20am Benidorm	11:00pm Britain Today Tonight	11:00pm Mind the Age Gap	11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club
	11:25pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight		11:35pm Britain Today Tonight	12:00am Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	12:45am Sporting Triumphs
	11:35pm The Graham Norton Show	12:05am Later... with Jools Holland		12:05am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown		
12:25am Would I Lie to You?						
SATURDAY	5:30pm Final Score	3:15pm Flog It!	5:30pm Catchphrase	2:55pm Come Dine with Me	3:30pm FIA Formula e Live: Monaco	10:45am Soccer A.M.
	6:20pm Who Dares Wins	4:00pm Trust Me I'm a Vet	6:15pm Britain's Got More Talent	3:25pm Come Dine with Me	5:15pm The Nightmare	12:30pm Football
	7:05pm BBC News	5:00pm Gardeners' World	7:15pm Local News and Weather	3:55pm A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun	7:15pm Neighbour Next Door Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	1:30pm Football
	7:15pm Regional News	6:00pm Women's FA Cup Final	7:25pm ITV News and Weather	4:55pm Big House, Little House	9:05pm NCIS: Los Angeles	4:00pm Live ATP Masters 1000 - Madrid
	7:20pm Weather	8:30pm Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose	7:45pm Take Me Out	6:00pm Channel 4 News	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	6:00pm Great Sporting Moments
	7:25pm Pointless	9:00pm Dad's Army	9:00pm Britain's Got Talent	6:30pm Formula 1	10:00pm NCIS	6:15pm Football
	8:15pm Doctor Who	9:30pm Woman in Gold	10:15pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	8:00pm The Restoration Man	10:00pm NCIS	9:00pm Gary Neville: The Pundit
	9:00pm Eurovision Song Contest 2017	11:10pm Match of the Day	10:45pm The Mask	9:00pm Walks with My Dog	12:00am The Moors Murders: Britain's Worst Crimes	9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day
	12:25am BBC News	12:25am Versailles	11:45pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm 12 Years a Slave		11:30pm Nissan Match Choice
	12:40am Weather	1:25am Therese Desqueyroux	12:00am The Mask	12:35am AVP: Alien vs. Predator		12:30pm Peter Crouch: PL 100 Club
SUNDAY	7:35pm BBC News	6:00pm Athletics	3:05pm The Chase	2:30pm Doctor Dolittle	4:10pm On Benefits	1:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:50pm Regional News	7:00pm Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods are Made	4:05pm Britain's Got Talent	4:10pm Location, Location, Location	5:10pm On Benefits	3:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	7:55pm Weather	8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	5:20pm Live and Let Die	5:15pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm Britain's Best Loved Double Acts	5:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	8:00pm Countryfile	9:00pm Mexico	7:35pm Local News and Weather	6:15pm Escape to Costa Rica	9:00pm Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud	9:00pm Goals on Sunday
	9:00pm British Academy Television Awards	10:00pm Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay	7:45pm ITV News and Weather	7:15pm Channel 4 News	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	10:00pm Football Gold
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Half of a Yellow Sunday	8:00pm Bigheads	7:45pm Formula 1	10:00pm When Game Shows Go Horribly Wrong	10:15pm Football Gold
	11:20pm Regional News	12:45am Memento	9:00pm The Durrells	10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	1:05am The Best of Bad TV	10:30pm Football Gold
	11:25pm Weather		10:00pm Grantchester	11:00pm Surviving the Island with Bear Grylls	2:00am Super Casino	10:45pm Football Gold
	11:30pm Match of the Day 2		11:00pm ITV News and Weather	12:00am Prisoners		11:00pm Premier League
	12:45am Murder in Successville		11:20pm Peston on Sunday			11:30pm Premier League
MONDAY	8:00pm The One Show	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm ITV Evening News	8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:30pm Neighbours	4:00pm Premier League Highlights
	8:30pm Fake Britain	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:55pm Party Election Broadcast	7:00pm Home and Away	4:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	9:00pm EastEnders	7:45pm Debatable	8:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Food Unwrapped	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	5:00pm Premier League Highlights
	9:30pm Panorama	8:30pm Great British Menu	9:00pm Tonight: The Leader Interviews	9:30pm The Fake News Show	7:55pm Party Election Broadcast on Behalf of Plaid Cymru	6:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	10:00pm Doctor in the House	9:00pm Nature's Miniature	9:30pm Coronation Street	10:00pm Ivanka Tru America's Real First Lady?	8:00pm The Cars That Made Britain Great	7:00pm Premier League Highlights
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm The Day the Dinosaurs Died	10:00pm Little Boy Blue	11:00pm Loaded	9:00pm Police Interceptors	8:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Detectorists	11:00pm ITV News	11:55pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	10:00pm Inside the Gang	8:30pm Live Monday Night Football
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	11:55pm Don't Ask Me, Ask Britain	12:55am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners	11:00pm Rise of the Krays	8:00pm Football
	11:45pm Match of the Day	12:10am Weather	12:20am Joanna Lumley's Postcards		12:00am 5 News	11:00pm Premier League Review
	12:15am Have I Got a Bit More News for You		1:20am Jackpot247			12:15am Football Gold
TUESDAY	7:00pm BBC News	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm Home and Away	1:00pm Premier League Legends
	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	2:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	8:00pm The One Show	7:45pm Debatable	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:55pm Party Election Broadcast on Behalf of the Conservative Party	2:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:30pm Great British Menu	8:30pm Save Money Good Food	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Police Interceptors	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	9:00pm Holby City	9:00pm Bake Off Crème de la Crème	9:00pm Don't Ask Me Ask Britain	8:55pm Party Election Broadcast	9:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Elizabeth I	3:30pm Monday Night Football
	10:00pm Three Girls	10:00pm Horizon	10:00pm Long Lost Family: What Happened Next?	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls	4:00pm Live Indian Premier League
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Later Live... with Jools Holland	11:00pm ITV News	10:00pm One Born EveryMinute	11:00pm Liberace: In Life and Death	8:30pm Football
	11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:50pm Little Boy Blue	11:00pm First Dates	12:05am Hannibal	11:15pm Premier League Review
	11:40pm Weather	12:10am Weather	12:50am Car Crash Britain Caught on Camera	12:05am Confessions of a Junior Doctor		12:15am Football Gold
	11:45pm The Truth About Sleep					
12:45am Life After Suicide						
WEDNESDAY	6:15pm Pointless	4:45pm The Wonder of Animals	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News at 5	2:30pm Premier League Legends
	7:00pm BBC News	5:15pm Rise of the Continents	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm Neighbours	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	7:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	3:30pm Premier League Legends
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	4:00pm Live Indian Premier League
	9:00pm Shop Well for Less	7:45pm Debatable	9:00pm Tonight at the London Palladium	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:55pm Party Election Broadcast on Behalf of the Labour Party	8:30pm Football
	10:00pm Three Girls	8:30pm Great British Menu	10:00pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow	8:55pm Party Election Broadcast	8:00pm Chris Tarrant's Extreme Railway Journeys	11:15pm Barclays Premier League World
	11:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Trust Me I'm a Vet	11:00pm ITV News	9:00pm How to Live Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:45pm Football Gold
	11:30pm Regional News	10:00pm A Time to Live	11:55pm On Assignment	10:00pm Isis: The Origins of Violence	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away	12:00pm Football's Greatest
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	12:30am British Touring Car Championship Highlights	11:35pm Gogglebox		12:30am Football's Greatest
	11:45pm A Question of Sport	12:10am Weather		12:35am One Born Every Minute		



Advertising feature

# With HiFX international money transfers, there's no fees, no fuss

IF you need to send money abroad - perhaps to transfer a mortgage or pension, or just to make a one-off payment - your first instinct might be to turn to your bank. Many people will assume that this is the easiest method, or that their bank will offer them the best deal, but this might not be the best option for you.

At HiFX, we're dedicated to saving you time and money, whatever the reason for your international money transfer. Every month, we use an independent company to check all the UK high street banks and building societies to make sure our rate is better. We can help you save money in two ways:

## 1. Absolutely no transfer fees

With HiFX, you'll pay no transfer fees whatsoever, regardless of the amount you are transferring.

Opening an account is free, plus we don't charge fees for receiving money or any other transfer fees on foreign exchange transactions. There are no monthly charges either.

£10,000 will get you		Additional Fees
<b>HiFX</b>	<b>€11,507</b>	<b>No Fees</b>
Lloyds	€11,235	£9.50
NatWest	€11,216	£30
HSBC	€11,173	£4
Barclays	€11,162	£15

These exchange rates were obtained online at 9.45am on Wednesday 29th March 2017 based on sending an international money transfer of £10,000 in £s as quickly as possible.

## EXCHANGE RATES: You can get a quote at any time using our online system.

Please note that this does not include the cost of you transferring funds to HiFX or any charges incurred where the funds are being sent in a different currency to the destination bank account.

## 2. Bank-beating exchange rates

To get an idea of how much you could save, we compared the rates and fees for transferring £10,000 into Euros using the main UK high street banks:

With a HiFX account, you can get a quote at any time using our online system, which will make it clear to you exactly what exchange rate you will be getting. When you see a rate you are comfortable with, you can make a transfer online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To find out more about how HiFX could save you time and money, please contact our team of friendly experts: [spain@hifx.co.uk](mailto:spain@hifx.co.uk). You can also call our Costa del Sol office on 951 203 986 or our Costa Blanca office on 966 764 934.

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## Can you wash your hands?

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



I STOPPED to fill my car with petrol and I use a garage where the attendant does it for you. So I was sitting in my car and he started to fill my tank. At the same time my phone rang so I answered it. The attendant was at the back of the car but standing on the other side.

On the forecourt was his mate who waved at me and signalled, by using his thumb and little finger and placing it to his ear, and then changing it to give me the wiggly 'no don't do that' finger gesture. This, in normal circumstances is fine, except this guy had a lit ciggy in his other hand! I mean, it's bad enough that they have these signs saying don't use your phone in a garage when there has never been a reported incident of it blowing the place up, but to tell me not to use my phone whilst he has a lit ciggy is just nuts.

Talking of signs, here are a few others that set me off. When I was in the UK a little while ago there was a sign in the gent's toilet which said 'now wash your hands.' That's fine but it then went on to show you, by the use of diagrams, how to wash them. Yup a sign showing you how to wash your hands. Now, I'm not the sharpest tool in the box, but I don't think

there is anybody in the living civilised world, over the age of four, that doesn't know how to wash their hands. You stick them under the tap, turn the water on, add soap, rub them together then rinse and dry.

The even crazier part is that some idiot somewhere has spent money on producing these dumbass signs and got paid to do it!

How about this one. At the entrance to the urbanisation where I live is a map that shows you how to get to all the different Phases of which there are five. It's a great idea because it's a big urbanisation and there is a one way system just to confuse you even further. However, there is just one problem. The map has been printed upside down so anyone who looks at it for the first time has not got a hope in hell of finding how to get anywhere.

We told the town hall, who put it there, and two years later it's still there this upside down useless sign that cost a fortune to make. The last one for now is when you are driving down the road and all of a sudden, without any warning, there is the sign that says the road is closed and you can't go any further. How hard is it to put a sign at the top of the road and at other entrances that the road is closed ahead? So now you have to find a way to turn around, usually in a confined space and then find another way to complete your journey.

What signs have you seen? Let me know. [mikesenker@gmail.com](mailto:mikesenker@gmail.com)

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Speeding fines

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

**SPEED CAMPAIGN:**  
Targeted mainly the secondary road network.



DURING the latest seven-day campaign focusing on speeding motorists, the Guardia Civil checked some 581,294 vehicles on Spain's roads. Officers found 31,086 were in breach of the law, however the controls conducted by the various local and regional police force also need to be added to these figures, so it is expected to be considerably higher.

The campaign targeted mainly the secondary road network where the majority of serious and fatal incidents occur.

Four of the drivers stopped now face criminal proceedings after they were found to be exceeding the maximum permitted speed limit by more than 80km per hour.

Drivers caught speeding face fines of between €100-600 plus the loss of between two and six points. Exceeding the speed limit by

more than 60km per hour on urban roads, or 80km per hour on major roads, then becomes a criminal offence with the offender facing between six to 12 months in prison, community service and the loss of the driving licence for up to four years, as well as a substantial fine.

Remember, the DGT traffic department website has extended its information into English, French and German, to greater advise and inform foreign drivers.

Via [www.dgt.es](http://www.dgt.es) information is available in English which tells you what to do in the event of receiving a traffic violation ticket. It includes details on what to do if the offending driver is not the vehicle owner, how to pay the fine, either online or in person or at a bank, or appeal it, as well as contact details for speaking to someone about your fine.

For more news and articles visit [www.n332.es](http://www.n332.es) or search N332 on Facebook.

## What can a 'fed up' President do?

**Q.** I am President of a Community of Property Owners and I am about to resign the position. I am completely fed up with some owners who have everything to SAY but will not stand for President. One main problem is our Administrators. When you quote anything to them, they just say, that is their opinion. You never see the rules, that is, the law. When I

quote you, they never agree with what you quote or say. Only, that is his opinion. Can I insist that the new President appoint a new administration company? Can I insist that we appoint a British accountant to audit the books for the last 15 years? I strongly feel that nothing adds up. They will not do the accounts in English, only in Spanish.

*B J C (Costa Blanca)*

**A.** I hope you feel better for getting it off your chest. Keep in mind that you will not resign as President. You will officially be President until the Com-

**David Searl**  
You and the Law in Spain



community votes in a new one.

The President does not appoint the Administrators. The Community must do that by majority vote at the AGM. The same goes for the naming of auditors.

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

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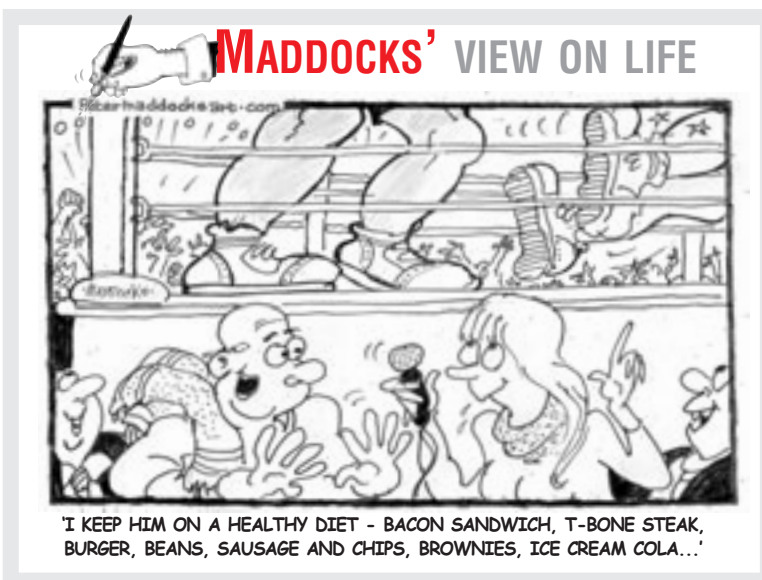
## Kakuro

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.

	14	12	32	7	8
27					
25					
	11			18	
	3	10			11
23					
19					

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	17	27	25		
8	5	9			
3	8	6	2		
1	7		7	6	
5	6		6	8	
	1	8	9	2	
		7	8	3	



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

O	I	L
R	G	A
M	R	E

TARGET:

- Average: 10 • Good: 14
- Very good: 20 • Excellent: 25

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

deer dire doer drew erne ewer iron nerd noir redo reed rein rend ride rind rode weir were wire word wore worn wren diner dower dried droid drone drown eider erode newer odder owner reded redid renew rowed rowen weird wider wired denier deride dewier dinero downer droned eroded ironed nodder redded redone reined rewind ridden weirdo winder wonder worded dowdier dowered downier drowned ironweed wondered EIDERDOWN

## LOTTERY

### UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday May 06

5	34	36	BONUS BALL
38	39	48	30

### IRISH LOTTO

Saturday May 06

3	7	17	BONUS BALL
21	22	28	2

### EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday May 02

6	19	23	BONUS BALL
25	27	11	12

Friday May 05

3	7	30	BONUS BALL
35	43	1	3

### LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday May 06

1	22	26	BONUS BALL
27	31	34	3

### EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday May 07

2	21	37	BONUS BALL
51	53	6	

## YOUR STARS FOR 7 DAYS

### GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)

A fleeting meeting stirs feelings that you thought were dead. This could be good if it reminds you of how life can be, or bad if it makes you think of missed opportunities. It is never too late to make a fresh start. Why not go on that painting holiday or stamp-collecting weekend? Pole dancing anyone?

### CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)

Someone really has rattled your tree, but try to refrain from throwing coconuts on their head. It is much more effective to be charming and get them confused.

### LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)

Are you feeling that you have been dealt a rough hand? Consider this: there are some who are not dealt a hand at all. Many are missing those few cards that mean they are never really in with a chance. Instead of lurking on the shady side, walk out into the sun. You will soon see the bright side.

### VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)

A chance remark opens a can of worms. Trying to get them back in could turn out to be very messy. We all open our mouth and put our foot in it sometime. However, over-reacting won't help. You will need help with something this week.

### LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)

Someone who is usually quite the op-

### TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)

Get out in the fresh air as much as possible and be kind to your body. You may have neglected yourself because you have been such a busy bee of late. What about a trip to the seaside or a walk in the hills? Maybe a trip to the local cocktail bar is more your style! Whatever puts a spring in your step will be good.

posite to you will surprise with an offer. Although you are naturally suspicious, give them the benefit of the doubt. Leopards do not change their spots but they are capable of behaving for the bigger good.

### SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)

An intimate meeting is less exciting than anticipated. This should not bother you because time could yet change that. You need to be in the right place at the right time, so don't give up hope, just have a little patience. A change of plans will be more beneficial than irksome, at least in the longer term.

### SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)

While counting your pennies, also count your blessings. Money can be a big problem or merely an irritation but the lack of it must be kept in perspective. You are right to think twice about accepting something that seems to be for nothing.

### CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)

The goat in you is keen to find pastures new. It isn't a nibble that is needed at the moment, but a feast. Accepting anything less would be a mistake because

someone is watching your reaction to an offer. If you feel unsure of your worth, then ask a few trusted friends. It is so hard to see ourselves. Heed their words.

### AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)

Don't allow an open-ended offer to muddle your mind. There is no need for an immediate decision and this may be too soon for a positive move. A sense of urgency may be put down to practical reasons when, in fact, it is no such thing. A feeling of insecurity is more likely to be the trigger to uncertainty.

### PISCES ♓ (February 20 - March 20)

Are things going swimmingly? Good. Maybe you had forgotten how to have real fun. Remember when you were a child? Life was so simple. Relax and be that child again. If some old fogey accuses you of being silly, feel sorry for them.

### ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)

Awkward situations usually bring out the best in you and this week proves that. In the longer term, you will be grateful to those making things difficult now.

## 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.

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

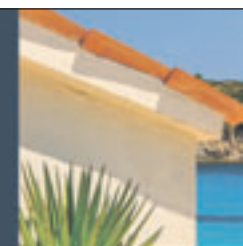
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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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

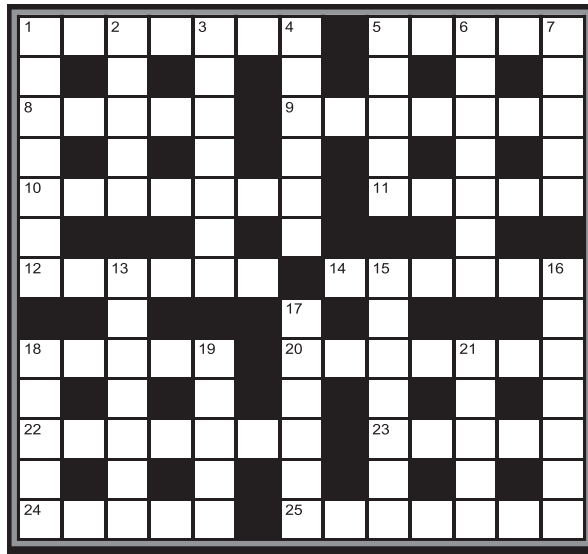
### Cryptic

**Across**

- 1 Roars used for getting the fire going (7)
- 5 Core and front of building unaltered (5)
- 8 Moves towards or from one arson attack (5)
- 9 Charge a politician in a temper (7)
- 10 Some of the next remedies will be radical (7)
- 11 Arranged loans for the beauty parlour (5)
- 12 Disturbed fish surrounded by poles (6)
- 14 Deb riskily concealed remains (6)
- 18 Get rid of in the Channel (5)
- 20 Increase general confusion (7)
- 22 Begins tantrum in a moment (7)
- 23 Asked questions of confused dopes (5)
- 24 Nasal cavity of head of state in America (5)
- 25 Elizabethan poet's son writes to the Queen (7)

**Down**

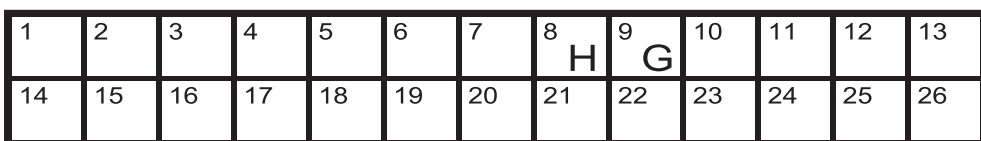
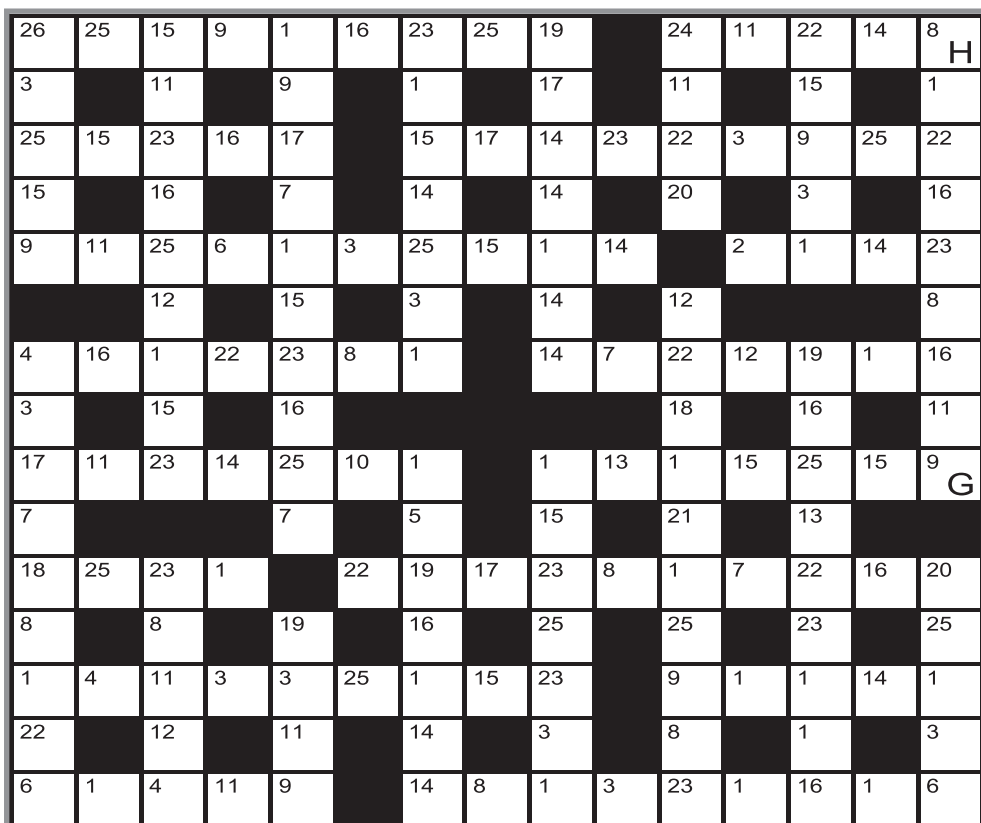
- 1 Standards set by including Queen in marriage proclamation (7)
- 2 Jumped in meadow and a gym (5)
- 3 Old boy with part in play that is rude (7)
- 4 Plant in some faiths or religions (6)
- 5 Knocks tramps gone soft in the middle (5)
- 6 Office device made from plaster (7)
- 7 Grim extract from a Boris Pasternak novel (5)
- 13 Trains with a different skilled worker (7)



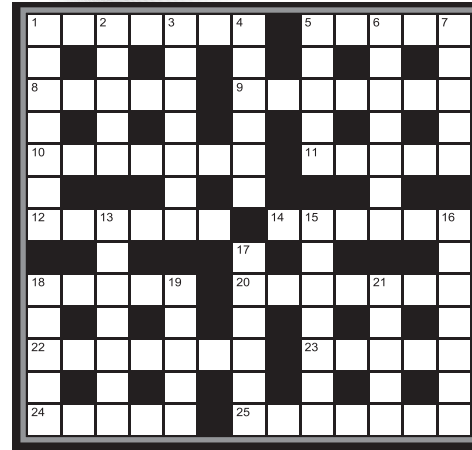
- 15 Better sun block (7)
- 16 Slight change of lenders (7)
- 17 Confinements, we hear, in beds (6)
- 18 Doctor has one afterthought for boring fellows (5)
- 19 Shade affected people in charge (5)
- 21 Lazies in a forest setting (5)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 8 represents H and 9 represents G, so fill in H every time the figure 8 appears and G every time the figure 9 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.

### Code Breaker



### Quick



**Across**

- 1 Sleepwear (7)
- 5 Start (5)
- 8 Attempts (5)
- 9 Supply (7)
- 10 Unfriendly (7)
- 11 Sovereigns (5)
- 12 Respite (6)
- 14 Not often (6)
- 18 Elegant and stylish (5)
- 20 Foes (7)
- 22 Ape (7)
- 23 Over (5)
- 24 Symbols (5)
- 25 Gratify (7)

**Down**

- 1 Ewer (7)
- 2 Unites (5)
- 3 Huge (7)
- 4 Light evening meal (6)
- 5 Obstruct (5)
- 6 Smiled broadly (7)
- 7 Requires (5)
- 13 Departing (7)
- 15 Stylish (7)
- 16 Enigma (7)
- 17 Alcove (6)
- 18 Turns around (5)
- 19 Rips (5)
- 21 Driving clubs (5)

### CRYPTIC

**Across:**

- 1 User, 4 Disaster, 8 Caesar,
- 9 Robins, 10 Mere, 11 Condense,
- 13 Controversial, 16 Emergent,
- 19 Reef, 20 Cannes, 22 Shower,
- 23 Toasters, 24 Tess.

**Down:**

- 2 Stateroom, 3 Respect, 4 Doric,
- 5 Strange, 6 Sable, 7 Eon,
- 12 Shameless, 14 Oversee,
- 15 Sort out, 17 Ranks, 18 Tasks,
- 21 Ado.

### QUICK

**Across:**

- 1 Strop, 5 Piece, 8 Legal,
- 9 Calypso, 10 Light, 11 Aware,
- 12 Expand, 14 Plunge, 18 Gecko,
- 20 Exact, 22 Abolish, 23 Eager,
- 24 Erode, 25 Risotto.

**Down:**

- 1 Salvage, 2 Regal, 3 Polygon,
- 4 Yachts, 5 Polka, 6 Explain,
- 7 Evoke, 13 Piccolo, 15 Leaders,
- 16 Embargo, 17 Tether, 18 Glare,
- 19 Ovine, 21 Tight.

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

**Across:**

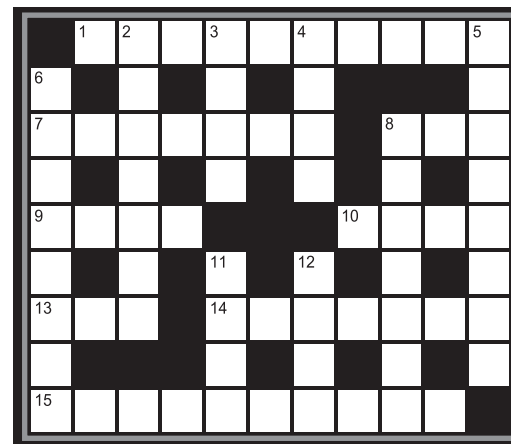
- 1 Flag, 3 Twin, 8 Lie,
- 9 Amapola, 10 Raindrops,
- 14 Cowbell, 16 Sea, 17 Ants,
- 18 Asno.

**Down:**

- 1 Film, 2 Abeja, 4 Who,
- 5 Neat, 6 Painter, 7 Barrels,
- 11 Pasas, 12 Acta, 13 Mano,
- 15 Wet.

### English - Spanish

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



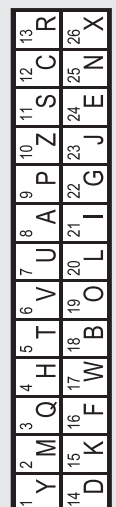
**Across**

- 1 Periódicos (10)
- 7 Government-licensed tobacconist's (7)
- 8 See 9
- 9/8 Alfombra de baño (4,3)
- 10 To pray (say prayers) (4)
- 13 Handle (of basket, bucket, jug) (3)
- 14 Iron (for clothes) (7)
- 15 Aprons (10)

**Down**

- 2 Statue (7)
- 3 Arena (tierra) (4)
- 4 Love (between people) (4)
- 5 Sábado (8)
- 6 Teclado (8)
- 8 Milagro (7)
- 11 Abierto (4)
- 12 Berry (4)

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## LETTERS

## YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters for Your Say should be emailed to [yoursay@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:yoursay@euroweeklynews.com) or make your comments straight on our website: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com)

# Sedition and treason

SIR,

'Sedition; actively promoting and advocating a movement to overthrow a legitimately constituted authority.'

Spain's prime minister Mariano Rajoy should have reacted immediately (almost four years ago!) in response to Catalan president Arthur Mas' call to separate from Spain to form an independent and sovereign 'nation' by imprisoning the rebel for treason.

Instead, Sr Rajoy simply repeats again and again that he won't allow the illegal and unconstitutional referendum to be held in the Catalan 'nation.'

And as Commander-in-Chief of the only legitimate 'Spanish Nation;' he should stop talking so much and act decisively to finally call a halt to this seemingly endless and harmful farce that is undermining the already downtrodden morale and confidence of Spanish citizens. Time to practice a bit of the old reliable 'actions speak louder than words.'

In the USA we had a Civil War that lasted four years (1861-1865) over 'sedition and treason,' but even then, at least nine of our 31 states were rebelling from the Union, and not just one; as is the present case today in the Catalonia Province.

*Richard M McBride,  
Benidorm*

## Voting rights

WHAT a cheek! Long-term expats who abandoned their homeland for a Mediterranean lifestyle years ago want the right to vote on the UK's future.

OK, if that's what they want let them have a vote, subject to a satisfactory inspection of their tax affairs by HMRC and Hacienda. That should thin their ranks and lessen the cacophony of self-interested whingeing.

*Peter Rogers  
Benahavis*

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

## Causing a stink



SEWAGE SMELL: Cuts off your breath.

“ DID you notice? The 'depuradora' in Benalmadena is again causing stink in the area around the Avenida Palmeras roundabout by the sea!

Every night they let the waste water run down and on its way towards the sea it causes a stink that cuts off your breath.

On Thursday April 19, with the wind so strong and the sea very rough, the whole waste got kind of churned up by the violent sea and then the stink like sewer was dispersed by the air even during the day time.

Does the town hall try to cover it up at the beginning of the tourist season? Has the money to fix it gone away? Please investigate and warn the people of the health risks over inhaling the polluted air!

*Fran Drews  
Benalmadena*

## Double standards

I MUST comment on two articles in your Mallorca paper, *edition 1660*. Firstly, Mike Senker's comments on bars having to put outside seating areas on decking.

In Puerto Pollensa, one very busy street for tourists, they followed these instructions last year. Now the council, who forced two bars and a Spanish bike hire business to put these in, have decided to withdraw use of the road.

So, firstly the council insist on decking, and less than a year later, insist that it's taken down. And never

anyone to ask. Just shrugged shoulders.

Secondly, the transformation of Magaluf into a 'first class' resort. This has been going on for 30 years, since the Calvia area became the biggest money area in all of Spain.

The council took the money and thought that was it. But Magaluf is too big to fill up with your words, 'a more discerning guest.'

Don't bite the hand that feeds you springs to mind. I will say Mallorca has now become a more cosmopolitan up-market holiday isle, but it should be for all, because in most cases, the 'all' spend more money.

*R K Lutschan,  
Puerto Pollensa, Mallorca*

## COMMENTS from EWN Online

### » EU leaders approve negotiating strategy

I GUESS this must be a record for the EU Council and the 27 EU countries actually coming to a decision, they can't even come to an agreement on the name of a corridor in one of their buildings after several hours and yet this is sorted in minutes. Lol

*Mike in ESP*

### » Missing couple safely back home in Malaga

GREAT to see the Spanish government supporting its citizens. Hopefully this is a happy ending instead of what could have been.

*Saya Sendiri*

### » Britain and Europe at loggerheads over Brexit

WHERE is the base point, the EU accounts have never been given a clean audit certificate because of all the fraud and irregularities? Will Brussels use the same accounting techniques for Brexit negotiations they use in Greek debt calculations (and Spanish deficits)?

*Drew Edgar*

SHE is not confused in the slightest. She is fighting tooth and nail in the interests of the top richest 10 per cent of UK citizens. They provided all the information and news which caused poorer people to vote Brexit. The very rich own nearly all of the UK media. It's called brainwashing.

*Peter*

### » Scientists called in to save Marbella's beaches

THE obvious answer is to put concrete pillars beneath the waves maybe a hundred metres offshore. This will break the force of the waves and save the sand on the beaches. Once again here in Marbella they are placing tons of sand on the beaches to repair that which has been washed away.

*Roy Peters*

### » Jumbo bunny dies on United Airlines flight

MY problem isn't so much with planes as it is with airports - so much less terrifying than your well-articulated issues with flying. I just get fed up with the incessant queues, indifferent officials, endless waiting around and needless delays.

*Chris*

### » Stephen Fry blasphemy

FRY didn't specify any religion, but directed his remarks about 'God.' God doesn't belong to any religion, and the only person who could testify that God had been insulted or blasphemed would be God. I think this whole thing is ridiculous. If people have the freedom of speech to praise God, then others should have the freedom of speech to express their opinion about God.

I think if God could be contacted he would say: 'Lads, don't be acting like eejits. Let the Garda get on with their serious work to fight crime.' I think that God should be called as a witness if there is a trial, and to the best of my knowledge nobody has an address to contact God.

*Les Serff*

### » Donkeys painted yellow

THEY don't care about animals. Still hundreds of festivals where cruelty to animals is involved, dogs left alone on properties to bark day and night and pigeons and little birds shut in tiny cages too.

*Rosemary Harknett*

## HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com)



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# Are you one of the 9%?

**ASTHMA:**  
The use of inhalers requires greater teaching.

WORLD ASTHMA DAY has been marked in Spain as experts say there are currently around 235 million asthma patients around the world.

According to the World Health Organisation, (WHO) asthma deaths will increase by almost 20 per cent in the next 10 years if no urgent action is taken. Asthma cannot be cured, but with proper diagnosis and treatment and patient education, it can be controlled and a good quality of life enjoyed. One of the main forms of treatment is through the use of an inhaler, however, reports say that only 9 per cent of asthma patients in Spain, use their inhaler correctly.

A specialist department at Barcelona's Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, said inhaled therapy is recommended for asthma as it directly reaches the lungs, but many people do use the inhaler correctly and the medication does not reach the respiratory tract. The Respiratory Group of the Spanish Society of Family and Community Pharmacies, added that many patients also have more than one

inhaler to use and often forget which one to use when.

They stress that the use of inhalers requires greater teaching and control by medical staff, both doctors, nurses and pharmacists, at the time of prescribing the device, to ensure it is correctly and effectively used.

Another frequent error is that the condition can have phases of stability, resulting in the patient deciding not to take their medication. However, this can lead to a long term worsening of the condition.

Asthma is one of the most prevalent chronic respiratory diseases in Spain, affecting around 5 per cent of adults and 8-10 per cent of children.



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Dr. Andreas Ludwig Jenke



## Ask the Optician: The link between smoking and sight loss

By Andrés Román Romero, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Santa Ponsa

MAY 31 is World No Tobacco Day and so in support of this important cause I wanted to explain the links between smoking and eyesight in the hope that it will help readers to take the decision to give up on World No Tobacco Day.

■ **How can smoking affect my eyes?** When you inhale a cigarette, approximately 4,000 chemicals such as nicotine, tar, arsenic and ammonia enter your bloodstream and travel throughout your body. Some of these substances cause blood vessels at the back of the eye to burst, damaging the macula and ultimately leading to loss of vision. This is known as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of severe vision loss for people over the age of 55 in the western world. Smokers more than double their risk of developing AMD and according to the World Health Organisation the only established modifiable risk factor is smoking.

■ **Can it cause any other complications with the eyes?** Yes, as well as the early onset of AMD, smokers also have a higher likelihood

of developing cataracts, a common cause of blindness and visual impairment. In addition, nicotine slowly poisons the optic nerve, causing impaired colour vision and smokers are more than twice as likely to experience dry eye syndrome. Smoking also increases your chance of getting diabetes, which can lead to blindness and is also linked to high blood pressure which is a risk factor for developing glaucoma.

■ **What can I do?** The first thing to do is to try to quit smoking, or at least significantly cut down, to reduce the risk of all of these health issues and many more. Then go to see your optician to check your eyes are healthy and your sight is good. If your optician spots signs of any health conditions, they will refer you to a medical professional for diagnosis and treatment.

Specsavers Opticas is located in Santa Ponsa, Avda Rei Jaume I, 117, Locales 14 y 15, Santa Ponsa, 07180, Mallorca. Call 871 964331 or visit [www.specsavers.es](http://www.specsavers.es) to make an appointment for a free eye test.

## Mutual massage is beneficial

GIVING a massage will not only make your partner feel good, but it will make you feel pretty good too.

That's according to researchers who got couples to spend 15 minutes giving their partner a massage two or three times a week. They found that couples who did this showed significant improvements in their well-being, stress and relationship satisfaction.

The study, which involved 38 couples, reports those who gave the massage felt around 9 per cent better overall, compared to 12 per cent for those who received the massage. It measured their mental well-being during a three-week course where they were taught massage skills and three weeks after it had finished.

Nine out of 10 couples in the study said they would recommend mutual massage.

## Ask The Doctor

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## Pain of sciatica



| SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

### 1. What is sciatica and when does it usually occur?

Sciatica is simply pain felt in the lumbar area of the legs usually caused by a pinched nerve. Although it can happen at any age, it tends to be most common amongst the elderly due to arthritis in the spinal column. It can also appear after strenuous physical activities causing herniated discs.

### 2. What are the symptoms?

The main symptoms of sciatica are muscle cramps, back pains that can spread to the legs as well as difficulty in making certain movements, and in some cases being unable to move your legs.

### 3. What causes sciatica?

The main causes of sciatica are arthritis and herniated discs in the spine. They are most common amongst the elderly and the young after overexerting themselves lifting heavy loads, or bad posture when sitting, among other things.

### 4. How can it be treated?

Usually a course of anti-

inflammatories, analgesics, muscle relaxants and rest are effective in managing the symptoms. Depending on the cause of a person's sciatica it may be necessary to have an operation, such as having herniated discs.

Physiotherapy is also very beneficial for sciatica sufferers.

### 5. Can you prevent having sciatica?

Certain exercises which strengthen muscles, avoiding bad postures, not overexerting when lifting and sitting correctly are all ways to minimise the chances of suffering from sciatica.

### 6. Is there a specific exercise which helps?

Any form of exercise which does not strain your back is helpful, as it strengthens your muscles and helps improve blood flow.

Generally swimming, yoga, pilates and other similar exercises are all very beneficial.

### 7. Is it hereditary?

In general it is not hereditary. Just because parents suffer from sciatica it does not mean their children will too.

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

## Are you lonely?

MEN could be lonelier than you think. A report has concluded that as many as 35 per cent of men in the UK feel lonely at least once a week, while 11 per cent admitted to feeling lonely most days.

The study was carried out by social media site Gransnet, which reported that the older generation are suffering from an 'epidemic of loneliness' with almost three-quarters describing themselves as lonely. Almost two in five said they could go for days without speaking to anyone and nearly half said they had felt lonely for years



LONELINESS: Some men have felt lonely for years.

as the study authors warned that many, particularly pensioners, were suffering in silence with over 70 per cent

saying their family would be shocked to learn they felt lonely.

Over 25 per cent of men aged 65 to 69 blamed retirement for their loneliness as they had lost that connection with going to work and being around colleagues, although the study found that 35 was the age when a man felt the loneliest.

Moving away from family and friends was also a main cause of loneliness in respondents, as well as going through a break up, being unemployed and the death of a family member.

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## Making access easy for the disabled

THE first electric car in Spain adapted for people with reduced mobility, has been created.

The Nissan eNV200 has been adapted thanks to the expertise of ILUNION Adaptación de Vehículos which belongs to the ONCE group of social enterprises and its Foundation.

ILUNION said the technical department of Nissan was instrumental in developing this first

prototype as there are very strict protocols and guidelines to be followed on this type of vehicle.

The Nissan is a five-seater vehicle and has space for a person in a wheelchair. ILUNION hopes this could be a 'car of the future' for those with disabilities and opens the door to electric taxis being more accessible in cities and making services more environmentally friendly.



Advertising feature

# Authentic Italian cuisine

CASA MICHAELA is a restaurant that offers authentic Italian cuisine and is situated in the centre of the neighbourhood, Santa Catalina.

They serve home-made fresh pasta and also offer starters, including risotto, selected meats, fish and seafood and their famous desserts. They also serve fresh salads, wonderful sea bass and excellent burrata, which is a semi-soft Italian cheese, made from mozzarella and cream.

Luca and Michaela, who run the restaurant, are proud of their staff; in giving customers the best service and making them feel welcome. Their service even extends to bringing out a fleecy blanket to keep you warm, when it gets a bit cooler. This is one of the many details that customers can look forward to, when visiting. Customers are also guaranteed some extra special touches from chef Luca.

Casa Michaela offers a culinary experience that will be unforgettable. They put a great deal of passion into their menu and dishes that are served with an artistic flair. All the products are bought on a daily basis, from the market, locally, nationally and internationally. Their secret to success is their attention, which is given to sourcing ingredients that provide the customer



**CASA MICHAELA: Giving customers a warm welcome and the best service.**

with fresh tasting and traditional flavours of Italian food.

The food is flawless, has great ingredients and excellent presentation, and the same can be said for the restaurant that has a beautiful decor and well presented tables, giving a glamorous ambience to the place.

Their philosophy is based on many years' ex-

perience in travelling to other countries, and using what knowledge they have gathered to offer a high quality product.

Their mission is that customers enjoy their food and promise to cater and create food for any particular requirement. Their aim is to engage the client; so that the restaurant becomes a port of call for the guest and a place they will be



guaranteed a lovely evening and a special place to return, time and time again.

Their specialities are salmon tagliatelle, steak entrecote and steak with liver, vegetable lasagne; buffalo salad and lemon sea bass. They offer a menu of specials that are changed, on a weekly basis.

They are open from Monday to Saturday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and 6.30pm to 11pm. To make a reservation, telephone 871 935 265 or email [casamichaela2015@gmail.com](mailto:casamichaela2015@gmail.com) or website [www.casamichaela.com](http://www.casamichaela.com).

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# Tasty local lunch

AN exciting new farmers market opened to resounding success and will run for another three weeks until the end of May at least.

The next Puerto Portals Farmers Market is this Sunday May 14, with other scheduled for May 21 and 28.

More than your classic farmers market, the next few weeks will include meditation and yoga classes, martial arts training, children's activities, crafts workshops, tai chi and a brilliant variety of other exciting things to do.

Some of the best hand crafted goods that can be found on Mallorca will be at the market alongside some of the island's finest fresh produce. Live music, artisan beer and organic wine will ensure



**TASTY PRODUCE:** Farmer's market each Sunday until the end of May.

it's a fine day out too.

All products are 100 per cent natural to the Balearic Islands with stalls selling a splendid variety of fruit, veg, meats, cheeses and snacks. A full Mallorcan-style brunch is also available.

There will be a charitable aspect too with purchases being matched by farmers who will donate food to

families in need.

This Sunday the schedule involves Kanga training at 10am, a children's food workshop at 11am, and live music from 12pm.

The market opens from 10am until 3pm each Sunday and can be found right in the middle of Puerto Portals, which is a fantastic location for a weekend in its own right.



**PLACEBO:** London band set to perform at Mallorca Live.

# Fab festival weekend

THIS weekend's hotly anticipated Mallorca Live Festival suffered a major blow when it was revealed that legendary Scottish act Belle & Sebastian had to pull out at the last minute. Instead former Libertines DJ Gary Powell will take their spot on the MondoSonoro stage.

The festival kick starts on Friday May 12 and lasts just two days. Top artists performing include indie superstars Placebo and The Charlatans. The opening party with restricted tickets is on Thursday May 11 at Magaluf's Wave

House, starting at 6pm with dozens of DJ acts.

Other top acts include Spanish rock-pop duo Amaral and Andalusian hip-hop and flamenco artist Mala Rodriguez, said to be a favourite of Barack Obama. Plenty of local talent will be involved with 29 Mallorcan bands and DJs contributing to 20 hours of live music over two days.

Roughly 10,000 people are expected to swarm to Calvia's old Agua Park for what will surely be one of the best festivals of 2017.

# Special gala raising funds

ON Friday May 12 a special fundraiser for Marine Conservation around the Balearic Islands takes place at 'Coast' in Port Adriano. It is organised by Asociacion Ondine volunteers who are dedicated to saving Mallorca's troubled waters and those of the entire region.

The fun-packed evening involves drinks, live music and even a Capoeira display followed by a three-course meal, auction, dancing and a gig from DJ Alan Alvarez.

It is an excellent way to have a great time while raising funds and awareness for a hugely

important environmental cause. The group work tirelessly to combat pollution in Balearic seas by educating youngsters on the importance of green practices and calling for urgent specially protected areas to help marine ecosystems recover from decades of abuse.

Anyone interested in tickets can contact [fiona@asociacionondine.org](mailto:fiona@asociacionondine.org) or contact the group through their website. Asociacion Ondine hope to make this a regular event so don't worry if you miss this Friday's fundraiser.

Contact the group to find out more about future plans.

# Artistic expressions

A SELECTION of 10 powerful pieces of contemporary art is on display at the Krekovic Museum in Palma until mid-May. The exhibition is sponsored by the Mallorcan government and tackles stigma surrounding mental health issues.

The project evolved from detailed workshops involving artists, people with mental illnesses and the public. People worked to artistically represent the stigma faced by the mentally ill each day and how it impacts their perception of society.

Much of the work was done by sufferers themselves, adding to the potency of the pieces, their striking difference from 'everyday' art. The exhibit also represents a psychological breakthrough for many, who are able to express their emotions through art. Found in Palma's Krekovic Museum, a small institution that opened seven years ago, the exhibit has received excellent reviews.



## MODIGLIANI TRATTORIA & PIZZERIA

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# Breaking tattoo taboos

FROM May 17-24 the third Traditional Tattoo & World Culture Festival takes place on Mallorca. Live demonstrations, exhibitions and tattooing workshops will take over Calvia for a week as some of the world's top tattoo artists arrive on the island.

An estimated 6,000 spectators and 200 international artists will take part in the festival, which is held in El Molino, Santa Ponsa. There will also be lectures and documentary films about tattooing and specialised conferences on different techniques.

The focus is exclusively on traditional tattoo methods rather than modern trends. Festival-goers will explore different indigenous and tribal art forms while learning about the human history of tattooing.

There will be special segments on Native American, Maori, Nordic, Mayan and even Thai prison tattoos. Tickets can be bought online at [www.traditionaltattoofestival.com](http://www.traditionaltattoofestival.com) and cost just €10 for a day pass, €15 on the weekend, or €80 for the full eight days. Children under 12 get in free.



**TATTOO:** Festival shows extreme limits of human art.

# Good vibrations on the island

TICKETS are very quickly selling out for one of the performances of a lifetime set for Mallorca this summer. After they announced the Palma stage of their world tour, The Beach Boys have attracted huge attention across the island.

The iconic Californian band plays live at Son Fusteret, Palma on Sunday June 18, leaving fans just five weeks to get their tickets and prepare to see some classic hits.

The surf-rockers, unbelievably still going strong after all these years, will be pulling out all stops with crowd favourites Good Vibrations, Surfin USA and Wouldn't It Be Nice.

The gig is expected to be epic. An almost four-

hour time slot has been secured at the venue. Doors open at 8pm and the performance will last until midnight with supporting bands kicking off proceedings.

The Beach Boys are no strangers to Spain, having performed at Barcelona's massive Sonar festival.

Held at the Son Fusteret showground, a terrific open air venue, tickets cost €35 for standing, €55 sitting. VIP and Golden VIP tickets are available for €80 and €90. Tickets are still up for grabs but going very fast.

Grab yours now and see history live on Mallorca as one of pop's finest groups storm the world 56 years after their founding.

MUSIC on Mallorca continues to separate itself from Ibiza and the techno image of sunny Spain. In October the island will hold its first ever heavy metal music festival. It comes from the organisers of the popular Wacken Open Air festival which attracts top headbanging talent to Germany each year.

Heavy metal on the beach screams unusual but the Iberostar

# Heavy metal beach festival

Club in Cala Barca in Mallorca's south-east has offered to hold the festival. The dates are already set.

The week long festival will run from October 15 to October 22, nicely coinciding with Oktoberfest.

Bands including Kreator, Doro and Beyond the Black have already signed up with more top acts set to follow.

Though the first heavy metal concert on Mallorcan soil, it's not

the first in the island's waters. Since 2015 a heavy metal cruise package has been on offer for veteran rockers willing to fork out €1,129 for what is surely a unique experience.

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# The Sunday Times Rich List - Just to make you Feel Good

“Wealth is like sea-water; the more we drink, the thirstier we become; and the same is true of fame.  
Arthur Schopenhauer

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



**T**HERE ARE NOW MORE BILLIONAIRES living in the UK than ever before despite fears over Brexit, the *Sunday Times* Rich List has revealed

This year's list found the richest 1,000 people and families have a record total wealth of £658 billion, a rise of 14 per cent on last year's £575 billion figure.

The wealthiest people in the UK are elderly brothers Sri and Gopi Hinduja, whose latest project is to convert the Old War Office in London into a luxury five-star hotel and 88 luxury apartments for the super-rich.

The pair first topped the list in 2014 and now have a fortune of £16.2 billion, made



through investments spanning the oil and gas, automotive, IT, energy, media, banking, property and healthcare sectors.

They are now among 134 billionaires on the list - a record number in the UK and 14 more than last year's.

In today's world, being simply a millionaire no longer secures you a place on the Rich List, with a fund of £110 million now needed to get you a place in the top 1,000. Two decades ago people needed a fortune of only (sic) £15 million to make the cut.

Robert Watts, compiler of the rankings, said: "While many of us worried about the outcome of the EU referendum, many of the richest people just kept calm and carried on making billions."

**Gopichand Hinduja,  
joint richest man, with his brother,  
in the UK.**

**RELEASED THIS WEEK** here are the top five:

**1. Sri and Gopi Hinduja** - £16.2 billion. The brothers live in a £300 million mansion overlooking St James's Park.

**2. Len Blavatnik** - £15.982 billion. The Ukraine-born investor owns Warner Music Group and lives in his home in Kensington Palace Gardens.

**3. David and Simon Reuben** - £14 billion. The brothers made their money in London property and internet. They bought a £70 million car park in Mayfair in 2015 which will be turned into a £500 million redevelopment.

**4. Lakshmi Mittal and family** - £13.229 billion. The world's top steelmaker is also a shareholder in QPR football club.

**5. Alisher Usmanov** - £11.791 billion. He owns a 30 per cent stake in Arsenal and made his money from mining and investment.

Can't see many 'British' names there - can you??

(courtesy of the *Sunday Times*)

**AND SPEAKING OF MILLIONS**, regular readers may recall me mentioning about how in the 80's cities were closing banks down and entrepreneurs were converting them into restaurants and fashionable wine bars and brasseries. I commented that the practice had seemed to have faded. So it was with some interest that I read from London that the former Sir Edwin Lutyens-designed Midland Bank building on Poultry, just a minute's walk from the Bank of England, has been turned into a luxury hotel.

The Ned - the largest and most ambitious hotel to launch in London this year - is set to welcome its first guests.



**The Ned - Large in Scale and Delivery.**

A former Caterer named Hotelier of the Year 2015, Nick Jones is the man behind the enormous project. He never intended to open a hotel in the City of London. The capital's financial centre is not a typical location for an outpost of Soho House & Co,

the company founded by Jones 22 years ago and renowned for attracting guests and members from the media and entertainment industries.

He was told about the availability of the building by the landlord of Little House, one of 18 members' clubs owned and operated by Soho House & Co worldwide. "I wasn't particularly keen to go along, but I didn't want to appear rude," he recalls. "The banking floor was jaw-droppingly beautiful," he said. "I clambered up on the roof, with its views over St Paul's, and immediately saw the huge potential the property offered as a hotel and collection of restaurants."

The hotel features 252 bedrooms, nine restaurants, two swimming pools - one on the rooftop and one in the basement - a spa, members' club and much more. The Ned is a beautiful, multifaceted beast, which required the help of a partner to create. After speaking to Ron Burkle, the American investor who acquired a 60 per cent stake in Soho House & Co in 2012, Jones met with Andrew Zabler, the founder and chief executive of Sydeff Group. Burkle is also the main financial backer of Sydeff Group, a company that has experience of grand renovation projects through the opening of six hotels in the US during the past five years.

"That was the start of our collaboration and it's been fantastic," enthuses Jones. "We love each other more than we did at the beginning, which is unusual when you're involved in a project of this scale."

While Soho House & Co has extensive experience of developing a variety of hospitality businesses - as well as the members' clubs (12 of which feature bedrooms and welcome non-members), it has also created 16 restaurant brands - nothing comes close to the scale of the Ned, which covers nearly 30,000 square metres.

Jones and his team made the most of the building, encouraging him to look to its banking heritage for design cues. Hence, much use has been made of the banking hall's original walnut-panelled counters, used by tellers, repurposed as bar counters and dividers between the different restaurants.

Once bustling with bank customers, the space will now buzz with some 850 restaurant customers at any one time. Meanwhile, in the basement, the bank vaults feature a lounge bar, containing more than 3,000 original stainless steel, engraved safety deposit boxes that once stored gold bullion deposits of £335m (£15b in today's money) and the two metre-wide doors have been retained.



**Original in Design and in Fact - Entrance to the Vault bar at the Ned.**

The £220 million investment is now in the hands of Gareth Banner, the managing director of the Ned, who was appointed from his former general manager role at the Renaissance St Pancras hotel, London, and is the person responsible for the hotel on a day-to-day basis, who explained the logistics. "We have a central production kitchen, which feeds into all the restaurants, and a specific kitchen for each restaurant," he says. "The restaurants will all be run independently with their own head chef, restaurant manager and team, while behind the scenes there will be a lot of shared services - such as purchasing."

Staffing the Ned with a team of 800 is what has kept Banner awake at night. The process, however, has been on track, with many individuals being recruited directly from Europe, despite the uncertainty of what Brexit will mean in the long-term

with regard to employing staff from within the EU. Teams of recruiters have appointed in Rome and Barcelona through the offer of attractive packages, rather than wait for individuals to come to the UK and for the Ned to then compete with another 10 businesses for their services.

"It is a worry and a concern for everyone in our industry how the government is going to deal with the immigration situation," says Jones. "Over 75 per cent of the people who work for Soho House in the UK weren't born in this country. I'm sure the government will consider a way around it - they are going to have to."

Once again, the Hospitality Industry in the UK shows its concern for the future of employment of foreigners after Brexit. But for the time being the Ned will no doubt thrive in the competitive world of London hotels. It is still one of Europe's top destinations. The City has never been considered a leisure area especially in the evenings, up until about 10 years ago bars closed at 8.00pm. But with the dining experiences and entertainment on offer at this luxury hotel, it will surely be at the hub of the financial district. The old bank may well welcome more bankers as customers, than used to work there!

(some content courtesy of the *Caterer*.  
[www.thened.com](http://www.thened.com))

*ON THAT NOTE I will bid you farewell until next week and should aspiring restaurateurs need some help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
A toast to Good Food, Good Wine and Good Friends.*

*Garry Waite is a well-known foodie and restaurateur as well as a Hospitality Management Consultant. If you are contemplating setting up an operation in Spain, or indeed having problems with an existing project contact him on [garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com).*



# Mega shopping back on track

AMERICAN developer the Cordish Companies is continuing to insist that its proposed mega-project in Madrid go ahead. The Spanish capital had rejected Cordish's ambitious plan on the grounds that it would cost too much money.

Cordish has now offered to sweeten the deal, which would be among the biggest real estate developments in Spanish history. As well as a massive shopping complex with a cinema and hotels, they want to

build a six hectare lagoon with an artificial beach where people can play volleyball and even surf and swim.

The government had been asked to contribute €340 million to the project, together with the €2.2 billion Cordish have at the ready. Madrid thought this figure excessive but, together with the new lagoon concept, Cordish has also said that all the city has to contribute is planning permission. They will do the rest.

The ball is now back in the city's court. There are fears that the project could take longer than expected and fill an appetite that doesn't exist in a huge city with its fair share of mega shopping centres.

But Cordish points out that this is no ordinary shopping centre. Like other hundred hectare estates planned for Valencia and the Costa del Sol it will feature luxury suites, a convention centre, sports cen-



**MADRID COMPLEX:** Would include a cinema, hotels, a six hectare lagoon and an artificial beach.

tre, even museums and concert halls.

They estimate that nine million people would visit the

centre each year, while the booming construction industry knock-on effects for Spain's would be enormous.

# More foreign buyers

THE vast majority of foreigners who decide to buy a home in the Spanish sun choose second hand properties rather than new builds.

Latest breakdown figures show that 83.7 per cent of the homes bought by expats last year were second hand, meaning not only that they'd had more than one owner but also weren't built in the past year or two.

That meant that just 16.3 per cent of the 56,000 homes bought by foreigners were new builds. Oddly enough the statistics suggest that expats favour second hand homes more than Spanish nationals, 81.2 per cent of whom chose older properties.

But further breakdowns can be made between foreign nationalities. For instance the Irish, French and Italians overwhelmingly



**SECOND HAND HOMES:** Are more favoured by expats.

prefer second hand homes. Norwegians, Belgians and Swedish opt for new builds.

Alternatively Brits and Germans typically don't put too much currency on the age of the home. Rather they choose size, opting for homes with more than 100 square metres of space.

Regardless of whether the homes favoured are old or new, big or small, foreigners are continuing to buy Span-

ish in record numbers. They bought almost 8,000

more homes last year than in 2015. That meant that 13.2 per cent of homes were bought by foreigners, a huge increase from the 4.2 per cent recorded in 2009.

Naturally the Mediterranean coastlines continue to be the favour haunt of expats looking for a home in the sun.

Some 47,000 of the 56,000 purchased were on the long glorious coastline between Gibraltar and Barcelona.

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

**Ref 3052, Lluçmajor, 280,000€**

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

**Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€**

Semi-detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with American kitchen, garden and roof terrace. 75m<sup>2</sup> living area.

**Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€**

Townhouse with 40m<sup>2</sup> courtyard. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, toilet, lounge, kitchen/diner, garage, 230m<sup>2</sup> living area.

**Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€**

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

**Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€**

Charming little chalet with 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, garage. Electricity with solar panels. House 73m<sup>2</sup>, plus 25m<sup>2</sup> garage, plus 25m<sup>2</sup> covered terrace plus 30 m<sup>2</sup> storerooms.

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





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**11668** Fantastic penthouse in Santa Ponsa



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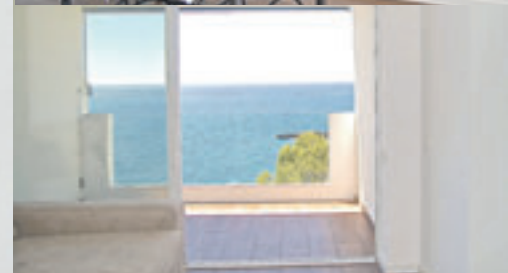
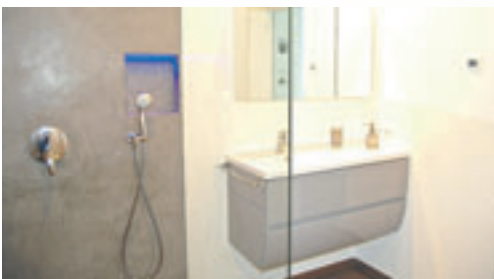
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**Price: 530,000€**

This fantastic penthouse in Santa Ponsa has a magnificent sea view. It offers a living area of 90sqm distributed over 3 double bedrooms and two complete bathrooms, one of them is en suite, a modern fully equipped kitchen which is open to the spacious living and dining room. This has access to an 8sqm terrace with a great view over the Bay of Santa Ponsa. The penthouse has just been completely renovated with high quality materials and equipped with the highest quality appliances. It is located in an apartment complex in the first sea line, with a nice communal pool and direct access to the sea. The golf course, the beaches of Santa Ponsa, as well as all the amenities are in close proximity. A real dream to live there.





Your Hermann Köppler



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## 11673 Modern penthouse with fantastic sea views in Cas Catalá



 110sqm  2  2

**Price: 850,000€**

This wonderful, modern penthouse with fantastic sea views is located in Cas Catalá and it has a living space of 110sqm divided into two floors. The main floor consists of a bright and spacious living/ dining room, a fully equipped and furnished kitchen, a guest toilet and laundry. The living room has access to a nice terrace of 10 sqm, from where you can enjoy marvellous sea views. On the superior floor there are 2 double bedrooms with bathrooms en suite. Furthermore, there is a wonderful roof terrace of 60 sqm with jacuzzi, where you can enjoy the most beautiful days of the year. The property is equipped with air-conditioning and central heating in all rooms. It is located in a beautiful area of Cas Catalá, only 3km away from the golf course, close to the beach, supermarkets and pharmacies. The centre of Palma City is only 10km away.





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# Poppies are beautiful in full flower

By Graeme Tyrrell

THE spring flowers that grace the landscape at this time of year in areas where there has been good winter rain are a marvel to behold.

There is a plethora of colours and forms of flowers from tiny Scarlet Pimpernel to various types of the prominent Chrysanthemum family. An outstanding flower that catches the eye, especially when dominating a field, and that is very symbolic for many people is the poppy.

Poppies have a short lived flower but produce new ones consecutively to give the appearance of flowering for a long period during spring. The typically red common poppy is normally an annual plant of less than a metre in height but if you are cultivating poppies there is a wide range of different colours, sizes and forms available.

They make a great container plant to add colour to a balcony or terrace and in the garden they will brighten up an area where you visit frequently. I have the wild varieties coming up in my vegetable garden, but I let them stay and brighten up the garden during the establishment of the summer vegetable crops until the vegetables need more space.

The true poppies are Papaver species, of which there are over 70, but other families in-



cluding the blue Meconopsis, plumed Macleaya and tree Romneya also have poppy as a common name.

As a cultivated plant the Iceland poppy is a favourite with many gardeners. It lasts for a couple of years so there is not the need to re-plant each year and the range of different coloured flowers is extensive.

The seed of poppies is very small and grows best when sprinkled on a cultivated soil surface or a potting mix with only a fine coat-

ing of mix to cover them or just press them into the soil in early winter and spring.

They sprout naturally in fields that have been cultivated or disturbed because they need to be near the surface and exposed to some light to germinate, so don't bury the seed. The association of the poppy with remembrance is that it grew so prolifically in areas of soil disturbance after military activities and burials in the natural soil.

They can be transplanted but do better

grown from seed in their chosen spot. They grow very quickly, emerging one to two weeks from planting the seed, and can start flowering within weeks.

They don't need much care to grow other than to maintain moisture if they are grown in a good soil mix. A light liquid feed may help if they are not performing so well.

Grow them in a place with plenty of sunlight to maximise flowering and they will be a delight worth remembering.

## The sanctuary of the bathroom

LIFE is very stressful these days and there seems to be nowhere to hide from the world outside, not even within your walls. There is one special place in the house that allows you to lock the door, so why not make the most of it, by turning this room into a Zen-like sanctuary, where you can wind down.

Here are a few ideas to get some serenity back into your everyday life. The first idea is to put smooth stones in the sink and when the water flows over the stones, the splashing will sound like a water fountain.

The lighting should be soft and calming, so use candles positioned near a mirror. If

you have visitors, it would be interesting for them and yourself to have some artwork up on the walls. The smell of natural scents like jasmine and lavender, or incense cones can create a calming aroma. Decorate with fresh flowers or add a fern. To accessorise, add beautiful hand towels in a basket.

## A passion for the porcelain

IT seems that men are giving more consideration to cleaning the toilet. It makes sense that they should, as it is a regular port of call.

The days when men only managed to lift the toilet seat and never bothered putting it down may be over.

Things are changing, as researchers have discovered that men are taking more interest in the hygiene of their toilet and even buying products for cleaning, which is an amazing find. However, the report states that women are still taking most of the responsibility towards the cleaning of the 'throne.'

This new wave of interest may be due to there being so many products for cleaning the toilet that smell so wonderful, giving an incentive to take more of a part in this dreaded household duty. Awareness of germs is another reason, with people buying more disinfectants and advice for cleaning the toilet can be found so easily on social media.

Keep the man in your life interested in caring for the loo, by making it a more welcoming place to be. If he likes to read on the loo, get him a bookshelf and he'll take pride in this very important area and invest in keeping it clean.

It is probably the only room in the house, where you can have complete privacy, so turn your visits into pleasurable ones with fresh clean aromas, patterned toilet paper and a squeaky clean loo.



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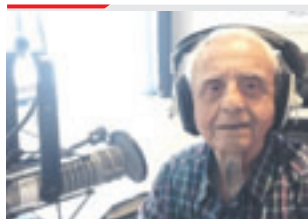


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# Trauma in pets, part 2



David THE Dogman

Please note that this article was written by Sara Reusche of Paws Abilities Dog Training in Rochester, Minnesota, United States.



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.

Strong flashbacks to the original panic state can be instantaneous, 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

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

### EXTREME FEAR: Can result in altered perceptions of an event.

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.

Another dog I am aware of will begin trembling for no apparent reason several times a week, hiding under the bed and occasionally voiding her bladder in terror.

Whilst trauma can have lasting consequences due to its huge impact on the way the brain develops and processes information, pa-

tient 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.

Many times I said to my wife "One day she will wag her tail."

*Last week's article was also written by Sara Reusche, but credit was not given due to an oversight.*

## We're actively looking for some new members

WHETHER you are a home pet owner or a house-sitter we'd like to try to help you. We have matched many of our members in the last four years since we've been online helping home pet owners find housesitters, and house pet-sitters find suitable placements and assignments. We'd love to help you if we can.

What is more we are now really keen to grow our network. We are always careful, checking our sitters and managing our network. If you have been thinking about joining there has never been a better time. Why not join today and take advantage of our 50 per cent offer.

Need a house-sitter - if you're plan-

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Clarkson  
Quote of the Week

“And it’s made in Britain! Which is another way of saying the door is going to fall off.”

Some might say...



Motoring shorts

## Hybrid solution

A JAPANESE hybrid car has become the fastest selling car on one of the UK’s biggest second-hand markets. In April the Toyota Prius sold quicker than any other car on Auto Trader, taking roughly two weeks to offload.

Tough new taxes on traditional petrol-guzzling cars may have contributed to the Prius’ success. It is also considered extremely reliable and economical, winning top reviews from customers and industry insiders.

UK drivers appear to be embracing the hybrid universe as electric becomes more mainstream than ever before. Now there are concerns that the number of electric charging stations cannot possibly keep up with demand without a major remodelling of the country’s roads.

# Black cabs and Valkyries

By Matthew Elliott

THE great arc of world motor shows has taken in Paris, Geneva and New York. Last weekend the flashiest, most unusual cars in the industry were in Britain for the London Motor Show which ran from May 4 to 7.

It was

the second edition of the show, a rapidly emerging alternative to the British Motor Show. As in 2016, this year it was once again held in Battersea Park.

There were motoring celebrities, including Stig Ben Collins and Jodie Kidd, car safety demonstrations, virtual reality driving experi-

ences, a wild range of supercars and even the new electric London Black Cab.

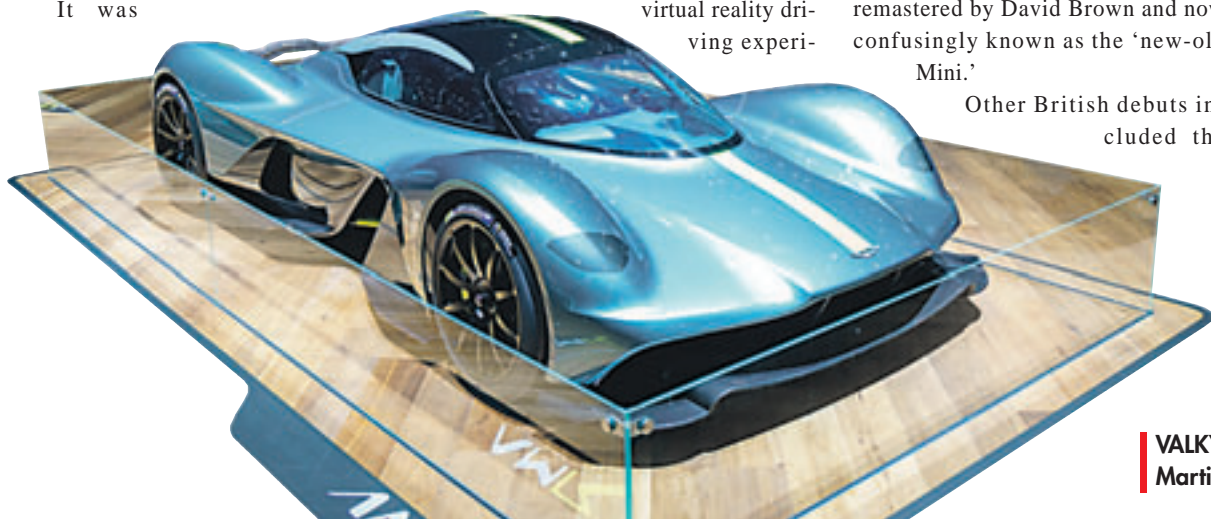
The Lamborghini Aventador S made its British debut, bringing a V12 engine and incredible 740hp to stunned fans. At the other end of the size scale there was the classic Mini remastered by David Brown and now confusingly known as the ‘new-old Mini.’

Other British debuts included the

Alpina B4 S, the Kahn Vengeance Volante, and the MG XS, considered the English manufacturer’s strongest foray on to the world stage yet.

Among the wilder entrants was the concept hypercar the Aston Martin Valkyrie which is forged from a one-off partnership with Red Bull Racing. It is the latest of the brand’s V cars but that’s about all anyone knows except that it’s sure to be extremely sleek and fast.

Also making waves, and for very real reasons, was the Jaguar F-Pace, recently declared the World Car of the Year. Crowds also waved a fond farewell to an army of TX4 London Black Cabs which will soon be in the vintage section of future road shows as they prepare to be replaced.



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TILL FINISH****NISSAN:** Has  
developed a new  
Signal Shield.

## Mobile phone signal shield

TROUBLE caused by mobile phones could soon be a thing of the past. Nissan claims to have developed new technology which acts as an electromagnetic shield blocking calls and any other notifications.

Drivers would simply drop their phone into the so-called Signal Shield sunk in the armrest and no longer have to worry about being distracted. Crucially for many people, especially those in business, they wouldn't have to switch their phones off altogether and risk losing critical messages.

All of the hundreds of various apps, from weather updates to email messages, would be blocked by the Signal Shield. Many drivers have reported feeling the urge to check their phone each time it buzzes, even when the vast majority of notifications are useless updates rather than important messages.

The sheer number of beeps and buzzes emitting from modern smart phones has led to a huge rise in the number of deaths and injuries on the roads caused by ‘distrac-

tions.’ It’s no longer people chatting on the phone that is the deadliest, but those reaching for it.

The technology also fills a smart and selfish purpose. Users can virtually guarantee that they won't be caught or fined for using their phone.

Recent smart cameras wheeled out onto Spanish roads can check for phone usage, even seatbelt wearing. Police technology to catch offenders is quickly growing stronger.

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## Cleaning up the sea bed



Ayuntamiento de Calvia

**SPRUCE UP:** Divers cleared shipwreck debris.

AS part of an ongoing environmental plan, Calvia 2000, divers from the Protomar group have been removing debris from the sea bed.

Their latest action took place in the waters off of Cas Catala where volunteers dived into the water by the Buganbilia beach in order to clear the sea bed of debris from an earlier shipwreck.

The problem was caused following a storm which meant that large pieces of fibre glass, metal and fractured glass were distributed within the area used by bathers.

# Luxurious solar powered cruising

By John Smith

THE first version of its solar catamaran was built by Solarwave Yachts in 2009 and a very special version has been seen in Mallorca.

This silent luxury cruiser has been created for Port d'Andratx and offers all of the advantages of a high class motor yacht but without the need for traditional motors except in reserve.

The whole vessel is powered by solar panels, not just the motors but all of the electricity needed on board, so it is powerful, clean and above all quiet which must be of particular interest to today's environmentally friendly millionaire.

There is no sail and no need for highly expensive fuel, just a reliance on the sun and some very high powered batteries which are charged by panels on the deck and a special roof but as there is some down time whilst batteries recharge, there is still the need for some back up diesel power.

This is not a speed boat but an efficient



Solarwave Yachts

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and comfortable vessel built for efficient cruising and can cover 100 nautical miles before needing to recharge.

It is not a cheap alternative to the traditional motor yacht with prices ranging from €1.2 million for the 55 foot version up to

€2.5 million for the 70 foot catamaran but is certainly attracting interest.

Although there is a demonstration model which has travelled around European waters for several years, new models are custom produced to order.



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# Chelsea are champions-elect while the Spaniards finish 1-2-3 in Jerez

## Tony Matthews

International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

### EVENTS DIARY:

After Spurs' shock 1-0 defeat at West Ham last Friday Chelsea - having sent Middlesbrough down on Monday - will be crowned Premiership champions for the fifth time tomorrow night if they win at West Bromwich Albion (live on Sky Sport).

Other PL games this weekend include relegation battlers Crystal Palace against Hull... 4th placed Manchester City (recent 5-0 winners over Palace) v Leicester... Spurs (2nd) v Manchester United... Stoke v Arsenal (who ended Jose Mourinho's team's 25-match unbeaten run last Sunday)... and West Ham v Liverpool (3rd).

On Tuesday,

**DIEGO COSTA: Helped Chelsea send Middlesbrough down.**

Juventus (2-0 up) met Monaco in the second leg of their CL semi-final and last night Atletico (2-0 down) played Madrid rivals Real in their second leg encounter. Tonight it's Manchester United (leading 1-0) v Celta Vigo and Lyon (trailing 1-4) v Ajax in the Europa League semi-final second legs.

On Sunday, it's Blackpool v Luton and Carlisle v Exeter in

the first legs of the FL2 play-off semi-finals while Forest Green Rovers play Tranmere Rovers in the National League play-off final at Wembley.

Also there are several Scottish League promotion/relegation play-offs (including Dundee United v Morton) and on Saturday Manchester City Ladies meet

Birmingham Ladies in the women's FA Cup final.

Castleford (top) play Hull (2nd) tomorrow night in Rugby's Super League.

In golf, it's the Players' Championship at Sawgrass and the Portuguese Open (May 11-14).

The Spanish F1 Grand Prix takes place in Barcelona on Sunday.

Tomorrow, Rugby Union's European Challenge Cup final features Gloucester v Stade Français, followed on Saturday by Clermont Auvergne v Saracens in the Champions Cup final... both games at Murrayfield.

The triathlon World Series starts in Yokohama on Saturday.

The Mutua Open tennis championship is currently taking place in Madrid.

### ROUND UP:

Barcelona (recent 4-1 winners over Villarreal) and Real Madrid (4-0 victors at Granada) are still level at the top of La

Liga.

The winners of the first two classic horse races of 2017 were both trained by Aiden O'Brien... Winter (9-1) in the 1,000 Guineas and Churchill (6-4 favourite) in the 2,000 Guineas. This was O'Brien's third Guineas double.

Three Spaniards stood on the podium at last Sunday's MotoGP in Jerez with Dani Pedrosa, Marc Marquez and Jorge Lorenzo finishing 1-2-3 on home soil.

Matt Neal, Colin Turkington, Gordon Shedden and Rob Collard all won races at the BTCC meeting at Thruxton last weekend.

England beat Ireland by eight wickets (127-3/126) and by 85 runs (328-6/243) in cricket ODI's at Bristol and Lords.

In the Diamond Games, UK's Robbie Grabarz won silver in the high jump and Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge missed out by 22 seconds to break two hours for the marathon.

Novak Djokovic has sacked his entire coaching staff as he

turns to 'shock therapy.'

Last weekend Blackburn Rovers were relegated to FL1 (they were last in the third tier in 1980)... Hartlepool United have lost their League status after 96 years' membership as Newport County survived, and Portsmouth won the FL2 championship on the last day of the season, ahead of Doncaster and Plymouth.

The FA has banned Manchester City from signing youth players.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United) is the world's richest footballer with a bank balance of £110m; Wayne Rooney is worth £93m while F1 driver Lewis Hamilton is the world's richest sportsman with £131m in his account.

And this is obscene - Manchester United have spent £1.16 billion on players in the Premiership era (1992-2017)... £528m in the last five years alone!

Chelsea's new £82m ground may not be ready until 2021, meaning they could play home games at Wembley (90,000 capacity), the London Stadium (66,000), Twickenham (82,000) or Reading's Madejski Stadium (24,182).

England World Cup winner Martin Peters has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and Everton star Aaron Lennon has a mental health problem - so do 62 other footballers!

World heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua will fight Tyson Fury next April, according to promoter Eddie Hearn.

Ben Youngs has pulled out of the British Lions' tour to New Zealand.

And a fund set up for Surrey-born F4 driver Billy 'The Whizz' Monger (18) who had both legs amputated after crashing at Donington Park recently, has raised £800,000+.



**DANI PEDROSA: Winner of Sunday's MotoGP in Jerez.**



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**TOGETHER** Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have scored a total of 1,162 goals for club and country. What might have happened if they'd been in the same team!!



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Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United) is the world's richest footballer with a bank balance of £110m.

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Mallorca's best guide to local sport

# Baleares teams play at home and away

THE leagues might have finished for the current season but there are plenty of other events and championships taking place at home and away.

The Baleares U14 team spent the weekend in Valencia to play against an U14 team from Abelles RC whom they beat soundly by 73 points to 22. Coach Sean Judkins was extremely happy with the team's performance.

A very successful U18 team from El Toro RC travelled to Valladolid to participate in the National Clubs Championships. Unfortunately they were in the only group with four teams meaning they had a more difficult task ahead of them.

Their first match was a draw against Trocadero Marbella. El Toro RC lost the match against CAR Rosales of Seville by only a small margin of 16 points to 10. Sunday saw El Toro RC play against RC Ponent, who finished sixth in the tournament, and Abelles B. After the difficult games they won the silver group placing them fourth – a great achievement for all concerned.

A group of present and past El Toro RC players joined together to make a team for the Madrid Sevens played



**BALEARES U14: In Valencia.**



**EL TORO U18: Travelled to Valladolid.**

over the last weekend. Out of the two groups of six teams the El Toro RC team came out winners of the tournament.

Bahia RC had a great open day for all newcomers to try their hand at rugby followed by a game between the Bahia RC Veterans and the Seniors with some younger players too. The score was irrelevant and just for some fun for those missing out their fill of rugby. A tercer tiempo for all followed the day's entertainment.



**EL TORO RC: At the Sevens in Madrid.**



**YOUNG PLAYERS: At the Bahia RC Rugby Day.**

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