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## Islands fight back

BALEARIC residents may soon enjoy the same favourable tax regime that benefits citizens on the Canary Islands. The regional government launched a formal request to Madrid this week demanding substantial VAT cuts and higher subsidies.

The comprehensive economic report details how the Balearic Islands lose a combined €8 billion per year due to the inherent disadvantages of being isolated from the mainland. Despite the broad variety of competing local interests and divergent political views, all parties and interest groups across the Balearics support the request.

Key demands include the reduction of VAT from 21 to 15 per cent, and the reduced rate from 10 to 5 per cent on the islands.

# Tourist trap

## Misleading holiday ads slammed

By Matthew Elliott

Advertising executives are under fire for portraying Mallorca as an empty paradise to foreign tourists. Extensive online advertising campaigns run by the government show deserted beaches, undisturbed waters, quiet streets and romantic plazas, with not a human in sight.

The Instagram account of the Balearic government shows 30 idyllic photos of Mallorca's most famous spots. On just two photos can any people be spotted. And they are presumably models or actors.

The campaign has been denounced as false advertising by media outlets across Europe and even by the Norwegian tourist office in Spain. Head of marketing Luca Bocci said that in Norway the government regularly listens to residents and includes their ideas in promo-

tions of the Scandinavian government.

But in Mallorca he was shocked to find that the authorities appear to have abandoned sustainability in favour of popularity. Eco-group Terraferida has also claimed that European magazines have expressed dismay that readers felt 'tricked' into visiting Mallorca.

The glossy images fly in the face of a woeful number of rubbish collection scandals, environmental degradation and rising pollution levels.

Unfortunately for tourism minister Biel Barcelo, the jig appears to be up. Surveys now show increased levels of dissatisfaction and disillusionment among visitors to the island who expected it to resemble what it says on the tin.

Savvy travellers can now find more accurate information on what a holiday on the island

really entails. The concern isn't that tourism numbers will fall. Instead the danger is that responsible travellers might give Mallorca a miss, increasing the proportion of partygoers who make headlines for all the wrong reasons.



Photo by Turismo Islas Baleares/Instagram

**HAVEN:** The island appears empty in the snaps.

See us on page 30



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## NEWS EXTRA

## Camera shy

THE famous reflection of Palma's Cathedral in the water vanished as rising temperatures sent algae spinning to the surface, creating a dirty turquoise colour that is resistant to selfies.

## Wild west

A TRAFFIC dispute on Palma's Paseo Marítimo escalated into a major fracas involving a van driver, motorist, biker and even a passing runner who was punched for trying to mediate.

## Slot scam

POLICE arrested three two-armed bandits who managed to rig slot machines across Mallorca, stealing €150,000. They were only caught when they foolishly complained to police about being banned from casinos.

# The clock is ticking

By Ben Harris

THERE are just 645 days left until the UK officially leaves the European Union with or without a deal. Already it is 85 days since the triggering of Article 50 and one year since the referendum and there has been little or no definitive action from the British government.

The recent disastrous election result for the Conservatives, which saw them fall from a parliamentary majority to only the leading minority, has weakened the country's control over Brexit proceedings. This is despite assurances from Prime Minister Theresa May that the election would strengthen the UK's hand.

Within the Conservative Party alone there is a confused message about the UK's stance in negotiations. Mrs May has insisted that "no deal is better than a bad deal"; whilst the Chancellor Phillip Hammond recently



**CAPITULATION:** The UK's Brexit secretary David Davies (left) and Michel Barnier last Monday.

stated that no deal from the European Union would be "a very, very bad outcome."

With such a short time frame in which to untangle a 43-year relationship with the EU, the complications in the UK government question how prepared it is to handle the most difficult diplomatic negotiations in UK or EU history, in what will be a 27

versus one discussion.

In contrast, EU negotiators appear prepared and well organised. Europe's chief negotiator Michel Barnier, following his 2016 tour of member states, has outlined key priorities which must be settled before moving on to trade talks. These include citizen's rights, the state of the Irish border and the contentious Brexit bill.

The complexity of such negotiations will not be complete until October 2017 at the earliest, but could run into early 2018. Barnier has stated that the talks will not progress until all 27 member states are satisfied with the outcomes.

Despite assurances from David Davis that Barnier's plans were negotiable and could turn into the "row of the summer," the UK Brexit secretary immediately caved in to EU demands following the first round of talks on Monday June 19.

Time for talks are further limited as the European Union aims to conclude negotiations by October 2018, which leaves the UK with less than a year to form trade arrangements before it is ejected with a deal in place or not.

With Westminster in chaos and time marching on, the door to the EU remains open only until the day it is slammed firmly shut.

**Our view – page 8**

## Celebration as month of fasting ends

THE Muslim day of Eid al-Fitr, or Festival of Breaking the Fast, officially begins when the moon rises on the evening of Sunday June 25 and ends the following evening.

It is forbidden to fast on the day which follows the month of Ramadan, in which Muslims do not eat between sunrise and sunset. The result is a day of feasts and meetings with family and friends, along with trips to mosques in order to perform traditional prayers.

'Eid Mubarak,' literally meaning blessed Eid, is how to greet somebody on this important day.

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# No confidence

ONLY a fifth of residents believe the Balearic government is doing a good job. A major political survey across the islands makes for extremely bad reading for the coalition government, which is still struggling to find its feet. The Gadeso Foundation poll found that 43 per cent of islanders consider president Armengol's administration to be performing 'poorly' since it took charge in 2015.

## No means no

A CAMPAIGN combating sexual assaults during popular festivals has been launched across Mallorca. It will see information points established at key events with messages on how to behave and expert staff on hand. The announcement comes after a 36-year-old man was released on bail one month after allegedly assaulting a teenage girl at Soller's Moors and Christians festival.

## Booze sting

SENIOR police officers have urged a radical rethink of alcohol policies at Balearic and international airports. The call from Mallorca's police union comes amid a hazy backdrop of fights, collapses and other incidents at the island's airports. Last Friday two British tourists were detained after picking a fight with police officers shortly after their arrival at Palma airport.

## Out to grass

A JIHADI suspect believed to have recruited for the Daesh terrorist group online is facing 10 years in prison. Mohamed Harrak, 28, was arrested in Son Gotleu last year accused of promoting the terrorist organising on social media. Bizarrely he also sent emails to the Guardia Civil in Palma offering information on drug dealers in the city.

## Big deal

THE first black mayor in Mallorca's history has taken office in Alaro. Guillem Balboa, previously a Mes per Mallorca councillor was appointed to the post in accordance with a coalition agreement between Mes and PSOE. The 52-year-old was born on former Spanish colony

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...17

Spain's seafaring traditions date back centuries, from the Conquest of the Americas started by Christopher Columbus in 1492 to having one of Europe's largest fishing fleets today, and close to shore mariners continue to be guided by a legendary lighthouse which is steeped in folklore.

## Tower of strength

THE Torre de Hercules (Tower of Hercules) near the city of A Coruña in Galicia is the most ancient Roman lighthouse still in use today and widely considered to be the oldest in the world.

According to a myth mixing Celtic and Greco-Roman themes, it marks the resting place of the grotesque giant Geryon, who was slain by the hero Hercules after a three-day battle.

Hercules then buried the head of his foe alongside his weapons and ordered the lighthouse to be built on top, with an image of the structure atop a skull and crossbones appearing on A Coruña's coat of arms.

Another legend is recounted in Lebor Gabala Erenn, an 11th-century book, which tells how King Breogan, founding father of the Galician Celtic nation, built a tower so tall that his sons were able to spy a distant green land from the top, and that this vision lured them to sail to Ireland where they became ancestors of the Irish people.

The tower is known to have been in use by the second century, when it was built, or possibly rebuilt, under the emperor Trajan (53-117 AD) following a Phoenician design which may have been modelled on the Lighthouse of



**STUFF OF LEGEND:** The Tower of Hercules.

Alexandria.

From 1788-1791 the original 34-metre tower was restored in a Neoclassical style which included a new 21-metre extension following an order from King Charles IV of Spain.

### The Light Fantastic

- At 55 metres the Torre de Hercules is the second-tallest lighthouse in Spain, beaten into top spot by the 62-metre Faro de Chipiona in Cadiz, Andalucia.

- It was known by its Latin name Farum Brigantium until the 20th century, a reference to the Roman settlement Brigantia of



**BATTLE:** Hercules (I) takes on Geryon.

which the location is in dispute, being either A Coruña or the nearby town of Betanzos.

- The earliest-known reference to the tower is in a tome by the priest Paulus Orosius written around 415-417.

- Latin inscriptions on one of its cornerstones suggest that the original building was designed by a Portuguese architect named Gaius Sevius Lupus as an offering to Mars, the God of War.

- It is a National Monument of Spain and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2009.

**KING BREOGAN:** A colossal statue near the tower.



Equatorial Guinea but has lived on the island since he was just three.

## Man mountain

A GIANT English tourist was flung into the cells after attacking three Local Police officers in Magaluf at 3.50am yesterday (Wednesday) morning. The drunken tourist has been described as well over six

foot tall and weighing almost 19 stone (120kg), and two of the officers have been granted medical leave after the incident.

## Too much

AFTER snap inspections of 50 Palma pubs, police have launched complaint proceedings against 10 establishments,

chiefly on the beach. Punishable offences detected in the latest round of checks included playing music with the door open or outside time restrictions, lack of insurance, safety deficiencies and opening past legal hours.

## Sudden death

A BRITISH tourist who collapsed and died moments after touching down at Ibiza airport has been named. Paul Birchall, 51, died suddenly after passing through security last Thursday evening. The Bolton man had arrived on a flight from Manchester with a group of friends for a stag do.

# Brits go the full monty

STUNNED onlookers watched as two British women lived up to their wild reputation on Mallorca being filmed walking naked down a Magaluf street in broad daylight.

One was entirely naked, the other wearing only a tiny thong. When they realised they were being filmed and oggled at by local men they quickly went red and tried to cover up.

The debacle took place on the Punta Ballena strip in Mallorca's party capital. It comes just a week after

18 British men were fined for galloping stark naked across the town for a skinny dip session.

The antics of British tourists on the island has been a contentious issue of late. A petition on Change.org calling for a crackdown on lewd behaviour, drugs, booze and violence has garnered thousands of signatures.

Despite strict new laws designed to combat disorder, Calvia Council is undermined almost every weekend as some new outrage or brazen violation of the decency laws comes to light.

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## Top 5 stories

From June 12 - 19

- 1 Heat alerts hit Spain nine days before summer **4,853**
- 2 Family of Kirsty Maxwell launch social media appeal **2,927**
- 3 Two men arrested after stabbing bouncers in Torremolinos **1,780**
- 4 Drunken brawl breaks out in Marbella **1,716**
- 5 New airport security for families in Malaga **1,417**

## Poll of the week

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**On the anniversary  
 of the Brexit vote, do  
 you wish the  
 referendum result  
 had been different?**

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

**Do you expect Sterling to  
 strengthen by the end of  
 the year to €1.20 or higher?**

**Yes = 47% • No = 53%**

## Top Social Media comments

**Spanish bullfighter gored to death in south of France** - Barbara Stallwood. Of course it should be banned. It's cruel and evil. How can anyone enjoy watching an animal be slaughtered. They are no better than the ones who kill them. The matador has a licence to kill. Nothing to be proud of as far as I'm concerned. He's there because he wants to be. He makes a lot of money... All because sick people want to watch an animal being tortured and killed. Usually the killer gets out alive the bull doesn't!

**Elliot Wright bares all to raise awareness of Male Cancer** - Lynda Anne Utting. They were brilliant. Watched the whole programme. They deserve a medal, each one of them was brilliant all the way through...

**Charity intervenes after animal welfare concerns in Almonte** - Ted Milsom. Put them between the shafts and the animal in the cart with food and water and let them take an hour's turnabout.

**Parents attack basketball refs in Benalmadena** - Ted Milsom. Absolutely disgusting behaviour and conduct. One must learn to accept disappointment, a ref's decision or that of any other responsible person be it a team event or individual. Life is not fair, it's not always the result one wants but learn to live with it. There could be a lot worse to come, believe me. Take a look at what is happening in the world or your own country. Some people have really been dealt a s\*\*t hand.

**Ramadan Prayers at Catholic religious site in Granada spark outrage** - David Etheridge. Peace and respect for each other! Does it matter where anyone prays?

**Scotland and England fans clash in Magaluf** - Gary Patrickson. Idiots what is wrong with these people they need their passports tearing up so they can never travel again.

**One dead after 'potential terror attack' on London** - Sandro Johnston. Is just gettin' worse every day, is always somethin' this needs to be stopped.

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## TRIVIA FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Ice cream was invented in China around 2,000 BC when people placed a milk and rice mixture in snow.



The Vasco da Gama Bridge in Lisbon, Portugal is 10.5 miles (17 kilometres) long, making it the longest in Europe.



Britain has an annual cheese-rolling competition that involves running down Coopers Hill near Gloucester after a Double Gloucester round. The winner gets to keep the cheese.

## Did you know?

• Oxford University, founded around 1096, is older than the Mexican Aztec Empire.

★ ★ ★  
 • Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.

## Lost in translation



## CORRECTIONS

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, no-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected.

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**Little bits on the side**



# Star-studded wedding

By Matthew Elliott

PIXIE GELDOF'S dream Mallorca wedding attracted dozens of Britain's biggest celebrities to the island. The 25-year-old singer and daughter of former punk-rocker Bob Geldof arrived two hours late for her own Deia ceremony, forced to catch a bus from Palma.

She married musician and model George Barnett in an outdoor ceremony in the picturesque mountain village. It was held in the gardens of the 17th century Son Marroig country house, which also holds the Deia International Music Festival.

The star-studded ceremony saw Sir Bob, the former Boomtown Rats singer, give away his daughter. Her bridesmaids included model Daisy Lowe, while fashionista Alexa Chung and DJ Nick Grimshaw were also spotted.

Former One Direction stars Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson were among the roughly 150 guests, as was ex-Clash guitarist Paul Simonon.



PIXIE GELDOF: Married her fiancé at star-studded Deia ceremony.

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## NEWS EXTRA

## Chart topper

SPANISH singer Alejandro Sanz has been named 2017 Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year, with the 18-time Latin Grammy and three-time Grammy award winner having sold 25 million records over his 26-year career.

## Talking shop

FANTASY singer Mariah Carey, 47, was spotted browsing fashion boutiques in Barcelona last Monday, rocking a sheer leopard print blouse, skin tight jeans and stilettos while a bodyguard carried her handbag.

## Gym bunnies

THE Loose Women crew, including stars Linda Robson, Nadia Sawalha, Andrea McLean and Saira Khan were put through their paces at The Body Camp fitness resort in Ibiza.

## Picture perfect!

HE'S a Hollywood heartthrob who a ream of famous faces have admitted to crushing on.

And Blade Runner 2049 co-stars Ana de Armas and Sylvia Hoeks certainly put the squeeze on 36-year-old Ryan Gosling as the trio lined up for a photo call in Barcelona last Monday.

The former Oscar nominee plays LAPD officer K in the upcoming blockbuster, and he evidently has a good relationship with Cuban Ana, 29, and Dutch Sylvia, 34, as the three smiled and frolicked before the cameras during the promotional event.

French director Denis Villeneuve, 49, also put in an appearance with the movie set to launch in the autumn.

In Madrid, 20-year-old actress Zendaya wowed the crowds as she paraded alongside co-star Tom Holland, 21, at the Spider-Man: Homecoming photo call.

She made her name on the



STUNNING: Zendaya in Madrid.

Disney Channel but the up-and-coming star looked every inch the movie star as she slipped into a stunning pastel blue dress.



TOP TRIO: Ryan Gosling with Ana de Armas (l) and Sylvia Hoeks.

## Game of clones

Star enjoys racy beach break with new squeeze



Photo credit Instagram

RELAXED: The couple frolicked in the waves.

HIS Game of Thrones character Theon Greyjoy was left unable to find pleasure in the opposite sex after having his organ removed by depraved sadist Ramsay Bolton.

But Alfie Allen, 30, is much luckier in love in real life, as he showed during a sun-soaked trip to Formentera alongside 23-year-old DJ Allie Teilz.

The relaxed couple were unable to keep their hands

off each other as they frolicked in the waves before Alfie's blonde stunner whipped off her bikini top for some serious tanning mixed with plenty of steamy kisses.

Alfie is the brother of pop sensation Lily, and split from his former girlfriend Jaime Winstone over two years ago, but it seems he has a type as his new leading lady bears a striking resemblance to his ex.

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# Hitmen attack star witness

By Matthew Elliott

MORE sordid details have emerged from a key witness who claims two of Mallorca's top politicians engaged in drug-fuelled orgies funded by nightlife kingpin Tolo Cursach.

The revelations come days after the prosecution's star witness survived what may have been an attempted assassination by two hitmen believed to have now fled the island.

The former madam of a Palma brothel made the astonishing claims against Popular Party chiefs Alvaro Gijon and Jose Maria Rodriguez last week. During her latest appearance in court she appeared covered in

bruises but defiantly continued her testimony.

She claims that the two political leaders, who have categorically denied the allegations, snorted vast quantities of cocaine, slept with prostitutes and never paid because they considered themselves above the law.

She spoke for eight hours straight, detailing the sexual proclivities of the two men and how she organised brothel parties for police officers and arranged regular bribes.

She said Rodriguez, the former president of the Popular Party, enjoyed having 'women brought to him from the street' and watching young boys have sex with prostitutes.

He had an apparent preference for Moët Champagne and spent hours on end at the club drinking and ogling people having sex on the floor.

The witness could not detail how many times the politicians visited but said they came regularly for years. On one occasion they wracked up a €36,000 bill for just one day of personalised sexual escapades, paid for by nightclub boss Tolo Cursach.

Another incident saw a Brazilian prostitute hospitalised with a damaged spleen. She fled the country, fearful she would be punished for seeking medical care. When Rodriguez left the brothel, she said, "we had to change the mattresses."

## OUR VIEW

### Hard or soft, we still have hope

ONE year ago the UK voted to leave the EU.

Much water has run under the bridge since that all-important referendum vote, though in reality little is still known about what Brexit will mean to individuals, including hundreds of thousands of British expats living in Spain.

After the exit EU vote, initially little if anything was revealed as Britain prepared to put in place Article 50, thereby officially triggering its intention to divorce the EU.

After months of middle-ground rumours on both sides of the English Channel and a change in power at 10 Downing Street, finally it was official and the countdown to the UK's departure in 2019 began.

Since then a General Election called by Theresa May has thrown the whole situation into further disarray.

Hard Brexit, Soft Brexit, who knows?

The only certainty is that the UK will leave and it could be another decade before the final exit i's and t's have been dotted and crossed.

Despite the all-round uncertainty, most British expats individually hope for at least - if not all - their present rights to remain.

As the saying goes: Never deprive someone of hope, it might be all they have!

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## NEWS EXTRA

### Mercy shown

A GERMAN woman who killed three people on the MA-13 road from Alcudia to Palma through dangerous driving was given a suspended sentence as she lives abroad and suffers from a serious illness.

### Fire season

**A BUSHFIRE broke out in Marratxi destroying more than 1,000 square metres of land on Monday as the mercury soared. High winds and low humidity poured fuel on the flames.**

### Sauna class

*TEACHERS unions criticised sweltering classroom temperatures in excess of 30 degrees which caused some youngsters to suffer heat stroke. Ministers have now urged schools to stop all sports lessons.*

### Mystery fire

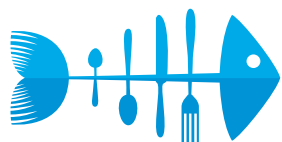
A HUGE fire broke out at the largely abandoned Estadi Balear football stadium on Sunday, which is awaiting a €3 million refurbishment. Firefighters are investigating the cause.

### Pump action

FRESH sea water could be pumped into bathing areas in Santanyi which develop algae due to high temperatures and low currents. Algae is one suspect for frequent microbial attacks on swimmers in summer.

### China town

THE Chinese consul in Madrid flew to Palma to distribute 350 resident's cards to compatriots on the island. There are 5,196 Chinese on Mallorca, roughly 5 per cent of the population.



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ONE of the biggest car rental firms in Europe is investing a huge eight figure sum in expanding its Mallorca operations. Sixt is celebrating 10 successful years on the island by lavishing €8 million on its island business, while offering its services at 13 new airports.

In Mallorca much of the money will be spent on a new Diamond Lounge at the airport. It will provide direct access

## Car keys to the kingdom

to five parking spaces at the airport's express parking area. VIP customers will be able to get into their vehicles at the terminal's secret facility rather than dealing with the riff-raff in the car park.

Sixt is already perhaps the most visible car rental firm on the island and has

secured much of the prime space at the airport. Travellers from non-Schengen countries experience far faster services and typically have a lot more money to burn.

The investment will see specialised car washes across the island and deliv-

ery services to luxury hotels. An expanded fleet will include Jaguars, Porsches and Maseratis.

Car rental firms have done very well on Mallorca. Latest estimates suggest that there are already around 100,000 rental cars on the island's roads. That is on top of the roughly 600,000 cars owned by residents, making for a ratio of almost one car per person.

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PRIDE: Major parade planned for Palma on Wednesday.

## Fighting back against hate

By Matthew Elliott

STRICT anti-hate laws are in place ahead of Mallorca's biggest Gay Pride parade next Wednesday. The vulnerability of the LGBTQ community has been a tense issue on the island following claims of transsexuals facing increased abuse.

Fines of up to €30,000 are now in place to punish people who discriminate, abuse or harass people on the basis of their sexual orientation. Incitement to hatred is also a punishable offence, one explored as a challenge to the extreme Catholic organisation HazteOir which recently tried to bring its 'anti-trans' bus to Palma.

According to LGBTQ defence group Ben Amics there have been three cases on Mallorca so far this year of young trans people being thrown out onto the streets after telling their parents they wanted to change sex.

Ben Amics are also hoping to reclaim Gay Pride parades for the queer community this year, arguing that a media dominated by heterosexuals has warped its image, focusing only on the most flamboyantly dressed characters rather than the underlying message.

June is Gay Pride month on Mallorca. Wednesday's parade will begin at 7.30pm from Es Baluard and finish at Placa de Cort where there will be live music and a huge party.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Top pueblo

BUGER village is so popular among tourists that there are 789 guest beds offered on Airbnb, despite the population being only 1,050. Most visitors come regularly and are popular among locals.

### Lamb motif

COUNCILLORS in Santanyi voted unanimously to change the village's coat of arms. The image of a sacrificial lamb will have a new yellow-striped background to celebrate Mallorca's Catalan identity.

### Wrong knee

A SURGEON was struck off for three months for mistakenly operating on the wrong knee during an operation in Palma. The patient took seven months to recover and was awarded €55,000 compensation.

### Street sweep

AN extra three dozen rubbish collectors will patrol the Playa de Palma this summer to ensure cleanliness. The new manpower follows angry complaints from locals about piles of rubbish ruining the beach.

### Money blown

TAXPAYERS on Mallorca will fork out €19 million to help the government pay damages to a property developer that lost out when a former administration cancelled a lucrative Andratx construction project.

### Blue zone

WORKERS are fuming over new blue zone paid parking spaces in Puerto Andratx. Many commuters will be left with no choice but to pay exorbitant charges or walk miles to work.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Pyro hell**

DISASTER was narrowly averted when firefighters quickly extinguished a dangerous blaze at a fireworks factory near Lloret de Vistalegre. There were several explosions before it was brought under control.

**Swim death**

AN unidentified foreign tourist died while swimming off the Cala Santanyi coast on Sunday. The 75-year-old had a pacemaker and was in clear distress when rescuers swam out to help.

**Human tower**

A HUMAN pyramid contest took place outside Palma Cathedral as two ancient balancing sects dating to the 18th century formed gravity-defying towers of flailing limbs to the bemusement of crowds.



**TRAPPED:** Cave diver was underground for over 60 hours.



# Survival saga explodes

THE adventures of a Mallorcan cave diver who was trapped underground for over 60 hours before being dramatically rescued are proving popular in Argentina. Xisco Gracia has been conducting interviews worldwide on his narrow escape and recently spoke to one of the South American country's top radio stars.

During the interview Gracia detailed his innermost thoughts

during his time trapped in a narrow space deep in the cave complex expecting to die. Fully expecting to pass out from a lack of oxygen his thoughts turned to unpaid bills and loose ends before he began hallucinating due to rising carbon dioxide levels.

The ordeal of Mallorca's most experienced speleologist has been compared to the plight of the Chilean miners when 33 men

miraculously survived months underground. Gracia believes it is possible that he has his own guardian angel and is still shocked that he is alive and well.

Rescuers believe that Gracia survived because he didn't panic, relaxed his breathing and spared his oxygen supply far longer than the average Joe could possibly manage.

## Charity slams ruthless investors

A RELIGIOUS charity has condemned ruthless property speculators for forcing many of Mallorca's residents into abject poverty. Caritas, a Catholic church institution, presented a dire warning for the island's future in the charity's end of year assessment of 2016.

In it charity chief Margalida Riutort details how many working families see their rents more than double during summer, rising from a manageable €500 per month to an impossible €1,000, almost a full average salary.

The group helped almost 800 people pay their rent last year but their assistance is a drop in the ocean compared to the wider property crisis facing some of Mallorca's and Spain's most vulnerable city dwellers.

Eviction rates have shot up across the country as investors buy up and renovate apartments in popular neighbourhoods, either as part of gentrification, or to punt them on short term to tourists. Foreigners are willing to fork out €1,000 a week for a four-bedroom apartment, and would still feel they are getting a terrific deal.

Caritas worry that Mallorca is headed down a dangerous path whereby the rich will get richer at the expense of society's poorest members. The situation is particularly acute on Mallorca as there really isn't many other places for families to go once rents get too high. Unlike the mainland with its vast sprawling suburbs, tourism affects almost every corner of the island.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Catwalk dogs**

MORE than 50 abandoned dogs strutted down the catwalk as a Son Reus animal charity showed them off to potential new owners. The unusual fashion show comes as stray numbers on Mallorca rise.

**Living city**

**PALMA'S** list of protected sites added 162 buildings as the city battles to preserve its architectural heritage. Newcomers include old homes in Pere Garau dating to the 1920s.

**Pet sounds**

*THREE-THOUSAND* fans swooned to classic 60's tunes during a once-in-a-lifetime performance from *The Beach Boys*. The iconic band played *Son Fusteret* during their acclaimed greatest hits tour.

# Royal black sheep

PROSECUTORS are appealing the sentence imposed on the in-law black sheep of Spain's royal family, Inaki Urdangarin. The husband of the princess Infanta Cristina, former Duchess of Palma, was recently sentenced to six years imprisonment over money laundering charges related to the aborted construction of the Palma Arena.

But state prosecutors are not happy with the decision from Mallorca's provincial court. They are appealing to the Supreme Court to demand that the former Olympic handball player serve 19 and a half years.

Urdangarin's current sentence comes from guilty verdicts on fraud, corruption and influence peddling charges. But police believe his influence in the notorious Noos case was more sinister, and that he may have masterminded the huge money laundering scam.

Almost €6 million of public money was diverted from state coffers to Urdangarin's 'charity fund,' the Noos Institute, which was supposed to build the new Palma Arena. Instead the funds were sent to overseas accounts in the UK and the Caribbean.

The scandal implicated his wife the Infanta Cristina, who was forced to testify in court. It ultimately led to the early retirement of her father King Juan Carlos and the removal of her title Duchess of Palma.



**King took early retirement.**

## Twisted troll fined

A MAN who abused a dead police officer on Twitter and other social networks has been convicted and fined by a Palma court. The French national escaped jail on libel charges by reaching a settlement with the prosecution involving an apology and a €720 fine.

Days after the tragic death of Local Police officer Biel Llull in September last year, the Frenchman wrote publicly that 'All cops are bastards' and that he was pleased to see that Llull had been killed, despite not even knowing the man.

He followed the insensitive comments with other abusive remarks before finally being arrested in October. Police had been tracing his remarks and raided his home following a tip-off under the aptly named Operation Respect.

He and another internet troll were charged with hate crimes and insulting moral integrity.

The death of Biel Llull shocked his local community in Palma. The much-loved policeman died when he was cycling alongside his eight-year-old son along the old Sineu road.

The 44-year-old was hit by a French tourist driving a rental car. She tested positive for alcohol at the scene and is currently awaiting prosecution. Fortunately Llull's son escaped unharmed.

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# A quiet week for the euro

## Commentary by Moneycorp

### EUR weekly currency update

From an economic point of view it was a quiet week for the euro. Industrial production in the euro zone was up by 1.4% on the year and 1.5% more people had jobs. April's trade surplus was smaller than forecast. On the political front the picture was mostly positive: The party of Emanuel Macron, France's new president, put in a good showing in the first round of voting for the legislature and the European Council approved the latest round of Greece's bailout finance.

Following its post-election trashing sterling did reasonably well, strengthening by two thirds of a cent on the week. It was not easy going but the Bank of England did its bit to help. The Monetary Policy Committee kept Bank Rate unchanged at 0.25% but three of the eight members voted for an increase. That came as a surprise to investors and they marked up the pound.

### USD weekly currency update

The only two US ecostats that really mattered were retail sales and the consumer price index and neither of them looked very good from the dollar's point of view. Sales were down by a monthly -0.3% and inflation slowed from 2.2% to 1.9%. Still, neither of them deterred the Federal Reserve from delivering the promised quarter-percentage-point interest rate increase.

The dollar went up by two thirds of a cent

against the euro and it was unchanged against the British pound, which did fairly well following the beating it took in the immediate aftermath of the general election. Slower UK wage growth and falling retail sales might have done for it had not three members of the Monetary Policy Committee voted for higher interest rates at Thursday's meeting. No immediate increase is likely but the tilt is now apparently in that direction.

### CAD weekly currency update

The Loonie was the week's major currency leader by a goodly margin. It strengthened by one and a quarter US cents and went up by three cents against sterling. The employment data provided some help, with the addition of 55k new jobs in May. The Bank of Canada provided much more when deputy governor Carolyn Wilkins dropped heavy hints about higher interest rates.

Sterling did not get any help from the UK ecostats. Industrial production delivered another disappointment and retail sales fell in May. Inflation came in at 2.9% (CPI) and 3.7% (RPI) while the pace of wage increases slowed to 2.1%, squeezing disposable incomes still further. However, three members of the Monetary Policy Committee voted to increase interest rates. It does not mean an actual increase is imminent but investors saw their decision as a big positive for the pound.

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### AUD weekly currency update

The Aussie was the second best performer among the major currencies, behind the Canadian dollar. Against sterling it strengthened by one cent and it added half a US cent. It got two statistical legs up, the first coming when weak retail sales and slowing inflation in the States cast doubt on the upward course of US interest rates. The second was home-grown, in the form of unexpectedly strong jobs data that showed employment increasing by 42k in May.

Sterling was fortunate not to extend the losses it suffered in the immediate aftermath of the general election. UK industrial and manufacturing were disappointing, as were retail sales. Inflation accel-

erated to 2.9% (CPI) and 3.7% (RPI),

outpacing the 2.1% increase in wages and putting a further squeeze on household spending power. The pound was saved by the three members of the Monetary Policy Committee who unexpectedly voted for higher interest rates. No actual increase is imminent but there won't be any further cuts.

### NZD weekly currency update

On average the Kiwi, the pound and the US dollar were all roughly unchanged on the week against the other dozen most actively-traded currencies. The NZ dollar received some help from a point-and-a-half improvement in the Business NZ purchasing managers' index but none whatsoever from news that the economy expanded by 0.5% in the first quarter. Investors had been hoping to see growth of 0.7% so were disappointed.

Following its post-election beating the pound did fairly well despite some poor data that showed declines in UK industrial production and retail sales. Inflation was higher at 2.9% (CPI) and 3.7% (RPI) while wages were up by only 2.1%, reducing consumers' spending power. The Bank of England helped the pound out of its hole when three of the eight members of the Monetary Policy Committee voted unexpectedly to increase interest rates. No actual increase is imminent but the thought is there.

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**VICENC VIDAL: Wants to recycle more.**

## ‘We don’t want your rubbish’

MORE details have emerged about the new Waste Act set to take force on Mallorca in 2018.

Balearic environment minister Vicenc Vidal revealed the precise regulations included in what he describes as the most radical waste-beating bill in Europe.

Central to the law is the outright banning of plastic bags, cups and disposable packaging from shops and supermarkets. Biodegradable and reusable bags and materials will be promoted instead. Even meat and fish will have to be sold in non-plastic wraps or containers.

Plastic tableware and cutlery will also be banned. That means picnic-goers, hikers and bathers will have to find alternatives to the

ubiquitous cheap plastic plates, forks and knives used for decades. Children’s birthday parties will be changed forever.

Only organic material will be used as fertiliser. Vidal has also pledged to recycle vastly more waste than at present. He has admitted that today 85 per cent of all waste either ends up in landfills or is incinerated, with only 15 per cent being recycled.

Significantly the law will also ban the import of rubbish for burial on the Balearic Islands. Unbelievably mainland companies have been getting away with paying landfills on Mallorca to dump their toxins and rubbish. Vidal says the Balearics will no longer

be the landfill of Europe. The law doesn’t, however, say anything about importing rubbish to be burned on Mallorca.

## Message in a bottle

A FASCINATING message from a not-too-distant past was found on Mallorca. Archaeologists pottering around an old Palma masonry found a sealed glass bottle with a note and a coin inside.

The letter was dated February 26 1952 and appears to be a diary entry style address to no-one in particular, just whatever future generation happened to find it. Archaeologist Llorence Villa believes it is a key document reflecting the times says it was likely written by a day-labourer working in the house.

In it the author complains about being given nothing to eat despite toiling

physically all day, “we work only to starve” he concludes, ending with the message “Long live liberty and die slavery.” The note is signed JBB and littered with poor spelling and punctuation in the semi-literate era.

The coin is revealed to be a gift “a reminder of our lives to the one who finds it.” It is dated from 1945 and is a 10 centimos piece with the eagle and arrow of Franco’s coat of arms.

The find was made in the old town district of Canamunt. Vila believes the man worked in a house managed by Franco loyalists but is still trying to identify who exactly lived there at the time.



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# Not always right



**HOLIDAY RENTALS:** An extra 50,000 tourist beds have been established this year.

ISLAND activists Terraferida have lambasted the government for not placing a moratorium on holiday rental licences while pushing through new legislation. Instead the eco-group say ministers are trying to legitimise as many properties as they can by processing tourist accommodation properties at a record pace.

Terraferida say an extra 50,000 tourist beds have been established on Mallorca this year, bringing the effective total to almost 400,000, practically half the island's population. More licences have been granted in the first five months of

2017 than in all of 2015.

The group, which has a history of exposing ecological crimes on the island, believe the government is effectively offering an amnesty to property owners who have illegally rented out properties for a tremendous profit.

By and large these are not plucky citizens earning extra income. Various companies and professional landlords own hundreds of properties across the island, earning millions from high short term rents.

Terraferida accuse tourism minister Biel Barcelo of encouraging people to apply for

tourist rental licences. They believe the government cynically want to be able to claim they reeled the rogue rental business in by ensuring people operated within a taxpaying legitimate framework.

But, from an environmental perspective, it makes no difference if holiday rental accommodations are legal or not.

Terraferida's cause is the devastation unleashed on the island's natural resources by ever growing numbers of guests.

They want a temporary ban on the granting of tourist rental licences while the new legislation goes through parliament and an absolute ceiling on the total number of beds offered in hotels, apartments and villas.

## Numbers in the news

**€150 million** has recently been spent on renovating major hotels in Torremolinos.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Heavy hearts

FIREFIGHTERS and forestry workers on Mallorca held a minute's silence to pay tribute to the more than 60 victims of the devastating forest fires which occurred last weekend in Portugal.

### Lucky save

A 74-YEAR-OLD German swimmer had a lucky escape, being rescued from Tora beach in Peguera by brave swimmers who used floats to drag her to the shore. She is recovering in hospital.

### Low blow

HUNDREDS of boxers are missing out after Palma began withdrawing funds for the Balearic Boxing Federation. Even amateurs aiming for Olympic Gold are forced to go to Menorca to compete.

### Open arms

MALLORCA should be officially recognised as a multilingual, pluri-national entity according to Balearic president Francina Armengol who wants the island's Catalan and Castilian cultures enshrined in a constitutional document.

### Cable chaos

A CABLE collapsed onto the busy MA-13 highway at Inca causing hours of congestion and chaos with road closures in both directions. Subsequent power outages affected dozens of nearby residents.

### Family love

ORPHANS from Ukraine and Belarus will spend two months with welcoming Mallorcan families. It is part of a longstanding exchange programme helping children in Chernobyl, site of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

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## NEWS EXTRA

## Tangier tip

A NEW weekly direct flight from Mallorca to Tangier, Morocco is now operational. The outbound flight departs on Thursdays, takes an hour and a half and is managed by the Albastar airline.

## Speed up

TRANSPORT minister Marc Pons pledged to invest heavily in travel networks across Mallorca. Airport shuttle buses will reach every corner of the island while the Palma-Manacor train will be faster and more frequent.

## Real heat

SWELTERING temperatures are expected to continue into the weekend with highs between 35 and 37 degrees putting the UK's recent 'heatwave' to shame. Evening lows will still be in the 20's.

## Stealthy crook catchers



**SHE'S ELECTRIC:** Nissan Leaf is being zipped around by Valldemossa police.

POLICE in Valldemossa are chuffed with their brand new zero-emission electric patrol car. The Tramuntana mountain unit is the first on the Balearic Islands to own a set of electric wheels and they have been making good use of them.

Chief of police Sebastia Bonet said the car was terrific fun and that he regularly lets his staff mess around behind the wheel. Violent crime is hardly an issue in the sleepy village, apparently leaving officers with plen-

ty of time on their hands.

Bonet says he has even driven all the way to Palma and was delighted to find that the Nissan Leaf battery recharges during the entirely downhill ride.

The car was presented to Valldemossa as part of a new strategy from the top manufacturer to spread its well-regarded electric Leaf model to police forces across Europe. The Japanese company is at the forefront of the electric game and is well

aware of Mallorca's green credentials and philosophy.

Thomas Hausch, the firm's managing director in Germany, Austria and Switzerland visited Valldemossa last week to discuss the possibility of integrating more vehicles and charging points with Mayor Nadal Torres.

The force's Nissan Leaf can travel for 172 km on a fully charged battery and can easily reach 150kph. It takes just 30 minutes to recharge the battery from empty.

## Toxic air threat

A DANGEROUS combination of extreme temperatures and pollution is increasing the toxicity of Mallorca's atmosphere according to environmental experts. Ecologists in Action note that ozone levels are rising, putting those with respiratory or cardiovascular issues at risk.

Air pollution is already a major problem on Mallorca. The question now is whether the traffic calming measures seen regularly in cities such as Madrid and Paris will have to be implemented on the island during heatwaves.

Unfortunately there appears to be little escape. Quiet mountainous villages are at even greater risk than Palma as air pollution from the city moves upwards.

Repeated studies have found that tropospheric ozone and nitrogen dioxide levels are frequently above maximum levels permitted under Spanish and European law. Upwards of 100,000 people are thought to be exposed to air pollution risks across the Balearic Islands.

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**Specsavers**  
Opticas



UNUSUALLY high temperatures for the month of June across the whole of Spain look set to continue this week broken only by occasional thunderstorms.

The whole of Spain remains on a high level of alert for wildfires - especially after the tragedy that swept Portugal at the weekend.

Madrid set an all-time June high temperature on Saturday when the temperature reached 40.3°C (104.5°F) at Madrid-Barajas Airport.

And last week also saw 44°C (112°F) recorded in Cordoba.

Emergency services continue to warn of the dangers of the intense heat and have issued information about how to cope with the heat.

# No let up for historic heatwave in Spain

The only relief from the higher than normal temperatures will be isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms that develop.

However, a storm system approaching from the Atlantic could finally bring relief from this dangerous heat wave early next week.

**HEATWAVE:** Set to continue across the whole of Spain.



## Advice to beat the heat

HERE are some tips which Emergencias 112 Andalucía suggest will help face high temperatures and avoid getting heatstroke.

Drink lots of water and make sure young children and the elderly drink even if they are not thirsty.

Have a light diet of fruits and vegetables. Avoid eating copious amounts of food and alcoholic drinks.

Avoid doing any sports during the hottest hours of the day. Use bright coloured clothes which allow for transpi-

ration as well as hats and sunglasses.

Use the adequate sun protection products for your age and skin type. You should apply the products 30 minutes before going in the sun and every two hours whilst in it.

When travelling take plenty of water and do not leave anyone inside your car whilst it is parked.

If you are suffering from intense headaches, exhaustion and tachycardia caused by the heat, call 112.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Please help

HOTELS, bars and clubs across Calvia were asked by Mayor Alfonso Rodríguez to help banish lewdness from local streets after images of Magaluf disorder attracted global attention.

### Snake traps

HUNDREDS of snake traps were dispersed across Mallorca. Snakes are rarely dangerous but overpopulation from invasive species is a problem. So far 60 have been captured, some up to three metres long.

### Dog attack

POLICE rescued a young woman in Palma who was bit by an unleashed pitbull. When they accosted the owner they found he had multiple outstanding arrest warrants and took him to jail.

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## Heads roll over footie failure

PRESIDENT of struggling football club Real Mallorca, Monti Galmes, resigned from his position on Monday following fan protests. The club have endured a terrible season forcing the president to reconsider his post.

Galmes has repeatedly apologised to fans during the disastrous few months and has regrettably decided to fall on his sword he told media. Real Mallorca plunged into the third season for the first time in 36 years.

Instead of entertaining the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi at Son Moix stadium, they will be welcoming the Barcelona and Real Madrid 'B' teams. Furious supporters expressed their emotions after the last home



**REAL MALLORCA:** The club has had a terrible season.

game against Getafe, pelting the team bus with rocks and vandalising the stadium.

Chief Executive Officer Maheta Molango is also said to be considering resigning and was last spotted in Miami. He is the last remaining direct line fans have to American owner of the club Robert Sarver.

Sarver himself apologised for the club's woeful performance this season, writing on the official website that the fans deserved better.

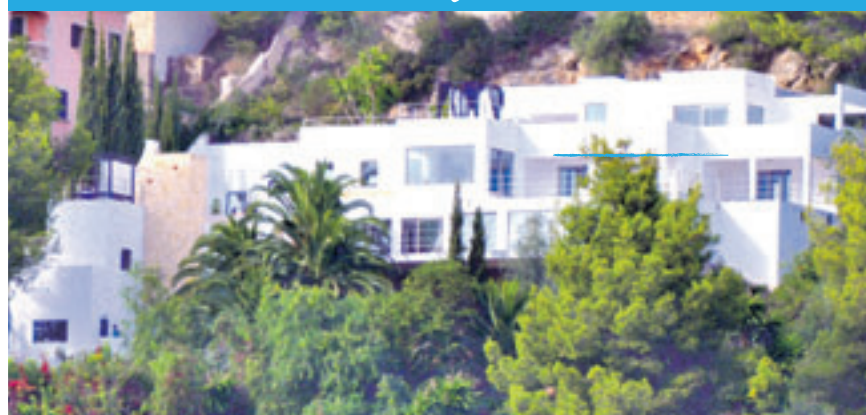
On Tuesday a new coach entered the fray. Vicente Moreno replaces Sergi Barjuan to lead the club through their present dark spell.

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# Island's shopping revolution

SHOPPING habits on Mallorca are changing beyond all recognition. Islanders buy more goods online than any of their compatriots across Spain.

A survey found that 37.8 per cent, almost four in 10, residents have shopped online in the past month, the highest percentage in the country. Even in cosmopolitan Catalonia and Madrid the figures are lower at around 32 per cent.

In the Basque Country barely one in 10 residents regularly shop online.

On average Mallorcan shoppers spend between €100 and

€500 each time they log on for a binge. Almost universally they compare prices on different websites before making a decision.

Despite telling pollsters that they typically use Spanish companies the numbers tell a different story. American giant Amazon dominates internet sales on Mallorca and it is only a matter of time before the island follows Madrid's lead and allows Amazon deliveries by a fleet of drones.

There are several factors which explain Mallorca's passion for online shopping. One is



**DRONE DELIVERY:**  
Mallorca is embracing digital shopping revolution.

the large percentage of foreign residents eager to get certain products from home they sim-

ply can't acquire on an insular Spanish island.

Another factor is that is-

landers are already accustomed to buying flight tickets online for frequent jaunts to the mainland or other Balearic destinations.

There is also a shortage of specialised electronic and sports equipment on the island, which are easily bought online.

Concert and flight tickets are among the biggest online sellers on Mallorca. Interestingly household appliances also sell well. Islanders have 57 per cent more kitchen tools than the average Spaniard.

Traditional businesses across the island are at a crucial jun-

ture. The president of the Afedeco commercial alliance, Rafael Ballester, has said that within 10 years no regular goods, such as kitchen items, electronics, clothes, or even food will be bought in person.

Shops will have to offer tailor made and specialised products to encourage younger generations used to getting what they want at the click of a button to venture out and buy them. Another possibility is embracing the digital revolution and using online technology to ship Mallorcan products around the world.

A SURVEY of major hoteliers across Mallorca found that they agree on one thing. The island is destined for a bumper, record-breaking summer that may surpass even the most optimistic predictions, depending on your position on mass tourism.

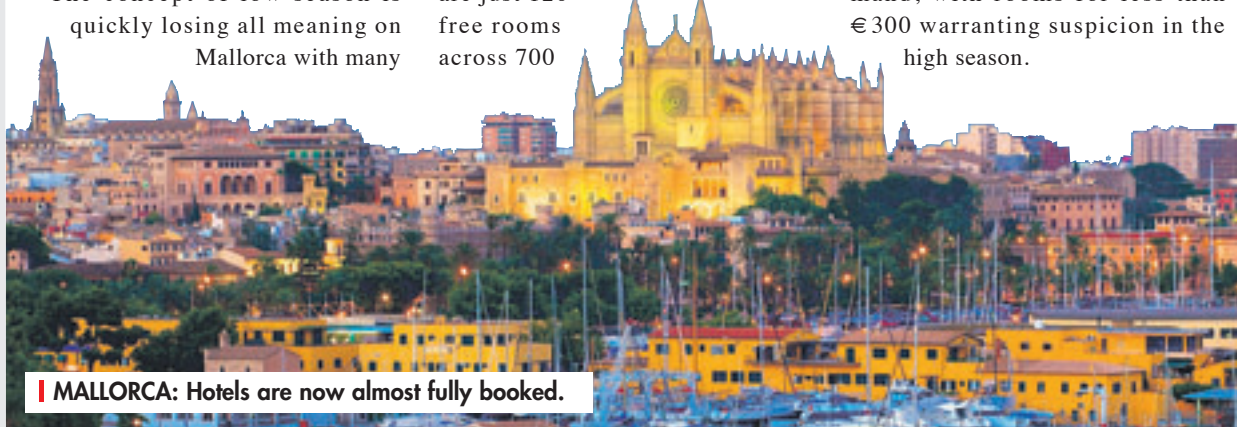
The concept of low season is quickly losing all meaning on Mallorca with many

## Super summer ahead

hotels now booked out deep into November. Occupation rates for June look set to crack the 95 per cent mark. There are just 120 free rooms across 700

different hotels.

Not until autumn will occupation rates sink below 90 per cent. Prices are keeping up with supply and demand, with rooms for less than €300 warranting suspicion in the high season.



**MALLORCA:** Hotels are now almost fully booked.

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Thursdays

Tour guide: English - Spanish - German

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Ciutadella Alcudia 19:30 - 21:10

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# Night of fire!

*A celebration defined by fireworks, jumping in the sea at midnight and leaping over flames, the San Juan bonfires festival is one of the main events on the Spanish cultural calendar. Taking place on June 23, the shortest night of the year, it is a magical celebration that ushers in the summer season.*

## What the blazes?

THE earliest roots of San Juan can be traced back to an ancient Pagan tradition, centred around the belief that the shortest night of the year meant the least amount of time that evil spirits were able to roam freely, which was a cause for celebration.

In later years, this festival merged with the Catholic celebration of Saint John the Baptist giving the festival its name.

The memorable image of the bonfires on the beach started as a symbol of worship to the sun at the beginning of its most powerful months. It is also a way to ward off the evil spirits and witches who were thought by the Pagans to be at their most powerful as the sun started its movement southwards.

The burning of effigies over the flames,

originally of Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus, has in recent times transformed into setting likenesses of local and national celebrities alight, and is said to bring them good luck.

Jumping over the open flames of the bonfire will bring luck and clean the soul for the year to follow.

San Juan is all about fresh starts and plunging into the sea at midnight is a key part of this. According to legend, washing your face three times in the water will allow you 12 months of happiness and luck, eternal beauty, and three wishes which will come true before the next year.

Wherever San Juan is celebrated, it's important to remember the ancient superstitions which surround this magical night.



## Stay safe for San Juan

THE Spanish love affair with grand spectacles based around fire is reflected in most of the nation's summer festivals.

San Juan is perhaps the biggest of them all with many of the key attractions involving fire, fireworks and pyrotechnic marvels.

These displays are among the reasons that San Juan is such a popular event, but it is important to stay safe when on the beach.

Lighting bonfires is strictly prohibited in most areas. This rule is in place to protect environments which are

fragile and stop fires from being lit where they are likely to spread out of control.

The San Juan celebrations in 2011 earned notoriety after six people were killed across Spain.

Authorities also recorded many injuries most of which were burns.

The Spanish government's desire to protect their own culture resulted in them overturning an attempt by the European Union to improve fire safety in 2009 which could have contributed to avoiding in-

stances like those which occurred in 2011.

The EU directives included banning under-12s from handling fireworks and requiring that everyone stands at least 15 metres from firework displays.

These measures were deemed to be an attack on Spain's cultural heritage and resulted in protests across Mediterranean regions.

However, over the last 15 years the number of injuries has been declining and on the whole safety during San Juan is improving, according to local authorities.

**SPARKS FLY:** Hundreds of injuries are reported each year.





**SOUL CLEANSING:**  
Men leaping  
through the flames.



**JUAS:** Burning effigies.

# From Malaga to Mallorca

*Most towns and villages will stage their own version of the San Juan celebrations, with local council websites tending to be best for information.*

## Alicante

ALICANTE is known for the sheer size of the San Juan festivities which take place there. Celebrations commenced last Tuesday with bonfires on the beach which are lit in the evening and continue until Saturday.

Every year since 1932, Alicante has elected a Bellea del Foc (Beauty of the Fire) to lead the celebrations. The job requires the chosen lady to host events and kick start festivities all over the city. This year's representative is Sofia Escoda, aged 22.

In the Plaza de los Luceros from today (Thursday) to Saturday an impressive pyrotechnic display, known as a mascleta, will take place at 2pm. Introduced by the Bellea Del Foc this event follows in the San Juan tradition of being very busy and extremely loud.

The international Folklore Parade takes place down the main street in Al-



**BIG NIGHT:** San Juan is Alicante's most important festival.

icante on Friday June 23. This parade is a celebration of mostly Latin American cultures, with displays from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. For a few hours bands, floats, and dancers will move down the street in an intense display of colour and life.

The Brazilian dancing ladies are the last performers every year and are

known to be the highlight of the event.

At a minute past midnight on Saturday spectators gather on Postiguet beach for an enormous fireworks display followed by the traditional dive into the sea.

Nightly firework displays will then continue until Thursday June 29 as part of an international competition.

## Malaga

SAN JUAN is a huge part of the local culture in Malaga, where locals tend to build many smaller fires on certain permitted beaches.

The most popular city beaches to visit are Misericordia and La Malagueta, where fireworks and bonfires will draw huge crowds.

Free access to an event organised by MegaStar FM Radio will start at 9.30pm on Malagueta beach. Musicians and DJs will perform throughout the night including Borja Rubio, Henry Mendez, Feder, DJ Valdi, Barei, Alex Guerro, K-Narias, and Calum.

At a minute to midnight tomorrow (Friday) the rag dolls, known as Juas,



**FIREWORKS:** Last year's display over Malaga port.

shaped like different characters will be burned on the Misericordia beach, followed by the midnight plunge.

Music and dancing will continue through to the early hours of Saturday.

## Mallorca

PALMA DE MALLORCA is the site of the main San Juan celebrations on the island. With events taking place in clubs and across the city it has earned a reputation as the party location for San Juan. DJs and music will fill venues until the early hours of the morning both tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

In Parc de la Mar, the main attractions will take place. These include street parties, firework displays, music, and of course devils running through the city with firecrackers trying to scare tourists and create a ghoulish atmosphere.

For a more peaceful celebration,



**TRADITIONAL CULTURE:** An example of the devil costumes sported by revellers.

visitors can head to Son Severa. The celebration of their patron saint, John the Baptist, takes place in the weeks leading up to Saturday June 24 and

ends on this night. Visitors can expect to find agricultural markets, fairs with local games and competitions, and regional dance demonstrations.



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# Spanish tax evasion fears

By John Smith

ACCORDING to the Spanish General Council of Economists association (CGE), tax evasion is costing the economy more €25 billion a year.

The main problem appears to be the fact that many Spaniards believe that tax evasion in one form or another is fair game, especially when so many politicians and industrialists have been proven not only to be tax evaders but in many cases have got away with it.

Whilst foreign-born footballers

## €168 billion

is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Spain of which 16 per cent is estimated to be subject to no payment of tax.

may be targeted and are to some extent an easy option worth many column inches in newspapers, even the High Court has condemned the 2012 tax amnesty that allowed those with large unde-

clared incomes to pay less tax than those who were much poorer yet had been honest in their declarations.

The general conclusion is that Spanish tax law is confusing and

that people are not encouraged to ask for assistance because of bureaucracy and the high level of fines if a simple mistake is discovered.

This means that many companies employ people 'off the books' saving social security payments and not deducting income tax and in numerous cases accepting payment in cash so that IVA is not charged.

There are also a number of manual workers, particularly in construction and domestic employment who work cash in hand.

## Spain threatens loan to Greece

SPANISH Finance Minister Luis de Guindos speaking on behalf of Spain, Italy and Slovakia has threatened to veto a new €8.5 billion loan to Greece.

A major row has broken out over a decision made several years ago to charge officials from those three countries who sat on a privatisation panel.

They are accused of alleged embezzlement and breach of duty but the accusation which is supported by a number of Greek lawyers has dragged on since 2015 without going to trial.

Now the three countries have lost patience with the Greek government and want the matter resolved if the loan is to proceed.

### Quote of the Week

"Gastronomy is one of the most important assets in Spain, which has thousands of brands and high quality products," according to François Nuyts Amazon Spain's CEO announcing an international promotion of Spanish food.



JAPANESE: A typical Wagamama restaurant.

## Wagamama group arrives in Spain

THE Wagamama group of restaurants founded in the UK 25 years ago has granted a franchise to a Spanish company, Grupo Vips.

The concept of the restaurant is to produce fast paced and tasty food based on the concept of Japanese ramen (noodle) bars offering a celebration of Asian food with guests sharing long tables.

Grupo Vips already operates 350 outlets throughout Spain which includes Vips cafés, Ginis, TGI Fridays and Starbucks

Coffee, so has good knowledge of running franchised operations for foreign companies.

The first two Wagamama restaurants are now open in Madrid and the group expects to open a further 20 eateries in main cities throughout the country creating 1,000 jobs.

For those on the Costa del Sol who want to try this popular version of Japanese food, a Wagamama restaurant was opened in Ocean Village Gibraltar in 2016 and is going strong.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Bail out loss

THE Bank of Spain has revealed that of the €76.41 billion used to bail out banks during the crisis, it will probably see €16.4 billion back! So far however it has only received €4 billion equivalent to just over 5 per cent.

## Medal haul

SPAIN spent €17.8 million on buying medals to give to officers from the Guardia Civil and National Police in 2016. Of additional interest is that the award of different medal types, increases the value of officer's pensions when they retire.

## Holiday North Korea

IN a bid to increase foreign currency earnings and to show a more peaceful and attractive face, North Korea is trying to woo Spanish tourists. Its Embassy in Madrid hosted a reception for Spanish journalists promoting the attractions of the country.

## Inflation drops in the EU

INFLATION in the European Union has dropped to 1.6 per cent in May according to the latest figures released.

Ireland had zero inflation for the month, whilst Spain dropped to 2 per cent, but the UK recorded

one of the highest levels at 2.9 per cent which is a four year record.

The main reason for the increase is the drop in the value of the pound which has recovered now slightly after the election results.

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3i Group PLC	913.75	2.50	0.27	529.09	Lloyds Banking Group PLC	69.15	0.61	0.89	6,233.95
Admiral Group PLC	2086.00	6.00	0.29	24.88	London Stock Exchange Grp	3749.00	38.00	1.02	23.37
Anglo American PLC	980.75	13.10	1.35	697.32	Marks & Spencer Group PLC	351.55	6.46	1.87	533.20
Antofagasta PLC	788.50	8.50	1.09	320.43	Mediclinic International PLC	790.00	-4.50	-0.57	92.63
Ashtead Group PLC	1624.50	13.22	0.82	163.76	Merlin Entertainments PLC	492.90	2.15	0.44	23.36
Associated British Foods PLC	2995.00	34.00	1.15	21.66	Micro Focus International PLC	2418.00	18.00	0.75	17.01
AstraZeneca PLC	5323.50	39.00	0.74	67.03	Mondi PLC	2074.50	-19.00	-0.91	188.28
Aviva PLC	538.75	3.00	0.56	30.64	Morrison (Wm) Supermrkts	244.60	2.20	0.91	577.73
Babcock International Group	917.75	6.50	0.71	63.30	National Grid PLC	1023.75	5.50	0.54	279.81
BAE Systems PLC	677.75	4.66	0.69	34.22	Next PLC	4139.00	48.00	1.17	20.22
Barclays PLC	206.08	2.85	1.40	2,471.24	Old Mutual PLC	202.90	1.00	0.50	471.10
Barratt Developments PLC	574.25	2.50	0.44	364.81	Paddy Power Betfair PLC	8632.50	15.00	0.17	6.63
BHP Billiton PLC	1161.75	3.50	0.30	1,025.83	Pearson PLC	710.00	-3.00	-0.42	248.76
BP PLC	471.48	4.80	1.03	1,522.05	Persimmon PLC	2286.50	11.00	0.48	66.00
British American Tobacco PLC	5536.00	37.00	0.67	195.98	Provident Financial PLC	2899.00	46.00	1.61	25.84
British Land Co PLC	632.75	1.00	0.16	529.64	Prudential PLC	1818.00	25.50	1.42	331.53
BT Group PLC	290.78	-0.40	-0.14	1,094.50	Randgold Resources Ltd	7057.50	-65.00	-0.91	25.72
Bunzl PLC	2386.50	11.00	0.46	56.62	Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	7978.00	54.00	0.68	59.48
Burberry Group PLC	1735.50	17.00	0.99	339.01	RELX PLC	1719.50	5.00	0.29	255.38
Carnival PLC	5145.00	32.43	0.63	7.68	Rentokil Initial PLC	283.10	3.00	1.07	412.93
Centrica PLC	201.85	0.93	0.46	821.83	Rio Tinto PLC	3087.25	43.50	1.43	255.88
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2394.00	25.00	1.06	144.42	Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	915.25	8.50	0.94	355.22
Compass Group PLC	1672.50	13.00	0.78	239.20	Royal Bank of Scotland Grp	252.15	2.40	0.96	304.59
ConvaTec Group PLC	331.95	6.70	2.06	157.55	Royal Dutch Shell PLC	2185.25	25.50	1.18	430.05
CRH PLC	2850.00	29.00	1.03	42.98	Royal Mail PLC	445.60	0.90	0.20	140.95
Croda International PLC	3950.00	44.00	1.13	21.13	RSA Insurance Group PLC	632.50	1.00	0.16	318.93
DCC PLC	7547.50	55.00	0.73	7.86	Sage Group (The) PLC	715.25	1.00	0.14	237.00
Diageo PLC	2374.75	33.00	1.41	332.80	Sainsbury (J) PLC	255.05	2.80	1.11	720.13
Direct Line Insurance Group	369.40	-0.64	-0.17	274.70	Schroders PLC	3140.00	21.00	0.67	9.42
easyJet PLC	1376.50	14.00	1.03	186.49	Scottish Mortgage Invstmtn	408.25	4.45	1.10	154.64
Experian PLC	1627.50	13.00	0.81	66.39	Severn Trent PLC	2403.00	14.00	0.59	28.57
Fresnillo PLC	1544.00	-2.00	-0.13	42.97	Shire PLC	4304.50	28.00	0.65	83.53
GKN PLC	347.10	2.90	0.84	262.97	Sky PLC	962.25	-2.50	-0.26	129.16
GlaxoSmithKline PLC	1694.75	9.50	0.56	430.95	Smith & Nephew PLC	1378.50	7.00	0.51	94.27
Glencore PLC	282.12	2.45	0.88	2,220.16	Smiths Group PLC	1633.50	21.00	1.30	46.52
Hammerson PLC	599.25	-3.00	-0.50	234.63	Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	2333.00	33.00	1.43	59.97
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	1376.00	10.00	0.73	20.21	SSE PLC	1473.50	3.00	0.20	9.35
Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC	1637.00	-6.34	-0.39	1.34	Standard Chartered PLC	760.95	10.90	1.45	191.11
HSBC Holdings PLC	692.20	5.10	0.74	2,241.88	Standard Life PLC	390.35	1.00	0.26	396.45
Imperial Brands PLC	3576.75	27.00	0.76	105.58	St James's Place PLC	1235.00	-1.00	-0.08	155.38
Informa PLC	690.50	3.50	0.51	106.83	Taylor Wimpey PLC	180.15	2.00	1.12	1,031.10
InterContinental Hotels Gro...	4418.00	-14.00	-0.32	46.00	Tesco PLC	171.65	0.55	0.32	3,233.40
International Consolidated ...	594.25	5.50	0.93	104.46	TUI AG	1161.50	8.00	0.69	38.66
Intertek Group PLC	4419.50	25.00	0.57	28.86	Unilever PLC	4306.25	29.50	0.69	3.94
Intu Properties PLC	268.40	0.30	0.11	125.66	United Utilities Group PLC	968.50	3.00	0.31	78.10
ITV PLC	179.45	0.60	0.34	359.81	Vodafone Group PLC	223.58	1.00	0.45	132.67
Johnson Matthey PLC	3035.00	11.00	0.36	15.97	Whitbread PLC	3936.00	36.00	0.92	52.68
Kingfisher PLC	308.10	2.38	0.78	174.47	Wolseley PLC	4797.50	32.00	0.67	52.85
Land Securities Group PLC	1066.50	-1.00	-0.09	100.94	Worldpay Group PLC	326.35	3.00	0.93	219.00
Legal & General Group PLC	261.05	1.63	0.63	232.34	WPP PLC	1676.50	21.00	1.27	232.82

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APPLE	142,270	-1,40%	-2,020	741M
BOEING CO	196,440	+0,51%	0,990	118M
CATERPILLAR	107,600	+1,13%	1,200	63M
CHEVRON	108,35	+1,90%	2,02	205M
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,630	+0,16%	0,050	158M
COCA-COLA	45,31	+0,13%	0,06	193M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	82,4700	+0,37%	0,3000	71M
EXXON MOBIL	83,49	+1,50%	1,23	353M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,0000	+0,21%	0,0600	251M
GOLDMAN SACHS	221,81	-0,64%	-1,42	87M
HOME DEPOT	156,6400	-0,08%	-0,1300	187M
IBM	155,38	+0,75%	1,16	145M
INTEL CORP	35,2100	-0,28%	-0,1000	165M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	86,1800	-0,45%	-0,3900	306M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	134,3500	+0,98%	1,3100	361M
MC DONALD'S CORP	151,9900	+0,54%	0,8200	123M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,97	-0,35%	-0,22	172M
MICROSOFT	70,000	+0,14%	0,100	540M
NIKE	51,10	-3,40%	-1,80	67M
PFIZER	32,9700	+0,49%	0,1600	196M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	89,660	+0,31%	0,280	229M
TRAVELERS CIES	129,44	+0,33%	0,42	36M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	120,43	-0,27%	-0,32	96M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	181,63	+0,69%	1,25	174M
VERIZON COMMS	46,63	-0,02%	-0,01	190M
VISA	94,17	+0,00%	0,00	173M
WAL-MART STORES	75,2400	-4,65%	-3,6700	226M
WALT DISNEY CO	105,5100	-0,44%	-0,4700	165M

NASDAQ

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Whole Foods Market, Inc.	\$ 42.68	9.62 ▲ 29.10%
Impinj, Inc.	\$ 55.71	8.94 ▲ 19.11%
Health Insurance Innovations, Inc.	\$ 24.85	2.80 ▲ 12.70%
Presbia PLC	\$ 3.15	0.35 ▲ 12.50%
Digimarc Corporation	\$ 37	3.80 ▲ 11.45%
Nanometrics Incorporated	\$ 27.22	2.33 ▲ 9.36%
Finisar Corporation	\$ 27.79	2.15 ▲ 8.39%
GDS Holdings Limited	\$ 8.30	0.63 ▲ 8.21%
Forward Pharma A/S	\$ 21.96	1.66 ▲ 8.18%
Asta Funding, Inc.	\$ 8.60	0.65 ▲ 8.18%
Neos Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 8.65	0.65 ▲ 8.13%
Most Declined		
Alliance Holdings GP, L.P.	\$ 22.84	3.69 ▼ 13.91%
Sundance Energy Australia Limited	\$ 5.52	0.7085 ▼ 11.38%
United Natural Foods, Inc.	\$ 35.39	4.36 ▼ 10.97%
Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.	\$ 19.50	2.25 ▼ 10.34%
Altimmune, Inc.	\$ 3.54	0.38 ▼ 9.69%
Xcel Brands, Inc	\$ 2.80	0.30 ▼ 9.68%
ObsEva SA	\$ 5.45	0.57 ▼ 9.47%
Novan, Inc.	\$ 3.94	0.37 ▼ 8.58%
Aimmune Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 16.47	1.50 ▼ 8.35%
Intersections, Inc.	\$ 4.35	0.38 ▼ 8.03%
Bel Fuse Inc.	\$ 21	1.78 ▼ 7.81%

Distributing Funds

EUR Fixed Income B

STERLING Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

€0.9566 .....

€0.0020

€0.9546 .....

€0.0022

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B

EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

£0.9833.....-£0.0002

£0.9605.....-£0.0006

£1.1574.....£0.0039

£1.0832.....£0.0032

£1.3057.....£0.0074

£1.2106.....£0.0064

£1.4444.....£0.0116

£1.3467.....£0.0101

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# Taxi drivers and councils complain

## European Parliament wants to control sharing economy

WHILST the concept of the 'sharing economy' seemed like a good idea at the time, the European Parliament feels that new legislation is needed.

The definition of a sharing economy is an economic model in which individuals are able to borrow or rent assets owned by someone else.

The two most obvious examples of this concept are best represented by companies like Airbnb and Uber and these two companies as well as others offering similar services have been the cause of much criticism as well as some praise in Spain.

The concept is social media based and sees individuals able to rent properties in major cities and towns or order 'mini cabs' for transportation.

In the case of private room hire, both local authorities and many residents are opposed to the concept as the authorities argue that the rentals avoid tax and flout rental regulations whilst locals see long term rental prices either increasing or the availability of property decreasing.

With private car hire, taxi drivers are up in arms as they are not only being undercut, but the value of a taxi licence which can be sold on, has been seen as a form of pension as at one time it was worth well in excess of €100,000 and is now dropping in value.

The European Parliament passed a non-binding resolution asking for measures across the Union in order to fight abuse and ensure that these platforms respect workers' and consumer's rights as well as ensuring that they also meet their tax obligations.

To some extent, a number of countries don't feel that there is a major problem with these companies, as they tend to generate new employment opportunities but others are concerned that they need to be regulated to ensure that taxes in particular are paid by both the companies finding the clients and those performing the service.



**SPANISH MEP  
Sergio Gutiérrez  
spoke in the  
debate.**

There is also a need to ensure that consumers are protected in the event that anything goes wrong as it is feared that adequate insurances may not be in place nor are there clear paths for complaints or fair adjudication.

It is also felt in Brussels that there is a need to differentiate between individual providers of services and professionals as it appears that in Barcelona alone, a high proportion of the properties advertised for short term let are owned by just a few professionals who give the impression that they are private individuals.

## City finance danger

IT is being suggested that the European Commission will require oversight of major euro-clearing operations currently undertaken in London following Brexit.

To a government that has indicated that it wants to leave the European Union in order to gain more freedom, such a demand will most likely be anathema.

The problem however is that if it can't agree to this demand then a number of firms currently operating in London are likely to have no option other than to move their euro dealing to an EU member state.

This will have an immediate impact on the importance of London as a major currency centre which will see a loss of jobs and the disappearance of hundreds of billions of euro deal transactions.

At the end of the day, whilst not the friendliest of moves, the EU negotiators will argue that their role is to do what is best for the remaining 27 states, even if the UK loses out.

# CRANES SIGNAL BETTER TIMES ON COAST

## Sky-high sign!

CRANES on Costa del Sol skylines are a clear indication that after years of hard times, things are steadily returning to more normality locally, especially in construction.

While things may generally be in a state of flux in the UK with the General Election and the lengthy Brexit negotiations still to take any definite direction, sky-high cranes on building sites in southern Spain are an indicator that the local building industry and property are in healthy recovery.

No-one politically or in property is saying it is back to the boom times in Spain of the early noughties (2000 - 2006), but more than fledgling shoots are now apparent of a recovering healthier construction industry.

"In the last eight years cranes on the sky-line have been basically non-existent," said one local developer who asked not to be named said.

"But just look around, now there are cranes everywhere, a sign that the con-



**HEALTHY SIGN: Sky-line  
cranes in La Cala de Mijas.**

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struction world is on the move, and while many properties remain with For Sale signs up, some of the new developments are proving really popular.

"And let's face it, there are few places better than the Costa del Sol to live, not just in Europe, but in the world."

A Brit expat who moved to El Faro from Abu Dhabi in 2006 just before the property bubble burst said: "Little has developed around here in recent years, but now on our urbanisation three villas are being upgraded by new foreign

owners and in nearby La Cala there are six or seven cranes on the sky-line.

"It's not like Dubai where I once counted 39 cranes on the sky-line, but things are definitely moving positively, which is great to see."

There is a certain irony that the 'Bad Bank' Sareb which is managed by a consortium of 'Good Banks' and the Spanish government has a huge stock of older property which was surrendered during the financial crisis, but people appear more interested in purchasing brand new property.

## Swiss bank buys in Madrid

SWISS Bank UBS has spent €35.15 million to purchase two large warehouse properties in Madrid through its Asset Management division.

Using clients' funds to purchase the properties, it has already secured tenants on long term leases which will generate a regular income for its investment clients.

This is a very attractive market for the bank as the Spanish economy recovers and industry needs to expand but may not have funds available in order to purchase property, so leasing is a workable option.

At one time the Chinese were purchasing large numbers of large commercial properties, whilst the Russians were taking smaller commercial properties looking for quick returns.

Certainly USB gives the impression that it sees itself in Spain for some considerable time.





Photo Credit: Sky Light Pictures Shutterstock.

Typical  
Hydro-Electric  
Dam.

# Spanish to be busy in Africa

AFTER 30 years of planning, the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is slightly closer to building a colossal dam with Spanish help.

The intention has been to create a huge hydro-electric facility to increase the power supply to the capital Kinshasa and also to allow the Congolese to export electricity to South Africa.

There are currently two companies bidding for this construction work, ACS from Spain and the Three Gorges Corporation from China and in an unusual

move, the Congolese government has asked the two competing companies to work together in order to undertake and complete the job more quickly.

Although no decision has been made as yet by the two corporations, the concept may be attractive as it would cut the financial risk to each company as the country has a history of instability and as recently as last year, the World Bank withheld a \$73 million (€65 million) grant which was to be put towards the project.

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# The fall out starts for Banco Popular directors

ALTHOUGH the decision to sell the Banco Popular to Santander for €1 was prompted by the European Central Bank, repercussions are now being felt.

Even the Spanish government appears in hindsight to question the hurried decision and now wants to know the thinking behind the accountants Deloitte's review of the Bank which supposedly had €1.3 billion of assets at the time of the sale.

This report was not immediately published, but has been criticised by Banco Popular shareholders and privately in part by the Bank of Spain according to reports.

Almost 10,000 private shareholders, represented by the OCU consumer body are suing

the directors of Banco Popular in respect of their losses as their shares are now worthless and other parties are accusing the board of false accounting and possible fraud.

Emilio Saracho the Spanish businessman and adviser to the hugely successful Inditex was appointed as President of Banco Popular in December 2016 and claims that in the run-up to his appointment, he was not aware of the real financial state of the bank,

He admits that he may have made mistakes, especially at an April shareholder meeting where comments made led to the start of the fall of the bank's shares, but he will work with Santander for three months as the hand over continues.

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# Sir Leapy doesn't sound right

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



I DON'T think I have been more disillusioned with a Conservative leader since the disastrous tenure of Edward Heath. 'Course we should all have seen it coming.

For a remainer, who became an enthusiastic hard line Brexiteer virtually overnight, purely to ingratiate herself with what she and her more than useless advisors saw as the public's 'mood, Ms May just didn't seem to sit right from the start.

From that point she has lumbered from one ill-advised disaster to the next. Couple that with her apparent reluctance and total inability to confront anyone in public and I think we could be in serious trouble with our negotiations at the table of the esteemed EU hardliners. A bitter malicious bunch who would be delighted to see our whole country join Atlantis on the sea bed of abject failure and utter ruin.

Against such opposition I'm afraid Ms May simply won't hack it. Despite all the hype, and hope that we had discovered a new 'Iron Lady,' Margaret Thatcher she most certainly aint. 'Putty woman' would be a far more apt title. The sooner she is replaced as leader the better.

Unless she produces some dramatic morphing and we discover we have somehow misjudged her and, heaven forbid, she is still at the helm when we go to the country again, the Conservatives will lose the next election. As things are at the moment, the best we can all be prepared for is a soft Brexit, which basically means we may as well not have had a referendum at all.

I am more than a little disgusted at the blatant way the Grenfell disaster was twisted into a political issue. Particularly by the Labour party, who wasted no time in using it as a photographic and propaganda opportunity, even down to one member who said the cladding was done because of complaints from the 'rich' neighbours that the building

**THERESA MAY:**  
Lumbered from  
one ill-advised  
disaster to the  
next.



Photo by Reuters Media Express

was an eyesore in the area. Oh and by the way Mr Corbyn, despite the incompetence of its leader, you did actually, quite heavily lose the election to the Tories... Just saying!

Personally I've had a pretty good past week. Apart from a number of people that pointed out that, with reference to my last column, hens do the laying and people do the lying! ( Yeah yeah!) I now have all three books of my autobiographical trilogy on Kindle and Amazon (Adults and broad-minded readers only OK?), I also received some great news from my Stage Musical co-writer that our project is to be produced in Australia at the end of the year. So it's onward and upward from the ol' boy. Thanks to all concerned. Only disappointment was being passed over in the 'list' again this year. Ah well, never did think Sir Leapy sounded right anyway.

Have a good week. Keep that mail coming in and;

*Always keep the faith*

*Love Leapy*

*leapylee2002@gmail.com*

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## Nik Prescott is the Store Manager of Oak Land Furniture in Spain

# From strumming the strings to knocking the wood

**M**any people have a career change although not as extreme as local man and resident of Spain for over 10 years Nik Prescott.

Nik originally from Hull started out after school by joining the Royal Navy where he served around the world on many ships for more than 10 years and whilst sailing on the high seas to pass the time he learnt to play the guitar when in his cabin and not on duty serving his country.

He returned to Hull after his service had finished and took his self-taught talents as his next profession, setting up a firstly a music shop as well as then taking professional lessons to further improve his guitar skills.

Once fully tuned, he soon ended up touring the UK with a number of bands as lead guitarist especially with tribute band Badness which turned out to be great fun.

Having travelled the world with the Royal Navy for so many years and with a dislike for rain and cold, Nik embarked on another adventure as he packed his strings and headed to the Costa del Sol.

On arrival in Spain and the sunny climates he desired, Nik carved a living from the music scene there and in Portugal, but whilst a living could be

made the biggest challenge he faced was backing tracks.

It appears that a number of artists in the Costa use backing tracks for their evening slots so a backing track replaces the need for a good old fashioned blues guitarist.

Happily Nik was in demand from another area as schools were crying out for music teachers and that was his next destination, back to the classroom, teaching children music which he thought would be his future in Spain until a totally freak meeting.

During the school holidays in 2016 he went to breakfast at Scoffers Cafe on Fuengirola sea front. Whilst relaxing and enjoying his favourite coffee overlooking the deep blue Mediterranean, he noticed another gentleman sat down doing lots of paperwork which he thought both strange and a little different to the standard seaside appearance.

This intrigued Nik, so using the language of the world of football he entered into a conversation with the paper laden gentleman.

After swapping tales and sharing woes for Hull City FC and West Ham United it transpired that he was chatting away with the Managing Director of Oak Land Furniture Spain, who explained that all the paper work was in regards to the pending opening of the first store in Spain and the launch of their na-

tional website offering delivery across Spain of all their products.

Nik was astounded to be told after around an hour of conversation that he was the perfect person the company was looking for to run the new store and would he be interested?

At first Nik couldn't take it all in, one minute he was enjoying the holiday school break over a relaxing coffee and now after a general chit chat he was being offered a major role with a complete difference to what he had ever done before.

When he questioned why him? The reply came on a serviette listed in bullet points.

- A. You're polite
  - B. You're not pushy
  - C. You're intelligent
  - D. You're a people's person
- We will teach you the rest!

Within a day Nik accepted the position on the basis that if a company as recognised as Oak Land Furniture were to select him the way they had, they must think he had potential and to work for such a large business too would be an honour especially in a dedicated management role.

It wasn't long before Nik was sent back to

the UK for full training to learn the unique sales points of the fantastic products as well as the company ethic prior to return for the San Pedro de Alcantara opening.

“

**I like to offer a friendly service and a personal service.**

In Nik's own words "I left Spain a musician and returned to Spain as a wood furniture specialist."

Over an intense period of training, he assimilated every aspect to the vast choice of ranges and products to every little detail of not only 100 per cent solid oak furniture, but painted furniture too and also the qualities of fabric and leather sofas.

The store eventually opened in October 2016 and Nik took up his new role with pleasure.

To date he has already assisted over 900 ordering customers in just eight months and is looking forward to the day he assists his 1,000th customer and openly says he will give that customer his order totally free when they come

into the store to celebrate.

Nik explained when we asked him what the key to his success was;

"Well firstly it's the quality of the products and the brand, it's exceptional and the customers coming in store clearly see that. I'm no salesman but I'm now fully trained as a furniture specialist so all I have to do is advise when asked.

"I like to offer a friendly service and a personal service to the expats here in Spain who want a quality product, I understand fully that customers don't like pushy salesman because I don't like them myself!

"Each customer I like to think I give a full and helpful service understanding their needs and requirements on a personal basis. Whilst we are a global brand there's no reason why you can't give a full personal service when a customer comes to see me and that's exactly what I offer.

"Every customer through the door has a requirement and at all times I hope I cater to their needs. I'm just Nik in the grand scale of things and give my full attention to everybody's requirements whether it be a single bedside cabinet to a full house furnish."

Nik has also now installed Lola Lopez in the store too as he admits his Spanish isn't the greatest and desires the Spanish customers to receive exactly the same service as he offers the expats.

So if you are looking for that personal service and quality solid oak furniture or a quality sofa Nik Prescott is your man!

[www.oaklandfurnitureSpain.com](http://www.oaklandfurnitureSpain.com)



**DINING TABLE:** In quality oak.

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# A master class in how to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory

**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)

WITH headlines ranging from 'May The Farce Be With You' and 'Theresa Back From The Dead' to 'The Maybot Rebooted As Strong And Humble. Stumble For Short,' we witnessed a master class in how to lose a general election, snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory.

Theresa May lost her majority through a combination of hubris, incompetence and personality. Having billed herself as a great tactician, she made serious errors of judgement.

Her stiff, formal language and reliance on pointless slogans endeared her to few voters. And while Corbyn inspired

the young, she (with the 'dementia tax') terrified the old.

She apparently learnt nothing from last year's EU referendum, failing to put forward a coherent, unifying, energetic vision, relying instead on trying to frighten the electorate with dire warnings about voting for the opposition. Didn't work then, didn't work now.

The major problem facing the Conservatives is the mast they've pinned their sails to. Theresa May isn't Margaret Thatcher. Never was, never will be. Thatcher had a clear vision regarding what she wanted to accomplish and didn't hesitate to appoint ministers with the ability - and freedom - to implement that vision even if they were potential rivals.

And she wasn't opposed to taking risks: not just the Falklands war, but commitment to the EU single market and outspoken opposition to the euro.

Theresa May appears risk

averse. Her sole face-to-face TV 'debate' was with her husband, while as Home Secretary she could have redesigned a department unfit for purpose for decades. Border/immigration control, the police force, the deportation of foreign criminals and illegal immigrants and asylum process all in disarray. It was only with the police force she really got involved but concentrating more upon confrontation with the police federation rather than root and branch reform. She wasn't dubbed the 'submarine' for nothing.

Election after election it's the same, right? A bit like each new M&S 'fashion collection,' when we keep getting as-

sured: "Oh, there's some really wearable stuff this time." Or a bit like a desperate ex who keeps promising he's changed but he never does...

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

*to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.*



Theresa May.

## THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Angus Silvie, Axarquía

## A street view is best

WHEN you live on the eighth floor of a Spanish apartment block, overlooking the main avenue in the town, a quick glance to the street below can turn into 10 minutes before you know it. There is always a lot going on!

Car horns generally are a bit of a dilemma as human nature dictates that when you hear a loud 'parp!' you are intrigued to see what might be going on, so more often than not I expectantly rush to the window only to be rewarded by the sight of a driver who has spotted someone they know on the pavement, or the gas bottle lorry arriving at the petrol station opposite and announcing his arrival with a series of unnecessary toots. Neither event sets the heart racing with excitement.

I heard a short toot and a bang once, but the bangs are usually someone closing a communal bin lid right underneath so I tend to ignore them. It was only when some shouting was heard a bit later that I glanced down and saw a long queue of cars stuck behind an Audi sporting a smashed-in bonnet and a detached bumper. In front of it, the owner of a little work van with a crumpled backside (the car, not the owner) was gesturing unhappily at the Audi owner, who was shrugging his shoulders as though it was nothing to do with him. The entertainment then came in watching all the cars behind trying to reverse back up the road and re-route via the side lane.

Further hilarity ensued when the crumpled van owner and the Audi owner decided to push their cars across a pedestrian crossing onto the side road, thereby blocking the last few re-routed cars who had just spent ages reversing up the main road, requiring them to then re-reverse back onto the main road again. I'll bet they weren't laughing as much as I was.

*Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of 3-400 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to [editorial@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:editorial@euroweeklynews.com).*

## Advertising feature

# Protect your home before your holiday

LIVING in Mallorca might seem like one long holiday but most of us still like to get away over the summer months for a change of scene or to escape the intense heat.

Of course, you will have your Ibox Travel Insurance policy in place for your trip but do you give enough thought to protecting your home whilst you are away? Here are a few tips to follow which might prevent a stressful return home.

- Lock all doors and windows. Blindingly obvious as this may be, it is easy to overlook a window or a garage door and a burglar will thank you for it!

- Keep valuables out of sight. Maybe you will keep the shutters down but if not then move valuables away from prying eyes.

- Turn everything off at the socket. Unless you are away for a very long time it is likely that you will keep the fridge and freezer on but disconnect everything else.

- Drain the water tank and switch off water at the mains. If you can't do this because you need to keep an irrigation system going then talk to your insurance broker to check your cover. Return home to water damage is much more likely than returning to a home that has been burgled.

- Don't advertise your absence. Until you get home, keep the fact that you are away to

close friends and family. Don't say that you are 'away' on a phone answer message. This, of course, includes how you use social media. A prospective burglar would love to know that you are on a beach in Florida!

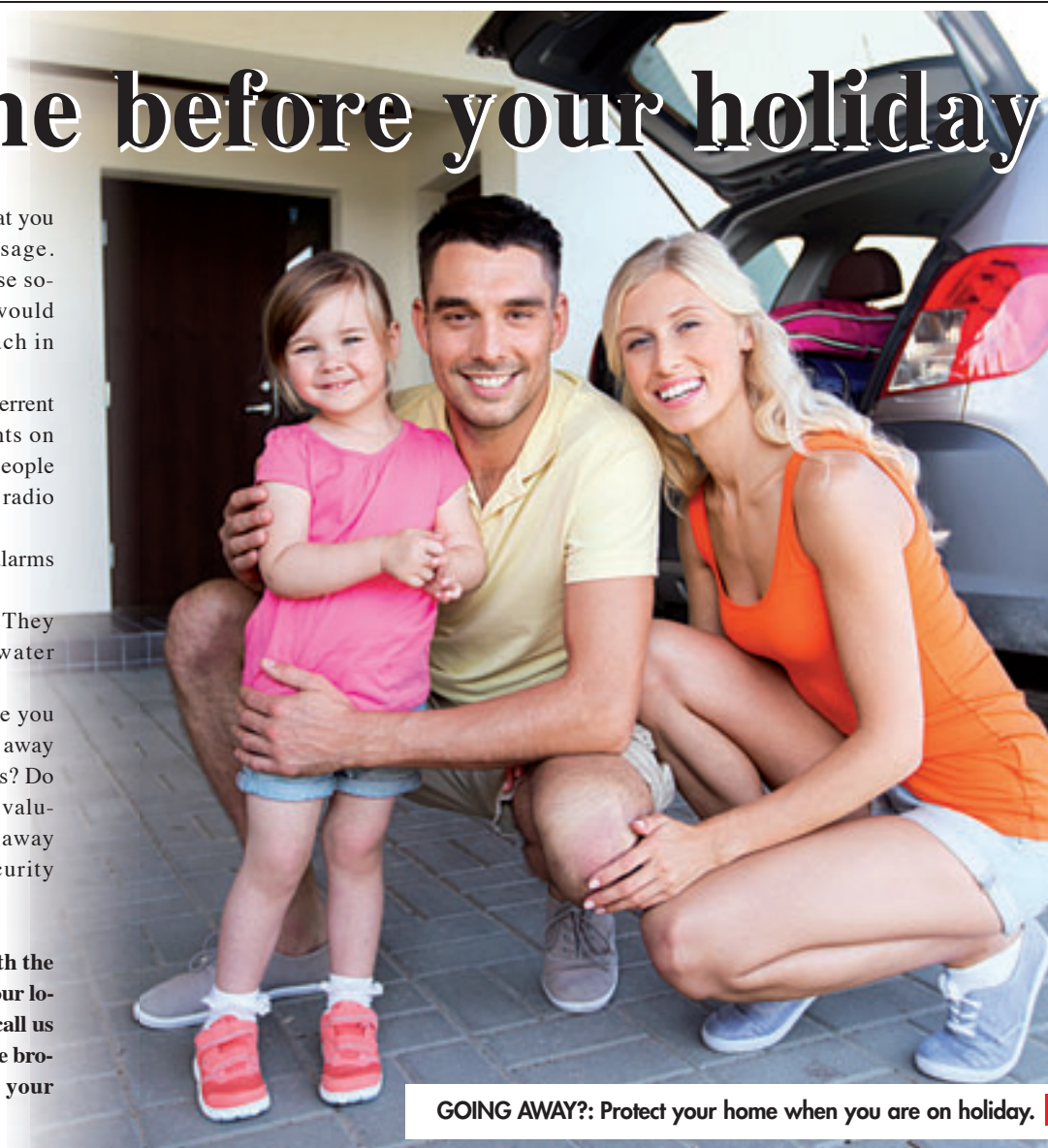
- Lighting. Security lighting is a deterrent to would be thieves and indoor lights on timers can give the impression that people are at home. You could maybe put a radio on a timer too!

- Alarm system. Alarms are good, alarms linked to security firms are better.

- Tell a neighbour that you trust. They can keep an eye on the property, water plants etc.

- Check your insurance policy. Are you covered for loss or damage if you are away for more than a certain number of days? Do you have all risks cover for certain valuables and possessions that you take away on holiday with you? Are there security conditions attached to your policy?

**Taking out an insurance policy with the cover you need is important so visit your local Ibox office at Calvià, Mallorca or call us on 971 677 733. As your local insurance broker Ibox can find the policy to meet your needs.**



GOING AWAY?: Protect your home when you are on holiday.



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309 

THURSDAY		BBC one		BBC TWO		itv		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5		sky SPORTS 1	
22 JUNE	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	Eggheads	9:00pm	Emmerdale	5:00pm	Best of Both Worlds	4:15pm	The Girl He Met Online	4:30pm	Football Gold	
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	9:30pm	Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:00pm	5 News at 5	5:00pm	Football's Greatest	
	7:30pm	BBC London News	8:00pm	Mary Berry Everyday			6:30pm	Come Dine with Me	6:30pm	Neighbours	6:00pm	Premier League 100 Club	
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:30pm	Great British Menu	10:00pm	Killer Women with Piers Morgan	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	7:00pm	Premier League Legends	
	8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	Gardeners' World			7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	7:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams	
	9:00pm	Kat and Alfie: Redwater	10:00pm	Who Should We Let in? Ian Hislop on the First Great Immigration Row	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Traffic Cops	8:00pm	Live European U21 Championship	
	10:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build			11:30pm	ITV News London	9:00pm	The Supervet	9:00pm	On Benefits			
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:00pm	Mock the Week	11:40pm	Fearless	10:00pm	Host the Week	10:00pm	Big Brother: Live Eviction	11:15pm	Sporting Triumphs	
	11:30pm	BBC London News	11:30pm	Newsnight	12:40am	Devon and Cornwall Cops	11:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	11:35pm	Big Brother's Bit on the Side	11:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams	
	11:45pm	Question Time	12:15am	Horizon	1:10am	Piers Morgan's Life Stories			12:35am	Big Brother	12:00am	European U21 Championship Highlights	
FRIDAY	8:00pm	The One Show	2:00pm	Tennis	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	Best of Both Worlds	4:20pm	Murder 101: College Can be Murder	7:30pm	Football's Greatest	
	8:30pm	Invented in London	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Four in a Bed			8:00pm	One2eleven 2016/17	
	9:00pm	EastEnders	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	8:30pm	Coronation Street	6:30pm	Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News at 5	8:10pm	European U21	
	9:30pm	Count Arthur Strong	8:00pm	Great British Menu	9:00pm	River Monsters	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours		Championship Highlights	
	10:00pm	Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle	8:30pm	Newsnight	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:40pm	Live European U21	
			9:00pm	Glastonbury 2017	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News Tonight		Championship	
	10:30pm	Tracey Breaks the News	10:00pm	Versailles	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Gogglesprogs	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	10:40pm	One2eleven 2016/17	
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:00pm	Radiohead at Glastonbury 2017	11:30pm	ITV News London	10:00pm	The Crystal Maze	9:00pm	Blind Date	11:00pm	Beneath the Black: A Journey Through New Zealand Rugby	
	11:25pm	BBC London News			11:45pm	Red Heat	11:00pm	The Last Leg	10:00pm	The Paul O'grady Story			
	11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show	2:30am	Glasgow 1967: The Lisbon Lions	1:45am	The Cube	12:05am	Host the Week	11:30pm	Big Brother			
SATURDAY	6:45pm	Regional News	1:00pm	Great British Menu	11:25am	Judge Rinder	5:35pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:10pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	4:40pm	Rugby Union	
	6:50pm	Weather	1:30pm	Great British Menu	12:25pm	Horrid Henry: The Movie					7:15pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	6:55pm	Pointless	2:00pm	Splash	2:15pm	ITV News and Weather	6:35pm	Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it	7:05pm	5 News			
	7:45pm	Doctor Who	3:45pm	Escape to the Country	2:30pm	ITV Racing Live			7:10pm	Funniest Ever Toddler Tantrums	8:15pm	Spanish Football Gold	
	8:30pm	Pitch Battle	4:30pm	Gardeners' World	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:30pm	Channel 4 News			8:30pm	One2eleven 2016/17	
	10:00pm	Casualty	5:30pm	Flog It!	7:10pm	ITV News and Weather	8:00pm	The Autistic Gardener	8:00pm	Blind Date	8:40pm	Live European U21	
	10:50pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys	6:30pm	Glastonbury 2017	7:25pm	Catchphrase	9:00pm	Britain's Great Gay Buildings	9:00pm	Before They Were Stars		Championship	
	11:20pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Natural World	8:30pm	The Voice Kids	10:00pm	Identity Thief	10:00pm	Big Brother	10:40pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	11:35pm	Weather	9:00pm	Glastonbury 2017	10:00pm	Casino Royale	12:15am	The Purge	11:05pm	The Miranda Hart Story			
	11:40pm	The Proposal	10:00pm	Glastonbury 2017	12:50am	ITV News and Weather	1:50am	Ramsay's Hotel Hell	12:25am	Lip Sync Battle	11:40pm	Rugby Union	
SUNDAY	7:30pm	BBC News	1:00pm	Great British Menu	1:10pm	King Ralph	2:35pm	Formula 1	12:30pm	Police Interceptors	2:30pm	Live Azerbaijan GP: Race	
	7:50pm	Regional News	1:30pm	Great British Menu	3:00pm	The Voice Kids	5:10pm	Formula 1	1:30pm	Police Interceptors	5:30pm	Live Azerbaijan GP: Paddock Live	
	7:55pm	Weather	2:00pm	Sailing	4:30pm	Confederations Cup	6:00pm	Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber	2:25pm	Jack and the Beanstalk			
	8:00pm	Countryfile	3:00pm	Money for Nothing					4:10pm	5 News	6:15pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	9:00pm	Antiques Roadshow	3:45pm	Garden Rescue	7:10pm	ITV News and Weather	7:35pm	Channel 4 News	6:15pm	Made of Honour			
	10:00pm	Poldark	4:15pm	Escape to the Country	7:20pm	The Amazing Spider-Man 2	8:00pm	Grand Designs	8:00pm	Cricket on 5	7:15pm	Football Gold	
	11:00pm	BBC News	5:15pm	Natural World	10:00pm	The Loch	9:00pm	Great Canal Journeys	9:00pm	That's So...1994	7:30pm	Fight Night	
	11:20pm	Regional News	6:10pm	Flog It!	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	10:00pm	The Handmaid's Tale	9:55pm	5 News	9:25pm	Premier League 100 Club	
	11:25pm	Weather	7:00pm	Glastonbury 2017	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	11:10pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	10:00pm	Big Brother	9:55pm	Football	
	11:30pm	Tracey Breaks the News	10:00pm	Glastonbury 2017	11:20pm	Peston on Sunday	12:15am	The Last Days on Mars	11:05pm	Omg: My Barbie Body	12:00am	Premier League Legends	
MONDAY	8:30pm	Growing Up with Cancer	3:00pm	Tennis	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	4:20pm	Real Murders: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery	7:00pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	9:00pm	EastEnders	6:15pm	Flog It!	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:30pm	Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News	8:00pm	Icons of Football Golf Highlights	
	9:30pm	Would I Lie to You?	7:00pm	Eggheads	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours			
	10:00pm	Supermarket Shopping	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	9:00pm	Icons of Football Golf Highlights	
			8:00pm	Mary Berry Everyday	9:00pm	Amazing Animal Births	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News			
	11:00pm	BBC News	8:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday	9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Dispatches	8:00pm	MotoGP	10:00pm	Sky Sports Originals	
	11:30pm	Regional News	9:00pm	Great British Menu	10:00pm	Fearless	9:30pm	How to Stay Well	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	11:00pm	Premier League 100 Club	
	11:40pm	Weather	10:00pm	Ripper Street	11:00pm	ITV News	10:00pm	24 Hours in Police Custody	10:00pm	Murdered by My Daughter	11:30pm	Boxing Gold	
	11:45pm	Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle	11:00pm	Mock the Week	11:45pm	Killer Women with Piers Morgan	11:50pm	My Millionaire Dads and Me	11:00pm	Big Brother	11:45pm	Boxing Gold	
	12:15am	The Graham Norton Show	12:10am	Weather	12:45am	The Kyle Files	12:50am	Bodyshockers	12:05am	Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:00am	Premier League Legends	
TUESDAY	7:00pm	BBC News	2:00pm	Tennis	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	3:15pm	NCIS: Los Angeles	2:00pm	Sporting Triumphs	
	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	Flog It!	6:00pm	The Chase	6:30pm	Come Dine with Me	4:20pm	Fatal Justice	2:30pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	5 News			
	8:30pm	EastEnders	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	5:30pm	Live European U21	
	9:00pm	Holby City	8:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away		Championship	
	10:00pm	Broken	9:00pm	Great British Menu	9:00pm	Midsomer Murders	8:00pm	Tried and Tasted: The Ultimate Shopping List	7:30pm	5 News	8:15pm	Live European U21	
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Hospital	11:00pm	ITV News	9:30pm	Supershoppers	8:00pm	Britain's Greatest Bridges		Championship	
	11:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Detectorists	11:40pm	Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera	10:00pm	One Born Every Minute	9:00pm	The Dog Rescuers	11:15pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	11:40pm	Weather	11:00pm	Newsnight	12:40am	The Chase	11:00pm	First Dates	10:00pm	The Hotel Inspector			
	11:45pm	Doctor in the House	11:30pm	Weather	1:35am	Jackpot247	12:05am	24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm	Big Brother	12:15am	European U21	
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm	BBC News	2:00pm	Tennis	3:00pm	Judge Rinder	3:10pm	Countdown	6:00pm	5 News	6:00pm	British and Irish Lions Tour Highlights	
	7:30pm	Regional News	6:15pm	Flog It!	4:00pm	David Dickinson's Name Your Price	4:00pm	Fifteen to One	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	European U21	
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads			5:00pm	Best of Both Worlds	7:00pm	Home and Away		Championship Highlights	
	9:00pm	Watchdog	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:30pm	5 News	8:00pm	Live Horse Racing	
	10:00pm	The Week the Landlords Moved in	8:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	6:00pm	The Chase	6:30pm	Come Dine with Me	8:00pm	The Nightmare	10:00pm	F1: Azerbaijan Highlights	
			9:00pm	Great British Menu	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	9:00pm	Neighbour Next Door	11:00pm	Barclays Premier League World	
	11:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Sudan: The Last of the Rhinos: Natural World	7:15pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks		GP's: Behind Closed Doors			
	11:30pm	Regional News			7:30pm	Confederations Cup	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	Where There's a Blame, There's a Claim			
	11:40pm	Weather			10:15pm	Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera	9:00pm	Ackley Bridge		Big Brother			
	11:45pm	Room 101	11:00pm	White Gold	11:15pm	ITV News	10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm	Big Brother			
12:25am	Supermarket Shopping	11:30pm	Weather	12:00am	The Cube	12:20am	24 Hours in Police Custody	12:05am	Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:30am	Premier League Legends		

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



Advertising feature

# Translations with professionalism and accuracy

MANY claim to be translators, but few are legal translators, able to offer clients complete peace of mind and professionalism, such as those offered by Cybertrans-Polyglott.

Formed by an association of sworn legal translators and based in Palma de Mallorca, Cybertrans-Polyglott has been established since 1968, during which time it has become the benchmark-setting translation company of the Balearic Islands as a whole.

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# Anybody got any ideas?

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



ALTHOUGH this is called the views of a grumpy old man there are days that as grumpy as I start the day, something happens and even I have to just smile and today was one of those days. Today is June 18 - Father's Day.

I got a text from my daughter at 8.45am saying she had just woken up and wanted to wish me Happy Father's Day and she was going back to sleep as she had had a late night but she would Facetime me later. I sent her a message back saying 'thanks and chat later.'

Most Sundays we walk the dog along the Paseo in Los Boliches, then have a coffee and watch the world go by. Today was no different. We walked our dog, had coffee and were chit chatting away and then Mrs S said that I should send our daughter a video thanking her for my card and telling her I was having a nice day. So I said OK, Mrs S starts filming and all of a sudden I feel a tap on my shoulder and there she is - my baby girl!

The crafty so and so had tricked her supposedly shrewd old man and at 8.45am she was actually boarding the plane to Malaga. She had set the whole thing up with her Mum

whose mission was to keep me on the Paseo until 1pm. Mission successful.

I am thrilled she is here till Wednesday and I'm going to love every minute of it.

Ok that's enough of that mushy stuff. Back to being grumpy. I just got back from Croatia after a week's holiday with 14 blokes to celebrate one's 60th birthday. I have to say Croatia is a beautiful place. Good food and friendly people. We went to an island called Vis and it's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. The only way round it is by boat so we had great fun. So what's there to be grumpy about you may ask. Well I'll tell you.

Although they do accept euros their actual currency is the kuna. So, I got some from one of the lads coming out from the UK and also from an ATM. On the way back to Spain I stayed in Split overnight and went to the local casino and won some more in a poker tournament. All good stuff. Anyway, I come back to Spain and go to my favourite bureau de change and asked them to change the kuna for me. 'No can do - we don't change kuna, you have to go to the bank. I went to my bank and, guess what, they won't change them either! Now I'm trying to change money from Croatia, not some country where the local currency is sea shells and chicken livers. Anybody got any ideas? Because I just don't get it.

Email me [mikesenker@gmail.com](mailto:mikesenker@gmail.com).

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Fines for not moving

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



**DIRTY CAR?:** You could be fined.

NOT washed your car in a while? Well be careful, you could be fined for that! Many drivers are unaware they could be fined without even being on the road or moving their car, but these fines do exist and are real.

Even if the vehicle isn't moving, the lights, reflectors and number plates must be kept clear and if the vehicle is moving, the windows must be clear also. A fine of €80 can also be issued if officers decide your number plate is in a poor condition.

If you do need to wash your car, be careful where you do it, hand washing a vehicle in the street or carrying out repairs can also result in a penalty for the owner. Water, oil and other deposits can interfere with the road surface and can become a risk. There are also environmental concerns over the disposal of waste such as water or other fluids.

Car wash facilities have complex recycling and drainage systems so as to minimise

waste of the precious commodity of water.

Remember you can also be fined for smoking at petrol stations which poses a serious safety risk, but also for leaving your engine running, your radio or for using your mobile. Any of these activities can result in a fine of up to €200 and the loss of three points.

You can also be fined for moving house and not informing the DGT of your new address.

In the event of an accident or breakdown, you can be fined for not wearing a high visibility face or for not placing the warning triangles around the vehicle warning others of your presence.

So remember, whilst speeding and driving whilst using a mobile phone are the two most common reasons to be fined, there are also ways you can be fined without even moving.

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

## Can he cycle on Paseo Marítimo?

**Q.** I have some questions about cycling.

1. Is it legal for me to ride my bicycle while recording on my helmet camera?
2. Can I cycle on the Paseo Marítimo? Here in Fuengirola there do not seem to be any signs forbidding cycling on the pavement.

3. Are there any alcohol limits applicable to cyclists?

4. A company here rents out various forms of electric scooters which the renters ride on the pavement and road. What is the law?
5. Do I have to dismount from my bicycle to use a zebra crossing?

**A.** Here are some answers.

1. Helmet cameras are not legally permitted to film and record people in the public road.
2. As a general rule, bicycles are not permitted on the pavement unless specif-

**David Searl**

*You and the Law in Spain*



ically authorised by signposts.

In Fuengirola a few parts of the Paseo Maríti-

mo are signed to permit cycling.

3. No alcohol limits apply.
4. Mobility scooters and similar may circulate on pavement.
5. Yes, you must walk your bike on the crossing.

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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# Rock bottom: beaches are the pits

SIR,

May I refer to your article back in mid-May this year titled 'Air turns blue' regarding blue flags flying across nine beaches in the Orihuela area?

I have a holiday home in Playa Flamenca and our two closest beaches are Cala Mosca and Cala Estaca, which for years have been really well looked after including the surrounding promenades etc.

However, we were out in May and were appalled at what has happened to both of them!!

The sea on both beaches has become virtually impossible to enter as they now have their shorelines and shallow areas completely covered in massive rocks and boulders making access perilous to say the least!!

The surrounding dirt tracks look to have been excavated recently and all the surplus debris just dumped in the sea making access highly dangerous for children and adults alike.

Coupled with that the beaches themselves (especially Estaca) have shrunk in size with the shoreline diminished

## Burning question

WHILE this letter will not lead to common sense prevailing, I cannot be alone in my concern for the welfare of the scores of tourists who daily walk around increasing bad doses of sun-burn.

Some are old, others young, but all surely suffer and spoil part of their holidays.

Even so they fail to cover up - even in the main heat of the day - presumably initially oblivious to the need to protect their increasingly burned skins.

They do not only face the risk of long term permanent damage to their bodies in the form of skin cancer, but additionally guarantee sleepless nights during holidays surely supposed to be based on enjoyment, not on endurance!

But year after year they arrive in Spain to overcook their delicate skins, just like sizzled sausages on a summer barbecue!

*N Stretton  
Alicante*

**SUN-BURN:**  
Can spoil your holidays.



and littered throughout the sand with rather large stones.

I do not see how these two beaches warrant a Blue flag award at all - they have been ruined completely.

Can you forward this email to whoever wrote this particular article for you as I would be very interested in their views and maybe they can enlighten me on the situation.

Keep up the good work on what is still the best newspaper in Spain!!

*Andy Rice, Orihuela*

## Boardwalk thoughts

I THINK it is wonderful how the authorities look after beaches in most parts of southern Spain throughout most months of the year.

A prime example is in Mijas Costa, where daily at this time of year the beach is cleaned and in addition workers can be seen sweeping the boardwalk which is so popular with both local residents and tourists.

I feel the rule that cyclists should not use the boardwalk after 11am and before the evening, and never at weekends, is also praiseworthy, but perhaps in the main holiday months from June - September, riders should be banned 24/7.

This may seem a little unfair, but sadly many of the pedestrians who use the boardwalk are quite elderly, and when walking with dogs, or chatting to friends, they create a risk to themselves by ignoring the presence of cyclists.

It would also be a boost if dog walkers ALWAYS ensured that their pets are kept on leads.

*N Peden, El Faro*

## Brexit chaos

BRITISH expats remain bewildered by Brexit. Our homeland has voted to leave the European Union but there seems to be no plan as to what comes afterwards.

The resulting loss of confidence among foreign investors has caused a collapse of the pound, making life harder for us as expats. And it is now starting an upward creep of inflation in the UK.

The concern is that with no clear plan from the UK government these trends could continue and the currency could enter a vicious downward spiral.

*Kevin Richard  
No address supplied*

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com)

# Typical heavy handedness

## » Spaniard detained for 40 days over holiday in Syria

SIX years ago, a Spaniard, what about the rest of his family??? Typical USA heavy handedness!

*David Etheridge*

## » How soon will robots replace British jobs post-Brexit? (Nora Johnson)

YOU'VE hit the nail on the head. I really despair every time I walk into my local bank. I used to be able to actually talk to someone and now it's all machines, same at the supermarket checkout. The bank looks so depressing compared to back in the day. You really have to wonder when there'll actually be no more jobs left for humans to do. It's crazy!

*Chris*

## » Red faces at hospital as beds do not fit in lifts

WHY do I not find this surprising, or annoying, or

## Comments from EWN online

even mildly irritating or amusing? Why do I find it entirely predictable? Perhaps I have lived here too long.

*Peter Mac*

## » Spain sends help as at least 60 die in Portugal

IT always stuns me when the fire tragedies are finally brought to an end, at the cause of such a devastating event. If it is not deliberate then it is by stupidity, ignorance or carelessness.

I live in the Algarve where at this time of year the bush is like tinder as it is in many places in Portugal and further. I have watched the flickering of candle light across the valley as holiday renters party into the night and one prays that before they stumble off to bed they remember to put out the candles.

It should be a warning on all rental sites that if you are travelling to high fire risk areas to be extra vigilant in your actions or observations.

Rental companies will argue it is up to the property

owners to make this clear but it should be the responsibility of all to drive it home, because you could be the cause of something terrible, and who would want to live with that burden?

*Avril Thomas*

## » Zara billionaire under fire for cancer donation

AT least he makes sure the money goes on good things not on scroungers living off the dole!

*Chris Poole*

## » ITV news visit Benidorm over safety fears

GET a bleedin grip! I lived in Benidorm in my early 20's. (17 years ago). It was always bad. I had been pick pocketed, scammed by people claiming to be police then take everything from your wallet without you even realising... My Grandmother has been going three times a year for 45 years. Thirty years ago my Grandad used to hide his money in his sock because of the thieves in Beni. Guess social media etc makes it more visible. That is all.

*Ozz*



Advertising feature

# Golden Leaves for professional help and advice

"I MADE a phone call to Golden Leaves on the Wednesday afternoon, as my wife was seriously ill and I needed to be prepared. My wife had just turned 59 years old and we had been thinking about a plan for both of us, but we put it on hold as we were selling our property.

**Everything was explained to me before we took out a plan.**

"Once I had made the call, a very helpful agent came to visit and explained everything to me before we administered a plan for my wife. The payment was taken immediately by phone to Head Office in Alicante within minutes and my wife was covered.

"On Thursday morning at 11.45, I made a phone call to Kim (the GL agent) to say that my wife had taken a turn for the worse and had sadly passed away. Kim made the phone call to Golden Leaves 24-



**GOLDEN LEAVES: Their compassion throughout was outstanding.**

hour emergency helpline on my behalf, as I was in a state and needed help. The company prepared everything with the Funeral

Director Louisa in Mojcar, who was fabulous throughout. Kim went above and beyond and even took me to the hospital, which

meant so much to me, especially as I don't have any family out here.

"At the hospital, they guided me through everything, as we waited for

about an hour for the Funeral Director to arrive who was travelling from Mojcar to Almeria. Once they arrived, I signed the papers for my wife to be taken to the Chapel of Rest in Mojcar.

"The following day, I went to the Chapel of Rest and Kim accompanied me. She helped me arrange the funeral and was such a massive help. The funeral took place on the Monday as my wife had wanted and I would like to thank Golden Leaves and Louisa for their very professional help and advice throughout and their compassion was outstanding."

*K. L. White*

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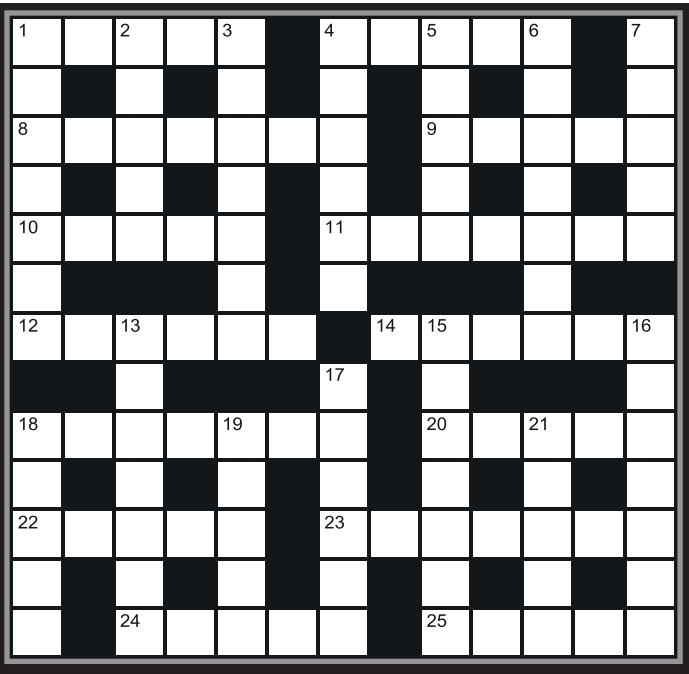
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Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Recurring pattern in accuracy clearly shown (5)
  - 4 Entertains armies (5)
  - 8 Some tennis pros perceptively thrive (7)
  - 9 Learner taking the Great North Road? He's landed up in Scotland (5)
  - 10 Trunk from actor's office (5)
  - 11 Doctor Les adds burdens (7)
  - 12 Spice Girl is after an oddball (6)
  - 14 A sport designed for a clergyman (6)
  - 18 Greek deity suffering in style (7)
  - 20 Badly stain the material? (5)
  - 22 Redesigned River Nile for a big ship (5)
  - 23 Look after Rhode Island legislative leader's ivy feature (7)
  - 24 Cry: "The Queen is tee-total" (5)
  - 25 Quietens Commons' leader with aid for the poor (5)

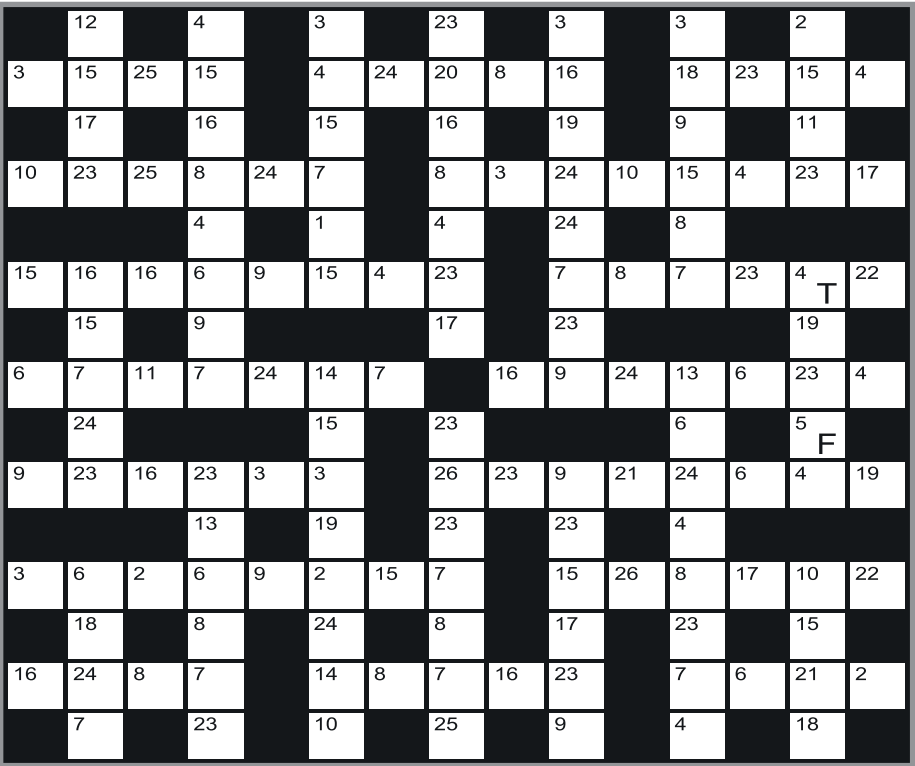
- Down**
- 1 Windlass disturbed catnaps (7)
  - 2 Sounds like there's plenty of paper for the church group (5)
  - 3 Former partner and PLO, about to look around (7)
  - 4 Stress, as rash is all over (6)
  - 5 Is involved with old firm (5)
  - 6 Let silk ruin frying pan (7)
  - 7 They assist in the formulation



- of ideas (5)
- 13 A number of workers are paying guests (7)
- 15 Poison scare in building (7)
- 16 Joint in centre of Dorset causes annoyance (7)
- 17 Saint carrying tungsten alloy (6)
- 18 Beat legume (5)
- 19 It can be used in chocolate or returned in a taxi (5)
- 21 Party Rolling Stones held in Austria (5)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents T and 5 represents F, so fill in T every time the figure 4 appears and F every time the figure 5 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.

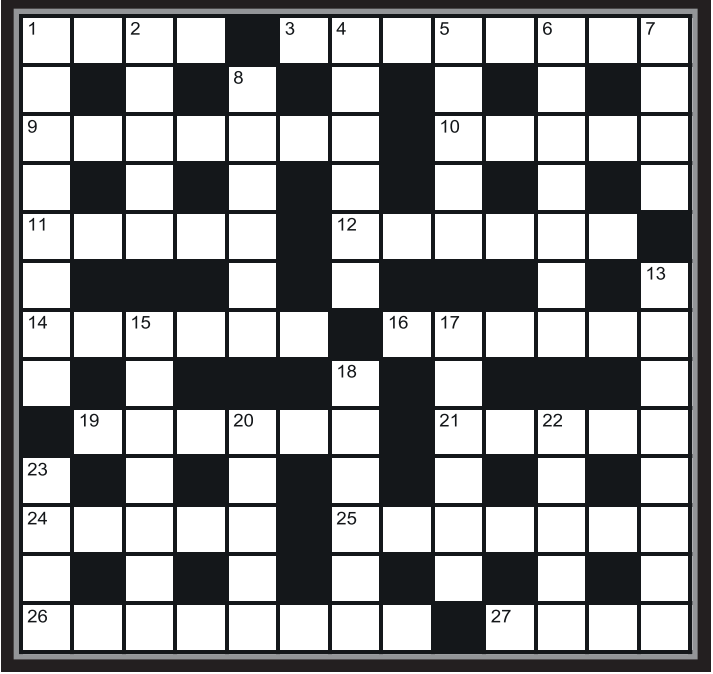
Code Breaker



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

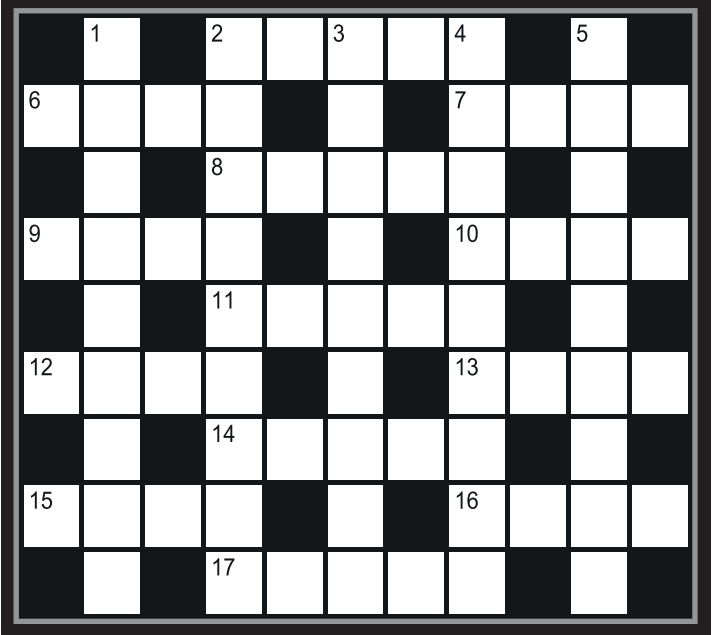
Quick



- Across**
- 1 Move fast (4)
  - 3 Gradual improvement, growth or development (8)
  - 9 Childhood disease (7)
  - 10 Subsequently to (5)
  - 11 Encounters (5)
  - 12 Less difficult (6)
  - 14 Mistakes (6)
  - 16 Film theatre (6)
  - 19 Armed engagement (6)
  - 21 Wait on (5)
  - 24 Similar (5)
  - 25 Argument (7)
  - 26 Herder of sheep (8)
  - 27 Fewer (4)
- Down**
- 1 Recall (8)
  - 2 Have in common (5)
  - 4 Not tired (6)
  - 5 Seizes suddenly (5)
  - 6 Outermost (7)
  - 7 Certain (4)
  - 8 Nearer (6)
  - 13 Negligent (8)
  - 15 Understand (7)
  - 17 Demand (6)
  - 18 Having or displaying warmth or affection (6)
  - 20 Molars and incisors (5)
  - 22 Established line of travel or access (5)
  - 23 Felines (4)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 2 Spider (5)
  - 6 Sordo (persona) (4)
  - 7 Empate (en partido) (4)
  - 8 Cansado (5)
  - 9 Mordedura (4)
  - 10 Rugido (4)
  - 11 Caballete (de tejado) (5)
- Down**
- 12 Quemar (4)
  - 13 Semilla (4)
  - 14 Works (musical, theatre, literature) (5)
  - 15 Duck (bird) (4)
  - 16 Age (of person, animal, building) (4)
  - 17 Nidos (5)
- Down**
- 1 Films (movies) (9)
  - 2 Tarde (9)
  - 3 Bottle openers (9)
  - 4 Direcciones (9)
  - 5 Waitresses (9)

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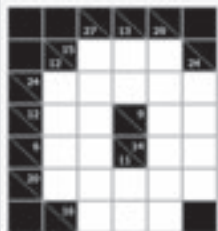
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**Kakuro**

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


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

**TARGET:**

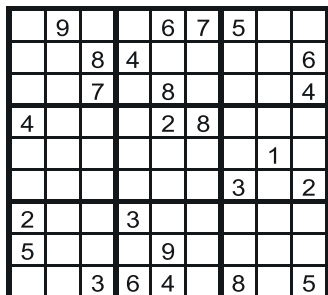
- Average: 10
- Very good: 20
- Good: 14
- Excellent: 26

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

amen amir emir main mane mare mean mere mien mine mire name neem perm pram prim ramp ream rime aimer ameer amine anime enema miner namer prima prime ramie rearm remap airmen ampere empire ermine marine meaner meanie premie primer reamer remain rename mariner premier REPAIRMEN

**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.


**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**
**CRYPTIC**
**Across:**

1 Strut, 4 Parcels, 8 Immortalise, 9 Turn tail, 10 Stye, 12 Swells, 13 Chores, 16 Acne, 18 Detailed, 21 Small change, 22 Nascent, 23 Sisal.

**Down:**

1 Skint, 2 Remorse, 3 Throttle, 4 Placid, 5 Rail, 6 Erect, 7 Sachets, 11 Sheathes, 12 Station, 14 Relents, 15 Merlot, 17 Nests, 19 Dwell, 20 Wage.

**QUICK**
**Across:**

1 Skips, 4 Couples, 8 Essentially, 9 Multiple, 10 Glue, 12 Costly, 13 Bought, 16 Navy, 18 Warnings, 21 Distinctive, 22 Glasses, 23 Scent.

**Down:**

1 Steam, 2 Insults, 3 Sensible, 4 Chilly, 5 Ugly, 6 Loyal, 7 Suggest, 11 Connects, 12 Cunning, 14 Genuine, 15 Varies, 17 Vodka, 19 Spent, 20 Asks.

**CODE BREAKER**

1	O	2	H	3	W	4	I	5	S	6	U	7	V	8	R	9	A	10	E	11	F	12	K	13	Z
14	G	15	T	16	N	17	P	18	C	19	X	20	D	21	M	22	B	23	J	24	Q	25	L	26	Y

**ENGLISH-SPANISH**
**Across:**

1 Bien, 3 Apio, 8 Hot, 9 Stretch, 10 Pesadilla, 14 Alcalde, 16 Ash, 17 Sapo, 18 Pegs.

**Down:**

1 Búho, 2 Entre, 4 Pet, 5 Ocho, 6 Usually, 7 Praises, 11 Leave, 12 Mats, 13 This, 15 Cup.

**KAKURO**

**LOTTERY**
**UK NATIONAL LOTTERY**

Saturday June 17


**IRISH LOTTO**

Saturday June 17


**EURO MILLIONS**

Tuesday June 13



Friday June 16


**LA PRIMITIVA**

Saturday June 17


**EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA**

Sunday June 18


**YOUR STARS**  
 FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

**AQUARIUS**

(January 21 - February 19)

Keep up the pace this week so that you have plenty to discuss and 'write home about.' With your mind so active, you are capable of doing in a day what would normally take a week. By-pass those who try to slow you down.

There will be plenty of time to be a plod later.


**PISCES**

(February 20 - March 20)

Others may be changing their minds, and generally being a bit of a pain. That may irritate you but it is no reason to change your plans. Both you and your colleagues will be glad that you did in the longer term. You may need to find some peace and space for yourself come the weekend.


**ARIES**

(March 21 - April 20)

Looking back over the past few months you will realise that fine adjustments are needed. Both your working life and diet need attention, so be determined that progress made will continue apace. Certainly, you have no qualms about facing any problems straight on.

You thrive on responsibility and there is no shortage of that at the moment.


**TAURUS**

(April 21 - May 21)

Now that you are feeling much better, it will be tempting to put aside your healthy eating and exercise, but if you remember what a difference it makes it would be silly to stop now. Enlist the help of a friend or two in keeping the momentum going.


**GEMINI**

(May 22 - June 21)

There are so many things to do or try that you should be spoiled for choice. No, don't settle down in front of the TV. Get out, make some friends and aim to learn something new every day.

That may only be the name of your neighbour on the bus but it counts. You are charming and urbane, so don't keep it all to yourself.


**CANCER**

(June 22 - July 23)

When your feelings are so positive, which they should be now, it is hard to remember that they have ever been any other way.

You may have a plan in mind for a new activity to get the adrenalin flowing. How much more enjoyable, though, to find someone to share this with you. Book that course and maybe you will meet them there.


**LEO**

(July 24 - August 23)

After a few recent excesses, bad habits can prove hard to shake off. Remember that any time of the year is a good time to make a fresh start. Don't put off looking after your health any more than you would put off stashing a cheque in the bank. Use it or lose it? You know it makes sense. Think about combining health with a holiday.


**VIRGO**

(August 24 - September 23)

It happens that energy is sometimes low. Take the chance to read up on why this could be. You may think that you know it all, but in this world there is no chance of that. Maybe you are out of touch generally, or just out of touch with your own needs. Give building your strength priority. How much better you will cope with extra energy.


**LIBRA**

(September 24 - October 23)

With so much going on, you are in danger of burning yourself to a frazzle. You won't realise until you have done it, so make a point of getting some peace and quiet, preferably both of them at the same time. Relax and don't even think about things that are unchangeable. Time will sort out most things for you.


**SCORPIO**

(October 24 - November 22)

Leave nothing to chance when it comes to your health. Although you are feeling good now you will soon have problems because you are more concerned with others than yourself. This can be good but can also be overdone. You know how good you can feel. Increase this by simply not accepting second-best treatment.


**SAGITTARIUS**

(November 23 - December 21)

Your tendency to see yourself through the eyes of others can lead you to undervalue your worth. This could see you going pear-shaped, emotion-ally. Try not to believe everything that you are told because there are always at least two ways of seeing things. Be positive. You are capable of so much. Take care of your needs on a daily basis.


**CAPRICORN**

(December 22 - January 20)

Concentrate on your physical needs this week and spend much more time on yourself. There will be plenty of opportunities to look after others when you are feeling 100 per cent yourself. Stay in control of day-to-day plans.

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# Down to earth

**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

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

PIGS aren't yet flying in the UK but closer inspections suggest that they are sprouting wings.

Teresa May lost her overall majority and Jeremy Corbyn, darling of the Labour Party membership but not the Parliamentary Labour Party, scooped up the biggest share of the vote since Tony Blair.

No doubt the PSOE secretary general Pedro Sanchez has taken heart from the UK's recent General Election as he, too, is beloved by the militants but not the party hierarchy.

Sanchez's supporters are drawing attention to the parallels between him and Corbyn while overlooking one enormous difference.

The Labour leader made a good showing in his first General Election and Sanchez bombed twice, leading the PSOE to its worst-ever defeats in December 2015 and June 2016.

Pigs might eventually become airborne in the UK but will probably remain earth-bound for time to come in Spain.

**PEDRO SANCHEZ:**  
**Taken heart.**



## Under the jackboot

NOT long ago Pep Guardiola, erstwhile Barça and Bayern trainer now at Manchester City, called on the international community to support Cataluña.

The region's rights are being threatened "by an authoritarian state" ie Spain, Guardiola claimed.

Repeated foreign visits by Cataluña's former regional president Artur Mas and his successor Carles Puigdemont to drum up support have already elicited responses of "not today thank you."

Hysterical overreaction from Guardiola, who once played for the "authoritarian state" is just what the remainers needed.

## October BOGOF

CATALUÑA'S independence referendum will be held on October 1, announced Carles Puigdemont. Voters will not be asked "Do you want an independent state?" but "Do you want an independent state that is a republic?"

So Cataluña voters can look forward a two-for-one offer - a Puigdemont BOGOF, in fact.

## Nice little earner

SPAIN'S Public Safety Law brought in €13 billion in fines for offending or challenging the police since it was introduced in 2015.

Known more accurately as the Gaggling Law, it was passed at a time when protests had increased although most were peaceful and public safety the least of Spain's problems.

Unemployment was the biggest worry for more than three-quarters of the population and corruption for almost half. Few people were losing sleep over public safety.

Gagging Law fines have since been issued for putting photos of badly-parked patrol cars on Facebook and a woman was fined for carrying a bag with a cat's face and the letters ACAB.

These, she explained, stood for All Cats Are Beautiful although her inquisitors disagreed and insisted that it meant All Cops Are Bastards.

Doesn't say much for the Public Safety Law, but that's an impressive and paranoid level of English.

# I'm off to the panaderia...

**Trudy Stewart**



AFTER months of having no internet, I am back online. Hallelujah!

Thanks to my smartphone, I've had access to the internet wherever I could log in to WiFi (I drank a LOT of café con leche during this time!) so I've not been completely in the wilderness.

But it's just not the same as being able to Google the theme tune lyrics for the Beverley Hillbillies at 3am because you've forgotten the middle part and know you won't get to sleep till you remember! There are also the practical applications like online banking and shopping which, for some of us, means the dreaded supermarket shop can be a thing of the past.

According to new research from Mintel, 14 per cent of Brits now do all of their grocery shopping online, a figure that's doubled since 2014. Their forecast is that online gro-

cery sales will reach £11.1 billion in the UK in 2017. Almost two thirds (62 per cent) of Brits aged 25-34 are current online grocery shoppers.

The demand from younger consumers is pushing the supermarkets to provide same day deliveries (I mean after all, you can order a pizza and have that delivered in 30 minutes or less!)

The retailers are also aware that these younger consumers are shopping via their smartphones so they're tailoring their apps to best interact with them.

It makes sense to appeal to the younger demo-

graphic as only one in three consumers over the age of 55 (32 per cent) currently shop online. Of those, almost half have never shopped online and have no interest in doing so.

Before moving to Spain, I lived in a small village and the nearest shop was a car drive away. I did about half of my grocery shopping online as it often worked out cheaper than paying the petrol price for the return trip.

I can't say I found it a pleasurable alternative though. It probably took

me just as long to find the things I wanted online as it would have to walk round the store.

And don't get me started on the substitute products that they sometimes bring! You try explaining to your fussy cat that they've swapped the only food she's eating this week for a 12-pack of something she's not (leading to a drive to the nearest town before the hungry/indignant mewing drives you mad!)

The downside of this is that we're in danger of turning food shopping into just another app for our phones. Consumers have an expectation that they can have whatever they want whenever they want.

With current research showing 47

per cent of us give up because the checkout process took too long, we are now too impatient to even wait in a virtual queue!

In the UK, grocery shopping is just another thing to fit into an already hectic schedule. In Spain, I have fallen in love with food again and now, my grocery shopping might take an entire morning as I amble round the market and catch up with the butcher in my best Spanish.

While for me this is infinitely preferable to a packed supermarket or frustrating keyword search, I realise that I'm fortunate in that I have the time for it.

Online grocery shopping is convenient and there's definitely a place for it, but there's nothing beats choosing your own soft, fresh-baked baguette or gently squeezing to find the juiciest tomato or perfect pear within the display.

Mmm, I'm off to the panaderia - see you next week!

trudystewart75@gmail.com



**Shop till you drop...the mouse?**



# Red Cross launch project to tackle elderly abuse

THE Red Cross Community of Madrid has launched a new humanitarian project aimed at preventing elderly abuse and social problems suffered by the older society.

Titled 'Good Treatment of the Elderly: Promotion of appropriate treatment and protection against abuse,' the project aims to promote a positive framework for coexistence with older people as well as prevent, protect and support those who have suffered from, or could suffer from, any type of ill-treatment.

The Red Cross is carrying out support, training and awareness-raising activities, networking and coordinating with other social organisations and the authorities.

Since the start of the year the Red Cross in Madrid has already contacted 1,135 people over 65, vulnerable to abuse, through a telephone campaign offering them safety and prevention advice. The next steps of the initiative will focus on sensitisation and information sessions given by



ABUSE: Not just a national issue.

the Spanish Red Cross, National Police and Guardia Civil to address all content related to the issue of violence against the elderly.

The Red Cross said the implementation of the project has been possible thanks to the collaboration agreement established with the Secretary of State for Security.

Every year, the Spanish Red Cross serves more than 15,000 elderly people throughout the Madrid region, offering them help, support and advice against loneliness and healthy living.

Elderly abuse is not just a national issue. It is a social problem that affects the health and human rights of millions of older people around the world. According to the UN, the global population of people aged 60 and over will more than double, from 542 million in 1995 to around 1.2 billion in 2025. It is estimated that between 4 to 6 per cent of older people from all over the world have suffered some form of abuse and mistreatment.

WANT a healthy heart? Then get educated.

A study that has spanned some 30 years has concluded that those who went to university had a lower risk of heart disease.

Scientists tracked nearly 14,000 white and African-American patients in the USA from 1987 and found there was a clear

## Be a graduate for a healthier heart

correlation between education levels and heart disease with university graduates having lower incidence of heart disease.

The study reported that female graduates had a 28 per cent lifetime risk of car-

diovascular disease (CVD) compared to almost 51 per cent who did not go on to further education. In men, the difference was not quite as dramatic with the CVD risk at 42 per cent for those who went to

uni and 59 per cent for those who didn't.

Medical experts also say they believe that better educated people are more likely to choose healthier lifestyles and have better socio-economic factors.

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## Top tips for an even glow

EVERYONE loves that healthy summer glow but for a truly healthy look you need to fake it!

Forget lazing in the sun for hours on end and all the associated health risks involved. There are literally hundreds of fake tan and self-tanning creams, lotions and sprays available to give the natural bronzed look you are looking for. However, whether it's a deep tan or lighter colour you want, there are some top tips to follow to ensure an even look:

**Exfoliate.** Ideally up to seven hours before you want to apply self-tan. This will help remove dead skin cells and help prevent uneven, blotchy patches with the product. When doing your legs, shave or wax at least 24 hours before.

**Apply the product after showering.** Ensure the skin is completely dry and moisturise beforehand, particularly on dry spots such as knees and elbows to help

with an overall even result.

**Wear gloves.** Protect your hands from the product. Nothing gives the game away that you are faking it like brown stained palms.

**Wait to get dressed.** To prevent the self tan staining your clothes or smudging, wait at least 15 minutes after applying before getting dressed.

**Get help.** Enlist the help of someone to apply tan to the back and to those hard to reach areas for an even glow.

**Stay protected.** Despite the healthy glow, you must still protect your skin from the sun and wear adequate UVA and UVB protection.

**| FAKE TAN: For a truly healthy look.**



## Get active to boost your mood

EXERCISE has always been cited for boosting your mood and reducing stress levels, but the good news is it's never too late to start as researchers claim just one workout can show immediate positive effects.

A new study carried out at New York's Centre for Neural Science, claims just one workout that leaves you sweating is enough to boost your moods when previous studies claimed it had to be continual, regular exercise to have similar results.

The researchers looked at how exercise impacts the brain and found after one workout it can have neurological changes and be seen as a stepping stone for greater benefits.

Working out releases a feeling of euphoria and triggers the brain's cannabinoid receptors.

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## Melanomas



**| SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.**

**What is melanoma?**

Melanoma is usually, but not always, a cancer of the skin. It begins in melanocytes - the cells that produce the pigment melanin that colours the skin, hair and eyes. Melanocytes also form moles, where melanoma often develops.

**How can you spot it and what are its symptoms?**

The most common sign of melanoma is the appearance of a new mole or a change in an existing mole. This can occur anywhere on the body, but the most commonly affected areas are the back in men and the legs in women. Melanomas are uncommon in areas which are protected from sun exposure, such as the buttocks and the scalp.

In most cases, melanomas have an irregular shape and are more than one colour. The mole may also be larger than normal and can sometimes be itchy or bleed. Look out for a mole which changes progressively in shape, size and colour. See your GP if you notice any of these changes.

**What causes melanoma?**

Melanoma is caused by skin cells that begin to develop abnormally. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun is the cause of most melanomas. There is also evidence to suggest that some may result from sunbed exposure. The type of sun exposure that causes melanoma is sudden intense exposure.

Such as when a person is sunbathing on holiday, which can lead to sunburn.

**How can it be treated?**

The main treatment for melanoma is surgery, although your treatment will depend on your circumstances.

If melanoma isn't diagnosed until an advanced stage, treatment is mainly used to slow the spread of the cancer and reduce symptoms. This usually involves medicines that target specific genetic changes in the melanoma, such as BRAF inhibitors, or medicines that boost the body's immune responses to the melanoma.

**Who are the most at risk of suffering from melanoma?**

Certain things can increase your chances of developing melanoma, such as having lots of moles or freckles, pale skin, red or blonde hair and having a close family member who's had melanoma. More than a quarter of skin cancer cases are diagnosed in people under 50, which is earlier than most other types of cancer.

**How can you prevent it?**

Melanoma isn't always preventable, but you can reduce your chances of developing it by avoiding getting sunburned (even going pink in the sun). Always use adequate sun protection products while outdoors and dress sensibly while in the sun.

*If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to:  
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## A mother's love

FIGHT or flight? When it comes to a mother's love, it's almost certainly fight.

Scientists say they have conducted a series of experiments that shows a mother's defensive behaviour to protect their child and this is caused by the release of oxytocin, or the so-called 'love hormone.' On a study of rats they found that when in the face of danger, rather than fleeing, there was a release of oxytocin as the defensive mechanism to protect her pups came into force. When researchers blocked the oxytocin they found that mothers immediately froze when they detected threat.

It is believed this action would be similar in humans with this oxytocin release causing a mother to fight to protect her child, giving a true idea of a mother's love.

**MOTHERS: Will protect  
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**CRAIG DAVID:** R&B star taking over Mallorca club scene tonight.

## Making music

TWO of the biggest names in British music are playing in the space of just eight days at the famous BH Mallorca hotel. Tonight (Thursday), none over than singer songwriter and pop superstar Craig David will be performing live.

The hit machine has reinvented himself as a top international DJ since his days as a platinum-selling teenage heartthrob.

He will be manning the turnstiles at BH Mallorca with tickets starting at around €35. In July he will return for the hotel's huge open air music festival.

Next week at BH Hotel fellow British megastar Tinie Tempah will be performing. The rapper has six UK number one singles to his name and is a frequent star of Mallorca's summer music scene.

# Provocative film festival

EUROPE'S biggest entirely free film festival kicks off on Mallorca this week. From Monday until a week on Sunday the Atlantida Film Fest will be showing a total of 18 films at the CineCiutat, Ses Voltes cultural centre, and Museu de Mallorca.

There will also be four special free conferences on the film industry and the many challenging themes explored in this year's entrants. Seven free concerts will add a musical dimension to the festival, which is expected to attract at least 5,000 people over the week.

British actress Vanessa Redgrave will be a star guest for Atlantida's second edition on Mallorca. The 80-year-old actress and activist, known for her performances in *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Mission: Impossible*, will be presenting her first directorial effort, *Sea Sorrow*.

The film focuses on the harrowing story of the thousands of migrants and refugees who have drowned in the Mediterranean this year. It is in keeping with the political tone of Atlantida. Other features include *Gas the Arabs*, which inves-

tigates Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

This is *Our Land* explores the rise of the far right in France. *Robinu* details the lives of

teenage hitmen in gangland Napoli. *Pornocracy* evaluates the role of multinational corporations in transforming the porn industry.

A huge variety of other controversial topics are explored throughout the festival, which is backed heavily by the Balearic and Spanish film industries. A full list of the films, with the dates and times of showings is available on the festival's website.

Though tickets are free it is advisable to register in advance to make sure you can secure one of the limited spaces.

**REDGRAVE:** British actress and director debuts her film at the festival.



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## Cosy music

PALMA-born singer-songwriter Maika Makovski will be playing a homecoming gig at the Teatro Principal next Thursday at 8pm. The hugely talented artist, who is based in both New York and Barcelona and toured often with The Dubliners, is showcasing her latest album *Chinook Wind*.

Makovski's gigs are often intimate and accompanied by classical instruments. She is an accomplished singer and painter who is profoundly shaped by her Macedonian heritage. Musically she switches between acoustic and electric guitars.

Tickets cost between €5 and €20 and can be bought online or at the theatre.

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## Return of Gypsy Kings

GENRE-smashing Flamenco, Rock and Salsa superstars the Gypsy Kings have announced a one-off gig at Son Fusteret this summer. The French Gypsy band who sing in heavily Andalusian-accented Spanish will bring their biggest hits to their Mallorcan fanbase on August 10.

Tickets are now on sale for the performance and can be bought from Trui Theatre from as little as €30. Expect the band's greatest hits, from the iconic Bamboleo to romantic La Dona.

The timeless band were formed in the late 70's and shot to fame a decade later, with a fast cover of Hotel California an instant hit. They have sung with Ziggy Marley and Joan Baez and released dozens of top selling albums over the years.

## Stars serve up a storm

THE second edition of the Mallorca Open tennis tournament is underway. Tickets are still available for the week-long competition which finishes on Saturday.

The tournament pits 32 of the best female tennis players in the world against one another. Tickets are suitably pricey, ranging from €30 to over €1,000 for the top seats.

Though a new tournament, the Mallorca Open is already hugely important for players hoping to collect international ranking points. As such it is highly competitive and an excellent prelude to Wimbledon next month.

Matches take place on the grass courts of Santa Ponsa tennis club and there are distinct singles and doubles competitions.

This year's tournament sees the return of Sabine Lisicki and Victoria Azarenka to action after lengthy lay offs. They will be up against favourite Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova who recently beat World No.1 Angelique Kerber.

Spain will be represented by the country's No.2 Carla Suarez who is gunning for her third WTA title. Last year's winner Caroline Garcia is back to regain her title. The Frenchwoman reached the semi-finals of the French Open earlier this month.

The competition will be fierce and the atmosphere terrific. Tickets can be found online.

**AZARENKA: Belarussian making her comeback at the Mallorca Open.**



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# Masters of music



DEIA'S International Music Festival continues tonight with performances from two of the finest musicians on the planet.

Chee-Yun Kim from South Korea will play violin and Spanish phenomenon Alfredo Oyaguez, the piano.

Both are renowned masters of their instruments and will be playing works from Manuel de Falla, one of Spain's greatest ever composers, Piazzolla and Franck.

The performance takes place from 8.30pm at Son Marroig Country House in Deia with tickets costing between €10 and €20.

The famous international festival has grown in stature over the years and is now considered among Europe's finest expressions of classical music.

**VIRTUOSO:**  
Chee-Yun Kim.

## Piano superstars

A PIANO festival featuring acclaimed Japanese pianist Hiroo Sato is taking place on Saturday evening in Valldemossa. It is the second in a series of three concerts being held at the Charterhouse and will be featuring works from Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin and Rachmaninov.

Hiroo Sato is one of the biggest up and coming pianists in the world today.

The 29-year-old Japanese is playing Mallorca after winning last year's Maria Canals music competition in Barcelona, sending him on a Spain-wide tour of top classical venues.

Tomorrow's festival is something of a prelude to Valldemossa's Chopin Festival held each year in August.

**HIROO SATO: To play in Valldemossa.**





# You've tried the cowboys

**N**OW TRY THE INDIANS. This slogan was made 'famous' by my old restaurateur friend Singh at his popular eatery in Calahonda, Mijas Costa more than 25 years ago. We met for dinner in his restaurant last week for a catch up. When I think back to my early years in the UK, immigration was - and still is - looked upon with reservation. Pakistani corner shops, Indian restaurants not to mention nurses from Africa and the Caribbean! Add to that, the melting pot increases, with those from Poland, Czechoslovakia and more.

What drives people to leave their country,

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



travel afar and make a go of it? I forget that despite the fact that at times this part of the world reminds me at times as some sort of 'Little England,' we are ALL immigrants.

Singh's work paid off, like many of his ilk, by hard work and risk taking. He has two smart young children going into hotel

management who will surely take his work ethic with them. His business has expanded over the years opening a variety of restaurants but he has now made the leap to Malaga. We know that Malaga has boomed and is now not only a beautiful, historical city, but a hub of business.

Nowhere more pronounced than the Muelle Uno on the Port. This area has become the place to go both as a business and as a visitor. Singh's Buddha Brasserie, serving Indian and Thai food is destined to be part of that success. I am going there with him next week, so I can report back!

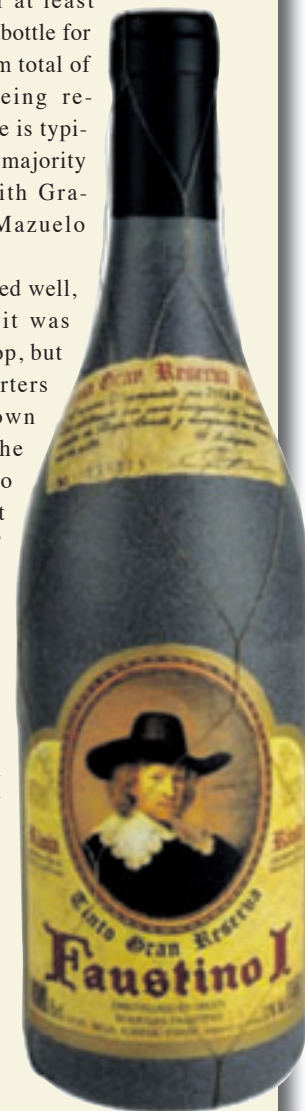
**“** When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable. *Clifton Fadiman*

**MY WINE CORNER THIS WEEK** focuses on a bottle of Faustino 1992 Gran Reserva from my own depleting collection. I keep saying the usual "I'll keep that for a special occasion" but as one - like good wine - improves with age, you realise that every day is a special day. So, dust off the cobwebs I did (and that's just in my hallway!) to see how this wine has fared over the last few years. I am not a great lover of Faustino it has to be said - just too predictable and somewhat boring!

But you have to appreciate some of their vintages. Gran Reserva means that it should be in barrel for at least two years and in bottle for three (a minimum total of five) before being released. This wine is typically Rioja with majority Tempranillo with Graciano and Mazuelo grapes.

The cork opened well, in as much as it was still dry at the top, but broke three quarters of the way down (maybe more the person who opened it!). It was very 'tawny' as to be expected, but still had a lot of quality. Smooth, still hints of berries and sufficient tannin. It drank well with my mature cheddar!

**FAUSTINO 92:**  
Drank well  
with my  
cheddar!



**ON THAT NOTE** I will bid farewell until next week and should aspiring restaurateurs need some help or advice, please do contact me. A toast to Good Food, Good Wine and Good Friends.

## Anyone out there for tennis?

**AS WIMBLEDON FAST APPROACHES**, Britain will bask in sunshine (sic) and the obligatory rain showers, as the world's favourite tennis tournament starts next month. They will indulge in that favourite summer pastime of consuming strawberries and cream.

I like strawberries and tend to have them as part of my fruit breakfast. So for most of the year my local supermarket has them. I know we export tonnes to the UK, so you may feel my annoyance that when the summer comes here we run out, and they disappear from the shelves. One can buy from wholesalers but they are usually quite expensive and come from Holland and the UK but we don't seem to import sufficient so as they can brighten our supermarket aisles during the important summer season. Oh well, back in September!



**STRAWBERRIES:** In summer they run out.

### Numbers in the news

Half a million visitors will drink 350,000 cups of tea, 250,000 Pimms, 100,000 pints of beer and more than 28,000 bottles of champagne during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships scheduled in London from July 3 - 16. They will also consume 28,000 kgs of strawberries.

## Unthinkable to do nothing

**THE FIRE TRAGEDY THAT AFFECTED LONDON** seems to have affected people all over the UK and further afield. Once again the resilience and strength of the people and their communities astounds me.

The incongruousness of the tower blocks of North Kensington aside the residents in the more affluent South Kensington. Neighbours such as Prince William and music mogul Simon Cowell visited the disaster area prompting Cowell, who 'was moved to tears' when he saw the carnage, stating that 'a person in my position to do nothing would be unthinkable,' to contact other music bosses to release a charity single in aid of the victims.

The hospitality industry was once again offering its help along with hundreds of others. Representatives of restaurants such as Chantelle Nicholson, Fred Sirieix, Galvin At Windows and Marcus Wareing Restaurants pledged support and goods to the cause.

Chef Adam Simmonds hosted a 'pay-what-you-like' fundraising dinner at his pop-up restaurant the Test Kitchen in London Soho on Saturday June 17 in aid of the 'go fund' charity.

Every penny received will go to the victims of the fire.

But the last word has to come from a tweet by Jamie Oliver.



*'To any of the 100's of families affected by this terrible fire at Grenfell Tower Notting Hill today, You are all welcome to come hang out in my restaurant and*

*be fed and watered by my Jamie's Italian team. We are in the Westfield just around the corner. Food and drink free of charge so just go and speak to my manager Juan and we will sort you out and give you some love... this is for the victims of the fire - our thoughts, love and prayers are with you all, big love Jamie x x x x*

**THANKS FOR ALL THE COMMENTS I RECEIVED** regarding my article on Sherry in last week's edition. Special thanks go to Paula Maclean to whom I sent my copy for her professional comment - that she kindly gave me. If you dear reader are one of those that enjoy their glass of Sherry then I can recommend Paula's highly informative and enjoyable blog. (<http://jerez-xeres-sherry.blogspot.com.es/>)

*Garry Waite is a foodie and restaurateur as well as an 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)*



AN intriguing new property report on Spain's coastal hotspots has identified which areas have experienced the strongest price growth so far this year.

The Housing on the Costa 2017 report from Tinsa highlights Antigua on the Canary Island of Fuerteventura; Gava in Catalonia; and Mojacar in Almeria as the municipalities which saw the best year-on-year growth in the first quarter of

## Coastal competition

2017.

House prices in Antigua rose the most at a startling 26.1 per cent. Gava and Mojacar posted equally strong growth at 17.8 and 17.3 per cent respectively.

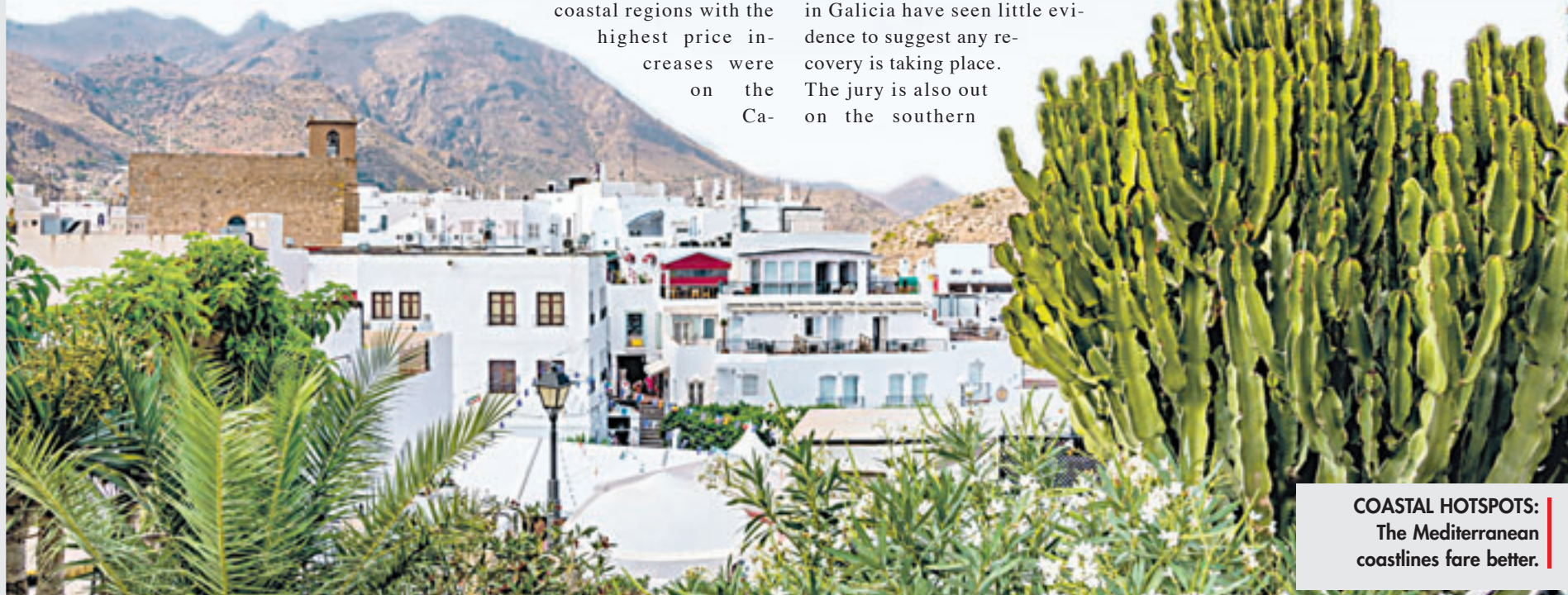
Broadly speaking the coastal regions with the highest price increases were on the Ca-

nary and Balearic Islands, Costa Dorada, the southern Costa Blanca, eastern Costa del Sol and the stretch of Cadiz coast between Tarifa and Conil.

At the opposite end of the spectrum the coasts of eastern Asturias and A Coruna in Galicia have seen little evidence to suggest any recovery is taking place. The jury is also out on the southern

coastline near Algeciras and on the island of La Palma, which bucks the wider trend on the Canaries.

Generally speaking the Mediterranean coastlines fare far better than the Atlantic or Cantabrian regions. Parts of the Granada, Almeria, and Catalan coast are also treading water, though not typically in popular expat areas.



**COASTAL HOTSPOTS:**  
The Mediterranean coastlines fare better.

## Couple's cave dream

A SCOTTISH couple are living a very different kind of Spanish property dream. The creative expats converted a complex of caves nestled in a remote part of Granada into a successful off

the beaten track B&B.

Mark and Shirley Graham from Edinburgh are featured in new Channel Five documentary Our Dream Hotel, which first aired in the UK last Tuesday.

The Grand Designs-style episode focuses on their struggle to get their B&B back up and running after being given just 10 weeks by the Spanish authorities.

The couple, who have lived in Spain for eight years, bought the cave complex for €25,000 and invested more than €50,000 to transform it into a modern unique B&B offering guests a once-in-a-lifetime hotel experience.

But planning permission problems inevitably raised their ugly head and the Grahams were soon facing disaster as all construction work was forcibly stopped.

During the episode they are told that they have only until the end of July to complete the project. If it's not finished by the deadline a court order will prevent architects completing any more work.

Our Dream Hotel is a British TV series which focuses on the trials and tribulations of first time hoteliers setting out on their new adventure.

## Luxury districts rise up

TWO of Europe's most profitable neighbourhoods for real estate investors are in Spain. Madrid's Mendez Alvaro and Barcelona's Glories rank second and fifth respectively on the chart of 22 lucrative districts drawn up by the JLL consultancy.

Their study analysed profit growth from properties owned in dozens of Europe's top downtown areas. Office investment is the chief driver of profits for those in the urban real estate game. Madrid and Barcelona's inclusion is thus reflective of Spain's quickly growing economy and international confidence in its prime properties.

Aimed at real estate investors from across the world hoping to diversify their portfolios quickly, safely and effectively, the study suggested the Solna district in Stockholm offered the best investment prospects.

Second was Mendez Alvaro in Madrid, followed by central Stuttgart, Hauptbahnhof in Berlin, and Barcelona's Glories.

Mendez Alvaro was singled out for praise due to its close connections to the M-30 and extreme competitiveness. Investors averaged a profit of €192 per square metre last year, while average rents rose by 11.3 per cent compared to just 6.4 per cent across the capital.

**BARCELONA:**  
Glories area ranked 5th.





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NEW HOMES: In demand.

# In with the new

HOUSE prices are expected to rise between 4 and 6 per cent by the end of the year according to the Spanish Residential Report 2017 from real estate consultants CBRE. The experts also anticipate that between 120,000 and 140,000 new properties will be built annually until 2020.

Once the urgent demand for new homes is met, the analysts expect the long term dominance of second-hand housing to decline.

New developments with 21st century furnishings in plush neighbourhoods will be highly sought after, with new home prices expected to leap by 8 per cent in the coming years.

Construction permits shot up by 29 per cent last year. Even if that increase is replicated in 2017, it will barely reach sharply growing demand, especially in Madrid and on the popular Mediterranean coastlines.

Until the market's appetite is met, prices will continue to rise, before evening out once supply and demand hit a sustainable sweet spot.

Spain's desire for newly built properties is also offering developers a chance to integrate new emerging technologies with the strengthened property market. Many of the new homes will come with advanced energy systems designed to better warm homes in winter and cool them in summer.

“The long term dominance of second-hand housing is expected to decline.”

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

### Ref 3052, Lluçmajor, 280,000€

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



### Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



### Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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



### Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

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



### Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

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



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



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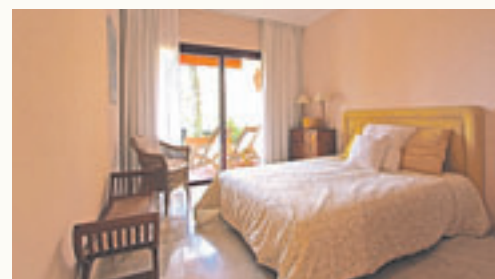
2



Comm.

**Price: 525,000€**

Elegant apartment in Nova Santa Ponsa. This apartment has a living area of 110m<sup>2</sup> divided into 2 large and very bright bedrooms, the master bedroom with en suite bathroom, fully fitted kitchen with laundry room and a very spacious and bright living room with access to a beautiful terrace of 25m<sup>2</sup> overlooking the gardens of the community. This apartment is located in a luxury community in the golf area of Nova Santa Ponsa, it has a nice swimming pool with landscaped areas and a communal bar-barbecue area in a very Mediterranean style. Very close to the famous Port Adriano with its shops and restaurants and the beaches of the area. A luxury property to live!!





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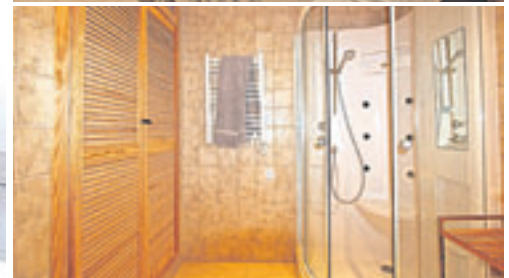
## 11716 Charming apartment in Puerto Portals



 100sqm  2  2  Comm.

**Price: 495,000€**

Charming apartment in Puerto Portals. This apartment has 98 square metres distributed in 2 double rooms and 2 complete bathrooms en-suite. There is an open kitchen in the sunny and bright living room with access to a lovely terrace of 12m<sup>2</sup> overlooking the communal pool and the sea. This apartment is located in a development that has a direct access to the famous Puerto Portals with its shops, beaches and restaurants. Just 10km from the centre of the city of Palma. Ideal as holiday apartment or investment!!!







## Prices rocket as salaries stall

HOUSE prices are rising at around five times the rate of salaries, prompting speculation as to how working families can possibly afford homes in metropolitan areas.

The average Spaniard would today have to work for 6.8 years, saving every penny of their net salary, to buy an average-priced home. In 2007 when prices were at their peak it would have taken 8.8 years. Experts believe an optimum level is around 4.5 years.

Prices are now rising steadily at a rate of 5 per cent per year, while

salaries have largely stayed stagnant. Salaries actually fell by 0.8 per cent last year, though they are expected to rise in 2017.

The discrepancy between the two is more acute in large cities which have seen double digit percentage increases in home prices. On top of stricter risk analysis from mortgage lenders, the property price and salary divergence is making it much more difficult for families without a substantial income to buy a new home.

Gentrification also plays a key role.

In major cities across Spain there are large chunks of prime real estate in enviable locations which have remained derelict and abandoned for decades.

That phenomenon has largely disappeared in recent years with developers and investors snapping up old buildings and transforming them into modern properties. Spain still has a long way to go before it reaches the purchase power discrepancy seen in Hong Kong. Average home prices in the world's most unaffordable city are 18 times average annual salaries.

## Strong spell for landlords

GENERATION rent might not be as influential in Spain as it is across the rest of Europe, but it is getting closer. New figures show that the rental business now accounts for more than a fifth of financial activity on Spain's wider residential property market.

Not since the early 1960s have such a large proportion of Spanish residents been renting rather than buying. The increase is a natural consequence of tighter mortgage restrictions and the emergence of a stronger, younger professional class who are still unable to climb the housing ladder.

The 20 per cent of properties which are rented is still some way off the Eurozone average of 30 per cent, but it still marks a substantial transformation for Spain, a country where even the poorest may have three homes to their name.

Rental prices are rising quickly too. The average cost per square metre rose 10.2 per cent nationally in the past year to €8.02 per month. Though rents have risen sharply in the past few years, this is still akin to 2011 levels. At their historical peak rents reached €10.12 per square metre per month in 2007.

Regional differences are just as pronounced as for the buying market. Barcelona rents are almost double the national average at €15.14 per square metre, well above €11.96 in Madrid. Between them the two large metropolitan areas account for almost half of all of Spain's rental activity thanks to huge professional and student populations.

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3  
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- m²  
1  
1  
✓

**SANTA PONSA - VILLA**  
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400 m²  
3  
3  
✓

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# Low maintenance and hardy succulents

**GRAEME TYRRELL**

IF you love having a garden but have little free time to tend a conventional garden there is a solution.

A garden that, if you forget to water at times, will not have shrivelled up to a stick with dried leaves on it, is a great bonus for a busy person.

If the plants can spring back to life after neglect and produce spectacularly larger than average flowers for the size of the plants it can be amazing.

The plants themselves offer a range of colours that can be contrasted and blended to great effect in containers or the garden. Maybe it sounds too good to be true.

It is possible with the naturally occurring desert and arid zone succulents. These amazing succulent plants have the ability to store water

in their leaves, stems and/or roots. They also have an uncanny ability to draw moisture from morning dew and mist.

Succulents differ, in many classifications, from cactus in that they do not have spines or prickles, which makes gardening with them easier.

A most popular succulent in Spain is the Jade Plant (*Crassula ovata*) which you will often find growing in containers to grand dimensions in historic courtyards all around Spain. Other traditional Spanish favourites include Kaffir Lily - *Clivia Miniata* and Housetree Leek - *Aeonium Arboreum*. These all make great outdoor containers plants or contrasting additions to the garden.

There is also a huge range of smaller or more compact succulents that be combined in containers to form a mini landscape. This includes the Paddle plant - *Kalanchoe*



Miniature succulents in pots.

*thyrsiflora*, various *Sedum* species (such as Stone Crop, Burros Tail, Propeller Plant), *Sempervivum* species (such as Cobweb and Red Houseleeks), *Portulacaria* species (such as Moss Ross,

Purslane), *Delosperma* (Ice Plants) and many more.

They are a great way to have an indoor or balcony garden display.

That they store water means they have to be given

water regularly to build up their reserves, but they will tolerate long periods without water if it is not too often as they need to become replenished. It is best to water them once the soil starts to dry out

so as not to overwater.

The soil mix they grow in should not be too nutrient rich so a well composted soil mixture for pots or lightly improved garden soil for outdoors is sufficient.

If your water quality is tending towards hard water or very alkaline you will need to repot the plant every year or so to reduce the mineral build up. A way to prevent this build up is to use rain water to water your succulents.

Succulents need good light but not always direct sunlight so they can do well indoors close to a window or other light source.

Most succulents are very easy to grow by division and cuttings usually take readily if given a moist environment until strong roots form.

There is a huge range of succulents available if you want to have an interesting addition to your garden that is low maintenance and hardy.

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**GARDEN CINEMA:**  
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# Back garden cinema in three easy steps

SUMMER is here early in Spain and with it comes the desire to spend those long evenings out in the garden enjoying the first cool moments of the day.

With this in mind, many people will be looking for a way to bring their family and friends together and make the most of these months. Using mostly household items this article will describe how to easily create your own garden cinema to add a touch of

originality to the standard garden party.

There is a distinct festival feeling to watching your favourite movies in the open air. All it requires are the following three easy steps:

Step 1 involves a big white sheet, which can be anything from a bath towel to bed linen. This needs to be pegged to the side of a shed or perhaps attached to a washing line and tied down with some string.

Step 2 is to go and buy a small projector which can plug into any laptop. This may sound expensive but with the rise of the portable electronics market these can be found for a fraction of the price of larger ones and are just as reliable.

Step 3, the final step, is to arrange all your garden furniture in a cinema style or just throw a large blanket on the floor and enjoy your very own open air theatre.

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**HOUSEHOLD CHORES:** Times have changed.

# Gender chores

IT made sense for women to do all the cleaning in the past, but times have changed and more women go out to work these days. The problem is that they still have household chores to take care of and children to look after, so are men pulling their weight nowadays or are they still stuck in the 'men don't clean' attitude?

It has been reported that male approaches to household chores might have something to do with class and earning levels, with those on a lower income helping out and those earning more doing much less. Women still do most of the housework and men use the

excuse that they're useless at cleaning, but ironically believe in gender equality.

The movement towards closing the household chore gap is slow and this is the result of the deeply embedded belief that women are responsible for the domestic domain. Recent studies have shown that Scandinavian countries and the US lead the way in closing the gap in time spent on housework. Other countries vary, which could be linked with national policy and ideologies related to gender.

Before the first decade of the 21st century, women in Italy and Spain did more housework than women else-

where and Italian and Spanish men did less than men in other countries. A more recent survey has revealed that just two out of every 10 men in Spain share household chores equally with their partners.

In general, over the past 50 years, the time that women spend cleaning has decreased, while the time that a man spends cleaning has actually increased. Therefore, there is still hope that men and women will one day, be on an equal footing, but this will probably be witnessed by future generations, when everyone will have a household chore-robot.

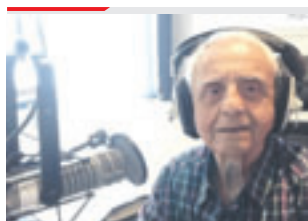


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# The legend of the black dog and others



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DOGS have always been credited with the power of sensing supernatural influences, as well as being able to see ghosts, spirits, faeries or deities which are invisible to human eyes.

In Wales only dogs could see the death-bringing hounds of Annwn; in ancient Greece the dogs were aware when Hecate was at a crossroads foretelling a death. Dogs are believed to be aware of the presence of ghosts, and their barking, whimpering or howling is said to be the first warning of supernatural occurrences.

In England, there are many instances of black dog ghosts which are said to haunt lanes, bridges, crossroads, footpaths and gates, particularly in Suffolk, Norfolk and the Isle of Man. Some black dogs are said to be unquiet ghosts of wicked souls, but others are friendly guides and protectors to travellers. The Barguest of northern England could also appear as a pig or a goat, but was most commonly a huge black dog with large eyes and feet which left no prints.

Tales of packs of ghostly hounds have also been recorded all over Britain, often said to be



**HAUNTING black dog ghosts.**

heard howling as they pass by on stormy nights rather than actually seen. These hounds generally foretell death, (or at least disaster) if they are seen then the proper action is to drop face-down onto the ground to avoid spotting them.

When a dog howls in an otherwise silent night, it is said to be an omen of death or at least of misfortune. A howling dog outside the house of a sick person was once thought to be an omen that they would die, especially if the dog was driven away and returned to howl again. A dog which gives a single howl, or three howls, and then falls silent is said to be marking a death that has just occurred nearby.

Dogs were feared as carriers of rabies, sometimes a healthy dog could be killed if it had bitten someone, because of the belief that if the dog later developed rabies (even many years afterwards) the bitten person would also be afflicted. Remedies for the bite of a mad dog often included the patient being

forced to eat a part of the dog in question, such as its hairs or a piece of its cooked liver.

Dogs were also used to cure other illnesses. One old charm which was often used for children's illnesses, was to take some of the patient's hairs and feed them to a dog between slices of bread and butter. The ailment was believed to transfer to the animal, healing the patient.

In Scotland, a strange dog coming to the house is said to mean a new friendship; in England, to meet a spotted or black and white dog on your way to a business appointment is considered lucky. Additionally, three white dogs seen together are considered lucky in some areas; black dogs however are generally considered unlucky, especially if they cross a traveller's path or follow someone and refuse to be driven away. Fishermen traditionally regard dogs as unlucky and will not take one out in a boat, or mention the word 'dog' while at sea.

Source Arcamax

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Photo by Jack Russel

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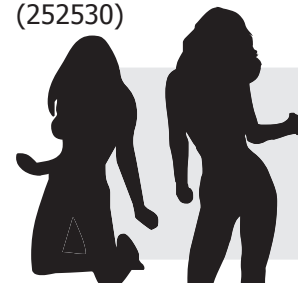


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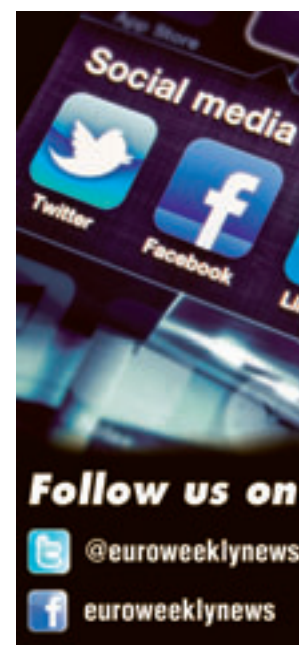
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**Clarkson  
Quote of the Week**

What's your carbon footprint like? Clarkson: "We don't have a carbon footprint, we drive everywhere."

Some might say...

**Motoring shorts**

## Feline power

JAGUAR is making waves with its latest foray into the competitive estate car market. Its muscular XF Sportbrake is based on the Saloon but is much larger and ideal for family buyers.

It might look sporty but it is deceptively powerful. The Sportbrake can tow up to 2,000kg and comes with a variety of engine choices, ranging from a 161HP 2.0 litre diesel to a vastly more powerful 3.0 litre V6 providing 296HP.

The V6 can reportedly reach 100kmph from a dead start in 6.6 seconds. Interior space is very generous, extending to 1,700 litres with all the seats down.

There is an enormous panoramic sunroof which can be opened and closed by hand gestures using state-of-the-art sensors. Prices start at around €40,000.

# Crash and burn... and live

RICHARD HAMMOND is pleased with his new 'Swiss Army knee' and has vowed to return to the motoring frontlines after a catastrophic crash that had Jeremy Clarkson worried his wingman was dead.

Grand Tour star Hammond underwent surgery after his electric Rimac Concept One supercar crashed and burst into flames during a speedy hill climb in Switzerland.

The 47-seven-year-old former Top Gear presenter - no

stranger to hospital emergency units - posted photos online of his new metal pins, writing that, while a problem for airport security, his knee was at least rust proof.

The crash, described as 'serious' by Grand Tour executives, has forced a major delay in filming for the Amazon show.

Jeremy Clarkson claims to have been frantically rewriting the second series' script to keep the show on track for an autumn release. He had earlier expressed fears that he "genuinely thought" Hammond was dead after the horror smash.

For all the wrong reasons the incident has at least given the Rimac Concept One a bit of publicity. The man behind the Croatian electric supercar is Mate Rimac, a young entrepreneur who has worked on cranking up the speed of electric vehicles since he was a teenager.

The Concept One was

developed five years ago and made its production debut at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show. A top speed of 356kmph and an acceleration time of 0-100kmph in just 2.6 seconds made it an immediate force to be reckoned with.

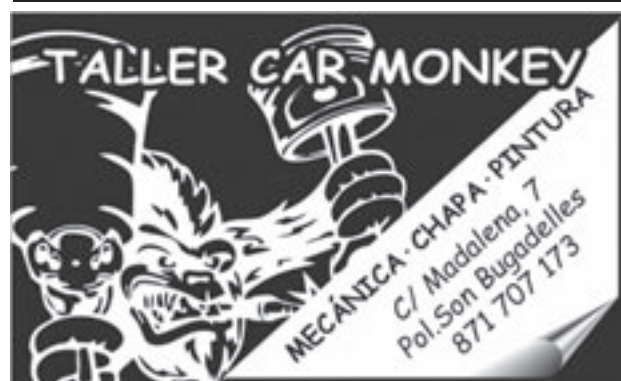

## 2.6

*Rimac's Concept One can go from 0-100kmph in 2.6 seconds*


The model being tested by Hammond is reportedly even faster and more powerful. It has a fully fledged 21st century infotainment system with access to 4G networks and a range of 350km with a fully charged battery.



**SLEEK:** The Rimac Concept One at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show.

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AFTER an exhausting survey of 10,000 car owners, the biggest online used car market in the UK has revealed its 2017 car awards. The Auto Trader Awards are the true people's choice, with judges and journalists having no say in the vote.

There was no outright 'best car' award but the Jaguar XF came close, being announced the best new car of the year. The public were on-board with expert opinion on this one with the XF garnering universal acclaim upon its release.

Mercedes also fared well in the vote. Its E-

Class crushed the competition to be declared the best family car, while the C-Class was elected best for long distances.

Volvo also picked up two awards. The car manufacturer's XC90 hybrid beat the Volkswagen Golf GTE to win Best Green Car, while the Swedish firm's models were selected as the best for gadgets, gizmos and in-car features.

Meanwhile, the evergreen Ford Fiesta was - unsurprisingly - the most popular among first time drivers, while the Audi TT managed to edgd the Most Fun Car to Drive category.





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# Lions set to 'roar' back, Pakistan wallop

## India and Ronaldo to leave Real Madrid

### >> From Back page

In the other semi, Surrey (363-7 with Jason Roy's 92) thrashed Worcestershire (210) by 153 runs.

England played South Africa at Southampton yesterday in the first of three T20 matches; the second is tomorrow at Taunton; the third on Sunday in Cardiff.

The women's cricket World Cup starts in England on Saturday, until July 23.

### RUGBY UNION

Resilient British and Irish Lions, who beat the Maori All Blacks 32-10 last weekend - their biggest win over these opponents since 1971 - and met the Chiefs in mid-week, play New Zealand at Auckland's Eden Park in the first

of three Test Matches on Saturday. The other Tests are in Wellington on July 1 and in Auckland, again, a week later. Coach Warren Gatland has reinforced his squad by eight due to injuries.

In other friendlies, Scotland beat Australia 24-19 in Sydney, Ireland whipped Japan 50-22, Wales whipped Tonga 24-6, New Zealand slaughtered Samoa 78-0, South Africa eased past France 37-15 and England defeated Argentina 35-25 (for a 2-0 series win).

Tomorrow Wales play Samoa.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds Rhinos (with 10 tries) thrashed Featherstone 58-0, Wigan beat Warrington 27-25, Salford defeated Wakefield 30-6 and Hull knocked out Castleford 32-24 in the Challenge Cup quarter-

finals. The Rhinos have won the trophy three times in the last four years.

### FOOTBALL

Cristiano Ronaldo is 'upset' after accusations of tax fraud and has said he wants to leave Real Madrid and return to Manchester United but the Spanish giants have a release clause in his contract marked up at £875m.

England drew 0-0 with Sweden in their opening European U21 championship game. They

met Slovakia in their second match on Monday and play hosts to Poland in their third tonight.

Jordan Pickford, who saved a penalty in the draw with Sweden, has joined Everton from Sunderland for £30m.

Champions Chelsea will start the 2017-18 PL season with a home game against Burnley. The other nine fixtures are Arsenal-Leicester, Brighton-Manchester City, Crystal Palace-Huddersfield, Everton-Stoke, Manchester United-West Ham; Newcastle-Spurs, Southampton-Swansea, Watford-Liverpool and WBA-Bournemouth.

### FORMULA ONE

Baku hosts the Azerbaijan/European (and eighth) Grand Prix of the year on Sunday. There will follow a two-week break before the cars go to Austria on July 9.

### BOXING

Floyd Mayweather Junior (40) will fight UFC/martial arts champion Conor McGregor (28) in August. The fight has been described as a 'farce' and a 'circus' but could earn both men £78.4m each.

Meanwhile, GB's Paul Smith lost his WBA world super middleweight title on points to Tyron Zeuge in Germany.

### ATHLETICS

Scotsman Jake Whiteman (22) won the 1,500m title at the recent Diamond League meeting in Oslo. However, GB long jump champion Greg Rutherford pulled out with an ankle injury.

### SAILING

This week in Bermuda, New Zealand take on holders team Oracle from the USA in the Americas Cup.

### TENNIS

GB's Johanna Konta failed to win her first tournament on home soil - beaten by Croatia's Donna Vekic in the final of the Aegon Nottingham Open. The last British female to win 'at home' was Virginia Wade in 1977.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ten years ago Manchester City had players from 20 different clubs registered as professionals, 15 were internationals. Also, Welsh footballer Trevor Ford was fielding as a substitute for Glamorgan when Gary Sobers struck six sixes in one over playing for Notts in 1968.



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Cristiano Ronaldo is 'upset' after accusations of tax fraud and has said he wants to leave Real Madrid and return to Manchester United.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

22 - 28 June 2017

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# American Koepka wins Masters in Wisconsin

## Tony Matthews

International Sports

A former player, Tony is now the world's most prolific author of football books with 150 published since 1975. He has also been a PE teacher and a policeman, and is now a quiz-organiser, fund-raiser, for various charities, and sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio.

Costa de Almeria

THERE has been plenty of sport to suit everyone of late - and there is a lot more to come over the next few weeks and even months, with tennis, cricket, golf, rugby and motorsport at the forefront.

### GOLF

American Brooks Koepka won last weekend's US Masters in Wisconsin, conquering the 8,000 yard-long

course with a record-equalling score of 16 under par. England's Tommy Fleetwood finished fourth.

For the first time since 1983, three of the world's top 10 golfers missed the cut - Dustin Johnson, Rory McIlroy and Jason Day.

### CRICKET

An Oval crowd of 24,183 and half a billion more watching on TV worldwide, saw Pakistan (338-4) wallop, thrash, demolish holders India (158 all out) by 180 runs in the Champions Trophy final on Sunday. England had lost to Pakistan in the semis.

The final of the Royal London Cup One day tournament, on July 1 will fea-

ture Notts against Surrey. Notts chased down a record of 373 to beat Essex by five wickets in their semi by five wickets after Alastair Cook had struck 133 in his side's 370-5.



BROOKS KOEPKA:  
US Open Wisconsin  
winner.

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