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Island manifesto

Demands for special Mallorca deal sent to Madrid

By Matthew Elliott

A wish list for a special tax regime has been drawn up by the Balearic executive. President Francina Armengol handed it over to Spanish treasury secretary Cristobal Montoro after discussing Balearic autonomy with King Felipe VI during his holidays on Mallorca.

There are 23 demands on the list. Each is aimed at levelling the playing field between Mallorca and the Spanish mainland.

They can be broadly placed into four categories: air and sea transport, tax relief, regional investment, and compensation for national use of local resources.

Mallorca has recently secured a 75 per cent discount for residents on inter-island travel. A similar demand is for lower fuel taxes, following the Corsican model where-by islanders pay substantially less than French drivers in Paris or Toulouse.

Key demands include a 75 per cent discount on air and boat transport to the Spanish mainland, and regular, direct and fixed-rate connections to Madrid and Barcelona. Joint control of Palma airport is requested,



King Felipe and Francina Armengol.

as is the expansion of Son Bonet for commercial flights.

Electricity costs should be coupled with mainland rates, as should phone charges, with call quality also matching the mainland. Students should receive a 100 per cent subsidy to study at Spanish universities, and the transfer of sick people to mainland hospitals should be funded entirely by Madrid.

The list also includes tax relief for the Balearic film industry and the arts, scientific research and development, and the yachting industry. It urges the reduction of general

IVA from 21 to 15 per cent.

Direct investment in the Balearics should never fall below the Spanish average, and an investment fund for island infrastructure should be established and overseen by local authorities.

"The King understands our concerns 100 per cent," said Armengol at a recent press conference. But it is the conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that holds all the cards. Rajoy is already at odds with Armengol over his determination to drill for oil in Balearic waters.

THIS WEEK

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Water watch as tourism booms

THE fight to preserve the limited summer water supplies is ongoing.

Though supplies are not in the main as low as from 2005 - 2008 when the last official drought was registered, the authorities in various parts of Spain are constantly monitoring the situation to the backdrop of an ongoing rise in summer tourist arrivals.

In some resorts record figures are being logged.

This automatically daily increases demands on water stocks even though providing a fillip for the national and local economies.

In Mallorca, the peak tourist season in August has seen demand soar. In reservoirs such as those of Cuber and Gorg Blau, levels have fallen and will need to be monitored to avoid drought.

Meanwhile a stark warning has been made in a study that the whole of southern Spain could be desert by the end of this century.

If the fight against global warming is not won and current trends are reversed then in 80 years the impact of climate change on the Mediterranean area will be non-reversible!

This is the alert spelled out in a study on the topic for this region by Joel Guiot from the National Centre of Scientific Research in France.

With the fight against



Photo credit: www.panoramio.com

DROUGHT DREAD: The Cuber reservoir where declining water levels are causing concern.

global warming further hindered by President Trump's rejection of US support re-

cently, an increasing number of academics are warning that too little too late will

mean many toddlers of today - living in areas where annual rainfall levels already

cause concern - will in old age, find their natural surroundings changed drastically.

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Doggy danger

DOG owners in Palma have been asked to carry water bottles with them to dilute the waste of their furry friends. Rogue canines urinating outside destroy hundreds of street lamps each year due to corrosion.

Residents associations have demanded free poop bags from the council and want owners who don't pick up after their pets to be named and shamed.

Cruise mania

MORE than three million passengers docked at Balearic ports from January to June, a record high. In June alone almost 1.1 million arrived at Palma, Alcudia, Mao, Ibiza and La Sabina.

Balearic ports are the second busiest in Spain, and the third in Europe. Together they process slightly less people and cargo than Barcelona, which is the fourth busiest port on the planet.

Scuba drama

A MALLORCAN couple spent five hours floating in the Red Sea after their scuba diving boat sank during a holiday in Egypt. Pedro and Francisca Corbacho had spent a week on the boat with crew and seven other tourists when it suddenly began sinking at 3am.

With lifejackets on they hung onto a rope in the open sea before some fishermen found them later in the morning.

Wonky map

A MEDIEVAL map of Mallorca has surfaced in a California antique shop. Drawn around 1560 by Venetian artist Fernando Bertelli it measures 25.5cm by 19cm and is on sale at www.raremaps.com for around €3,500.

The geography is a little off. Formentor is near Soller, the island is divided by a river, Manacor is on the coast and the mountains are in the middle.

Blind sprinter

A SPRINTER from Peguera won a bronze medal in the 100m and a silver in the 200m at the World Para-Athletic Championships in London. Joan Mura, aged 21, has a retina problem drastically reducing his vision.

He set a personal best in the 100m, finishing in just 11.09 seconds. His 4x100m relay team thought they'd won gold but were disqualified after an illegal change of baton.

Slaver boss is snared

MODERN day slavery charges have been brought against a Palma restaurant owner. The rogue boss was arrested by National Police for imposing 17-hour working days on staff, without legal contracts in effect.

Police began investigating following a complaint from a former employee. His allegations were corroborated by enough former staff to warrant a large-scale inquiry.

Investigators found that staff typically worked 12-17 hour days, every day of the week, with no contract. They were paid €3.50 per hour, which did not include

the few lunch or rest breaks.

Holidays, overtime or severance pay for sudden dismissals were unheard of. The employees worked as waiters, cooks, cleaners and plumbers. Many are on the islands illegally and were terrified of being shopped to police or fired.

Police searching the premises also found large packages containing sizeable quantities of hash and marihuana ready for sale. It is unclear who was responsible for the drugs.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...25

Sport is no-longer ring-fenced to back pages, with the 1960s off-the-field antics of soccer wizard George Best credited with initially moving it to the front of newspapers, where now frequently rugby, cricket, snooker and cycling also feature.

Pedal power excitement

THIS year's 21-day Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) starts in France on Saturday, with the first of the 21-stages opening with a short Nîmes time trial, and ending in Madrid after a 23-day event that includes nine summit finishes and just two rest days!

First held in 1935, the race has taken place annually since 1955 after being halted by the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War during its early years of existence.

The 2017 race is the 71st and along with the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia, the Vuelta makes up cycling's prestigious three Grand Tours.

Though the route annually changes, the race format remains the same with at least two time trials, tortuous mountain stages and the finish in the capital.

The 1935 race over 3,411 kms included 14 stages with 50 entrants and was inspired by the success of the Tours in France and Italy. Initially held in spring, 12 years ago the race moved to September to avoid direct competition with the Giro d'Italia in May.

This year's race will see more than 200 riders in 20-plus teams line up at the start, with the peloton now expanded from a once primarily Spanish participation to include global riders each dreaming of wearing the leader's red jersey.

Taking in wide ranging lo-



FROOME:
Hoping
for red
jersey.

Froome's double hope

THIS year's Tour de France winner Chris Froome is among the favourites to ride to victory as star of Team Sky.

If he is crowned the winner in Madrid on September 10 at the end of the gruelling race Kenyan-born Froome will be the first man to win two grand tours in one season since Spaniard Alberto Conta-

dor bagged the Tour and Giro de Italian in 2008.

Cycling - described by many as among the toughest sports in the world - has in recent times shaken off the stigma of years when many of the top riders took drugs as they pedalled to victory. The most famous is the infamous and now disgraced Lance Armstrong.



THE PELOTON: Over 200 riders are competing.

cations from Andorra to the Costa Blanca down to the Costa del Sol, plus stages in northern Spain in Asturias as well as the central region around Madrid, hundreds of thousands of spectators will line the various route stages as the riders battle for both individual and team honours.

The multi-million euro race also increasingly receives worldwide television coverage as a multi-sponsored global event.

Captain selfish

ECO-WARRIOR filmed an unidentified man whacking golf balls from a superyacht anchored at Sa Foradada, near Son Marroig. The Amevi superyacht is owned by an Indian billionaire and was sailing under the Marshall Islands flag.

Footage from local eco-group Ter-raferida showed the man teeing off on the deck, striking dozens of balls into

the sea with no net or attempt to salvage them.

Evil gangsters

A GANG which lured transsexual beauty queens from Venezuela to Spain and sold them into prostitution in Palma was broken up by National Police. The victims were tricked with promises of breast implants and European passports.

They were held in sub-human conditions and forced to sell drugs to pay off €15,000 debts. Police estimate the gang raked in more than €1 million from the trade.

Numero Uno

TENNIS star Rafael Nadal has once again topped the men's ATP rankings. The Manacor man's unexpected resurgence this year saw him crowned World Number 1 on Monday after stutters from Roger Federer and Andy Murray.

He will be top speed going into the US Open later this month. Nadal won his 10th French Open this year. He first became Number 1 in 2008, aged 22.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1675 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 38 local stories.

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Top 5 stories

From 8 - 14 August

- 1 Kirsty Maxwell Benidorm balcony death: Woman tried to clamber down side of hotel - **13,490**
- 2 Group of teens catch rabies after having sex with a donkey - **11,818**
- 3 Spain's Costa Blanca braced for heavy rain and thunderstorms - **11,164**
- 4 Group of seven attack man outside of a bar in Costa Blanca - **4,837**
- 5 Costa del Sol to fight 'wild' hen and stag parties - **4,309**

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Poll of the week

**Looky looky men:
 Do you feel they
 are good or bad?**

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

**Should toll road fees
 not be increased
 thereby attracting
 more users?**

Yes = 92%
No = 8%

Top Social Media comments

Ryanair duty-free alcohol cabin ban on flights from Glasgow and Manchester to Alicante and Ibiza - Always the same story the innocent get punished by the idiots not controlling their alcohol intake. *Yvonne Kennedy Kinch*

Taxi strike spreads throughout Malaga Province leaving thousands stranded - When is the government gonna grow a pair and stand up to this Megalomaniac Mafia... Why do the councils let themselves be held to ransom by bloody taxi drivers?... Crazy! I for one will be using Cabify from now on. *Steve Walsh*

So allow Cabify and Uber to operate. Believe me the taxi mafia will soon go back to work when they realise that there are alternatives and they will eventually lose out completely! *Mark Connor*

Anti-tourism protesters demonstrate on a beach in Barcelona - People who live there are fed up with rising rents, visitors peeing in the street, parties all night, drunks lying about in the streets, half naked tourists and total lack of respect for the locals. *Jenny Dodd*

Lifeguards in Spain ordered to cover up - It's not what the female lifeguards wear, it's men dictat-

ing what they should wear that's annoying! *Lynda Stephenson*

Costa del Sol to fight against 'wild' hen and stag parties - If music, alcohol, or rowdy men and women cause problems it needs to be seriously addressed. Some Brits and other tourist need to learn how to respect public and public property. *Kenny Seeley*

There's fun and then there's vulgarity and lack of respect for themselves and all around them. It's gone beyond fun and needs sorting. *Ann McConnell*

Two Brits investigated for shining lasers at planes landing at Costa del Sol airport - A shining example of how a father should not behave. Two morons together. *Kas Wells*

They should stop selling them we saw someone shining this in people's faces as they walked down the street. *Anne Kirton*

Kirsty Maxwell Benidorm balcony death: Woman tried to clamber down side of hotel Only them lads in that room know the REAL TRUTH! I hope to god one of them tells the truth, they owe her family that!

Thank god these witnesses came forward! *Kagsee Knight*



TRAGIC: Kirsty Maxwell plunged to her death from the Payma Apartments.

TRIVIA FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Hawaii alphabet consists of 13 letters: five vowels and eight consonants.

The Guinness Book of Records is stolen more often than any other publication from public libraries.

Babies are born with 300 bones, but by the time they reach adulthood they normally have only 206 as many smaller bones fuse together to make larger and stronger ones during childhood.

★★★★★★

Did you know?



The wax worm can eat plastic bags, quickly breaking down polyethylene, which can take 100-400 years to naturally degrade. If scientists can find and isolate the enzyme that dissolves the plastic, a solution could be found for reducing global waste.

Lost in translation



**TAKE THE CHILD
 FALL INTO WATER
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CORRECTIONS

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UNCOVERED: Illegal actions and malpractice at the premises in Cami de Jesus de Palma.

Abuse claims shame

By Matthew Elliott

A VET is under criminal investigation after 16 complaints of animal abuse, malpractice and fraud were made against him. Seprona, the Guardia Civil's animal protection unit, is leading the inquiry.

Allegations include sham diagnoses of serious diseases that required expensive testing, and changing his opinion to necessitate more tests.

Clients complained to police when no test results were forthcoming. Some paid €500 in a single visit for medicines which they never received.

Seprona conducted an inspection of the premises, which is located in Cami de Jesus de Palma, and found a series of serious infractions.

Dozens of cat and dog corpses were stored incorrectly in the freezer, posing a severe health hazard.

Sanitary conditions were poor, records were improperly kept, and the veterinarian, who is of joint British and Ecuadorian nationality, lacked the proper licence for testing equipment.

Seprona are now investigating client claims that their animals died or were put at serious risk due to deliberate misdiagnosis and time wasting.

The facility has been temporarily closed while they conduct a full investigation.

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Downsizing

LAUREN POPE, the 34-year-old star of *The Only Way is Essex* (TOWIE), has been spotted showing off the results of her recent breast reduction on a beach in Marbella.

The Essex-born stunner is in the town shooting scenes for the reality TV show over the summer. Wearing a high-cut, hot pink swimsuit, the star showed off her smaller bust and revealed her toned body in the backless one piece.

Pope, who runs a successful hair-extensions business, explained she had her breast size reduced at the beginning of July when her size E implants were removed so she could to be taken more seriously in the business world.

The star was photographed reclining on a sun lounger next to a female friend where the pair sipped cocktails before joining the rest of the TOWIE cast at the Bono Beach Club.



LAUREN POPE: Had a breast reduction.

Lace embrace

TWO stars from ITV's hit reality show, *The Only Way is Essex* (TOWIE) have been photographed embracing this summer's lace trend.

Georgie Kousoulou, aged 26, and Chloe Sims, aged 34, were snapped strolling around Marbella, with Georgia opting for transparent black trousers and Chloe looking chic in a white see-through dress.



CALLY JANE: "Get a life."

No love on this island

LOVE ISLAND beauty, Cally Jane Beech, has been criticised online for enjoying a three-day holiday on Ibiza without her three-month old daughter, Vienna.

The 25-year-old star took to Instagram to defend her trip, explaining her daughter was staying with her father, Luis Morrison and told critics to "get a life."

The brunette stunner is taking a break after breaking up with Luis last month after claims he had cheated on her. Cally Jane explained she was at a Miss Swimsuit UK event on Saturday when she saw the online criticism and had to be comforted by a friend. In her Instagram post, Miss Beech hit back, saying, "You shouldn't judge other parents on how they're living their lives and what they're doing."

TOWIE boys in Banus

AN eagle-eyed *Euro Weekly News* reader spotted three regular cast members from *The Only Way is Essex* (TOWIE) at Jacks Smokehouse in Puerto Banus.

From left to right are Pete Wicks, James Lock and James Bennewith (Diags) who are in Marbella with a number of their colleagues filming their annual summer get together in *The Only Way is Marbs* special.

More images from the cast will appear in next week's edition of the newspaper which hits the streets on Thursday.



From TOWIE to Banus.



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Brexit bounces back

WITH the British Prime Minister Theresa May returning from a three week holiday, the nation's thoughts return to the matter of Brexit.

Two leading Conservative protagonists appear to have finally come to an agreement as Chancellor Philip Hammond and Trade Secretary Liam Fox have declared that Britain will leave the European Union in 2019 as originally intended.

They anticipate a transition period however where Britain will be outside of the single market and the customs union but will still expect to have a relationship within the EU which will protect British business.

Whilst no formal response has been received to this suggestion, informal responses seem to suggest that the 27 remaining member states are highly unlikely to agree to this and as time passes so it becomes more difficult to put together a transition plan which will be acceptable to all parties.

In the meantime, David Davis, the minister responsible for negotiating the exit from the Union has indicated that he too would be looking for a transition period which would include a temporary customs union to enable British trade to continue and for Britain to leave with the



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A somewhat awkward meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee.

forced to set up new customs computer systems, build lorry parks and employ additional staff in order to cope with the additional burden of dealing with a separated UK.

Those most likely to be affected are Belgium, France, Holland and Ireland and it would be surprising if they were agreeable to a transition period which doesn't include some form of financial assis-

tance to cover their additional costs.

Britain of course also has to set up the same systems and find the money to pay them.

The simple fact is that even if all of the members of the UK cabinet with their diverse views can agree to a plan of action to allow for a controlled withdrawal with a medium term transition, it is up to the European Union and the remaining 27 states to decide whether this is acceptable.

Also to be remembered is the fact that the assemblies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales as well as the

Gibraltar government should be consulted to some extent on the way forward and bearing in mind that only Wales voted in favour of withdrawal, the government has to at least give the impression of representing those voters as well.

Without agreement on the position of EU nationals in the UK and vice versa, an agreement on the Irish border situation and some form of divorce payment plus recognition of the European Court of Justice during transition, it is highly unlikely that any transition agreement can be reached.

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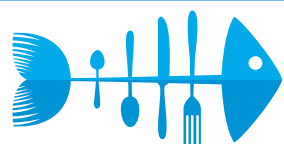
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Sex work stats revealed

By Matthew Elliott

A NEW report estimates that roughly 100,000 men pay prostitutes each year on the Balearic Islands, the vast majority on Mallorca.

It found there are around 2,300 women working in a business worth €50 million per annum.

The report was authored by a group dedicated to analysing trends in the world's oldest profession across the islands.

It identified a core of around 15,000 male clients who use sex worker services three or four times a month. Another 25,000 visit prostitutes once a month.

The majority is made up of tourists, business travellers and temporary workers.

On the sex worker side, some 600 women offer five or more services a day. These are mainly immigrants who are often working against their will to pay off heavy debts to pimps and traffickers.

Around 750 women offer around 10 services per week, mainly on the weekends. More than 1,000 offer three or four sessions a week, sometimes seasonally, using it to supplement their income.

There is growing recruitment of underage girls, with pimps targeting shopping centres and other places youngsters hang out.

At the same time the financial crisis has led to a surge in the number of women aged 40 and above who offer sex services on a part-time basis.

OUR VIEW

Fire and fury

AUGUST is described in media terms as the 'Silly Season' as not a great deal of earth shattering news appears to happen when most of Europe is on holiday.

This month however has one major story which could have an effect on the world and this is the ongoing war of words (so far) between North Korea and the USA which has caused some considerable worries across the world.

It is difficult to know whether the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is simply trying to bait Donald Trump or if this relatively small dictatorship run by a highly questionable family has actually become the eighth Atomic Power.

The threat to fire a missile to within 30 miles of the island of Guam, an American possession and military base in the Pacific is either a very clever mind game or, especially if it happens, the results of a very dangerous and deranged mind.

Donald Trump's response is certainly in accordance with statements he made as long ago as 1999 about the need to keep North Korea in check and may be a very clever response as China and Russia who have always aligned themselves with North Korea are now putting pressure on it to moderate its actions.

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50,000 dangerous toys recalled

MORE than 50,000 toys have been confiscated this year as safety hazards. In just seven months officials across Mallorca and the islands have destroyed 30,255 toys considered irredeemably dangerous.

Some 13,500 of the recalled toys were spinners, small triangular playthings origi-

nally devised for children with ADHD and autism. They have been denounced as dangerous in both the US and EU, posing a choking risk to small children.

Stuffed animals, small figurines and souvenir items make up the bulk of the other hazardous items. Non-toys, includ-

ing 14,000 key rings have also been recalled in their thousands.

Threats to children include suffocation and choking. Dozens of animal masks were found to be flammable. Thousands of items lacked suitable instructions in Catalan or Spanish.

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ANARCHY IN MALLORCA: Arran activists plastered thousands of cars with stickers.

Protestors strike again

Anarchy on the island as anti-tourism movement grows bolder

STICKERS with anti-tourist slogans were stuck to thousands of hire cars by protest group Arran and other radical campaigners. It was their first major action after the anti-tourist outfits made international headlines with coordinated protests in Palma and Barcelona.

The stickers read 'This car is too much' and 'Tourism kills Mallorca.' They were planted silently on thousands of vehicles, with no reports of altercations.

Justifying their actions on Twitter the group said "Rental cars clog the streets of Mallorca and are destroying our environment."

The stunt comes after a tourist party at a Palma restaurant was showered with confetti and flares were set off next to yachts at the city's port.

Activists from Arran, an anarchist group that also demands Catalan independence and the abolition of Spain's monarchy, have pledged more protests until an upper limit on tourist numbers is established.



STICKERS: Were stuck to thousands of hire cars.

The leader of the group is facing a €1,200 fine for public disorder offences, including setting off a flare in public.

He has volunteered to pay the fine promptly, meaning it will be halved to just €600.

Political and business leaders have issued condemnation of the protests and warned that Mallorca's tourism industry is essential to the island's economy.

Rafael Gallego, president of the Spanish travel agencies federation, expressed his fear that the protests could turn violent and discourage people from visiting the islands.

NEWS EXTRA

Burn horror

A WOMAN suffered third degree burns across 40 per cent of her body before firefighters rescued her from a blaze in her Ibiza home. Three dogs were also saved.

Cloud nine

RYANAIR is now king of the Mallorca skies. The low-cost Irish airline whisked 1.79 million people to and from the island from January to June, more than any of its rivals.

Solar savvy

BETTER technology means proposed solar power parks in Manacor and Llucmajor could reduce carbon emissions by 25,000 tons each year. Only 2 per cent of Mallorca's energy is renewable.

Hot fish

A SUSHI stand in Palma's Mercat de l'Olivar was destroyed by a fire late on Sunday night. It was caused by a short circuit in the fish fridge and took several hours to extinguish.

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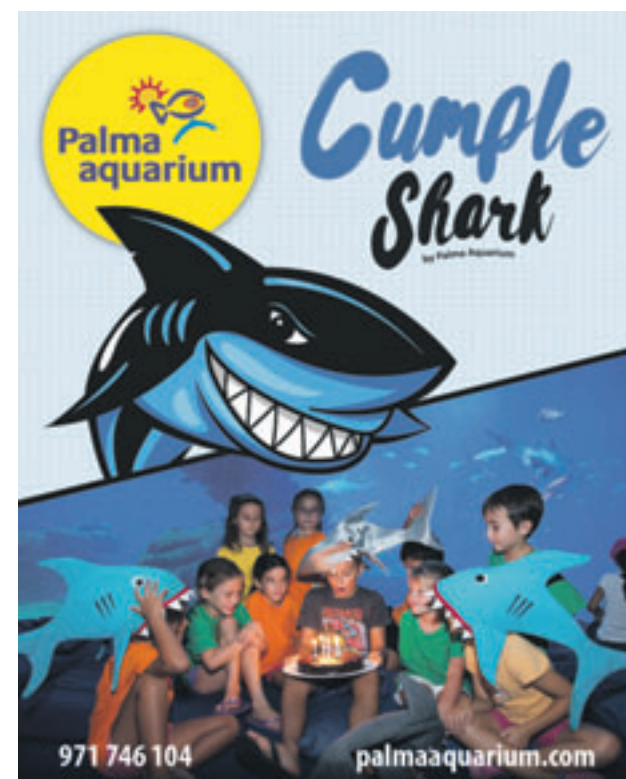
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NEWS EXTRA

Teen drowns

A CHINESE tourist fell off a rented boat in the waters around Formentera and drowned on Sunday. The man, aged 19, was not wearing a life jacket at the time.

Deadly fall

YET another young man fell to his death from a tourist apartment in Ibiza. The 28-year-old died almost instantly after the third floor plunge early on Monday morning.

Fresh bread

A NEW Aldi with its own in-store bakery has opened in Campos' Cami Vell de Ciutat. It is open from 9am to 10pm from Monday to Saturday and from 9am till 9pm on Sundays.

Rank affair: Pirate drivers punished

POLICE launched a new crackdown on pirate taxis, heavily fining three as they fished for passengers in Calvia. Each driver was fined €6,001 and had the cars used pulled out of circulation.

The three pirate taxis were punished for ferrying members of the public around without proper authorisation. Since a crack squad of pirate taxi investigators was unleashed by Local Police last year, 263 fines have now been issued.

Officers have taken to tracking suspected illegal operators so they can catch them in the act. It is a difficult violation to prove without passengers being

recorded handing over money, otherwise it could be defended as an informal, free lift.

Registered taxi drivers have threatened to repeat strikes and protests outside the airport in protest at a perceived lack of police support to tackle the pirates.

Violent skirmishes have taken place at the arrivals gate of Son Sant Joan, forcing long queues in the heat for tourists and people returning home.

Spain's taxi industry is fighting against competition on multiple fronts. Mallorca is one of the few European destinations where Uber and other popular and cheaper taxi options are banned.



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Island of luxury

FOUR of the 10 most expensive properties in Spain can be found on Mallorca. The priciest home in the country is a €57 million Alcudia villa according to the latest research from property portal Idealista.

The sprawling 3,500 square metre estate with eight bedrooms is twice as expensive as its nearest rival in Marbella. Only the Costa del Sol, Madrid and Barcelona join Mallorca on the top 10 list.

Third placed is a glamorous Puigpunyent country house with 10 bedrooms going for €26.5 million. Lavish estates in Andratx, one with its own private heliport, take up the fourth and ninth spots.

Making up the top 10 are three more Marbella properties, and one each in Barcelona and Madrid, nei-



Michael Douglas's mansion among Mallorca's luxury gems.

ther of which crack the €20 million mark.

And that's just Idealista's rankings. Two of the planets biggest real estate firms, Engels & Volkers and Sotheby's, offer a number of €50

million plus Mallorca properties.

There's also the small matter of Michael Douglas' vast S'Estaca estate. The Hollywood legend has now slashed the original asking price by half to a more manageable €25 million after almost three years on the market.

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It's a very quiet time

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

Europe in August is never a hive of activity. The restaurants are closed for lunch and the movers and shakers are either on the beach or in the mountains. That was very much the flavour of the last week and the euro would probably have gone nowhere had it not been for the goings-on elsewhere. Apart from slightly softer investor confidence in pan-Euroland the only data were from Germany and they failed to impress: industrial production fell in June while both imports and exports were lower on the month.

The euro lost a cent to the US dollar, primarily because of two strong ecostats from the States: Nonfarm payrolls increased by more than expected and job vacancies beat forecast. Sterling lost a third of a euro cent because investors preferred the sanctuary of the euro when the unpredictable leaders of North Korea and the United States traded threats of nuclear war with one another.

USD weekly currency update

Three things worked in the dollar's favour, helping it to strengthen by a cent against the euro and by a cent and a half against sterling. The first two were employment-related US statistics. Friday's figure for the monthly change in nonfarm payrolls showed 29k more people in work than analysts had predicted and Tuesday's 'JOLTS'

barometer of job openings showed a jump in the number of vacancies. Although neither statistic was massive, they were good enough to encourage investors to reduce their short positions.

The third factor was the escalating war of inflammatory words between the unpredictable leaders of North Korea and the United States. With the possibility of a nuclear exchange growing less inconceivable by the day investors were inclined to seek the safety of safe-haven currencies. The Swiss franc and the yen top that list but it also includes the euro and, ironically, the US dollar.

CAD weekly currency update

In terms of employment growth, Friday's Canadian jobs data were at least as good as those released at the same time in the States. Some 11k more people were in work in Canada while the job count south of the border went up by 29k. As a proportion of the whole workforce the Canadian number was better than the US one. However, the 6.3% rate of unemployment stacked up less well against America's 4.3%. The Canadian balance of trade data were unhelpful too, with a deficit nearly three times as wide as expected.

Another negative factor for the Loonie was the escalating war of words between Washington and Pyongyang. It encouraged investors to move

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Clarisse
Musselwhite

is Moneycorp's Account Manager for Mallorca

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out of 'risky' commodity-related currencies and into 'safe-havens' including the Swiss franc, the Japanese yen and, to an extent, the US dollar. The overall result for the Canadian dollar was a loss of one US cent and it went down by a third of a cent against sterling.

AUD weekly currency update

Domestic economic data did not play a large part in the fortunes of either the Aussie or the pound. Australia's construction sector reported increased activity and confidence improved among both businesses and consumers. In Britain manufacturing was flat for June while the broader industrial production measure beat forecast with a 0.5% increase. The UK trade



deficit for the same month was wider than expected but investors seemed not to care.

Both currencies lost ground to the US dollar, which was helped ahead by two strong sets of employment data. The Aussie lost more than one US cent on the week and sterling lost a proportionally-less cent and a half. Along with the other commodity-oriented currencies the Australian dollar suffered as a result of the nuclear sabre-rattling by the unpredictable presidents of North Korea and the United States. It encouraged investors to move out of them in favour of the allegedly safe-haven Japanese yen and Swiss franc.

NZD weekly currency update

It was a rough week for the NZ dollar. Losses of more than a cent and a half each to the US dollar and the pound put it firmly at the back of the major currency field, -0.8% behind the Australian dollar. The few NZ ecostats did no real damage: it was the Reserve Bank of New Zealand that bore most of the responsibility for sending it lower. Investors' readiness to sell the Kiwi was demonstrated early on Monday when they reacted sharply to a fall in inflation expectations. There was an even more negative reaction to the RBNZ's monetary policy statement, which included an observation that 'a lower New Zealand dollar is needed to increase... inflation and help deliver more balanced growth.'

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Snake eyes island

A SURGE in the population of invasive snakes has led to a booming new industry on Mallorca. Householders in affected areas are lining up to buy snake traps, which start at €50 and use live rodents as bait.

A nuclear option, which sprays a property's entire interior with snake repellent, is available from roughly €1,000. The sight of a two-metre-long snake can be enough for even the most budget-conscious residents to consider pushing the button.

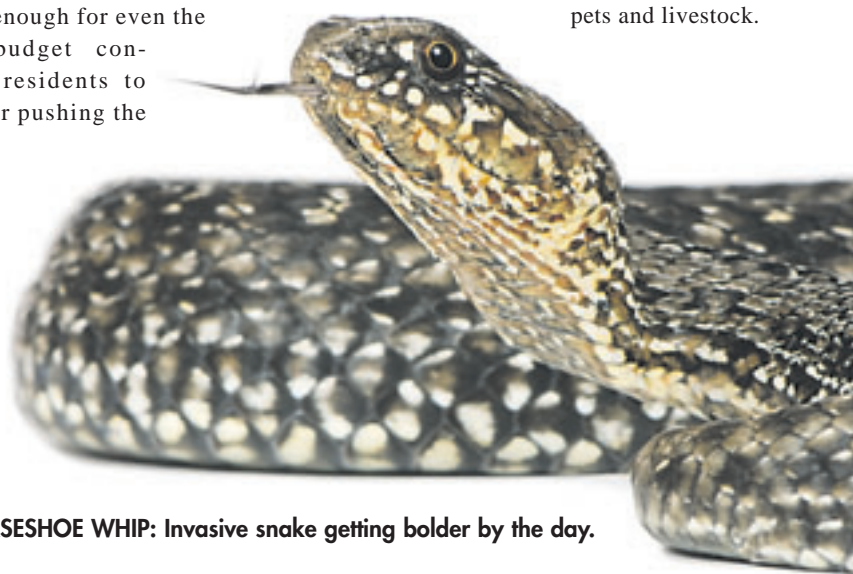
Capdepera and Artá are among the worst-affected areas. Formentera has virtually become the Balearic's snake island, with more than 600 captured in six months. On Mallorca just over 200 snakes have been trapped since spring.

Trapped snakes are usually killed, either by the trap or afterwards, and the bodies sent away for research.

Scien-

tists are eager to identify the hunting, eating and sleeping habit of the five species now found on Mallorca, only two of which are native.

The Horseshoe Whip is the most numerous of the invaders. It and all the other common species on Mallorca are harmless to humans but are becoming increasingly bold, invading homes and gardens and preying on pets and livestock.



HORSESHOE WHIP: Invasive snake getting bolder by the day.

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Specsavers Opticas campaign to support the deaf and blind

SPECSAVERS OPTICAS are supporting the Once Foundation for the Deaf-Blind (La Fundación ONCE para la Atención de Personas con Sordoceguera - FOAPS) between July and December 2017. They are offering free comprehensive eye tests at all eight of their opticians and asking patients to donate €1 to FOAPS after their test until the end of the year.

All funds raised will be donated to FOAPS to fund interpreters who are crucial to allow deaf-blind people to lead a full life and communicate. This is part of FOAPS' 10 year anniversary campaign to raise awareness of the issues that deaf-blind people face and boost funding so they can help more of these vulnerable people who are totally isolated without their help.

Specsavers Opticas are committed to supporting charities and protecting sight. They have chosen FOAPS to support because of the huge difficulties that the deaf-blind have with interacting with the world and communicating.

"Most visually impaired people are able to rely on their other senses and can still communicate easily with the outside world. Whereas the deaf-blind experience the



FOAPS INTERPRETERS: Are the eyes, ears and often voice of the deaf-blind.

world through touch and need someone to connect them with the world," explains José Ángel Moral-Tajadura from Specsavers Opticas. "The FOAPS interpreters are the eyes, ears and often voice of the deaf-blind and have a crucial role to play. We hope that through our campaign we can raise enough money to fund an extra 400 hours of an interpreter. This costs €6,000 so we need 6,000 people to

come in and have their eyes tested and make a donation

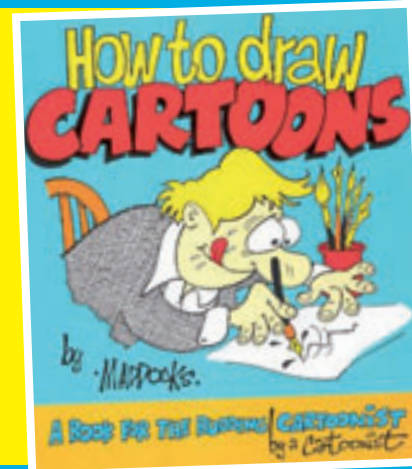
before the end of the year."

Esther Requena Olea, Director of FOAPS commented, "We are very happy that an international company such as Specsavers has decided to collaborate with our cause. The needs of the Deaf-Blind people are very specific and requires a lot of resources. With the funds raised from this campaign, we can offer more support to them to break the isolation and communication problems with the outside world that is a common problem for the Deaf-Blind."

To participate in the campaign, visit your nearest store for a comprehensive eye test and donate just €1 before the end of December 2017. Specsavers Opticas have eight stores in Spain, on the Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and in Mallorca. Visit www.specsavers.es to find your nearest store.

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Fintech business on the Rock

XAPO (GIBRALTAR) LIMITED has been granted an E-money licence by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission (GFSC) to allow the commencement of its business from Gibraltar. The government's proposed framework for the regulation of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) has attracted much international attention and the attraction of Xapo, a premium global Fintech business to Gibraltar augurs well for their continued development of this service.

No room at the inn

By John Smith

GERMAN owned major tour operator TUI is of the opinion that the Spanish tourist market is now saturated and that holidaymakers will start to look elsewhere.

CEO of the company Fritz Jousen said that "Spain is very full" and suggested that due to such a high volume of demand in Spain up to now, other destinations, which are cheaper and less crowded and cheaper could well see considerable growth.

There is no question that Spain benefited considerably due to fears

of security in Turkey and other Mediterranean Muslim states, especially after terrorist attacks in Egypt and Tunisia.

With tour companies frantic to increase the number of flights and rooms available for their clients to divert to Spain, prices increased as have arrivals which have gone up by almost 12 per cent in the first six months of 2017 to 36.3 million people.

TUI saw record numbers of travellers delivered to and housed in

Spain in 2016 and this number is likely to be exceeded in 2017.

The problem is that success of this type has seen prices increase whilst the bumper number of tourists in certain places like Barcelona and Mallorca has prompted local residents to complain about overcrowding, increased prices and unacceptable behaviour.

Countries which have weaker economies than Spain are now able to take advantage of the financial disparity in order to steal tourists away.

Stock markets fall

THE war of words between North Korea and the USA has not just affected the US stock market, but fears of confrontation have hurt Spanish stocks as well.

There is an old saying that 'when Wall Street sneezes the world catches a cold' which has proven to be apt in this scenario as the Ibex (Spanish Stock Exchange) lost a significant amount of its value in keeping with other major European stock markets.

Quote of the Week

"We believe deeply in the long-term success of Snap," Evan Spiegel Chief Executive of teenagers favourite App Snapchat as shares fell 30 per cent below their launch price.



Photo Credit: La Moncloa flickr

INIGO DE LA SERNA: Minister of Public Works.

Airport strikes may spread

AS the threat of strike by airport security staff spreads across the airports run by AENA, the Spanish government has drafted in police assistance.

The concept is that in order to try to speed up the delays in Barcelona El Prat that officers of the Guardia Civil and National Police could take over some of the work normally undertaken by security personnel.

This was confirmed by Min-

ister of Public Works, Inigo de la Serna who described the decision by the union representing the workers as "inexplicable" considering that their employers Eulen have offered them an 18 per cent pay rise.

The trade unions blame AENA for the problems claiming that when they recruit companies to handle security at the airports under their control, they are more interested in a low price than a good service from satisfied employees.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Kiwi success

CIMIC, an Australian subsidiary of Spanish construction company ACS has won a \$240 million (€160 million) contract in New Zealand. It will build a convention and conference centre capable of holding 2,000 people in Christchurch.

Rents up

SPAIN'S two largest cities Barcelona and Madrid have seen rental rates for long terms lets increase by an average 9.6 per cent in the past year. A report from Fotocasa also highlights the Balearics and Canaries for rent hikes.

Oil prices

OIL prices could soon rise as the International Energy Agency has increased its forecast for international demand at the same time that OPEC states have cut production. Whilst OPEC is important countries such as Iran could still fill the oil gap.

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CLOSING PRICES AUGUST 14									
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL	COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,238.50	-5.74	-0.46	17,943.84	Lloyds Banking Group ORD	64.64	-0.15	-0.23	46,564.95
Associated British Foods	3,179.00	24.00	0.76	25,143.57	London Stock Exchange	3,959.00	160.00	4.21	13,242.59
Admiral Group	2,157.00	10.00	0.47	6,168.39	Micro Focus International	2,103.00	-5.00	-0.24	4,850.90
Ashtead Group	1,565.50	-15.50	-0.98	7,897.75	Mediclinic International	822.75	86.75	11.79	5,444.55
Antofagasta	901.00	-16.00	-1.74	9,252.27	Merlin Entertainments	460.75	-1.25	-0.27	4,712.34
Aviva	522.75	4.25	0.82	21,024.16	Marks & Spencer Group	327.50	0.40	0.12	5,343.74
AstraZeneca	4,421.50	37.50	0.86	56,030.42	Mondi	2,047.00	52.00	2.61	9,652.81
BAE Systems	588.50	6.50	1.12	18,583.39	Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	252.65	5.65	2.29	5,800.31
Babcock International Group	835.75	-5.25	-0.62	4,236.90	National Grid	977.40	22.40	2.35	32,907.48
Bardays	202.35	3.00	1.50	34,888.15	Next	4,440.00	40.00	0.91	6,477.84
British American Tobacco	4,834.75	-20.75	-0.43	112,450.68	Old Mutual Group	196.90	1.60	0.82	9,937.78
Barratt Developments	608.50	13.00	2.18	5,951.90	Provident Financial	1,947.50	-28.50	-1.44	2,998.48
British Land Co	619.25	14.25	2.36	6,315.99	Paddy Power Betfair	7,100.00	-155.00	-2.14	6,111.49
BHP Billiton	1,336.00	-9.31	-0.70	29,051.55	Prudential	1,819.50	37.00	2.08	47,217.68
Bunzl	2,291.50	12.50	0.55	7,674.70	Persimmon	2,555.50	54.50	2.18	7,598.34
BP	447.75	0.00	0.00	90,438.47	Pearson	674.75	59.25	9.63	5,104.15
Burberry Group	1,695.00	-42.00	-2.42	7,621.46	Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,499.00	147.00	2.00	51,430.05
BT Group	294.35	0.22	0.08	29,642.85	Royal Bank of Scotland Group	258.75	1.65	0.64	30,739.07
Coca-Cola HBC	2,514.50	-77.50	-2.99	9,414.03	Royal Dutch Shell	2,137.25	2.25	0.11	97,587.22
Carnival	5,370.00	135.00	2.58	11,197.47	Royal Dutch Shell	2,183.00	-11.43	-0.52	82,494.35
Centrica	196.35	-2.05	-1.03	11,140.01	RELX	1,673.50	18.50	1.12	17,800.62
Compass Group	1,620.50	1.50	0.09	25,524.14	Rio Tinto	3,437.50	67.50	2.00	47,929.64
Croda International	3,737.50	-11.50	-0.31	4,923.29	Royal Mail	439.35	41.25	10.36	4,001.00
CRH	2,671.00	43.00	1.64	22,046.00	Rolls-Royce Group	923.75	13.75	1.51	16,914.91
ConvaTec Group	295.45	9.55	3.34	5,719.77	Randgold Resources	7,687.50	212.50	2.84	7,027.03
DCC	6,920.00	35.00	0.51	6,070.69	RSA Insurance Group	655.50	14.50	2.26	6,606.33
Diageo	2,550.75	76.75	3.10	62,283.38	Rentokil Initial	293.00	7.90	2.77	5,273.15
Direct Line Insurance Group	396.15	-0.35	-0.09	5,502.75	Sainsbury (J)	248.00	6.40	2.65	5,336.44
Experian	1,489.50	-27.50	-1.81	14,146.85	Schroders	3,463.50	94.50	2.80	7,705.10
easyJet	1,273.50	21.50	1.72	4,992.91	Sage Group (The)	666.00	-7.50	-1.11	7,328.39
Ferguson Ord 10 5366p	4,642.00	23.00	0.50	11,745.90	Segro	533.00	7.00	1.33	5,317.09
Fresnillo	1,509.50	-41.50	-2.68	11,443.96	Shire	3,695.00	-112.50	-2.95	35,198.33
G4S	305.60	6.20	2.07	4,698.23	Smurfit Kappa Group	2,212.50	-11.50	-0.52	5,177.24
GKN	320.05	4.25	1.35	5,456.24	Sky	939.50	-13.00	-1.36	16,399.42
Glencore	322.00	-2.72	-0.84	47,711.37	Smiths Group	1,545.50	4.50	0.29	6,125.90
GlaxoSmithKline	1,548.75	73.75	5.00	72,965.63	Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt	420.20	1.80	0.43	5,940.23
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,377.50	36.50	2.72	6,422.27	Smith & Nephew	1,375.00	38.00	2.84	11,708.18
Hammerson	627.00	63.00	11.17	4,541.18	SSE	1,383.00	-6.00	-0.43	13,885.38
HSBC Holdings	736.80	0.59	0.08	150,963.03	Standard Chartered	782.15	28.55	3.79	25,511.96
International Consolidatd Airs	620.00	16.50	2.73	12,736.57	St James's Place	1,208.50	42.50	3.64	6,264.06
InterContinental Hotels Group	3,983.50	-1.50	-0.04	7,668.00	Severn Trent	2,304.50	37.50	1.65	5,397.01
3i Group	935.25	-4.75	-0.51	9,217.73	Tesco	177.20	0.26	0.15	14,493.50
Imperial Brands	3,208.25	37.25	1.17	30,812.97	TUI AG	1,213.50	-17.50	-1.42	7,308.63
Informa	699.00	-0.50	-0.07	5,796.88	Taylor Wimpey	191.20	1.90	1.00	6,187.32
Intertek Group	4,700.50	37.50	0.80	7,604.72	Unilever	4,443.00	69.00	1.58	55,499.63
ITV	176.50	7.10	4.19	6,810.99	United Utilities Group	943.50	21.50	2.33	6,372.25
Johnson Matthey	2,740.00	13.00	0.48	5,306.69	Vodafone Group	226.83	7.33	3.34	59,481.39
Kingfisher	303.35	-3.05	-1.00	6,732.60	Worldpay Group	402.65	-4.65	-1.14	8,150.00
Land Securities Group	1,006.50	2.50	0.25	7,994.52	WPP Group	1,579.00	8.00	0.51	20,122.44
Legal & General Group	282.60	13.60	5.06	16,214.19	Whitbread	3,969.50	140.50	3.67	6,995.06

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CLOSING PRICES AUGUST 14				
COMPAN	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	205,980	-0.12%	-0,250	122.880,32
AMERICAN EXPRESS	84,2900	-0.32%	-0,2700	74.510,64
APPLE	157,480	+1.39%	2,160	813.420,11
BOEING CO	234,880	+0.86%	2,000	138.833,67
CATERPILLAR	112,850	-0.27%	-0,300	66.691,28
CHEVRON	109,23	-0.80%	-0,88	206.991,14
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,470	+1.52%	0,470	157.351,70
COCA-COLA	45,59	-0.33%	-0,15	194.455,22
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	80,9700	+0.20%	0,1600	70.266,25
EXXON MOBIL	78,21	-0.96%	-0,76	331.511,16
GENERAL ELECTRIC	25,2000	-0.40%	-0,1000	218.180,24
GOLDMAN SACHS	224,15	-0.60%	-1,35	86.718,06
HOME DEPOT	154,8800	+0.65%	1,0000	185.167,55
IBM	141,84	+0.00%	0,00	132.186,41
INTEL CORP	35,8700	-0.75%	-0,2700	168.911,83
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	91,4200	-0.84%	-0,7700	321.703,73
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	133,1000	+0.01%	0,0100	357.240,36
MC DONALD'S CORP	157,3000	+0.43%	0,6800	127.412,47
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,38	+0.32%	0,20	170.132,36
MICROSOFT	72,500	+1.53%	1,090	559.737,34
NIKE	58,97	-0.17%	-0,10	77.377,37
PFIZER	33,2500	-0.51%	-0,1700	198.430,83
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,340	-0.44%	-0,400	232.918,30
TRAVELERS CIES	128,18	-1.16%	-1,51	35.370,89
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	116,89	+0.11%	0,13	93.376,54
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	193,02	+0.23%	0,45	186.623,30
VERIZON COMMS	48,06	+0.08%	0,04	196.015,55
VISA	100,09	+0.60%	0,60	183.101,65
WAL-MART STORES	80,4000	-0.32%	-0,2600	242.365,73
WALT DISNEY CO	101,9900	+0.63%	0,6400	157.435,06
M - MILLION DOLLARS				

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Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

€0.9419

€0.0017

€0.9432

€0.0044

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

£0.9824.....

£0.0000

€0.9585.....

-€0.0002

£1.1538.....

£0.0072

£1.0780.....

£0.0066

£1.3071.....

£0.0107

£1.2099.....

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£1.3466.....

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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Forterra, Inc.	\$ 4.64	1.13 ▲ 32.19%
Ovid Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 6.26	0.94 ▲ 17.67%
Calithera Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 13.90	1.85 ▲ 15.35%
Natural Alternatives International, Inc.	\$ 10.4792	1.2292 ▲ 13.29%
Editas Medicine, Inc.	\$ 21.95	2.23 ▲ 11.31%
Eagle Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 55.64	5.57 ▲ 11.12%
Puma Biotechnology Inc	\$ 78.45	6.45 ▲ 8.96%
Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 25.08	2.06 ▲ 8.95%
Hailiang Education Group Inc.	\$ 11.26	0.915 ▲ 8.84%
The Trade Desk, Inc.	\$ 54.45	4.39 ▲ 8.77%
Tintri, Inc.	\$ 6.29	0.50 ▲ 8.64%
Most Declined		
Black Box Corporation	\$ 4.05	3.40 ▼ 45.64%
NantHealth, Inc.	\$ 3.49	0.56 ▼ 13.83%
Energy XXI Gulf Coast, Inc.	\$ 17.09	1.85 ▼ 9.77%
Amyris, Inc.	\$ 2.43	0.26 ▼ 9.67%
CECO Environmental Corp.	\$ 7.45	0.68 ▼ 8.36%
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.	\$ 2.47	0.21 ▼ 7.84%
Selecta Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 15.67	1.30 ▼ 7.66%
Qumu Corporation	\$ 2.66	0.21 ▼ 7.32%
Hanwha Q CELLS Co., Ltd.	\$ 7.35	0.56 ▼ 7.08%
Fossil Group, Inc.	\$ 8.20	0.61 ▼ 6.92%
Future FinTech Group Inc.	\$ 2.12	0.15 ▼ 6.61%



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

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SP16085EN

MANAGERS HAVE DIFFICULTY SETTLING ON HOLIDAY They keep contacting the office

By John Smith

MORE than one third of office workers in Spain find it difficult to “switch off” from work whilst they are on holiday.

Perhaps aware that jobs in their age group are difficult to come by, those who remain most anxious about work whilst they are away are professionals under 25 years of age.

Randstad which boasts that it is the leading company in human resources solutions in Spain, has produced a detailed review of how easy or difficult it is for professionals to relax whilst on holiday and whether they need to keep aware of what is going on.

Whilst many of those who are unable to relax fully whilst on holiday blame themselves for wanting to keep an eye on developments and what is going on in the office, nearly 30 per cent indicated that they had been contacted by their employers or colleagues with questions.

A small but significant percentage also admit that they have difficulty in delegating work or trusting colleagues to actually undertake the work they leave behind properly.

Experts say however that there is an absolute need for those who work under pressure in particular to disconnect and actually spend some time simply enjoying themselves without have to think about their work.

Indeed those who cannot disconnect are more likely to become stale and less efficient when they return to work and it is important for both the employee and the company to recognise this in order to ensure a higher level of productivity and positive decision making.

With modern methods of communication, so the ability to separate work and holiday has become far more difficult and whilst employers and colleagues may not call the holidaymaker by phone, there are many



Photo Credit: Nadya Eugene Shutterstock

**Holiday,
what
Holiday?**

who use messaging apps and e-mails which appear less intrusive but do interrupt the holiday spirit.

All of the analysis from Randstad shows that it is easier for older employees to cut themselves off from work and it is the youngest who are possibly more au fait with modern technology who take the longest.

The worst group for continued awareness and contact with the company comes from the managerial sector and as many as half cannot take a holiday without keeping in touch on a regular basis and these managers are the worst at delegating.

The overall conclusion then is that when on holiday, both employees and employers should keep out of touch with each other in order to ensure that employees return to work refreshed and efficient.

KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON STERLING Exchange rates against the euro are falling

STERLING has hit a nine month low against the euro with some Spanish banks charging almost one for one for withdrawals using British bank cards.

It appears that the disparity is caused more by euro strength than pound weakness, although there are still fears that Britain without a cohesive Brexit policy will see a weakening of the economy and increasing inflation.

To some extent, currency strength is based on future forecasts so when it looked as if the French election might see a victory for right wing Marine Le Pen and a possible rejection of the euro, that currency faltered.

With her failure and the election of Emmanuel Macron as French President who is very much in favour of the euro-zone, those fears dissipated and the euro started to bounce back.

Another reason being put forward by analysts and economists is that the European Central Bank (ECB) may withdraw from its policy known as ‘quantitative easing’ which has seen the ECB printing increased amounts of euros and putting them into the market.

With up to €60 billion being re-



Photo credit: Pixnio Shutterstock

**The euro is pipping sterling
to the post.**

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leased each month, the effect has been to keep the euro at a lower exchange rate against the other major currencies but as market makers believe this policy could be about to change then they are prepared to see the euro strengthen against sterling in particular.

When the euro was first launched back in 1999, the exchange rate set with the pound was €1.42 but this has fluctuated over the years and has never yet gone as low as one for one.

Low exchange rates are bad news for individuals relying on sterling invest-

ments or pensions but are good news for British exporters who want to sell as much product as possible.

Finally, the Bank of England was expected to consider increasing the base rate which would have helped to strengthen the pound but as this has not happened, there is yet another reason for the declining rate.

One thing is that those wanting to transfer euros from sterling would be well advised to speak to one of the currency exchange companies who advertise in this newspaper.

Drawdown: A new book by Paul Hawken

THE most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming, a review by Ron Immink.

If you follow the weather over the last few weeks, you must get the inkling that something is amiss. If you follow climate change reports, you will increasingly find very scary scenarios on what could happen to us, our children and our planet.

Drawdown is a positive antidote to all the doom and gloom. It does point out some of the incredibly wasteful ways we operate at the moment, with agriculture, cement, plastic and fertilisers as shining examples of outdated, wasteful, criminal thinking.

It makes it even harder to believe that the fossil fuel industry received more than \$5.3 trillion (€5.5 trillion) in direct and indirect subsidies in 2015.

Drawdown which is published by Penguin has 90 really good ideas that can be implemented now. Ignorance is no longer an excuse. Solar, wind, geothermal, artificial leaves, mammoth steppes, bamboo, marine farming, living houses, you name it, the solution is there.

Ron Immink is CEO of *bookbuzz.biz*, a company that helps you make better business decisions.

Huge amounts spent to deter migrants

SPANISH firm European Security Fencing has made a fortune by patenting the concertina wire used on some border fences which keep migrants out.

So far it has supplied the Spanish government with wire for the Melilla-Morocco border and then the Serbia-Hungary border.

This and other companies across Europe have benefited from what has become a multi-billion euro investment by European Union member states to try to stop illegal entry across their borders.



Photo Credit: ZDR.IR News Agency

Pío García-Escudero and Iran's Speaker Ali Larijani.

Spain and Iran are friends

THE President of the Spanish Senate Pío García-Escudero met with President Rouhani of Iran during a trip to Teheran to witness the inauguration of Rohani.

The State News Agency reported that the Iranian President said that since the July 2015 nuclear agreement went into effect, the necessary conditions have been provided for expansion of economic ties between Iran and European countries including Spain.

"The European Union (EU) played an effective role in the im-

plementation of BARJAM (the Persian acronym for the nuclear deal)," he noted, lauding EU's stance against Washington's lack of commitment to the nuclear deal.

The president went on to say that Tehran-Madrid ties have always been friendly, adding Iran and Spain, as two "friendly" countries, should receive the greatest benefits from the nuclear agreement which went into effect in January 2016.

Rouhani also called for further cooperation between the two countries in the tourism industry.

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Irish millionaire may sue bank following court case

A COURT in Gibraltar has ruled that an employee working for the Royal Bank of Scotland International was responsible for the loss of £9.1 million.

The judge came to the conclusion that the employee had dishonestly assisted the infamous Marrache Brothers to defraud Irish millionaire Jim Magner out of the money which he had invested in the bankrupt company.

Whilst RBSI had defended the position of the bank, refusing to accept that it should be held responsible for the actions of its employee, it has been given 14 days to pay Mr Magner's costs of £400,000 and this decision will now make it easier for the Irish online gambler to sue for the money lost and inter-

est.

The main defence that RSBI appeared to rely on was that the Marrache Brothers' business was not well run as far as accounts and documents were concerned but as a well-respected firm of international lawyers there was no reason to suspect that they were dishonest.

Part of the 82-page ruling focused on the fact that the RBSI employee did appear to have such suspicions, investigated some of the actions being taken and then inexplicably did nothing about it.

A spokesman for the bank acknowledged the judge's decision and indicated that its lawyers would consider the judgement in detail before deciding its next course of action.

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An utter travesty of justice

I'VE heard some jaw dropping judgements from a number of be-wigged Wally's over the years, but this week's decision by one such incompetent truly took the whole tin. Natalia Saul, a so called 'gambling addictive accountant,' stole £350,000 from her employers over the space of 12 months.

Judge Catherine Newman, who sentenced the woman at Southwark Crown Court to an almost unbelievably inadequate two-year suspended sentence, said in defence of her decision, that the accountant was 'not the general stuff of which the prison population is made.' 'Er Wot!? She's a crook who pleaded guilty to stealing 350 grand from her employers! That's exactly the type of 'stuff' that a large portion of the prison population do in fact consist of.

The judge also remarked that she had actually considered giving

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



Saul a sentence of three years and four months before being persuaded that she was 'unfit for prison'!

You really couldn't make it up. Not quite au fait with this judge's idea of 'prison fitness,' I can only assume that if this had been a young, able bodied, working-class male, he would have had far more sentencing 'suitability' than a highly educated female accountant.

Give us a break. This whole sorry debacle is nothing more than a biased, sexist, utter travesty of justice.

Personally, I think this delusional judge should be immediately disbarred, or whatever they do with members of this pathetic

bunch of generally out-of-touch morons, who, in my opinion should all be put out to grass with the rest of their cuckoo's nest compatriots.

Personally, I think they should be replaced by computers. One highly sophisticated machine into which are fed all the facts of a case. Defence. Prosecution. Witness statements. Mitigation. Evidence etc. etc.

Whatever verdict it spits out couldn't be as ludicrous and biased as some of the unbelievable bull**t we have to put up with from most of these pontificating jumped-up dinosaurs, most of whom consider themselves vastly superior to us mere mortal minions.

Well I'll give 'em all one thing.



UNBELIEVABLE: Decided she was unfit for prison.

Many of them do appear to have emanated from a different planet, that's for sure.

Let's hope that the North Korea problem can be solved without some devastating holocaust overtaking us. One thing is for certain, someone has to stand up to this grinning lunatic of a leader, who seems to treat the world like some kind of gigantic Virtual Reality game. Trump has an enormous problem on his hands, but rather him than Obama, who would probably have his toes turned up al-

ready. I do seem to remember suggesting that we should drop a few 'mother of all bombs' on their military parades a couple of months ago. Now we're facing the possibility of nuclear conflict and the death of millions. Ah well, what do I know? Thanks for all your mail and comments, caustic or otherwise. Keep 'em coming.

Keep the faith
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What does that even mean?

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I'VE mentioned this before but I had a stonker this week. Banks. Seven o'clock at night the phone goes showing No Caller ID. They ask for me by name then start the usual security stuff by asking for my Mum's maiden name.

So I then ask what it's about.

Now this is the UK bank that advertises every night on TV not to give too much information to the clever person who is to pretending to be from their company. So I ask what it is concerning in general and he says it's a 'servicing enquiry.' A what? A servicing enquiry. What does that even mean? He says, 'Sorry I can't give you any more information unless you answer our security questions.'

Now remember they have phoned me. I know this happens to everyone but then I ask to speak to a supervisor and he says that it's not necessary for me to speak to one.

Anyway this goes on for a few more minutes with me repeatedly asking 'What is a servicing enquiry?' and this geezer on the other end, who has called me, refusing to give me any information unless I give him personal data. See you later - I put the phone down.

Today I phoned their UK number and asked

a couple of general questions. The first was why, when they call you, they don't have a telephone number that comes up on your phone as many big companies do? Their answer was 'we never display a number.' Why not? 'Company policy.' Here we go. 'Do you know what 'servicing enquiry' means? 'No sorry I don't.' 'OK, how do we check that when your company calls us that it's a genuine call? Guess what - you can't.

It's a bit of a trust thing after you have answered their security questions. So what do you do? Me? I'll just keep driving them nuts when they phone me. I'll ask them for their name and then call the bank myself to ask if this person called me. Then I don't mind answering their security questions but they at least have to tell me why they are calling, not just phone me on my phone then ask me loads of questions before they talk to me.

So I still don't know what they wanted or what a 'servicing enquiry' is. There has to be a better system than calling people from an unknown number then start asking them personal stuff. I suggest a similar way to how my alarm company works. They call me and give me a password to prove it's them and I then give them a password to prove it's me. All pretty simple and really takes no time at all to set up. I might suggest it to the bank if I can ever get past their security system.

Email Mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Top tips for visiting drivers

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.



DRIVE SAFELY: Always wear seatbelts.

WITH so many people visiting Spain for the first time this summer, the N-332 Guardia Civil team have shared their top tips for driving in Spain.

Drive on the right. It may seem a simple and obvious thing but many people, particularly holidaymakers do forget, but the law states you must drive as far on the right as possible and remember to go anticlockwise around roundabouts.

Wear seatbelts. Again, very simple, but with added visitors many people squeeze in an extra passenger or two but there should only be the same number of passengers as there are seatbelts and they must be worn by all occupants and worn correctly.

Children under 1.35m must sit in the back of the vehicle and wear the appropriate child restraint for their age and weight. The only exception is when there aren't any rear seats or when all seats are occupied by smaller children.

Don't drink and drive. Spain has much lower limits than many other countries and with renewed patrols and campaigns against drink driving it is best not to drink any alcohol if driving. The same applies to drugs.

Never use a mobile or electronic device whilst driving. You are allowed to use your phone as a GPS sat nav but you must not touch it when driving. Programme it before you set off and stop if you need to change it.

Filter arrows. Some traffic lights have filters so if the light is red but there is an orange filter arrow pointing red, you are allowed to turn right if clear.

Blue lights. Police vehicles have blue lights illuminated at all times but this doesn't mean they are wanting to pull you over. To get you to stop they use red or white flashing lights.

112 emergency. If you have an emergency call 112. Operators speak numerous languages, and will assist you as best they can.

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

Can we get mains sewage?

Q. 'Pozos Negros,' or individual septic tanks, are illegal, so my town hall has been installing mains systems throughout the area little by little.

They have also done many things like planting trees and placing seats along the pavements, which are merely cosmetic. They continually make the excuse of lack of money to finish the sewage system.

To me, illegal sewage is the priority. To connect me and my neighbours requires

less than 100 metres of tubing. Can we take some action against the mayor and town hall to enforce the connections? Can we 'denounce' the mayor for not completing the connections? He states that the town hall intends to lower part of the road which our pipes will need to go down a hill and this will affect the installation of the pipes.

D J (Costa del Sol)

A. There are legal avenues in place for citizens to bring a case against public officials for failure to perform their duties. However, you

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



would have to show that

the mayor has misused his powers or been negligent in some way and it is not just a difference of opinion. Keep on nagging them.

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



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SANTA CATALINA *Special*

This is a jewel within a jewel

By John Smith

THERE is little doubt that Mallorca is the jewel within the Balearics and it consistently attracts the rich and famous as well as those looking for somewhere different.

Almost every island around the world has an area which is beset by holidaymakers but equally many manage to maintain a local style and fantastic ambience.

If Mallorca is a jewel set in the Mediterranean, then the capital Palma de Mallorca is a jewel within the island offering a mixture of sophisticated living, superb restaurants, historical buildings, international travel links and shops of all shapes and sizes.

Naturally, all things boating from ferries, to pleasure craft and the two famous Palma yacht clubs all add to the interest and excitement of this thriving city.

It is clear that the popularity of Mallorca as both a holiday destination and the place for a 'forever

home' continues to grow and it now has one of the largest permanent international populations in Spain.

Constrained by its size and the fact that the construction of new property is strictly controlled, prices on the island - which has the reputation of enjoying one of the healthiest lifestyles in Spain - were not greatly depressed by the recession and property prices continue to be relatively buoyant.

One area that could also be said to be a jewel within the jewel that is Palma is the area known as Santa Catalina.

The neighbourhood was named after Saint Catherine of Alexandria, a converted Christian from Roman Egypt who, in the third century, helped to convert hundreds of people to Christianity.

The area today still exhibits architecture which hints at its earliest roots as a place made home

“ Today the area is popular with tourists.”

mostly by sailors and fisherman, based on its proximity to the sea.

Rope and bread makers quickly moved to supply the residents of Santa Catalina, which explains the presence of the impressive windmills which can still be seen today.

The older buildings which give Santa Catalina its rustic charm are low level and cheerfully painted in the Mallorcan style with small flower laden balconies which are divided up by tight back streets.

It has today moved on from its

homely and quiet past and today exists as an area popular with tourists, built around the large indoor market which is a key part of the community.

The bustling of people heading to the fashionable cafes and restaurants and taking in the art and culture have transformed the neighbourhood from its past into something perhaps unrecognisable with all of the amenities for modern life, sometimes dubbed the Soho of Palma.

Whilst at one time, it might have been considered a little tatty and in need of some serious renovation, the area has attracted a very cosmopolitan collection of businesses, residents and visitors who enjoy somewhere that is becoming trendy but not pretentious.

This special supplement introduces readers to the specialist suppliers, estate agents and places to eat and drink in Santa Catalina, a true jewel within a jewel.



The older buildings give Santa Catalina its rustic charm.

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Teatro Mar I Terra

FOR literally centuries, residents of Santa Catalina worked together to try to create a friendly and thriving society.

In 1898, they formed

the Sea and Land Society for recreational get-togethers which then extended its aims to also become a charitable operation for the local people.

The organiser of the charity wanted to make some space available for a library and a theatre and thus was born the Teatro Mar I Terra (Sea and Land Theatre) which also housed the Franciscan Sisters of Santa Catalina.

Having been a school for a number of years, the theatre reverted back to its original use.

However by the 1950s the building had become rather dilapidated and it was not until 2004 that the Palma Council decided to purchase the building and decided to bring it back to its original state of repair.

Finally it reopened in pristine condition in 2010, the old building now houses the Municipal School of Theatre for a thriving local population of students of the arts.

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Exterior of the Casal Sollerico.

Contemporary artists

By Ben Harris

CASAL SOLLERIC in Palma is appealing to both artists and curators to present project ideas which will be judged in order to find the best, which will then be put on display.

Built in the 18th century, as one of the last manor houses in Palma, this stunning baroque style building was reinvented as a centre for contemporary art in 1985 and has been run ever since by the city council through the Fundacio Palma Espai d'Art.

The opportunity for artists and curators to present their works and ideas in this prestigious space has been announced in the form of a competition. Project ideas will be

presented by the hopeful competitors in front of a board of specialists who will assess the proposals based on interest and quality.

The three specialist judges will be Antoni Amengual, Julia Morandeira and Peio Aguirre. The deadline for presentation will be Friday September 8 with the results being announced in early October and the winning project being displayed between December 2017 and February 2018.

The city council has taken a strong interest in this project and will cover the cost of transport of artistic works, assembly and dismantling of the project, insurance and the inauguration event.



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New resident powers to fight illegal tourist rentals

Ben Harris LOCALS of Santa Catalina will soon be able to help tackle the problem of illegal

tourist rentals in their neighbourhood with the announcement of an app and an email address which will make reporting easier.

The government of the Balearic Islands has recently put into force sanctions against those who are renting houses and apartments to tourists (defined as those staying for a month or less) without the licence which would allow them to do so.

If found to be doing this companies such as Airbnb can be fined up to €400,000 euros and property owners between €20,000 and €40,000.

The new plans unveiled by the Ministry of Tourism means that locals of neighbourhoods which suffer from this problem can take more of an active role. They will now be able to send emails

to the inspectors who deal with this kind of crime pointing out the address where the illegal activity is being carried out, their evidence as well as their details as anonymous complaints will not be allowed.

A new app which will be available shortly will also allow civilians to check if apartments and housing have the proper licence for taking tourists before reporting them.

Illegal tourist rentals can have a huge impact on smaller communities as it creates unregulated tourism which may affect the quality of life for residents who live there full time.

To further help in the prevention of this problem is an increase in the number of inspectors, a figure which currently stands at 15.



Tim Henman and Thomas Enqvist (right) met at the club's opening tournament.

PHOTO CREDIT: PALMA SPORT AND TENNIS CLUB

Brand new leisure facility

ONE relatively new spot in Santa Catalina is the very plush and modern Palma Sport and Tennis Club which opened to the resounding roar of 1,000 VIP guests in January this year.

Built on the site of the old Mallorca Tennis Club it incorporates tennis courts, a superb swimming pool, accommodation, bars, restaurants, a spa and rooms to host various events.

Already there have been a number of popular celebrities visiting and playing at the club which is fast becoming a very popular place to see and be seen in Santa Catalina.



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International art comes to Es Baluard

UNTIL Sunday September 17 the Russian collective AES+F will have one of their most popular works, The Feast of Trimalchio, in the Es Baluard Art Gallery in Plaça de la Porta de Santa Catalina.

The gallery each summer displays a piece of international art following a tradition which started with the Contemporary Swiss Marxist artist Thomas Hirschhorn.

The Russian collective

consists of three members who have been together since the 1980s. They are renowned for their use of technology and digital effects. Common features in the works by the collective include advertisements, popular culture and myth which are used to vividly display violence, war and the problems with mass consumerism.

The Feast of Trimalchio (2009-2010) is a digital graphic interpretation of an event of the same name which takes place in a literary work by first century author Petronius. Trimalchio is a former slave who is troubled by arrogance.

In the piece of art which is currently being displayed in Es Baluard the audience is taken through a depiction of the feast based on a utopian fantasy island where a hedonistic mix of cultures is taking place.

WHILST it may appear a far-fetched hope many who live and work in Palma want to see Santa Catalina become as trendy as Notting Hill in London or Soho in New York.

There is no doubt that this area is becoming a much visited place with a mixture of the old and the new with some of the older buildings being taken over and given a face-lift.

A bit like Ibiza in the 1970s, Santa Catalina attracted a number of foreign visitors who settled in Palma who inspired local business owners to open their minds to the attraction of these 'guiris' and many decided to learn new languages in order to deal with them.

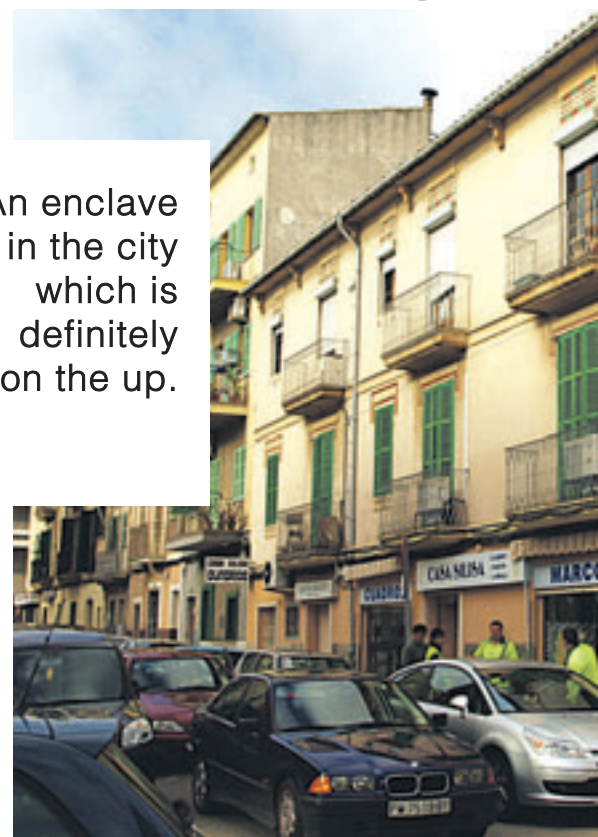
Nowadays this is an enclave within the capital city which is definitely on the up and is able to offer a fantastic range of artisan crafts, super produce and in reality a choice of all types of food, drink and nightlife.

The word 'boho' describes the area quite well as would 'shabby chic' since it's not been gentrified to an extreme but is safe to visit and has a character all of its own.

Not quite Notting Hill

“

An enclave in the city which is definitely on the up.




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A typical street in Santa Catalina, ready for a face-lift.

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

Santa Catalina's best veggie

By Ben Harris

AS a spot closely associated with sailors and fisherman Santa Catalina has been an area known for restaurants with a focus on fish, however with the rise of international tourism and vegetarianism it has become an excellent neighbourhood for vegetarian diners.

Spain and vegetarianism have never been closely associated. Whilst the number of people in the UK making this lifestyle choice has risen quickly since the Second World War, the Spanish have been slower on the uptake, in part because of the role jamon and chorizo play in Spanish cuisine and in part because until 1975 Franco treated vegetarianism with suspicion because of its supposed links to his pet hatred, left wing views.

The most notable

restaurant in the neighbourhood is Ecovegetaria on Carrer Comte de Barcelona in the heart of Santa Catalina. The aim of this establishment is to provide renowned vegetarian food which also promotes healthy eating and ethical sourcing.

Santa Catalina also features a number of cosmopolitan restaurants which often offer a unique take on vegetarian cuisine, like the African inspired honey roasted aubergines or vegan falafel wraps.

More traditional options like eateries serving pizza or tapas will also often feature good vegetarian choices in an attempt to please the diverse range of visitors arriving in Palma.

For those who avoid meat yet are still open to a fish-based diet Santa Catalina is an ideal loca-

tion, many of the restaurant menus are heavily fish-based and the presence of South East Asian cuisine perpetuates this as it is traditionally reliant on fish. The Indian

restaurants, often a big hit with UK tourists and expatriates, also tend to feature excellent meat free options as it is naturally ingrained in their culture.

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BY RONEN

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Enjoy the nightlife

EVERY major city seems to produce at least one trendy and laid back area for a cool night out and in Palma, Santa Catalina is taking that crown.

It is building a reputation as a great place to hang out in with a mixture of trendy bars, great restaurants and an enormous choice of options with trends being started and followed.

Local hipsters can meet up in modern bars, choose a range of different gins (currently all the range) and just enjoy the laid back ambience of the area.

Laid back doesn't imply behind the times or indeed second rate service but this is an area that enjoys life and welcomes visitors.

It's not just drinks that are available but there is a great range of different cuisines from literally all over the world, so if you pine for a curry, an oriental dish or shisha pipe, you will be satisfied.

There are plenty of European style restaurants, some nightclubs and also late night drinking dens.

Best day Santa C

By Ben Harris

AS well as boasting a host of activities in the area to entertain and thrill, Santa Catalina has excellent transport links to some of the best days out in Mallorca.

La Isla De Cabrera

The beautiful national park on the island of Cabrera is a must see for locals and visitors alike with a fascinating history and landscapes which could fill countless photo albums.

The port of Colonia de Sant Jordi is a 45-minute drive from Santa Catalina and from there you can hop straight across on the ferry for €40 per foot passenger.

The Castle of Cabrera is an important site to see which hangs over the port. The unique history of the castle will fascinate anyone with an interest in Berber history as there was intense fighting over control of the monument.

A museum is also present on the island which gives a detailed insight into the history.

Finally there are seemingly endless trails with breathtaking natural beauty, the only rule is to leave the protected island as you arrived for those who visit after you.



ys out in Catalina

Palma Cathedral

A 15-minute walk from Santa Catalina through Palma's old town will take you to one of the most impressive surviving Gothic Cathedrals. Standing at 44-metres it is also one of the highest.

The land it is built on is also the site of a cultural clash as it started off as a Moorish Era mosque. The Crown of Aragon however quickly destroyed this when they took control and began work in the 13th century on a dominating architectural feat intending to out-do the work of the Moors.

The building took almost 400 years to complete. It was renovated in the early 1900s with some touches by legendary architect Antoni Gaudi.

Marineland Mallorca

For those who are less interested by cultural or natural history or who simply want a lively day out for younger ones, Marineland is the ideal place.

Just 35 minutes on the number 104 bus from Santa Catalina will take you to the park which focuses on marine life.

Visitors can spend hours gazing at jaw dropping dolphin and sea lion shows as well as aquariums filled with sharks and other animals.

Living the healthy life

THE area of Santa Catalina has become synonymous with the art of healthy living and attracts those looking to detox and enhance their life force.

Anyone who wants to enjoy the sun, sea and centre their souls can find plenty of options to assist them in this buzzing yet laid back area.

Yoga retreats, holistic living, alternative medicine and even a comfortable hotel laid out after careful Feng-Shui review so that every night promises to be one of peace, calm and relaxation are all to be found here.

Slowly but surely, this is becoming one of Mallorca's most popular and important areas for those looking to embrace a healthy lifestyle with a number of wholefood and vegan cafes and restaurants.

It's not just about eating in, but if self-catering or indeed a resident, there are a number of specialist organic stalls in the market and along the streets and there is even a specialist herbal remedy shop which is more than 100-years-old.

Just wander along the streets savouring the sights, sounds and fragrances of the various organic and vegan restaurants as well as counting the number of genuine massage parlours and health professionals including an Ayurvedic centre offering a range of treatments from licensed practitioners.



PHOTO CREDIT: GAUDILAB SHUTTERSTOCK

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DURING the last years the expectation that the neighbourhood of Santa Catalina is causing in the world is evident. The coasts of Mallorca have become a major destination of the world nautical tourism and the Bay of Palma the gateway to the island.

The lovers of Mallorca and among them the sailors who moor in our port do not question the article published in *The Times*, which described our city as 'the best place to live in the world.'

Santa Catalina is today a complete neighbourhood, with entertainment; nightlife; very well connected to the rest of the city by public transport; with monumental buildings such as the Church of Sant Magí, the Teatre Mar i Terra, the Molinos de Jonquet, the Feixina Monument; bordering Son Armadams, El Terreno, La Lonja, Son Espanyolet; near the sea; with the renowned Santa Catalina Market and a wide range of restaurants, shops and expert real estate

teams for the service of those who value Santa Catalina as an ideal place of residence.

ChicMallorca Real Estate, one of the agencies that carry out this work, was one of the first real estate companies to establish itself in the area and celebrates five years of faithful service to the island, to the city and to Santa Catalina and environs, even reaching municipalities like Calvià or further when searching for rustic estates.

Belén Maldonado, founder of ChicMallorca Real Estate and a great fan of the nautical world, has responded to the demands of a growing clientele that continues to grow and closely linked to the Port of Palma, thanks to her 12 years of experience as a real estate agent and great knowledge of the nautical tourism of the island.

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The market of Santa Catalina

By Ben Harris

THE life of Santa Catalina is built around the sprawling covered market which not only acts as a place to gather the necessities for living but also to meet and socialise.

The market, as the oldest in the city of Palma, consists of around 50 small sellers, all of whom are based locally, and take pride in sources and distributing delicacies and fresh ingredients essential for Spanish cooking.

This area was originally inhabited by fishermen as it is so close to the sea, adjacent to the harbour and the promenade, which then incorporated rope and bread makers, hence the mills, some of which can still be found in Carrer Es Jonquet and Industria.

Produce available there includes fresh fish and meats, pre-prepared traditional food, cheese, fine wine as well as vegetables, fruit and plants.

Tapas bars nearby add to the social element represented by the market

which can be viewed as a hub of knowledge. Visitors shouldn't be afraid to ask questions to the sellers who are often passionate about their produce and perhaps able to give a new insight into how to prepare dishes.

The entire area of Santa Catalina has preserved many of its typical one or two-storey houses with typical Mallorcan balconies and shutters with small gardens or interior courtyards, including some of the most magnifi-



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The Santa Catalina Market.

cent modernist houses that were built by returnees from Cuba at the end of the 19th and early 20th century.

The market is a well-ingrained part of Santa Catalina. Unlike many parts of the neighbourhood which can be drowned by floods of tourism the market has been given more life by the increased arrival of inquisitive guests looking for a real insight into culinary identity.

Tourism and the community

THE Balearic Islands are currently enjoying a record high level of employment with the tourism sector being celebrated as the reason for this benefit despite its ability to change the face of traditional neighbourhoods.

Tourism for the Balearic Islands is the largest section of the region's economy, accounting for 45 per cent of the island's GDP. The numbers of tourists visiting and the amount of money being spent by them is increasing year on year resulting in historic levels of tourist related income.

The benefits of this growing sector are highlighted by figures released by the Ministry of Employment which shows that 103,000 more people are in employment on the islands than at the worst point of the economic crisis in 2012 and locals are enjoying record low levels of unemployment.

Furthermore Mallorcan tourism peaks in the

summer but is visited in large numbers all year round. The Minister of Labour, Trade and Industry, Iago Negueruela, has stated that the result of this is that "virtually all new employment is full-time."

According to the same report jobs in construction have increased by 30 per cent when compared against pre-economic crisis conditions because of the desirability of the region and the resultant necessary infrastructure.

However, there is an important balance to be struck with tourism as too much focus on one industry leads to a more fragile economy and diversification is essential.

When looking at the effect of mass tourism on traditional neighbourhoods which when subject to rapid change risk losing the charms which bought people like Juan Miro to Palma in the first place.

Santa Catalina is a neighbourhood with a unique history and culture. Its architecture is typically Mallorcan with its tight streets and balconies which tower above them. This neighbourhood was for centuries inhabited by mostly sailors and fisherman as the place they chose to make home, based on its seaside location.

It must be assessed however before tensions between tourists and residents boil over whether too much change is a positive for Palma and the wider region. Santa Catalina may well have seen an upsurge in cultural pursuits with a popular theatre and a reputation as a place for art.

However there has also been an increase in the number of restaurants which bring noise and crowds to the back streets and, especially in an Airbnb culture, drive the prices up so residents and those who constitute the original culture are pushed out.

For places like Santa Catalina this should be a particular concern. The UN has noted the rapidly increasing appetite for world travel and cities like Venice and Barcelona are at risk of losing their culture all together as the tourist boom forces them out. Palma's older neighbourhoods and indeed the local government may consider measures to prevent this happening before it is too late and the face of the town is changed forever.

Night of art

BORN in Brazil and having studied art in Paris, painter Vivian Borsani settled in Mallorca 18 years ago and began a long love affair with the island.

Her passionate and powerful large-scale work is inspired by its exquisite light and the intense colour of its flora and fauna, of its sun-baked land and dazzling sea.

She exhibits regularly at home and abroad in the UK and Germany and is

represented at the San Diego Art Fair in November. Her work is collected worldwide and has fostered collaborations with Mallorcan interior designers, Knox Design and Terraza Bakear.

Her studio in Santa Catalina opens on Saturday September 23 for the local nit del art (night of art), where she will be exhibiting alongside Anja Kleener, a Danish artist and local friend.

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Shanin has an organic produce garden at his home and uses much of what he grows in his Basmati kitchen his garden bounty includes papaya fruit, herbs and chillis.



SANTA CATALINA, at times referred to as 'Palma de Mallorca,' was named after Saint Catherine of Palma, a Spanish nun who was canonised in 1930.

The village has been called many things over the years, due to being invaded and conquered on several occasions. From 120 BC, the Romans founded a city in the area, called Palmaria. Archaeologists often find remains and relics close to the cathedral.

After the Roman occupation, Santa Catalina became 'Medina Mayurqa.' Arab conquerers held the city from 902 until 1229. Thereafter, the city was known simply as Ciutat (city) by the indigenous Mallorcans.

Tourists can still catch a glimpse of the rich history which once ruled over the small area by paying a visit to the Arab Quarter, which houses a multitude of museums containing religious artefacts and antique toys from the Arabian age, and a Roman cathedral built over a mosque to reinforce Roman control.

After conquerers and empires stopped fighting for the control of Palma, the area took a more Catholic turn.

Saint Catherine was born in Valldemossa, Mallorca, to a peasant family. During her younger years, she worked as a servant where she learnt to

The sainted town of Santa Catalina

read and write, before joining the canonised bodies of St Augustine at the convent of St Mary Magdalene in Palma.

She died of natural causes on April 5, 1574 in Palma. After her passing, locals worshipped her as a saint for nearly half a century, until Pope Urban VII decreed the adoration of unrecognised saints a sin.

For years locals appealed to Rome to recognise the work and life of Catherine. Finally, on June 22, 1930, Pope Pius XI canonised her.

Santa Catalina's name draws parallels with Saint Catherine of Palma and the Greek meaning of her name, purity.

Although Saint Catherine contributed to both the city and its history, Saint Sebastian holds the title as the patron saint of Palma de Mallorca, and has done since 1524 when a boat from Rhodes brought a bone from his arm to the city, miraculously bringing an end to the plague.

The relic can still be viewed at the Palma Cathedral.



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

LEFT: Saint Catherine of Palma.

RIGHT: Saint Sebastian, often pictured with pierced arrows, signifying his martyrdom.

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Charge sheet

45,000

tons of plastic waste produced by Spanish greenhouses every year

3,000

tons of plastic on the Med

291

identified uncontrolled waste landfills across Spain

90%

of Mediterranean Sea turtles ingest plastic

30%

of plastic is recycled in Spain

5.25

trillion pieces of plastic waste in world's oceans

5

trillion plastic bags consumed each year across the world

On land and at sea waste is more than an eye-sore

In need of

plastic surgery...

As record numbers of tourists touch down on Spain's shores, David Noon examines how the plastic problem is worse than ever

FAMILIES basking in glorious sunshine, children digging for buried treasure beneath golden sands and loved-up couples frolicking in the shallows are all things you'd expect to find on Spain's beaches this summer.

However, there is one unwanted visitor that is making a repeat appearance: plastic. (And no, we don't mean TOWIE stars in Marbs or the latest batch of Love Islanders in Mallorca.)

This year - more so than ever before - tourists along Spain's coastlines and its islands are having to wade their way through plastic bottles, bags and packaging as they attempt to enjoy a dip in the Med.

In total, researchers estimate that there is around 3,000 tons of plastic floating on the surface of the Mediterranean Sea, with more added to the fray every year. (No doubt, the travel agents didn't mention that to the record number of tourists expected to touch down in Spain this summer.)

And because the Med is almost enclosed the plastic is effectively trapped, taking decades to be broken down.

However, it is not just the tourists affected by the plastic floaters. Marine life is also suffering as sea turtles mistake bottle tops for crustaceans and Mercadona bags for jellyfish.

€0.05

EU tax imposed on each plastic bag purchased

Scientists at the Society for the Protection of Turtles have been keeping a close watch on the Med and are alarmed by what they are seeing.

Robin Snape, project co-ordinator for the group, said: "In the green turtle (the presence of plastic is) really common. The vast majority of them have some plastic in their gastro-intestinal tract. It's more than 90 per cent of the population."

And it is not just turtles that are mistakenly chomping down on the plastic at sea.

In 2013, a whale beached in Almeria with 17kg of plastic waste inside its stomach.

The sheets of plastic discovered inside the whale were strikingly similar to those used in Almeria's infamous

plastic greenhouses - of which 45,000 tons of plastic waste is produced each year.

Conservationists are attempting to compensate for the deaths of the sea turtles by protecting nesting sites that are often dug up by dogs and foxes. But is that really the answer? Shouldn't we all be doing more to prevent the plastic waste in the first place?

While the likes of US president Donald Trump dismiss plastic waste, ocean pollution and global warming as 'fake news,' there are others doing their best to raise awareness.

In Mallorca, conservation group OceanCare is attempting to raise awareness through its 'I Care' campaign.

"People are becoming increasingly aware that our throw-away plastic culture needs to change fundamentally," Fabienne McLellan of OceanCare said.

"This is why OceanCare launched the 'I Care' movement which unites people around the world who want to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time: to put an end to the age of single-use plastic and thereby limiting the amount of plastic debris ending up in our oceans."

One (unconventional) way in which OceanCare is attempting to motivate people to join the cause is through

Dirty little secret

SPAIN has almost 300 known illegal landfill sites, according to the EU.

Earlier this year, the EU courts ruled that Spain was in breach of the European body's Waste Framework Directive for failing to bring 61 landfill sites in line with EU environmental safety rules.

Moreover, the EU has alerted Madrid to a further 230 landfill sites that are in breach of environmental regulations.

The European Commission has been attempting to stamp down on Spain's landfill problems for more than a decade.

In 'an effort to urge Spain to speed up the process' of dealing with its landfill sites, the Court of Justice of the EU has ordered the 61 illegal landfills to be 'closed, sealed and restored, without fur-

ther delays.'

In the meantime, the EU expects Spain to look into further illegal waste sites after an EU executive sent a formal notice to Madrid over 'at least 291 identified uncontrolled waste landfills across Spain.'

But as policy officer for Zero Waste Europe Ferran Rosa says, the problem is not just limited to Spain.

"The Spanish case highlights a problem that exists to a varying degree across Europe, and the difficulty of enforcing existing legislation, said Rosa.

"Just taking this example, the infringement procedure for Spain is open since 2007 and even if the commission is willing to push for the implementation, potential sanctions take years to come," Rosa said.



NOT SO GREEN: Almeria's plastic greenhouses are an environmental disaster



PLASTIC BEACH: Rubbish washed up on shore is a common sight.



Photo OceanCare

ON VIDEO: Shooting taking place in Mallorca.

the medium of rock music.

Collaborating with German rock band Itchy, OceanCare supported the band's efforts to shoot its video for campaign song 'The Sea.'

Set in Mallorca, the German rockers' music video attempted to motivate its young fans by exposing the consequences of plastic pollution.

McLellan added: "With these activities, we not only wish to raise awareness, but to also invite people to rethink their behaviour and join our movement - without pointing fingers but rather, with empowering them."

But while OceanCare is doing its bit in the Balearics, the mainland is facing a slap on the wrists for failing to meet an EU order on plastic bags.

Supermarkets across the country may have started implementing a five cents charge per bag, but that falls far short of the EU's Plastic Bag Directive.

The EU Commission has sent Spain a final warning, informing the member state that it must either implement EU rules on lightweight plastic carrier bags or face infringement proceedings before the European Court of Justice.

Spain - along with Greece, Italy, Poland and Cyprus - now has just

two months to satisfy the Commission if it wishes to stave off a court case.

The Commission maintains that the member states have not properly implemented the Plastic Bags Directive which is intended to dramatically cut the consumption of carrier bags with a wall thickness of less than 50 microns within the EU.

And in typical 'mañana, mañana' fashion, Spain has missed the deadline and some. Adopted more than two years ago, the deadline for transposition expired on November 27, 2016. Nine months later and Spain is still dragging its heels.

In the long run, the ruling hopes to drastically cut down the number of plastic bags circulated in Europe.

The Directive obligates member states to take measures which may include requiring that a price be charged for these bags and/or introducing national reduction targets that ensure that no more than 90 lightweight carrier bags are consumed per person and year by the end of 2019 and no more than 40 bags by the end of 2025.

Spain may or may not receive a financial telling off by the EU courts for its failure to curb the plastic flow. But it is not the public coffers nor the politicians who are the real sufferers here.

For every day that plastic regulations are ignored, the Mediterranean's remarkable sea life will continue depleting.

Eating your problems

EVERYONE has been guilty of tucking into a tub of Ben & Jerry's or gorging on a packet of crisps in an attempt to eat their problems away.

Now scientists think they have discovered one hungry critter who is ready, and willing, to eat away our plastic problems.

Wax moth larvae are usually bred as fish bait, but a chance discovery has revealed their taste for plastic - which could be used to beat polluting seas.

In the wild wax worms live on beeswax, making them a constant pest for beekeepers across Europe.

When Federica Bertocchini - a scientist and amateur beekeeper - removed an infestation from one of her hives and put them in a plastic bag, the worms simply ate their way out.

"I went back to the room where I had left the worms and I found that they were everywhere," she said. "The bag was full of holes."

The prison break led Bertoc-



PROBLEM SOLVER?: Plastic-eating worms.

chini, a researcher at the Spanish National Research Council, to investigate the feeding habits of the centimetre-long Galleria mellonella grubs.

To her surprise lab tests revealed that 100 worms can devour 92 milligrams of polyethylene in as little as 12 hours.

With such a voracious appetite for plastic, the worms could be put to good use, the scientists reasoned.

And with 3,000 tons of plastic floating atop the Med and thousands more tons sitting in landfills in Spain and across Europe, scientists are now pushing these plastic-eating

worms as a way to tackle the waste.

"We want to know if they're munching the plastic to use as a food, or just because they want to escape," said fellow researcher Paolo Bombelli. "If they just want to escape, they are going to get fed up very soon. But if they're munching it to use as an energy source it's a completely different ball game. We are not yet able to answer this, but we're working on it."

While more tests are currently being carried out, a beekeepers nightmare could soon be heralded as an environmental saviour.

IN DANGER: 90% of sea turtles have ingested plastic in the Med.



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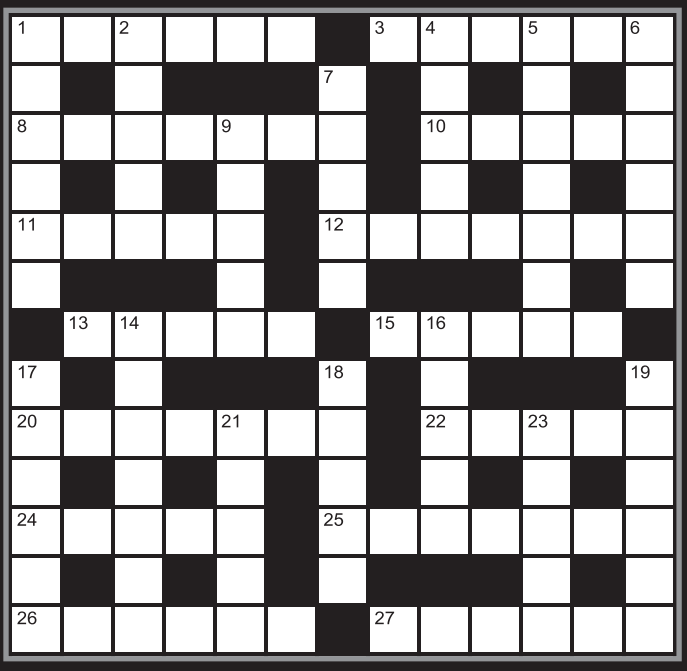
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Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Oriental brass made into weapons (6)
 - 3 In the midst of conflict he besieged an ancient Greek city (6)
 - 8 Tidy hospital worker (7)
 - 10 They have pride in their families (5)
 - 11 Affordable cooked peach (5)
 - 12 Top level infiltrating the French network (7)
 - 13 Celebration in the back bar (5)
 - 15 Trainee soldier from America detained (5)
 - 20 Typical example of tempo that is changed (7)
 - 22 Push a canal boat (5)
 - 24 Carry note for facial hair (5)
 - 25 Refined gate Len made (7)
 - 26 Stick plug in this place (6)
 - 27 Holmes' assistant is now sat around (6)

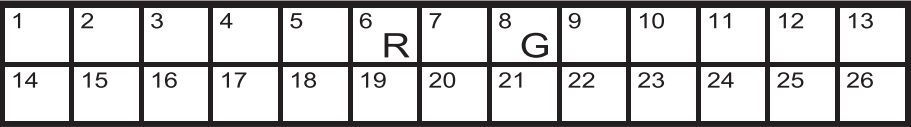
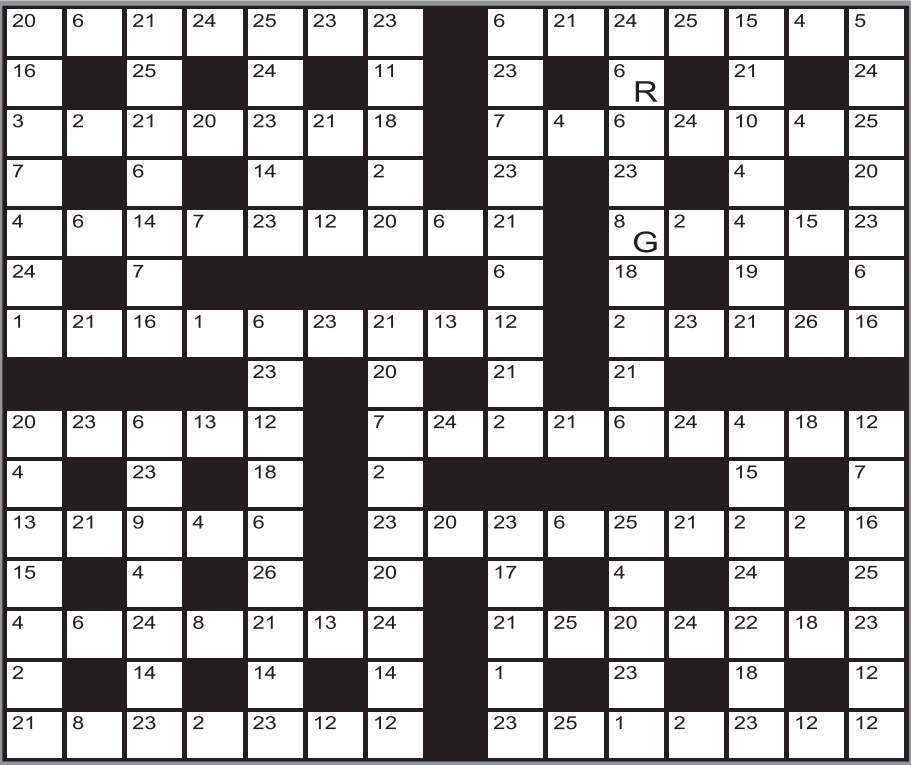
- Down**
- 1 Twenty nearly get church to burn (6)
 - 2 Small bird I lost in move (5)
 - 4 Serf requiring helium – a great deal (5)
 - 5 'I'm bored silly' is a platitude (7)
 - 6 Nun is back to sort out the rest (6)
 - 7 Diplomacy cleverly concealed revolution (5)



- 9 Regret having gym in Indian capital (5)
- 14 Tombstone inscription in English mine, by A P Herbert, originally (7)
- 16 Take a chance first off, it's a stroll (5)
- 17 Rabies treatment for this country (6)
- 18 Characters in a magazine were more up-to-date (5)
- 19 Comedian spotted in a Beamer tonight (6)
- 21 Sort out the charge (5)
- 23 Wanders around for nothing, among the sheep (5)

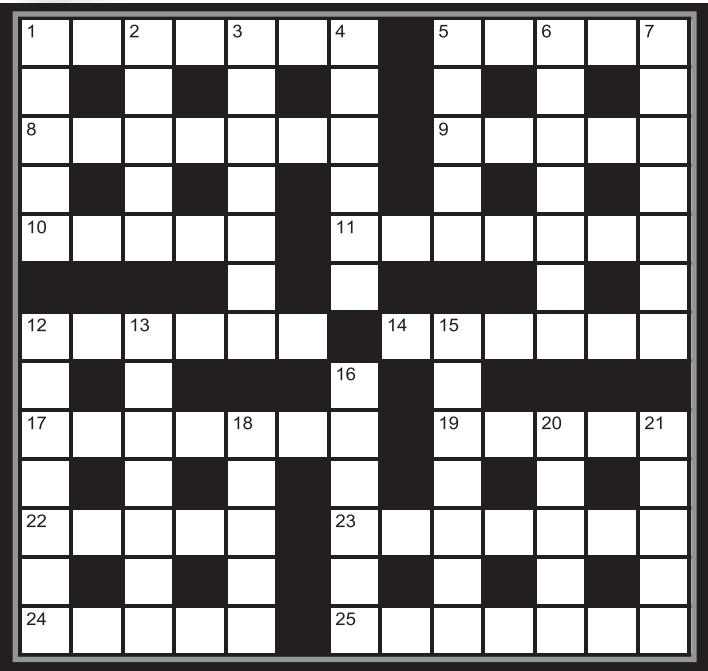
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 6 represents R and 8 represents G, so fill in R every time the figure 6 appears and G every time the figure 8 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should 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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

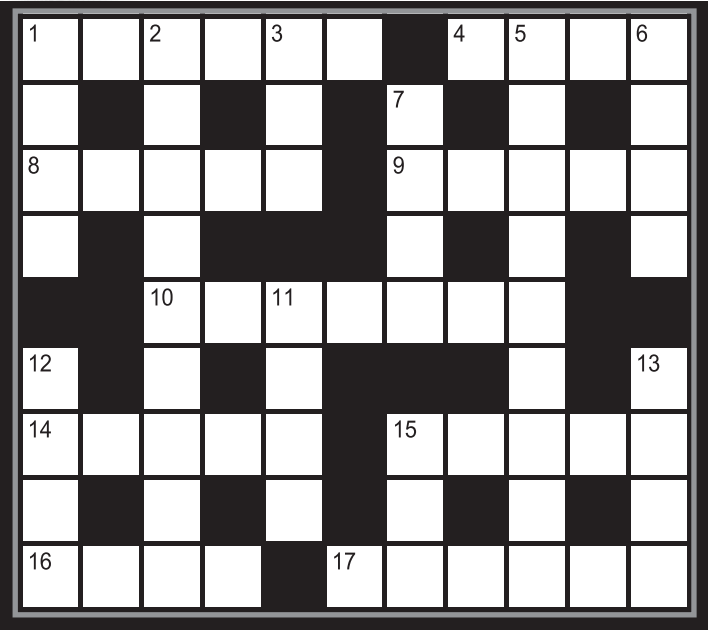
Quick



- Across**
- 1 Disperse (7)
 - 5 Goods carried by a large vehicle (5)
 - 8 Earnest or urgent requests (7)
 - 9 Goddess of love (5)
 - 10 Recently made, produced or harvested (5)
 - 11 Person engaged in military service (7)
 - 12 Be able to spare or give up (6)
 - 14 Consisting of one only or one part (6)
 - 17 Opposed to (7)
 - 19 Short musical compositions with words (5)
 - 22 Sharp hard part of the leaf, stem or root of a plant (5)
 - 23 Farm vehicle (7)
 - 24 Soiled (5)
 - 25 Meet the requirements or expectations of (7)
- Down**
- 1 Personnel (5)
 - 2 Fruit with red, yellow or green skin and sweet to tart crisp whitish flesh (5)
 - 3 Educator (7)
 - 4 Strive against or oppose (6)
 - 5 Applying to ordinary citizens as contrasted with the military (5)
 - 6 Going swiftly, at more than a walking pace (7)
 - 7 Watch (7)
 - 12 Changed in order to improve or made more fit for a particular purpose (7)
 - 13 Taste experience when a savoury condiment is taken into the mouth (7)
 - 15 Immediate (7)
 - 16 Condition of affairs (6)
 - 18 Female goat (5)
 - 20 Brief written records (5)
 - 21 Wander away (5)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 1 Lawn (6)
 - 4 Ópalo (4)
 - 8 Entre (más de dos elementos) (5)
 - 9 Rígido (tieso) (5)
 - 10 Call (telecommunications) (7)
 - 14 Bee (insect) (5)
 - 15 Cave (5)
- Down**
- 16 Empujar (4)
 - 17 Torcedura (6)
 - 1 Garra (de animal) (4)
 - 2 Hombros (9)
 - 3/15 Huevera (3,3)
 - 5 Spring (season) (9)
- 6 Izquierdo (4)**
- 7 Island (4)
 - 11 Abbot (4)
 - 12 Húmedo (clima) (4)
 - 13 Advertir (4)
 - 15 See 3

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MADDOCKS'
 VIEW ON LIFE


' WE KNOW IT IS SAFE - BUT THE HUMAN BRAIN HAS YET TO
 WORK OUT WHAT CAME FIRST - US CHICKENS OR THAT EGG! '

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


TARGET:

- Average: 24
- Very good: 48
- Good: 34
- Excellent: 62

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

cart cert cite fact fate feat feet feta fete fiat frat fret frit raft rata rate ref
 rete rift rite tare tear tier tire tree tref after atria carat caret carte cater
 citer craft crate eater erect facet irate raita react recta recti refit retie
 terce tiara trace trice aerate afreet create recite tierce CAFETERIA

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

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS
CRYPTIC
Across:

1 Sermons, 5 Sling, 8 Aroma,
 9 Rampage, 10 Twine, 11 Needs,
 12 Brace, 14 Bribe, 19 Risks,
 21 Amber, 23 Spaniel, 24
 Satin, 25 Deter, 26 Sustain.

Down:

1 Stalin, 2 Rooster, 3 Okapi,
 4 Screen, 5 Seminar, 6 Inane,
 7 Grease, 13 Cashier, 15 Biretta,
 16 Erased, 17 Eagles, 18 Cannon,
 20 Slant, 22 Busts.

QUICK
Across:

1 Possess, 5 Basil, 8 Rites,
 9 Unarmed, 10 Arrears, 11 Title,
 12 Secret, 14 Prompt, 18 Swamp,
 20 Harbour, 22 Opinion,
 23 Blame, 24 Tiger, 25 Retreat.

Down:

1 Perhaps, 2 Sitar, 3 Ensnare,
 4 Squash, 5 Boast, 6 Symptom,
 7 Ladle, 13 Craving, 15 Rarebit,
 16 Torment, 17 Shiner,
 18 Stout, 19 Prior, 21 Orate.

ENGLISH-SPANISH
Across:

1 Vida, 3 Carril, 8 Receive, 9 Sin,
 10 Jewellery, 12 Nib, 13 Rodilla,
 15 Trenes, 16 Codo.

Down:

1 Ver, 2 Diciembre, 4 Apellido, 5 Rastrillo,
 6 Lana, 7 Pine tree, 11 Knot, 14 Año.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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

LOTTERY
UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday August 19

10	27	49	BONUS BALL
52	55	56	17

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday August 19

1	19	22	BONUS BALL
26	44	45	35

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday August 8

15	25	26	BONUS BALL
40	41		5

Friday August 11

18	28	39	BONUS BALL
46	48		12

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday August 12

9	17	19	BONUS BALL
25	29	46	7

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday August 13

9	19	33	BONUS BALL
37	40		0

YOUR STARS
 FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
 (January 21 - February 19)

Energy is low but your spirit seems to be getting power from somewhere. At times, it feels that it is almost outside of your own sphere. When tackling what is seen as a tedious task, you may not be aware that you are building something for the future, but there is much going on that will affect your future to a large extent.


PISCES
 (February 20 - March 20)

For some time, things on the romantic front have been confusing, to say the least. There are decisions that someone has to make that affect you seriously. Romantically and emotionally, things come to a head but don't let the wind of change blow away all that you have achieved. Don't begin to doubt yourself or others will, too.


ARIES
 (March 21 - April 20)

You may well feel that your business life is not going as well as you would have hoped this week. They do say that you can't have everything right at once. This is a good time to enjoy the company of others and make your love life buzz.


TAURUS
 (April 21 - May 21)

There is something of the rebel in you this week. Even you don't fully understand the changes taking place.

You will resist any attempt to stop from expressing yourself freely. Although you prefer a peaceful time, it may be necessary to remind someone of your rights.


GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)

Because you are about to enter an active phase, it would be best to keep things as straightforward and organised as possible. Those around you may be less than exciting at the moment, so keep the interest going with joint activities and accepting interesting invitations.


CANCER
 (June 22 - July 23)

Have you been a bit of a couch potato recently? Spend some of this week working towards a healthy mind in a healthy body. Running yourself ragged should certainly be avoided. Seek expert advice now about a problem that just won't go away. It will, but only with a lot of effort. Although you prefer to share your activities, this is one area that you need to concentrate on fully, so go for it alone to begin with.


LEO
 (July 24 - August 23)

Arm yourself with plenty of information about what is going on in your life at the moment.

Those close might expect you to lead the way on an important matter. You need to trust your instincts more and have confidence. Think in the long term. Those who are not considered important now could be so in the future. As you prefer being in charge, this should not seem unnatural to you.


VIRGO
 (August 24 - September 23)

Although you feel like going it alone at the moment, you would do well to involve someone close in your project or exercise. There is room for improvement in both your life and your health but it can be more enjoyable if shared. Expect surprises in your love life and you will not be surprised.


LIBRA
 (September 24 - October 23)

It could be that you are feeling a little below par at the moment. You may assume it is because of a recent emotional upset, but it is unlikely to be quite that simple. Spend a bit of time and money on yourself for a change. Develop your talents in the realms of writing, painting and music.

This need not take a large amount of time. Start with one simple project.


SCORPIO
 (October 24 - November 22)

Despite pulling out all the stops when it comes to a certain person or project, your charm may not be working as well as usual this week.

It is still a fine time to beaver on quietly in the background. A few emotional fireworks make you sit up and take notice, but try to be open-minded.


SAGITTARIUS
 (November 23 - December 21)

Get some rest and peace because, if you let yourself get too tired, your temper could suffer. When it comes to business get it over with so that you can spend extra time on your social life. Something important is round the corner.


CAPRICORN
 (December 22 - January 20)

Sometimes you shuffle things around to survive difficult times. The energy that this uses means that realising a dream this week could mean difficult choices to be made.

Your need to be settled makes you impatient.

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Sunday opening with a smile

SO some businesses in Malaga Port choose not to open on Sundays (*Edition 1673*).

While the choice is obviously theirs, for the sake of the city, and the passengers who arrive on cruise liners on a Sunday, I hope they change their minds.

To my mind the Spanish should not complain about the plethora of Chinese Bazaars that do so well in many parts; they open all hours every day, and provide a service that is needed.

A port welcoming cruise liners seven days a week need facilities - shops, cafes and other outlets that operate on a daily basis. That includes Sundays.

Malaga has improved tremendously in the 12 years I have lived on the Costa del Sol, and the port is an ever-better facility but for passengers docking on a Sunday and faced with shutters rather than a welcome mat, it creates a far from perfect view.

*N Bryant,
Torremolinos*

Safety first

AT Benidorm's Levante beach in mid-afternoon there were no lifeguards covering more than half the beach.

I then saw a lifeguard running past Biblioplaya towards the Rincon, as there was obviously an emergency, while three other lifeguards nearby stood chatting with their backs to the sea.

Basic safety is the least we should expect, even though venturing into the sea is far from safe with rocks covering sections of Levante beach.

Years ago it was announced this



UNSAFE SANDS: The highly popular Levante beach in Benidorm should look at providing more lifeguards.

would be remedied, but it never happened.

Come on Benidorm, look after your tourists better, especially given some prices charged, with a one-

hour pedalo hire on Levante beach and on Poniente an amazing €25, even worse than the €17 of a few years ago!

B Veiby

Still on hold

A RECENT EWN article Customers left five days without service: five days is a mere bagatelle, try 14 and before that 11 days with no explanation, just "we will let you know when we have information."

As pensioners in Cartama campo we rely on our landline and internet, yet e-mails and telephone calls are met with the same response.

I asked for a Movistar contact for information from the 'horse's mouth', but this was refused "as they won't speak to you, as you are the third party", and our service provider, BT, refused to speak to them on our behalf.

We cannot say "to hell with it" as Movistar have the monopoly, so, nowhere to go!

*Patricia Szalai
Coin, Malaga*

Blood query

I NOTED a EWN article regarding Blood Donations in Spain.

As a Gold Badge lifelong blood donor in the UK I have tried unsuccessfully to donate blood since moving to Spain 14 years ago, but have always been advised "We do not accept blood from British citizens who lived in the UK during the 1980's/90's because of Cruetzfeldt Jacobs Disease, CJD, (Mad Cow Disease)!"

Offered blood donations in Germany, France and Israel have been rejected for the same reason.

Has there been a policy change in Spain?

*Anonymous
El Campello*

Editor's Note: Spain continues a deferral policy regarding blood and plasma donation for those who lived for more than three months in the UK between 1980-1996. These deferrals hope to eliminate up to 90 per cent of the overall risk of CJD or BSE.

Javea

Bird's eye view

WE are in a period of drought but just a small bowl of water for the birds can make such a difference for them.

Also if a slightly deeper bowl is put out for them, they can enjoy a bath.

So much fun to watch!

*Norma Grant
Competa*

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.

It's just all too confusing (Mike Senker)

BRILLIANT Mike! And new power stations supplying all electric cars burn what? Gas. More CO2 emissions. Just what we all need! Let's ramp up the global warming. It would be funny if it wasn't so serious.

Sam Bo

IN THEORY - but not in practice, electricity could be generated from Hydro schemes, as it is in Norway. Or, again in theory, from nuclear power, or yet again in theory, from solar power. But all those require such vast investment and so long to get going, that Oil, Coal and Gas are going to be with us for a very long time.

PM

Anti-tourism protesters demonstrate on

Barcelona beach

THEY are not against all tourists, they are against the rubbish tourism, the ones who buy cheap booze, get legless, throw up, pee, poo and have sex in the streets. This is happening in the big cities where apartments are being rented out to big groups. Who wouldn't be against that?

Barbara Taylor

TOURISM only accounts for 11 per cent of the GDP. Spain does not have to rely on tourism to survive despite the comments on here suggesting that is the case. The Spanish

Comments from EWN online

economy is the fifth-largest in Europe behind Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France; and the fourth-largest in the Eurozone, based on nominal GDP statistics. In 2012, Spain was the 12th-largest exporter in the world and the 16th-largest importer.

TOURISTS to Spain have apparently doubled since 2015 and the result has been devastating for locals priced out of their own towns and neighbourhoods.

Katrina Edbrooke

Two Brits investigated for shining lasers at planes landing in Malaga

HOW utterly stupid can they be, what mental age can the father be? let alone the son, they deserve everything the courts dish out.

Hazel White

Taxi drivers called a snap strike during the Feria de Malaga

A BIT of competition never hurt anyone, don't these taxi drivers realise that if their prices were sensible they would actually make more money due to a surge in people actually using the service!

Mark Connor

Costa del Sol to fight against 'wild' hen and stag parties

AT last - many hen and stag parties cause mayhem and I welcome this. Dissuade the reality TV filming as well and we may start to see some improvements on the CDS.

Mark Craig

OMG, their banning live music in as many venues as they can, they now want to ban Stag and Hen parties what's next? Banning alcohol in bars?

Matt Coy

Ask The

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Food poisoning



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

WHAT is food poisoning?

Food poisoning is an illness caused by eating contaminated food especially foods that have a limited shelf or fridge life such as eggs, dairy products or meat. Shellfish can also be particularly dangerous if it is not cleaned, defrosted or cooked properly. It's not usually serious and most people get better within a few days without treatment.

How can you get food poisoning?

In most cases of food poisoning, food is contaminated by bacteria, such as salmonella or Escherichia coli (E coli), or a virus, such as the Norovirus.

What are its symptoms?

The symptoms of food poisoning usually begin within one to two days after eating contaminated food, although they may start between a few hours and several weeks later. The main symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, a lack of energy and weakness, loss of appetite, chills, aching muscles and a high temperature.

How can it be treated?

Until you feel better, you should rest and drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. Eat only when you feel you can, but start

with small, light meals which are dry or plain such as toast, crackers or rice, until you begin to feel better. Avoid alcohol, caffeine, fizzy drinks and spicy foods as they can make you feel worse.

When should I see a doctor?

You should seek medical attention if your symptoms are severe - for example, if you're unable to keep down any fluids because you are vomiting repeatedly, symptoms don't start to improve after a few days, you have symptoms of severe dehydration, such as confusion, a rapid heartbeat, sunken eyes and passing little or no urine.

You should also go to your doctor if you are pregnant, over 60 or if your baby or young child has suspected food poisoning.

How is food contaminated?

Not cooking food thoroughly, not reheating previously cooked food enough or not correctly storing it.

Food that needs to be chilled are the most common causes of contaminated food. However, leaving cooked food for too long at warm temperatures, or someone who has dirty hands or is sick handling food can also lead to food poisoning. Always check the sell by date on food packages before using.

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

Ask the optician - contact lenses

Andrés Román Romero, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Santa Ponsa

LAST month there was a story in the press about a lady who had 27 contact lenses removed from her eye by surgeons. This is a very unusual case, but has brought up some concerns about contact lenses, so here are our answers to some common questions to put your mind at rest.

■ Q: I have relied on glasses for years and want to try contact lenses, what do you recommend?

A: I would recommend soft contact lenses, as they are very pliable therefore easy to get used to and comfortable to wear. They cannot be dislodged easily from the eye and they give excellent all round vision.

■ Q: What different types are available?

A: There are a number of options to choose from;

- Daily disposable lenses, which you throw away every day and replace with a new pair.
- Monthly disposable lenses which last a month but need to be cleaned and stored in solution overnight.
- All day-all night lenses, which you can sleep in during the night.

■ Q: How should I care for contact lenses to avoid infections?

A: Contact lenses bring great benefits and are easy to use. Following simple hygiene and care guidelines will keep your eyes healthy and mean that your vision remains clear and the

lenses stay comfortable.

Your optician will explain how to look after your contacts when you first get them, but here are some simple rules to follow:

- Always wash, rinse and dry your hands thoroughly before removing your contact lenses
- Only use them for the recommended time
- Never rinse your contact lenses in tap water - you risk getting a severe eye infection
- Don't transfer contact lens solution into smaller travel size bottles, as it may no longer be sterile
- Never wet your contact lenses with saliva - it's not sterile and could cause an eye infection
- Never wear your contact lenses in the shower or when swimming (unless you use water-tight goggles).

At Specsavers Opticas, you can try before you buy, with one pair of monthly lenses or five pairs of daily disposable lenses free. For more information and to find your nearest store visit www.specsavers.es.

Women
refuse cancer
treatment

IN a shocking report, it has been revealed that many South-Asian women in the UK are hiding their cancer because of the social stigma.

The BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme heard from women who said they hid their diagnosis due to the stigma and others who believed it was God punishing them for living a 'bad life.' It was reported there is also a reluctance to have a smear test as they are considered 'no longer pure.'

The BBC pointed out it is hard to say how widespread the issue is, but research in 2014 from Bridgewater NHS found Asian women aged 15 to 64 years old had a significantly reduced survival rate for breast cancer, which could be due to not wanting to seek medical advice or treatment until too late.

Is Facebook making you paranoid?

YOUNG people are the most at risk of paranoid thoughts and this could be down to their increased use of social media.

This is the belief of a clinical psychology professor at King's College in London who believes social media can also lead to paranoid thoughts with feelings of being followed and that we are being tracked constantly leading to greater anxiety.

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) seems to agree and reported a rise in self-harm among youngsters last December, also blaming social media.

An NSPCC report said that 18,778 children aged 11 to 18 in England and Wales were admitted to hospital for self-harm in 2015/16, an increase of 14 per cent compared to the previous year.

The charity also revealed they gave the equivalent of 50 counselling sessions a day to youngsters which were related to self-harm.

They said from the calls, it is clear that youngsters today feel pressure to have a perfect life and a certain image due to what they see and what is portrayed on social media.

Social media can also lead to paranoid thoughts with feelings of being fol-

lowed and that we are being tracked constantly leading to greater anxiety.

Most people will experience some types of paranoia but it can increase to a worrying level. Paranoia includes feelings that you are being discussed behind

your back, that others are trying to exclude you or get to you ranging to more serious paranoid thoughts that you are at risk of being physically harmed or that people are trying to take your money or possessions.



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Advertising feature

Have a tapa like you've never seen before

THEY may be the relative new kids on the block, but Tan a Gustito Tapas, is already making waves in Magaluf. Having only opened in June, this tapas style restaurant is a welcoming delight offering something different and unique to diners in the area.

It may be a new eatery for owners David Hidalgo Cholota and his partner Fanny Fiolleau, but they have decades of experience in the gastronomy world. David is from Ecuador but lived for 17 years in Genova in Italy, where he learned a lot of classic and traditional Italian speciality dishes. French born Fanny has been in Spain 17 years and ran her own restaurant in Barcelona before the pair moved in Mallorca in 2015.

It is here that they have combined their culinary tastes and worldwide gastronomic experiences, to create a wonderfully enticing and tasty menu together. Working with their family and



TERRIFIC TAPAS:
International flavours at
Tan a Gustito Tapas.

CHEF DAVID: Displaying
his popular prawn
ceviche.

friends, Tan a Gustito Tapas exudes a welcoming and friendly ambience where diners can come and enjoy brunch, lunch, dinner and a special selection of wine, cava, cocktails and Champagne with the menu designed to allow people to share dishes or savour on their own with full or half portions, whilst enjoying a relaxed dining experience of the highest quality.

There is also a wonderfully fresh selection of juices and smoothies for those wanting to detox or have an energy boost during the summer.

Using fresh and local produce, everything is home-made from the bread to the desserts. Combining flavours from their home cuisines with their new surroundings, there are hints of Ecuador and France as well as Italy and Spain on the menu including their specialities of home-made fresh lasaña pasta

with pesto; the crispy shrimp with parmesan cream; the shrimp risotto; French Steak tartar; coca bread with caramelised onion and botifarro sausage (a speciality of Mallorca) and also the Ecuadorian ceviche with prawns, orange, lemon, lime, coriander, avocado, tomato and more, which is already a firm favourite with customers and a classic at Tan a Gustito Tapas.

For those with a sweet tooth try one of their desserts such as passion fruit mousse with toasted sesame seeds and honey or apple cake with cardamom, cloves and orange cream.

Tan a Gustito Tapas is open Monday to Saturday from midday to midnight and a takeaway service is due to launch next month so you can enjoy their tapas delights in the comfort of your own home.

So to try something truly different, book your table now.

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Visit: www.tanagustitotapas.com

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King of comedy

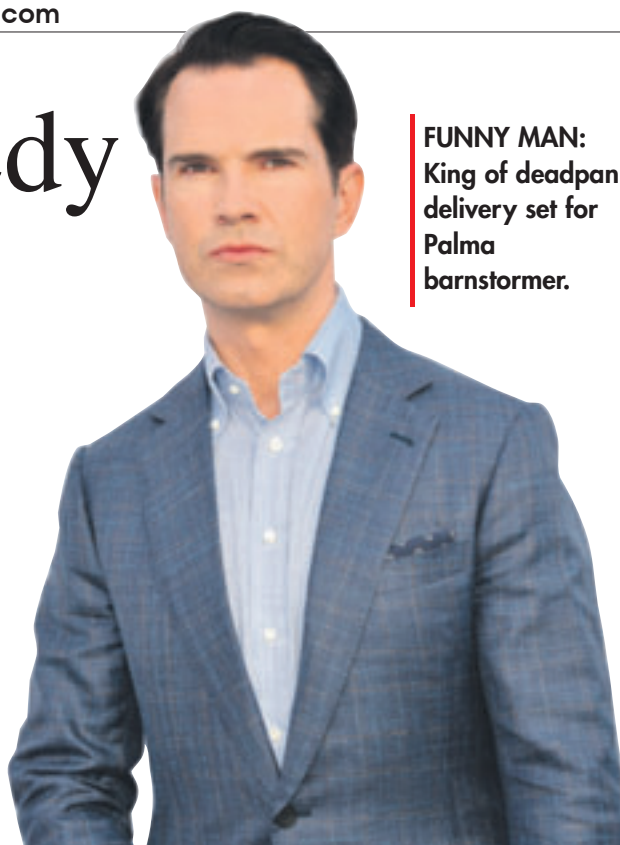
COMIC king Jimmy Carr is playing Palma for one night only. On Wednesday, the master of cheeky one-liners and heckler put-downs takes to the Palma Auditorium as part of his Ultimate Gold Greatest Hits Tour.

The English comedian has played thousands of stand-up gigs and won the British comedy award for Best Stand-Up Tour. He is considered one of the funniest men on British TV, presenting a range of comedy and satire shows, including 8 Out of 10 Cats and, occasionally, Have I Got News For You.

Known for his dark humour and deadpan delivery, Carr is among the most successful comedians of his generation. He once sold out a month's worth of Edinburgh Festival performances and was named 12th in a poll of the best comics of all time.

He will be bringing some of his best jokes to Mallorca, old favourites and new material.

Tickets can be bought online through the Palma Auditorium website. They range from €29 to €35. The show starts at 10pm with plenty seats still available at the time of writing.



FUNNY MAN:
King of deadpan delivery set for Palma barnstormer.

Open air cinema for August

FILM screenings in Palma's open-air cinema continue throughout August. There is a terrific range of films catering to all ages and tastes during the popular summer initiative.

This week children are treated to American animated fantasy Hotel Transylvania 2 on Saturday night at 9.30pm. On Sunday evening British viewers will easily spot Sir Michael Caine, who

stars in Now You See Me 2 alongside Morgan Freeman and Woody Harrelson.

On Tuesday 1948 classic The Big Clock, starring Ray Milland, will be screened. Next Thursday Oscar-winning survival epic The Revenant will be shown. It stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy and is directed by Mexican maestro Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

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Festivals of sound

MUSIC lovers are being treated to a range of treats this week. Events catering to all genres and tastes are taking part across Mallorca as the summer sound season

gets into its stride.

In the north, the Deia International Music Festival is continuing to stun attendees with a repertoire of guest performers. The next con-

cert in the ongoing series takes place tonight at the Son Marroig country house from 9pm.

On stage is a classic Tango ensemble from the island. The acclaimed festival also has renowned piano act Mysterium booked in a fortnight, and three final evening performances in September lined up.

In Palma on Tuesday night the Son Vida Café is holding funk and motown act, Elton Bivins and Edward Wade on the terrace of the five-star hotel. The café runs a summer series of concerts on Tuesdays with more gigs planned in September.

Meanwhile jazz fans can still retreat to the Sa Pobla Jazz Festival held in Sala Es Cavallets. There are free gigs every night of the week until next Thursday when the festival ends. Shows typically start at 10.30pm.

Sleeping beauty awakens

SOME of the greatest ballets in history are coming to Mallorca next week. The Moscow Ballet is returning to the island to perform the un-

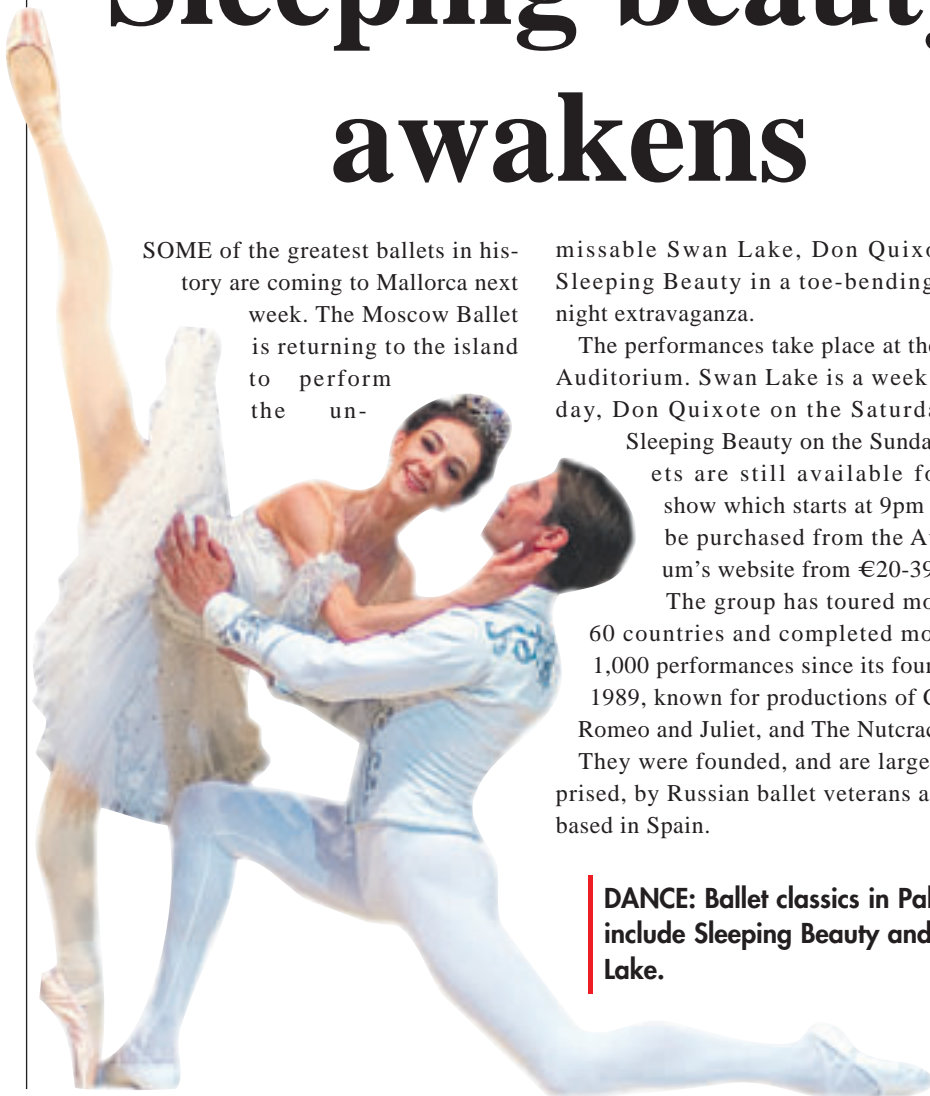
missable Swan Lake, Don Quixote and Sleeping Beauty in a toe-bending three-night extravaganza.

The performances take place at the Palma Auditorium. Swan Lake is a week on Friday, Don Quixote on the Saturday, and Sleeping Beauty on the Sunday. Tickets are still available for each show which starts at 9pm and can be purchased from the Auditorium's website from €20-39.

The group has toured more than 60 countries and completed more than 1,000 performances since its founding in 1989, known for productions of Carmen, Romeo and Juliet, and The Nutcracker.

They were founded, and are largely comprised, by Russian ballet veterans although based in Spain.

DANCE: Ballet classics in Palma include Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake.



What's on!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IMPORTANT EVENT LISTING TO SHARE?

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GOOD WINE AND
GOOD FRIENDS
WITH
GARRY WAITE



As a very young child I was brought up in the beautiful city of Exeter. From the age of about five to 13 of which the last few years were spent at boarding school as my parents moved away.

But we all had fond memories of the ancient city on the River Exe in south west England. Dating back to the Roman era, the Exeter city walls surround its centre and Gothic Exeter Cathedral. Exeter Castle, a Norman landmark, overlooks leafy Northemhay and Rougemont Gardens.

The place is steeped full of history and it was with some sadness that I witnessed on TV the fire that destroyed the iconic Royal Clarence Hotel. This major landmark overlooking the Cathedral was a place of choice for Christmas lunch and my father would use the place regularly for business lunches.

Virtually destroyed by fire in October last year, the hotel is now being rebuilt by its owners. The hotel, said to be England's oldest, was built in 1769. It was named after the Duchess of Clarence (Queen Adelaide), wife of the future William IV, who stayed there in 1827 and visited the hotel on many occasions and gave The Clarence Hotel the



The original - in all its 'Royal Glory.'

'Royal' seal of approval.

A spokeswoman for the hotel group said owner Andrew Brownsword had confirmed plans "to rebuild the façade as closely as possible to the original, whilst behind this will sit a new hotel to offer the city of Exeter a modern hotel that can best serve the city and its people."

However a row is brewing over the name of the rebuilt hotel. Historian Peter Thomas maintains the hotel should be given a new name when it is completed. It brings into question a historical and perhaps legal question. Can the newly built hotel maintain its 'Royal' status? As a historic title how can it be passed on when the original building does not exist. Only a minor percentage of the original building remains intact and the whole of the façade is to be painstakingly rebuilt to match the original.

The structure behind will be completely new and when finished will join the list of other Exeter pseudo buildings and therefore when it is completed it will have no bearing on the original structure. Exeter was at the forefront of maintaining its inherited and historical facades after fires and world wars. Many buildings in the city were rebuilt but maintained their historical building connections.

With their being virtually nothing of the original hotel left it will be hard to call it 'The First Hotel in England.' Perhaps this can be preceded by: On This Site Stood! Why not just call it 'The New Royal Clarence Hotel?'

Would be ungracious not to mention the famous whisky

MATTHEW GLOAG was a grocer and wine merchant in Perth, Scotland. Gloag purchased whiskies from distilleries around Scotland, and when Queen Victoria visited Perth in 1842, he was invited to supply the wines for the royal banquet.

In 1860, his son, William Gloag, took over the company and began producing blended whiskies. In 1896, William's nephew, also named Matthew after his grandfather, took over the company. He created a brand called The Grouse in 1896, which was renamed The Famous Grouse in 1905. Matthew Gloag's daughter Philippa first designed the label's grouse icon.

In 1970, Matthew Gloag & Son, owned by the Gloag family, was sold to Highland Distillers, after the death of the chairman, Matthew Frederick Gloag. The marketing and distributive power of the company saw the Famous Grouse become the highest selling Scotch in Scotland by 1980 and the second highest selling in the UK.

From the 1980s the brand began to be exported overseas, where it now sells over two million cases annually. In 1984 The Famous Grouse was awarded the Royal Warrant.

Churlish not to mention it.



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

*Garry Waite is a foodie and restaurateur and Hospitality Management Consultant. If contemplating setting up an operation, or having problems with an existing project contact him on garryphwaite@gmail.com.

We will be the first restaurant in London to serve grouse from the Glorious Twelfth. Roasted and served with liver parfait on toast, red cabbage and ceps."

Restaurant 45 Jermyn Street.

Glorious Twelfth

IN the early 80's I was doing a consultancy job for a hotel in Braemar in Scotland.

A beautiful part of the world and a chance for me to see the iconic Highland Games attended by the Queen and Prince Philip as well as other members of the Royal Family. But, due to the generosity of my client, had the rare opportunity to be involved in the Glorious Twelfth - the start of the Red Grouse hunting season.

Visitors from abroad and aristocracy of the UK, pay fortunes to have the pleasure of hunting these amazing game birds that can fly at around 70mph in, at times, a zigzagging motion. Much like Beaujolais Nouveau in November, hotels vie to be the first to serve the delicacy on their evening menu.

Even in those days the hotel owner charged £1,000 per gun per day. Nowadays the 'gun' charge is much more expensive, running into thousands, with owners charging £150 a brace on top.

Grouse shooting contributes millions to the economy every year and also supports thousands of people - from gamekeepers and beaters to people in tourism and hospitality.

Grouse shooting can be traced back 160 years to 1853. It started to take off when the railways suddenly made it easier to get to the moors, and shotguns became breech-loading. The 'bags' - total number of birds shot per



Credit: Alamy

Red Grouse in flight.

day - were huge, often topping 2,000 in a single day.

Although grouse shooting is most commonly associated with the Scottish Highlands, red grouse were, and still are, shot on moors in Wales, Northern Ireland and in England's Peak District.

Grouse are safe for one day of the week. It's illegal to shoot grouse - as well as many other game birds - on Sundays. In 2012 when the Glorious Twelfth fell on a Sunday, it had to be moved to August 13th.

The law on Sunday shooting is laid out in the Game Act of 1831. (It's not against the law in Scotland, but the custom is still adopted.)

A few quirky points about the Red Grouse:

- They make a very distinctive call that sounds like 'Go back! Go back! Go back' as they fly fast and low above the heather.
- They have less than a third of the fat and twice the protein of roast chicken.
- It is Scotland's national game bird and is the emblem of the famous whisky.

121 The number of days of the grouse shooting season.

£150 million. The amount of money generated annually by the practice.

2,500 The number of jobs created or associated with grouse shooting.

2 The number yours truly shot in 1982.



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Ever heard of Llucmajor? 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.

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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, Llucmajor, 175,000€

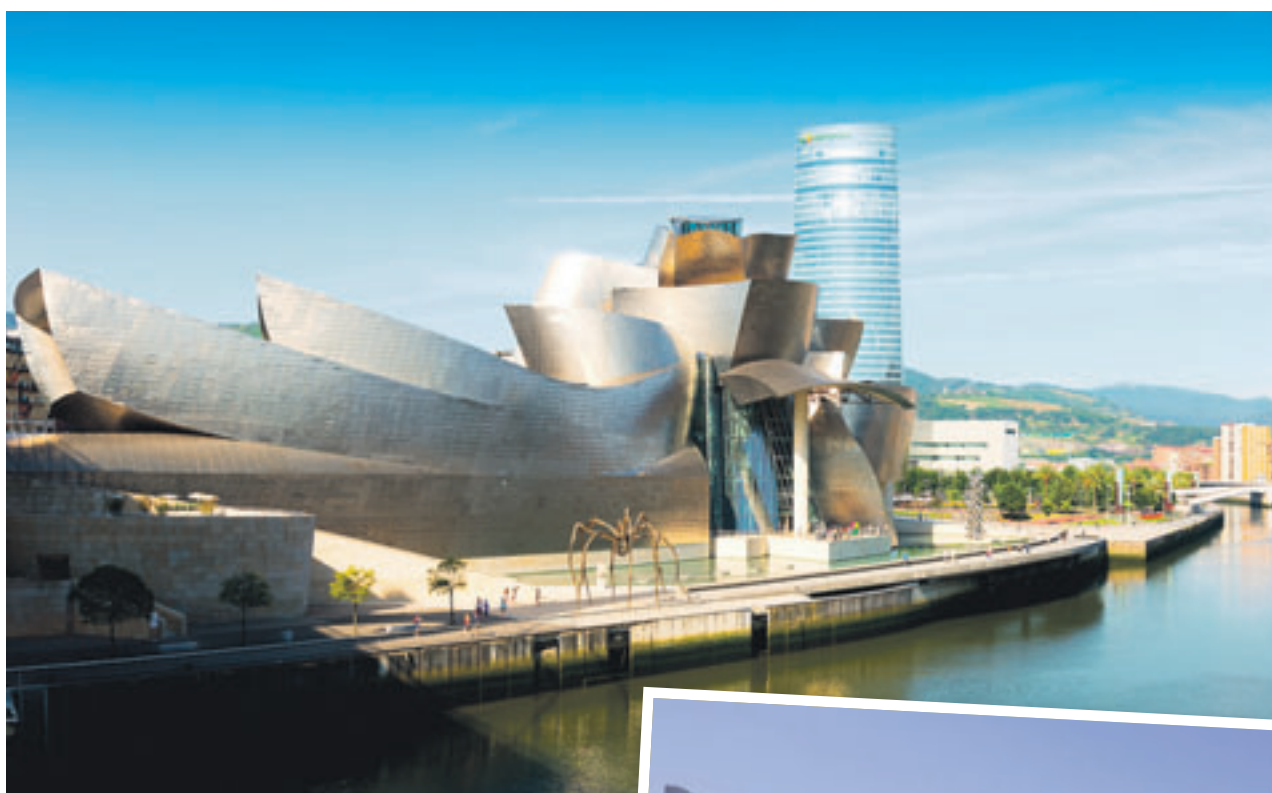
Charming little chalet with 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, garage. Electricity with solar panels. House 73m², plus 25m² garage, plus 25m² covered terrace plus 30 m² storerooms.



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



Wall Street backs Spain



FIGHTING FIT: Spain's real estate resurgence welcomed in Wall Street.

SPAIN'S property recovery has caught the eye of the *Wall Street Journal*. The American broadsheet devoted a special section last week to the Spanish real estate market's strong performance of late.

Its property analysts predicted that if the strong demand for housing seen so far this year continues, Spain could see record investment in the residential sector.

The piece investigates a new phenomenon which sees international investors seek-

ing security in Spanish real estate. It represents a remarkable turnaround from the recession years and shows that Spain's property success is not a mirage.

The *Journal* notes that Spain's good fortunes aren't limited to property but are expressed in a GDP which rose by 3.2 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2017. The EU average for the same period was just 1.8 per cent.

This puts Spanish real es-

tate 'on a firm footing' according to the piece. Investors are also straying from the safer Madrid and Barcelona commercial real estate and now investing in homes, student accommodation, hotels and shopping centres.

Perhaps most importantly

the paper distinguishes, as many property experts have done, between this resurgence and the residential boom 10 years ago. Lower debts, tighter banking regulations, and the benefit of hindsight make Spain today a far more stable and attractive destination.



HOUSE prices are now comparable to December 2013 on average across Spain as they continue their steady rise. Adjusted for inflation, the situation is equivalent to 2003, just before prices rocketed upwards.

The latest price data corresponds to July. Another consecutive monthly increase means prices have risen by 3.6 per cent in the first seven months of the year. Last year prices rose by just 1.6 per cent from

Market grows stronger

January to July.

As is now typical the extent of the increases varied wildly across Spain. Major cities averaged an increase of 6.4 per cent, and the Mediterranean coast 3.3 per cent.

Compared to the boom years prices are still relatively low. In summer 2017 they

are just 60 per cent of the peaks reached in 2007. On the Mediterranean coast the difference is even greater. Despite solid recent growth prices are about 45 per cent less than they were a decade ago.

Prices are expected to rise steadily until 2019/2020.



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2
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660m²

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Calvia Village - Beautiful Modern Villa



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4
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1300m²

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Santa Ponsa - South Facing Sea View Villa



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Costa den Blanes - Townhouse with Sea Views



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Sales soar on coast



HOUSING PRICES: Are predicted to rise over the coming two years.

SALES numbers in the Alicante, Malaga and Valencia provinces are now at their highest level since 2009. The three major expatriate property strongholds now average 281 sales each day between them.

Across Alicante 3,052 homes were sold in June alone, just over 100 per day, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE). Prices are still relatively low and tourists are once again poking their

heads into estate agents for a peek at dream homes.

In Malaga 94 homes are being sold each day on average. Prices, at €1,399 per square metre are substantially greater than in Alicante which averages €1,092.

Valencia is also seeing sales exceed 90 per day, while smaller provinces and regions, including Murcia and Cadiz are clocking up healthy sales volumes too.

As was the case last year, when foreign buyers accounted for more than 13 per cent of all sales, much of the numbers are being driven by buyers based abroad.

Across the country there were 235,672 sales in the first six months of the year, a rise of 13.15 per cent on January to June 2016. It is the best six months in almost a decade and puts Spain on track to sell half a million homes by Christmas.

Heiress' real estate empire

THE daughter of Spain's richest man has established a real estate empire that is now valued at more than half a billion euros. Sandra Ortega, aged 49, is already Spain's richest woman courtesy of her father's wealth.

Amancio Ortega is the billionaire founder of clothing chain Zara, who has oc-

asionally knocked Bill Gates off the top of the global rich list when the stock markets fluctuate.

Sandra took a sizable inheritance from her mother and now commands a property empire which stretches from Madrid and Barcelona, to Hollywood, Miami, New York and Stuttgart, Germany.

She controls 19 real estate companies, which appear to favour industrial buildings, offices and hotels in their sizeable portfolios. Ortega owns two luxurious Hollywood mansions which bring her €1.2 million and €3.4 million in rent each year.

In 2016 parent company Rosp Corunna posted a

profit of €90 million and revealed that its assets were worth €542 million.

Sandra has inherited her father's business aptitude, appetite for property and modesty in the face of ludicrous wealth. Like him she is discreet, rarely photographed, and lives well within her considerable means.

GRAEME TYRRELL

Purslane - weed or culinary delight?

MANY plants are termed weeds, but a weed is really only a plant in the wrong place or a plant not wanted where it is.

Crab grass is a weed in the vegetable, or ornamental garden, but makes a hardy lawn species.

Oats are a weed in a wheat field and wheat in an oat field.

Persistent plants that self-seed or spread in other ways into the garden are generally termed as weeds.

Few people enjoy weeding, but weeding is necessary to remove unwanted plants to keep the garden how it is meant to be. If our concept of what a garden is meant to be changed, though, there are many more possibilities.

Various alternatives to styles developed in the disciplined Victorian era of gardening, when full time gardeners tended the labours of the garden, allowing the creation of wonderful formal ornamental and kitchen gardens, are now being seen.

In less formal gardens, plants can grow more naturally due to the tolerance of self-emerging plants that can, in fact, be used in various ways.

The hot summer sun can overheat the soil dramatically in the Mediterranean garden, damaging the root systems of the plants we are trying to grow.

Allowing a ground cover of naturally-occurring plants can provide a cooler soil. Many naturally occurring plants are grown around fruit trees and in vegetable patches for this reason.

Amongst many of these plants is Purslane, (Portulaca oleracea) that has done particularly well under the fruit trees this year.

It is considered a weed in many countries, but being a Mediterranean plant, it has also been used as a culinary plant, and has been recognised as a medicinal herb for thousands of years.

Purslane can be used in recipes as a replacement for spinach, but it can also be eaten raw as an addition to salads.

Its nutrient value has been

well researched to determine that it has good antioxidant properties, and is the best plant source for Omega-3, amongst other attributes.

The best thing is that it has established itself under the fruit trees in a symbiotic relationship.

The fruit trees being watered

and giving shade helps the Purslane that, in turn, provides ground cover for soil protection for the tree.

Gardeners get both better fruit and a great source of abundant highly nutritious salad and soup greens with virtually no extra work.



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FLEAS are ugly, nasty parasites that are one of the most difficult critters to get rid of. Which is why, prevention - all year long, is necessary.

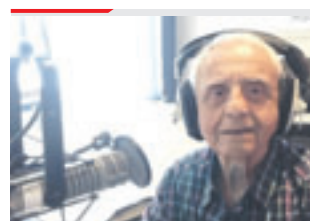
Fleas are about 1/4-inch long, are black/brown in colour, have no wings but do have long hind legs, which they use for jumping from one host to another. Fleas require a host - your cat or dog - in order to survive, as they live off of their blood.

Fleas can be found all around the world, no matter the climate, however, they particularly like living in grass, which is where your pet will most likely be exposed to them.

Outdoor prevention

Because fleas burrow deep into the grass, as well as under branches, leaves and soil, just waiting for a host to latch onto, one of the most effective ways to prevent fleas from hopping onto your pet is to keep your lawn well groomed.

It is also important to always rake the leaves - flea larvae don't like light. Watering your lawn on a regular basis may also help keep fleas from residing



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FLEAS: Treat all year round.

in your lawn.

Another line of defence is topical medications, the best of which are available through your veterinarian.

Cleaning

Regular housecleaning, such as vacuuming weekly and regularly washing your pet's bedding, will go a long way toward

preventing fleas.

Infestation control

Your dog is uncontrollably scratching itself: to determine if the cause is in fact fleas, do a couple of things. Look under your dog's fur for dark specks. Those black bits are flea dirt - they are actually flea faeces. Pick them off the pet and place

them onto a wet paper towel. If the specs morph into something that resembles a bloodstain, then your pet has fleas.

Flea dirt is a lot easier to spot on lighter coloured pets. On darker coloured pets, comb through their fur with a flea comb.

Now what?

It is impossible to know how long the fleas have been living off your pet, so it is impossible to locate all the areas within the house where the fleas may be living. Not only do you have to treat your pet, but you also have to treat your entire house.

Before buying every flea-destroying product on the market,

thoroughly vacuum your house. "Fleas, as eggs, larvae and pupae, may spend 90 per cent of their time off the pet [and] on the carpet or furniture," reports the Cornell Co-operative Extension - Insect Diagnostic Laboratory. Remove the vacuum bag, seal it and destroy it immediately - fleas are hearty parasites and will continue to live in the bag if not destroyed.

For dogs and cats (they can share fleas) - a specially formulated flea bath product, available at your vet or pet store, will do the trick. Shampooing will have to be accompanied with extensive brushing with a flea comb.

For household flea extermination, there are numerous products available. The most important thing to look for in a household anti-flea product is one that will effectively kill all stages of a flea's lifecycle, not just the adults. Female fleas can lay hundreds of eggs at one time.

Make sure to follow the product's instructions exactly.

Always consult your vet.

Follow the snail trail

PROBABLY the most popular pets are cats, dogs or birds, but finding a family with a pet snail would most likely be quite rare.

Snails are quiet, they don't take up much space, they don't need to be taken for a walk, and it does not cost a lot to feed and care for them.

They can be kept in a special clear terrarium made of plastic or glass.

A layer of soil is needed at the bottom of the container, approximately 4cm deep, so they can bury themselves in it and it is also where they lay their eggs. Rather than earth from the garden, it is recommended a special terrarium earth is used, which be bought from local pet stores, as garden soil may contain parasites.

As snails do not like extreme temperatures, keep them protected from the cold and the heat. A terracotta pot on its side gives them a good place to hide if there is sun.

These small creatures are hermaphrodites,

which means they have male and female reproductive organs at the same time.

These molluscs are more active at night, when they feed and reproduce. They like to eat most green leaves, vegetables, carrot halves, beetroot, etc.

At least once a week, the terrarium should be cleaned of all mucus and faeces, and any rotten food cleared away, as once decayed, it could be harmful to the snails

SNAILS: Can be kept in a terrarium.



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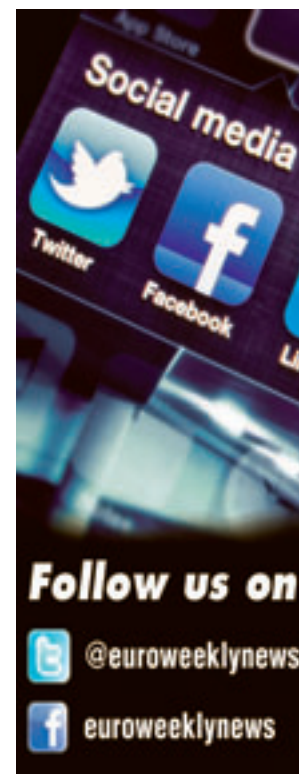
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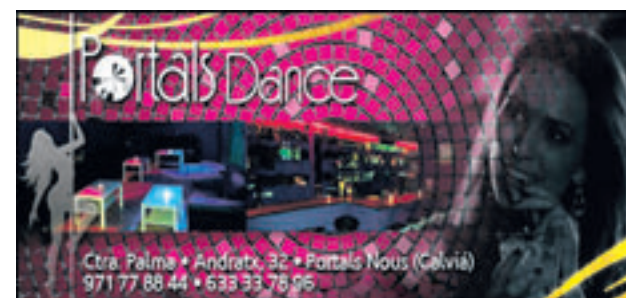
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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week***Whoever designed the Ford Galaxy upholstery had a cauliflower fixation. I would rather have a vasectomy than buy a Ford Galaxy."**Some might say...***Motoring shorts****Volvo
vending**

BUYING a new car may soon be as simple as grabbing a Snickers from a vending machine. After the world's first car-vending machine opened in Singapore, a Chinese mega-company has announced plans to follow suit.

E-commerce giant Alibaba will build enormous vending machines up to 10 floors high which will hold dozens of cars.

Buyers will be able to scan the selection on their smart phones, press the one they like, have all the details handy, and pay with a card.

The firm are confident the idea will prove popular in China's bustling cities, which are low on space and customer service, but have a booming professional class to satisfy.

As yet there are no plans to roll out car vending machines in Europe.

Motor motivation

by Matthew Elliott

BMW confirmed that an electric version of its popular Hatch model will be built at its Oxford plant. The news assuages fears that the German manufacturing giant was set to shift production to the continent as a consequence of the Brexit vote.

The firm itself had warned that the referendum result would force it to reconsider production priorities, but the all-electric Hatch is officially scheduled for British production in 2019.

The decision was welcomed by British union leader Len McCluskey, and presumably by the Oxford plant's almost 5,000 workers.

"Around the world and for

generations the Mini means made in Britain," said McCluskey "with the electric Mini being built in Cowley the tradition continues, but with the added bonus that this is one of the important innovations of tomorrow."

Almost all of the 360,000 Minis produced each year are built in the plant, which has enjoyed investment

worth €500 million from BMW since 2011.

As such BMW's decision to build the Mini E there is likely more due to investment and cost considerations than a 'vote of confidence' in Britain, as the government

was keen to suggest.

Fears that exiting the single market will see the import costs of manufacturing materials shoot up, and export tariffs imposed by Europe, will persist until the details of a

Brexit deal are made clear.

There are roughly 1.7 million cars built in the UK each year, with 80 per cent being exported to the continent.

BARGAIN: Save money and swap an old diesel for a new BMW.



Car thieves' new trick

THIEVES have developed a new car stealing trick.

A device is used to capture and mimic the key fob signal, to open cars with even the best security systems, with the minimum of hassle.

A British firm which monitors car thefts said that the 21st century thieves often operate in tandem to ensure success.

One stands just outside a home with the device, close enough to pick up the key fob signal from inside.

Once successful, the car is unlocked and their partner jumps inside and hotwires the engine within seconds.

Thefts following this pattern have been reported in the UK, USA and Germany.

Highway to hell

EFFORTS to combat traffic pollution may soon see motorways converted into tunnels built from a specially designed material that absorbs toxic fumes.

The scheme has already been piloted in Holland, which has covered portions of the worst-offending roads with the pollution-absorbing structures.

The British government has announced that it will invest more than €100 million in the technology, which soaks up nitrogen oxides, a major pollutant in south-east towns and cities.

Pollution-absorbing tunnels would be just one weapon in



DEADLY: Innovative plans to combat pollution needed.

the Highway Agency's plans to combat air poor air quality, which kills tens of thousands of people each year.

Trials are ongoing at several key junctions near Manchester, England, and the results, together with those from the Dutch study, will determine whether full-scale tunnels are built.

The pilot programme features two types of canopies. One uses wooden panels over four metres high which wrap around the road to deflect pollution. The other features fences with the specialised

polymer material absorbing NO2 fumes.

The RAC, Britain's largest roadside assistance outfit, has voiced doubts about the project. Spokesman Nick Lyes said that if a substantial portion of the pollution is merely deflected from the tunnel surface, it may seriously threaten the health of drivers and passengers.

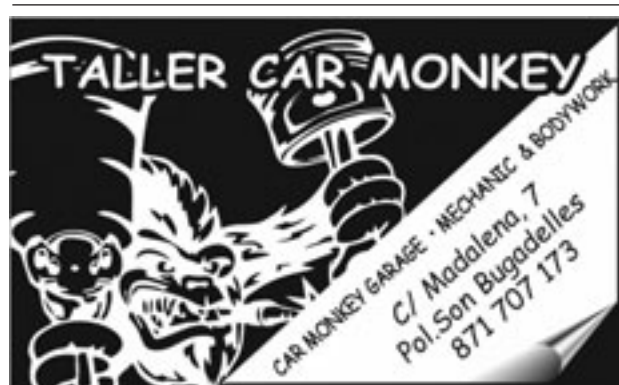
"The solution should be about reducing levels of pollution by accelerating the transition to ultra-low and zero emission vehicles and encouraging better traffic flow through variable speed limits," he argued.

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Classic Regatta underway

THE 23rd edition of the Balearic Island Classic Regatta is taking place this week. The elite sailing competition got underway yesterday and will wrap up on Saturday at Palma's Club de Mar.

An estimated 49 boats from 12 different countries are expected to participate. Spain is leading the way with 28 classics under its flag, followed by Italy with seven. The Italian Navy is bringing three vessels along, including the Corsaro II, which won the competition in 2015.

There will be four representatives from the formerly dominant 15M RI class, considered the finest racing boats of the pre-war period. Boating fanatics will be able to see genuine legends compete in real time,

including the Mariska, Tuiga, and Hispania, all designed by William Fife III, a Scottish engineer who designed 600 yachts.

The Hispania was built in 1909 and once owned by King Alonso XII, while the Tuiga, built the same year, was formerly raced by Prince Albert of Monaco and is today the jewel of the Monaco Yacht Club.

Outside of the 15M RI class there will be competitions between Latin boats, Classical RIs, triangular sails and others. Other famous boats include the Marigan, built in 1899 and owned by Palma-based German Tim Liesenhoff.

The competition tops off a busy month for Mallorcan yachtsmen, just weeks after the 36th Copa del Rey.



Photo credit Club de Mar © Nico Martinez

HARD WORK: Classic sailing contest underway this week.



YAMAHA: Speedy Japanese motors expanding across boating world.

Boating tech giants merge

TWO of the world's top boating technology businesses are about to merge. Malibu Boats is set to buy Cobalt Boats for a reported \$130 (€111) million.

The acquisition of Cobalt stands Malibu in good stead to become a dominant force on the market seas. Cobalt is well-regarded internationally for its mid-large stern-drive boats. It capped off the last tax year with more than €120 million worth of sales, primarily in North America.

Malibu is best known for its recreational boats. Many of its latest models boast Integrated Surf Platforms, which artificially generate waves next to the boat, allowing for a customised surfing experience.

Cobalt will be incorporated into the Malibu structure and maintain some level of

independence, with CEO Paxson St Clair becoming a member of the Malibu board of directors.

Together they are expected to unite the modern tech of Malibu, with the history and classic boating style of Cobalt to create a new recreational boating powerhouse.

Meanwhile, across the Pacific, Yamaha has bought Bennett Marine Inc. The Japanese giant will now have rights over Bennett's acclaimed electric trim tab and AutoTrim Pro technologies. Bennett Marine is the world leader in trim tab systems, which help stabilise boats.

Yamaha Marine is a growing presence on the high seas, with the brand advancing motorcycle technology to compete strongly in the boating world.

Riviera hits rough patch



ROUGH SEAS: St Tropez no longer top marina for billionaire yachters.

SPAIN and Italy are taking advantage as elite interest in the French Riviera drops due to high taxes. Destinations like Cannes and St Tropez are falling by the wayside, with the Balearic Islands among those filling the gap.

The mayor of St Tropez has been forced to deny claims that the marina's revenue has plummeted by 30 per cent this year. In Toulon the situation is said to be even worse, at 40 per cent.

The mayors of Toulon and Nice linked arms with Riviera president Renault Muse-

lier to urge French President Emmanuel Macron to directly intervene in protecting the region's yachting industry.

They note that high taxes mean the average billionaire can save €21,000 per week simply by fuelling a 42-metre yacht in Italy rather than France.

French crews are also prohibitively expensive thanks to strong unions. Their social security payments are heavily scrutinised, and they have excellent protections from unfair dismissal. As a consequence, foreign crews are be-

ing drafted in, antagonising local workers.

The mayors want fuel taxes for superyachts, especially those flying under often obscure international flags, to be harmonised across the EU. Spain and Italy have cut fuel surcharges in a bid to attract more wealthy guests and the effort is paying off.

Spain in particular has adapted its matriculation tax to become more attractive to yacht owners. There has also been serious investment in port infrastructure in Palma, Barcelona and Alicante.

31 goals scored in the Premiership opening games

» From Back page

Ham. The Reds top the table, ahead of Huddersfield, who won 3-0 at Crystal Palace. Reigning champions Chelsea ended with nine men in losing 3-2 to Burnley - their first opening day home defeat for 24 years. Elsewhere there were also wins for Arsenal (4-3 over Leicester in the first-ever Friday top flight League opener), Manchester City (2-0 at Brighton), Everton (1-0 over Stoke with a Wayne Rooney goal - his 'first' for the Toffees since 2004), WBA (1-0 v Bournemouth - the Baggies' 14th such score-line under manager Tony Pulis) and Spurs

(2-0 at 10-man Newcastle). The games between Watford-Liverpool and Southampton-Swansea were drawn, 3-3 and 0-0 respectively. In fact, Saints haven't scored in their last six home games.

After two games, it's Cardiff, Wolves and Nottingham Forest 1-2-3 in the Championship; Oxford lead Peterborough in FL1; Coven-

try top FL2 and St Johnstone head the SPL.

Here in Spain, Cristiano Ronaldo scored and was sent-off as Real Madrid beat Barcelona 3-1 in the first leg of the SuperCopa. The second leg took place last night.

This weekend's PL programme includes Huddersfield-

Newcastle, Leicester-Brighton, Liverpool-Crystal Palace, Stoke-Arsenal, Swansea-Manchester United and Spurs-Chelsea while it's Manchester City-Everton on Monday.

Among the second round League Cup-ties to be played next mid-week we have Accrington-WBA,

Aston Villa-Wigan, Cheltenham-West Ham, MK Dons-Swansea, Southampton-Wolves and Stoke-Rochdale.

Molinari and Thomas's fellow countryman Patrick Reed were second and third. Next up for golf fanatics we have the PGA European tour competitions in Germany and Fiji and the Solheim Cup in the USA - all starting today.

• After big wins over Spain (56-5) and Italy (56-13), England are now favourites to retain the Women's Rugby World Cup in Ireland. Ireland beat Japan 24-14 to remain in the competition but Wales (narrowly beaten by Canada) and Spain (hammered 43-0 by the USA) are out. England play the USA today in Dublin.

• Cricket's first day-night Test Match in the UK started yesterday with England taking on the West Indies at Edgbaston. And after beating South Africa 3-1 in their last series, Joe Root's team is now third in the world rankings, behind India and the Springboks; Australia are fourth.

• Elina Svitolina beat Caroline Wozniacki and Alexander Zverev defeated Roger Federer in the women's and men's tennis singles finals of the Rogers Cup in Montreal, Canada.

• The 72nd La Vuelta a España starts on Saturday and continues until September 10. Almost 200 cyclists will cover 3,300 kilometres in 21 stages.

LUKAKU: Scored two goals on his PL debut with Man U.

JUSTIN THOMAS: won the US PGA golf championship in North Carolina.

The Premiership clubs involved in European competitions enter the competition in round three.

ROUND UP

• American Justin Thomas won the US PGA golf championship in North Carolina - his maiden major title. Italy's Francesco

How football's record transfers have risen in 20 years:

- £19.5m Ronaldo - Barcelona to Inter Milan, 1997
- £22m Denilson - Sao Paulo to Real Betis, 1998
- £28m Christian Vieri - Lazio to Inter Milan, 1999
- £38m Hernan Crespo - Parma to Lazio, 2000
- £37m Luis Figo - Barcelona to Real Madrid, 2000
- £45m Zinedine Zidane - Juventus to Real Madrid, 2001
- £56m Kaka - AC Milan to Real Madrid, 2009
- £80m Cristiano Ronaldo - Man Utd to Real Madrid, 2009
- £85m Gareth Bale - Tottenham to Real Madrid, 2013
- £89m Paul Pogba - Juventus to Manch United, 2016
- £198m Neymar - Barcelona to Paris St-Germain, 2017

NB: Neymar will earn £596,000 a week, £85,143 a day; £3,548 an hour; £59 a minute and 98.5p a second...



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USAIN BOLT pulled up injured in his last ever race, retiring with 19 global golds to his credit.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

17 - 23 August 2017

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SPORT

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Four medals for GB's athletes as women rugby stars pile up points

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

ONCE again, with such a lot of sport taking place over the last seven days, it has proved difficult to select the best of the action but here goes.

ATHLETICS

The two-week World Athletics Championships, attended overall by 701,189 spectators, ended in glory for GB's men who won gold in the third fastest-time ever in the

4x100m relay. Also GB's 4x400m quartet took silver while their women counterparts gained silver and bronze in the 4x100m and 4x400m events. Mo Farah added a 5,000m silver medal to his gold at 10,000m, but sadly superstar Usain Bolt pulled up injured in his last ever race, retiring with 19 global golds to his credit.

And my individual gold winning 'performances' of the games came from Aussie Sally Pearson in the 100m hurdles, Kenya's Hellen Obiri in the 5,000m, Qatar's Mutaz Barshim in the men's high jump and Kenyan Elijah Manangoi in the 1,500m...

plus the Trinidad & Tobago's men in the 4x400m relay final and of course GB's relay teams.

* Farah runs in Birmingham's Diamond League meeting this weekend before having his final track race in Zurich. He'll then switch to the marathon. And former runner Brendan Foster has retired as a BBC commentator after 40 years holding a mike!

FOOTBALL

The opening 10 games of the new Premiership season produced 31 goals, two scored by Romelu Lukaku on his Manchester United debut in a 4-0 thumping of West



ENGLAND: Are now favourites to retain the Women's Rugby World Cup.

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