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MALLORCA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Widow fights back

A WIDOW who was forced to pay the top rate of Spanish tax for non-residents on her deceased husband's Mallorca finca has won €38,000 from the Spanish Supreme Court.

Judges ruled that it was discrimination against foreigners from the EU to force the German national to pay the Spanish state tax rate of 34 per cent. On the Balearic Islands the inheritance tax for the property would have been closer to 1 per cent.

She won thanks to a 2014 ruling from the European Court of Justice which insisted that the Spanish government apply the inheritance tax of autonomous regions to EU foreigners, and not the higher rate of the central tax authorities.

The deadline to apply for such compensation passed in November 2015.

Fraud parents trial

Couple spent €600,000 in donations

By Kat Ashton

A Spanish couple who lived in Mallorca face up to two years in prison.

The pair allegedly exploited their daughter's medical condition for their own benefit and used her to produce pornographic content. A court in Cataluña heard how the couple amassed €918,000 in donations, of which the majority was used for their 'personal enjoyment.'

Eleven-year-old Nadia Nerea Blanca Garau, currently living with family members in Mallorca, suffers from trichothiodystrophy (TTD), a rare inherited condition which is characterised by sufferers having extremely brittle hair caused by a sulphur deficiency. Severe cases can involve intellectual disability, stunted physical development and early death.

Her parents, Fernando Blanco and Margarita Garau, are accused of 'large scale fraud' by profiting from her illness.

As previously reported in the



Photo by Multiplex IB3/Twitter

ALLEGED ABUSERS: Blanco and Garau with Nadia.

Euro Weekly News, they were arrested last December in the town of La Seu d'Urgell, Lleida Province. The pair began a famous fundraising campaign for their daughter in 2008, which attracted the support of several national television stations, but reportedly spent around €600,000, two-thirds of the proceeds, on themselves. Prosecutors in Lleida also revealed that more than 15 photographs were found on the parents' computer, which show the couple having sexual relations while their daughter, who appears naked, is watching.

The judge overseeing the case

decided that Blanco be imprisoned without bail pending results of the trial, while Garau was charged and released. Both parents were also revoked of their custody rights so Nadia is currently living in Mallorca with her maternal aunt.

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Hiking horror

POLICE are probing the death of a German hiker who died after falling 15 metres from a rock edge while hiking near Llucalcari. The 45-year-old was hiking through the Tramuntanas with her husband when she fell at Penyal des Colomer, between Deia and Soller, on Friday afternoon.

She was still alive when transferred to Son Espases hospital but soon succumbed to her injuries.

See us on page 26



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NEWS EXTRA

Starved dog sentence

A SIX month suspended sentence was given to a Palma man for animal abuse. His pit bull was found on the verge of starvation and required an intravenous vitamin drip.

VIP treat

EUROPCAR Spain has chosen Palma airport to open its first VIP lounge in Spain and Europe. The plush waiting room has real-time weather and traffic updates, and mobile and laptop chargers.

Indy saga

A MASS protest against the jailing of key leaders of the separatist Catalan government saw thousands gather outside Palma Town Hall while Balearic president Francina Armengol condemned the arrests.

Resurgent rivals target the Brits

MALLORCA was the centre of attention at the World Travel Market held in London.

The island council was this week in the British capital to promote the region and defuse doubts.

News that subsidised Turkish hotels can offer all-inclusive packages to British tourists for roughly half the price in Mallorca came amid rumblings that 2018 might be a quieter year for the Balearics.

"Mallorca is the most popular destination for the British, but as far as the booking situation for the coming year is concerned, Turkey and other regions are seeing stronger growth than last year," said spokesman for British travel association



Twitter/Consel de Mallorca

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SMILE: Council leaders not concerned about 2018.

ABTA, Sean Tipton. Cheaper long-haul flights have seen more Brits and Germans choose shopping in Dubai or beach-lounging in Costa Rica.

Balearic president Francina Armengol dismissed the Turkish threat, which comes amid negative reports in the British media over the tourist tax doubling and anti-tourist protests across the islands. "We've heard it all before,"

she said, noting that British tourism rose by 2 per cent this year.

There is also little concern that the German market will evaporate overnight. Four in 10 Germans who travelled abroad in 2016 chose the Balearic Islands.

What has declined is the number of tourists choosing package deals, with seven in 10 organising their trips individually.

Triple murder mystery

ONE of Mallorca's most infamous murder cases may never be solved.

On Sunday it will be 20 years since Ballermann 'Beer King' Manfred Meisel was executed alongside his eight-year-old son Patrick and the maid, Claudia Leisten.

Aged 49 when he was killed, the German businessman owned the biggest bar on the Playa de Palma. Crime and corruption were particularly rife.

Twenty years after the killings there are plenty of suspicions but no convictions. Now the statute of limitations is set to expire, Mallorca's police will no longer try to solve the case. The only path to bringing the killer/s, to justice will lie through the Frankfurt prosecutor's office where investigations continue.

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COUCH CRITIC

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S TV THROUGH THE EYES OF A READER

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JESSICA RAINE.



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WEEKLY LEISURE INCLUDING PUZZLES, STARS AND MADDOCK'S VIEW ON LIFE

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THE BEST IN SPORT
SPAIN, UK, EUROPE AND GLOBAL SPORTS SCENE



SERGIO RAMOS.

P54

Fire sale

ON Monday the largest ever Balearic auction of confiscated firearms takes place at the Guardia Civil's Palma headquarters. More than 1,000 shotguns, 29 rifles, 34 revolvers, and 86 pistols are up for grabs. The weapons are on public display until tomorrow at 1pm.

Peeping Tom

A LANDLORD, aged 54, was charged with spying on his tenants in his Palma flat using hidden cameras, disguised as clocks in the bedrooms. He lived upstairs while watching live streams of his guests downstairs. Rooms were advertised online, aimed at young, female university students.

Seafaring pride

A NEW maritime museum will be built in Palma's Ses Voltes park, almost 40 years after the last one closed. A consortium has been set up and is tasked with getting the museum operational within a year. The museum will expand into Palma port and Parc de la Mar.

Paradise park

A BIRD centre will be established in the Es Trenc natural park and its famous dunes protected with money from holiday rental taxes. More than €800,000 will be invested in a wider project to transform Es Trenc into a haven for wildlife and sustainable tourism.

Party panic

A CAR ploughed into a crowd of revellers outside a Palma nightclub around 5.30am on Sunday morning. Multiple emergency vehicles were dispatched amid fears of a terrorist attack. The culprit was a drunk driver, aged 20, who was attacked by the crowd before being arrested.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...35

THE Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of Saint James, has been one of the world's most important religious pilgrimages for centuries, but its popularity has surged in recent years, writes Kat Ashton.

Holy moly!

THE origin of the Camino de Santiago stretches back to the ninth century, when the tomb of Saint James the Great was discovered in Santiago de Compostela.

Legend claims that the remains of the revered apostle were carried by boat from Jerusalem to be buried in the Galician capital.

Since then, millions have flocked to pay their respect to the apostle in the city's cathedral and many churches, monasteries and villages were built around the route.

However, the popularity of the journey began to fade during the 14th century as a result of wars, disease epidemics and natural disasters.

The route began to regain its appeal during the 19th century, but it wasn't until the 1980s, when the Council of Europe declared the site the first European Cultural Route, that the pilgrimage began to surge in popularity once more.



Photo credit: Matt Ford

STUNNING: The remains of Saint James the Great are believed to be buried in the Santiago de Compostela cathedral.

Now people from across the globe flock to complete the Camino each year and nearly 300,000 pilgrims made it to Santiago de Compostela in 2016 alone.

While some still make the journey for religious purposes, many just take the opportunity to test their endurance and explore the Galician countryside.

A long and winding road



Photo credit: Matt Ford

KNACKERED: Hikers abandon their shoes at 'world's end,' the pilgrimage's final destination.

THERE are many different paths that pilgrims can take to reach Santiago, including routes that start in other European countries such as France and Germany.

One of the most popular choices is the 'French Way,' which starts in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees border and making its way through Pamplona, Logroño, Burgos and Leon before it reaches Santiago de Compostela. The route stretches for over 800km and takes around a month to complete.

The true end of the Camino however actually lies at the Cabo Finisterre cape near the Galician fishing village Fisterra. True devotees tackle this extra 100km stretch from Santiago to worship in front of a sacred image of Christ and see the 'World's End.' It has also become tradition for travellers to abandon their destroyed walking shoes here or burn them in fires.

Cheap flights

THE Balearic and Canary Islands have joined forces to demand a 75 per cent discount on flights between the islands and the Spanish peninsula for residents. Presently the discount is 50 per cent. Balearic president Armengol met with Canary counterpart Fernando Clavijo in London to establish the common front.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1687 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 48 local stories.

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EWN a true leader

THE phenomenal growth of *EWN* Online continues.

October was another record-breaking month for the *EWN*'s website and social media platforms which are now firmly established as the leading internet sources of Spanish news in English.

And the increasingly impressive statistics look set to go on during the year-end build up towards Christmas and New Year.

The website is now drawing ever closer to a staggering 900,000 page views per month, with a million clearly achievable in the weeks and

months ahead.

Meanwhile the Facebook page now boasts an amazing near 23,000 followers.

These figures have left all traditional rivals trailing in their wake, with the *EWN* Online team's reputation for round-the-clock, accurate reporting of the latest news increasingly being noted, appreciated, and followed.

The *EWN* has a brief to lead, both in Print and Online, while others appear merely able to follow.

OCTOBER ONLINE

WEBSITE www.euroweeklynews.com

Record of number of page views: **866,944**

UP 21% on previous best month (September 2017)

Number of users: **256,774**

UP 44% on September 2017

Our top article (Ryanair flight cancellations) received over **34,000** page views



TOP ARTICLE: Cancellations.

f euroweeklynews

479 new page likes for the month which takes us **UP to 22,469**

Total reach for October was **945,982** (**20% up** on September) - so we're really nudging the 1 million target!

Top story was the Galicia wildfire story which reached **50,459** people.



RECORD BREAKER:
Facebook
 page continues to grow.



t @euroweeklynews

Tweet impressions up to **67,700**

New followers: **60**

Mentions: **100**



TWITTER: Growing Tweet by Tweet.

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Poll of the week

Is it wrong not to wear a poppy ahead of Remembrance Day?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following the Guardia Civil's announced crackdown on horse hobbling, are police doing enough to combat animal cruelty in Spain?

Yes = 15%

No = 85%

TRIVIA FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The world's deepest postbox is in Susami Bar in Japan, where it sits 10 metres underwater and is often used by divers to leave postcards.



Buzz Aldrin was not the first man on the moon but was however the first person to urinate there, according to National Geographic.

During the Second World War, the crew of British submarine HMS Trident kept a fully grown reindeer called Pollyanna aboard their vessel for six weeks after receiving the animal as a gift from Russia.

★★★★★
Did you know?

A US ranger went into the Guinness Book of World Records for being struck the most times by lightning. Roy Sullivan was hit seven times throughout his life, in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia.

Lost in translation



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CORRECTIONS

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

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Little bits on the side

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Born to be a star

SHE'S the Marbella-born actress who appears set to conquer Hollywood.

And Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown is well on the way to achieving her dream after the second season of hit series Stranger Things amassed over a record million mentions on Twitter within 48 hours of it being released.

The 13-year-old, whose parents hail from Boumemouth, is said to be worth more than €5.5 million after the first season of the supernatural drama garnered 22 million viewers in the United States alone.

It comes after the starlet appeared on the cover of *Teen Vogue* and was named in *Time Magazine's* Influential Teens of 2017.

She has now signed lucrative deals to promote Calvin Klein and Converse products after spending the summer filming upcoming blockbuster *Godzilla: King of Monsters* alongside Oscar nominee Vera Farmiga and English screen icon Charles Dance.



GOING PLACES: Millie Bobby Brown.

Cristi Pedroche/Instagram



RAUNCHY: Christina Pedroche.

Sheer delight!

SHE'S the actress and host who set tongues wagging after presenting Spain's televised New Year's Eve coverage in a transparent dress.

And Christina Pedroche, 29, again left little to the imagination as she put on an eye-popping display after taking to the catwalk during the 2017 Women's Secret Night lingerie show in Madrid.

She shared the runway with famous Spanish models including Rocio Crusset and Estela Grande at the glittering event presented by Hollywood star Elsa Pataky.

Hopping mad Playboy bunny mugged

A WELL-KNOWN Spanish glamour model has been robbed after having her clothes sliced open in Madrid. Wilma Gomez, 33, was at a train station when she realised that a brand new mobile phone and 600 USD were missing from her jacket.

"I went to buy a ticket and when I put my hand in my pocket there was a big hole," she said. "It's a very busy place and because I'm so clueless I thought I had



Wilma Gonzalez/Instagram

CHRISTMAS CRACKER: Wilma Gomez.

lost my cell phone or my money, which I was going to exchange for Euros. "They literally cut my clothes!"

But it was not all bad news for the 2007 Miss Playboy Spain, who currently stars on TV in Chile, as the stunner revealed that she was visiting her home country for a festive photo shoot. "I'll be on the cover of the Christmas edition of Playboy," confirmed the Mallorca-born bombshell. "The first time I did it was in 2008."

Hot and heavy

HE'S played an introverted schoolboy, a manipulative teenager and a mutant superhero.

But British actor Nicholas Hoult, 27, appears to have finally come of age after stripping off for a raunchy sex scene alongside 32-year-old Spanish actress Laia Costa in his latest film *Newness*.

The romantic drama premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival and has just been released worldwide via streaming service Netflix.

Katie Salmon/Instagram



STEAMY: Hoult and Costa.

A bit Messi

FOOTBALL mega star Lionel Messi's wife Antonella Rocuzzo appeared to accidentally reveal that the pair's third child will be a boy. The blunder came in a birthday social media message to eldest son Thiago, who recently turned five. It comes after the 29-year-old last month confirmed that she was pregnant after tying the knot with the 30-year-old Barcelona striker in June.



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NEWS EXTRA**Fire louts
hunted**

POLICE are hunting three young people spotted leaving a burning vehicle in Peguera, in the tunnel to Andratx. They emerged with beer bottles and didn't report the incident.

Pay day

A LANDOWNER who was banned from developing his potentially lucrative Camp de Mar estate for conservation reasons will be compensated with almost €40 million, a record sum for the Balearics.

Sex pest

A MAN who groped the breasts and buttocks of an Arta woman as she returned home was jailed for one year after admitting pouncing on her from behind in a Palma court.

Iron Brits

TWO Brits, Lucy Gosage and Tom Vickery won the women's and men's triathlon held in Port d'Alcudia over the weekend. The mini Ironman competition saw dozens of roads closed to traffic.

Rape trial

A MAN, aged 38 and from Palma, accused of raping a mentally disabled young girl repeatedly between the ages of 12 and 15, is facing more than a decade behind bars.

Guru bash

MALLORCA'S Sikh community celebrated the birthday of Guru Nanak, founder of the religion, with a colourful festival in Palma favouring spinach and lentil pastries over meat and alcohol.

Skyrocketing rents on the island

MALLORCA is one of the few places in Spain where rents are higher than they were a decade ago. The Balearic Islands and Cataluña are the only regions in the country where rents have surpassed the historic peaks of 2007.

Nationwide the average monthly

rent is still 17.2 per cent below the high point of 2007, before the crisis struck. But they are 1.4 per cent higher for Balearic residents, and 1.3 per cent for Catalans.

In Madrid rents are 14.2 per cent lower than they were a decade ago, while in the Valencian community

the figure is 20.1 per cent.

Nationally rents have risen by 13.5 per cent in 24 months after plummeting by almost a third during the crisis years, said minister for development Iñigo de la Serna.

This, he argued, contradicts reports that rents are higher than ever,

though in the Balearic Islands that is true.

Opponents to holiday rentals on the islands argue that they drive up rents for local residents as landlords seek to maximise their income by renting to tourists instead.

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OUR VIEW

Time to reflect

AS hundreds of thousands get ready to consider the futility of war and to proudly wear their poppies on Remembrance Sunday, people are still dying around the world.

Not every war is a formal declaration between two or more countries but in many ways, unofficial armed conflict is even worse as those taking part will often ignore what are known as the 'rules of war'.

There are no less than 44 recognised international armed conflicts where a minimum of 100 people were killed during the past 12 months and in a number of cases, such as Syria and Yemen, the conflicts are supported by foreign financial and military aid.

Representatives of the American government have recently made it clear that the only way to get North Korea to change its ways is by a full invasion and the industry of war benefits the taxpayers and economies of America and most of the European Union.

This ignores the atrocities that have been committed by Daesh on innocent civilians and which sadly can never be contained as a single madman driving a vehicle into a random crowd can never be contained.

Sunday is a time to reflect on the past and the future and to hope that our leaders do what they can to protect as many innocent lives as possible.

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ROLLING IN IT: Miquel Fluxa (inset) is the president of Iberostar hotels.

That's a bit rich!

FIVE Mallorcans have been named among the 100 richest people in Spain.

The Spanish Forbes rich list, published each year, has Iberostar president Miquel Fluxa down as the wealthiest man on the island in 2017.

Fluxa, aged 79, has an estimated fortune of €3.6 billion, making him the fourth richest person in Spain.

Last year the Esporles resident was fifth, but a successful

2017 has seen the hotel chief add €600 million to his bank balance.

Fellow Mallorca-born hotel magnate, Gabriel Escarrer, president of Melia Hotels International, is 17th on the national list. He has amassed a fortune of around €1.6 billion.

Siblings Carmen and Luis Riu of Palma, who inherited the RIU hotel group, have €550 million a piece and share 50th spot on the Forbes list.

The final Mallorcan to make the cut is Juan Jose Hidalgo, president of Globalia and Air Europa, who is in 72nd place with a €400 million fortune.

Topping the table is Amancio Ortega, the Inditex founder whose €70 billion towers above the rest, surpassing the joint fortunes of the top 50.

His daughter Sandra is in second place with €6.5 billion, followed by Mercadona boss Juan Roig in third.

The name's Nadal

RAFAEL NADAL was briefly blocked from the Paris Masters by a security guard. Despite having one of the most famous faces in tennis, the Mallorcan star wasn't recognised by the French bouncer, who demanded to see his pass.

The awkward incident was caught on film as a French camera crew followed Nadal through the locker rooms towards the training courts. It took place before the world number one bowed out of the tournament with a knee injury.

As he marched towards the courts, the guard stepped in his way and asked to see his pass in French. Nadal, by now trying to manoeuvre around the man, replied in English that he doesn't have it here. The guard, blocking his access, asked "Who are you?" and on hearing the world famous name duly stepped aside.

Though Nadal was forced out of the Masters tournament through injury, he ensured that he would finish 2017 as world number one by beating Hyeon Chung in the last 16.

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Photo credit: Shutterstock/Twitter

GRISLY FIND: Mutilated cow (inset) washed ashore at Cala Domingos.

It's a moo-stery

Mutilated cows dumped in sea

A COW with part of its ear cut off washed ashore at Cala Domingos on the east coast with no identification number.

A dozen cows have now washed up on Mallorca's beaches in the past two years according to the Centre for the Protection of Domestic Animals (CEPAD). The Santa Eugenia-based group was tasked with removing the body. Others have appeared in Alcudia, Soller, and Calvia.

CEPAD director Antoni

Mas says that all of the cows recovered from the sea have had their ears cut. Microchips identifying cattle are implanted into their ears, leaving CEPAD to suspect that farmers are disposing of bodies to avoid cremation costs.

There is no specialised incinerator on Mallorca, though Son Reus will finish the job if the remains are delivered. On Menorca it costs €0.80 per kilo for incineration, roughly €400 per cow.

But Balearic director-general for agriculture, Mateu Ginard, said that insurance companies often cover the incineration fees. Alongside Mallorca and Menorca farmers, he raised a third possibility: "It could be one of the many transporters of livestock who makes the route from Tarragona to the Middle East," he said.

CEPAD admit that it is hard to determine where exactly the animals were thrown into the sea.

Regardless, there are concerns that small fishing boats could crash into the carcasses in the dead of night.

410m People speak Spanish as a native language, making it the second most popular language in the world.

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NEWS EXTRA

Big Apple payout

AN office worker at a Calvia insurance company was awarded €11,000 compensation when bosses backtracked on a promised trip to New York for good performance because of his trade union activities.

Water worry

KEY reservoirs at Ciber and Gorg Blau are operating at just a third of their capacity after a demanding and relatively dry summer. Desalinated water has been purchased to stave off drought.

Busy bees

MORE than half a million people were employed in the Balearic tourism sector in October, a record for the month, as the islands strive to become a year-round destination.

Gang bust

ALL nine members of a gang accused of a string of 50 burglaries in Magaluf and Torrenova have been caught and were under the sway of a violent leader, said the Guardia Civil.

Hurt turtle

AN injured two-metre-long leatherback sea turtle was spotted at Soller last Thursday. At the time of writing the search continued for the endangered animal, which rarely strays into the Mediterranean.

Drug raid

POLICE raided the Palma slum neighbourhood of Son Banya on Friday, seizing 10 kilograms of cocaine and €100,000 in cash from different gangs while making five arrests.

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Fit for a queen

Leader's unusual gifts

WINE, perfume, chocolate and earrings are among the many gifts received by Balearic president Francina

Armengol. The region's on-line transparency portal has made her list of gifts from Spanish leaders and top CEOs public.

Man of the moment Carles Puigdemont is on the list. The leader of the separatist Catalan government, currently in Brussels, gave Armengol a book on Catalan history and art.

Fernando Clavijo of the Canary Islands, brought her a set of earrings, not to be worn with the headphones presented by toll road management company Abertis.

There were three bottles of wine from La Rioja president Jose Ignacio Ceniceros, a tapestry from Corisan leader Gilles Simeoni, and perfume from the Pacha Group.

Despite being a Barcelona fan, Armengol was given a bottle of wine by Real Madrid president Florentino



LUCKY LADY: Armengol (below) lavished with wine.

Perez. She also received a ticket to ride the Soller train from the Soller Railway, and a radio alarm clock from Kiss FM.

The gifts are handed over to different departments and considered state property. The lavish attention might not make up for the fact that more than 100 Balearic officials will have higher salaries than the president next year.

Her €66,240 salary will be dwarfed by the new anti-corruption tsar, expected to be treasury inspector Jaime Far, who will earn around €95,000.



NEWS EXTRA

Winter chill out

AFTER heavy rains on Saturday and a chilly start to the week, temperatures are expected to be moderate, with highs of 19 over this weekend, lows of 10 and cloud cover.

Hotel fire

TWO people were treated for smoke inhalation when a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Occidental Hotel on the Playa de Palma early on Sunday evening.

Exotic idea

TREES, shrubs and artificial sand dunes will give the Playa de Palma a more exotic feel, thanks to a €2.1 million investment to create a 400-metre-long green corridor.

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Advertising Feature

Sterling suffers a shock defeat

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

The euro had an uneventful week. It was unchanged against the Japanese yen and a couple of dozen ticks higher against the US dollar and Swiss franc. The ecostats from Euroland were, by and large, positive for the currency: the handful of consumer and business confidence measures compiled by the EC came in above forecast and the first stab at third quarter growth showed the economy expanding by 0.6%.

Sterling's week was nothing but eventful. Until Wednesday it was toddling along quite nicely. At that point it was knocked slightly off balance by the resignation of the UK defence minister. The following lunchtime it was smashed after the Bank of England delivered its widely expected interest rate increase. The bank made a big point of telling investors not to hold their breath for a further rate hike so they fled, leaving the pound four-fifths of a euro cent lower on the week.

USD weekly currency update

Taxes and the leadership of the Federal Reserve were the hot topics for the dollar. The Fed

question was resolved, to investors' general approval, when Donald Trump nominated the serving governor Jay Powell as chairman. He is seen as an agent of continuity, not of change. The president's tax cuts and reforms are proceeding through Congress as smoothly as he might like but at least they do seem to be making forward progress. The dollar did not have a brilliant week but only lost a couple of dozen ticks to the euro.

Sterling suffered a shock defeat on Thursday after the Bank of England delivered its widely-touted rate increase, lifting Bank Rate back up to 0.5%. The bank went out of its way to stress that investors should not expect any further rate hikes for a jolly long time. Sterling lost a swift two euro cents, leaving it four-fifths of a cent behind on the week.

CAD weekly currency update

During the early part of the week it was the Loonie that was on the defensive. The main catalysts for its setback were the data for Canadian producer prices and gross domestic product. All were lower on the month and the economy's

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0.1% shrinkage in August was particularly off-putting to investors. The Canadian dollar fairly easily recovered its composure for a weekly gain of a third of a US cent.

Sterling's week began well and ended badly, with the loss of one and a half Canadian cents. It was all down to the Bank of England's decision to raise Bank Rate from 0.25% to 0.5%. The move was almost universally expected and investors were taken aback when the bank stressed there would be no further increase for at least a year. They knocked an immediate two cents off sterling and it has yet to show a sign of recovery.

AUD weekly currency update

It was a fairly ordinary week for the Aussie,

which was on average unchanged against the other dozen most actively-traded currencies. It took half a cent off the US dollar and went up by the thick end of two cents against sterling. There were no hugely important Australian economic statistics, which was perhaps just as well because many of those that did appear fell short of forecast, notably new home sales, manufacturing activity and building permits.

Sterling was never going to have an ordinary week. All eyes were on the Bank of England, which was expected to raise interest rates for the first time in a decade. It did precisely that on Thursday, taking Bank Rate up to 0.5%, and sterling tanked. First, investors tried to take the profits they should have taken ahead of the event; second, the bank made it abundantly clear that no further increase will be forthcoming.

NZD weekly currency update

Although the South African rand eventually beat it to the line the NZ dollar put a run of losses behind it to deliver a strong week's performance. It added one US cent and went up by three and a half cents against sterling. The Kiwi's key advantage was the employment data for the third quarter. They beat forecast on every metric, with 2.2% more people in work and a fall in the rate of unemployment from 4.8% to 4.6%.

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'We're playing with democracy'

EX-CATALAN President Carles Puigdemont was released on bail in Belgium after the Spanish government issued a European arrest warrant in his name.

Puigdemont had fled to Brussels after Spanish authorities voted to impose direct rule on Cataluña following the illegal independence referendum on October 1.

Puigdemont, along with four of his ministers, handed himself into the Belgian authorities on Sunday but they were freed after a 10-hour hearing.

The court will now decide whether to act on the warrant.

Catalan officials face up to 30 years in prison on charges of rebellion, embezzlement of public funds, sedition and disobedience.

Eight members of the former parliament have already been jailed following a hearing in Madrid, which Puigdemont re-



Credit: aplus/Twitter

IN LIMBO: Carles Puigdemont must wait for Belgian officials to decide whether to extradite him.

fused to attend, pending the government's enquiry into the controversial referendum.

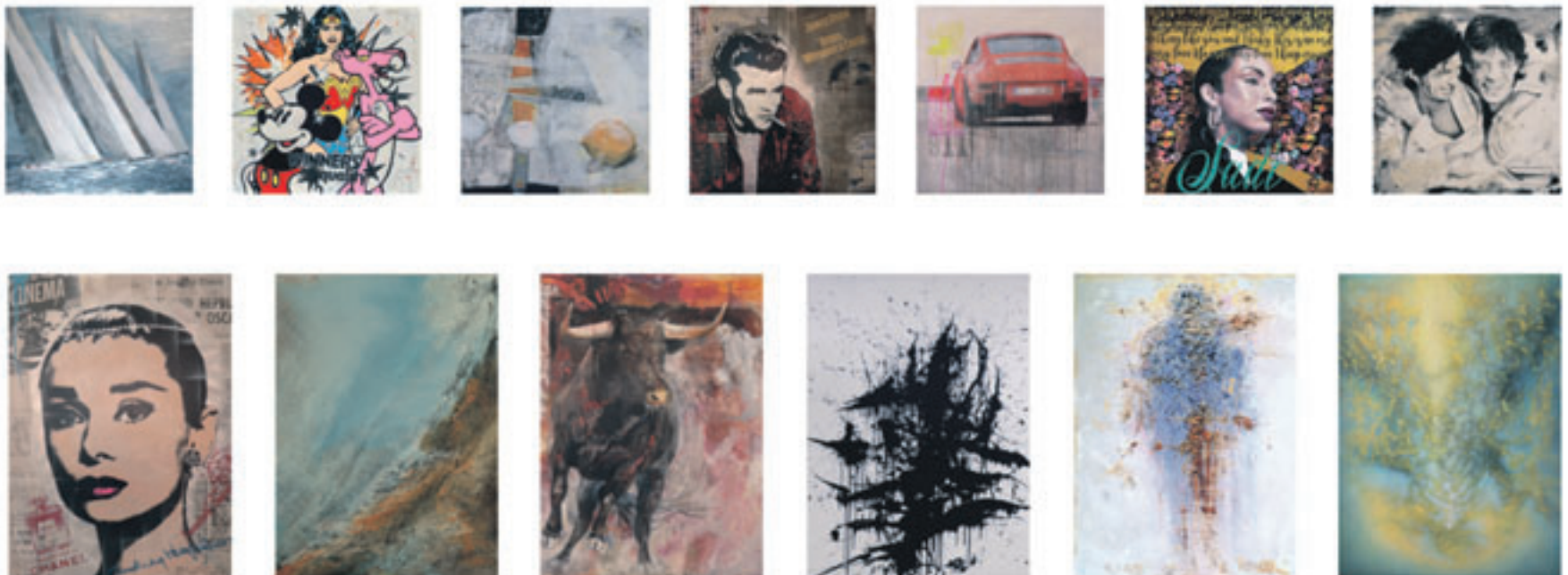
Meanwhile, in an article he wrote for a British newspaper, Puigdemont pointed out how the "leaders of this democratic project face the severest punishment possible - the same as for cases of terrorism or murder."

"The Spanish state must honour what was said so many times in the years of terrorism: end violence and we can talk about everything," he declared. "We're playing with much more than our personal futures: we're playing with democracy itself."



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Photo credit: Hooters

SIZZLING: Hooters is known for its fried food and scantily-clad staff.

What a hoot!

US chain keeps abreast of Europe

EYEPOPPING US chain Hooters has confirmed it is to open its first diner in Spain.

The raunchy brand is famed for its chicken wings and beer served by young waitresses in revealing outfits, which have earned it the self-proclaimed 'breastaurant' moniker.

And with more than 430 eateries in 28 countries, the first Spanish Hooters will soon open in Castelldefels, Barcelona, according to the

company's Facebook page.

Hooters has come under fire for objectifying women due to its compulsory barely-there orange-and-white uniform consisting of tiny shorts combined with a cleavage-enhancing vest top, while the logo features an owl with its eyes replaced by nipples.

In the US, it has attracted further criticism for promotional events such as staff beauty pageants and calendars with

photos of girls in various states of undress, while female applicants are reportedly asked to reveal their measurements during the interview process.

It comes as Director of Operations in Spain, Julio Arias, moved to dismiss claims that the restaurant was forced to seek an alternative to its original site in Viladecans after being slammed by feminist groups, insisting that the switch was due to 'space issues.'

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Emma

By Calanova Cancer Care

ANGELA MACGRATH on behalf of Calanova Cancer Care presented a cheque for €2,000 to Jackie Codd of Age Concern.

Age Concern is an indispensable association which helps older citizens with a variety of needs with the utmost discretion

and kindness.

They are in big need of help with funding and volunteers, so if you have a few hours which you can dedicate it would be much

appreciated.

Anyone who can help please get in touch with Jackie on 678 352 040.

Angela also presented a €2,000 cheque to Krista of Cancer Support, who work tirelessly to help all those with cancer giving immense support and donating knitted knockers, wigs,

art classes, and much more.

They work closely with Age Concern and Spanish hospitals providing an invaluable service for foreign residents on the Island.

Anyone wishing to help, or can knit and could help to make knockers, contact

Krista on 661 080 101.

Finally, a third cheque was handed to Micky of Micky Pillows, who with her marvellous ladies sew pillows which are given to all those with breast cancer to make them more comfortable.

These ladies work magic with their needles and also

make knockers, scarves, headwear for adults and children, and bedspreads for children with cancer.

If you are a whizz with a needle and would like to help contact Micky on 617 658 447.

Thanks to all who come to the Cancer Care shop to donate or buy!

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ALL SMILES: Angela, right, donates to Jackie Codd.



MICKY PILLOWS: Receives her donation from Angela.



CANCER SUPPORT: Angela hands a cheque to Krista.

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SWEDEN

Rail rise

THE number of people choosing to take the train over the Oresund Bridge between Sweden and Denmark has increased after police stopped carrying out ID checks on commuters earlier this year.

Wise words

THE oldest blogger in Sweden, 105-year-old Dagny Carlsson, has expressed her support of the global #MeToo campaign which brings incidences of sexual harassment to light on social media.

Weapons raid

POLICE have detained three people suspected of possessing illegal weapons during an operation which involved setting off smoke grenades in the Stock-

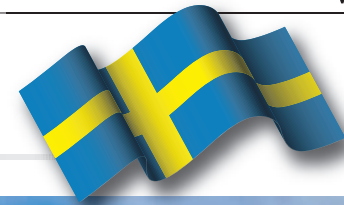


STRETCHING OUT: More people now choose to make the 16km commute over the Oresund Bridge by train.

holm hotel where they were staying.

Mix-up

CHARGES have been dropped



against a Swedish driver who allegedly showed children as young as 10 a 'pornographic film' on a school bus when it emerged the film was actually just a romantic comedy.

GERMANY

Job joy

UNEMPLOYMENT numbers in Germany remained at a record low of 5.6 per cent in October, according to a report by the Federal Labour Agency, which is the lowest level since the reunification in 1990.

Wind power

GERMANY reportedly generated so much wind power over the

weekend that costs fell to below zero and a new wind energy record was broken, according to Wind Europe.

Hot spot

A NEW study has revealed that Germany has overtaken the UK as Europe's top destination for real estate investment, increasing from

€54 billion to €68 billion in the past year alone.

Drugged up

A 52-YEAR-OLD 'natural healer' was taken to court after allegedly drugging a group of doctors at a convention in the town of Handloh, 27 of which had to be treated in hospital.



FRANCE

Father's say

NEARLY 58,000 people have signed a petition to call for paternity leave in France to be extended from the current limit of 11 days to six weeks.

Paris poem

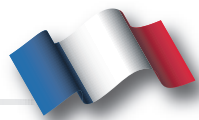
FRENCH president Emmanuel Macron surprised a 13-year-old British girl on her birthday when he sent his response to a poem she wrote about the Eiffel tower and sent to the Elysee Palace.

Taking sides

IT has been revealed that only 10 per cent of French people have a positive view of US President Donald Trump while 25 per cent approve of Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Cutting back

FRANCE has announced plans to severely reduce the number of people given the 200-year-old Legion d'Honneur award each year, with officials saying that it will only be awarded in the future based solely on merit.



BELGIUM

Tragedy strikes

A BELGIAN mother of two was killed when a terrorist ploughed into cyclists in New York on Tuesday, while a further three Belgian nationals were injured in the attack which killed eight in total.

Party pooped

POLICE were sent to an abandoned warehouse in Engis in the early hours of last Wednesday morning to break up a rave party that was being held in secret.

Hostile hosts

BRUSSELS is looking into reports that the UK government is creating a hostile environment for European citizens living in Britain after 5,300 were expelled from the country during the previous 12 months.

Trouble makers

A BELGIAN mayor has banned far-right leaders from Dutch nationalist parties from holding a rally in Brussels' Molenbeek neighbourhood, which has a large Muslim community, over fears that it would disrupt the peace.



NETHERLANDS

Under watch

THE Netherlands will hold a referendum to decide whether to pass a new surveillance law, which will allow agencies to gather data from large groups of people at once, after nearly 400,000 signed a petition to oppose it.

Fungi found

A RARE fungus known as 'bishop's mitre' which has not been seen in the Netherlands for nearly three decades was spotted in a nature reserve in Twente, according to the Nature Today website.

Gender gap

THE Netherlands has dropped from 16th to 32nd place on the World Economic Forum's annual gender equality ranking, after it was revealed there is still a 16 per cent average wage gap between men and women.

Actor shamed

DUTCH bank ING has decided to drop Kevin Spacey as a speaker at their Business Boost event in Rotterdam later this month following multiple accusations alleging the actor committed sexual assault.



NORWAY

Free labour

A STUDY which analyses the pay gap between men and women found that women in Norway would stop being paid on November 6 if their wage was divided into the same amount earned by men each month.

Going for gold

NORWAY has unveiled plans to bid to host the Winter Olympics 2026, which would allegedly cost the country €2.3 billion and would be the first time they have hosted the games in more than 30 years.

Flying high

NORWEGIAN AIR has been named Europe's best low-cost airline for the fifth year in a row at the Airline Excellence Awards, and has been revealed to carry around 5.2 million UK passengers each year alone.

Fish threat

A SPECIES of trout that has lived in Norway's Bandak Lake since the Ice Age is reportedly under threat as a result of the development of hydropower in the area.



DENMARK

Cheery country

DENMARK has been included in list of the top 10 most positive countries in the world for the first time, which is based on the amount of positive actions and achievements accomplished over the past year.

Green reach

THE green light has been given to build a 750-kilometre-long cable between Denmark and the UK to help the Danes export green power produced by wind turbines.

Rained down

THE wet weather over the summer in Denmark turned out to mean bad business Carlsberg beer, which normally sees profits rise when it's sunny, as the annual turnover dropped by 1 per cent.

Auto theft

FIVE men have been accused of theft and fraud after hiring luxury rental cars in Barcelona and Paris and driving them to Copenhagen, with no intention of returning them.



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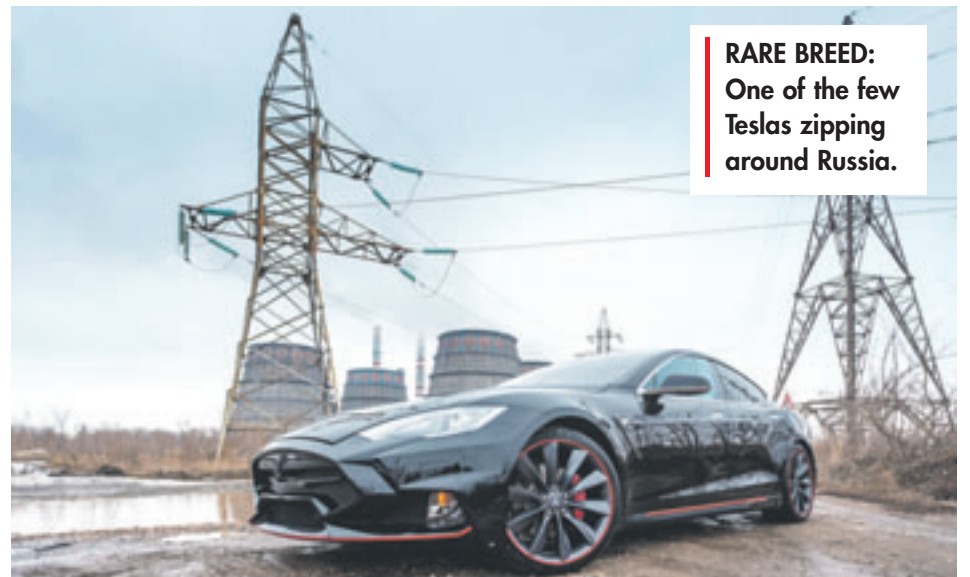
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Electric style



RARE BREED:
One of the few Teslas zipping around Russia.

TESLA has more than doubled the number of its electric cars sold in Russia in the past year. The American giant is still looking for a Moscow showroom but has name value among the country's rich and famous. Billionaire Roman Abramovich is believed to have bought 20 Tesla cars for his friends.

Gulag life

A HUMAN rights group claims there are 117 'political prisoners' in Russian jails. The number has shot up by 15 in the past year say the Memorial NGO. It says the real number is "undoubtedly much larger." The Kremlin has previously denounced the organisation as a 'foreign agent.'

Swine threat

A SEVERED pig's head was dumped at the office of a businessman in Irkutsk. He had agreed to provide a meeting space to Alexei Navalny, the country's main opposition leader. Navalny met thousands of supporters last week in Siberia. The anti-corruption crusader is despised by Putin supporters.

Dead assassin

A CHECHEN accused of plotting to kill President Putin survived an assassination attempt in Kiev. A volley of bullets struck Adam Osmayev's car, injuring him and killing his wife. The couple fought as volunteers against Russian soldiers in east Ukraine. She had thwarted an earlier murder attempt by shooting dead the assassin.

Immortal photos

A NEW art project takes photos of young victims of the Soviet purges of the 20th century and re-imagines them as modern day hipsters. Hassan Bakhaev gained access to thousands of old photos from the Immortal Barracks database. He used computer technology to merge modern clothes into the frames.

Bye privacy

ANONYMOUS web browsing is now illegal in Russia. VPN software, which enables internet users to secretly access blocked websites, is heavily regulated. This makes it difficult for netizens to avoid their location being tracked as they surf the web, a trick used by the young and hackers.

Officer swoon

A HANDSOME young policeman from St Petersburg has managed to attract 50,000 followers on Instagram. Roman, aged 23, accidentally drove the internet wild with simple photos of him in uniform near major attractions. Red-faced with the unexpected attention, he has since deleted his account.



Photo credit: Instagram

DASHING: Young policeman driving Russian women wild.

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Bank warns of growth slowdown

THE Spanish economy has steadily recovered over the past three years, allowing the government to be confident that it can meet financial targets set by the European Union.

The Bank of Spain however has indicated that unless the Catalan crisis is resolved quickly that economic growth could be threatened and in a worst case scenario be as low as 2.5 per cent against a forecast 3.1 per cent.

Check in and be weighed

By John Smith

AS airlines become increasingly more streamlined and cost aware, so they are anxious to become more efficient and two are now weighing passengers.

For years, those travelling on commuter helicopters in the USA were required to be weighed in order to ensure even distribution of people and baggage, but Air Samoa are now charging overweight passengers extra in order to affray fuel costs.

Now the concept has travelled across the Pacific and Atlantic to

Europe and Finnair has started asking passengers flying out of Helsinki to pop on the scales with their hand baggage.

This is voluntary and the more rotund will not be charged extra but the concept could well be copied by airlines across the EU although at already busy airports like Malaga, the extra time taken may delay the introduction of personal weigh ins.

A spokesman for the airline explained that whilst it was possible

for any airline to gauge the weight of any aircraft and checked baggage accurately, it had to rely on European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) passenger standard weight estimates which assume that a male weighs 84.6kg, a female passenger weighs 66.5kg and the average child under-12 weighs 30.7kg.

By checking on the actual weight of passengers the Finnish can then produce its own averages with the hope that it may be able to reduce the amount of fuel needed for each flight.

Freixenet decides to stay

IN an about face, Freixenet the Catalan-based cava producer has decided to keep its headquarters in the province.

Now that the Spanish government has applied Article 155 and dismissed the Catalan parliament, the president of the Freixenet board has made it clear that there is now no longer any need to relocate which it had seriously considered.

Quote of the Week

It isn't so much where inflation is now but where it is going that concerns us," commented Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England after it raised interest rates 0.5 per cent.



High speed train shortlist

THE UK Department for Transport has shortlisted five companies for a £2.75 billion (€3 billion) contract to build

trains for the new HS2 rail network.

The winner will design, build and service some 54 new high-speed trains and one of those selected Patentes Talgo is Spanish with its head office near Madrid.

The high speed trains which should have a top speed 225mph are due to be

ready to come into service by 2026.

After being criticised for giving lucrative rail contracts to

overseas companies which may have resulted in British workers losing their jobs, the short list contains a number of companies with UK manufacturing bases.

The fact that these companies have been short listed is important to them, but the tender

will not be issued until next year and contracts awarded only in 2019.



Prototype high speed train.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Hi-energy

ENERGY Company Red Eléctrica de España (REE) made a profit of €495.5 million in the first three quarters of the year.

This is 5.1 per cent more than in the same period of 2016 and is in line with company forecasts.

Job losses

UNEMPLOYMENT in Spain increased by 56,844 in October which is considered to be a positive result considering that October is traditionally a bad month, with the average figure nearer to 90,000 over the past 10 years. November figures however may increase due to the Catalan crisis.

Oil boost

REPSOL, one of the major Spanish oil companies, has reported a profit of €576 million (higher than forecast) for the third quarter of the year. Overall debt at the end of September had reduced to €6.97 billion, thanks to higher oil prices.

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Senate demands help for Jordan

THE Senate, the Upper House of Spain's Parliament has signed a document urging the Spanish government to give financial support to the Kingdom of Jordan.

In addition, it wants Spain to demand that the European Union also gives economic assistance to Jordan which is being crippled by the

cost of dealing with large numbers of Syrian refugees.

It is estimated that there are several hundred thousand Syrians claiming asylum in that country who have joined up to two million Palestinians, hundreds of thousands of whom live in refugee camps.



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As Spanish stores join in BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY APPROACH

THE concept of a special day of discounts goes back to 1932 when a number of US businesses realised that people were bored on the day after Thanksgiving.

America stops for the Thanksgiving public holiday held on the fourth Thursday of November every year and the next day, almost by default, is taken as an extra holiday by millions of people.

This year Black Friday falls on November 24 and American stores see this as the start of the Christmas season with many taking advantage of the discounts to commence their Christmas (and in many cases Hanukkah) gifts.

For decades, this phenomena was kept the other side of the Atlantic but as more and more US corporations became involved in owning business in Europe, so the concept of Black Friday moved over and now it is yet another excuse for sales in the UK and more recently Spain.

Amazon, the online giant started to trail their Black Friday deals at the beginning of November and also include a deal of the day in the run up to that Friday, although they have in the past launched Black Friday a week earlier and run their offers for two weeks!

Retailers ensure that there are a number of bargains in store but in previous years there has been chaos as consumers arrive hours in advance of opening and push and fight in order to grab the relatively small number of real bargains available.

Someone is always ready to dream up a bright alternative and now we also have Cyber Monday where other companies offer their goods at discount online with the downside being your computer



BLACK FRIDAY:
Crowds gather.

might crash but you won't be crushed.

Spain has come a little late to the party, but major chains and even some local stores are likely to participate although they tend to simply offer percentage discounts on items of clothing and electrical goods rather than making significant cuts on individual pieces seen in other countries.

OFFSHORE TAX HAVENS ARE BACK IN THE NEWS Paradise Papers hacked

THE hacking of a law firm based in an offshore tax haven, this time Bermuda, has highlighted the amount of wealth now estimated at €10 trillion lodged secretly around the world.

Even a 91-year-old woman and her 96-year-old husband are caught up in this investigation although a spokesperson for HM Queen Elizabeth II has made it clear the investment of £10 million (€11.25 million) in Bermuda and Cayman Islands is quite legal.

The United Kingdom is very much involved in these latest revelations as the law firm Appleby which is reported as being hacked is based in the Isle of Man with offices in the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, all British Overseas Territories and all with UK appointed Governors.

Britain's involvement with offshore tax havens has been long and for many years has attracted adverse reviews from countries such as the USA with stricter control only taking place recently.

When added to the fact that many British lawyers and fund managers are



**QUEEN ELIZABETH has money
in Offshore Tax Havens.**

heavily involved in advising clients as to legal means of avoiding tax, Britain is certainly far from innocent in its overseeing of the activities of its Caribbean Territories in particular.

It isn't just the Queen who has taken advantage of the situation according to the latest revelations

following the Appleby hack in what is now being called the 'Paradise Papers.'

It is suggested that the major shareholders in Arsenal and Everton, who have both worked together whilst making their money in Russia not only have investments offshore via Appleby but may also be sailing close to the wind with regards to rules concerning ownership of more than one Premier League club.

Others said to be involved include a close aid of Canadian Prime Min-

ister Trudeau who has campaigned against tax havens as well as American billionaire and recently appointed US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross who for years advised Donald Trump with many more names yet to be revealed.

The latest accusation is that the former mayor of Barcelona and current spokesman of the PDeCAT - which supports Catalan Independence - Xavier Trias Vidal de Llobatera has been a beneficiary of a family trust which had money in Switzerland for decades although he denies knowing about it.

The politicians in the Territories involved take the view that it is not their duty to collect tax on behalf of other larger countries and they are doing what they can to ensure the financial well-being of their fellow countrymen by keeping taxes to a minimum.

Following the major coverage of the previous 'Panama Papers' which resulted in many political resignations around the world, this latest scandal looks set to run and run.

Santander to reduce staff

BANCO SANTANDER is going to employ an independent company to advise it on how best to handle the staff it has inherited following the takeover of Banco Popular.

It has already confirmed that it intends to make redundancies in both bank's workforces and envisages the loss of several hundred positions over the next 12 months.

Having already closed 300 of the Popular branches and disposing of more than 2,500 staff soon after the takeover it now wants to try to integrate a number of the remaining inherited staff into its existing operation.

Santander now employs more than 200,000 staff in its combined Spanish and International branches which is a slight reduction in the workforce during 2017.

Government to review mortgage laws

WORK on legislation to bring Spanish mortgage rules in line with European Union directives is about to be undertaken which will give consumers greater protection.

It is expected that draft regulations will ensure that banks will be unable to evict homeowners who are in default on their loans as easily as they can currently and that there will be limits as to the percentage of default that has to be reached before action can be taken.

In addition, it is intended that companies will be prohibited from setting targets for those staff selling mortgages, as targets with commissions can sometimes encourage canvassers to allow those who can't afford repayments to be accepted.

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Photo Credit: Carrefour

QUALITY PRODUCE: The new Market Boulevard store.

Carrefour still continues growth

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FRENCH supermarket group Carrefour continues to grow in Spain and is about to open its sixth store to remain open 24 hours a day.

Whilst the company has been opening superstores in suburbs of main towns and cities and even 'cash and carry' outlets Supeco, it is also looking to expand its gourmet Market outlets in affluent areas throughout Spain.

The new Carrefour Market Boulevard is described by the company as "one of the best supermarkets in Madrid" and is stocked with quality produce

of the type that might be found in specialist departments in Harrods or Selfridges.

With 12,000 products ranging from fresh fish to sushi, quality cheeses and meats and a fresh bakery, the Market even includes dedicated eateries, as well as a fine wine cellar.

Supermarkets generate huge amounts of income for their shareholders and have to be increasingly more innovative and focused on target groups in order to ensure that they maintain and increase their market share.

American agency expects house prices to rise in Spain

COINCIDING with the decision by the government to change mortgage regulations, an American credit rating agency is forecasting a surge in Spanish house prices.

One of the three main agencies, Moody's has reviewed pricing and building in various European countries and whilst Spain is not at the top of the league, it believes that prices will rise on average by 8.6 per cent over the next three years.

The main jump is expected to be in 2018 at almost 6 per cent and will then slow down for the following two years.

The main drivers of the price rise are low interest rates, a stronger economy and a larger number of

younger workers managing to find and retain employment according to the review.

Britain and Germany are the two leaders in growth of prices as well as new building, but Spain is certainly due to see some price hikes especially as there are likely to be more new buyers than new properties being built.

Prior to the crash, the construction industry was awash with cash and new builds were springing up all over the country, but many of these developments were never completed and although there is some sporadic new building, many buyers are having to look at older property.

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I've never had much respect for politicians

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



BACK in the 60's I saw a number of the 'Old Boys' club members with their trousers down, both metaphorically and in reality. Well I remember a prominent London MP rushing up to me at a party. Clad in a string vest and very questionable Y-fronts, he implored me to "take over upstairs."

Apparently, the 'blonde' nymphomaniac he was endeavouring to satisfy had become too much for him. I didn't accept his offer I may add! Another told me he thought smoking marihuana was 'such fun!' No, I'm afraid politicians in general have never impressed me much.

There is one overriding problem with the elder male occupants of the Westminster power corridors. The majority went to public school. Students from these male-dominated institutions never really learned to mix with the female of the species. Their only experiences with the opposite sex were annual school dances and overbearing Nannies.

This, accompanied by the odd grope of the slightly more promiscuous young ladies from the local St Trinians, left women reduced to nothing more than subjects of locker room



Photo credit YouTube

PUBLIC SCHOOL POLITICIANS: Becoming dinosaurs?

humour and ribald banter in the dorms. The outcome of this attitude, resulted in the total absence of respect for those of a gender, they considered not only mere objects of sexual titillation, but also intellectually inferior and subsequently had no important standing in the

male-dominated corridors of their future political ambitions.

Many of these elder statesmen on the benches fall into this category, and still consider Westminster nothing more than an extension of their public school education and

debating societies. As attitudes change, and more and more women are elected into the house, these ex-public schoolboys are slowly becoming the dinosaurs of the political arena.

Frankly, apart from serious offences, racking up ancient knee brushings and somewhat innocuous schoolboy's sexist innuendoes, is a complete waste of time and energy. Time to get back to more serious issues, like running the country for example! Thank the Lord the Labour Party are also up to their proverbials, or else they would be using it as yet another weapon in their armoury of schemes and skulduggery to keep the government on the back foot till the next General Election!

Picked up a lovely piece of terminology this week; non-erotic cognitive distraction. This is the condition of ladies having their moment of intense sexual arousal being spoiled by suddenly remembering they'd missed a pedicure appointment, or something of that ilk. Apparently sufferers of this unfortunate 'malady' are encouraged to 'stay in the moment.' Stay with me luv, it'll only take a moment!

Keep the faith,

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com

Leapy Lee's opinions are his own and are not necessarily representative of those of the publishers, advertisers or sponsors.

Pedal power

E-BIKE batteries work hard, so they're expensive. And they're heavy.

Postmen where I live use a €500 e-bike with a monstrous lead-acid battery; not the way for the rest of us to go.

Most bikes use lithium-ion batteries, which recharge for just a few cents overnight and will take you 30 kilometres or more depending on your own pedal-power and hills. E-bikes don't (yet) generally recharge downhill.

For mega-trips you might even consider carrying a second battery - but beware of that extra weight.

How often you can recharge your expensive battery depends on how you treat it. Like any lithium-ion, it dislikes total discharges.

So treat it well with plenty of shallow charging and discharging and I can't resist saying it, you'll get hundreds of cycles.

On yer bike with a battery boost

In an era of batteries with everything, Terence Kennedy asks if tiny motors can get us back on two wheels.

WE all know Holland is as flat as the proverbial tortilla. Indeed, my Dutch wife's home town even advertises its 80-metre 'mountain.'

So it's all the more surprising then in a country where cycling is so embedded, that last year for the very first time, the 'flat-earth' Dutch bought more e-bikes than those conventional clunkers.

Electrically-assisted bicycles, to give them their full name, are conquering the market at nearly 10 per cent growth a year, say the experts. Annual European sales have hit more than a million now and rising, and the world's main e-bike producer China already has some 220 million on its roads.

So when you 'get on yer bike' these days, should it be battery-assisted? Granted there's a fairly hefty

entry price: perhaps €700 for a modest machine, over €3,000 for one which could qualify you for the Tour de France if you don't get rumbled.

(In fact a French competition cyclist did just get caught using a hidden electric motor. He apparently did it 'to ease his sciatica.' Yeah, right).

E-bikes come in two flavours, essentially those which make you work (cheaper) and those which don't (time for a second mortgage).

The most popular are the 'pedal-assisted,' where you have to keep pumping or you'll grind to a halt. Depending on your budget and how hard you work, your battery may take you between 30 and 100 kilometres or more of actual powered cycling. Just don't expect a 'free



DUTCH COURAGE: A 1933 Junkers e-bike from Holland.

ride' when you hit a hill; getting up it is a shared endeavour between you and your battery.

Simple e-bikes have three boost settings (one, two and 'wheeee!'), and of course the usual traditional gears, from three to 21. E-assistance from the motor (usually in the front wheel hub) cuts out past 25 km/h to avoid over-enthusiastic riders becoming strawberry jam at the bottom of a hill.

Fancier e-bikes have regenerative braking, a hand-throttle, can fold or for the true road warrior, can even pull a trailer full of batteries.

As with electric cars, some governments now subsidise e-bikes as

part of their 'greening' policies.

So should you boost your pedal-power? As many of us know the European mainland is generally more bike-friendly than, say, the UK where unseating cyclists can be a national sport.

Our climate is conducive, that initial 'whoosh' as you pull away from cyclists on their prehistoric bikes is gleeful, and there's nothing to rival the wind in your hair and the insects in your mouth.

And simply as physical exercise, it's certainly a lot better than my previous regime: first-thing every morning up-down-up-down-up-down, then open the other eyelid...

TECH FOR THE TIMID

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
9 NOVEMBER	7:00pm BBC News at Six	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	8:30pm Acid Attacks: How Scared Should We Be? Tonight	5:00pm Coast v Country	4:15pm All I Want for Christmas	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:00pm Eggheads	9:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News at 5	8:00am Live European Tour Golf
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	6:30pm Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star	6:30pm Neighbours	8:30pm Live Next Gen Tennis
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Meet the Lords	10:00pm The Murder of Becky Watts: Police Tapes	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	3:00pm Live Next Gen Tennis
	9:00pm Sam Smith at the BBC	9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	10:00pm The Week the Landlords Moved in	10:00pm Exodus: Our Journey Continues	11:30pm ITV News London	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm All New Traffic Cops	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm Match of the Day	12:45am The 18-30 Stone Holiday	9:00pm Ugly House to Lovely House	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in Blackpool	8:00pm Football
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight		10:00pm Tru An American Dream	10:00pm Rich House, Poor House	11:15pm My Icon
	11:45pm Question Time	12:15am Trust Me, I'm a Doctor		11:00pm Angry, White and American	11:00pm Bad Habits, Holy Orders	11:30pm SKY Sports News at Ten
	12:45am Life and Death Row			12:05am 999: What's Your Emergency?	12:05am Borderline	12:00am SKY Sports News
FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER	7:30pm BBC London News	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	4:00pm Tenable	6:30pm Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star	6:00pm 5 News at 5	4:00pm SKY Sports News
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Eggheads	5:00pm Tipping Point	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	4:30pm Paddock Uncut
	8:30pm Sounds Like Friday Night	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	6:00pm The Chase	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	4:45pm Live Brazilian GP: Practice
	9:00pm EastEnders	8:00pm Meet the Lords	7:00pm ITV News London	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	9:30pm Porridge	9:00pm Mastermind	7:30pm ITV Evening News	8:00pm Unreported World	8:00pm The Gadget Show	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	10:00pm Have I Got News for You	9:30pm Only Connect	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:30pm Food Unwrapped	9:00pm The World's Greatest Bridges	8:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
	10:30pm Tracey Breaks the News	10:00pm Extreme Wives with Kate Humble	8:30pm International Football Live	9:30pm Travel Man	10:00pm Eight Days That Made Rome	8:40pm Football
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm QI	11:15pm ITV News	10:00pm Gogglebox	11:00pm Conspiracy	10:40pm La Liga Greatest Games
	11:25pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:50pm ITV News London	11:00pm The Last Leg	12:05am Babel: The Real Stairway to Heaven	10:50pm La Liga Greatest Games
	11:35pm The Graham Norton Show	12:05am Snowfall	12:05am International Football Highlights	12:05am First Dates		11:00pm SKY Sports News at Ten
12:25am Josh					12:00am SKY Sports News	
SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER	6:00pm Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme	1:30pm Italy Unpacked	6:55pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	2:25pm Come Dine with Me	11:30am The Gadget Show	7:00am SKY Sports News
	6:35pm BBC News	2:30pm Wild Brazil	7:25pm ITV News London	2:55pm Come Dine with Me	12:25pm Coming Home for Christmas	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	6:45pm BBC London News	3:30pm Flog It!	7:35pm ITV News	3:25pm A Place in the Sun	2:15pm Operation Christmas	9:00am Live European Tour Golf
	6:55pm Pointless	4:15pm Mastermind	7:45pm You've Been Framed!	4:30pm A Place in the Sun	3:55pm All I Want for Christmas	9:00am Rugby Union
	7:45pm Strictly Come Dancing	4:45pm Cycling	8:15pm Ninja Warrior UK	5:00pm Best Laid Plans	5:35pm Christmas Song	3:00pm Rugby Union
	9:10pm Casualty	5:45pm Rugby Union	9:15pm The X Factor	6:00pm Grand Designs	7:15pm Our First Christmas	6:15pm Rugby Union
	10:00pm Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2017	8:30pm Rugby Union	10:45pm The Jonathan Ross Show	7:00pm Channel 4 News	8:55pm 5 News Weekend	8:30pm Ireland v South Africa
	11:40pm BBC News	9:30pm Dad's Army	11:45pm ITV News	7:30pm Volatile Earth	9:00pm NCIS: New Orleans	8:30pm Football
	12:00am Mrs. Brown's Boys	10:00pm Effie Gray	11:55pm World Cup Play Off Highlights	8:30pm Formula 1	9:55pm NCIS: New Orleans	11:00pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
		11:00pm QI XL	12:55am Run, Fat Boy, Run	10:00pm Terminator Genisys	10:45pm Live Boxing	1:00am SKY Sports News
	12:25am Private Peaceful		12:30am G.I. Joe: Retaliation	12:45am Football on 5		
SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER	6:55pm BBC News	3:00pm Tennis	6:00pm Sheridan	4:20pm Homer the Heretic	12:05pm Football on 5	7:00am SKY Sports News
	7:10pm BBC London News	5:30pm Cycling	7:00pm ITV News London	4:50pm Deep Space Homer	12:35pm Another Cinderella Story	8:00am Total Goals
	7:20pm Countryfile	7:00pm Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph	7:10pm ITV News	5:15pm Homer the Great	2:20pm On Strike for Christmas	9:00am Live European Tour Golf
	8:20pm Strictly Come Dancing	8:00pm Big Life Fix	7:30pm The Chase: Celebrity Special	5:45pm Men in Black	4:00pm Dear Santa	3:00pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
	9:00pm Blue Planet II	9:00pm Robot Wars	8:30pm The X Factor	7:30pm Channel 4 News	5:45pm A Christmas Star	Day two of the Bwin
	10:00pm Howards End	10:00pm Louis Theroux	10:00pm Elton John: The Nation's Favourite Song	8:00pm Britain's Forgotten Army	7:15pm Deck the Halls	Grand Slam of Darts from the Wolverhampton Civic Hall
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Snowfall	11:30pm ITV News	9:00pm The Queen's Favourite Animals	9:00pm Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby	
	11:20pm BBC London News	11:45pm Mock the Week	11:45pm Unbelievable Moments	10:00pm Big Ben	9:55pm 5 News Weekend	5:30pm Football
	11:30pm Alan Shearer: Dementia, Football and Me	12:15am Rugby League World Cup Highlights	12:45am Caught on Camera	11:30pm Formula 1	10:00pm MTV Europe Music Awards 2017	8:00pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
	12:30am The Women's Football Show		12:45am Play to the Whistle	1:45am 1: Life on the Limit	12:00pm Due Date	12:00am Live NFL: Sunday Game
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER	7:30pm BBC London News	5:45pm Talking Comedy	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Four in a Bed	4:15pm Christmas Confessions	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	8:00pm The One Show	6:15pm Street Auction	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:30pm Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star	6:00pm 5 News at 5	11:00am Premier League Daily
	8:30pm Panorama	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
	9:00pm EastEnders	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	9:00pm The Harbour	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	12:00pm Live Tennis: London
	9:30pm Children in Need Rocks the 80s	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	9:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	1:00pm Live Tennis: London
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	9:00pm University Challenge	10:00pm Gone to Pot	9:00pm Dispatches	8:00pm MotoGP	5:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:30pm BBC London News	9:30pm Nigella: At My Table	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade	9:00pm All New Traffic Cops	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:45pm Have I Got a Bit More News for You	10:00pm The Boy with the Topknot	11:30pm ITV News London	10:00pm 999	10:00pm Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys	7:00pm Live Tennis: London
	12:30am The Graham Norton Show	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm The Murder of Becky Watts: Police Tapes	11:00pm First Dates	11:00pm The Last Days of Richard Pryor	8:40pm Football
		12:15am Exodus: Our Journey Continues	12:40am The Jonathan Ross Show	12:05am Naked Attraction	12:00am Jonah Hex	10:40pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	3:00pm Tennis	3:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News at 5	11:00am Premier League Daily
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:45pm Talking Comedy	4:00pm Tenable	6:30pm Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star	6:30pm Neighbours	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
	7:30pm BBC London News	6:15pm Street Auction	5:00pm Tipping Point	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	12:30pm Sportswomen
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Eggheads	6:00pm The Chase	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	1:00pm Live Tennis: London
	8:30pm EastEnders	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	7:00pm ITV News London	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm All New Traffic Cops	5:00pm SKY Sports News
	9:00pm Holby City	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm ITV Evening News	9:00pm The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds	9:00pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	10:00pm The A Word	9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals	8:00pm Emmerdale	10:00pm Grand Designs	10:00pm Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild	7:00pm Live Tennis: London
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico	8:30pm International Football Live	11:00pm Gogglebox	11:00pm When Magic Goes Horribly Wrong	8:30pm Football
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:00pm Motherland	11:15pm ITV News	12:05am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	1:55am Super Casino	11:00pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
	11:45pm Saying Goodbye	11:30pm Newsnight	11:45pm ITV News London			12:00am SKY Sports News
12:45am Life and Death Row	12:15am NFL	12:00am England Friendly Highlights				
WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER	4:45pm Royal Recipes	3:00pm Tennis	6:00pm The Chase	6:00pm Four in a Bed	4:15pm Naughty or Nice	9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
	5:30pm Flog It!	5:45pm Frankie Howerd	7:00pm ITV News London	6:30pm Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star	6:00pm 5 News at 5	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Street Auction	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	11:00am Premier League Daily
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	8:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	1:00pm Live Tennis: London
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm Gino's Italian Coastal Escape	9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	8:00pm All New Traffic Cops	5:00pm SKY Sports News
	9:00pm DIY SOS	9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals	9:30pm Coronation Street	10:00pm Lifers Behind Bars	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	10:00pm The Apprentice	10:00pm Peaky Blinders	10:00pm Gone to Pot	11:00pm Man Down	10:00pm Big Family Values: More Kids Than Cash	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm The Apprentice: You're Fired!	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:30pm Greg Davies: The Back of My Mum's Head	11:00pm Left for Dead	8:00pm Live Grand Slam of Darts
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:30pm ITV News London	12:35am 999	12:00am The Murder of Tia Sharpe: My Daughter	12:00am SKY Sports News
11:45pm A Question of Sport	12:15am Ireland with Simon Reeve	12:15am Play to the Whistle				
12:15am Junior Doctors						

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



Attenborough serves up a not-to-miss blue treat!

TELEVISION highlights don't come much bigger than *The Blue Planet 2*, (BBC One, Sundays).

Laid back, knowledgeable and understated, David Attenborough delivers a feast of educational beauty that is inspiring, humbling and certainly never dull. Dolphins that surf 'for the fun of it' and giant trevallies that leap from the sea to snatch birds mid-flight, some scenes are reminiscent of the racer snake in last year's Planet Earth II offering. One that got away got a cheer in our household.

The distressing sight of walrus and their young crammed together on what's left of the icebergs and others desperately trying to find a piece of ice to rest on was sobering, given the Arctic has lost 40 per cent of its ice in the last 30 years.

It's a hope that the powers-that-be find a way out of the world's complacency in order to take action before it is too late.

This truly is one not to be missed. *The Great British Bake Off* (Channel 4, Tuesday) appeared to have survived the controversial

quarter final eviction of 'fans' favourite' Liam Charles, as well as Noel Fielding's fridge gag, but the grand final was still bestowed with one last gaff.

The more dedicated Bake Off fans may well have been alert to Prue Leith's error in tweeting the winner 10 hours before the programme was screened, citing her lack of time-zone knowledge as she was in Bhutan at the time.

The tweet was quickly deleted and despite this final faux pas Bake Off appears to have completed the move from the BBC without too much trouble with viewing figures up.

For the record, Sophie was crowned champion with appearances on This Morning and Sunday Brunch assured.

Is there any chance Weatherfield police could ask the local council to put CCTV up in *Coronation Street*



ATTENBOROUGH: Sunday feast.

(ITVI) given it appears to be the biggest crime hotspot since Oxford in the times of Inspector Morse.

Having had the contents of a factory emptied in broad daylight, the great 'non-existent-flat' scam that left residents owed thousands - not to mention murders in the street and bodies under Gail's converted



JESSICA: Constantly drunk.

garage 'cameras would definitely assist investigations.

Additionally, maybe the increasing body count at the hands of current 'businessman' Phelan, who appears immune to police interest, would also cease. We live in hope.

Having been a Forces' child, I looked forward to the life on an

army base abroad on *The Last Post* (Sunday BBC One), but the reality I recall is very different to the programme written by Peter Moffat and based on his own childhood memories.

Set in 1965 on a British military base in Aden, a port city in southern Yemen, it has lots of weekly drama with kidnappings and killings galore.

I cannot decide whether to feel sorry for Ed's wife Alison, played wonderfully by Jessica Raine (the slutty one) who is constantly drunk whatever time of day. However, she makes me laugh with her complete disregard for social niceties with the other wives and constantly tries to lead astray newcomer Honor, the new captain's wife (the naïve, innocent one) played by Jessie Buckley.

Charming overall in its old-fashioned manner, it provides a view of how army life affects the wives as the military police try to reconcile the British Empire with the rise of the Swinging Sixties.

It will actually be 50 years on November 30 since Britain withdrew from Aden, the former Crown Colony.

Critique: SC, Torrevieja, Costa Blanca



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YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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A kiss is sexual assault? Oh please

SIR,

I read Leapy Lee's recent article in *EWN issue 1687* and absolutely agree. This whole debacle has my eyebrows climbing my forehead and jaw dropping to my chest.

Tried to kiss me, says one, hand on knee, says another.

Please don't think I'm unsympathetic to reports of serious sexual assault, I'm not. However, claims of hugs, elbow holding, kiss on cheek will eventually have the knock on effect of stopping any physical contact between the sexes and mankind will resort to laboratories to procreate!

The march of feminism is being dealt a serious blow. People in positions of power who use their position to threaten or persuade minions for sexual favours are not the type of person we need to govern the country.

The whole Weinstein affair has opened floodgates. But what in the name of God were these girls thinking? Going to hotel rooms for auditions or work? Surely they're not that naive? Just look at the man! How else would

No home comforts

I HAVE for some years been paying €400 to €500 a month to rent a property in Spain. Rather than waste money like this, I would rather buy a cheap property that I can own. But I am now over 65 and as far as any Spanish lenders are concerned, I am one step from death so not worth lending to.

I live on my own. As well as a British state pension, I have a company pension, but it is difficult to save when I have to pay rent every month. I am not going to suddenly become unemployed, not going to have more children and don't smoke or drink, own my own car and have no depen-



EMPTY HOMES: An ongoing Spanish problem?

dents. I have no loans or credit cards. The loan would still be paid if I became injured or sick, and I am willing to take out life insurance.

But banks and lenders would sooner lend money to younger people who may default on them

or not be able to pay for any number of reasons, and if a family, they cannot be turned out of a house. No wonder why there are still so many empty properties (including those owned by banks) in Spain.

Michael Hill, Torre del Mar

that repugnant human being attract beautiful women except by force?

Anyway, I'm fed up with all these complaints. Put a Code of Conduct into place, get Human Resources to do their job, and get on with life.

Paula Mackie Senior, address withheld

The uniform (RAF)

I THINK of you! Wearing your suit of blue

So proud, so debonair, so strong
My heart would beat with so much pride

If then I had you by my side
But alas! The years have come between

The tears they flow, for what might have been

But think of tomorrow, not of the past,

Just remember, a love, that will always last.

Maggie, Albir

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.

Passengers held on return to UK

WHAT happened to freedom of movement within the EU????, should have just opened the exit door!!! *Julio*

This is what was voted for, stronger border controls, and until they have checked you through, legally you're not on British soil! They can refuse anyone from entry at this point, and send you back from whence you came. *George R Carman*

Brits wreck Benidorm hotel room

They should lock them up in Spanish prison for five years and ban them from ever returning to Spain again! They are an embarrassment to the British people! Disgusting cretins! *Julie Jones Peel*
Bet they don't behave like this in Russian hotels next year during the World Cup a week in a Russian prison and they will be crying for the British Embassy. *Michael Hearne*

They ought to have their passports confiscated, they are an embarrassment to decent people. We had a couple like this in our lovely hotel in Kefalos in July. *Kenneth Bartram*

What a bunch of pathetic, childish, mentally deranged idiots! They should be locked up and made to pay every penny it costs to repair that room. *Ellie*
I agree with Ellie they should be locked up what a disgrace.

Not all English people are like that but we all get

Comments from EWN online

tarred with the same brush.

Totally outraged get a life lads, would you do this in England?

I don't think so idiots. *Lesley*

At least 27 dead in church shooting in America

When oh when are the American people going to wake up. Tell the President to start protecting the population by legislation. *Jack Lawlor*

But don't touch the gun laws the second amendment protects them. More people die in America than in the war on terror through the stupid gun laws. *Gary Patrickson*

Teens throw cat from second-floor window

Seems as if the mother is as bad as the son. If my son had done that he would have gotten a good hiding from me. *Gerrie Lewis*

And the mother is upset that her little brat kid is being harassed on social media! He deserves a lot more than that! how about some punishment being handed out by the Guardia! *Christine van Baten*

I hope the people who did this get their just desserts. These people should be fined heavily and also put into prison. *Carol Patricia Nichols*

Arrest warrant issued for sacked Catalan leader

Just proves want to be dictators, can't just take over without agreement of the country the people or an election,

Spain was only looking after all of its citizens, He was only interested in himself.

Viva España. *Robert B Johnston*

It was a coup d'etat by avaricious elected individuals to try to remove one of Spain's most profitable areas. Cataluña is responsible for 20 per cent of Spain's GDP... the riches that abound in this area were funded by all of Spain not just from this area and built up over many generations... it was a money and power grab that could cost the perpetrators their liberty for a very long time... they deserve what they get for fooling the people into believing that they were acting in the interest of Cataluña... they are servants of the state of Spain. *Mike Aucott*

Free country?

I AM very concerned about the situation in Cataluña. How on earth was an illegal referendum allowed to happen? If Spain is so set on it remaining part of the country, why were they allowed to have their own police force plus TV and radio stations in their own language in the first place? Why should they not be allowed to form their own little country - I just feel so sorry for them!

Wendy Chisholm, Arroyo Medina, Almeria

Bright idea

WITH all the facilities on the Costa del Sol's beaches, including gymnasiums, massage beds and showers, isn't it time councils started to install changing rooms as well? There would only need to be three or four near the showers, with gaps at the top and bottom to prevent any funny business!

Name withheld, Fuengirola

Get a grip

SORRY Viv Forbe (*Letters 1687*), but we very much should be afraid of human-led global warming, which is a scientifically-proven FACT! And especially here in Spain, where we are running out of water at an alarming rate. Try reading some scientific reports on the issue rather than Fox News or whatever and maybe your opinion will change!

Anthony Purvis, Mallorca

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Travel



DRAMATIC: The Roman amphitheatre in Cartagena is one of the largest in Spain.

Historic harbour

BOASTING one of the most strategic ports in the Mediterranean, the city of Cartagena was once the threshold for every empire that invaded Spain and has inherited an impressive collection of cultural landmarks as a result.

Located in the region of Murcia, this important naval city was founded in around 220 BC by the Carthaginians but didn't become the thriving metropolis it is known as today until it was conquered by the Romans. It is still possible to see mosaics and murals that date back to this era in several of the city's protected buildings.

The city is home to an impressive array of ruins, such as the Roman amphitheatre, which is the second biggest on the Iberian Peninsula, and the Byzantine wall that was built to protect the city from invasions.

An easy way to get a grasp of just how many lives this city has lived is to take a trip up to Conception Castle which offers impressive views of the whole bay. Here you can see the Spanish warships anchored where Phoenician traders used to dock their boats, and the effortless blend of modernist buildings and ancient fortresses proves just how well the city has held onto its history as time has passed.



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LEGALLY SPEAKING

Cyclists - know the law

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.



CYCLISTS: Must abide by rules of the road.

IT is probably safe to say that all road users have witnessed a bicycle rider going through a red light or riding on the pavement, a practice that many find frustrating, but always one that raises the same question, are cyclists allowed to do such things?

The simple answer is NO.

In terms of law, once a bicycle is being ridden it is classed as a vehicle and therefore covered by the same rules and laws as a car, a lorry, a bus, in fact any other vehicle on the road.

It is only when the rider dismounts and walks with the bicycle is it considered otherwise. In this instance, the situation means that the person has become a pedestrian. That is the same reason why cyclists cannot ride across zebra crossings, because we wouldn't expect a lorry to do that, and the rider must dismount before they do.

Listening to music using headphones or using a mobile phone when riding a bike are prohibited in the same way as they are for other vehicles. Consuming more than the prescribed limit of alcohol or using drugs is also not allowed, as a cyclist you are governed by the

rules of the road. Just so you know what you are risking, let's have a look at some of the most common infractions.

Not having a bell on your bicycle - 80€

Faulty or no brakes - 80€

Carrying an extra person on the bicycle - 80€

Failing to stop at a traffic light - 200€

Failing to give way at a junction - 200€

Not having lights - 200€

Having too many lights - 200€

Failing to wear high visibility clothing between sunset and sunrise and in poor visibility - 200€

Riding under the influence of alcohol - 500€

There are many other laws and infractions commonly committed by cyclists, as well as other road users of course. We will look at these in more detail in future editions, but for now, take note, you can indeed be fined on your bike and remember that one golden rule, when you are riding your bike, it is a vehicle and governed by the same rules and laws as every other vehicle.

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

Can I get my 3 per cent back?

Q. I sold my property in January for €42,000 and my solicitor held back 3 per cent of the selling price, which came to €1,260. I came back out this month and I asked her about it. She said, if I want that back, the Tax Office will ask for the other €900. Is this correct? I have paid my Form 210 taxes.

M C (Costa del Sol)

A. WHEN a non-resident sells her property in Spain, she must pay Spanish capital gains tax of 19 per cent on the profit she has made.

Your buyer filed Form 211 and paid 3 per cent of the price to the Spanish Tax Agency as a guarantee

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



against your capital gains tax. That is the €1,260.

If you had no profit, you can claim this back from the Tax Agency.

However, it seems you have made a profit and your lawyer has calculated your capital gains tax at €2,160.

So, if you try to recover your 3 per cent deposit, you will be charged a further €900 which, apparently, is what you actually owe.

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

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Photo Credit: Sgt Dan Harmer, RLC Ministry of Defence

Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph.

By John Smith

THERE are two specific dates associated with the end of the First World War, one of which is permanent and the other changes each year.

People all across Britain will observe a two minute silence at 11am this Saturday (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), which is the time and date when hostilities formally ended after more than four years of battle during what is now re-

In memory of those who laid down their lives

membered as The Great War.

The nearest Sunday to November 11 is chosen as Remembrance Day where people gather together to remember and mourn the dead

in all wars, although in Britain and here in Spain, more emphasis is given to those who died during the 20th and 21st centuries.

In London, next Sunday will see

the usual massive ceremony at the Cenotaph which will be attended by members of the Royal Family, representatives of the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories,

politicians, veterans of various conflicts and serving military together with a huge audience of on-lookers.

Due to their advanced age, the Queen and Prince Philip will play a reduced role in the laying of wreaths as they cannot be expected to spend hours standing around in what is invariably a chilly morning.

As well as the main service in London, the laying of wreaths takes place all over the UK as well as the Commonwealth and there will also be many parades embracing ex-servicemen now settled in Spain plus the usual services in Gibraltar.

Poppies are worn as a symbol of respect and tribute on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day and funds raised from their sale go towards assisting ex-servicemen through the Royal British Legion.

The original concept of the wearing of poppies in remembrance - which was inspired by a Canadian military officer and poet who wrote 'In Flanders Fields' - actually came from America and was adopted by the American Legion before the concept came to the UK in 1921 from France.

Behind the poppy

IN the spring of 1915, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian doctor who had just lost a friend during the First World War (1914-1918), was inspired to write the poem 'In Flanders Fields' after seeing poppies growing in battle-scarred fields where little else would grow.

The poem inspired Moina Michael, an American academic, to make and sell artificial red poppies which were later introduced in the UK by a French woman, Anna Guerin.

In 1921, The Royal British Legion ordered nine million of the poppies and sold them on November 11 to commemorate the end of the Great War. The first year alone, the poppies raised £106,000, a staggering amount of money in those days, which was used to help First World War veterans.

Nowadays poppies are mostly sold in the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand to pay tribute to servicemen and women killed in conflict. The poppy is traditionally red to reflect the colour of field poppies and is considered a symbol of remembrance and hope.

Royal British Legion's Remembrance Sunday

By Benjamin Park

THE Royal British Legion (RBL) continues to provide a large number of services across Spain year after year.

Ahead of this Remembrance Day, we spoke to a few members of RBL branches around the country about what the occasion means to them and how they will be spending the day.

Jo Taylor, Chairman of the RBL Coin branch, first set-up the branch in 2006 having previously been a member of two other branches in Spain.

She spoke of how her branch chooses to honour loved ones on November 11.

"On Remembrance Day,

we provide a bell service," she said.

"People who attend speak of loved ones they have lost and it's not just in the First World War, we have people who speak about loved ones they have lost in Iraq, Afghanistan and other wars too.

"After people have told me of their loved ones, I read a piece about them and we hold a short moment of silence. We try to keep the service both public, but private at the same time."

Steve Taylor, who served in the Royal Air Force, was first a member of the RBL in Oxfordshire but transferred his membership to Mollina

when he moved to Spain 10 years ago, where he is now Chairman.

He said: "I have attended many Remembrance Day services in and out of uniform both in the the UK and many overseas locations.

"It is not only about the First World War but every loss of life up to today."

Dave Punshon, a member of the Mollina branch, said: "Though I never served in the armed forces, my father was a standard bearer and founder member of the legion club in my home town.

"As he died when I was 22, Remembrance Day is a time of reflection on two counts."

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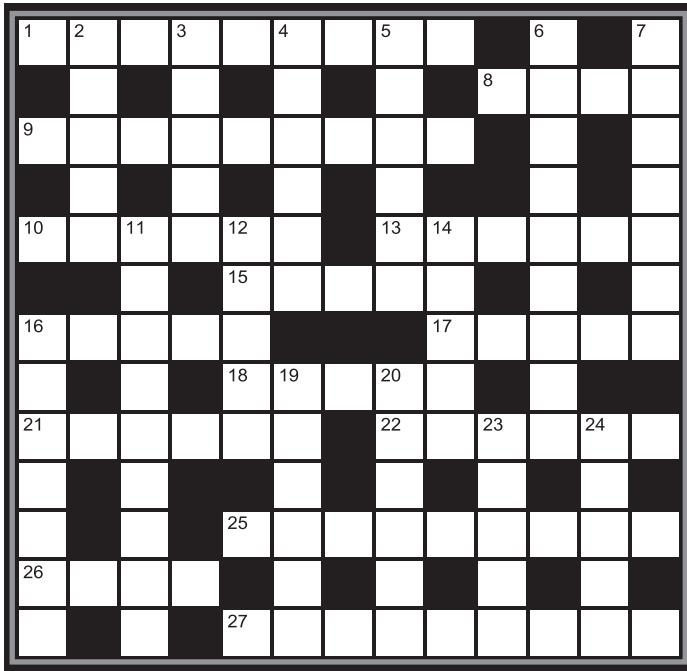
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Cryptic

- Across**
 1 Element from uncommon planet (4,5)
 8 Crude oil's in store (4)
 9 A cat and a lion wandering in Spain (9)
 10 Cancel Royal Engineer's ding-dong (6)
 13 Harridan's dead crafty (6)
 15 Outer form, of course (5)
 16 A healer from an insecure relationship (5)
 17 Grant given to a section of a hospital (5)
 18 Film award for first one seen crying about refugees (5)
 21 Celebrity new owner has changed (6)
 22 Formal and avant-garde art seen in school (6)
 25 True novel about an unpaid worker (9)
 26 Cocktail after meal in wood (4)
 27 Drink to the crashing of Beetle car (9)

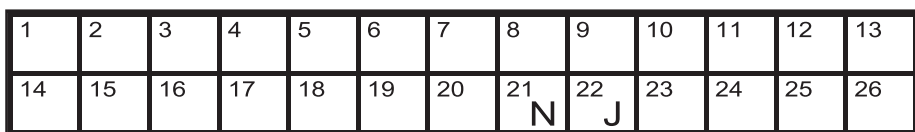
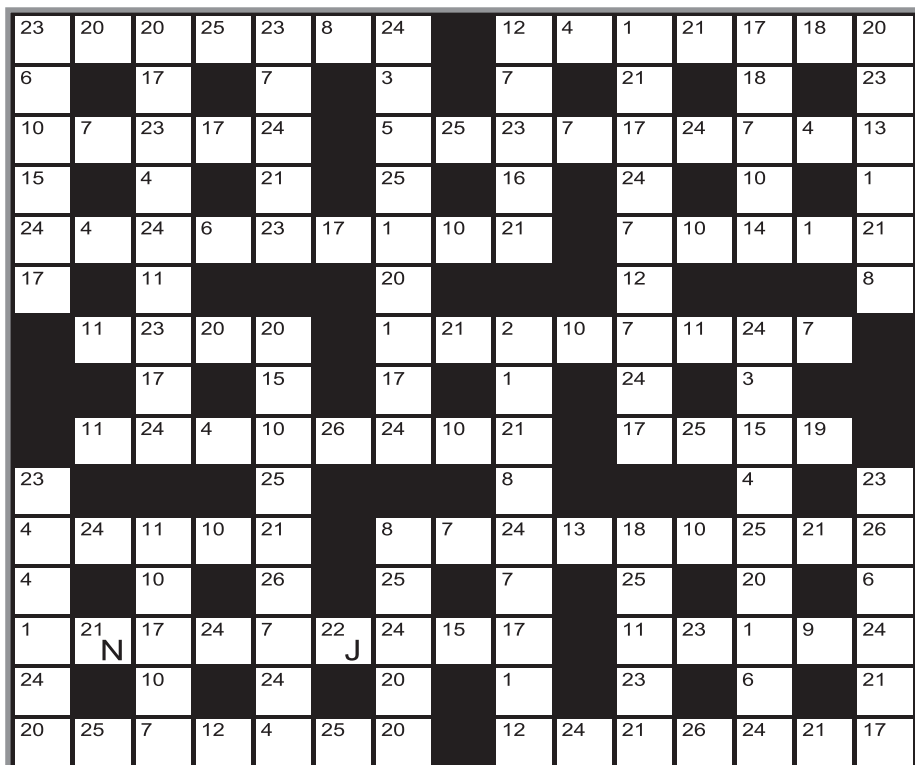


- Down**
 2 Conscious of a town in Herts (5)
 3 Venezuela teacher demonstrates lift (5)
 4 Some take a poll on who is God (6)
 5 Dehydration results from a scruffy T-shirt (6)
 6 Raids pier by mistake, as it's in poor shape (9)

- 7 Amassed a crowd outside Germany (7)
 11 Repeated and rewritten in real pen (9)
 12 A royal dispute for a missile (5)
 14 Listen to team leader with compassion (5)
 16 Greek city in the Adriatic or in Thessaly (7)
 19 Doze off while ozone's dispersed (6)
 20 Take for granted cook amuses (6)
 23 Change old German sovereign (5)
 24 Charlie and Henry eat shark (5)

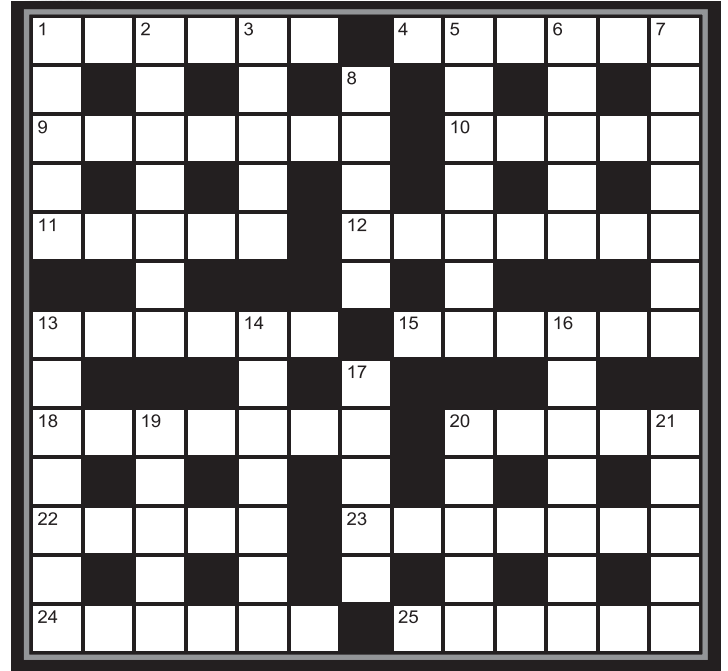
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 21 represents N and 22 represents J, so fill in N every time the figure 21 appears and J every time the figure 22 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.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick

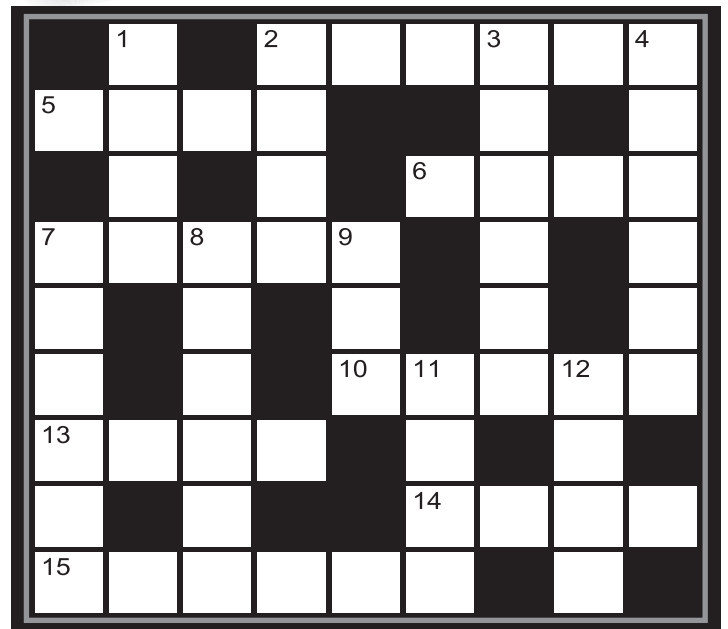


- Across**
 1 Young swan (6)
 4 Tedious (6)
 9 Covetousness (7)
 10 Blemish (5)
 11 Share of something (5)
 12 Objectives (7)
 13 Rigorous (6)
 15 Periodic count of the population (6)
 18 Bring to an end (7)
 20 Clean with hard rubbing (5)
 22 Distinctive, typically pleasant smell: (5)
 23 Easily agitated (7)
 24 Israeli currency (6)
 25 Comes to an end (6)

- Down**
 1 Talons (5)
 2 Glassworker (7)
 3 Expel from a country (5)
 5 Watch closely (7)
 6 Empty, void (5)
 7 First book of the Bible (9)
 8 God or goddess (5)
 13 Distinguish oneself (7)
 14 Assemble in proper sequence (7)
 16 Grave (7)
 17 Deceive by a mock action (5)
 19 Range (5)
 20 Rise suddenly (5)
 21 Groundwork (5)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
 2 Chairs (6)
 5 Supper (4)
 6 Well (for water) (4)
 7 Wall (interior) (5)
 10 Palabras (5)
 13 Thing (object) (4)

- 14 Side (of person) (4)
 15 Slice (6)
Down
 1 Silk (4)
 2 Venta (4)
 3 To rain (6)

- 4 Piedras (6)
 7 Lápiz (6)
 8 Pasa (6)
 9 Rocío (3)
 11 Pan (for cooking) (4)
 12 Doubt (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' I WAS LUCKY, HE ONLY PUT HIS HAND ON MY KNEE WHEN I ASKED FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH! '

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: 9
- Very good: 17
- Good: 12
- Excellent: 22

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

alec calf caul clef clue cult felt flat flea flue fuel lace late leaf left luau lute tael talc tale teal cleat cleft fault fetal flute latte cattle cutlet cuttle tactful FLUCTUATE

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

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

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

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Saturday November 4



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Saturday November 4



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Tuesday October 31



Friday November 3



LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday November 4



EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday November 5



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

A meeting midweek could mean a change to your finances for the better. In the short term, it may be necessary for you to rearrange money and appointments but try not to be too put out. Change is perhaps something that we become less tolerant of after a situation has gone on for a time.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Are you still patting yourself on the back for that recent achievement? Socially, this is a lovely week when old friendships are strengthened and new acquaintances prove to be relaxing. It is another mellow week but one in which you seriously consider making a major change.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

There is so much that has come to light in the past few weeks. It is no wonder that your mind is reeling. All will become clear in the weeks ahead and this cannot be rushed. However, there is a need to look after your health and get out in the fresh air. Any thought of joining a walking club or health group should be pursued.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Be your charming self this week without pushing too much. A natural approach when you are seeking a response is the best course of action. Simply being in the right place and under someone's gaze is all that is required. Are you getting itchy because an offer is not forthcoming? Well, if you absolutely must, then get a little bird to whisper in their ear.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

A pleasant surprise makes you a little more optimistic midweek. It is possible for you to take on negativity too quickly. The next time something does not go according to plan, hold fire. It is amazing what a little time and distance will solve.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

It is clear that you really love your hearth and home but, every now and again, there is a small voice calling. The good things in life appeal and, to have these, an effort is involved. Do not underestimate the amount of pleasure that you will enjoy when putting in that extra effort. It does, after all, involve other people. Some of those people prove to be quite fascinating.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Although last week was not run at the pace anticipated, now the pace certainly picks up. Finances are still firmly on the agenda, but this time you will be able to deal on a more relaxed basis. A contact made recently gives you the opportunity not only to make some money but also to enlarge your circle of friends.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Having put in extra effort to bring a zing into your life, it is important that you keep the impetus going. This is not only good for your health and wealth, but also your mind. Although trying something new brings a few odd remarks your way, try not to be sidetracked.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Make a point of putting on a happy face and your mood will stay high. There is still some more to be done to improve your social life and a recent offer of charity work may be just the thing. Avoid restricting the sort of folk who you are willing to mix with. Cultural differences apart, it is quite an eye-opener to find out how others live and think.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

There is still a strong accent on family matters and getting things sorted out. The way ahead is clear. If you are able to persuade someone that an idea was theirs and not yours, so much the better. Being in a practical mood serves you well because it is possible to get a lot done in the next few days. The weekend, however, is another matter.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Being considerably more relaxed about those things which cannot be changed has taken a weight from your shoulders. It is also easier to understand why others have taken this approach in the past.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

There is, however, a balance to be found. Don't be put off by people who have become sloppy in their approach because this is not going to affect you.

Your mind is still sharp this week and there are many questions that you would like answered. Doing a bit of research proves fruitful and also quite amusing. A recent contact may not come up with the proposition hoped for, but realise that it is still early days.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Cleaver, 5 Trail, 8 Reeve, 9 Transit, 10 Case, 11 Pensions, 13 Euston, 15 Tender, 18 Sheraton, 19 Bait, 22 Retsina, 23 Lover, 24 Tyres, 25 Castles.

Down:

- 1 Coracle, 2 Ewers, 3 View, 4 Rather, 5 Teamster, 6 Abscond, 7 Lotus, 12 Notaries, 14 Shelter, 16 Retorts, 17 Mosaic, 18 Sprat, 20 Anvil, 21 Plus.

QUICK

Across:

- 7 Prerogative, 8 Angler, 9 Plenty, 10 Scared, 12 Actual, 13 Gun, 14 Unlike, 16 Casino, 18 Vienna, 20 Shandy, 22 Marchioness.

Down:

- 1 Open, 2 Pedlar, 3 Porridge, 4 Wasp, 5 Divert, 6 Restrain, 11 Confirms, 12 Ancestor, 15 Ignore, 17 Shares, 19 Ache, 21 Dusk.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Beetroot, 6 Sueca, 8 Ice, 9 Algo, 11 Aire, 13 Inks, 14 Orar, 16 Tap, 17 Clavo, 19 Estación.

Down:

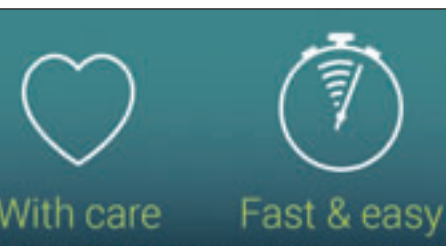
- 1 Bastante, 2 Eye, 3 Real, 4 Onion, 5 Teaspoon, 7 Caer, 10 Girl, 12 Ropes, 15 Acta, 18 Ahi.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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



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Silky smooth winter hair

By Sally Underwood

WHILE summer can dry out and damage our hair, central heating can have the same effect in winter, leading to dull, tangled hair.

With Christmas coming up and with it a whole host of seasonal parties, we have put together some simple to use tips to keep your hair looking silky smooth and split end-free throughout the festive period.

No bubbles. The first part of your haircare regime starts with your shampoo. Most cleansers contain sulphates, which are the chemicals that froth, giving your shampoo bubbles. They can also be harsh, however, stripping away your hair's natural oils and moisture and meaning you use more conditioner and other products to compensate. There are now many sulphate-free shampoos on the market to suit every budget.

Mask must. Masks are not just for the face any more and many hair care brands now sell hair masks, a heavier and more concentrated version of their normal

conditioner. Once or twice a week, use a hydrating or repairing mask on towel-dried hair after washing. Run the mask through with a wide-toothed comb and

leave to absorb for around 15 minutes. For maximum benefits, wrap a hot, damp towel around your hair while the mask is on, helping it to penetrate deeper.

Get the gloss. Finish off your routine by running a serum or leave-in conditioner through your damp hair before blow-drying or styling. The product will help seal the hair shaft, giving a smoother appearance and preventing moisture loss.



LUSCIOUS LOCKS: Cold weather can leave hair looking dry and dull, so make sure you take special care of it this winter.

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Teething



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

When do a baby's teeth start to grow?

A child's teeth usually start to grow within the first few months however this can vary greatly. Some babies will start to teeth when they are three to four-months-old whereas some don't start until after they turn one.

What are the symptoms of teething?

The main sign that your baby has started teething is when they want to constantly chew on something as their gums are irritated. Their gums will also be noticeably inflamed and they will drool a lot. Your child may also be irritable and in some cases also have a fever.

Are there ways to reduce the pain?

In general a baby will feel better when they have something to chew, you can purchase a teething ring which you can put in the fridge before giving it to your child which can also help soothe the pain. If it's not enough you can also use analgesics or anti-inflammatories such as paracetamol and ibuprofen.

When should you seek medical help?

Usually it is not necessary to go see a paediatrician unless the baby is extremely irritated or has a high fever as these could be signs of other problems.

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

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SAVVY SCENTS: Sniffing essential oils can help relieve the symptoms of some illnesses.

Smell to get well

WITH November in full swing, the build up to Christmas won't be far behind. What can be a magical and fun part of the year can also be stressful.

Ferrying children and grandchildren to parties, buying presents, all those last-minute preparations and the inevitable hangovers can all lead to feelings of stress, lethargy or even anxiety.

While there are many ways to deal with stress, an easily accessible option which may help could be aromatherapy.

The study of aromatherapy sees essential oils used in different ways to balance emotions. The oils themselves are readily accessible either in health food shops or online and can be combined with 'carrier' oils to make their scent last longer.

For anyone dealing with stress, lavender is known to have a soothing effect. This oil can help promote calmness and a sense of well-being, while ylangylang and rose oils are also said to relax the senses.

Try putting a few drops of an oil in your bath, or on

your pillowcase before bed if you are struggling to unwind or sleep.

The festive season can also be tiring and if you want a healthier pick-me-up than caffeine, there are several oils which may help bring

Why not try making your own room diffuser using ginger oil mixed with orange and peppermint oils? The soothing smell will help calm feelings of nausea and have you onto your next party in no time!



“Oils are readily accessible either in health food shops or online and can be combined with ‘carrier’ oils.

back your 'zing.'

Grapefruit, juniper berry, peppermint, lemon and bergamot oils are all uplifting and can be used with a carrier oil like avocado, jojoba or coconut oil to make a home-made body moisturiser which will offer you energising bursts of fragrance throughout the day.

Finally, if you have overindulged, ginger can be fantastic for settling the stomach.

Eating your greens



SMART EATING: Get all the vitamins and minerals you need from just a few key ingredients.

WE are constantly bombarded with advice about health, receiving contradictory advice almost every week about what we should and shouldn't be eating.

While experts seem to go backwards and forwards on the health of red meat and dairy, there is at least one thing everyone seems to agree on; fruit and vegetables.

While many of us now take a daily multivitamin to supplement our diet, it is possible to consume all your vitamins with a just a few crops.

Vitamin B6 keeps your immune and nerve systems functioning properly. One banana a day is all it takes to get your recommended daily allowance.

Vitamin C can boost 'good' cholesterol levels, help protect against damaging free radicals and promote a good immune system. Just one large orange a day provides all your vitamin C needs and tastes good too!

Calcium, which helps keep our teeth and bones strong - particularly important for women after the menopause - is found in abundance in spinach and other leafy green vegetables with just one cup offering you your recommended daily allowance. For easy snacking, dried apricots are another good source of calcium, with around six offering you your RDA.

Vitamin D is an easy one living in Spain, just 15 minutes walking outside in winter will offer you your daily allowance.

Spinach wins the award for most versatile vegetable on the list, with one cup offering your RDA of folic acid, iron and magnesium. Broccoli also punches above its weight, offering you both vitamin E and magnesium, while legumes will provide you with your zinc needs, vital for a healthy immune system.

So why not drop the multivitamin this winter and grab some greens instead?

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Update on food, drink, entertainments, what's on and weekly happenings

Beauty and the Beast

DISNEY classic Beauty and the Beast comes to the Auditorium de Palma de Mallorca in December, with a performance suitable for all ages.

Beauty and the Beast (La Belle et la Bête) was originally a traditional French fairy tale and has been adapted for theatre by Linda Woolventon, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice.

Based on the 1991 Disney film, the show tells the story of a young prince who is transformed into a horrible beast as punishment for his cruel and selfish behaviour.

It also follows the story of Belle, a beautiful girl from a small village. After Belle's father is imprisoned by the beast, she decides to exchange her life for her father's freedom.

In order to become human again; the Prince must win Belle's love before it's too late.

The theatrical version of Beauty and the Beast includes eight more songs than the original film and will have two performances on December 8 and 9, with tickets ranging from €15 to €25.

A unique experience

BARCELONA-BASED group Senor Serrano are set to bring their unique show 'Birdie' to the Teatre Principal de Palma this November.

The group is renowned for their creative original productions, which blend live feed video, scale models, text, performance, sound and objects to create a completely unique performance.

They have won a number of awards, including the Silver Lion of the Venice Biennale in 2015.

'Birdie' is the group's vision of the current refugee crisis and according to the group's website, includes: 'live video, objects, Hitchcock's 'The Birds' revisited, scale models, 2,000 mini animals, wars, smugglers, a massive migration and three performers handling this messy world with wit, criticism and commitment with humankind.'

Created by Àlex Serrano, Ferran Dordal and David Muñoz, the



FAMOUS FAN: The cast of 'Birdie' pictured with Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola (centre) after their Manchester performance in April.

show stars Alex Serrano, Pau Palacios and Ferran Dordal (performance), Simone Milsdochter (voice), Vicenç Viaplana (videocreation), Saray Ledesma and Nuria Manzano (maquetas) and Roger Costa Vendrell (musical composition).

'Birdie' will be showing at the Teatre Principal de Palma on Thursday November 16 and Friday November 17 at 8pm, with tickets starting at €15.

Christmas is coming

THE city of Palma Christmas lights will be officially switched on at the end of November.

Held at the Passeig del Born on November 23, there will be a number of performances while the lights are being switched on including acrobats, circus artists and live music.

The festivities begin at 5.30pm and last until 10pm.

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YouTuber to debut new show



Credit: @Loulogio/Pi / Twitter

STAR: Loulogio has over 700,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel.

POPULAR Spanish YouTuber Loulogio is set to debut his show 'Against The Grain' in Palma later this month as part of the Teatre Municipal Xesc Forteza's Festival of humour.

Loulogio, also known as Isaac Sanchez, will perform his new show Against The Grain on Thursday, November 24 and it has been described as a show that fuses intelligent humour and

the most bizarre comedy.

The Barcelona born star first began uploading videos to YouTube in 2006 and now has over 700,000 subscribers, with his videos accumulating over 120 million views worldwide.

Prior to becoming a successful YouTuber, the 34-year-old has worked as an art teacher, dubbing actor, monologist and comedian.

On his YouTube channel, Loulogio describes himself as someone who "curses poetry conceived as a cultural luxury by the neutrals, who wash their hands and evade and evade."

The performance will begin at 9pm, with tickets starting at €12, available online at <https://www.ticketea.com/entradas-monologo-contrapelo-loulogio-fesjaja-palma-2017/> or via the ticket office.

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Feeling fairly like Christmas

PALMA's annual Christmas fair will return to the city this month.

Beginning on Saturday November 18, the fair will have a number of stalls placed around the Placa Espana, Vic Roma and the Rambla.

Stalls open between 10am and 9pm during the fair and will be selling various items including decorations, food handicrafts and more.

The Parc de Ses Estacios Ice Rink will also make a comeback this year, costing €5 for 25 minutes of skating. The price includes skate hire but skaters must bring their own gloves.



Credit: @allformallorca / Twitter

RETURNING: The Palma Ice rink.

Entries open

THE City Council of Palma has called for companies to present projects for two shows that will be part of the San Sebastian 2018 programme.

The first of the two shows will be a 'multi-scene- show, with the council asking for entries such as theatre, dance and circus acts.

The show will take place on January 18 in the Plaza Mayor between 8pm and 10pm.

Entries for the second show, a humorous performance, can include monologues, imitations, parodies and sketches and will take place on January 26 in Plaza

Mayor at the same times.

Interested companies can present their shows to either the Citizen Participation portal of the website of the City Council of Palma until November 21.

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Mayumana in Mallorca

WORLD-FAMOUS dance troupe Mayumana are set to perform their new show 'Rumba!' at the Auditorium de Palma.

Widely regarded as one of the world's best percussion, rhythm and dance groups, Mayumana have been seen by more than eight million people worldwide.

'Rumba!', is a co-production between Mayumana and SOM Produce, who have produced hit musical shows such as Priscilla, Cabaret and Billy Elliott.

Touring more than 30 cities, the show uses the music of Estopa and offers an extraordinary cast of artists who sing, dance, act and play instruments to create a unique performance.



Credit: @baltarte/Twitter

POPULAR: More than 8 million people have seen Mayumana perform worldwide.

The show will be at the Auditorium de Palma between November 24 and 26, with tickets priced between €29 and €35.



RETURNING: The Choir will perform in Spain for the ninth time.

Gospel gig

THE Alabama Gospel Choir will perform in Palma next year, it has been announced.

The choir, consisting of 20 artists, will return to Spain for the ninth time to play at Palma's Magna Hall on January 5, 2018.

As well as spiritual, religious songs of the 19th century which have deep religious roots, the choir will produce a tribute to the songs of protest and marches for freedom, alongside well-known songs such as 'Oh Happy Day.'

The group captures the history of gospel by conveying a message of peace and solidarity along with the rhythms of funk and blues.

Tickets can be purchased via the Auditorium Palma website and can also be purchased at the Auditorium's Box office on +34 971 734 735.

INCAREdible First-class fowl

MALLORCA's largest agricultural fair is set to return to Inca.

Taking place next Thursday, the Dijous Bo Fair in Inca includes over 700 market stalls along 40 streets.

The fair will also have a number of events, including the Mallorcan black pig competition, as well as artisans, funfairs, music, dancing performances and agriculture.

MORE than 700 birds have been judged during the annual Manacor Ornithological contest.

Mallorca's best Balearic bird species, including canaries, exotic and European birds and hybrid specimens were judged over a number of days at the Manacor Ornithological association.

The winners of their categories, including best colour and best exotic specimens, were awarded their prizes at a private ceremony.

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TRAVELLING away from Spain this week the focus turns on Buttafuoco Storico from Italy; a serious competitor to Barolo, Barbaresco, Amarone.

Little known outside Italy, it is reasonably priced and produced in the Oltrepo' Pavese, a beautiful hilly area 70km from Milan that has cold winters and warm, dry summers. Different type of soil - bottom gravel embedded in sand, compact sandstones and also clays - in the relatively small territory impart unique characteristics to the grapes.

Through fermentation of several indigenous grapes with different characteristics, the winegrowers produce a unique wine of structure that can age for years.

The blend is 50 per cent Croatina that brings the colour and hints of red fruit; 25 per cent Barbera with its acidity the backbone of the wine, plus Ughetta Canneto and Uva Rara that enrich

Hidden gem from Italy

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



softness and fruit.

Buttafuoco Storico is produced by only 14 winemakers who adhere to strict rules, including being harvested by hand, aged at least 12 months in wooden barrels then a minimum six months in bottles embossed with the 'Mark of the Dawn Treader ship,' and only marketed three years after harvest.

Excellent with red meat and game dishes it also goes perfectly with blue and mature cheeses.

My favourite labels - all below €20 for a 2011 or 2013 vintage - are Vigna del Garlenzo - Az; Agricola Giorgi Franco di Giorgi Pierluigi; Vigna Montarzolo - Azienda Vinicola Calvi Davide; and Vigna Costera -



ITALIAN: Excellent with red meat.

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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

HE'S a bit of a coward is Carles Putzschdemont (someone else's joke, but too good not to share).

Cataluña's president Carles Puigdemont chickened out of announcing the Republic on October 10 as his separatist supporters expected. On the eve of UDI, faced with accusations of treachery, he chickened out of announcing the regional elections that could have halted Article 155 and suspending Cataluña's autonomous status.

Allegedly pushed by his Juntspel Si coalition partners, ERC, Puigdemont could not chicken out of the October 27 vote proclaiming the Republic to a half-empty parliament chamber and some serious Front Bench faces.

He looked more cheerful the next day going walk-about in Girona, where he was mayor between 2011 and 2016. He smiled for the inevitable selfies and said he would turn up for work as usual on Monday.

Instead he poddled off to Brussels with five members of his government to hire the lawyer Paul Bekaert who has defended members of the Basque terrorist group ETA and halted the extradition to Spain of Natividad Jauregui.

The next day Puigdemont said he would return to face the music, but "only if guaranteed a fair trial," so until he gets a 'get-out-of-jail' free card he will head a government in exile. Chicken.

Playing chicken



Credit: TG Post/Facebook

CHICKEN RUN: Ex-Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont fled the country after declaring independence.

Hare and hounds

UNTIL now Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias ran with the hare and hunted with the hounds regarding Cataluña.

Meanwhile the October Sigma Dos poll puts Unidos Podemos - the not entirely successful Podemos-Izquierda Unida merger - on 15.3 per cent of the vote, now fourth after Ciudadanos on 16.7 per cent.

Having tried to placate voters inside and outside Cataluña until now, Iglesias stayed with the hounds by calling to order Albano Dante Fachin, party leader in Cataluña, after at least one Podemos regional MP voted for independence on October 26.

Whether he likes it or not, that's where Iglesias must remain if Podemos wants any credibility in Spain's 16 other regions.

Sentenced twice over

ASAMBLEA NACIONAL CATALANA leader Jordi Sanchez is in Soto del Real prison, remanded for his part in organising demonstrations in Barcelona last September.

Shortly after he arrived, Sanchez asked to move after he heard a prisoner shout Viva España. The request was rejected as Sanchez's safety was not at risk, the prison authorities explained.

The trustee assigned to share his cell was luckier. After several days in Sanchez's company he confessed that he couldn't put up with the Catalan separatist a day longer.

He was always banging on about independence, he complained. "It was like being sentenced twice over."

Fortunately he was moved next day but he has our sympathies: we know just how he felt.

On benefits

THE Catalan crisis could not have come at a better time for Mariano Rajoy and his government.

Little attention has been paid to the Gurtel kickbacks and corruption trial involving leading Partido Popular politicians past and present.

The Public Prosecutor maintained that former Health minister Ana Mato benefited, through her ex-husband, from presents and commissions bestowed by Gurtel boss Francisco Correa. She read from the usual script, claiming she had no idea who had paid for the nice little extras that the family enjoyed.

So someone smart enough to become Health minister wasn't smart enough to query the origin of such generosity.

Or did she merely shrug her shoulders and fasten her seatbelt as she and the kids took off for Disneyland?

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Pestminster crackdown or hysterical witch hunt?

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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

THERESA MAY 'begged for help' and the UK press has been inundated with tales of sexual shenanigans in Hollywood and Westminster.

First up, Hollywood. That people are no longer willing to accept disgraceful, predatory, controlling behaviour is welcome news and long overdue. Yet it seems that any accusation is immediately taken at face value. The guilt of the accused is automatically taken for granted, and mob justice prevails.

But shouldn't we be careful as a society? Historically, creative people often weren't very moral or very nice. Caravaggio, the painter, killed a love rival. Richard Wagner: an anti-Semite and serial adulterer. Byron: sexually very exploitative, apparently. If we reject the creative work of these people, aren't we depriving ourselves of something valuable?

Kevin Spacey is generally considered a fine actor. But should his career be destroyed over alleged incidents way back while maybe drunk? At the time of writ-



DISGRACED: Kevin Spacey has been accused of sexual misconduct.

ing, they don't seem to compare with Harvey Weinstein's behaviour which appears to justify all the condemnation it's attracted.

Many of our own outstanding actors in the past led lives that were often controversial. If we're only prepared to accept the artistic creations of sexually well-adjusted, blameless individuals then our films, novels and other creative works could become quite bland too.

As for Westminster, MPs warn of "wild rumours" fuelling a witch hunt worse than the expenses scandal. And following that scandal, who wanted to become an MP? As a group, they're despised, distrusted and discredited.

Now only a few public-spirited individuals, the ambitious with sufficient outside income, and an army of incompetents fill the benches. Is it surprising our Brexit performance's been so pathetic?

Whilst in no way condoning sexual harassment by politicians of young aides and others fearful for their careers, it seems to me the few decent MPs left will be subject to another witch hunt. And there can't be many people without some incident in their past they'd rather forget!

After this lot of 'sinners' has been hounded out, who'll be left to deal with the single-most important challenge facing the UK in recent times?

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

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THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Graham Braben, Albox

Forgotten your password?

I'M sure you know what I mean. That moment, no that dreaded moment, at the supermarket checkout, when you've put the password for your card into that hand held device, only for it to display everybody's nightmare phrase - password incorrect. You chance a guilty look behind and see the queue of shoppers, trolleys twitching with intent, growing by the second and all staring angrily at you, daring you to get it wrong for a second time.

What a nightmare passwords are. James Bond never seems to have a problem remembering or cracking them. He sees something once and that's it, he remembers it forever, well at least until the end of the two-hour film.

Yesterday I had a little time to spare and got to wondering, as you do, how passwords first came about? Unbelievably they've been around for a long time, there's one at the start of Shakespeare's well-known play about that Danish Prince, Hamlet.

But it seems that the real culprits were those Ancient Egyptians. Apparently, they had to give a password for getting into certain important places, having to negotiate their way past guards with seriously pointy spears.

When it comes to passwords, I thought that I was being clever by keeping them simple - 12345 or even, brilliantly I thought, password - but they are the most popular passwords of all.

But, what if we all change our passwords to 'Incorrect' then when we forget them, the machine will simply remind us! Crack that code if you can James Bond!

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of around 250 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to editorial@euroweeklynews.com.

Intelligent homes change lives

By Matthew Elliott

A SPANISH company hopes to make a splash in the smart homes sector. HogarTec wants to bring the intelligent homes, taking the American market by storm, to Spain.

Managing director Enrique Barrera has presented his vision to the Spanish Association of Domotics (Cedom). He waxed lyrical about a situation where an owner would return home, press a button and, within minutes, air freshener is released, heaters and lights are turned on, and personal preferences set in motion. These could be music, films or even food preparation.

"It self-manages by incorporating all of its elements into one entity, coordinated by a central power source, as though it were a living organ-



CONTROL: Owners expect homes to manage themselves.

ism", Barrera said of HogarTec's intelligent homes.

At the touch of a button on their mobile phones, homeowners will be able to control all the equipment in their property. They will also be notified by text if there's a leak or the security system is triggered.

But these homes won't just wait for the

owner to return to fix the problem. They will react to it themselves, even calling emergency services, or booking a plumber if it can't be fixed on the spot.

Owners will save a great deal of money as the house adapts its energy output to suit the mood. Barrera claims 70 per cent can be saved on lighting and 40 per cent on air conditioning.

Homeowners interested in incorporating the new technology into their homes can expect to fork out anywhere from €2,500 to €150,000.

Life's a beach!

STUDIES show that people who live close to the coast are happier than those who live inland.

While doctors used to prescribe trips to the coast for hundreds of years to cure all manner of ailments, there has been little research into why being by the seaside actually has proven health benefits until recently.

Scientists from the University of Exeter's European Centre for the Environment and Human Health have conducted several experiments to delve into why the ocean has such a positive impact on our well-being. They actually discovered that those who live by the coast absorb greater levels of vitamin D and enjoy the health benefits of this. Vitamin D helps to keep bones strong and regulates the immune system, which can ward off all manner of illnesses.

The researchers at Exeter University concluded that living by the sea encourages outdoor activity so more people who live there get in a daily dose of exercise.



EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY: Is a sea view the secret to happiness?

The fresh, salty air by the coast can also help with respiratory problems such as asthma, coughing and bronchitis due to the negatively charged hydrogen ions in the air that help the body absorb oxygen.

Swimming in salt water also does won-

ders for the body as it boosts the immune system, improves circulation and hydrates skin.

So the next time you're on the hunt for a new home, keep in mind all the good an ocean view might just do for you.

No Brexistential crisis here

BREXIT will not affect British real estate investment in Marbella, according to Senior Financial and Economic Officer at the British Embassy in Madrid, Paul Clark.

There have been worries since the Brexit vote that the link between the Costa del Sol and the UK may be at risk. However, Clark moved to distance those fears and remained optimistic that a

positive outcome can still be achieved moving forward. Speaking at the 13th ICA Malaga Legal and Judiciary Conference at the Palacio de Congressos in Marbella, Clark said: "The conditions here are optimum for investment and the latest official statistics this year show that property sales have risen again. There is currently a great deal of optimism about the future."

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

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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 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

Terraced house near the sea with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, laundry room, private garage, garden, aircon



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

Large finca perfect for keeping horses: main house 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen/diner, garage. Guest house for total reform, large stables, own well, mains electricity. Totally constructed 750m2, plot 70,500m2



Ref 3105, Lluçmajor, 260,000€

Completely reformed townhouse with 2 bedrooms (3rd possible), 1 bathroom, guest toilet, living room, kitchen, courtyard, pre-installation for central heating. Living area 150m2.



Ref 3021, Vallgornera, 585,000€

Lovely semi-detached luxury villa. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, very large living room with American kitchen, garage, large terraces, community pool and garden (4,000m2). aircon and central heating. Living area 220m2



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PUMPKINS are a famous vegetable with a lot of virtues that are renowned for their long storage life and ease of growing.

They are traditionally grown on hills in the vegetable patch but can also be grown in large containers and grown vertically up a trellis if space is an issue.

There is a huge range of pumpkin varieties that allow you to grow just what you need. A lot of publicity is given to having the largest pumpkin but for practical reasons smaller varieties, such as butternut are more suitable to the domestic garden to have just enough for a meal rather than a week of the same pumpkin just to use it all up.

It is fun to grow some as decoration such as the miniature gourds that can be dried and keep as decoration or larger pumpkins to carve out designs highlighted by candles inside the pumpkin such as for

Plentiful pumpkins - not just for Halloween



feeders and need plenty of moisture around their roots but not on their leaves and vines. Wetting the plants parts above ground encourages fungal problems such as powdery mildew.

This year I had a bumper harvest from growing them in a patch that had my portable chicken coup on it the year before, with little work from my part as the chickens had done all the preparation.

You can grow them in a barrel or other large container of well composted soil mix and grow the smaller varieties up a trellis in a sunny position. If the pumpkins become very large you can put a sling around the growing pumpkin to give them support until harvest.

The way to tell if they are fully mature is when their skin turns a deeper, stronger colour. Press your fingernail against the skin to test that it is hard and tap it to see if it has a hollow sound. If the skin is soft it is not ready and if it has a hollow sound it should be ready if the skin is hard.

Harvest the pumpkin by cutting the stem, do not tear it off, with plenty of stem still attached to the pumpkin so that it will preserve longer. Unless you are using the pumpkin straight away, the close cutting of the stem to the pumpkin invites deterioration of the pumpkin in storage.

After harvest keep the pumpkins in the outdoors to harden them off in the sun for a week before storage in a cool darker place with the individual pumpkins slightly separated from each other.

The best time to plant pumpkins in the Mediterranean is in early spring after danger of frosts has passed. The earlier the better as the mid-summer can sometimes be too hot for pumpkins so an earlier harvest is recommended.

PUMPKINS:
Perfect for rich
thick soup.

Halloween.

The main reason for growing them however is their ability to be stored for months in the right condition to have rich thick soups and other warming recipes over the cold winter months when supplies from the garden can be limited.

To grow them you need a very compost enriched soil to retain moisture and provide nutrients as they are heavy



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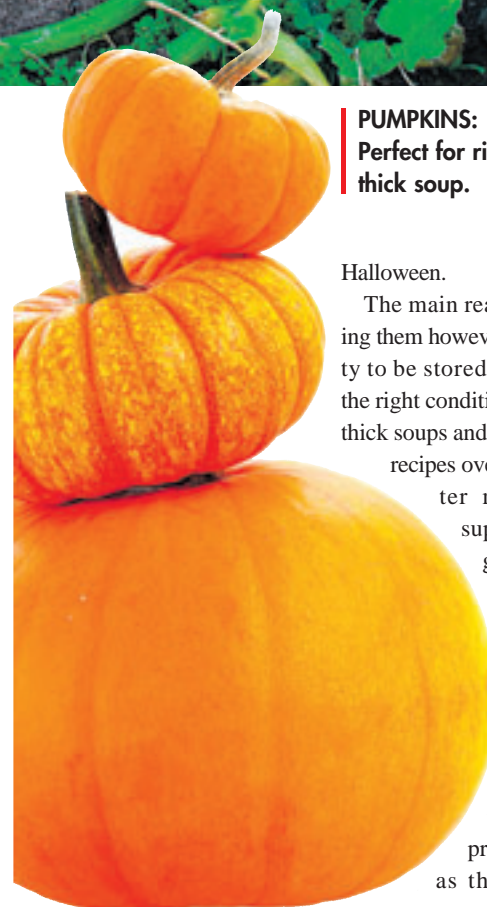
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Keep cosy this winter

By Sally Underwood

WITH autumn quickly passing and winter fast approaching, now is the time to think about making your home as cosy as possible for those colder months.

Rearranging some of your existing home decorations can create a warmer environment, as well as lifting the spirits.

Here are some ways to use your furniture to make the winter both snugglier and more user-friendly.

Stack that wood. If you have an open fire or wood burner, get in enough logs to last for at least three or four days at a time so you don't have to worry about keeping your home warm.

Use an older picnic or wicker basket to store them next to the fireplace, creating a cosy arrangement.

A good read. According to Becky Harris, a contributor to Houzz, an interior design website, creating a great space to enjoy a book is key to staying cosy in winter.



WINTER READING: Make yourself comfy.

She says, "Keep plenty of pillows, a quilt, a good light to read by, those materials you've been wanting to get to and a perch for a hot cup of something, all together in one place."

Blanket approach. Draping blankets over the backs and arms of chairs and sofas helps retain warmth and gives a snuggly winter look.

Plus, you will always have a quilt to hand to throw over your feet if you get chilly!

Feather your nest. Adding more cushions to your sofas and beds can also add a splash of seasonal colour while making the space more comfortable for the additional time spent indoors over the colder months.

Going thermal. And finally, if you really want to keep heat in and create a winter feel at home, you could replace your curtains with thermal-lined ones in a berry or gold shade, retaining warmth and adding a Christmassy feel all in one go. They will come in handy again next year too!

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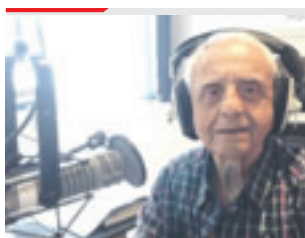
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It is essential that all dogs are regularly inoculated and wormed, that is; inoculations and boosters every year, worming treatments every three months as your vet will advise. The only effective worming products are available from your vet.

Many pet owners encounter problems at the vet. The dogs and cats do not like to be examined. From an early age, make it a pleasant experience for your pet to be handled and examined by different people.

Always do this while you are present, reassure and reward the dog with praise and titbits. Only ask sensible people, who are used to dogs to assist

Preparing your dog for vet's inspection



THE VET'S TABLE: Do not let your dog jump off alone.

you with this exercise.

Some if not most vets prefer to examine their patients on a table. So if you have a dog that can be lifted onto a suitable table, get the dog used to being put on the table. Hold him in a comfortable position for a few seconds, praising him and reassuring him, then give him a 'titbit' and gently lift him off.

Never let a dog jump off the table by himself. If you use a table, make sure a mat or cover is placed on it so that it is not slippery for the dog. There is no quicker way to make a dog hate being picked up and put on a table than to place it on a slippery surface.

Administering prescribed treatments:

Often following a visit to your vet

you will be required to continue a course of treatment at home. This can include: giving pills or liquid medicine (orally); applying ointments to eyes, ears, and skin; administering eye or ear drops.

The only reason dogs object to taking medicine is that they are not used to being handled. It is kinder to prepare your dog to the best of your ability for

the occasion when this will probably arise. This is best done by training your dog to allow you to handle it and examine any part of its body, under any circumstances, without any resistance from your dog.

Pills can often be given by disguising the pill inside a little piece of butter, margarine or cheese. There are many "Do Not's" associated with this sort of training, all of which are common sense, but you would be surprised how many dog owners have little of this precious commodity. Do not give dogs any medicine unless specifically prescribed for that dog by a vet.

If in doubt about your dog's health, consult a vet, never take advice from unqualified people; this includes pet shops, dog breeders, dog trainers, behaviourists and the person who had a dog with the same sort of symptoms.

Do not put anything in your dog's ear. Look, don't poke! Report discharges or smells to your vet. Do not put any drops or ointment into your dog's eyes. Do not interfere with any lumps, bumps, wounds, cysts, rashes or anything else on your dog's body. Consult your vet.



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Dog-less days are over

THE Furbo dog camera has finally arrived in Spain, allowing owners to check on their dogs and even give them treats while they are out of the house.

The camera, which has already been on the market in the US and the UK for several months, lets dog owners spy on their pooches by accessing the camera through an app on their phone. It also has a microphone, meaning you can communicate with your pet and even has an interactive game setting that can give your dog treats.

All you have to do is con-



CANINE CAM: Have you ever wondered what your dog gets up to when you're not around?

nect the device, which is about the size of a water bottle, to your Wi-Fi at home and download the app.

You also have to add the treats before you leave, and then you can choose when to give them to your dog throughout the day. The app even allows you to take videos and photos and share them on social media.

If that didn't already sound impressive, the camera also has a barking detector so the owner can find out when their dog is getting restless, as well as a system of light signals which warns dogs that their owner is about to communicate.



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Photo Credit: Vicent Bosch Valencia Boat Show

VALENCIA: Visitors to the busy show.

The successful Valencia Boat Show is now over

THE Valencia Boat Show which lasted for five days managed to attract 14,728 visitors even though it ran for two days less than last year.

The daily average number of boat lovers attending was 3,000 which compares well with last year's average of 2,142.

On the free day, no less than 8,000

people took the time to visit and to enjoy the exhibition of new boats, engines, accessories and nautical services and to participate in the free activities that were held on the closing Sunday.

According to estimates received from exhibitors, total spend on boats and accessories is expected to greatly exceed last year's sum of €4.3 million.

Next year's event has already been announced and will be held at the same site from October 31 to November 4 to include the National Holiday for All Saints.

As this year, the first four days will have paid entry and on the last day the organisers will open the doors free of charge.

Spanish Cup for Laser Radial Palma

MORE than 100 sailors from 30 different yacht clubs took part in the 2017 Spanish Cup for the Laser Radial Class, which will be held in the waters of the Bay of Palma

The event was organised by the Club Nàutic s'Arenal and in collaboration with the Balearic Sailing Federation and the Spanish Association of the International Laser Class (AECIL) with nine races scheduled.

“ Only five races were completed over the three days of competition.

Marcelo Cairo a sailor from the Club Nautic de Cambrils was the overall winner and in second place was Pere Ponseti of Club Nàutic de Ciutadella.

Mention must be made of the success of Club Nàutic s'Arenal com-



Photo Credit: Bernard Bibiloni CNA

SAILORS: Preparing for the races.

petitor, Pep Cazador who was the winner of the Laser Radial Spain Cup in the under 17 category and who came fifth in the whole competition.

The winner of the female category was the Mallorcan, Aina Bauzá from the Club de Vela Puerto de Andratx

with Carlota Sánchez the runner up.

Winds were unpredictable and in the end, only five races were completed over the three days of competition but this was sufficient for the winners and runners up to be declared.

Laser 4.7 event held in Estepona

ESTEPONA was the scene for 50 sailors to battle it out for the second Copa Andalucía Laser 4.7 which was the second championship regatta of the season.

The tournament was organised by the Real Club Náutico de Estepona, the Andalusian Sailing Federation, Marinas of the Mediterranean, the APPA and Estepona Council with participants taking part in five races.

Three races were held last Saturday with east winds averaging nine knots although the day started later than expected due to heavy sea fog. Then a further two rounds were held on the next day, Sunday, marked by a strong current.

This was a very close competition that saw all 50 sailors putting their all into each of the rounds and it was down to the last race when victory by the CNM Benal-



Photo Credit: Marinas de Andalucía

Some of the competing boats.

madena sailor, Carlos Sánchez Alonso saw him narrowly defeat Francisco Pérez Leahy, CN Fuengirola.

José María Muguruza, from CN Elcano de Cádiz came third and the leading female sailor Alba Sierra from CN El Trocadero finished eighth overall, but won the female division adding this success to her win last month in waters off La Linea de la Concepcion.



Photo Credit: Benzioni

Specialist sun awnings for the largest Jacuzzi.

METS Amsterdam opens shortly

BENZONI the Italian manufacturer of accessories for superyachts will be exhibiting a wide range of products at the Marine Equipment Trade Show (METS) in Amsterdam.

METS which is the world's largest trade show running from next Tuesday to Thursday is celebrating its 50th anniversary and brings together nautical equipment manufacturers from every continent.

The show provides companies the opportunity to showcase their latest product innovations for all boat types in the nautical and naval sector: small and medium-sized yachts, superyachts and commercial vessels.

On display from Benzioni will be the P400 Matrix helm seat, nominated for the prestigious DAME - Design Award 2017, in the category of 'interior equipment, furnishings, materials and electrical fittings used in cabins.'

In addition they will also unveil a whole range of new and innovative products including sun awnings.

**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

“Buying this car for its dynamic abilities is like buying a porn film for its plot.”

Some might say...



Motoring shorts

Vanquish bows out

THE very last of the Aston Martin Vanquish S range has been released. The S Ultimate is the British firm's glamorous send off to the now iconic model.

Aimed at serious collectors, there are just 175 Ultimates up for grabs, with a starting price of £211,995 (€237,706).

There's little to improve on the monstrous 595bhp already offered by the regular Vanquish S. So this rare collectable instead focuses on style, with three new designer themes to choose from.

Ultimate black, a blueish grey, and white gold are the colour schemes, while buyers can be as picky as they like about the interior design.

All Ultimates feature carbon fibre brakes, treadplates, and grilles and are emblazoned with a rose gold 'Ultimate' badge.

Performance braking

by Matthew Elliott

FORD has a new solution for drivers who miss the old-fashioned hydraulic handbrake. Its Drift Stick goes against the modern obsession with the electronic handbrake.

The Drift Stick is a lever connected to the electronic handbrake in the new Ford RS Edition. Skilled drivers can use it to lock the rear wheels and slide, rally car like, while conducting a sharp turn.

The patented device slips easily into the car's diagnostics port. It was developed with the help of rally driver Ken Block, who showcases the Drift Stick in a YouTube video for Ford.

It works in unison with the

anti-lock system and is far easier to use than traditional hydraulic handbrakes.

That doesn't mean new drivers will suddenly be performing rally stunts on public streets.

Drivers will have to know how to drift before they can make any real use of the new technology. Not to mention the fact that drifting is illegal on almost all public roads.

Expert drivers will be able to make use of a USB stick, plugged into the Drift Stick, to monitor their performance. If they have access to



Shutterstock (car) Twitter (drift stick)

DRIFT GIFT: Ford RS goes old school with drift stick.

one, they can take it down to the track and work on their drift with decent feedback.

Ford's Drift Stick goes on sale in December in the

United States. It will cost \$999 (€860) and be compatible with the RS Edition, a special edition of the acclaimed Focus RS, lauded for its mechanical

control.

Ford hasn't yet said whether or if the Drift Stick will be available in Europe and stresses that it is for track use only.

ITV test overhauled



UPDATED: ITV test.

THE Spanish government has announced a series of changes to the ITV test for private vehicles in 2018.

Coming into force on May 20, an official statement said that the MOT equivalent will be "more demanding" in order to detect cases of manipulation regarding emissions in particular.

All centres will thus be equipped with new diagnos-

tic reading devices which will connect to vehicles' on-board computers to analyse security systems and detect 'malicious software' or 'cheating.'

ITV inspectors must also hold a 'Superior Automotive Technician' qualification as a minimum.

In addition, if a vehicle passed its technical inspection in any other European

Union country it will remain valid in Spain until the next scheduled review.

Drivers may also book their test up to one month in advance of the suggested date.

Finally, if a vehicle fails the ITV test motorists will be able to choose a different centre for the second test rather than being forced to use the same one.

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Brazil tough nut to crack for England after Germany test

ENGLAND host Germany on November 10 and Brazil on November 14 in international friendlies at Wembley ahead of the 2018 World Cup Finals with manager Gareth Southgate throwing down the gauntlet.

"I don't think anybody can sit back and safely think they're going to be involved next summer," warned Southgate.

"In every position there's really strong competition," said Southgate, who has brought in Joe Gomez, Tammy Abraham and Ruben Loftus Cheek.

Southgate has left out Alex Oxlade Chamberlain, Daniel Sturridge, Jermain Defoe, Chris Smalling, Jake Livermore, Fraser Forster and Aaron Cresswell.

Reining World champions Germany, world cup winners four times, and five-time World



UK SPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

Cup winners Brazil are arguably England's toughest duo they could face as an indicator to their 2018 World Cup hopes.

It will be a real test of steel and nerves against Joachim Low's Germany - cruising to qualification from Group C - with nine wins out of nine.

Brazil are likely to field their strongest side, including stars Philippe Coutinho, Neymar and Gabriel Jesus, as they prepare for Russia, in a bid to clinch their sixth World Cup success.

Southgate will finalise the England squad - after friendlies against Germany and Brazil and games against Holland in Amsterdam on March 23, and

against Italy at Wembley on March 27.

"If I had to pick a squad tomorrow I know who I'd take. Over the next six months that could evolve drastically," said Southgate.

Phil Jones, John Stones and Gary Cahill are key defensive players and Southgate believes England have in their locker.

"Not just this season, but there was a long period in the middle of last season where Phil Jones has been the best defender," Southgate said of the Manchester United star.

"Phil has had great experiences - with both club and coun-

try - he organises and competes well and it's clear what he brings to the team," said Southgate.

England squad for the friendlies against Germany and Brazil: Tammy Abraham (Swansea City, loan from Chelsea), Dele Alli (Spurs), Ryan Bertrand (Southampton), Jack Butland (Stoke), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Fabian Delph (Manchester City), Eric Dier (Spurs), Joe Gomez (Liverpool), Joe Hart (West Ham, loan from Manchester City), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).

Phil Jones (Manchester United), Harry Kane (Spurs), Jesse Lingard (Manchester United), Ruben Loftus-Cheek (Crystal Palace, loan from Chelsea), Harry Maguire (Leicester City), Jordan Pickford (Everton), Marcus Rashford (Manchester United).

Danny Rose (Spurs), Raheem Sterling (Manchester City), John Stones (Manchester City), Kieran Trippier (Spurs), Jamie Vardy (Leicester City), Kyle Walker (Manchester City), Harry Winks (Spurs), Ashley Young (Manchester United).

*Northern Ireland play Switzerland in their first leg play-off on today, with the return second leg in Basel on November 12, in their quest to reach the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia.

F1: Lewis hams it up

LEWIS HAMILTON heads to Brazil on November 12 having won his fourth Formula 1

World Championship in Mexico last month.

"This year was a massive challenge I was looking forward to," said Hamilton, ahead of the penultimate race at the Autódromo José Carlos Pace, São Paulo, Brazil

Mercedes driver Hamilton, who has won three titles in four years, joins Sebastian Vettel, Alain Prost, Juan Manuel Fangio and Michael Schumacher as the only drivers to have won at least four F1 titles.

F1 title rival, Ferrari driver Vettel, has battled for the title with Hamilton this season: "Fighting against a great team in Ferrari with the highest decorated driver in the sport was a massive challenge.

"It's great to have two teams fighting - we need more of that - it pushes us all more to the limit, that's what's got us excited for the sport," said Hamilton.

The São Paulo race marks the 46th running of the Brazilian Grand Prix and the 45th time it has been run as a World Championship event - since the inaugural season in 1950 - along with it being the 34th World Championship event to be staged at Interlagos.

SPAIN Captain Sergio Ramos will get a taster of the 2018 World Cup Finals when they play hosts Russia in an international friendly game on November 14.

"We have never lost focus and been united on one aim to reach the World Cup. It will be my fourth World Cup and that fills me with pride," said Ramos.

Spain meet Russia in a friendly in St Petersburg at the 70,000 capacity Kretovskiy Stadium - dubbed the 'UFO' - to play on a pitch that has been relaid THREE times!

A third new pitch was laid in June, three weeks before the start of the Confederation Cup. Zenit FC played two league games on the second pitch laid, and chunks of turf were ragged up!

"Russia doesn't have experience with sliding pitches in football stadiums and that's a real challenge," said St Petersburg's Deputy Governor Igor Albin.

The Kretovskiy Stadium is one of 12 stadiums across 11 Russian cities that will host matches, including the 2018 World Cup semi-final and the third-place play-off games.

The Kretovskiy Stadium has been praised as one of the world's most advanced stadiums which took over a decade to build, reportedly costing more than 49 billion rubles (€950 million), seven times the amount announced in 2004 when original plans were drawn up.

Deputy Governor Albin said: "This multifunction sport and cultural complex is exploited all year round so we have a retractable roof and a sliding pitch. It's a reasonable price."

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson



■ SERGIO RAMOS: World Cup winner.

Ramos proud as Spain head to Russia

Before Spain head to Russia they host Costa Rica in Malaga on November 11, the first of a double-header friendly fixtures awaiting coach Julen Lopetegui's squad.

Spain defeated Israel 1-0 last month, to finish five points ahead of Italy in the World Cup qualifying Group G.

Spain qualified for the 2018 World Cup, beating Albania 3-0 in Alicante, in the wake of the disputed referendum in

Cataluña, that lead to Barcelona defender Gerard Pique being booed.

"Many things have happened but we have focused on the best interests of the team," said Lopetegui, who has won eight out of nine competitive games since replacing Vicente del Bosque in 2016.

On qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, Lopetegui said: "We are delighted and proud of what we have achieved, it's very important for Spain.

"We've qualified for the World Cup, which was our primary objective," said Lupetegui.

Pique and national teammate Sergio Ramos put aside political differences to reach next summer's World Cup after Pique had been vocal in his support for Cataluña's referendum on independence.

Pique said he could quit, but a pact was made: "I have a very good relationship with Gerard - even though we think differently - we have no problem between us," said Ramos.

Márquez's fourth MotoGP title bid

SPAIN'S defending MotoGP World Champion Marc Márquez heads to Valencia on November 12 - needing only an 11th place finish - to win a fourth MotoGP title.

The 2017 MotoGP World Championship final race in Valencia sees Respol Honda Team's Márquez enter the last round of the season ahead of Ducati Team's Andrea Dovizioso.

Standings after race 17 of 18 see Márquez 21 points ahead of Dovizioso, after the Italian won the Malaysian MotoGP on October 29.

Márquez, who needs to score five points - if Dovizioso wins - an 11th place or better finish, was pointless in three races during the 2017 MotoGP World Championship, when crashing out in both Argentina and France.



NEXT week only in the Euro Weekly News. Sports correspondent Andrew Atkinson talks exclusively in-depth in Part 1 of a two-part interview with British born teenage swimming sensation, twice-Junior World Oceanman Female World Champion, Club Natacion Elche star, Zoe Connolly, 16.

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TO READ MORE

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

Difficult matches for local rugby teams

THE Babarians XV Calvia had a difficult match against San Cugat RC at Principes de España late on Saturday.

The visitors took advantage of mistakes made by the Babarians which gave them the edge. Their tackling was tough and accurate and although the home team had some good scoring opportunities they were unable to make the most of them.

By half-time the score was equal at 19, but as the evening wore on it became increasingly difficult for the players to see the ball in the dim floodlights and approaching storm. Score at full time was 26 - 31 as the home team scored a last minute try.

Baleares Senior League

Local matches over the weekend included El Toro RC in Menorca, final score 18 - 35. Bahia RC played a tough match against RC Ponent who dominated the game. Score at the whistle was a close 10 - 14. Final score in the



WINNERS: El Toro produced their first victory of the season.

Corsaris RC match against Shamrock RC in the rain was 12 - 18.

U14, U16 and U18 League
 The U18 teams from El Toro

RC and RC Ponent played a hotly disputed match in Principes de

España with a first win for El Toro RC this season by 21 points to 36.

The U16 teams played in Binissalem on Sunday and the U14 players had a Baleares training session.

Coming up next week

Babarians XV Calvia play top team in the league Las Abelles, who have yet to lose a match and also have the home advantage. Kick off at 4pm in Valencia.

The Baleares Senior League continues with matches for El Toro RC at home in Son Caliu against Corsaris RC. Shamrock RC play Bahia RC, Capdepera RC play Dimonis RC, Ibiza RC are at home to Menorca.

A new venue for the Rugby Day and U14 league is Ses Salines on Saturday who also host training sessions for the U16 and 18. The Baleares girls' team will be in Ibiza for a friendly training session and match against Murcia.



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