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New twist in Cursach case

POLICE are investigating the namesake son of jailed nightclub owner Bartolome Cursach.

It comes amid claims that he impersonated one of the protected witnesses in the ongoing case against his father, falsely telling an online newspaper that detectives had coerced him into faking his court testimony.

But the witness in question saw the report and contacted police, sparking a probe which revealed the message had come from Cursach junior's personal computer.

Cursach senior is accused of 16 separate offences including bribery, extortion, money-laundering, homicide, corruption of children and firearm possession.

Killer storm Bruno claims life



DANGER: Huge storm waves were reported.

A windsurfer died in Es Barcares, Alcudia, amid Storm Bruno's extreme conditions yesterday (Wednesday).

The 47-year-old man drowned as winds of up to 100km per hour battered the coast.

The 112 emergency services confirmed his death in the afternoon, after he was reportedly found unconscious in the water hours earlier.

He is thought to have been pulled out of the water but was not revived despite onlookers and emergency staffs' attempts to resuscitate him, according to Spanish media.

Yesterday saw extreme conditions on the coast, with huge waves to match strong winds.

The Balearics were hit with heavy rainfall alongside the winds, with the extreme weather forecast to be over by tonight (Thursday), though lighter gusts will remain.

Es Barcares is a popular spot for wind and kite surfers. The wind at the scene is thought to have been gusting at between 40 and 60km per hour when the man died.

Waves of up to eight metres high were reported.

Bogus sickness scams probed

SCOTLAND YARD will help combat the food poisoning scammers who have defrauded Mallorca's hotels of tens of millions of Euros in bogus insurance claims.

The British police service was asked by Spain's National Police to track down UK-based companies and law firms suspected of masterminding the holiday sickness scams.

Mallorca has been at the centre of the scam in Spain. British holidaymakers are encouraged to lodge fake food poisoning complaints against local hotels in the hope of

getting an insurance payout.

With lax laws in the UK regarding evidence, and tour companies subtracting payouts automatically from their payments to Spanish hotels, scammers cost Spain's hotel industry €60 million last year.

The request for Scotland Yard's help centres around the case of arrested British businesswoman Laura Joyce.

She and six others, including her mother, are suspected of being part of a Palma-based network of scammers who encouraged tourists to make fraudulent claims.

See us on page 24



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BEST OF THE YEAR PAGES 6 - 16

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NEWS EXTRA**Tragic end**

A 74-YEAR-OLD hermit has been found dead in Valldemossa after a week-long search by the Guardia Civil's mountain rescue unit. Pedro Matamalas Sbert vanished while collecting moss for a nativity scene and his death is now being probed.

Sister shock

A 45-YEAR-OLD woman from Palma remains in intensive care after being stabbed by her sister near the Soller train line, with the attacker remanded in custody since the attack contravened a restraining order relating to a previous attack.

Topless trial

A MAN has appeared in a Palma court on suspicion of stealing tools including a chainsaw from a convertible car which was parked with its roof down before selling the items to a second-hand shop.

FRENCH actress Juliette Binoche was shooting her latest film on Mallorca this week. She and fellow French actor Guillaume Canet are starring in E-Book, a new comedy from Olivier Assayas.

The French crew were filming on S'Estantyol beach near Es Trenc yesterday where they received a visit from Mallorca's tourism commissioner Paula Ginard and head of the Mallorca Film Commission, Pedro Barbadillo.

Binoche shot to global fame when she won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Hana in The English Patient in 1996. She was also nominated for her performance in the 2000 romantic comedy Chocolat.

Paris rather than Mallorca will be the primary setting for the film, but the island is increasingly being used as a shooting destination for major international flicks.

In autumn parts of Nasty Women starring Anne Hathaway were shot on the island. British TV fans were also given a guided tour of Mal-

lorca in hit BBC series The Night Manager.

Now the island itself is becoming more involved in the industry. Local studio Palma Pictures is contributing to the production of E-Book, while the Mallorca Film Commission is providing technical support.

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FRENCH KISS: Binoche is shooting French flick near Es Trenc.

More space for tourist vehicles

THE mountain village of Galilea plans to build a new car park.

Famed for its views, goats and hiking, the area has become too popular for its own boots, councillors say. A new project will see Galilea purchase a large plot of land with enough space to park 60 cars and three coaches. It has a budget of €764,000, much of which has been raised locally by taxes paid by tourist businesses.

Urban planning councillor Xesc Canyelles hopes that the car park will reduce weekend and summer congestion and encourage more tourism.

He has stressed that the car park will not stick out like a sore thumb and instead be almost camouflaged amid the almond trees. Work is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.



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THE BEST
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Islanders
win big

MALLORCA residents scooped more than €5 million in the El Gordo Spanish Christmas lottery. Part of the second prize was won in Sant Llorenç while Lady Luck also shone on Campos and Cala Millor. Smaller prizes were won in Colonia Sant Jordi, Manacor and Palma.

Sunday joy

MAJOR shops will be open on Sunday, the last of the public holidays and Sundays where commerce is permitted in 2017. On Monday they will be closed for New Year's Day. On Sunday January 7, many shops will be open for the first sales Sunday of 2018.

Killer caged

SPAIN'S Supreme Court upheld the 15 and a half year prison sentence given to a Uruguayan man who broke into the Port Pollença home of a Swiss national. He and his accomplices beat the 78-year-old victim, who died of his injuries five days later.

Elite island

RICH tourists chose Mallorca as among their top 25 luxury destinations on the planet in 2017. A Luxury Hotel Guides survey of three million travellers found that the island is considered an elite destination alongside the likes of Dubai, Paris, New York and Singapore.

Breaking taboos

MORE excavations of mass Civil War-era graves have been confirmed for 2018. Almost €1 million will be spent digging up the graves of hundreds of people executed by fascist soldiers in Montiuiri, Porreres, Lluçmajor, Sencelles, Marratxí, Alaro, Deià, Manacor and Bunyola after exhumation taboos

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...43

As more and more people crack open the cava worldwide, the Spanish sparkling wine continues to take the country by storm, writes Harrison Jones.

What a corker!

CATALONIA'S take on Champagne is a sparkling white (or rosé) wine that everyone knows by name. The increasingly popular Cava - a word which means cave or cellar in Catalan - used to be aged in caves.

Over 200 years - and some industrial-scale reforms later - the tippie is still going strong, particularly at this time of year.

Indeed, Spaniards reportedly drink six times as much Cava during December as they do at any other time of the year.

Often seen as the cheap cousin to its French rival, under European law, the drink can no longer be referred to as the 'Spanish Champagne,' because the French Champagne region has Protected Geographical Status.

The name Cava itself was in fact only adopted in 1970, when Catalan winemakers tried to distinguish it from their rivals.

But the only differences between the two wines are the regions in which they are grown and the grapes



Cyclone Bill/Flickr

LOVELY BUBBLY: Cava is important in Spanish celebrations.

used. Meanwhile, Prosecco - another similar drink, from Italy - appears to be increasingly visible in Spanish shops.

Cava, though, is enjoying something of a resurgence at the higher end of the market, with some paying hundreds of euros for a single bottle.

Wine
with a
sparkle

THERE are numerous types of Cava, which tend to be sorted by sweetness and ageing.

Those distinguished by age are labelled as Joven (nine to 15 months), Reserva (15 to 30 months) and the most expensive Gran Reserva (at least 30 months).

But whilst quality appears to be increasing, there is no let up in quantity, with Spain producing roughly 250 million bottles of the stuff every single year. Around 90 per cent of it is Joven.

Great Britain was the third largest importer in 2014, narrowly trailing Bel-



Andrew Thomson/Flickr

CAVING: The wine used to be aged in caves.

gium and Germany, who buy some 30.5 million bottles of the standard product. In total, 130 countries import the wine: even Sierra Leone take a lowly 60 bottles.

Back in Spain, the drink is important in many traditional celebrations, including baptisms, marriages and dinners.

Yet for all the hype, Cava is not without its problems. In the aftermath of the Catalan referendum, there have been more calls for a boycott of Cava, in an attempt to hurt the political movement for independence.

Of course, there seems to be little ap-



Teddy Sipaseuth/Flickr

GROWTH: Cava vineyards produce 250 million bottles a year.

petite to part company with the drink just yet - so don't be surprised to see Cataluña's version of Champagne becoming the posh sparkling wine of choice in years to come.

were broken this year.

Example set

AN illegally built holiday home in Felanitx rented out to tourists for

€600 a night will be demolished. It had no permission to be advertised online and will instead be redeveloped by Mallorca's island council, which is cracking down heavily on illegal tourist rentals.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1694 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 27 local stories.

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Catalan crisis rumbles on

KING FELIPE VI used his Christmas speech to call for peace in Cataluña. The Spanish monarch tried to calm the situation by warning against violence, saying the country already knew that "would generate nothing but discord, uncertainty and discouragement."

But since last Thursday's vote - which saw separatist groups retain their majority - there has been remarkably little movement.

The festive period has seen very limited activism on the streets. And the Spanish authorities have pulled police reinforcements back from Cataluña, where they have been stationed since the illegal referendum, almost three months ago.

There were fears about further arrests of politicians, but that has so far failed to materialise.

The progress of coalition talks - which could yet take weeks - remains unknown, with the identity of the next Catalan president still in some doubt. But observers widely see the Spanish government's decision to call a snap election as a spectacular mistake, with pro-independence parties taking an unexpected majority.

However, pro-independence parties failed to win a majority of the votes - gaining 47 per cent of



Photo by El Pais/ Twitter

DOGGED DETERMINATION: Voters turned out in force two months after the referendum.

support - despite winning most seats. They saw their majority reduced to two, taking 70 of 135 seats.

Turnout was a record high - of over 80 per cent - as Catalans flooded to the polls following a divisive and bitter campaign.

Though the pro-Spanish unity Ciudadanos party won most seats (37), three independence parties working together would have a majority. That means deposed President Carles Puigdemont or Ciudadanos leader Ines Arrimadas could lead the region's next government, at least in theory. But separatist and unity parties are split on policy, meaning coalition talks may prove tricky. Pro-independence Puigdemont -

whose centrist party came second with 34 seats - appears the more likely to take power.

Any separatist coalition would probably include his former vice-president's leftist party, with 32 seats, and the support of four anti-capitalist politicians, who back declaring independence regardless of Madrid's response.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's ruling PP party lost eight seats to finish a dismal last, on three.

Rajoy dissolved the regional parliament in an attempt to weaken calls for independence. Separatists had declared independence following an illegal referendum, which saw them win 90 per cent support.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you make New Year's resolutions?

■ LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Are there too many repeats on TV during Christmas?

Yes 89%

No 11%

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Top 5 stories

CATALUÑA CRISIS: Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña has won... the Spanish state was defeated"

BRUSSELS: Carles Puigdemont declares victory for pro-independence parties.

9,155 Cataluña crisis: Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña won... the Spanish state was defeated"

7,580 UK Foreign Office 'doesn't know' number of Brits in Spain

4,300 Disease carrying mosquitoes found in Spain

4,235 Ryanair's German pilots stage 'warning' strike

3,498 Drought reveals grisly find in Spanish reservoir

**For week 18 - 25 December*

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Local airport workers rebel

STRIKES are underway at Palma airport, with more planned for the New Year. At the time of writing catering staff were set to take industrial action tomorrow and on Saturday.

The protest comes as Mallorca's main airport anticipates more than

750,000 passengers to pass through between Boxing Day and Three Kings' Day.

Last week an estimated 300 workers from Son Sant Joan's bars and restaurants joined the strike. Similar numbers are expected this weekend,

leaving the workforce depleted by around 75 per cent.

Aena, Spain's airport authority which manages Son Sant Joan, is under fire for contracting out bar and restaurant work to cut costs.

Storm clouds are also brewing over

the likely redundancy of around 300 Acciona employees as the fall out from the collapse of Air Berlin continues. Acciona handles passenger assistance, loading and ticket sales among other functions at the airport.

The Balearic executive has also

made its first move towards gaining more control over all airports on Mallorca and Ibiza.

Regional politicians are keen to shift management away from Aena as they seek greater autonomy from Madrid.

NEWS EXTRA

Mugged by hugs

SIX thieves who robbed elderly people by hugging them while raiding their pockets were arrested. In at least 51 cases they stole more than €60,000 worth of money and valuables.

Night rider

NIGHT owls will be able to ride Palma's public bikes from 6am until 2am as operator Bicipalma extends working hours amid plans to add 140 new bikes to the fleet in 2018.

Road death

A MAN, aged 54, was killed in a head-on collision between two vehicles on the Ma-1040 between Palma and Esporles early on Sunday morning. Police are investigating.

New life

A RECORD 70 kidney transplants were conducted by Son Espases surgeons in 2017, largely thanks to the success of a donation drive launched last summer.

Odd idea

A TOURISM museum was proposed by the liberal and proud Catalan El Pi party. Leader Josep Melia reckons Palma's 15-floor Gesa building would be the perfect location.

Messy plate

A BUNGLING driver who repainted his licence plate to avoid detection by cameras was spotted by police after converting a C into an O, forgetting that Spanish plates have no vowels.

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British residents in Spain awarded honours by The Queen in New Year Honours List 2017

TWO British residents in Spain have been awarded honours by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year Honours List 2017.

Liz Parry, former Editor of SUR in English, an English-language newspaper in Southern Spain, and resident in Malaga Province, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her services to British nationals living in Andalucia.

Roger Cooke, latterly President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain and resident in Madrid, has been appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to British business in Spain and British-Spanish trade and investment.

Honours lists are published twice a year, on the Queen's official birthday in June and at New Year, and recognise extraordinary achievement and service to the UK. Following a nomination process, an honours committee reviews all the submitted nominations. The Queen then awards the honour.

In the cases of Ms Parry and Mr Cooke, their outstanding achievements ensured they stood out amongst the many nominations received for this year's Honours list.

The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, said: "I am delighted the achievements of Liz Parry and Roger Cooke have been recognised by Her Majesty in this way, whether it be Liz through her distinguished journalism and promotion of Brits' integration into Spanish society, or Roger and his leadership of the British Chamber, our principal partner in strengthening a €46 billion bilateral commercial relationship."

Reacting to the news of her award, Liz Parry said: "I am delighted and proud to have been awarded this medal for service to British residents in our international community! It came as a complete surprise and I don't know who nominated me, but I would like them to know that I am honoured and grateful."

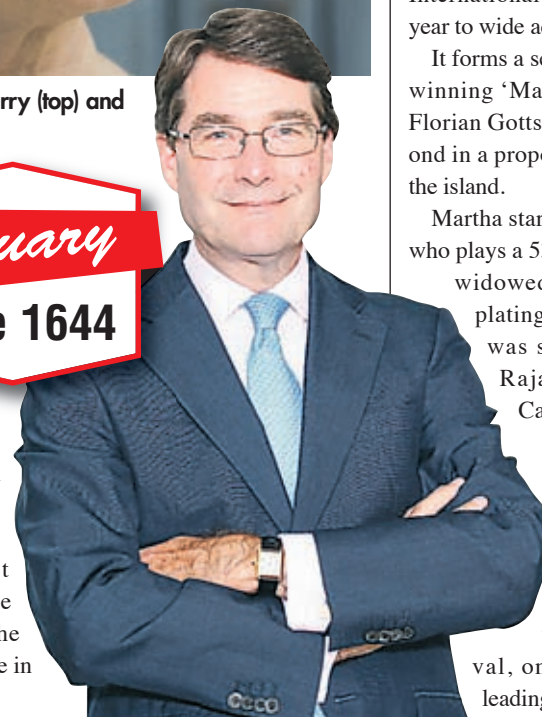
Roger Cooke, similarly surprised, said: "I



Photo by British Embassy Madrid

AWARDED HONOURS: Liz Parry (top) and Roger Cooke.

am delighted to receive this award and that a contribution to Anglo-Spanish trade has been recognised at a time when this is so important to both countries' economic wealth and to their citizens. As always there is a team effort behind this success and it would not have been achieved without the great support of the team at the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain."



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Local film makes good

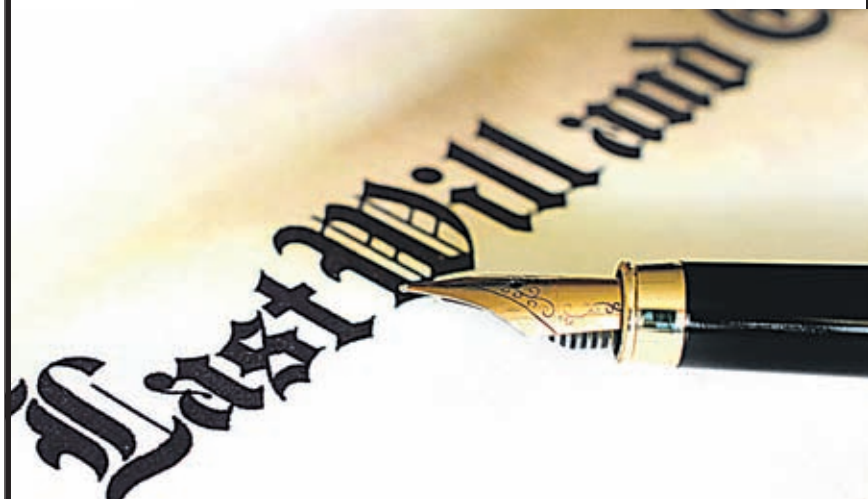
A GERMAN short film produced on Mallorca will be presented at the European Film Market in Berlin in February. 'Martha' made its world premiere at the Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival last year to wide acclaim.

It forms a sequel to the award-winning 'Maria' from director Florian Gottschick and the second in a proposed trilogy set on the island.

Martha stars Carmen Molinar who plays a 53-year-old recently widowed mother contemplating her life. The film was shot around Cala Rajada, Capdepera, Cala Torta and Campos.

The European Film Market is held simultaneously with the Berlin International Film Festival, one of the world's leading film spectacles.

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Five-star love affair



PALMA: Is now targeting a more sophisticated market.

PALMA'S continuing quest for ever more luxury will see a fifth five-star hotel built in the city. Pabisa is planning to construct a new luxury affair at the Playa de Palma by the end of 2019.

It will be the hotel chain's second five-star effort in the city.

The five-star revolution has happened almost all at

once on the promenade. Only shortly before Christmas did the first open at the Hotel Palace Llaut. The Hipotels Playa de Palma Palaca and Spa and the Joan Llull are five-star hotels under construction. Meanwhile the Pure Salt Garonda and the Iberostar Playa de Palma are in the process of upgrading to five stars.

The luxury drive comes as Palma seeks to redefine its tourist credentials. Gone are the days of promoting itself as a party destination. The target now is a more sophisticated market and the off-season bounty of corporate conferences and culture cultures.

February
Issue 1648

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Son Dureta hospital remodel and reform

A NEW project for a health centre has been presented for the non-working hospital of Son Dureta. The old hospital closed its doors in 2011, after moving the last of its patients to the newer Son Espases Hospital. The future centre involved a €120 million investment, and will have 450 beds for chronic patients, and 120 beds for dependent geriatric citizens.

Francina Armengol, president of the Balearic government and one presenter of the project, assured the public that initial focuses will be on elderly care due to the aging population.

For over 40 years, Son Dureta was the only hospital, not only in Mallorca but in all of the Balearic Islands.

The remodel of Son Dureta will cover legislature and be carried out over multiple phases. "It is a very broad project, it encompasses more than one legislature," said Armengol, who has not specified dates for

March
Issue 1652

“

Demolition of old sections of the building will be first on the agenda.

beginning the different phases of the project.

Armengol outlined the plans alongside government Vice-President Biel Barcelo, social affairs minister Fina Santiago, and regional health minister Patricia Gomez.

The new centre will be 76,000 square metres in total, with two new buildings and 33,000 square metres of the

current hospital being used as a third building. Eight thousand square metres of housing will be specifically for non-independent elderly patients.

Demolition of old sections of the building will be first on the agenda, including the kitchens and maternity ward. Armengol stressed that the gradual implementation of the project will parallel the increase in need and resources for the chronically ill.

Son Dureta's 2011 closing has cost the government €5 million, the current government are promising to make changes and take charge of the investment. Construction alone could employ 1,500 people, and many more long term employees once the centre is open and running. The next phase is a consultation period, including associations for patients and health and social service professionals, to consider moving forward.

Care at home project launch

IMAS, the Mallorcan Institute of Social Affairs, has launched its new project, a comprehensive care at home service. The first phase has already begun which includes eight nursing technical assistants and four coordinators. The project is set to gradually grow, adding 48 more assistants.

The new system of care at a person's home will have many benefits including the possibility of living in a comfortable familiar environment because of regular medical visits.

Families and carers will be offered information, training, and specific programmes directly at the patient's home. The home care will also gradually grow in



FIRST PHASE: Puigserver, Juan, and Moll met with the new home care team.

April
Issue 1658

coordination with the patient's needs.

According to the minister of welfare and social rights and president of IMAS, Margalida Puigserver, there are currently 33 people given

care to in their homes with this programme, and will expand in May to reach 150 people. The budget for the first year of the project is almost €1.2 million provided by both IMAS and the government.

Recently Puigserver, along with IMAS vice-president Javier de Juan and director of IMAS's care unit Regina Moll met with the nursing technical assistants and coordinators to learn first-hand about their first week with the new programme.



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Island of passion



LOVE ISLAND: Former winner Jessica Hayes poses for the cameras.

LOVE ISLAND is back filming on Mallorca. The hit British reality television show is now in its third season, all of them taking place on the island.

This time around the seven-week filming process takes place in a stately house in Ses Salines, moving from the usual location in San Llorenç.

The show sees young singles thrown into coupling



arrangements by popular vote from the audience. Unlike the original series which was based in Fiji, the singles are all members of the public, though most go on to be-

come tabloid celebrities.

The show has had huge ratings and is considered partly responsible for the huge upsurge in British tourism to Mallorca last year.

This year is expected to be no different and local businesses are already salivating at the prospect of 200 crew members flush with cash spending big in the hotels.

Calanova Cancer Care Charity shop



Paco, Anna-Lisa, Teresa, Angela, Brigitte and Carmen from the shop.

ON Friday May 25 the shop presented the Spanish Association of Cancer Care in the Balearics (AECC) with a check for €10,000.

Their new President, Dr Javier Cortes received it on their behalf together with his deputy Ana Belen Vescas.

In the last couple of months the shop donated two top of the range automatic beds, one to Dime (Paliativo Care) and one to the AECC so that they can help the people that need them... also a cheque was given to The Cancer Support Group for



Dr Angel Camejo in Cuba.

€1,000 and to Dime (Paliativo Care) also €1,000.

At the end of summer 2016 the shop donated all left over summer clothes to the people in

Cuba who had been struck by the terrible hurricane in Guantanamo Bay. The clothes were taken to the Caribbean by the shop's doctor in Palmanova, Dr Angel Camejo. He distributed them directly to the poorest people of this area since they would most likely have ended up on the black market if posted.

At the end of April, Dr Camejo returned to Cuba to continue his work attending those in need, and the shop again sent with him left over light winter clothes, especially children's items for those people who live in the mountains and hills around Guantanamo.

On June 3 in Heros Sports Bar and Garden Lounge, Portals Nous at 2pm everyone is welcome to The Epsom Derby Day, the greatest Flat Race in the world!

Dress up and wear your best hat, as for just €15 you will have a glass of Pink Cava and a buffet and can watch the races on a huge screen. The first is at 3pm and the main Derby at 5.30pm. There will be much excitement and fun, a raffle and an auction with some fine prizes, so don't miss it!

All proceeds will be for Meek and Calanova Cancer Care, and tables can be reserved by calling 971 676 467.

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Puppy love!

PATIENTS in a Balearic hospital will be allowed to have their dogs come and visit them in a pioneering new initiative believed to be the first of its kind in Spain.

The project took seven months of planning and is already up and running, with four dogs having visited their owners.

All dogs who enter the hospital undergo a rigorous screening process. They are dewormed, checked for diseases, and psychologically evaluated by a vet to ensure they're not too loud, nervous or confrontational.

Dogs who pass the test and have their vaccinations in order are given a badge which reads 'Dogspital' and are allowed to roam around certain corridors and rooms with their owners.

They will even be provided with a personal arm-



DOGSPITAL: Man's best friend may soon visit patients.

July

Issue 1671

chair, food bowls, toys and prizes for good behaviour.

The idea came from doctors hoping to positively improve their patient's mental state. Many are intensely concerned about either their own well-being, or their pet's while they are

in hospital.

Having their dog present works wonders to calm owners, which in turn can help their physical progress. The animals can also help patients get out of bed and navigate slippery hospital floors.

The 'zero cost' project is the brainchild of vets, psychologists, doctors and nurses at Can Misses hospital on Ibiza. If it proves successful the idea will be implemented in Mallorca.



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Royals carry on cruising

SPAIN'S royal family have wasted no time in getting their annual summer holiday on Mallorca off to an adventurous start. King Felipe VI was spotted steering his private yacht to Cabrera island with his mother, nephews and nieces in tow early on Saturday morning.

Later he drove the children of sister Cristina back to the Marivent Palace where the royals stay while visiting the island. His mother, Queen Sofia, drove herself home in a grey Mercedes dutifully followed by security.

Last week Sofia, aged 78, was seen sunbathing while her 19-year-old grandson Felipe wake-boarded in front of paparazzi in Port d'Alcudia. He is the eldest son of the King's sister Elena and the fourth in line to the throne.

Queen Letizia and her two daughters, Leonor and Sofia, aged 10 and 11, respectively, have kept a low profile so far.

King Felipe, whose father abdicated after Cristina's financial scandal, has already met with



Photo credit: Twitter/Spanish Royal Family

MODELS: Spanish royals pose for press in Marivent Gardens.

August
Issue 1674

Balearic president Francina Armengol.

Former King Juan Carlos is not on the island, and often prefers a jaunt to St Tropez, France rather than joining the

rest of the royals.

The high society highlight of the holiday is tomorrow evening when the King and Queen will attend a reception at Almudiana Palace. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will fly into Mallorca for the occasion.

On Sunday the royal holiday comes to an end, with the family staying on Mallorca for nine days, three more than last year.

Moyamania returns with Legend's Cup

THE Legend's Cup tennis tournament gets underway at the Palma Sports and Tennis Club today (Thursday).

The competition finishes on Sunday and sees former World Number 1 Carles Moya of Mallorca defend his title. The 41-year-old is up against the likes of Mark Philippoussis, Henri Leconte and Tim Henman from the UK.

Also known as the ATP Champions Tour, the contest pits ageing former champs against one another in a fan-friendly affair. Most of the competitors could easily still rank in the

world's top 1,000 and provide an excellent, exciting contest.

Local man Carles Moya will be favourite to defend his title. He grew up playing tennis at the

green oasis. Just as English fans had 'Henman Hill,' so there was once a brief period of 'Moyamania.' That was around 1999, well before one Rafael Nadal made his Wimbledon debut in 2003.

There will be knockout matches at 6pm on the first three days, with six players in the singles event. The singles final is on Sunday at 5pm.



CARLES MOYA:
Former
World No 1.

October
Issue 1683

ONE of Mallorca's few remaining quiet spots is set to embrace the machine of mass tourism. Capdepera Town Hall has issued permits for the building of plush new hotels in the centre.

They will be the first major hotels in the community, which has escaped the tourist juggernaut unscathed while nearby Cala Ratjada and Canyamel entertain tens of thousands of foreign guests each month.

The biggest hotel is planned for Ca ses Monges. The building was constructed in the late 19th century and entertained only nuns until the end of the 1990s.

History equals money

Though much of Mallorca is in open revolt against tourist saturation, Capdepera feels left out according to the council's tourism chief Monica Viejo. The town isn't mentioned on tourist maps, or even highlighted on the road from Palma.

She wants this to change and has identified

the old castle and other historic buildings as prime attractions for tourists of a more cultural bent. Capdepera can't compete with Cala Ratjada for coastal beauty and soft sand but it is one of the most immaculately preserved towns on Mallorca.

That won't change simply to rake in tourist

money claims Viejo. A condition of the hotel licences is that shiny new buildings won't be constructed but instead classic old ones will be strengthened and reimaged.

The Ca ses Monges project will have 26 rooms with 52 beds and be named Creu de Tau. It is expected to open next year, though at present looks like a 19th century relic.

Other projects include a spa and a posh restaurant in the town centre. The council is eager to attract people to stay for long weekends, rather than just a few hours' break from the sun and beach.

September
Issue 1679

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Life's a beach!



Volunteers fight for clean beaches and organic living.

HUNDREDS of people from all nationalities gathered on Palma beach to show their support for the island's beach hygiene.

With surfers in the water and yachts sounding their horns, the beach clean volunteers formed a chain from the Gesa building to the Portixol car park.

The Dos Manos beach cleans form part of the work undertaken by Asociacion Ondine, but this event also attracted other conservation groups from around the island.

According to the Mallorca Blue Facebook site, the intended presence of television cameras led to the deployment of heavy equipment at 11pm on Saturday night to clean up the site before anyone arrived.

Despite this, volunteers picked up more than 800 kilograms of plastic, cigarette butts,

ear bud sticks and straws on Sunday morning.

The greatest volume of pollutants found on Sunday were in the form of wet wipes. In October Emaya admitted it had to spend more than a quarter of a million euros a year on unblocking its sewage plants due to wet wipes and tampons being put down toilets.

"The problem needs a two-pronged approach," Asociacion Ondine president, Brad Robertson explained.

"First, everyone needs to understand that our ecosystem will continue to be damaged every time anyone puts anything down the loo that hasn't first been eaten, or is normal loo paper! Secondly a huge amount of investment needs to be ear-marked to renovate the island's dated sewage system."

**November
Issue 1687**

A loving farewell

BRAVE brain cancer fighter, Leo the Lion may have gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Hundreds of friends, family and supporters of the inspirational four-year-old gathered on Palomares beach in Almeria to pay tribute in a moving ceremony which saw 250 helium-filled balloons - many carrying hand-written messages - released into the sky.

The *Euro Weekly News* team performed a simultaneous release of balloons outside their head office on the Costa del Sol, as did campaign support groups and individuals in other parts of Spain, the UK and beyond. An invitation-only funeral and cremation saw family and close friends pay their own respects on Tuesday, after many sent flowers or paid a visit to Leo as he lay in the chapel of rest over the weekend.

A hearse carried him around Palomares prior to the service, allowing people to pay their respects and friends to wave goodbye.

In the UK, thousands of Manchester City supporters honoured Leo with a minute's applause during



EMOTIONAL: Family, friends and supporters gather on Palomares beach.

their home Premier League match against West Ham last Sunday.

Days short of his fifth birthday, which would have been yesterday (Wednesday) the courageous four-year-old passed away peacefully in his mother Karen's arms last Friday as dad Jorge and sister Sofia stood by.

His last words were, to Sofia, a very clear "I love you."

On September 2, 2015 Leo was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer.

Since then he underwent surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in the UK and, thanks to a fund

SOLIDARITY: The EWN team release balloons.

launched late last year, which the *Euro Weekly News* supported, travelled to Oklahoma in the United States for cutting-edge proton beam therapy.

But sadly, it was all in vain.

Karen recently told the *Euro Weekly News*: "I want people to remember Leo for the happy little boy that he once was, that cheeky little boy, the one who smiled no matter what..."

"I want to thank everyone for their continuous support during this journey to give Leo the best chance for a life."

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2017 a phenomenal year for the EWN Media Group



The best free publication 2017.

THIS year has been a particularly good year for *Euro Weekly News* (EWN), gathering awards and expanding to such an extent that it is part of the new EWN Media Group (EWNMG).

Having been published for 21 years and becoming the largest circulating English language newspaper in Spain, EWN was named Best Free Publication at the 2017 Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards on Tuesday February 28.

It was a real honour for owners Michel and Steven Euesden and indeed the entire proud EWN family to see that their hard work had seen an English language newspaper be voted the best by a large group of Spanish publications.

The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley took time out of his busy calendar to comment "I was delighted to see that *Euro Weekly News* won the Best Free Publication award at the AEEPP awards.

"It's an impressive achievement for an English-language newspaper to beat off the Spanish language competition and a tribute, I think, to the important role that the English-language press in general plays across Spain."

Just a few days earlier, it was revealed that the Euesdens had come to an arrangement with the owner of the respected RTN in Costa Blanca to take over the RTN brand and assimilate those titles into the group.

Not only was this done successfully, but a brand new RTN Costa del Sol paper was born which has a different team of writers to EWN and concentrates on what is going on within local communities so that each of the two papers has a distinctive identity and view of the local news.

Always alert to the need to ensure readers and advertisers of EWN are offered exactly what they want to see in a newspaper, a survey was run over a period of weeks with the added bonus that one lucky respondent would be picked from a free draw to win a car valued at €15,000.

Needless to say, this fantastic prize attracted thousands of responses and the lucky winner was speechless when she received the news that her name had been selected at a public ceremony by an independent source.

The results of the survey allowed the group to hone the contents of the newspapers after analysing the detailed results.

Not satisfied with the RTN acquisition, EWNMG then further expanded its portfolio of newspapers in Spain by taking over the *Sol Times* publications.

Originally launched in the Almeria area in 2005 the *Sol Times* title has been restructured, so that a number of its most popular contributors continue to work with it along with new writers.

With all of this expansion, the company simply outgrew its former headquarters and therefore moved from a quiet area in Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmadena to a busy street in Fuengirola in order to cope with the weekly publication of 10 different newspapers.

The head office staff has been increased significantly including a fresh intake of journalists who have recently received their degrees from top universities and the introduction of two much respected names in the field to take both the newspapers and very popular website to the next level.

So well respected is the reporting in the newspapers that EWNMG is the first port of call for a number of foreign radio and TV stations who don't have their own correspondents in Spain and during 2017, writers have appeared on Indian and South African media as well as in a documentary filmed for Belgian TV.

With offices in Almeria, across Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and Mallorca the group continues to move from strength to strength but always keeps in mind that it is the readers and the advertisers who come first at all times.

The EWNMG family would like to take this opportunity to wish all of its friends throughout Spain a Happy and Prosperous 2018, safe in the knowledge that the newspapers continue to be produced to the highest standard 52 weeks each year.



A new home for the EWN.



The RTN takeover.

ewn media group



The readers' poll (left) and the prize car winner (right).



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Sweet moments in store

EL CORTE INGLES has come to an arrangement with Mars, famous for confectionary, to open M&M units in three of their stores.

The two companies have decided to take advantage of the Christmas and Three Kings trade and these units which will offer a range of M&M products which have been made in Alicante, Castellana and Callao in Madrid.

Barcelona tackles Uber

TAXI drivers in Spain will have been delighted by a European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling that Uber is a transport company and not a digital service.

The matter was brought to the court due to a decision in Barcelona that the company had to obey local taxi rules and Spain has seen a rash of taxi strikes over the activities of Uber.

According to the company, its defence was that it is an information service helping to put drivers and passengers in contact with each other rather than a taxi firm.

By John Smith

The company which has grown enormously since it was first set up just 10 years ago in the USA has experienced difficulties in various European countries and even lost its rights to operate in London which is under appeal.

Uber, like AirBnB - also at odds with the Barcelona council - is known as belonging to the gig economy which is defined as 'a labour market characterised by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.'

Whilst the decision may not affect Uber in all of the countries in which it operates, it may well have to change its policies in Spain and consider whether it should be treating its drivers as employees throughout the EU.

Certainly once the Catalan election and the New Year are past, it is more than likely that Barcelona will once again crack down on the company.

Barcelo sells stake in GBT Spain

SPANISH hotel group Barcelo has sold its 35 per cent holding in GBT Spain, a business travel company, to American Express for an undisclosed sum.

This means that the travel management company will become a 100 per cent subsidiary of American Express Global Business Travel which was the majority shareholder in the operation.

The joint venture between the two companies has been a success over the nine years since it was set up.

Quote of the Week

This transaction is consistent with Sareb's divestment strategy and continues to show the continued confidence in the Spanish market" confirmed Alfredo Guitart of Sareb after transferring loans valued at €375 million to Deutsche Bank.



Olive shortage due to low rainfall.

Olive oil prices go up again

MAJOR supermarkets in the UK have upped the price of olive oil in their stores for the second time this year.

Suppliers are blaming poor harvests following a lack of rain in Spain and the weakening of the pound for the increase in the price of 'liquid gold.'

Sainsbury's has increased the prices on 21 types of olive oil, from own label to popular brands.

Spain produces on average

about 44 per cent of the world's supply of olive oil each year, twice as much as Italy and four times as much as Greece.

About 70 per cent of all Spanish olive oil comes from the province of Jaén which claims to produce more olive oil than the whole of Italy.

Producers may find that the increase in price will go in some way to mitigate the recent imposition of punitive import duties to the USA.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Share prices

AS soon as the results of the Catalan election were announced, share prices of large concerns either based or having major investments in the region fell. Whilst this may be a short term problem, investors will be following the situation closely.

Take over

CAIXABANK is underwriting the €800 million bond issue proposed by real estate company Colonial to fund its bid to take over Axiare, of which it is already a minority shareholder. If successful the new group will be worth €10 billion.

More cost

TELEFONICA is to increase the subscription rate to customers signed up for Movistar Fusion by €5 a month from February. The service supplies a mix of broadband, mobile services and TV which the company says will be expanded once the new price is charged.

Many workers claim low earnings

A SPANISH trade union has revealed that only 2 per cent of those who are self-employed declared earnings of more than €1,000 per month in 2016.

Of the 965,161 sole traders recorded as being autonimo (self-employed), after deducting expenses and social security costs 942,418 said their annual income was less than €12,000 per annum.

This finding was released by Gestha, the trade union representing officials at the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Tax Agency.

The union has inferred that these declarations of earning may not be wholly accurate and the government doesn't properly police the situation which could allow for false returns to be made.



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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,510.50	3.50	0.23	20,928.74
Associated British Foods	2,819.00	23.00	0.82	22,151.04
Admiral Group	1,936.00	3.00	0.16	5,534.62
Ashtead Group	1,962.00	-15.00	-0.76	9,823.26
Antofagasta	967.25	-0.75	-0.08	9,395.21
Aviva	499.65	-0.85	-0.17	20,020.27
AstraZeneca	4,923.50	1.00	0.02	61,526.70
BAE Systems	570.25	1.75	0.31	18,127.98
Barclays	202.73	-1.82	-0.89	34,717.69
British American Tobacco	5,041.50	28.50	0.57	112,846.19
Barratt Developments	643.75	1.75	0.27	6,509.90
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	4,203.00	33.00	0.79	5,700.99
British Land Co	673.25	-1.75	-0.26	6,765.71
BHP Billiton	1,466.00	-3.00	-0.20	30,297.67
Bunzl	2,059.50	1.50	0.07	6,920.16
BP	517.65	-1.85	-0.36	100,552.63
Burberry Group	1,758.50	4.50	0.26	7,476.92
BT Group	273.80	-0.20	-0.07	26,792.89
Coca-Cola HBC	2,378.00	17.00	0.72	8,617.25
Carnival	4,889.00	11.00	0.23	10,433.61
Centrica	138.50	0.80	0.58	7,744.72
Compass Group	1,577.50	3.50	0.22	24,585.49
Croda International	4,356.50	-6.50	-0.15	5,715.59
CRH	2,653.50	7.50	0.28	21,819.05
DCC	7,360.00	10.00	0.14	6,583.02
Diageo	2,692.75	8.25	0.31	66,143.87
Direct Line Insurance Group	371.30	0.00	0.00	5,069.63
Experian	1,609.50	2.50	0.16	14,661.38
easyJet	1,434.00	7.00	0.49	5,664.19
Ferguson	5,457.50	72.50	1.35	13,449.34
Fresnillo	1,352.00	-5.00	-0.37	9,911.22
G4S	264.00	-0.30	-0.11	4,001.56
GKN	312.25	0.75	0.24	5,228.00
Glencore	375.05	-1.05	-0.28	53,332.52
GlaxoSmithKline	1,314.25	-5.75	-0.44	64,948.48
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,755.00	-3.00	-0.17	8,295.83
Halma	1,261.00	0.00	0.00	4,749.31
Hammerson	533.75	-0.75	-0.14	4,200.13
HSBC Holdings	764.55	-1.25	-0.16	151,619.62
International Consoldtd Airs Gr	645.25	-5.25	-0.81	13,240.63
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,709.00	6.00	0.13	8,750.95
3i Group	901.50	0.50	0.06	8,673.20
Imperial Brands	3,168.75	20.75	0.66	29,909.19
Informa	726.50	3.50	0.48	5,965.80
Intertek Group	5,192.50	17.50	0.34	8,287.40
ITV	165.80	0.70	0.42	6,641.93
Just Eat	764.25	-0.75	-0.10	5,187.83
Johnson Matthey	3,070.00	1.00	0.03	5,949.22
Kingfisher	340.15	0.05	0.01	7,342.29
Land Securities Group	988.25	-3.25	-0.33	7,321.74

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	270.60	0.60	0.22	16,028.04
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.11	-0.20	-0.30	47,908.67
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,713.00	-27.00	-0.72	13,002.63
Micro Focus International	2,494.00	-1.00	-0.04	10,817.26
Mediclinic International	609.75	-20.25	-3.21	4,327.62
Marks & Spencer Group	314.75	2.25	0.72	5,044.82
Mondi	1,871.50	-13.50	-0.72	9,099.28
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	215.65	1.45	0.68	4,998.06
National Grid	867.05	-0.05	-0.01	29,397.70
NMC Health	2,808.00	-9.00	-0.32	5,597.13
Next	4,505.50	90.50	2.05	6,268.30
Old Mutual Group	224.20	0.10	0.04	10,915.64
Paddy Power Betfair	8,745.00	-15.00	-0.17	7,414.27
Prudential	1,888.50	8.50	0.45	48,135.62
Persimmon	2,713.50	12.50	0.46	8,400.90
Pearson	732.75	2.25	0.31	5,839.79
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,781.50	61.50	0.92	46,328.94
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	274.50	-2.00	-0.72	32,860.43
Royal Dutch Shell	2,450.75	-4.25	-0.17	110,813.96
Royal Dutch Shell	2,467.75	-2.25	-0.09	91,090.24
RELX	1,732.00	2.00	0.12	18,378.54
Rio Tinto	3,760.00	-13.00	-0.34	50,156.16
Rolls-Royce Group	848.75	-4.25	-0.50	15,718.69
Randgold Resources	7,142.50	37.50	0.53	6,702.72
RSA Insurance Group	617.75	2.75	0.45	6,264.77
Rentokil Initial	311.35	0.45	0.14	5,754.53
Sainsbury (J)	238.35	1.35	0.57	5,182.03
Schroders	3,518.50	-8.50	-0.24	7,933.39
Sage Group (The)	788.25	-0.25	-0.03	8,531.48
Segro	576.75	-0.75	-0.13	5,781.87
Shire	3,945.25	29.25	0.75	35,141.71
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,459.00	-11.00	-0.45	5,743.51
Sky	1,017.50	0.50	0.05	17,482.41
Standard Life Aberdeen	426.95	-1.75	-0.41	12,454.65
Smith (DS)	516.75	-1.25	-0.24	5,526.38
Smiths Group	1,487.50	-2.50	-0.17	5,860.77
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	444.10	-0.20	-0.05	6,165.61
Smith & Nephew	1,284.50	5.50	0.43	11,196.15
SSE	1,300.50	-0.50	-0.04	13,125.86
Standard Chartered	769.70	-3.40	-0.44	25,328.94
St James's Place	1,203.00	2.00	0.17	6,301.28
Severn Trent	2,122.50	12.50	0.59	4,978.12
Tesco	207.50	-0.10	-0.05	16,886.13
TUI AG	1,526.50	-5.50	-0.36	8,922.41
Taylor Wimpey	206.65	1.25	0.61	6,743.33
Unilever	4,142.00	2.00	0.05	50,825.95
United Utilities Group	815.00	-0.50	-0.06	5,632.40
Vodafone Group	235.13	-0.32	-0.14	61,883.90
Worldpay Group	426.35	-3.75	-0.87	8,584.00
WPP Group	1,358.50	16.50	1.23	17,182.19
Whitbread	3,903.00	3.00	0.08	7,098.62

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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

DOW JONES				
CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22				
COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	234,780	-0.90%	-2,140	140.176,37
AMERICAN EXPRESS	98,5000	-0.01%	-0,0100	85.792,75
APPLE	175,010	+0.38%	0,660	900.712,35
BOEING CO	295,030	-0.96%	-2,870	176.201,91
CATERPILLAR	154,640	+1.39%	2,120	92.009,45
CHEVRON	124,82	+3.25%	3,93	237.402,75
CISCO SYSTEMS	38,530	-0.54%	-0,210	193.177,09
COCA-COLA	45,60	-1.04%	-0,48	194.797,71
DOWDUPONT	71,64	+0.52%	0,37	167.882,60
EXXON MOBIL	83,85	+1.18%	0,98	356.383,42
GENERAL ELECTRIC	17,4700	+0.11%	0,0200	151.630,54
GOLDMAN SACHS	261,01	+2.28%	5,83	98.434,50
HOME DEPOT	188,0800	+0.41%	0,7700	219.653,52
IBM	151,50	-0.95%	-1,45	140.929,15
INTEL CORP	46,7600	-1.68%	-0,8000	220.077,67
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	107,8300	+1.59%	1,6900	374.366,04
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	141,0600	-0.07%	-0,1000	379.561,76
MC DONALD'S CORP	171,8500	-0.19%	-0,3200	137.195,64
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56,60	+0.87%	0,49	154.679,90
MICROSOFT	85,500	-0.02%	-0,020	659.851,24
NIKE	64,77	+1.86%	1,18	84.335,18
PFIZER	36,2400	-0.60%	-0,2200	216.373,68
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,670	+0.15%	0,140	233.146,45
TRAVELERS CIES	134,44	-0.61%	-0,82	36.880,52
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	127,31	+0.24%	0,31	101.681,91
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	221,69	-0.31%	-0,69	214.725,97
VERIZON COMMS	53,01	+0.45%	0,24	216.716,21
VISA	112,41	+0.26%	0,29	203.739,07
WAL-MART STORES	98,0600	-0.70%	-0,6900	290.876,23
WALT DISNEY CO	109,5700	-0.11%	-0,1200	165.996,96

M - MILLION DOLLARS

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

£0.9297

£0.0008

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

£1.1601

£1.0786.....

£1.3265.....

£1.2213.....

£1.4813.....

£1.3709.....

£0.0036

€0.0031

£0.0098

€0.0086

£0.0156

€0.0140

.....

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 13/12/2017

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Nova Lifestyle, Inc	\$ 2.87	0.44 ▲ 18.11%
Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 16.58	2.31 ▲ 16.19%
CSP Inc.	\$ 13	1.61 ▲ 14.14%
Telenav, Inc.	\$ 5.45	0.65 ▲ 13.54%
The Finish Line, Inc.	\$ 13.20	1.51 ▲ 12.92%
YogaWorks, Inc.	\$ 2.72	0.31 ▲ 12.86%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.07	0.56 ▲ 12.42%
Atlantic American Corporation	\$ 3.85	0.40 ▲ 11.59%
MannKind Corporation	\$ 2.52	0.24 ▲ 10.53%
ChinaCache International Holdings Ltd.	\$ 2.14	0.20 ▲ 10.31%
Legacy Reserves LP	\$ 4.18	0.37 ▲ 9.71%
Most Declined		
Future FinTech Group Inc.	\$ 3.25	1.09 ▼ 25.12%
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 42.32	8.56 ▼ 16.82%
China Finance Online Co. Limited	\$ 2.83	0.45 ▼ 13.72%
Presbia PLC	\$ 3.75	0.59 ▼ 13.59%
Advaxis, Inc.	\$ 2.96	0.44 ▼ 12.94%
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.	\$ 21.505	3.065 ▼ 12.47%
Bravo Brio Restaurant Group, Inc.	\$ 2.55	0.30 ▼ 10.53%
Sienna Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 22.99	1.86 ▼ 7.48%
Denali Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 16.45	1.25 ▼ 7.06%
Atlantius Holdings Corporation	\$ 2.28	0.17 ▼ 6.94%
The Trade Desk, Inc.	\$ 46.16	3.43 ▼ 6.92%



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

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Bitcoin value is erratic

Price almost halved in just one week

FORWARDS markets in Chicago started trading in Bitcoins the cryptocurrency in mid-December and saw tremendous rises with a single 'pretend' coin breaking the \$20,000 (€16,870) barrier.

In a matter of days, Bitcoins lost 40 per cent of its value as a whole slew of different securities organisations around the world warned investors about the volatility of the unsupported internet currency.

Some people have made huge profits, taking advantage of the rise and fall in the value of the currency but at the end of the day, any legitimate investor will still need to buy and sell their Bitcoins by trading in a legitimate currency.

Euros, dollars, pounds and all other major currencies around the world are issued by and underwritten by governments, so there is legitimacy to their banknotes and it is possible to use them to transact business in all manner of different situations.

A cryptocurrency (and Bitcoin is just the best known) is created by an individual or company and has no legitimacy other than the interest that others have in purchasing it. To some extent, investing in Bitcoins can be compared to the Tulip Mania of the 17th century or indeed a Ponsi (Pyramid) investment scheme where early investors who sold quickly made money and those at the end of the chain simply lost everything.

Arguably the main long term support for Bitcoins is the dark web where drug and arms dealers as well as terrorists can buy and sell whatever they need without being properly policed and this is no doubt what may keep the currency in existence.

The other appeal is that those who understand the internet can produce their own Bitcoins (known as mining) by harnessing large numbers of computers to solve complicated puzzles and apart from the cost



Photo by Marco Krohn Wikimedia

Mining for Bitcoins in Iceland.

of electricity, using existing computers (sometimes hacking into innocent parties' machines) they can create new coins for next to nothing.

The success of this cryptocurrency has encouraged other organisations to produce their own, although investors might be better served to go to a casino and bet everything on red or black as at least then they would either make their profit or go bust.

IT'S A FACT: OLDER IPHONES ARE BEING SLOWED DOWN

Apple says it helps users

IF you think that your aging iPhone is less efficient, then you might be correct as Apple has admitted that it is slowing down some models.

For some time now, there have been suggestions that the company was surreptitiously making some of the earlier versions slow down in order to encourage customers to purchase new models.

Now after one user compared the speed of his iPhone 6 against his brother's, an in-depth review of iPhones led to a US technology website Geekbench confirming its view that some phones were markedly slower than others.

In response, Apple issued a statement confirming the fact that it was deliberately slowing down some phones, not as a marketing tool but to try to make owners' phones have a longer life as the lithium battery in the phone starts to age.

"Our goal is to deliver the best experience for customers, which includes overall performance and

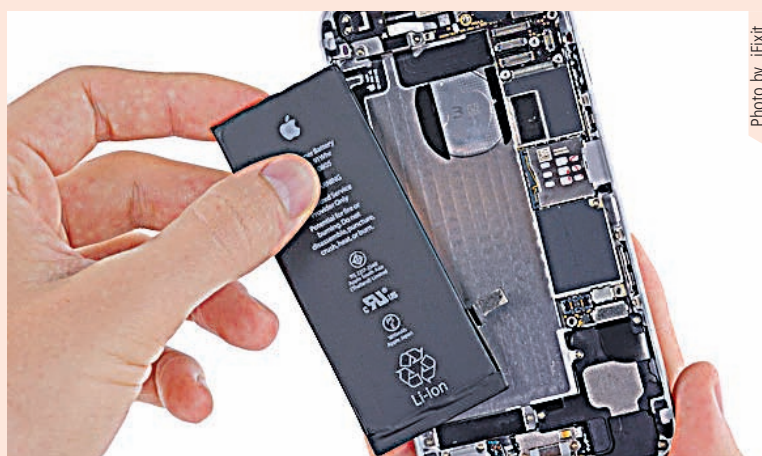


Photo by iFixit

CHANGING the battery on an iPhone 6.

prolonging the life of their devices. Lithium-ion batteries become less capable of supplying peak current demands when in cold conditions, have a low battery charge or as they age over time, which can result in the device unexpectedly shutting down to protect its electronic components.

"Last year we released a feature for iPhone 6, iPhone 6s and iPhone SE to smooth out the instantaneous

peaks only when needed to prevent the device from unexpectedly shutting down during these conditions. We've now extended that feature to iPhone 7 with iOS 11.2, and plan to add support for other products in the future," said a spokesman.

Social media comment has been significant in as much as whilst many accept that there was probably no nefarious intent behind Apple's silence, at best, the normally open company has shot itself in the foot by not advising customers in advance of its intention.

It is also argued that if the problem is resolved by a new replacement battery which would cost about €90, the company should not have adapted the design of the iPhone in order to make the exchange of battery so difficult with minute screws and the potential to wipe the phone if a mistake is made.

Alternatively, a professional can undertake the work but at additional cost.

ECJ rules in favour of appeal against EU

THE European Court of Justice (ECJ) has overturned a decision made by the European Commission to instruct Spain to recover aid granted to television operators.

Following a complaint from Luxembourg-based satellite operator SES Astra, the Commission decided that the Spanish government had acted improperly in granting subsidies to broadcasters to assist in the transition from analogue to digital transmission.

The actual policy of digitalisation has been encouraged by the Commission as early as 2002 and in its ruling the ECJ indicated that the actions taken by Spain were reasonable and that there was no justification in demanding that those who had received financial support should have to refund it.

Spain leads orange sales

SPAIN was the leading orange exporter in the EU in 2016, selling fruit worth more than €1 billion overseas according to figures released by Eurostat.

The data showed that Spain was by far the highest exporter of oranges last year, exporting 1.6 million tonnes, totalling 57 per cent of the total EU Member States' exports.

Greece was the second highest exporting EU state, exporting 462,000 tonnes.

Last year, over 2.7 million tonnes of oranges, worth approximately €1.8 billion, were exported by the European Union's Member States, with almost 90 per cent remaining in the EU.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FUNDS INNOVATION More jobs and research

MEPS have approved a €500 billion expanded European Fund for Strategic Investments known as the 'Juncker plan.'

The intention is to finance a wide range of different and innovative projects across the European Union and will run until 2020 or longer if further agreement is reached in the European Parliament.

So far since the fund was set up in 2015, Spain has received more than €5 billion in support for new business development and it is forecast that this will help to generate almost €31 billion of additional income for the country.

This fund however which deals with infrastructure, research and innovation, education, health, information and communication technologies is allowing many new entrepreneurs to develop their business ideas, keeping them in Spain with the subsequent tax and employment benefits.

Soon after the approval was given to expand the Fund, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed off five con-



Photo Credit: European Parliament

Voting in favour of expansion.

tracts with existing large groups in Spain which has seen the investment of €151 million which will be used to encourage the creation of jobs in low employment areas and to convert buildings to become more environmentally friendly.

Axiare has received a €16 million loan from the EBI in a first for Spain as it looks to develop plans to improve emergency efficiency in commercial buildings with which it is involved.

A subsidiary of the Mondragón Corporation, Batz has received €25 million in order to allow it to increase design

staff and to develop new and innovative technologies with the aim of manufacturing lighter and more aerodynamically efficient vehicles on both land and in the air to cut CO2 emissions.

Talgo is to receive €30 million to develop new prototypes for the electric trains to be used by commuters on short and medium-length journeys, as well as enhancing high speed performance with the expectation of increasing exports.

Thirty-five million euros has been made available to Incarlopsa famous for its ham and cured meats to increase staffing by up to 1,000 and upgrade its production facilities.

The largest loan being made by the EIB is €45 billion to Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi to finance its research and development programme focusing on technologies for the administration and extended release of medication, including pre-clinical development and clinical trials that could help develop future treatments to fight cancer and nervous system diseases.

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Medieval bible sold to museum

PRODUCED in the 14th century, one of just a handful of known examples of a Hebrew Tanakh produced in Castile has been sold for a sum thought to be close to €5 million.

Originally to be auctioned by Sotheby's with an estimated price of \$3.5 million to \$5 million it was eventually sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for an undisclosed sum.

The Tanakh is known as the Jewish Bible and contains the writings in the Old Testament which was eventually adopted by Christianity.

This particular illustrated bible - which is in exquisite condition - is the earliest known complete illuminated Hebrew Bible from Spain ever to be auctioned and was one of six recorded as existing in private hands.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

**by Stone
King**

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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Police always on the side of the prosecution

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



IT'S the nature of the beast. Their whole careers and promotions are based, almost without exception, on their numbers of arrests and successful conclusions, ie, verdicts of guilty as charged.

Consequently, any evidence or possibilities of innocence, are continually being swept under the carpet or disregarded altogether. It's often only after a long fight and independent investigation they are caught out and verdicts subsequently amended, or reversed altogether. This can take years and many an innocent man has been released after a long sentence, only to find that no action or recourse can be instigated against any officers who were involved in his or her wrongful conviction, because they have either died or retired.

Over the last few years dozens of cases have collapsed because of serious police failings over the way they handle evidence. This latest investigative debacle is nothing short of a criminal disgrace. Incredibly, although Liam Allen, the young man put on trial for rape and subsequently released when it was discovered that the police had withheld evidence, the officer in charge of his case, DC Mark Azariah, is still working at Scotland Yard's sexual offences unit despite the fact



DIRTY HALF-DOZEN: Brussels sprouts.

that he is now under investigation for his involvement in yet another sexual abuse case that this week collapsed due to an 'evidence blunder.'

It's high time the Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, who it appears would consider a musical conga line some form of chain rape, got her house in order and started weeding

out this rotten core of Old Bill, before she is suspected of being a collaborator in their disgraceful and utterly criminal behaviour.

Meanwhile the PC madness goes on. This week's trans-gendering gem truly deserved to be placed in a Tower tiara. Joshua Sutcliffe, a secondary school teacher, faces suspension for say-

ing 'well done girls' to a group who apparently contained a transgender individual who identified as a boy. Despite apologising immediately, after a complaint from the 'person's' parents this unfortunate and caring teacher has been accused of 'bringing the name of the school into disrepute.'

You really couldn't make it up. The sane, rational thinking majorities of society really need to make a stand against all this time-wasting nonsense. It's all really quite simple, if you have a willy you're addressed as a boy, if you haven't your addressed as a girl. If you need to make decisions as to which gender you belong to you should be utterly free to do so without any bias or recrimination from any quarter. Chromosomes identify a person's gender at birth OK? Problem solved.

Oh, and finally what about Leicester County Council who sent out a directive on how many Brussels sprouts you should be allowed to eat for each meal? Six sprouts = one portion. Ok? Don't over buy and create waste! These people, funded by the tax payer, actually sit around tables discussing how many Brussels sprouts we should eat! The mind truly does boggle. Have a great Christmas.

Keep the faith.

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

TECH FOR THE TIMID

NINETY PER CENT of people leave their phone chargers plugged in day and night. The other 10 per cent are either obsessive compulsives (guilty as charged m'lud) or planet-savers.

Depending on whose statistics you believe, a permanently-plugged phone charger consumes less than €5 of electricity a year. No, that's not a misprint. Tell that to the coffee-bar owner who refused to let me charge my phone for a couple of hours there while I did other business, 'unless you pay for the electricity.' Will one cent do nicely?

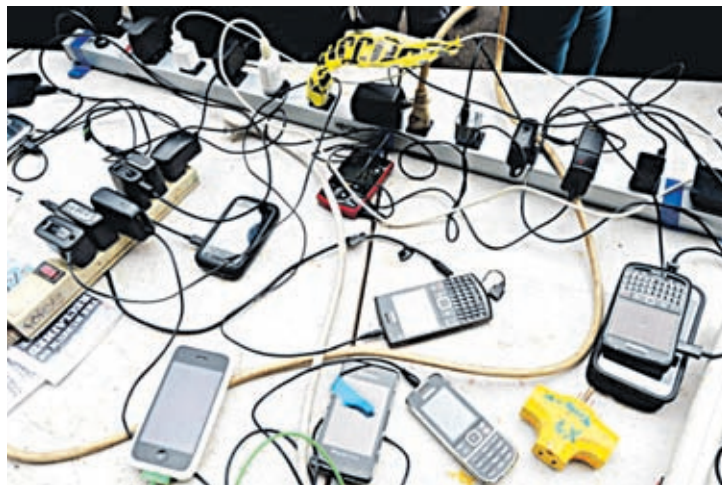
LBA is now an acknowledged modern syndrome: Low Battery Anxiety. Typically that's when it's barely lunchtime and you're down to 20 per cent and panicked. Manufacturer LG says nine out of 10 people suffer from LBA, while the rest of us just get on with our lives.

In our 'always-on' society, a dead battery is today's best excuse, or genuine reason, for missing calls, not responding to messages or turning up late for appointments ('I had to wait for my phone to charge.')

An American survey revealed that in a low-power scenario and having

The charge of the tight brigade

These days 'living dangerously' is when your phone only has a 5 per cent charge, says LBA-sufferer Terence Kennedy.



PHONE-CHARGING: Less than €5 a year.

to choose between hitting the gym and charging their smartphone fully, a third of those asked opted for the charging.

We have become so seriously

charger-dependent. Most people charge their phones twice a day now, where my wife's old Nokia happily used to chug along for a week or more.

It's also surprising just how uninformed we are when it comes to the way we treat our batteries.

Gone, for instance, are the days when you should religiously charge a new phone for 24 hours before use, and then regularly run it down before recharging.

That worked with prehistoric nickel-cadmium batteries, but today's lithium-ion packs don't like being fully recharged and discharged; experts say it's better to keep trickle-charging them more often, at between 40 and 80 per cent of capacity, and never leave them near-empty for long.

It's also a myth that keeping your phone on charge all night will degrade the battery. Modern technology turns off the phone's appetite, just like ours, when it's full.

When you think about it, it is of course iniquitous as fewer and fewer phones now have replaceable batteries, that when the battery is finished so is the phone. Or could that be a plot by those now selling all those portable power banks by the zillions?

But underlying it all, here's how you know you're an LBA sufferer: if you're asked to list your favourite position in bed, and you answer "Near the wall so I can use my phone while it's charging."

Power struggle

THE world is waiting, and waiting, for new battery technologies like lithium-sulphur and magnesium-sulphur, which promise 40 per cent longer use.

Oddball ideas also include phones which will charge from our body movement, solar cells in our clothing or fast-charges from building or road surfaces as we pass.

Until that happy day, when low-power strikes there are several options for eking out those last few millivolts:

Turn off your location finder (GPS), a notorious power-hog.

Turn down screen brightness to the lowest you can still use.

Log-off from any social media.

Close any apps you aren't actually using.

Turn on power-saving mode if your phone has it.

Don't take photos.

Tell callers you'll call them back later.

Or just use someone else's phone...

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to yoursay@euroweeklynews.com or make your comments on our website: www.euroweeklynews.com

Views expressed and opinions given are not necessarily those of the EWN publishers. No responsibility is accepted for accuracy of information, errors, omissions or statements.

Spanish food? Give me beans on toast

SIR,
What do the Spanish actually eat? I'm sick of their knock off paella and half pints of average lager! Why don't the supermarkets stock some proper food for god's sake? I can't get any decent crisps or cream anywhere and don't get me started on their rancid 'tapas' and Indian restaurants. The cheese is rubbish, ditto the instant coffee and no one ever likes seafood anyway. At least the ham's good I suppose. But give me beans on toast any day.

Hungry, Benalmadena

EL Gor-don't

I HAVE recently moved to Spain and decided to invest €20 on an El Gordo ticket. What a waste of time and money, I didn't quite understand what was happening on TV, the whole thing seemed very confusing. I don't think that I will be partaking again.

Wallace, Nerja

Party over?

WHERE'S all the fun gone!? Fuengirola

Celebs page has X Factor

I WAS somewhat amused by the recent letter from David Baird in which he makes disparaging comments about your celebrity page.

He seems to know nothing about Nicki Minaj, Nicole Scherzinger and Gorka Marquez who have been on our TV screens every week during the last few years. While Nicki Minaj may be better known for her anatomy rather than her voice, Nicole Scherzinger has spent the last few years as a judge on the X Factor and Gorka Marquez has been seen by millions on Strictly Come



| STRICTLY FAMOUS? Nicole Scherzinger and Gorka Marquez.

Dancing every Saturday night. With five million people watching X Factor and 12 million unable to miss Strictly, Mr Baird

should either get out a bit more or spend more time watching TV!

Peter Sanderson, Estepona

used to be full of late night antics, drinking and people having a laugh, but now everyone seems to be in bed at midnight. I know it's down season and some of us are getting a bit older, but we all seem to be a bit boring these days! What we need is some all-inclusive boat parties to get the kids on board. Back in my day it was all happening, but now the town's gone to the dogs.

Deidre, Los Boliches, Fuengirola

At least try

I AM sick and tired of expats living abroad and not attempting to learn the language of the country they are living in. I can't speak fluent Spanish by any means, but if I go to a restaurant or become involved in a conversation with a Spaniard I will at least attempt to try and speak some Spanish, it's just rude not to even try.

Barbara Pearce, San Pedro del Pinatar

Dogman query

JUST a quick note about your recent article in this week's EWN.

You state 'please do not buy a harness,' but I must disagree with you on this statement.

I have two Chinese Crested hairless dogs. It is dangerous for them to wear collars and leads of any sort, as it is for any other hairless breeds (Mexican Hairless, Peruvian Inca Orchid, American Hairless Terrier, Abyssinian Sand Terrier and Bolivian Kula).

Collars, whether leather, chain or webbing, run the risk of severing their windpipes if used, and a harness is therefore a necessity with these particular breeds. They are all hairless, so have no 'buffer' of fur around their necks to prevent damage by a collar!

Could you please amend your article to inform owners of this information? I would hate to hear of a hairless dog's demise due to your somewhat incorrect statement.

Nicola Price, Arboleas

I do not think for one moment that any dog will demise as a result of my article.

Common sense would prevail that owners obviously advise the person they are buying from if a harness is suitable for breeds such as Chinese Crested hairless dogs or Mexican Hairless, Peruvian Inca Orchid, American Hairless Terrier, Abyssinian Sand Terrier and Bolivian Kula.

I write generally and maintain that harnesses are not suitable for 'most' breeds and can harm a dog.

David The Dogman

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.

British passports ditching EU burgundy

Having just renewed this year, mine will still be red for another 10 years with European Citizen still proudly displayed. *Ian Scottie Dunbar*

It doesn't matter what colour it is. There are more important issues to deal with. *Susan Rogers*

I am just wondering if it will mean that visitors coming to Spain from the UK will then need a Visa to enter Spain. I once had to apply at this end for a Visa to enter Spain for my grandson who then had a South African passport. It involved a lot of paperwork (typically Spanish) and was very expensive. *Irene Harvey*

I am proud to be British, and proud to say I'm a REMAINER, and think to change the colour of our passports is of no consequence to its use, the colour looks good and stands out. We should keep it. *George R Carman*

The extra security will be great but manufactured and printed in Germany, huge scale buttering up to improve a deal or what? *Thelma Dance*

Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña has won"

Come back and face the music instead of hid-

Comments from EWN online

ing away in Belgium, it's ok stirring up the country but not prepared to stay here for his beliefs, shame on him. *Colin Carter*

Foreign Office 'doesn't know' number of Brits in Spain

So many British live here under the radar, avoiding paying tax, avoiding legal responsibilities, claiming UK benefits etc etc, no good blaming the Spanish. Maybe Brexit will put a stop to it if passports have to be stamped. *Gill Reynolds*

Just think the tax the Spanish government is missing out on as they keep themselves registered in the UK. *Edith Farminer*

Well that ain't a surprise is it. Is there anything they do know? *Beverley Walker*

Dog owners warned of sausages laced with nails

Must be some sick individual that spends time buying sausages and individually push nails into each sausage and then go lay them outside for dogs to eat. Sick sick sick! Hope they find the evil piece of pondlife and lock him/her up for a very long time! *Julie Jones Peel*

Use muzzles for now, or watch 100 per cent. Shocking! *Sally Hodgson*

Disgusting monsters you're sick. *Karen Howett*

Hotel blamed for Legionnaire's outbreak

When we got back we got an email from Thomson saying it might be wise to have a check up at the doctor due to Legionnaire's disease in our area but many at our hotel were ill, the ambulance was there a number of times. Sympathy to the family of this man very sad. *England Kath*

Yes i think you should also name and shame this hotel as it ruined a lot of people's holidays. *Alison Graham*

Advertising feature

Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL
christina@globelink.co.uk



Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas with our festive security & travel guide

MILLIONS of us travel over Christmas, or host family and friends at home, so stay safe and keep that festive feeling throughout the holidays with our Home Security and Travel Tips, because it's not just Santa Claus who's Coming to Town...

Home alone?

Leaving your home unattended for hours, or days over Christmas? The sad fact is burglaries increase by 30 per cent during the holidays, as unoccupied homes full of gifts and goodies make rich pickings for unscrupulous burglars on the prowl.

The best Christmas gift you can buy yourself is an automatic timer for lights. It deters casual observers and opportunists. Don't close curtains or blinds to make your home look less tempting. It could do the opposite and send a clear message that you are away.

Move car and door keys out of sight and don't store them anywhere near a door.

If going away, arrange for local postal services to keep your mail, or ask a neighbour to pop in and collect it daily thus avoiding tell-tale piles of post, or bulging mailboxes, which is a sure sign that nobody's home.

Get neighbours or friends to open and close curtains and park on your drive for that 'I'm home' impression. Neighbours can also raise the alarm if they spot unexpected or suspicious behaviour.

Don't leave a spare key in that clever outdoor hiding place that only you know about! You can be sure that if you have thought of it - so will deviant burglars.

Avoid the temptation of announcing your plans on social media; or tagging your location on Facebook etc.

Escape unwanted Christmas surprises like burst pipes by keeping heating on for a while and insulate exposed outside pipes.

Make a list and check it twice if you are travelling over Christmas.

Make your check-list and review it



Don't make it easy for the Christmas burglar.

thoroughly to ensure you are good to go before you travel. Keep essential documents accessible and don't carry liquids over 100ml in your hand luggage so you can breeze through security.

Driving home for Christmas? (... or flying)

Plan your route well ahead and check traffic reports on the day for unexpected events that might scupper plans, like accidents, maintenance

work, or even strike action.

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire?

Your Egg Nog, or Christmas pudding may be legendary family favourites, but check restrictions on foodstuffs before you pack, if travelling by plane, or crossing country borders.

Jack Frost nibbling at your nose?

The UK is set for the warmest UK Christmas on record, but we've seen

temperatures of minus 13 this month! Weather is changeable, so double check your chosen destination and pack (and dress) accordingly.

Don't go crackers

Crackers are a great Christmas tradition, but many airlines don't allow them in your luggage, nor party poppers, fireworks, or sparklers. Also avoid pre-wrapping presents in case you're selected for a security check.

Blue Christmas

Finally, unexpected accidents and mishaps happen and nothing will dampen your Christmas spirit like exorbitant Medical Expenses while you are away. So be a savvy traveller and ensure you're covered by a decent travel insurance policy before leaving home.

Have a wonderful Christmas and travel safe. Travel Insurance for essential peace of mind from www.globelink.co.uk, or call (UK) +44 1353 699 082 or our Spanish link line 966 265 000.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
28 DECEMBER	<div>7:45pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>8:30pm Still Open All Hours</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Little Women</div> <div>10:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:15pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:25pm Bruno Mars</div> <div>12:10am U2 at the BBC: Special Edition</div>	<div>4:55pm Inside the Factory</div> <div>5:55pm The Heroes of Telemark</div> <div>8:00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise</div> <div>9:00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017</div> <div>9:30pm Six Robots and Us</div> <div>10:30pm Natural World</div> <div>11:30pm Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational Live</div> <div>12:30am Alpha Papa</div>	<div>7:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:45pm ITV News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:00pm Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</div> <div>11:35pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:55pm Tina and Bobby</div> <div>12:55am Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story</div>	<div>8:00pm We're Going on a Bear Hunt</div> <div>8:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo at Christmas</div> <div>9:30pm The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds on Holiday</div> <div>10:00pm What Britain Bought in 2017</div> <div>11:00pm The Undateables at Christmas</div> <div>12:05am About a Boy</div>	<div>7:00pm Andre Rieu: Christmas in London</div> <div>8:00pm Alaska: A Year in the Wild</div> <div>9:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>10:00pm Flight</div> <div>11:05pm 5 News</div> <div>11:10pm Flight</div> <div>12:45am The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3</div>	<div>5:30pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>6:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm Live World Championship Darts</div> <div>12:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>1:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>2:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>3:00am Cricket</div>
FRIDAY	<div>7:45pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>8:30pm Tim Vine Travels</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Would I Lie to You?</div> <div>10:00pm BBC News</div> <div>10:10pm BBC London News</div> <div>10:15pm Gone Girl</div> <div>12:40am Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show</div>	<div>8:00pm Morecambe and Wise in Pieces</div> <div>9:00pm Eric and Ernie's Home Movies</div> <div>10:00pm Vic and Bobs Big Night Out</div> <div>10:30pm Live at the Apollo</div> <div>11:00pm Frankie Boyle's 2017</div> <div>11:30pm QI XL</div> <div>12:15am The Great Gatsby</div>	<div>7:00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs</div> <div>7:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:45pm ITV News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</div> <div>11:50pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>12:10am Tina and Bobby</div>	<div>5:45pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>6:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>6:30pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:00pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Travel Man</div> <div>9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast</div> <div>10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown</div> <div>11:00pm Gogglebox 2017</div> <div>1:05am I Give it a Year</div>	<div>2:20pm Labyrinth</div> <div>4:20pm Look Who's Talking</div> <div>6:10pm Footloose</div> <div>8:00pm Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild</div> <div>9:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>10:00pm Victoria Wood by Her Friends</div> <div>11:00pm Victoria Wood Live</div> <div>1:00am Super Casino</div>	<div>12:30pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>1:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>1:30pm Live World Championship Darts</div> <div>5:30pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>6:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Live World Championship Darts</div> <div>12:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>1:00am SKY Sports News</div>
SATURDAY	<div>6:40pm BBC London News</div> <div>6:50pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>7:20pm Pointless</div> <div>8:10pm A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong</div> <div>9:00pm Avengers: Age of Ultron</div> <div>11:10pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Match of the Day</div> <div>12:55am The NFL Show</div>	<div>7:20pm Alice in Wonderland</div> <div>9:00pm Dad's Army</div> <div>9:30pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs</div> <div>10:00pm Feud: Bette and Joan</div> <div>10:45pm Feud: Bette and Joan</div> <div>11:30pm Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte</div> <div>1:40am Absolutely Fashion</div> <div>2:40am Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You</div>	<div>3:30pm 3 Men and a Baby</div> <div>5:25pm Despicable Me 2</div> <div>7:10pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:20pm ITV News</div> <div>7:30pm Who Shot Simon Cowell?</div> <div>8:00pm Guess the Star</div> <div>9:00pm Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1</div> <div>11:40pm ITV News</div> <div>12:00am The Mask</div>	<div>1:25pm Born Silly</div> <div>1:50pm Ever After</div> <div>4:15pm Pride and Prejudice</div> <div>6:40pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>6:55pm Crocodile Dundee II</div> <div>9:00pm The Price is Right</div> <div>10:00pm The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1</div> <div>12:20am Speed</div> <div>2:25am Speed with Guy Martin</div>	<div>7:05pm World's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>8:00pm Blind Date</div> <div>9:00pm Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!</div> <div>10:00pm 5 News Weekend</div> <div>10:05pm Football on 5</div> <div>11:15pm Football on 5</div> <div>11:45pm How Magic Changed TV</div> <div>1:15am Super Casino</div> <div>4:10am Our Dream Hotel</div>	<div>3:30pm Gillette Soccer Saturday</div> <div>4:00pm Live Pro 14 Rugby Union</div> <div>A match from the French Top 14.</div> <div>6:15pm Football</div> <div>8:30pm Live World Championship Darts</div> <div>11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten</div>
SUNDAY	<div>7:30pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>8:00pm Countryfile</div> <div>9:00pm Antiques Roadshow</div> <div>10:00pm The Real Marigold on Tour</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:20pm The Graham Norton Show</div> <div>12:20am Nile Rodgers and Chic: Good Times 2017</div>	<div>8:00pm Robot Wars Special</div> <div>9:00pm Into the Woods: Stage to Screen</div> <div>11:00pm Match of the Day 2</div> <div>11:50pm Live at the Apollo</div> <div>12:20am Jools's Annual</div> <div>2:20am Hootenanny 2017</div> <div>4:25am The Real Full Monty 2017</div> <div>Countryfile</div>	<div>7:25pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:35pm ITV News</div> <div>The latest ITV News.</div> <div>7:50pm Cannonball Splash Hits</div> <div>8:50pm Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1</div> <div>11:15pm The Real Full Monty</div> <div>12:45am ITV News</div> <div>1:10am Parenthood</div> <div>3:15am Take Me Out</div>	<div>9:00pm The Crystal Maze</div> <div>10:00pm Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular 2017</div> <div>12:00am Big Fat Quiz of the Year</div> <div>2:00am Gogglebox 2017</div> <div>3:55pm The Crystal Maze</div> <div>4:50am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</div>	<div>5:00pm Groundhog Day</div> <div>6:00pm The Lego Movie</div> <div>8:00pm Brick by Brick: The Lego Story</div> <div>9:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>9:50pm 5 News Weekend</div> <div>10:00pm When TV Goes Horribly Wrong</div> <div>12:55am Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights</div>	<div>5:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday. West Brom entertain Arsenal at The Hawthorns in the Premier League.</div> <div>8:00pm Live NFL: Game A match from the NFL.</div> <div>10:00pm Live NFL: Sunday Game. A match from the NFL.</div> <div>2:00am Live NFL: Sunday Game3.</div>
MONDAY	<div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>10:00pm McMafia</div> <div>11:00pm Mrs. Brown's Boys</div> <div>11:30pm BBC News</div> <div>11:50pm BBC London News</div> <div>12:00am Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull</div> <div>1:55am The Graham Norton Show</div>	<div>7:00pm Eric and Ernie's Home Movies</div> <div>8:00pm Reindeer Family and Me</div> <div>9:00pm Only Connect</div> <div>9:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017</div> <div>10:00pm Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary</div> <div>11:00pm Noah</div> <div>1:10am Frankie Boyle's 2017</div> <div>New World Order</div>	<div>6:45pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs</div> <div>7:40pm ITV News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Spectre</div> <div>11:45pm ITV News</div> <div>12:05am The Keith and Paddy Picture Show</div>	<div>8:40pm The Great Festive Bake Off</div> <div>10:00pm Pitch Perfect 2</div> <div>12:15am First Dates</div> <div>1:20am The Price is Right</div> <div>2:15am Speed 2: Cruise Control</div> <div>4:20am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</div> <div>5:10am Location, Location, Location</div>	<div>10:25am On the Town</div> <div>12:25pm Oliver!</div> <div>3:10pm Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War</div> <div>5:20pm The Hundred-Foot Journey</div> <div>7:30pm World's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>9:00pm The Two Ronnies</div> <div>11:00pm Britain's Greatest Ever Double Acts</div>	<div>11:00am Soccer Special Pre-Match</div> <div>12:00pm Soccer Special Pre-Match</div> <div>1:00pm Football</div> <div>4:00pm Football</div> <div>6:15pm Football</div> <div>9:00pm Live World Ch'ship</div> <div>12:00am Darts Final</div> <div>SKY Sports News</div>
TUESDAY	<div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Holby City</div> <div>10:00pm McMafia</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:45pm Match of the Day</div> <div>1:15am Stacey Dooley in the USA</div>	<div>8:00pm Kate Humble: Off the Beaten Track</div> <div>8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017</div> <div>9:00pm Inside the Factory</div> <div>10:00pm The Real T rex with Chris Packham</div> <div>11:00pm Inside No 9</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:15am Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary</div>	<div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:00pm The Greatest TV Moments of All Time</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News</div> <div>The latest ITV News.</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>11:40pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show</div> <div>12:10am Clueless</div>	<div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo</div> <div>10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E</div> <div>11:00pm Prince</div> <div>12:00am Naked Attraction</div> <div>1:05am What Britain Bought in 2017</div>	<div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh</div> <div>9:00pm Diet Secrets and How to Lose Weight</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:30pm One Night with My Ex</div> <div>12:30am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div>	<div>5:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>6:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Soccer Special Pre-Match</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm Info not Available</div> <div>11:30pm Football</div> <div>12:00am Football</div> <div>12:30am Football</div> <div>1:00am Football</div>
WEDNESDAY	<div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>8:30pm A Question of Sport</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Would I Lie to You?</div> <div>10:00pm Miriam's Big American Adventure</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:45pm Pretty Woman</div>	<div>8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017</div> <div>9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good</div> <div>9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor</div> <div>10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico</div> <div>11:00pm Mock the Week</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:15am Inside the Factory</div>	<div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Tonight</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Girlfriends</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News London</div> <div>11:45pm Car Crash Britain</div> <div>12:40am Caught on Camera</div> <div>Airport - Heathrow</div>	<div>6:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it</div> <div>10:00pm 20 Kids and Counting</div> <div>11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown</div> <div>12:05am Miranda Does Christmas</div>	<div>6:00pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>6:35pm Celebrity Carry on Barging</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Starting Up, Starting Over</div> <div>9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors</div> <div>10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother</div> <div>11:00pm Marnie Simpson in Therapy</div>	<div>3:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>5:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>6:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Football</div> <div>11:15pm PL Greatest Games</div> <div>11:30pm Info not available</div> <div>12:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>1:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>2:00am SKY Sports News</div>
03 JANUARY						



TV Couch Critic

SARAH LYNN and James White managed a first for the *Apprentice* (Final, BBC1) and became joint winners, sharing half £500,000 between them for their future business plans. I'm unsure whether it was an inspired twist or anticlimax to a steady series. Although the format is slick, the tasks tend to get a little repetitive at times as do Lord Sugar's one liners. Ultimately though, the winner is chosen by a subjective final task which enabled the resulting stalemate. Viewing figures for the final were down 500,000 this year, but a new series is still planned for next year.

As a long standing viewer of *Coronation Street* (ITVI) I have no problem with juicy storylines. What I am struggling with is the current trend for personality changes. Vicar, Billy Mayhew, Anna Windass and Chesney Brown have undergone 'Mr Hyde like' switches. Evil old Phelan doesn't seem quite so sinister any more, or does he?

Has *BBC Sports Personality of the Year* had its day? A chaotic finale laced with technical hitches and controversy left winner Mo Farah high and dry after his video link all the way from London embarrassingly broke down.

Sporting shambles takes the biscuit



TIME FOR A RETHINK: The Sports Personality of the Year.

The BBC has little live sport to speak of, relying on borrowed video clips to pad out the show. Mo Farah, our greatest ever athlete and 50/1 outsider won when he should have won in any of the five previous years was a final let-down with the live link crashing as the trophy was presented.

With Chris Froome, our greatest road cyclist under a cloud of a failed

drugs test, heavyweight boxer Anthony Joshua surprisingly not making the podium and both golf and rugby union ignored, it seemed the BBC were determined to represent their two last remaining live sports. Including a tennis player whose biggest achievement was a heavy defeat in the Wimbledon semi-final appeared desperate. As a yearly review of sport it's a pleasant



ORGASMIC EXPERIENCE: Vanessa Feltz and a Trio.

evening's viewing, but voting figures were vastly down on previous years.

'Britain's Favourite Biscuit?' (C5, 10pm, Tuesday) presented the information we all needed to know. Really? The result of a national survey, the show even had a 'dunk test' to show which biscuits fared the best in a cuppa. I've got to admit I'm not a big fan of biscuits, so perhaps am not best

placed to comment. As incisive, entertaining TV it was a biscuit lover's paradise, but I found it one long yawn.

Vanessa Feltz discussing having an orgasmic experience while enjoying a Trio was possibly a step too far but the biggest omission was any mention of the greatest biscuit advert of all time. For the Breakaway advert in the 1970's featuring Monty Python's Eric Idle and his 'nudge nudge, wink wink, say no more' character to be left out just about put the tin lid on it for me.

Would I Lie to You? At Christmas (BBC1, Monday). The funniest panel show and probably most rib-tickling experience on TV at the moment rarely fails to deliver. Star of the Christmas special was Henry 'Blowers' Blowfeld, sadly retired from cricket commentary this year showed no loss of humour as he recounted the time he phoned a female friend to invite her on holiday thinking she was someone else (he'd had a glass of wine or two at the time).

She accepted and what happened when they met at the airport was comedy gold. Was he lying? It's worth watching on catch up to find out.

Enjoy your festive TV, best wishes.

Critique: S C, Torreveja, Costa Blanca

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TIME

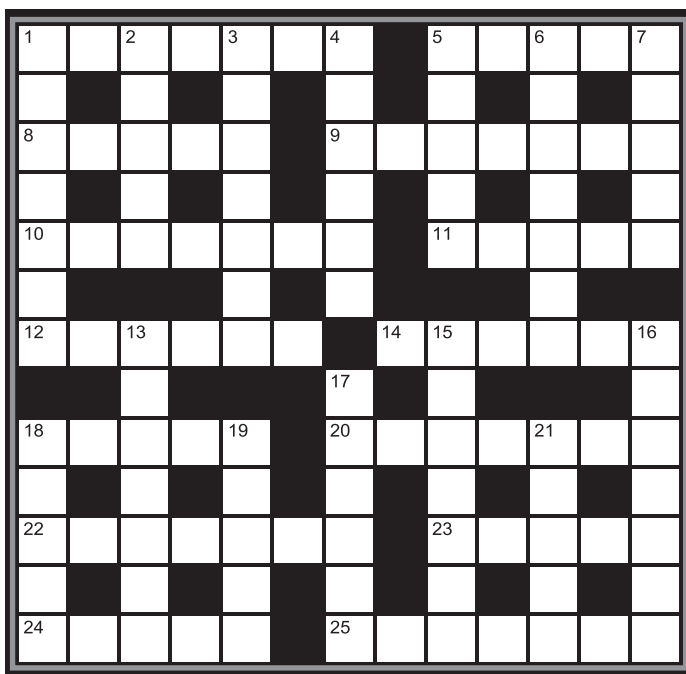
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Steps that make holes in stockings (7)
5 A bad shot with the wedge (5)
8 Jack takes poem home (5)
9 Current, very French, society produces a performer (7)
10 One tenant ate cellulose (7)
11 Climb over a range (5)
12 Not as hard as Eire, correct (6)
14 Getting caught on piste is bad (6)
18 Plenty of boys retaining nothing (5)
20 Smarten up the walls, whichever way you like (7)
22 Trick diplomacy is touching (7)
23 Dodge lady about now (5)
24 Advantage of changing timer (5)
25 Bring back from rest or energetic exercise (7)

Down

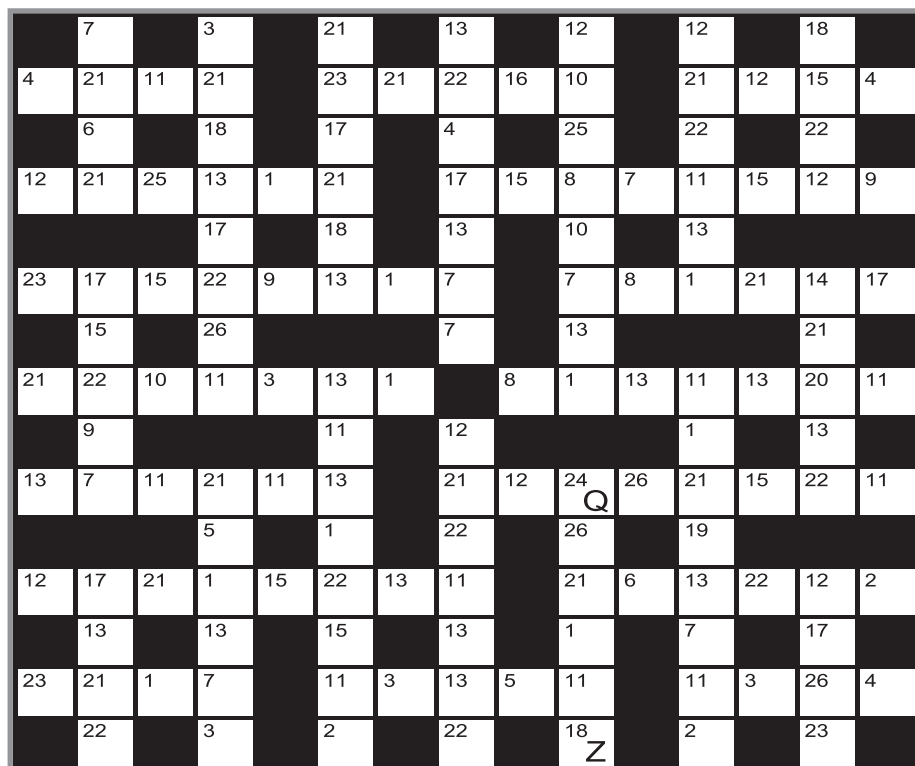
- 1 Outflow from newly formed lake takes time (7)
2 Monotonous sounding insect (5)
3 Brew tea leaves, but not as boost (7)
4 Parts of a fish used for balance (6)
5 First staff at the Esso station fills up (5)
6 Nice tax break is incorrect (7)



- 7 Follow headless queens around (5)
13 You'll turn nuts if you use it (7)
15 Quick to declare (7)
16 Get core rebuilt for the procession (7)
17 Dip in Eurocrat error rate (6)
18 Deputy at clock centre sounds hesitant (5)
19 Hardly any can be seen in the street (5)
21 Philosopher who started philosophising late and too obscurely (5)

Code Breaker

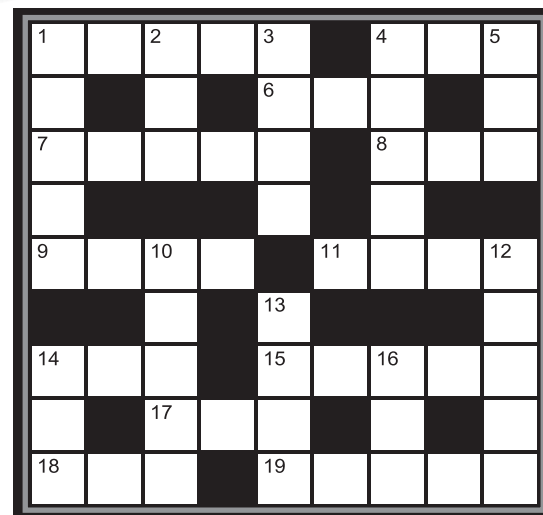
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 18 represents Z and 24 represents Q, so fill in Z every time the figure 18 appears and Q every time the figure 24 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters 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.



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

- 1 Promises (5)
4 Male child (3)
6 Permit (3)
7 Keyboard instrument (5)
8 Relevant (3)
9 Twelve-month period (4)
11 Utter sudden loud cry (4)
14 Small insect (3)

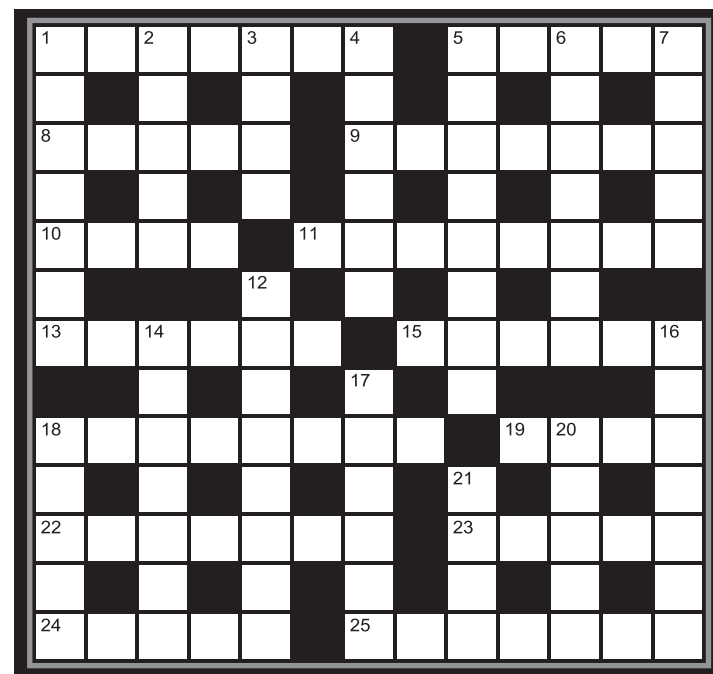
Down

- 15 Songbird (5)
17 Epoch (3)
18 Organ of hearing (3)
19 Additional payment (5)
1 Joyful (5)
2 Small green vegetable (3)
3 Leisurely (4)

- 4 Look at with fixed eyes (5)
5 Remaining after all deductions (3)
10 Following later (5)
12 Loans (5)
13 Snatch suddenly (4)
14 Consumed (3)
16 Forbid (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Salt-cellars (7)
5 Less (5)
8 Tower (5)
9 Elderly old man (7)
10 Plancha (utensilio) (4)
11 Small cushion (8)
13 Cricket (insect) (6)
15 Camarero (6)
18 Pepino (8)
19 Enchufe (eléctrico) (4)

Down

- 22 Pupils (school) (7)
23 Walnut tree (5)
24 Hornos (5)
25 Mothers-in-law (7)
1 Sentado (7)
2 Long (dress, hair) (5)
3 Junco (4)
4 Estación (parte del año) (6)

- 5 Rucksacks (8)
6 El más cercano (7)
7 Humo (5)
12 Germans (8)
14 Incluir (7)
16 Presents (gifts) (7)
17 Banquetes (6)
18 Nail (metal) (5)
20 Place (5)
21 Rodilla (4)

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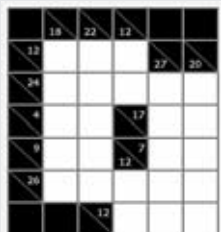
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'READ THAT BIT TO ME AGAIN ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING'

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

TARGET:

- Average: 10
- Very good: 19
- Good: 13
- Excellent: 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

elms emit item lime limo meet melt mete mile milo mils milt mise miso mist mite mitt moll mole molt most mote omit seem semi slim some stem teen time tome toms elemi emits emote items limes limos meets melts metes miles milos mites mits mols moist moles molts motel motes motet omits slime smelt smile smite smolt smote teens times tomes totem emotes mettle molest molies motels motets motile mottle omelet totems elmiest mettles motiles mottles omelets motliest MISTLETOE

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS
ENGLISH-SPANISH
Across:

1 Nice, 3 Spice tea, 9 Turkeys, 10 María, 11 Visit, 12 Dasher, 14 Toffee, 16 Abrazo, 19 Hiedra, 21 Comet, 24 Renos, 25 Alegría, 26 Pastores, 27 Hymn.

Down:

1 Nativity, 2 Corks, 4 Posada, 5 Camas, 6 Tarjeta, 7 Asar, 8 Settee, 13 Toy train, 15 Friends, 17 Bicker, 18 Parade, 20 Deseo, 22 Merry, 23 Wrap.

CRYPTIC
Across:

1 Acts, 3 Embraces, 9 Shelter, 10 Anita, 11 Ladle, 12 Simper, 14 Thirst, 16 Scrape, 19 Repose, 21 Roger, 24 Event, 25 Iterate, 26 Nightcap, 27 Bede.

Down:

1 Absolute, 2 Tweed, 4 Morose, 5 Realm, 6 Chimera, 7 Slap, 8 Others, 13 Retrieve, 15 Iceberg, 17 Carpet, 18 Retina, 20 Octet, 22 Grace, 23 Mean.

QUICK
Across:

1 Trim, 3 Late, 7 Attracted, 8 Grandma, 11 Prevented, 12 Toes, 13 Edge.

Down:

1 Trap, 2 Interfere, 4 Attempted, 5 Ends, 6 Haunted, 9 Spot, 10 Idle.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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

LOTTERY
UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday December 23

20	32	36	BONUS BALL
44	47	56	41

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday December 23

5	14	28	BONUS BALL
29	32	38	31

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday December 26

4	17	30	BONUS BALL
43	44		10

Friday December 22

5	24	30	BONUS BALL
31	43		6

EL MILLON: VGZ90400

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday December 21

3	15	27	BONUS BALL
35	36	45	8

JOKER: 5 353 322

Saturday December 23

4	24	26	BONUS BALL
30	39	46	4

JOKER: 4 895 273

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday December 24

6	7	34	BONUS BALL
42	53		9

YOUR STARS
 FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
 (January 21 - February 19)

This being a family oriented week, much of it may be spent getting together with relatives and going over old times. Perhaps you are compiling a photo album for older members of the family or vice versa.


PISCES
 (February 20 - March 20)

An exciting invitation may set tongues wagging and make a loved one jealous. You, meanwhile, are quite bemused by the whole thing. What comes out of this week is that you are of considerable value to others. The mere thought of you not being around sends ripples through your social circle.


ARIES
 (March 21 - April 20)

Being asked to take on a new and demanding task this week may see you wishing that you had been less visible. However, don't think of the hard work involved but rather the brilliant outcome. You will be popular.


TAURUS
 (April 21 - May 21)

An interest in technology is not something new to you. What is great, though, is that the penny has suddenly dropped. This week sees you understanding more and wanting to know more.


GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)

An urge to get moving must mean that spring is round the corner. Certainly, you are questioning where you want to be in the months ahead. A house move or work placement may be on your mind.


CANCER
 (June 22 - July 23)

Be aware that not everyone is willing to work as hard as you. When approached by someone wanting you to trust them, be sure of their motives. Do what you feel is right but remain firmly in control, especially financially. It may not be the time to make a particular move, although others think that it is. There's no problem with discussing things and talking them through. Keep up your healthy habits because you need lots of energy, especially at the weekend.


LEO
 (July 24 - August 23)

Social demands are made, but try to shuffle them to the weekend. Be diplomatic or someone close could become irritated. Keep an eye on the small print because something fundamental may have changed in a long-standing arrangement. Suddenly, at the weekend, you are thrust into the limelight.


VIRGO
 (August 24 - September 23)

Be aware that leopards do not change their spots, they merely hide them. Those who demand your trust need a cool checking out and don't be afraid to say 'no' as and when necessary. Finances are well aspected this week with a new idea proving both worthwhile in terms of your time and profitable.


LIBRA
 (September 24 - October 23)

Career and home are in disharmony but a bit of compromise soon sorts things out. You don't like playing the 'bad guy', but honesty is also important to you. Speaking your mind can be liberating although, initially, you may see it as a nuisance and embarrassing. A meeting at the weekend is both confusing and disarming.


SCORPIO
 (October 24 - November 22)

Someone with a larger-than-life imagination makes you smile but that was not their intention. Try to be diplomatic and steer them in a different direction. Some feelings of loneliness will not be assuaged by working more. Perhaps it is time to consider taking on a pet or giving a current pet more attention.


SAGITTARIUS
 (November 23 - December 21)

Sometimes, you find it hard to do things just for the pure enjoyment of it. Realise that not everything has to have a purpose or a profit. Look round this week and seek out something that will please your senses and bring a smile to your lips. Make this a week when you live for the moment and give full rein to your imagination.


CAPRICORN
 (December 22 - January 20)

Contact with a less than ideal situation makes you realise just how lucky you are. It has been clear that the weeks are changeable and your situation at the moment far from settled.

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Advertising feature

Feliz Navidad to all our Spanish clients

I LOVE Spain at this time of year, temperate climate, everyone friendly and how great to actually have a nice phrase to use. So much better than that dreadful word all too often used over the past year, Brexit!

As a debt collector, I have always tried to avoid anything political when speaking with clients and debtors alike, but whether in Spain, the UK or other countries it has been impossible to avoid the word Brexit and the worry and insecurity it has conjured up in the minds of most I talk to. Well, hopefully I can put it in to a little more perspective today.

Will Brexit affect the ability to collect debts in the UK, if incurred in Spain or other EU countries. The simple answer is no it will not.

Before the whole Brexit saga started, on EU debt we had always been able to use EU legislation, now enshrined in UK law. On a debt incurred in one EU country debtor assets are at risk in any other EU country in which they principally reside.

The above statement really means that any debtor can be sued on a personal ba-



BREXIT: It's not bad news for cross-border debt collection.

sis in the UK, for example, with their assets at risk on a debt incurred in Spain.

In essence this is a legal principle for any debt incurred in any country and sued cross-border. It just means that the process is simpler when it is defined under the EU rules embedded in all EU countries. If the UK exits the EU these

rules are still now embedded in UK legislation and there will be no good reason to change them.

Even if there was a move to look again at all debt related EU legislation embedded in UK law there still remains legal conventions between most world countries, allowing for reciprocal legal actions

and enforcement. The UK in particular has had legal conventions with many other countries going back to the 1920's.

From a debt collection perspective there has been a lot of rumour about a more difficult legal scenario outside of Spain.

Whilst there may be a little more paper work the previous legal conventions between most countries remain. It may increase costs a little but I am confident that the EU legislation currently in use will remain so.

Brexit has, unfortunately, done much to reduce confidence in cross-border dealings in all sorts of ways but LPL's principles have not changed one bit. If money is owed and the debtor resides outside of Spain let's get on with the business of collection. Brexit has been an unwelcome side issue and will unfortunately remain so for some time.

At the moment there is absolutely no change in any procedures, so if there are debt problems in your community there is no need, for any reason, to delay action.

In general I really think it should be 'business as usual!'

For more information, visit www.lplgroup.com or speak with the head of Spanish operations, Greg Bryan, who is based in Spain and can be contacted on +34 689 408 412. Tel: UK +44 (0) 208 551 4019.

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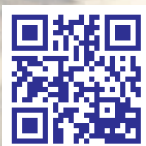
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I've never understood it

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I'M writing this before Christmas but you are reading it after Christmas, so I hope you all had a good one. I'll let you know how mine was next week because I'm going back to the UK to see my daughter.

I'm sure it will go without a hitch. I mean, 'planes, hotels, restaurants over the Christmas period - what could possibly go wrong? Talking about restaurants they spend fortunes on opening the place, make them look nice; get decent chefs, good menus and hopefully good food.

So why, oh why, do they all have so many wobbly tables? Admittedly some now have tables that have little screw things on each leg which can be adjusted but most don't. So we finish up with either me, the waiter or both, bending serviettes or beer mats and trying to wedge them under the offending table.

Then there's the chairs. I was in a place the other day and all their chairs had arms and guess what, they were also loose and wobbly. It's just a basic requirement. If something isn't right fix it please.

Here's a question for you. What do you do when something's not right in a restaurant? Food wise - maybe it's not hot enough or too salty or just isn't what you expected like a tough steak. Do you just leave it or do you send it back? I always tell them the problem and see how they deal with it but I'll never just leave it. I've been with friends who say, 'it's ok' just leave it' and I tell them it's best to say something, as if you don't they are not doing anyone any favours because it depends on the restaurant's reaction as to whether you return again.

I still have a few things to do and sort out over Christmas but they will not get done. It's not because I don't want to do them, but for some absurd reason come December 20 everything stops. Hospital appointments, lawyers, accountants are all telling me to come back the second week of January.

It's not only here; it's the same if not worse in the UK. I've never understood it and I never will.

Well I hope you have all had a great Christmas and I will have more grumps for you in the New Year.

By the way, if you want to follow me on Twitter, I'm @silverfox1949xx or email

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

mikesenker@gmail.com.

Advertising feature

A modern dental practice that promises a smile

THERE is no need to worry about going to visit a dentist again provided that you make an appointment with Clinica Aragon 33 in Palma.

The dental team specialises in advanced dental implants and in complex cases with maxillary atrophy (which is a common problem affecting the bones of older people) and the clinic is proud of the fact that it has succeeded where other dentists have declined a case.

Those who need help are invited to make an appointment with one of the professional dental team to discuss the problem, take an x-ray to confirm the situation and then agree a treatment plan.

The clinic doesn't want to cure patients with invasive surgical work, but believes that in most cases the problem can be resolved with the use of inclined dental implants and restoration of the full arch.

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CLINICA ARAGON 33: A professional dental service can resolve problems.

treatment times.

There can be an immediate result by use of a temporary fixed bridge or fixed prosthesis.

Another option is the introduction of braces which are common conventional devices that are used over a fixed period to align teeth



which are not sitting perfectly within the mouth.

There are two types of braces, metallic or ceramic and there is also a practically invisible version.

Through the use of 3D digital imaging

technology, a representation of the entire treatment plan is made based on the prescription of the orthodontist, from the initial position of the teeth to the desired final position.

From here, a series of transparent aligners (splints) are manufactured in a customised and tailored way to move the teeth slowly. The aligners are changed every two weeks until the final result is achieved.

They are comfortable for the patient and easy to use. They hardly cause chafing and interfere less with speech and chewing, requiring little maintenance.

By being removable they facilitate the cleaning of the appliances and the mouth and allow the use of dental floss.

For more information and to make an appointment you will find Clinica Aragon 33 at Carrer d' Aragó, 33, 07005 Palma de Mallorca. Call 971 415 862 for routine enquiries or 677 369 386 in an emergency

Email clinicadentalaragon33@gmail.com view the website www.clinicadentalaragon33.es or visit their Facebook page.

The clinic is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 2 pm and from 4pm to 8.30pm with Saturday by appointment only.

Reverse the signs of ageing

MANY a company has promised miracles when it comes to turning back the clock, but a scientist has claimed it might be much easier than we thought.

A gerontology expert, Dr Rozalyn Anderson, said it is an "amazing fact" that wrinkles do not have to appear, claiming fasting may help slow ageing.

The scientist explained a study earlier this year showed adults age 0.6 years slower if they reduce calorie intake by 25 per cent to around 1,900 a day for men and 1,500 for women.

Dr Anderson said, "cutting your calories delays ageing, probably because the body uses energy from food differently to become more resilient," adding, "by targeting ageing itself we could, instead of fighting cancer or cardiovascular disease individually, target the spectrum of disease simultaneously."

A previous study showed monkeys lived nine years longer consuming less calories.

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High triglycerides



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

This week a reader has asked the doctor about his blood test results:

DEAR Doctor,

For some years I've been under treatment for high blood pressure and recently I've been having trouble keeping it under control.

My GP sent me for blood tests and the results said my triglycerides were very high, twice as much as they should be, but he didn't explain what that means, just said that could be what's sending my blood pressure up and told me to go on a diet and get some exercise.

Could you please explain what they are, what they do and why I need to lower them? I'd also appreciate some detailed advice on 'diet and exercise.'

The doctor replied

- High blood pressure is a chronic complaint which usually shows no symptoms to begin with but can cause problems in various internal organs such as the heart and kidneys over time.

Treatment consists of an adequate, balanced, low in salt diet, regular moderate exercise (a 50-minute walk

five days per week or 50-60 minutes swimming three or four days per week) and medication.

This is often enough to keep blood pressure under control but sometimes it can remain a problem. If this is the case, you should see a specialist in Internal Medicine to rule out certain causes which may need more specific treatment.

In your case, your triglycerides are high which has nothing to do with your high blood pressure levels but can usually be controlled with a low-fat diet and by avoiding alcohol. High triglyceride levels are dangerous as they are a cardiovascular risk and can increase the chance of suffering a heart attack.

Diet is the most important thing to change. Follow a diet low in fat and sugar, rich in vegetables, fruit and fish. Red meat should be avoided and swapped for white meat. Food should be boiled or grilled. You should avoid drinking too much alcohol and fizzy drinks.

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

An apple (or three) a day

EXPERTS have claimed three apples or two tomatoes a day could reverse lung damage caused by smoking.

The scientists from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health said the fruits could also slow down the natural ageing of lungs.

The group made the discovery that fresh versions of the fruit - as opposed to canned varieties - saw the decline in lung function in smokers of 10 years slow. They believe this news could prevent smokers developing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, an incurable condition.

The potentially fatal condition is thought to affect around 1.2 million adults in the UK and around 11 million adults in the United States. The umbrella term covers diseases ranging

from bronchitis to emphysema.

Dr Vanessa Garcia-Larsen, the report's lead author, said, "this study shows that diet might help repair lung damage in people who have stopped

smoking," adding, "it also suggests that a diet rich in fruits can slow down the lung's natural ageing process even if you have nev-

er smoked." The expert went on, "the findings support the need for dietary recommendations, especially for people at risk of developing respiratory diseases such as COPD."

She concluded, "lung function starts to decline at around age 30 at variable speed depending on the general and specific health of individuals," adding, "our study suggests that eating more fruits on a regular basis can help attenuate the decline as people age, and might even help repair damage caused by smoking." She finished, "diet could become one way of combating rising diagnosis of COPD around the world."



GOOD GRUB: An apple a day keeps the doctor away!

WITH more than 6,000 people expected to attend A&E in the UK this Christmas, it may be worth taking time to think about how to avoid injuries over the festive season.

Emma Hammett, an English nurse and first-aid trainer, has given one publication tips on keeping your Christmas injury-free.

Hammett says safety should start in the kitchen with only the cook being present while water boils or other hot substances cook. She also recommends mopping up spills as soon as they happen to avoid slipping.

The expert also suggests checking or re-

Stay safe this Christmas

placing old fairy lights to avoid electric shock, while she also advises stairs can be a hazard if not well-lit.

To avoid choking hazards or accidents involving glass, Hammett suggests placing any glass baubles, or novelty ones which may look like toys, out of the reach of children. She also recommends placing any tealights in containers to avoid them burn-

ing anything they have been placed on and never leaving a candle unattended.

To avoid poisoning, Hammett suggests keeping mistletoe out of reach of children as it is toxic if swallowed, as well as ensuring your turkey is thoroughly cooked to reduce the risk of food poisoning.

Finally, the expert says alcohol should be consumed responsibly, with cooks waiting until food preparation is finished to consume, as well as urging others to take extra care on stairs when they have had a drink. She suggests tipping away any half-drunk glasses before bed to avoid children drinking them.

Hope for heart disease

EXPERTS have found one or two portions of some of our favourite foods each day may lower the risk of heart disease.

Scientists from St Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada, said meat and dairy - previously thought to be bad for our hearts - could in fact lower risks by 5 per cent.

Dr John Sievenpiper said there could be benefits to introducing more animal-based proteins into our diet rather

than plant-based ones.

He explained the statistic, "may not sound like much, but because people in North America eat very little plant protein, there is a real opportunity here to make some small changes to our diets and realise the health benefits." He added, "we are seeing a major interest in plant-based diets from Mediterranean to vegetarian diets in the supermarket and the clinic, and this comprehensive analysis of the

highest level of evidence from randomised trials provides us with more confidence that these diets are heart healthy.

Rob Hobson, a London-based nutritionist, further backed up the case against cutting out dairy, telling one publication, "the problem is that milk and dairy products are an important source of several key nutrients." He added, "cutting out on the foods reduces the intake of

calcium and iodine - raising the risk of deficiencies."

The expert concluded, "dairy products are also a useful source of iodine - a micronutrient important for women during pregnancy and young children that contributes to growth and brain development," adding, "our bones continue to grow until we reach our mid 30's and during this time it's important to make sure diets contain enough calcium."

New Year art adventures

WITH 2017 coming to an end, so too are several major art exhibitions which have graced the island for months. Meanwhile other exhibits are here to stay and quickly making a name for themselves.

A long-standing exhibition from German artist Herman ends on Sunday. Known for his humour and satirical edge, Herman specialises in pop painting and cartoons. His exhibit is at the Minkner Gallery in Lluçmajor.

Until the end of January an exhibit on Asian Video Art will be turning heads in the Casal Soler gallery. It consists of 10 Chinese artists who have made videos protesting the way technology is impacting traditional art forms, using technology to make their point.

At the Pelaires Art Gallery, Mallorcan artist Guillermo Rubi launched his latest exhibition. Perfect From Now On will run till March. His works have been shown in Palma, Madrid and Bombay.

Meanwhile at Es Baluard Contemporary Art Museum there is a huge range of exhibitions on display in early 2018. These include On Anam which tackles the overwhelming Mediterranean migration movement, and a Don Kunkel exhibit.



WALTZ: Strauss Festival Orchestra will ring in 2018.

Waltzing into 2018 A very classical New Year

NEW YEAR'S DAY is a time for the classics across Mallorca. There will be traditional New Year's Concerts held at different theatres on the island to usher in 2018 and ease a few hangovers.

The largest takes place at Palma's Teatre Principal. The acclaimed Balearic Symphony Orchestra will be performing their annual New Year's Concert from 8pm.

Lasting a full 90 minutes, there will be pieces from Chueca, Lehar and Strauss. Tickets for the show begin at just €8, with the better seats in the house costing €30.

The same orchestra will perform a repeat show at Manacor theatre on Tuesday at 8pm. Also on Tuesday the Strauss Festival Orchestra will waltz into the Palma Auditorium all the way from Austria. That performance begins at 9pm and tickets are a little pricier, ranging from €41 to €65.

In Felanitx there will be a free New Year's Day concert held at the Casa de Cultura from 7pm. It will combine traditional Mallorcan poetry with classical music led by tenor Antoni Lliteres and pianist Joan Ciria.

In Capdepera's Center Cap Vermell the local orchestra will be performing works from Strauss, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky. The show starts at 6.30pm with tickets available from just €6.

Victory march

THIS weekend a different celebration takes place in Palma while the rest of the world ushers in the New Year.

On Saturday and Sunday the city's Placa de Cort will be overwhelmed with ceremonies to mark the arrival of Christian soldiers in Palma on December 31, 1229.

There will be music, dancing and a New Year's Eve mass during one of Mallorca's oldest festivals.

The town hall will pay tribute to King Jaume I, who was victorious over the Moors. Plaza de Cort and Passeig des Born are also the places to be to ring in the bells on Sunday night.

Acrobats arrive

FESTIVE fun for the whole family can be found at Palma's Son Fusteret Fairgrounds. Barcelona's Circo Alegria is a theatrical circus act performing in Mallorca until Sunday January 7.

There will be music, dancing, jugglers, trapeze artists and magicians. Most of the performances take place in the late afternoon. There will be a matinee show at noon on New Year's Eve.

Children are also catered for at the Palma Auditorium. Disney characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck will be running riot until next Thursday. The show is called Mickey in search of lost magic. It runs at 6pm each night.

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Myths of antiquity History with a twist

ART lovers are being treated to one of Spain's premier exhibitions as it settles in Mallorca for three months. More than 50 exhibits and works of art from Madrid's Prado Museum can now be visited on the island.

The exhibition is named Arte y Mito: Los Dioses del Prado (Art and Myth: The Gods of Prado) and can be found at the CaixaForum in Palma's old Grand Hotel. It brings the myths and legends of Mediterranean antiquity alive for a modern audience.

Spanish choreographer Toni Mi-

ra engineers this modern twist with a dance video production. Music and shadowy figures dancing around the museum in an eerie light offer an otherworldly feel to the exhibit.

Some of the works from Spain's most renowned museum were last shown in the 1920s. They include paintings, busts and sculptures from artists as famous as Rubens, Ribera and van Eyck. Artistic interpretations of the Greek gods and Trojan war will be the major attractions.

Throughout the duration of the



Photo by Twitter

SECRET PRADO: Mythology comes alive in Mallorca.

exhibit there will be special family days and guided tours. The exhibit can be visited from Monday to Sat-

urday from 10am until 8pm. It will be closed on New Year's Day and Saturday January 6.

Murder mysteries

AGATHA CHRISTIE masterpiece And Then There Were None is being performed at Palma's Trui Teatre tonight, tomorrow and on Saturday. The modern adaptation comes from the minds of director Richard Reguant and Italian playwright Gianluca Ramazzoti.

It is performed in Spanish and enjoys a three show run with the earliest performance on Saturday at 6.30pm. Tonight and tomorrow's performances start at 9pm. Tickets cost €32 plus fees.

And Then There Were None was first published as Ten Little Niggers in 1939 and has since gone on to sell more than 100 million copies worldwide. It is a classic Christie mystery thriller featuring 10 people locked up on Pirate Island. All have been involved in the death or killing of another person, and more mysterious deaths soon ensue.

Adding to the mystery is that And Then There Were None has been adapted and altered so many times that each version has its own element of intrigue.

ONE of the first major festivals of 2018 takes place in Palma next month. The Festes de Sant Sebastià begins on Saturday January 13.

Though the party lasts for two weeks the biggest night is on Friday January 19. There will be dozens of local artists performing on eight different stages, including one at Placa Cort.

Other nights with top live music performances in the city centre include Sunday January 14 and Saturday January 20.

There will be traditional Mallorcan folk music,

jazz, rock and flamenco. As the festival celebrates pride in Palma's patron saint, there will be a heavy focus on local culture and language. The city council has promised to spend big this year and hopes for a record turnout.

The party finishes on Sunday January 21 with a Correfoc, or firerun. Other highlights include colourful parades, market stalls, art exhibitions, bagpipes and children's activities during San Sebastià Petit.

Patron saint party



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GODELLO: Drink lightly chilled but not icy cold.

GODELLO, described by critics as "a sleeping giant of a variety waiting to be properly discovered," is a Spanish white variety of grapes.

Produced in the north-west particularly in Valdeorras, Ribeira Sacra, Monterrey in Galicia and Bierzo in Castilla y León, its 19th century origins are from Godella in Valencia where this variety was first planted, only being transported to Galicia later by a trader.

After decades of decline, plantations have increased since the mid-80s as Godello has grown steadily more popular due to a small group of dedicated growers and producers. The wines are sometimes made solely of Godello, though can additionally be blended with local grapes including Treixadura and Albariño, thus providing similarities with Chardonnay.

The Godello grape is versatile and somewhat neutral, greatly reflecting in its aro-

mas and flavours the methods and techniques of the winemaker. Producers in Bierzo favour ageing Godello in oak barrels, making richer, fuller wines; those from Valdeorras tend to be aged in steel tanks, giving them a fresher, livelier quality.

Overall Godello wines are clean and fresh with deep rich mineral and fruit flavours that are ripe and savoury. Ageing well, some last up to a decade, gaining complexity and depth with time.

Seafood is an obvious choice of food to match with Godello, especially heartier choices including lobster, scallops, crab, and halibut, though salads and lighter chicken dishes also pair well.

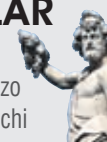
Known producers in the area are Santa Maria, Vina Godeval, Soto del Vicario, Castro de Lobarzan and Pazos del Rey.

As always with white wines, drink lightly chilled but not icy cold.

Happy tasting!

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by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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Zero energy panic

SPAIN'S property sector is facing a race against time to comply with European energy consumption regulations. New energy efficiency standards take effect across the community in 2020.

The goal is 'near zero energy buildings.' This means that the renewable energy generated by the building meets, or almost meets, total energy expenditure.

At a recent real estate conference held in Madrid, architects and developers heard that Spain is woefully unprepared for zero energy. The country's lost years

during the crisis shoulders much of the responsibility.

Real Estate Innovation Solvia director Anna Guanter quipped: "Our experience is that the sector is zero prepared."

Her company is building Innova Torrejon, a project of 92 energy efficient homes near Madrid slated for completion in 2019.

Part of the problem is securing financing and convincing a skeptical Spanish public that energy efficiency is the future, says research director of Construcciones Domeño, Emilio Linzoain.

He recalls how the firm built 72 low energy apartments back in 2014 but had trouble selling them. Explaining the zero energy concept to people more interested in the basics was an uphill struggle, but there is growing public awareness that such buildings are now a valuable investment.

Examples from northern Europe show that, not only will people save money on bills, but purchasing zero energy homes is also a safe bet as a future investment.



ZERO ENERGY: EU plans for efficient homes from 2020.

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Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

Plot with building permission, mains electricity and mains water possible. Nice views.



Advertising feature

IF you want to buy or sell a property, the multilingual staff at Mallorca Prime Homes will be delighted to offer you their expert help.

Now is, without question, one of the top periods for the sale and purchase of properties, large or small as the New Year promises new beginnings for buyers or sellers who are ready to start a new adventure.

Mallorca has a history of tranquil weather at the beginning of the year and this puts everyone into the right mood to make deals in order to secure speedy completion.

Mallorca Prime Homes has been established on the island since 2011 following 10 years on the mainland. They offer a wide variety of real estate with properties guaranteed to suit all tastes and budgets.

Operating predominantly on the south west but covering the whole of Mallorca, the company has a large client base partially built up thanks to word of mouth referrals.

Their highly-qualified staff speak English, Spanish, German and Russian and cater to an international clientele who hail from all across the globe.

Mallorca Prime Homes believe the island is so popular because it 'is a multicultural, beautiful and varied place to spend holidays and to live and at the same time, very safe. The island's infrastructure is also ex-

Mallorca Prime Homes' good wishes for 2018



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tremely well-developed.'

It also believes Mallorca's great variety of sandy beaches, rocky coves, beautiful villages, and Sierra de Tramuntana mountain range make it the perfect place to live.

Their team can also offer legal assistance when buying or renting a villa, chalet, apartment or any other property, dealing with all paperwork and legalities involved in property transfers.

The company believes that professionalism, trustworthiness, exclusivity and quality sits at the heart of its business and their ex-

perts carefully select high quality and attractive properties suited to each client's taste.

With years of experience in the property market, the satisfied client list is testament to its commitment to excellence.

While offering an exclusive service, Mallorca Prime Homes also understands the need to keep up with an ever-changing world and adapts to the cultures, languages and nationalities of its clients.

So if you are in the market for a property, why not con-

tact Mallorca Prime Homes for a personalised and high quality service?

Open from 10am to 7pm Monday to Friday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm, the company can be contacted by phone on 971 692 121, or by email: info@mallorcaprimehomes.com.

Alternatively, potential buyers and sellers are welcome to call in to their office on Avda. Rey Jaime I, N° 116, local 3, 07180, Santa Ponsa, Mallorca or visit their website: www.mallorcaprimehomes.com.

Time to plant bulbs for spring flowers

GRAEME TYRRELL

ABUNDANT bright colourful flowers are a hallmark of the Mediterranean garden.

New Year is the perfect time to prepare for a wonderful flower display in spring with minimal preparation and years of regrowth with minimal additional input to obtain heavenly scents and delightful flower displays.

Bulbs, tubers and corms can be planted now in containers, pots and the garden while still dormant to quickly sprout and grow in time for spring as they are so easy to grow and so versatile.

In containers they can be displayed in entrances, on window sills, balconies, patios and terraces to provide attractive blooms and allow the perfumed scents to add a natural fresh ambiance and uplifting appeal to any zone around the home where there is sufficient light and fresh air.

A number of bulbs are native to the Mediterranean region, including daffodils, but have been distributed and developed into various different cultivar around the world so that their origins have been obscured.

Many fit into the Mediterranean garden perfectly as they emerge in winter when the soil is normally moist and die back over summer after flaunting their springtime flowers to wait for the next winter rains before starting the cycle again. This can mean that garden bulbs will often not need any watering year round unless the spring weather is very dry.

Containers with bulbs may need supplemental watering as containers can dry out faster and may not catch sufficient natural rainfall. Bulbs in containers also have a limited period to be on display as they can die down over summer. I solve this by adding the

bulbs to containers with single trunk container plants that stay green over summer.

The bulbs highlight the container plant in spring but as the bulbs die back the container plant becomes the new focus and the dried leaves from the builds are removed. In this way I don't have to put the containers away during the bulbs dormancy.

A good selection of bulbs, tubers and corms to select for planting at this time include: daffodils, jonquils, grape hyacinth, tulips, Madonna lilies, gladiolus, iris, freesia, cyclamen, crocus, anemone, scilla and snowdrops.

My personal favourite is freesias. I have grown them in a pot with a weeping fig for over 15 years and they come up every year, look lovely while filling the terrace with their delightful scent and then disappear in summer as if never there. I just add a little compost every other year (biannually).

There are also many iris of various colours scattered around the garden and in the orchard giving annual displays while daffodils our children planted when only



A field of freesias in bloom.

young still come up at the base of a hackberry tree in the vegetable garden.

If you have good soil in the garden you can just dig a hole about three times deeper than the size of the bulb, pop them in and cover them over with the soil.



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Traditionally small wood remnants such as branches are burnt to ash, which is a waste. It's better to mulch them into small wood chips and use them for covering your garden. It prevents the soil from drying out in the summer and eventually it will compost and give nutrients back to the soil. It's better for both the garden and the environment.

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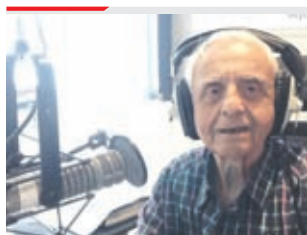
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DOGS want to be trained and there is so much proof that trained dogs are invariably happier than an untrained dog.

All trained dogs have happy owners. Great satisfaction can be derived from training a dog. It is not time consuming and most training can be done whilst exercising the dog. If you do not have the time to exercise your dog then you should not keep a dog.

Training classes undoubtedly contribute to better training of dogs. One great advantage of classes is that they accustom the puppy or young dog to meeting other dogs and the owners get an opportunity to meet people with a



GOOD BOY: Both dogs and owners benefit from training.

common interest and often the same or similar problems.

Many people are regarded as experts when they have trained a dog of one breed to a very high standard.

Faced with a difficult dog they would not know where to start. Training methods vary just as much as dogs and their owners do. There are however, many accepted exercises that form

a useful basis for most dogs and most owners.

Owners must not regard dogs as almost human; this is an insult to our canine friend. In this day and age we still

do not know how dogs do some of these things, such as detecting mines and drugs. Intelligence is not an important factor in a dog's make up.

Dogs and indeed all animals learn by association of ideas. Animals do not reason at all, they simply react to what is happening and do not think what has happened or is about to happen. It is believed that they do sometimes work out a problem for themselves.

For training purposes we try to create associations we want and avoid those we do not want, by what is known as correction and reward. Correction does not mean beating the dog or jerking him on a choke chain it means any act, which forces the dog to obey, like pushing him into the sit position.

Many dog owners will never know or have any idea of the pleasure they are losing in not having a dog that is trained to be a faithful companion and partner.

A dog will accept a human as a substitute for a canine leader and this willingness to accept a human makes him easier to train than most other animals.

Cats really do enjoy their home comforts

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As James Herriot, the well loved vet, said: 'Cats are the connoisseurs of comfort.'

Like many animals, and indeed humans, cats are indeed creatures of habit and enjoy the comforts of their own home. As we celebrate the holidays, wherever we happen to be, it is a consideration that our pets should also be happy and comfortable wherever they spend their holidays. At HouseSitMatch we can help you find house and pet-sitters to keep your property and pets safe and sound in your absence. If



SNUGGLED UP: Enjoying home comforts.

you are not yet familiar with our house-sitting network, *HouseSit Match.com*, take a look online.

It is easy to join our membership network online and we can help you get started. Check out our Trustpilot ref-

erences online to see what our verified customers say about us too. So if you have holiday plans firming up for the New Year, it is best to pin down your house-sitter now.

Get ahead and start early.

Homeless hounds

UK animal charity Dogs Trust has revealed some of the reasons people give when they hand over their pets.

Although a new pet is for life, not just for Christmas, it would seem many people don't realise quite what they have let themselves in for when they welcome a new furry family member into the home.

Some of the more outlandish excuses given to Dogs Trust apparently include:

- "I won a free holiday and I couldn't take my dogs with me"
- "I'm a vegetarian but he always wanted to eat meat"
- "I got him as a secret Santa present"
- "He was panting too much"
- "He didn't like it when we played dress up"

Adrian Burder, Chief Executive for Dogs Trust, said "We really hope this Christmas we don't see dogs discarded because their owners have not considered the lifetime commitment of dog ownership."

Before you make a life-changing commitment this festive season, make sure you've



ABANDONED: Don't let your dog be one of the thousands to end up in a shelter come January.

spent a considerable amount of time thinking about it.

Make sure you have enough free time to dedicate to your four-legged friend, especially if you get a puppy or a kitten, and

that it will fit into your lifestyle.

It's also a good idea to talk to a vet beforehand, who can be a great source of information to help you choose the best pet to suit your needs.



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Becky, Jessica, John, Stephanie.

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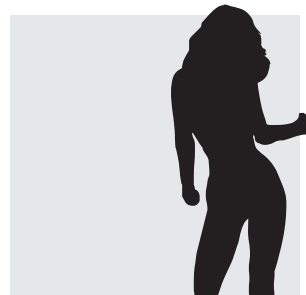
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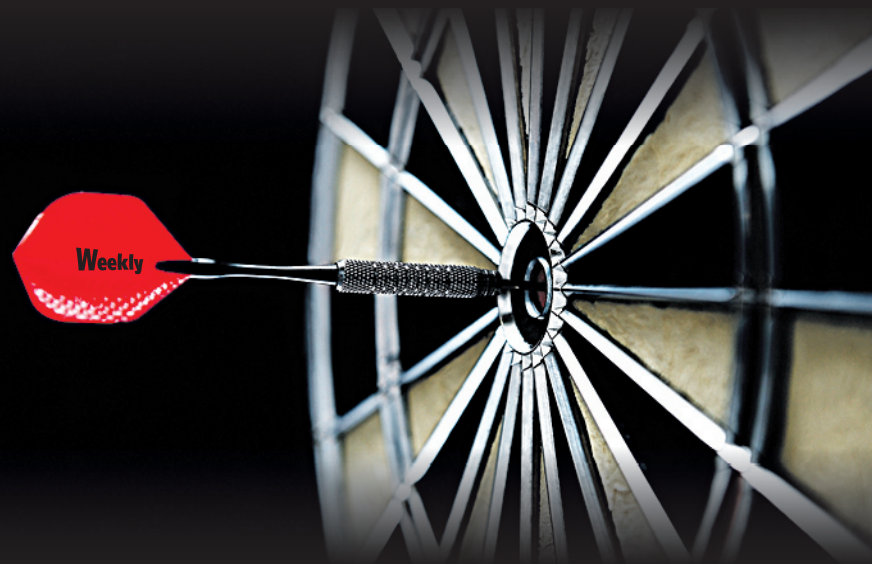
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Spanish yacht still ahead 75 foot yacht sold to Florida couple

ONCE again, the Spanish Volvo Ocean Race team in MAPFRE has come from behind, this time to win Leg 3 of the race.

They left Cape Town on the 6,500 nautical mile journey to Melbourne, Australia marginally ahead of their nearest rivals the Dongfeng Race Team and soon fell behind but managed to catch positive winds and overtook half way through the leg.

It was anticipated that the leading yachts would arrive in Melbourne on Christmas Day but MAPFRE skipper Xabi Fernández brought his craft in to Melbourne harbour on Christmas Eve with his main challenger Dongfeng Race Team struggling with a damaged keel system managing to hold on to second place.

Now all of the crews are having a few days rest before they set off on their next leg on January 2 to cover 6,000 nautical miles to Hong Kong with MAPFRE provisionally six points ahead of Dongfeng.

It is expected that the race will not be completed until the end of June 2018 and in that time with a further nine legs to be completed, there is plenty of time for other teams to challenge the current leader.



Jesus Renedo/Volvo Ocean Race

Leader MAPFRE arrives in Melbourne.

75 foot yacht sold to Florida couple



Horizon Yachts

The E75 in Florida waters.

ASIA'S largest and most successful superyacht builder Horizon Yachts of Taiwan have just delivered a 75-metre yacht to new owners in Florida.

Designed especially for the US market the Horizon E75 includes an enclosed sky lounge version and features a three en-suite stateroom layout with separate crew quarters and an exceptional finish.

The newly named Moondance will make its maiden voyage under the new ownership to the Bahamas.

New round-the-world record

FRENCH sailor François Gabart has set a new world record for the fastest solo round-the-world navigation, beating the previous time by more than six days.

The non-stop marathon sprint saw his trimaran MACIF circumnavigate the globe (and cover 28,000 nautical miles) in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds beating his countryman Thomas Coville's record which was set last year.

He broke several solo racing records, including the fastest navigation of the Pacific and the longest distance covered in 24 hours at 1,575km (851 miles) in his custom built vessel which used the latest technology to help him reach up to 35 knots.

This is the second fastest circumnavigation after the IDEC Sport, skippered by Francis Joyon, with a full crew took the Jules Verne Trophy in 40 days, 23 hours, 30 minutes.



@Sailing_LaVaga Twitter

Youtubers Elayna and Riley.

London Boat Show just a few days away

BACK for its 64th year, the London Boat Show returns on January 10 to 14 celebrating everything you can do and enjoy on the water.

With hundreds of exhibitors and some exciting guests, the latest additions to be announced are online sailing sensations, Elayna Carausu and Riley Whitelum (Sailing La

Vagabonde) who will be flying into the UK to exclusively appear at the London Boat Show, sharing the secrets behind their fame and sailing adventures.

As YouTube's most famous sailing couple, the Australian pair has attracted over 350,000 subscribers worldwide and despite having no previous sailing experience, they have docu-

mented their journey travelling over 41,000 nautical miles since late 2014.

In that time, the duo have crossed the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Oceans and suffered terrifying storms, pirate scares, financial breakdowns, equipment failures, water shortages and other 'interesting' mishaps.

Visitors will be able to meet and hear from Elayna and Riley on Thursday January 11, between 12 noon and 12.30pm and 1.30pm and 2pm at the Show's Legends Theatre.

Whatever your watery preference, the London Boat Show is sure to cover it. Tickets via www.londonboatshow.com. Advance tickets start from £15.

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Clarkson Quote of the Week



On his daughter's first car: "I wanted something with 2,000 airbags. I wanted a bouncy castle with wipers."

Some might say...



Next generation Leaf British built

PRODUCTION of the new Nissan Leaf for the European market has begun in the firm's huge Sunderland plant in the UK.

The first customers are expected to receive their new wheels in February. Deliveries will be made right across Europe with thousands of vehicles rolling off the production line in the coming months.

Nissan describes its new Leaf as "the next generation of the world's best-selling electric car."

It has an expanded range of 378km on a single charge. There is an 'e-Pedal' which allows drivers to start, stop, accelerate and decelerate simply by applying different levels of pressure to the accelerator.

The ProPILOT advanced driving assistance program keeps the Leaf in the centre of the lane and can automatically control the distance between the car and the vehicle in front to ensure safety.

ProPILOT Park is an automatic parking

technology that uses four high resolution cameras and 12 ultrasonic sensors to park the car accurately at the push of a button.

Nissan Europe vice president for manufacturing, Kevin Fitzpatrick said: "Nissan led the way in introducing electric vehicles to Europe in 2011, and every year since then it's been clear that more and more customers share our vision for the future of driving."

Having shifted more than 85,000 units across the continent the Nissan Leaf has been a huge success. The next generation is one of the most eagerly awaited releases of 2018 in the green car market and couldn't come at a better time for the brand as diesel's reputation continues to slide.

Nissan's Sunderland plant has built nine million vehicles since 1986 and also produces the Nissan Qashqai, Juke, and Infiniti Q30.



Photo credit Nissan

LEAF 2.0: Next generation Leaf out in February.

Stylish SUV

OVERFINCH has announced it will unleash the "most luxurious SUV ever created" next year. The London firm has been tuning Range Rovers since the 1970s.

There are two 'basic' models, each of which can easily be upgraded with expensive accessories. The 3.0 TDV6 starts at £114,990 while the V8 Autobiography is a hefty £144,990.

Both are based on the 2018 Range Rover SUV but offer a wider range of colours, thicker glass, wider seats, fancier heating options and a carbon fibre air dam. Seats are even more comfortable and VIP drivers can opt for armoured SUVs.

Overfinch boss Kevin Sloane described the new look as "a distinctive, elegant interpretation of the flagship vehicle that is as exclusive as it is desirable."

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Volkswagen Up!

WHILE there is a current trend to make new cars bigger, add more equipment and of course boost the price, there is still a significant number of customers who just want simple affordable daily transport, and the Volkswagen Up! neatly meets this requirement.

Priced from just €10,366 (£9,135), available in three and five-door format, and with an economical petrol engine, the Up! has a lot to offer, including the VW brand's outstanding build quality.

The Up! is sturdy, yet lightweight, helping the 1.0 litre 59 hp engine de-

liver over 21 kpl (60 mpg), and the car has an agility which makes it perfect for urban driving.

The entry level model has limited kit but does have features such as remote locking, power steering and electric front windows. The mid-range Move Up! model - the one I tested - adds extra kit such as alloy wheels, air-conditioning and variable-height boot floor.

In five-door form, it costs €11,552 (£10,180). Boot space is 251 litres,

among the largest in the class, and folding rear seats boost it to 959 litres.

Re-vamped in 2016, the Up! now has deeper front bumper, black trim inserts and LED running lights which help give it a more elegant, upmarket look. The cabin is surprisingly roomy, with decent headroom in the rear even for taller passengers.

You can connect a smart phone to provide sat-nav and other features, and VW has also added some customisation upgrades, allowing buyers to personalise the interior appearance.

Out and about, the Up! shows it has no down-side. The small engine is not noisy,

the steering is light and accurate, the five-speed gearshift slick, the ride quality very comfortable. For a car in this sector, the Up! comes over as quite refined. There are no diesel versions but the 1.0 petrol units are available with differing power outputs and there is also an electric version.

The 59 hp engine test model delivers a 0-100 kph time of 14.4 seconds (though it feels quicker) and a top speed of 160 kph (100 mph), so can deal with motorway cruising if required.



THE UP!:
Sturdy, yet
lightweight.

Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.



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That was the year that was!

by **Tony Matthews**

So much has happened in the sporting world in 2017 that it would take a few pages to cover all the highs, lows, winners and losers. So here are details of the headline-makers, good or bad!

ESSEX became County Champions for the first time since 1992... England won 15 of their 23 competitive matches but lost the Ashes! England's women won the World Cup... Pakistan lifted the Champions Trophy... England's Jimmy Anderson

Cricket

took his 500th Test wicket... Two Bens, Stokes and Duckett, were suspended by

the ECB... Chris Gayle smashed a record 18 sixes in his 146 not out off 69 balls for Rangpur v Dhaka in Bangladesh's T20 final... and the Cayman Islands, Germany, Guernsey, Italy and Jersey became international cricketing countries.



Credit: @EssexCricket/Twitter

LONG TIME COMING: Essex celebrated their first county championship since 1992

Football

ANDERLECHT, Basel, Bayern Munich, Benfica, Celtic, Chelsea, Copenhagen, Feyenoord, Juventus, Real Madrid, Red Star Belgrade and Spartak Moscow won their respective League titles... Arsenal (FAC), Celtic (SC), Manchester United (EL/FLC), Real Madrid (CL) and England's U17, U19 and U20 teams, all triumphed in major Cup finals... Barcelona's Lionel Messi (37 goals) captured Europe's Golden Boot... Cristiano Ronaldo won the Ballon d'Or for a fifth time and became the first player to score in every Champions League Group game... Chelsea's N'Golo Kante was PFA Footballer of the Year; Celtic's Scott Sinclair won Scotland's award... Manchester City set a new PL record for successive wins from the start of a season and ended Manchester United's 40-match unbeaten home record... Forest Green Rovers entered the League for the first time... and just before Christmas, Bristol City knocked holders Manchester United out of the League Cup.



NUMBER FIVE: Cristiano Ronaldo equalled Lionel Messi's five Ballon d'Or trophies.

Tennis

ROGER FEDERER won seven titles in 2017 including the Australian, USA and Wimbledon singles... Rafael Nadal gained seven victories, two in Spain (Barcelona and Madrid)... Venus Williams lost two major finals against Spain's Garbine Muguruza at Wimbledon and sister Serena in Australia... Caroline Wozniacki won the WTA end-of-season final... Jamie Murray and Martina Hingis became Wimbledon mixed doubles champions... Russian Maria Sharapova returned to action after a drugs ban... France beat Belgium 3-2 in the Davis Cup final... and Nadal's winnings in 2017 were €13.4m/\$15.8m.

Round up

GB/MERCEDES star Lewis Hamilton won his fourth F1 world title and claimed race victories in Belgium, Canada, China, GB, Singapore, Spain and the USA, and Alfa Romeo announced they'll have a car racing in F1 in 2018... Spain's Marc Marquez was the MotoGP champion... Houston Astros beat LA Dodgers 4-3 to win their first baseball World series... GB cyclist Chris Froome completed the Tour de France and Vuelta a España double... Olympic gold medallist Jade Jones added another Taekwondo title to her CV as did Bianca Walkden... Michael van Gerwen (PDC), retiring Phil Taylor (World Matchplay) and Glen Durrant (BDO) won darts tournaments... boxers George Groves, Anthony Joshua, Lee Selby and Michael Conlon all retained their respective IBF/WBA titles, but James DeGale lost his while Tyson Fury was given his licence back... Birmingham was chosen to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games... and athlete Sir Mo Farah was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2017.

■ Golf

'Golfer of the Year' Justin Thomas won the PGA Championship and earned most money: €8.3m/\$9.9m. Other 'big' tournament winners were Sergio Garcia (Masters), Brooks Koepka (US Open), Jordan Speith (British Open), Justin Rose (WGC/HSBC and Indonesian Masters) and Bernard Langer (Senior Open). USA won the Solheim and Walker Cups and Tiger Woods returned to action after injury.

■ Horse Racing

The 2017 'Classic' horses were outstanding with Enable, winner of the Oaks and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the best.

Other big race winners were: Winter (GB 1,000 Guineas, Irish 1,000 Guineas, Coronation Stakes and Nassau Stakes)... Churchill (2,000 Guineas)... Wings of Eagles (Derby)... Capri (St Leger and Irish Derby)... Always Dreaming (Kentucky Derby)... One For Arthur (Grand National)... Sizing John (trained by Jessica Harrington,

Cheltenham Gold Cup)...and Buvier D'Air (Champion Hurdle). Champion jockeys were Silvestre De Souza (flat) and Richard Johnson NH) and trainer Aiden O'Brien saddled a record 27th Grade 1 winner.

■ Rugby

Australia beat England 6-0 in Rugby League's World Cup final and Wigan Warriors won the World Club Challenge Cup. In the Union code, England (Six Nations); Stade Français (European Challenge Cup), Saracens (European Champions Cup) and Scarlets (Pro12) all gained titles.

■ Snooker

Ronnie O'Sullivan won the Masters and UK Championships, the latter for a joint record sixth time. Barry Hawkins (World Grand Prix), Judd Trump (Player's Championship), Ding Junhui (World Open), Shaun Murphy (Champion of Champions), Mark Selby (World Championship) and Neil Robertson (Scottish Open) also won top events.

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