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Hep A outbreak

AT least 33 people have been infected with Hepatitis A from a Palma restaurant, according to reports in the Spanish media.

The first infections were reported in mid-December, when a health centre contacted Public Health to warn that it had two confirmed cases, which could have been contracted from the same eatery.

One of the original sufferers was a worker at the restaurant. At least four workers from the restaurant are among the 33 that are infected, reports say.

Food safety inspectors say they visited the premises and detected multiple issues potentially severe enough to spread the infection.

After returning to the establishment, the inspectors instructed the restaurant to remove all prepared food and complete a disinfection process.

Left on the line

Lung collapse victim ignored

The family of a 14-year-old boy who suffered a lung collapse will not press charges if emergency services can prove that they ignored him by mistake.

It comes after telephone operators for the 112 emergency services twice hung up on him, according to reports.

The boy called the helpline after he began to suffer breathing problems while walking on

the Avenida Reyes Catolicos in Inca.

The operator who took the call hung up without explanation. The boy then made another call 10 minutes later and the operator once again hung up.

He passed out at the road side soon after. He managed to stop a passing car to ask for help and was taken to a medical centre.

He was then taken to Son Es-

pases hospital where he remained in intensive care for several days.

The boy's father, himself a doctor, spoke to the head of the 112 call centre who confirmed the event after listening to recordings of the phone calls.

The head of the call centre has since apologised to the boy and his family. An investigation into the incident has now been opened.



Photo by 112 illes Balears/Twitter

ERROR OPERATOR: The 112 call centre. (Right) Avenida Reyes Catolicos where the boy collapsed.

A 62-YEAR-OLD man who fell 10 metres into rocks in Lluçmajor has been taken to hospital by a Guardia Civil helicopter where he remains in a serious condition.

The man, from Palma, was walking through the Puig de Ros area of the town when he fell and landed on rocks on Wednesday morning.

Another person walking through the area spotted him and alerted the Emergency Services

Fall fright

who sent firefighters and Local Police officers to the scene, according to reports.

A Guardia Civil Mountain Rescue helicopter was also sent to help rescue the man from the place where he fell which was difficult to reach.

Paramedics were able to stabilise the man who suffered several bruises and head injuries. He was taken by helicopter to Son Espases Hospital.

Binissalem car blaze

SIX abandoned cars and a large number of household appliances were destroyed by a fire in Binissalem on Sunday.

The blaze began shortly after 1am on Sunday morning and soon engulfed the cars and appliances which were set to be scrapped.

Local Police arrived shortly after it started to find the fire had grown large enough to be seen from a great distance, according to reports.

Police officers called firefighters to the scene who spent four hours putting out the blaze which spread in part due to petrol left in the cars.

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NEWS EXTRA

Hand in need

THE Mallorca Department of Environment will hire 10 people as part of a training project for unemployed citizens aged 30 or older that will teach the workers valuable skills over the course of nine months.

Road rage

LOCAL POLICE are investigating a driver accused of hitting a man with his car while reversing to park in Palma on Wednesday. The driver denied the accusations against the man who reportedly had no injuries.

Bus loan

A **LOAN** worth almost €30 million has been granted to Palma's transport authorities to renew their bus fleet from the European Investment Bank. More than half of the current fleet are 15-17 years old.

Robbers caught red handed

TWO men and one woman have been arrested for two alleged robberies committed in Inca by the Guardia Civil.

Police were on patrol in the town last weekend when they came across a vehicle whose driver began to act suspiciously after noticing the patrol.

The driver sped up after police signalled him to stop. He then gave chase through the town, driving recklessly and violating a number of traffic laws, according to police.

The driver then crashed into a concrete wall and police arrested him for



Photo by Guardia Civil

STOLEN: Police recovered more than €2,300 in cash and other items following one of the arrests.

theft, road safety crimes and disobedience to police officers.

Police recovered items stolen from two industrial buildings. The robber reportedly forced the doors of the building open to steal the items.

The second robbery took place last Sunday. Police were on patrol in the town when they saw a man run out of a shop in a balaclava and with a tool in his hands.

The man gave chase and tried to get into a car with a female passenger inside who was reportedly waiting for him.

Police arrested the pair and recovered more than €2,300 in cash, foreign money, jewellery, a mobile phone and several tools used in the robberies.

The investigation remains open to find out the origin of some of the stolen items.

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Couple charged after brutal fight

A **NIGERIAN** man and his partner have been arrested in Palma after an alleged fight broke out between the pair.

Police were first alerted to a potential disturbance in the Calle Iglesias Cañellas neighbourhood in Son Oliva after they were informed about a heated discussion taking place. Upon arrival, officers reportedly found a 45-year-old Nigerian man in the street covered in blood and showing deep cuts to his leg and forehead.

After explaining to the officers what had hap-

pened, they were directed by the man to the fourth floor of a building where they found his partner.

She allegedly claimed that the pair had become enraged in an argument, after which he had tried to strangle her and that she had taken a knife and stabbed him in order to defend himself. According to the Spanish media, witnesses were able to confirm the woman's version of the events.

The couple, who are reportedly irregular visitors to Spain, have now been charged with separate crimes.

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CATCH UP ON THE LATEST DRAMA FROM THE SPORTING WORLD



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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Brit sentenced

SEVEN people, including a British man, have been sentenced to spend a total of 18 years in prison for drug trafficking in Magaluf. Each of the suspects was reportedly engaged in the sale of cocaine and hashish to tourists during the summer of 2015.

New builds

THE amount of new homes built in Mallorca increased by 35 per cent in 2017, according to data from surveyors. Around 1,780 applications to build new homes were placed last year. The number of new homes built in 2016 was almost 1,320.

Election pact

PARTIDO POPULAR (PP) politicians are preparing for an electoral pact with the Ciudadanos party for the regional elections on Mallorca next year. The PP expect Ciudadanos' share of the vote to increase but that they will remain the largest party, according to a PP spokesperson.

Flights up

MORE flights will be coming to the Balearics this summer, according to reports in the Spanish media. Ryanair, easyJet, EuroWings and Vueling are all increasing the number of passengers they fly into the islands. The regional transport minister Marc Pons labelled the plans "excellent news."

Bird catching

SEABIRDS in Mallorca are reportedly at risk from being caught accidentally by long line fishing gear. The gray shearwater birds, which are critically endangered on the Balearic Islands, usually feed in areas where fishing takes place and often get caught accidentally as a result.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE n°47

There are many lazy stereotypes about Spain, but the siesta - and laziness itself - seems particularly unfair in one of Europe's most hardworking countries. Could the traditional nap really be dying out, asks Harrison Jones.

Time out for siestas?

SUN, sangria and paella: the clichés of Spanish life are numerous and often live up to the hype. Yet one particularly prominent stereotype seems especially tired, since it now barely registers in modern Spain.

The famous siesta is a period in the late afternoon when the country shuts down for hours - at least in theory.

But the idea that Spaniards are lazy is not supported by their working hours, which are far higher on average than other European nations.

And now, it seems their mid-afternoon break is being put to bed.

Traditionally, the business siesta would run between roughly 2pm and 5pm, with restaurants closing later. Spaniards would have a big, long lunch, often with alcohol, followed by a nap.

The original reason for the siesta was supposedly to avoid the mid-afternoon heat, particularly for manual labourers working in the sun, and to allow rest/travel time between morning and afternoon jobs.

But there are also suggestions that the practice has Roman origins, making it Italian - though it is far more widely associated with Spain.

In turn, the Spanish influenced other countries in colonial times to take up the practice.

Spaniards also stay up notoriously late and tend to sleep less than other nations, meaning an afternoon break helped maintain their late-night lifestyle.

But as modern, western culture and - crucially, air conditioning - ar-



DROPPING OFF: The siesta's popularity is declining.

rived, the humble siesta took a hit.

A 2017 poll found that 58 per cent of Spaniards do not take a daytime nap, with the share of those saying they sometimes indulge consistently dropping.

Office-based workers are highly unlikely to go home for lunch and sleep in a globalised, high-pressure country.

Meanwhile, calls to realign Spain with its geographical time zone could impact the practice. The fascist dictator Franco changed Spanish clocks to align with Germany, but there is increasing pressure to return - which would mean the sun goes down earlier and people could go to bed earlier, with less need for afternoon sleep.

Yet, there are some who value the

tradition, particularly the elderly and those living in rural areas. Some towns, including Ador, Valencia, have enshrined the practice into law.

There are other small signs of a modern resurgence.

The health benefits of 'power napping' are widely hailed by health experts. A roughly 25-minute nap boosts memory, alertness, nighttime sleep, heart condition and mental/physical well-being generally.

And in cities, 'siesta hotels' are a rising trend.

The overall outlook for the siesta, though, is ominous. And while it might not be put to bed completely, it is certainly dropping off - just don't expect the stereotype to fade with it.

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Lynx effect!



Photo credit: Richard Campey/Twitter



ON THE PROWL: An Iberian lynx in the Sierra de Andujar where wildlife lovers (bottom left) have been flocking to photograph the elusive cat, of which 31 lost their lives on Spanish roads last year (bottom right).

It is the most endangered wild cat in the world. And this stunning image, captured last month, shows the Iberian lynx in all its predatory beauty.

It comes as wildlife lovers and nature photographers descended on the Sierra de Andújar mountain range in Jaén Province, Andalucía, to catch a glimpse of the elusive feline.

Normally secretive during sunlight hours, sexually mature adults are active throughout the day in December and January as the females come into heat and males compete to breed with them.

And the vast Sierra de Andújar - part of the larger Sierra

Morena chain - is home to the largest and best-preserved population, with around 100 females each commanding a territory of 10-20 square kilometres.

Spanish authorities recently announced that wild numbers of the cat have risen to at least 547 from a historic low of 94 in 2002.

More than 400 inhabit Andalucía, with the remainder split between Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Portugal.

Andalucían environment councillor, José Fiscal and director of the European Commission-funded lynx conservation programme LIFE Iberlince, Miguel Ángel Simón revealed

the encouraging figures during a Sevilla press conference.

But it is not all good news, after 58 lynx were found dead in 2017, a record.

According to reports, 31 of the animals were killed by traffic, leading to widespread criticism from environmental groups, although the main issue continues to be a lack of rabbits, its principal prey.

Native to the Iberian Peninsula but introduced around the world, Spanish rabbits have been devastated by the myxomatosis virus and, more recently, a haemorrhagic disease known as RHDVb.

See Our View on page 8.

POLL OF THE WEEK

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LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Have you taken up the Dry January challenge?
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TOP 5 stories



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- 7,772 views** New documentary and series of telly favourite Benidorm coming soon
- 5,571 views** Costa del Sol town showcases itself with new tourism video
- 2,579 views** Five Brits could face second court summons over Benidorm balcony death
- 2,131 views** Spain's national and regional holidays for 2018
- 2,130 views** 'Drunk' passenger calls Ryanair crew 'devils' forcing flight diversion

**For week 15 - 22 January*

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CORRECTIONS

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Rent: 6.000 €

Cala Viñas

Apartment with sea views on the 1st line



🏠 4 🛏 4 🏠 250 m² 30 m²
MPH-1721 930.000 €





Celeb focus

Photo by Millie Mackintosh/Instagram

Bare it like Beckham

HER career continues to go from strength to strength.

And ex-Geordie Shore star Vicky Pattison showed how high her aspirations run as she recreated Victoria Beckham's Vogue Spain cover on ITV show This Morning.

Slipping into a bright red dress before posing with one leg atop a table, the 30-year-old said of the shoot: "It got me thinking, she's Vicky B, I'm Vicky P why not give it a go?"

To laughs from hosts Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby she added: I've got a little bit more cushion for the pushing than Vicky B, but..."

It comes after her idol, 43, wowed Spain after appearing on the front of Vogue before stepping out in Madrid to attend a dinner hosted by the fashion magazine.

The former Spice Girl sizzled in her own scarlet gown before being snapped leaving her hotel the next morning in a navy roll neck jumper and flowing burgundy-and-white skirt.

NEWLY SINGLE: Bambi Northwood Blyth and (right) her Glamour Spain cover.

Photo by Twitter/YouTube



LADIES IN RED: Victoria Pattison (right) apes her idol's Vogue Spain cover.



Photo by Bambi Northwood Blyth/Instagram/Twitter

She's got front!

SHE recently split from her fashion designer husband.

But Australian supermodel Bambi Northwood Blyth, 27, showed she is getting over her break with Ksubi jeans founder Dan Single, 37, in style after appearing braless on the cover of Glamour Spain.

She was reportedly left 'mortified' after her spouse of four years set up a Go Fund Me page in the wake of a 2017 hotel fall in Paris.

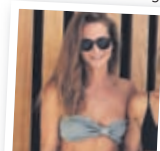


Beach ready

SHE'S the former Made In Chelsea star whose great-grandfather invented Quality Street.

And Millie Mackintosh, 28, certainly appeared to be in sweet heaven after slipping into a skimpy grey bikini and posting a racy snap to social media.

It comes after the fashion entrepreneur jetted to the Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife for a winter break with a group of girlfriends.



SIZZLING: Millie Mackintosh.

Off the record

RUMOURS that hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton is to quit her oft-criticised five-year residency at Ibiza mega-club Amnesia have been scotched.

Having recently become engaged to actor Chris Zylka, the 36-year-old blonde beauty released a statement announcing her departure, but a source later told UK media that it was false.



Photo by Stacey Solomon/Instagram

Pair jet to Barça for birthday bash

TV presenter Stacey Solomon has been pictured in Barcelona with boyfriend Joe Swash. The Loose Women star and former X Factor finalist, 28, posted a series of snaps to social media as the loved-up pair - who have been dating since January 2016 - took in the delights of the Catalan capital.

And she added a personal message to her 36-year-old ex-Eastenders squeeze as she wrote: "Happy birthday baby... a jug of sangria was not a good idea. Hahahaha I'm

a lyrical genius."

The couple later snapped themselves enjoying a giant paella before posing outside the famous Sagrada Familia church.

A final shot of the lovers on the beach was captioned: "Bye bye Barcelona!! Had the best weekend with my man... can't wait to get back and see my babies!!!"

Stacey is mother to boys Zacahary, nine, and Leighton, five, from a previous relationship, while Joe has a son Harry, 10.

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NEWS EXTRA**Food
frenzy**

THE Mallorca authorities chose to show off the local cuisine at FITUR -the International Tourism Fair in Madrid - with demonstrations from Chef Miquel Calent.

Highway

THE expropriation of land for the proposed Campos-Llucmajor Highway has begun with more than 220 farms set to be affected. Environmental groups have warned of a disproportionate impact to natural areas.

Work delayed

WORK on the new Ma-30 by-pass has been postponed until March 2019 after authorities analysed traffic flow in the area and drew up a new plan that would cause the least inconvenience to motorists.

Waste conflict

MURO Town Council has criticised Santa Margalida for their decision to stop the construction of the proposed Can Picafort sewage treatment plant, as their own plant - which treats their neighbour's sewage - is over capacity.

Scrubbing up

BUSINESS owners on the Paseo Maritimo promenade in Palma are meeting with the mayor to propose their plans to improve the image of the strip so it attracts a more high-end clientele.

New hotel

A NEW 148-room hotel is set to open in Mallorca. The Hotel Vistamar is due to open in Portocolom during Easter, according to the Pierre and Vacances group who own it.

THREE of the four people arrested last year for allegedly recruiting fighters for Daesh have been released from prison.

The four were first arrested back in June, accused of several terrorism related crimes, but three of those individuals have now been released.

The first of the three to be released was reportedly let out two weeks ago, while two more were al-

Daesh recruiters out of jail

so released on Monday.

The National Police had reportedly claimed that the four accused, who had been detained in Inca, Ariany and Binissalem, formed an alleged group that would capture fighters for the Daesh.

According to Spanish media, it had even been alleged that the group had declared its intention to commit attacks on Raiguer.

As part of their release, the magistrate has ordered the trio to appear weekly at a court as a precautionary

measure.

The man believed to be the leader of the alleged network has been arrested in the UK and remains in custody, with British authorities agreeing that he will be extradited to Spain but he has yet to be transferred.

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Cracking the 007 code

Local author talks new Bond book and Dame Judi

A YOUNG Mallorcan author has lifted the lid on his new book titled 'James Bond: The Man Behind the Tuxedo.'

Eighteen-year-old Luis Abbou Planisi is an avid fan of the Bond brand, and turned his love into a 500-page book last month.

The Manacor-born youngster apparently only watched his first Bond film two years ago, but he told Spanish media that his interest was sparked by a casual meeting with actress Dame Judi Dench.

"In order to improve my English I would often go over to the UK for a few weeks, and during one of those periods my parents came over and we went shopping," he said.

"They spotted Dame Judi and had a picture taken with her. To be honest, I didn't know who she was and I now regret not having my picture taken too.

"But she was a lovely woman, very kind and open and spoke to us for a while. It was then that I decided to watch the latest instalment of Bond, Skyfall, and I was hooked."

He first published a 150-page Spanish version, but quickly decided there were enough untold stories and anecdotes to write a more in-depth version in English.

"I realised that, especially in Spanish, there were not too many books about the



NAME'S PLANISI: Luis Abbou Planisi - with the Spanish version of his book.

history of Bond behind the scenes. So I set about writing one in Spanish and last year I published my first book about 007."

The youngster interviewed Dame Judi, six Bond girls, various stunt and design team members and other insiders during the course of his research.

He also said that the next Bond should

not be a woman, because "Fleming did not write it that way," but says that it is likely that a person of colour will be cast in the roll, backing Idris Elba for the position.

He added: "I have also come to realise that Mallorca would make the perfect location to shoot a Bond film. As a location it has got everything."

More than 200 sleeping rough in Mallorca

MORE than 200 people are currently sleeping rough in Mallorca, according to estimates from the island's Institute of Social Affairs (IMAS).

Data also showed emergency services treated more than a thousand people with illnesses resulting in sleeping on the streets last year.

IMAS estimates that there is a permanent homeless population of around 200 people. Their data suggests 180 of these are in Palma with the rest living elsewhere on the island.

The Red Cross estimate almost 800 people slept on the street temporarily last year due to family or job problems that forced them to leave home.

Many of the island's permanent homeless population have lived on the streets for at least five years. Some have slept rough for as long as 10, according to estimates.

Marga Plaza, of the Red Cross, said those sleeping on the streets were extremely vulnerable.

Most are male aged between 45 and 60 and tend to be unable to support themselves. Many lack family or friends to take them in and are on the whole socially isolated, she added.

Plaza said many people sleeping rough usually suffered from mental illnesses such as depression.

They also tended to have drink and drug problems as a result of their circumstances. Many distrust other people and refuse to go to social services.

Many of those sleeping rough rely on charity or temporary work to survive, she added.

The vulnerability of homeless people is increased in winter with cold night time temperatures causing additional problems.

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STEPS FROM HELP: The Canal Salat Health Centre where the incident occurred.

Heart attack inquiry

AN investigation is set to be launched after a 68-year-old man died from a heart-attack after being discharged from hospital.

The man reportedly suffered a heart attack in the car park of the Canal Salat Health Centre in Ciutadella following his discharge from the centre after he was treated for an estimated 45 minutes.

According to Spanish media, professionals at the centre deemed the transfer of the man to the Mateu Orfila hospital unne-

cessary after his treatment and sent him home.

He was reportedly treated for a condition, known as arrhythmia, in which the heart beats with an irregular or abnormal rhythm.

A complaint was reportedly submitted by the deceased man's family to the management of the centre and after their first enquiries; the Health Area of Menorca has now said that they will open an investigation.

NEWS EXTRA

Bus reforms

BUS stops in the Alcudia bay corridor will get a €1 million set of improvements, reports say. The installation of new canopies equipped with lighting will protect travellers from inclement weather.

Turn around

AN airplane bound for Madrid returned to Palma Airport after the pilot became aware of a warning light, reports in the Spanish media suggest. Flight IBS3913 followed the correct procedures, Iberia said.

Hotels high

THE income of hotels on the Balearic Islands has increased by around 80 per cent in the last seven years. The average income per room is up from almost €45 to more than €80.

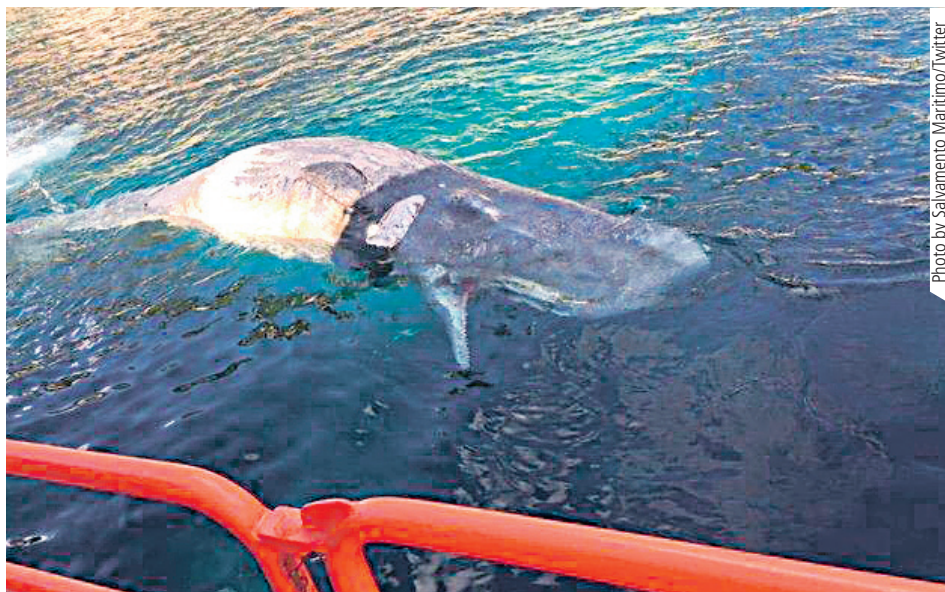


Photo by Salvamento Maritimo/Twitter

SEA TRAGEDY: The whale was spotted by the Salvamento Maritimo.

A whale of an effort

SAILORS from the Real Club Nautico de Pollensa have removed the body of a large sperm whale from the Pollensa marina.

The whale, believed to be a female, was first sighted by the Salvamento Maritimo north of the island while they were performing surveillance tasks.

After spotting the animal, the Salvamento Maritimo decided to tow the whale to Cala in Gossalba and leave it moored there temporarily in the hope of avoiding it becoming a threat to other boats in the area.

And now the body has finally been taken out of the

sea, as sailors used a large crane, capable of carrying up to three tonnes, to remove the animal.

It will now be taken to Son Reus for incineration.

Groups of Sperm whales are known to live deep in Balearic waters, with an estimated 400 living in the vicinity of the islands.

Taxis use guerrilla tactics

MALLORCA taxi drivers have banded together to create a company that will own 700 VTC licences to stop platforms such as Uber and Cabify from stealing business.

The Autonomous Taxi Association of Mallorca approved the plan on Friday, with more than 93 per cent of votes in favour of the motion.

Taxi drivers hope the move will prevent unfair competition posed by competing services such as Uber, which are not subject to the same restrictions as normal taxi drivers.

Uber drivers operate with a VTC licence - specifically for pre-ordered cars with a driver, traditionally called a chauffeur - not a taxi licence and can only pick up clients that have booked in advance and are restricted from using taxi lanes.

There are only about 5,200 VTC licences granted in the whole of Spain - compared to around 67,300 taxi licences - but many taxi drivers fear the lower prices of the car sharing companies are threatening business, and have staged demonstrations across the country to protest.

However, the European Commission has recently ruled that it is not legitimate for Spain to limit the number of VTC licences to 1 per 30 taxi licences - as they have in the past - because it contradicts mandatory competition law.

Therefore, taxi drivers have decided to buy up the licences before their competitors can.

Gabriel Moragues, president of the Independent Taxi Federation, declared that other taxi associations should have their own vote soon to decide whether they will join the new campaign.



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OUR VIEW

Are we losing touch with nature?

NEWS that the Iberian lynx population is increasing is cause for good cheer. It is an example of what can be achieved if wildlife conservation efforts are properly coordinated.

Having increased from 94 individuals to almost 550 in the last 15 years, the world's rarest wild cat has made a genuine comeback. And in doing so it has avoided the fate of being the first cat species to go extinct since the sabre-toothed tiger 10,000 years ago.

But how did it come to this?

In just three decades - from the 1960s to the 1990s - the Iberian lynx lost around 80 per cent of its former range, which extended across much of Spain and into southern France. It is a sad indictment of the rapid extension of human development over the last 50 years, and one that is mirrored across the globe.

This surging rate of urbanisation now sees more than 50 per cent of the world's population living in towns and cities, and the majority no longer come into regular contact with nature. As Sir David Attenborough puts it: "So over half is to some degree out of touch with the natural world and don't even see an animal from one day to the next unless it's a rat or a pigeon."

"That means that people are getting out of touch with the realities of the natural world, of which we are in fact a part." So have humans now changed the face of the planet to such an extent that many of us are only aware of what we have created, rather than the natural processes that made it all possible?

And as alcoholism, gambling and other self-destructive practices continue to rise, we must surely examine whether we are, as a species, losing our place in the world.

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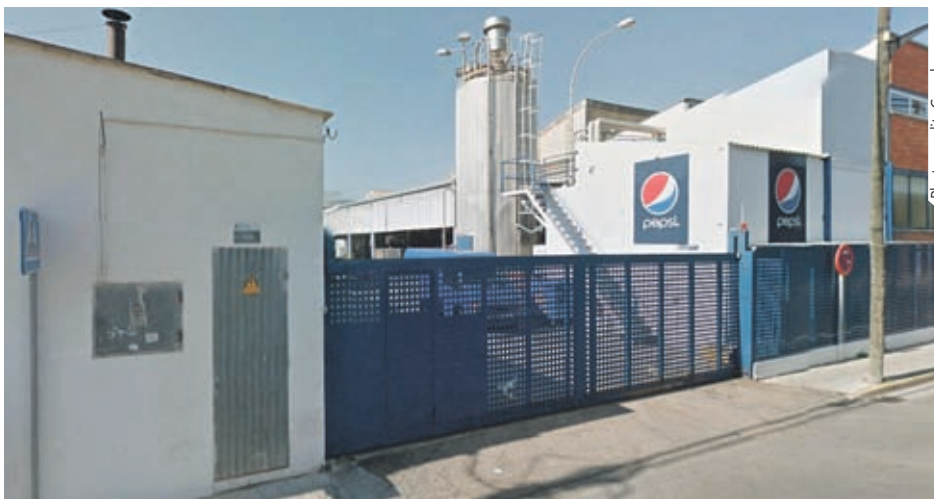


Photo credit: Google maps

CLOSING DOWN: The PepsiCo plant in Marratxí.

Workers propose Pepsi plant plan

WORKERS at the PepsiCo plant in Marratxí have proposed that a smaller plant is maintained on the island after the existing site closes.

Proposals include keeping on nine workers at a smaller site while the rest are transferred or take early retirement.

Workers have also asked for €750 in rental assistance for two years and aid worth €15,000 for general expenses, according to

reports.

The company has already accepted 12 transfers. It originally offered eight.

A committee representing workers has also proposed lowering the pre-retirement age from 58 to 55 so two more workers can qualify.

The Marratxí plant currently employs 27 and first opened in the late 1970s. It is due to close in February.

Drug cases on the up

PALMA'S Local Police dealt with more than 2,250 drugs cases in the city last year, 200 more than in 2016.

Almost 700 cases were related to drug taking on public roads. Around 590 concerned objects related to drugs and 940 were drug confiscations.

Around 86 per cent of cases were in connection with marihuana, according to a statement from the city of Palma.

There were eight more criminal cases in the city in 2017 compared to the year before. Cases which ended up in court numbered 11 and 12 people were arrested on drugs charges.

Angelica Pastor, the city's councillor for Public Safety, said the increase in case numbers was down to a greater police presence in public areas such as parks.







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NEWS EXTRA**Access road**

MALLORCAN authorities have begun the process of expropriating land for a new access road between the Soller and Dels Reis roads in Son Sardina. The works are expected to cost around €127,000.

Sculptures

SES SALINES' Old Church is set to be part of the International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture which takes place this Sunday. Art industry professionals will give their take on the works included digitally.

Paying in

MORE than 65,000 foreign residents registered with the Spanish social security system in the Balearic Islands in 2017. British, French and Germans were listed as some of the most common nationalities.



Photo by FronterasFiltro/Twitter

SEA SALVAGE: Salvamento Maritimo rescue 13 people off the coast of Cabrera.**Troubled waters**

MORE than 2,000 people needed assistance from the Salvamento Maritimo in the Balearic Islands during 2017.

A total of 2,103 required the Salvamento Maritimo's services last year, which included rescue, assistance and search missions, and a figure that represents a 47 per cent increase from 2016.

According to a statement released on Monday, eight people died or disappeared in the Balearic Islands' waters in the last year.

Six of them are believed to have fallen into the water while partaking in water sport activities such as surfing/windsurfing and diving, while the other two were involved in boat related incidents.

In regards to the search and rescue of migrants, the Salvamento Maritimo found five boats in the Balearic Island waters in 2017, rescuing 72 people in the process.

An average of 99 people a day needed the Salvamento Maritimo's assistance across the whole of Spain last year, with a total of 36,079 people requiring rescue assistance or a search.

The figure was double that of 2016 and it is believed that an increase in migrants attempting to reach Europe via Spain from Africa is the reason behind the dramatic increase in figures.

Sick scheme
Food poisoning scam exposed

AN alleged phony food poisoning claims scheme which may have cost Spanish hotels up to €60 million since 2014 has been laid bare by a judge in Palma.

The scheme, organised by British law firms operating outside of Mallorca, was sold to holidaymakers by agents for the firms who were sent to hotels in search of targets. Two women, a mother and a daughter, were reportedly in charge of hiring the agents in Mallorca.

There they would encourage holidaymakers to file claims against holiday companies for sickness caused by hotel food.

Potential claimants were promised up to €18,000 and were told such claims had a 98 per cent success rate, according to reports.

Lawyers would then keep 60 per cent of the payout with holiday companies reportedly reluctant to let cases go to court due to legal costs.

Tour operators would accept the claims and pass them on to hotels who were contractually obliged to accept responsibility.

Police began investigating



Photo by Just Food Tweets/Twitter

DODGY DINERS: Food poisoning scams may have cost hotels up to €60 million.

the claims after several hotel groups filed complaints. Private detectives hired by the hotels also uncovered the network of agents hired by law firms. Seven of the agents were arrested in September last year.

A report prepared by the Economic Crimes unit of the National Police stated that many of the claims were filed years after illnesses were said to have taken place.

It added that no health alarms were reported from the hotels with claims made against them. "If all claims were true there would have

been a global health alert," it stated.

Marc Ripoll, a lawyer who specialises in such fraud, told Spanish media that in almost 70 per cent of cases claimants are ill, but not due to food or drink.

British authorities co-operated with the investigation and stripped one of the firms involved of its licence.

The government also launched an awareness campaign warning British holidaymakers that they could be prosecuted for making fraudulent sickness claims.

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NEWS EXTRA

Tourist zones

TOURIST rental zones proposed by Mallorcan authorities have been criticised by the local Izquierda Unida party. They argue the zones will cause rents for residents to rise.

Food fair

OLIVE OIL producers from Mallorca took part in the Madrid Fusion food festival in the city last week. The producers were joined by chefs and presented tapas made with Mallorcan oil.

New judges

THREE new judges have been assigned to courts in Palma and Inca. Maria Belen Ureña Carazo, Catalina Aurora Cadenas Gea and Ignacio Fernandez Senespleda were sworn in at a ceremony on Monday.



Photo credit: Consell de Mallorca

GOOD RELATIONS: Mercedes Garrido, Francesc Miralles and Angel Victor Torres.

Councillors make contact

MALLORCA councillors met with their peers from Gran Canaria to exchange their ideas and experiences.

In attendance at the meeting was Francesc Miralles, the Mallorca councillor for Culture, Heritage and Sports and her colleague Mercedes Garrido, the councillor for Town Planning and Infrastructure, who met with the Gran Canaria councillor for Public Works, Infrastructure and Sports, Angel Victor Torres,

According to a statement released by Mallorca Council on Monday, the councils discussed how they managed public services while in an insulated location. They also talked about how an island's isolation can affect the local population's access to transport.

Mallorca Council also revealed plans to develop a new cycle route as a means to attract more tourists to the island during the low season.

The representatives from the two councils ended the meeting by deciding to remain in contact to discuss anything that could be used to improve the daily life of their citizens.

Children control



Photo credit: Consell de Mallorca

COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN: Mallorca schoolchildren at Palma Town Hall.

STUDENTS from seven schools across the island were invited by Mallorca Council to attend a meeting in Palma City Hall.

The move was part of an initiative to promote the city as one that puts the needs of young people at the top of the agenda by asking for their opinions and input on how Palma is run.

Children and teenagers from nine of Mallorca's youth groups also participated in the event.

The mayor of Palma,

Antoni Noguera, welcomed the children and young adults to the meeting and declared that it was "an important day for the City Council, as children will be participating in the decision making process."

Council members were presented to the students during the session, including Susanna Moll, the councillor for Education and Sports and Merce Borrás, the councillor for Welfare and Social Rights.

Mercedes del Pozo, the

president of the UNICEF Balearic Committee was also present, as were several councillors from the Inca Education programme.

The meeting was a significant step by the council to achieving recognition by the UNICEF 'Child Friendly Cities Initiative.'

The initiative promotes children being able to 'influence decisions about their city,' and the Palma Council applied to UNICEF for recognition status in December.

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Trump rage goes on

THOUSANDS of Spanish protesters took to the streets to mark the anniversary of last year's Women's March. Worldwide, countless people demonstrated in over 30 countries - and 300 US cities - a year after an event which saw millions show their opposition to President Donald Trump on the day after he was sworn in.

Much of the march's focus was on women's rights, while Trump was the subject of ridicule.

Many suggested 'time's up' for the US President, while others referenced the sexual harassment scandal, #MeToo movement and the need for more women in public roles.

In Madrid and Barcelona, thousands marched through the streets. One social media user wrote: "Everybody is welcome... but today is about women of the world."

There were similar demonstrations in numerous European capitals, including London, Berlin and Paris. Last year, demonstrations were reported on every continent.

Figures are difficult to clarify, but it is thought significantly more than 120,000 people came onto the streets in the USA.

Trump tweeted, seemingly ironically: 'a perfect day for all Women to March. Get out there now to celebrate the historic milestones and unprecedented economic success and wealth creation that has taken place over the last 12 months. Lowest female unemployment in 18 years!'

Government has officially 'shut down' in the USA, for the first time in five years, after the two main parties - Democrats and Republicans - failed to agree funding deals for agencies. It is hoped that an agreement will be reached shortly.

In London, there were speeches from various women's rights advocates, including the great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, a suffragette leader widely credited with helping women win the vote.



IRISH AIRLINE: Dispute over employment rights.

Enough's enough Ryanair pilots in Spain threaten 'legal action'

RYANAIR pilots in Spain have threatened to take 'legal actions' against the Irish low-cost carrier over their employment rights if they do not meet with company representatives by next week.

SEPLA, the Spanish pilots' union has written to Ryanair accusing management of failing to negotiate in good faith since formally recognising unions before Christmas.

The union warns that if a meeting has not been held by tomorrow (Friday) they will

proceed to initiate 'All legal actions that Spanish labour law grants us in defence of our legitimate rights.'

SEPLA says it is surprised and disappointed at documentation received from management, which continues to link payment of a 20 per cent pay rise to conditions which pilots find unacceptable.

Ryanair said it does not comment on 'rumour or speculation, or on discussions with their people in Spain or elsewhere.'

One dead in border stampede

A MAN has died in a stampede at the Moroccan and Spanish land border, according to media reports.

Several others were injured in the stampede at the Barrio Chino border post near the Spanish enclave of Melilla. At least three of those were injured on the Spanish side of the border.

The man, 39, died of cardiac arrest, according to Moroccan government sources.

The stampede reportedly began after crowds suddenly rushed the turnstiles from the Moroccan side of the border.

The border post, which is used by thousands of people every day to transport goods into Spanish territory, was closed until order was restored.

A total of 11 people were injured on the Moroccan side of the border according to the country's human rights association.

The news follows other stampedes which have taken place on the bor-



Photo by Wikimedia Commons

STAMPEDE: One man died in the crush at the border post near Melilla.

der in recent months.

Two women were killed at the Tarajal II crossing near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta and the Moroccan town of Fnideq last week. Four women porters were trampled to death in crushes at the same border crossing last year.

The majority of people who use the crossings to transport goods are women. Thousands of female porters travel between Ceuta and Morocco daily, according to estimates.

Spanish authorities have imposed a limit of 4,000 per day.

Pop star Shakira in tax evasion inquiry

TAX authorities in Spain claim pop superstar, Shakira owes income tax for 2011-2014, arguing that she was resident in the country at the time.

The tax officials are seeking four years of unpaid taxes from all her global income - not just income generated in Spain.

If proved the tax bill could be tens of millions of

euros for the singer, whose fortune is reckoned to be more than €160m.

Shakira is the partner of FC Barcelona footballer, Gerard Pique and in 2015 she declared Spain to be her place of residence for all purposes.

Sources close to the pop star deny that there was any tax evasion and say Shakira was outside Spain most of

the time between 2011-2014 and has always complied with her tax obligations.

People who spend more than six months a year in Spain are considered residents for tax purposes.

Spain has recently seen several high-profile court cases involving football stars accused of tax-dodging.

Last year Real Madrid midfielder, Luka Modric was accused of defrauding tax authorities in Spain of almost €1m.

Brazil international Marcelo was accused of de-

frauding authorities of €490,917.70 by using companies abroad to handle his earnings from image rights.

Lionel Messi and his father were found guilty of defrauding tax authorities of €4m from image rights income.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Ricardo Carvalho, Angel Di Maria, Javier Mascherano, Radamel Falcao and Fabio Coentrao are among other players who have been investigated, as well as former Real Madrid coach, Jose Mourinho.

26% the increase in spending by 'high-end' tourists in Spain in 2017, of which most travelled from China, Russia and Argentina.

A SPANISH low-cost airline has announced almost 200,000 seats on flights between Wales and four major Spanish destinations this summer.

It will be Vueling's sixth summer of flying passengers from Cardiff airport to Malaga, Alicante, Barcelona and Palma Mallorca.

From April to October,

Welsh you were here

188,000 seats are available from Spain's second-largest airline.

The figure represents an increase of 235 per cent more capacity since Vueling started flying from Cardiff

in summer 2012.

There will be weekly services to Malaga and Alicante, three flights a week to Barcelona, while there will be four flights per week to Palma Majorca.

More destinations in southern Spain, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands and Africa are also accessible via Vueling's connecting flights from its Barcelona's El Prat Airport hub.

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Aiming high

NORWAY is aiming to make all short-haul flights electric by 2040, according to the chief executive of state-owned Avinor airline Dag Falk-Petersen who believes that 1.5 hour flights can be flown by entirely electric planes.



Credit: Chatupong Lertsichirada/Facebook

Fur away

THE Norwegian government has promised to close all fox and mink fur farms by 2025, becoming the 14th European country to phase out fur farming.

Snow fun

A 21-YEAR-OLD man in Bergen

was sentenced to 30 days in prison for throwing snowballs at police after they were called to close down an unruly house party.

Chief suspect

POLICE in Norway have arrested the husband of a woman, who is a mother-of-two, and has been

GREEN FLIERS: Norway has high ambitions for electric flights.

missing from her home since December 29, on suspicion of her murder.

GERMANY



Snail mail

COMPLAINTS against the German postal service increased by 50 per cent in 2017 as over 6,000 complaints were registered according to German media sources, with half of these related to the processing and delivery of letters.

a falling tree at a camping site in Mors during a storm that battered western Germany and left 100,000 people in the region without electricity.

around €500 on the cheapest annual ticket.

Red-carded

MPs have excluded a far-right lawmaker from a parliamentary football team because he was convicted for hooligan violence, with the man in question claiming he had been ostracised by mainstream parties.

Sneaky savers

ADIDAS have released 500 pairs of limited edition that double as Berlin public transport passes, and at just €180 will save their lucky owners

Tree tragedy

A 59-YEAR-OLD man was killed by

FRANCE



Top spot

FRANCE has managed to retain its title as the most visited country in the world after 89 million tourists took a trip there last year, an increase of 8 per cent from 2016.

Cyber charity

CHURCHGOERS in an upmarket Parisian neighbourhood don't have to worry about carrying any loose change any more as the priest at the Saint-Francois de Molitor church has installed contactless bank card terminals for donations.

Grounded

A NEW project to build an airport near the city of Nantes has been scrapped after it was opposed by several environmental groups, although local politicians declared it would have bad consequences for the economy.

Milk scare

A GOVERNMENT report revealed food safety inspectors failed to detect an outbreak of salmonella at a French factory run by dairy group Lactalis, causing 12 million boxes of powdered baby milk to be recalled.

BELGIUM



Gas blast

A BLAST believed to be caused by a gas explosion which caused a residential building in Antwerp to collapse has left at least two people dead, with 14 people being injured, one critically.

Helping hand

BELGIUM has donated nearly €19 million to a United Nations agency that provides aid to Palestinian refugees after the US slashed their aid to the country as a form of blackmail.

Student ordeal

A 19-YEAR-OLD student who claims she was abducted and repeatedly raped by five men in Brussels was found after she located herself using Google Maps and sent the address to her brother.

Dire straits

AROUND one in five Belgians revealed they struggled to make ends meet last year, according to a survey by the Belgian statistics office Statbel, with 5 per cent saying they were severely deprived of material possessions.

NETHERLANDS



Storm scare

FLIGHTS to and from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport and train services were delayed while winds with speeds of up to 120kph were recorded across the country, causing the weather bureau to issue a code red weather warning.

About abuse

A NEW survey has revealed that nearly one in three Dutch people consider domestic violence to be justifiable in some circumstances, with young people more likely to accept it than the over 55s.

On a roll

DUTCH bike maker Gazelle has produced its 15 millionth bike since it began operations 125 years ago, and 19 years since it rolled out the 10-millionth bike in 1999.

Taking credit

THE use of credit cards in the Netherlands grew by 10.3 per cent in 2017, and the number of contactless payments rose by 49 per cent, but still only 55 per cent of Dutch consumers actually own a credit card.

SWEDEN



Snowed under

POLICE have confirmed a Swedish skier was killed when an avalanche ravaged an Indian ski resort in the Himalayas, but rescuers managed to find his companion alive in the snow.

Speaking up

THE number of reported rapes in Sweden increased by 10 per cent in 2017, according to figures from the National Council on Crime Prevention, reaching a total of 7,230.

Revenge blast

POLICE have blamed an explosion that happened outside a Rosengard police station - which damaged the building and officers' private cars, though no one was injured - on the pressure authorities are putting on criminals.

War scare

SWEDEN is preparing to send out 4.7 million leaflets that urge citizens to prepare for 'crisis and catastrophes in peacetime' to households across the country due to fears of an impending Russian act of war.

NORWAY



What a find

A CORNUCOPIA of 5,000-year-old 'sun' stones was dug up by archaeologists during an excavation on the island of Bornholm, which could allegedly give new insight into life in the Stone Age.

On the move

THE Danish government has announced several of its agencies will be moved out of Copenhagen to other parts of the country - a relocation of up to 1,800 jobs - in an effort to boost local economies.

Crack down

DANISH police have charged more than 1,000 teenagers with distribution of child pornography after they shared a video on Facebook messenger which showed two 15-year-olds having sex.

Caught on film

COPENHAGEN plans to install 100 new security cameras in around 50 new locations which regularly see episodes of violence in an effort to combat gang crime.

Green energy boost

MADRID-BASED renewable energy provider Acciona Energy has signed a deal to supply Unilever with electricity.

The contract covers all the British-Dutch consumer goods firm's facilities in Spain.

Acciona Green Energy director Santiago Gómez Ramos said: "We are very pleased that such an important company as Unilever has entrusted its electricity supply to Acciona, and we are delighted to work with them to reduce their carbon footprint."

Fizzing with pleasure

By Matt Ford

SPANISH soft drinks consumers are on red alert.

It comes after soft drinks brand Coca Cola announced it has chosen Spain as the first European country to feature its new packaging.

The new look features more red and clearer nutritional information on the can, and continues a rebranding process which started in 2015.

A new, smaller 250 millilitre can has also been introduced to the range.

Carolina Aransay, head of marketing in Spain, said that the company

is "constantly searching for innovations that respond to the needs of customers.

"As part of our business strategy, we have innovated in the design of our packaging by offering simple and clear information so that consumers can make informed and responsible decisions," she added.

"Coca Cola is 131 years old but has remained young and fresh thanks to its adaptation to change, and one of the keys to its 2015 success was a

unique brand strategy in which we chose to reinforce iconic elements such as red.

"We are pioneers, since we will be the first country in Europe and globally to feature this new packaging, and this revamp looks set to be permanent in Spain," she concluded.

Senior brand manager of Coca Cola Iberica, Cesar Ruiz, confirmed that he expects 3.2 billion cans with the updated branding to be sold by the end of the year, with all production lines to make the switch by February.

Firm just doing it

A SPANISH electric utility firm is boosting links with sportswear behemoth Nike.

Avangrid, a subsidiary of Iberdrola, has signed a contract with the United States brand to supply electricity generated by wind power. It is the second such deal agreed between the pair and set to be worth around €100 million, according to reports.

Long-term supply contracts are swiftly becoming Iberdrola's main commercial asset stateside, after the company last year signed a €200 million agreement with Google.

Quote of the Week

"Pensioners' loss of purchasing power is practically irrelevant." Spain's Social Security chief, Tomas Burgos, responds to criticism as pensions are to rise by 0.25 per cent in 2018 while inflation remains above 1 per cent.



MOVISTAR BILLS: Customers forced to fork out.

Mobile giant hikes prices

SPANISH mobile phone operator Movistar has announced its latest price hike.

All of the company's Fusion packages will be affected by the increase, and the new rates will be applied to both new and existing contracts.

Although the rise is enforced, customers will however benefit from more internet data on their existing deals.

The updated tariffs are as follows:

Rate #2 - Up from €15 for

two gigabytes (GB) to €17 for three GB.

Rate #6 - Up from €27 for six GB to €30 for eight GB. The 200-minute bonus remains.

Rate #10 - Up from €37 for 10 GB to €40 for 15 GB plus unlimited calls.

Rate #20 - Up from €47 for 20 GB to €50 for 25 GB with unlimited calls.

Movistar is also pushing up the cost of deals which offer an additional line for half price, with similar increases in internet data.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Popping the cork

CAVA producer Freixenet has revealed that it will pay €5.87 million-worth of dividends to shareholders after a two-year lull. The sparkling wine firm made €8.4 million net profit in 2017, quadrupling its 2016 figures.

Tokyo drift

NISSAN is to pull the plug on production of two unpopular models in Spain. Sales of the compact Pulsar and Evalia van have been so poor that they will no longer be built at the Japanese carmaker's Barcelona plant from midyear.

Room gloom

MELIA HOTELS INTERNATIONAL - based in Mallorca - has lost €3 million due to the Catalan independence crisis, its CEO Gabriel Escarrer has claimed, going on to describe October as "poisonous and disastrous" for the chain.

Toll roads set for privatisation

THE Spanish Ministry of Development will ask the central bank for €420 million to rescue bankrupt toll roads.

In February it plans to bail out the R-4 Madrid-Ocaña motorway, followed by the R-2, R-3, and R-5 (all Madrid), and the M-12 which connects the capital to Barajas Airport, plus stretches connecting Ocaña-La Roda,

Cartagena-Vera and the Alicante ring road.

The AP-41 between Madrid and Toledo is also set for a cash boost later in the year.

Once the debt has been cleared, the government aims to put management of them out to tender in a privatisation process it claims will rake in between €700 million and €1 billion.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Anglo American | 1,772.10 | 16.10 | 0.92 | 24,732.43 |
| Associated British Foods | 2,764.50 | 14.50 | 0.53 | 21,810.62 |
| Admiral Group | 1,872.75 | -5.25 | -0.28 | 5,386.70 |
| Ashtead Group | 2,127.00 | -9.00 | -0.42 | 10,622.96 |
| Antofagasta | 997.20 | 3.40 | 0.34 | 9,842.79 |
| Aviva | 533.90 | -0.90 | -0.17 | 21,355.46 |
| AstraZeneca | 5,055.00 | 12.00 | 0.24 | 63,064.17 |
| BAE Systems | 585.90 | -1.70 | -0.29 | 18,677.55 |
| Barclays | 203.90 | 3.40 | 1.70 | 34,001.37 |
| British American Tobacco | 5,070.50 | 8.50 | 0.17 | 113,534.83 |
| Barratt Developments | 611.60 | -3.60 | -0.59 | 6,206.59 |
| Berkeley Group Holdings | 4,192.00 | -29.00 | -0.69 | 5,618.38 |
| British Land Co | 679.80 | -0.20 | -0.03 | 6,767.48 |
| BHP Billiton | 1,609.40 | -4.40 | -0.27 | 33,704.44 |
| Bunzl | 2,015.50 | -12.50 | -0.62 | 6,809.33 |
| BP | 514.40 | 4.50 | 0.88 | 102,566.67 |
| Burberry Group | 1,603.75 | 7.25 | 0.45 | 6,723.78 |
| BT Group | 266.08 | 1.98 | 0.75 | 26,491.28 |
| Coca-Cola HBC | 2,432.00 | 8.00 | 0.33 | 8,859.71 |
| Carnival | 4,913.00 | -62.00 | -1.25 | 10,345.76 |
| Centrica | 139.20 | 0.15 | 0.11 | 7,896.40 |
| Compass Group | 1,535.25 | 8.25 | 0.54 | 23,900.49 |
| Croda International | 4,513.00 | -21.00 | -0.46 | 5,846.98 |
| CRH | 2,696.50 | 13.50 | 0.50 | 22,012.86 |
| DCC | 7,542.50 | -2.50 | -0.03 | 6,810.49 |
| Diageo | 2,616.75 | -4.75 | -0.18 | 65,073.38 |
| Direct Line Insurance Group | 374.40 | 1.00 | 0.27 | 5,132.88 |
| Evrax | 393.35 | 0.55 | 0.14 | 5,562.10 |
| Experian | 1,666.50 | -1.50 | -0.09 | 15,135.38 |
| easyJet | 1,574.50 | -10.00 | -0.63 | 6,009.76 |
| Ferguson | 5,604.00 | -20.00 | -0.36 | 13,990.02 |
| Fresnillo | 1,398.50 | -5.00 | -0.36 | 10,132.29 |
| G4S | 290.70 | -0.60 | -0.21 | 4,468.59 |
| GKN | 434.95 | -4.45 | -1.01 | 7,642.78 |
| Glencore | 406.28 | -0.87 | -0.21 | 58,622.58 |
| GlaxoSmithKline | 1,356.00 | -2.00 | -0.15 | 67,090.95 |
| Hargreaves Lansdown | 1,920.00 | -8.00 | -0.41 | 9,104.55 |
| Halma | 1,328.50 | -1.50 | -0.11 | 4,992.28 |
| Hammerson | 498.25 | -0.75 | -0.15 | 3,975.90 |
| HSBC Holdings | 783.85 | -4.55 | -0.58 | 157,624.08 |
| Int Consolidated Airlines | 652.60 | -5.80 | -0.88 | 13,267.26 |
| InterContinental Hotels Gr | 4,912.00 | -16.00 | -0.32 | 9,127.13 |
| 3i Group | 926.80 | -7.20 | -0.77 | 9,158.66 |
| Imperial Brands | 3,016.50 | 0.50 | 0.02 | 28,779.01 |
| Informa | 703.00 | 1.20 | 0.17 | 5,855.38 |
| Intertek Group | 5,261.00 | -13.00 | -0.25 | 8,431.04 |
| ITV | 165.45 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 6,658.03 |
| Just Eat | 794.90 | -6.90 | -0.86 | 5,405.64 |
| Johnson Matthey | 3,223.00 | -29.00 | -0.89 | 6,299.51 |
| Kingfisher | 337.40 | 1.30 | 0.39 | 7,435.96 |

| COMPANY | PRICE(P) | CHANGE(P) | % CHG. | NET VOL |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Land Securities Group | 994.35 | 4.15 | 0.42 | 7,362.60 |
| Legal & General Group | 275.70 | -0.50 | -0.18 | 16,528.71 |
| Lloyds Banking Group ORD | 71.50 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 51,050.41 |
| London Stock Exchange Gr | 3,734.00 | -17.00 | -0.45 | 12,811.92 |
| Micro Focus International | 2,130.00 | -24.00 | -1.11 | 9,397.79 |
| Mediclinic International | 604.00 | -3.00 | -0.49 | 4,469.17 |
| Marks & Spencer Group | 306.10 | 2.10 | 0.69 | 4,974.96 |
| Mondi | 1,955.25 | -16.25 | -0.82 | 9,414.89 |
| Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets | 229.10 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 5,389.87 |
| National Grid | 836.00 | 5.50 | 0.66 | 28,058.17 |
| NMC Health | 3,371.00 | 91.00 | 2.77 | 6,537.48 |
| Next | 4,902.50 | 4.50 | 0.09 | 7,250.62 |
| Old Mutual Group | 237.25 | -0.25 | -0.11 | 11,665.87 |
| Paddy Power Betfair | 8,327.50 | -122.50 | -1.45 | 7,112.70 |
| Prudential | 1,973.00 | -8.00 | -0.40 | 51,213.14 |
| Persimmon | 2,637.00 | 3.00 | 0.11 | 8,095.13 |
| Pearson | 690.50 | 2.50 | 0.36 | 5,424.79 |
| Reckitt Benckiser Group | 6,928.00 | 15.00 | 0.22 | 47,809.45 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Gr (The) | 295.10 | -2.20 | -0.74 | 35,570.65 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,529.75 | 12.75 | 0.51 | 115,847.83 |
| Royal Dutch Shell | 2,576.50 | 16.50 | 0.64 | 96,240.28 |
| RELX | 1,606.25 | -40.25 | -2.44 | 17,247.98 |
| Rio Tinto | 4,010.50 | -6.00 | -0.15 | 54,123.79 |
| Rolls-Royce Group | 883.60 | -9.20 | -1.03 | 16,344.78 |
| Randgold Resources | 7,142.00 | -30.00 | -0.42 | 6,656.86 |
| RSA Insurance Gr | 624.40 | -1.80 | -0.29 | 6,384.54 |
| Rentokil Initial | 312.60 | -3.50 | -1.11 | 5,673.68 |
| Sainsbury (J) | 257.85 | -0.15 | -0.06 | 5,644.20 |
| Schroders | 3,691.00 | -32.00 | -0.86 | 8,374.13 |
| Sage Group (The) | 817.30 | -1.30 | -0.16 | 8,754.55 |
| Segro | 578.60 | -0.60 | -0.10 | 5,776.86 |
| Shire | 3,562.25 | 101.25 | 2.93 | 31,410.25 |
| Smurfit Kappa Group | 2,590.00 | -10.00 | -0.38 | 6,077.59 |
| Sky | 1,003.75 | 1.75 | 0.17 | 17,190.17 |
| Standard Life Aberdeen | 437.20 | -0.50 | -0.11 | 13,053.70 |
| Smith (DS) | 510.00 | -0.60 | -0.12 | 5,495.43 |
| Smiths Group | 1,669.75 | -3.75 | -0.22 | 6,610.79 |
| Scottish Mortgage Inv Trst | 470.60 | 0.40 | 0.09 | 6,545.76 |
| Smith & Nephew | 1,244.25 | -0.75 | -0.06 | 10,769.57 |
| SSE | 1,297.25 | 6.25 | 0.48 | 13,187.93 |
| Standard Chartered | 818.10 | -0.90 | -0.11 | 27,000.03 |
| St James's Place | 1,263.25 | -7.25 | -0.57 | 6,647.86 |
| Severn Trent | 2,028.50 | 4.50 | 0.22 | 4,774.98 |
| Tesco | 207.55 | -0.25 | -0.12 | 17,177.81 |
| TUI AG | 1,645.50 | 14.00 | 0.86 | 9,415.81 |
| Taylor Wimpey | 198.05 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 6,441.11 |
| Unilever | 4,088.00 | -20.00 | -0.49 | 49,517.04 |
| United Utilities Group | 768.50 | 0.30 | 0.04 | 5,258.72 |
| Vodafone Group | 225.85 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 60,283.99 |
| WPP Group | 1,386.50 | 3.00 | 0.22 | 17,436.18 |
| Whitbread | 3,975.00 | -30.00 | -0.75 | 7,315.07 |

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DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE% | CHANGE | VOLUME(M) |
|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------------|
| 3M | 248,18 | 0,92% | 2,27 | 147.430,87 |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS | 98,03 | -1,83% | -1,83 | 84.699,07 |
| APPLE | 178,46 | -0,45% | -0,8 | 907.327,31 |
| BOEING CO | 337,73 | -0,71% | -2,43 | 201.281,72 |
| CATERPILLAR | 170,41 | 0,94% | 1,58 | 101.132,76 |
| CHEVRON | 131,3 | -0,22% | -0,29 | 248.628,05 |
| CISCO SYSTEMS | 41,29 | -0,02% | -0,01 | 203.751,38 |
| COCA-COLA | 47,16 | 0,60% | 0,28 | 200.911,77 |
| DOWDUPONT | 76,01 | -0,03% | -0,02 | 177.956,26 |
| EXXON MOBIL | 87,15 | -0,32% | -0,28 | 368.289,26 |
| GENERAL ELECTRIC | 16,26 | -3,04% | -0,51 | 141.181,54 |
| GOLDMAN SACHS | 256,12 | 2,05% | 5,15 | 96.171,29 |
| HOME DEPOT | 201,33 | 1,51% | 3 | 234.501,44 |
| IBM | 162,37 | -3,99% | -6,75 | 150.413,33 |
| INTEL CORP | 44,82 | 0,76% | 0,34 | 208.749,06 |
| J.P.MORGAN CHASE | 113,01 | -0,22% | -0,25 | 386.527,98 |
| JOHNSON & JOHNSON | 147,36 | 0,30% | 0,44 | 394.166,22 |
| MC DONALD'S CORP | 176,12 | 0,89% | 1,55 | 140.392,35 |
| MERCK AND CO. NEW | 61,28 | 0,25% | 0,15 | 166.027,18 |
| MICROSOFT | 90 | -0,11% | -0,1 | 693.001,62 |
| NIKE | 67,21 | 4,84% | 3,1 | 87.054,83 |
| PFIZER | 36,94 | -0,14% | -0,05 | 218.698,35 |
| PROCTER AND GAMBLE | 91,07 | 0,99% | 0,89 | 230.660,23 |
| TRAVELERS CIES | 137,85 | 0,37% | 0,51 | 37.608,55 |
| UNITED TECHNOLOGIE | 135,9 | 0,96% | 1,29 | 108.078,45 |
| UNITEDHEALTH GROUP | 243,35 | 0,08% | 0,19 | 235.153,91 |
| VERIZON COMMS | 51,91 | 0,70% | 0,36 | 210.150,35 |
| VISA | 122,7 | -0,33% | -0,41 | 222.010,57 |
| WAL-MART STORES | 104,59 | 0,28% | 0,29 | 309.420,74 |
| WALT DISNEY CO | 110,59 | 0,15% | 0,17 | 166.148,02 |

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 22

| COMPANY | PRICE | CHANGE NET / % |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Most Advanced | | |
| NuCan plc | \$ 20.51 | 6.02 ▲ 41.55% |
| Xcel Brands, Inc | \$ 2.80 | 0.40 ▲ 16.67% |
| Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc. | \$ 23.38 | 3.17 ▲ 15.69% |
| Sientra, Inc. | \$ 11.66 | 1.33 ▲ 12.88% |
| Ocular Therapeutix, Inc. | \$ 6.23 | 0.69 ▲ 12.45% |
| Jounce Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 21.76 | 2.29 ▲ 11.76% |
| lovance Biotherapeutics, Inc. | \$ 10.70 | 1.075 ▲ 11.17% |
| Fossil Group, Inc. | \$ 10.03 | 0.92 ▲ 10.10% |
| Tocagen Inc. | \$ 14.12 | 1.29 ▲ 10.05% |
| Mitcham Industries, Inc. | \$ 3.96 | 0.36 ▲ 10% |
| Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | \$ 6.29 | 0.57 ▲ 9.97% |
| Most Declined | | |
| Obalon Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 5.24 | 0.90 ▼ 14.66% |
| TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | \$ 2.80 | 0.25 ▼ 8.20% |
| Compugen Ltd. | \$ 3 | 0.25 ▼ 7.69% |
| Coherus BioSciences, Inc. | \$ 10.75 | 0.65 ▼ 5.70% |
| Tintri, Inc. | \$ 6.45 | 0.39 ▼ 5.70% |
| Lumentum Holdings Inc. | \$ 48.85 | 2.85 ▼ 5.51% |
| Surgery Partners, Inc. | \$ 14.90 | 0.80 ▼ 5.10% |
| Medallion Financial Corp. | \$ 5.08 | 0.27 ▼ 5.05% |
| Juno Therapeutics, Inc. | \$ 67.81 | 3.56 ▼ 4.99% |
| Zealand Pharma A/S | \$ 15.05 | 0.78 ▼ 4.93% |
| Bel Fuse Inc. | \$ 22.90 | 1.10 ▼ 4.58% |

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PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0006

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1675

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0019

£1.0832

-£0.0020

£1.3470

-£0.0039

£1.2377

-£0.0038

£1.5149

-£0.0051

£1.3991

-£0.0052

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SPIGØRSEN

Fashion forges ahead

SPANISH BRAND ECLIPSES TRADITIONAL LEADER

CLOTHING retailer Zara has outstripped telecommunications giant Movistar to become the best-performing Spanish brand.

The bombshell comes after global consultancy Interbrand published its latest report.

It is the first time that Movistar has failed to top the national ranking in a decade, after the company lost 12 per cent of its brand value as it plummeted to €19.65 billion.

And the clothing manufacturer, owned by tycoon Amancio Ortega, is now estimated to be worth €15.45 billion, up 45 per cent from 2015.

Bosco Torres, technical director of the report, claims that the drop can be attributed to 'financial analysts' forecasts, which project a flatter growth, with revenues set to grow by just 1 per cent due to increased prices driving a potential loss of customers, plus competition from the new wave of platforms including HBO and Netflix."

Banking group Santander - valued at €5.6 billion - was placed third, having grown by 20 per cent in the last two years, thanks to a stable business model with predictable results, since it is working in mature economies including the UK and Germany and in growth regions in Central and South America.

Basque country-based bank BBVA and clothing brand Bershka, also owned by Ortega, make up the top five.

Supermarket chain Mercadona, in eighth place, is the second-fastest growing brand after Zara, after its value increased by 31 per cent in the last two years, while fashion chain Mango is the biggest loser, with its value having plunged by 39 per cent.

New entries in the top 20 include beer brewer Estrella Galicia and private medical firm Sanitas, while British-owned telecommunications com-



ON THE UP: The rise and rise of Zara has put Movistar (inset) under the magnifying glass.

pany Jazztel, and banking group Banco Popular drop out, the latter in the wake of its takeover by Santander.

Spain's two biggest football clubs, Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, appear in positions 17 and 20, with respective values of €530 million and €470 million.

By sectors, banking is the most-represented with eight entries on the list, whereas fashion is the most valuable despite only appearing five times, with the worth of Zara, Bershka, Massimo Dutti, Mango and Desigual estimated at €18.8 billion, 35 per cent of the overall total.

Debt grows but leaders count on 2018 boost

PUBLIC debt in Spain has broken all records.

After rising by more than €9 billion in November, the total of €1.14 billion is the highest ever registered, according to the Bank of Spain.

The figure is equivalent to more than 98.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), well above the country's European Union target of 98.1 per cent by the close of 2017.

But the Spanish government said it expects the figure to fall to 96.8 per cent this year.

The increase is being blamed on higher indebtedness registered by the State, which increased by €11.1 million to an unparalleled €987.2 million.

Spain's public debt before the global financial crisis hit in 2007 was €384 million, or 35 per cent of GDP.

DEFENCE BUDGET SET TO GROW

Bottom line of fire

SPAIN'S annual military spending has risen to €835 million.

The figure represents an 8.2 per cent increase on the €771.1 million splashed out in 2016, after the Ministry of Defence took part in 17 missions during 2017.

According to official figures, the most expensive operation was conducted in Lebanon, after 618 Spanish soldiers were deployed on a peace-keeping mission, at a cost of €138 million.

The forces joined a campaign, started 12 years ago, by the United Nations (UN) in the wake of a violent confrontation between Israel and militants from the Shia Islamist political party.

This was followed by a €123.1 million operation in Iraq as 541 troops, including 71 from the Army Engineer Corps, joined the international coalition fighting Muslim fundamentalist group Daesh in the war-torn country.

And €84.3 million was spent on the European Union (EU) Operation Sophia, combatting human trafficking and illegal migration in the Mediterranean Sea, an ongoing campaign based mostly in Libyan waters.



EXPENDITURE UP: Defence Minister María Dolores de Cospedal poses with troops during a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Spain currently deploys 2,469 soldiers on five continents, and national Defence Minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, is due to appear in the Congress of Deputies, the lower house of Spain's legislative branch, to request an increase in spending for 2018.

In particular, the official wants to send an additional 152 troops to Mali, with Spanish General Enrique Millán set to assume command of the EU mission based there.

Spain's military spending in 2017

1. Lebanon (UN): €138 million
2. Iraq (Global Coalition Against Daesh): €123.1 million
3. Mediterranean - Operation Sophia (EU): €84.3 million
4. Atlantic and Mediterranean naval groups (NATO): €84.1 million
5. Indian Ocean - Operation Atalanta (EU): €74.2 million
6. Mali - Training mission (EU): €72.9 million
7. Latvia - Enhanced Forward Presence (NATO): €63.4 million
8. Estonia - Baltic Air Policing (NATO): €48.7 million
9. Turkey - Patriot Missile Battery Support (NATO): €38.3 million
10. Senegal - Air detachment (France support): €36.4 million
11. Mediterranean - Sea Guardian (NATO): €27.1 million
12. Gabon - Air detachment (France support): €22.1 million
13. Central African Republic (EU): €8.3 million
14. Afghanistan - Resolute Support (NATO): €6.7 million
15. Colombia - Observation mission (UN): €3.5 million
16. Somalia - Training mission (EU): €3.4 million
17. Bosnia Herzegovina (UE): €0.4 million

UK losing out in space race

INFRASTRUCTURE for the Galileo satellite system will be moved from the UK to Spain over Brexit fears.

It comes after a committee of representatives from European Union member states voted in favour of the move from London to Madrid.

The back-up security centre for Galileo - an advanced version of GPS - is not yet fully operational in London, but was expected to employ 30 people.

It was originally awarded to London in 2010, and controls access to the system with 24-hour monitoring when the main security headquarters near Paris is offline.

It is the latest Brexit blow to the UK's space industry, and follows a November announcement by aerospace companies and the Royal Aeronautical Society, in which they claimed they were being overlooked for contracts.



GOVERNMENT DEFENDS COST OF EXTRA POLICE €87m Cataluña spend

THE Catalan independence crisis cost the Spanish state €87 million in police spending.

Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido was forced to defend the eye-popping figure, after thousands of Guardia Civil and National Police officers were deployed to the troubled region last autumn.

They were tasked with preventing an illegal independence referendum on October 1, and many remained in place until after the snap election, called by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, eventually withdrawing on December 30.

Clashes between police and pro-independence supporters, during the referendum saw hundreds injured, as the Spanish forces closed 113 polling stations and stopped a further 100 from opening.

Images of the violence - including footage of armed police



Photo credit: Juan Ignacio Zoido/Twitter/YouTube

CONTROVERSIAL: Police beat pro-independence protesters and (inset) Minister Zoido, left, appears before the Senate of Spain.

Catalan police.

“The operation was legitimate, professional, and proportional,” he said. “I regret as much as anyone that people were hurt, but those responsible generated a climate of disobedience with their reckless and illegal behaviour.”

He went on to justify the cost of the exercise, with the money used for accommodation, food, travel and day-to-day living.

“It is a high price that all Spaniards have to pay due to the irresponsibility and stubbornness of the pro-independence government,” he said.

The official also pointed out that damages to police stations and vehicles cost €135,000.

An average of 4,500 officers were based in Cataluña throughout the crisis, with 6,000 in place on the day of the referendum.

Opposition groups criticised Mr Zoido, with Xavier Castel-

lana, of the pro-independence Esquerra Republicana party, accusing the government of “applying the political will of Franco to maintain the unity of Spain.”

Others quizzed the minister over the use of rubber bullets and pepper spray.

Following the referendum, the regional government declared independence, prompting the Spanish government to dissolve Catalan parliament and call snap elections.

A number of pro-independence politicians were subsequently arrested, and some - including ousted leader Carles Puigdemont - had warrants issued for their arrest. Puigdemont has since fled to Belgium.

December’s snap election failed to provide a decisive result, with separatists retaining a slim majority, but not taking over 50 per cent of the vote.

Chinese seek to sell hotels

A CHINESE conglomerate is seeking to sell its stake in a Spanish hotel chain.

HNA Group, which has investments across the globe and ranked number 179 on the Fortune Global 500 list, is reportedly trying to offload its majority stake in the NH Hotel Group.

The move comes days after NH - headquartered in Madrid - turned down a takeover bid from Mallorca-based rival Barceló Group.

HNA revealed it has hired banking firms JP Morgan and Benedetto, Gartland and Company to find a buyer for its 29.5 per cent stake in NH, valued at around €632 million.

Spain’s hotel industry is booming, as the country last year became the second-most visited country in the world after France, having outstripped the United States.

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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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I have nothing against immigration

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



WASN'T too sure how to scribble this week; light or heavy?

Do I attract the 'slings and arrows' or go for a few laughs? The hell with it, I'm opting for heavy (surprise, surprise)!

The main reason is, that I am utterly sick of people reminding me that I am 'also an immigrant.'

They sneeringly remark 'Has the irony escaped you?' after I have written some depreciating piece or commented on Europe and its immigrant problems. Well of course it hasn't. I'm not a moron. I am an immigrant, and one with no regrets whatsoever. All those years ago, disillusioned and broke, with a career in ruins and a young family to support, in 1975 I left my beloved UK and made tracks for Saudi Arabia.

There I worked my proverbials off for some eight years. When I had saved what I considered enough, and with nothing to attract me back to the UK, I looked around and with some encouragement from a good friend, decided to settle in Spain.

I brought in some 40K (no small sum in '83!) became a resident and invested in a (failed!) busi-



BORDERS: Must be made secure.

ness. I've had four children here and all have been educated in the Spanish system. I speak the language (could be better!), have always paid my dues, and have integrated pretty well into the Spanish community.

What I did not do, was to enter the country ille-

gally, expect to be housed and paid benefits for doing nothing, insist that their schools fly the British flag or change their menu to suit my taste. I did not, create 'no go' areas, consider myself to be above local laws, mow down or slaughter innocent civilians while screaming 'Jesus is great'

or scream racism when decisions didn't go my way.

I have nothing whatsoever against immigration. I truly believe diversity to be both healthy and progressive. I do not however condone millions of ungrateful layabouts and fanatics, hell bent on screwing as much as they can from their host countries and trying to overthrow and change the culture by sheer weight of numbers and social upheaval.

I do of course realise that many immigrants are not of this ilk and do contribute invaluable input to the societies they have adopted. But far too many do not. Until we cap the numbers of those wanting to enter the more successful democracies of Europe, vet them all far more carefully, strengthen our borders and insist on much higher standards, I'm afraid Europe is doomed to a future beset with conflict and problems that will result in chaos, misery and ultimate capitulation.

Unfortunately I feel it is already far too late.

Sorry to select 'heavy' again this week. Promise a measure of light next, ok? Thanks for all the mail and encouraging comments 'on the street.'

Sorry also, that I can't reply to most missives, but I do read 'em all - promise.

Keep the faith.

Love Leapy leapylee@gmail.com

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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

**TECH FOR
THE TIMID**



Wham spam thank you ma'am

If the internet really is 90 per cent porn and spam, Terence Kennedy reveals one way of staying sane online.

BEYONCÉ is said to have dozens and to change them every week. I have four and haven't changed them for years.

We're talking e-mail addresses, which some people change the way others change their socks. Or should. Not mentioning any names.

It's a surprising half-century since e-mail first emerged, and now we send 50 billion a day, many aimed at augmenting the male anatomy or congratulating you on winning a lottery you didn't enter.

E-mail has decimated the world's traditional postal services, and has reached even the middle of the middle of nowhere. Experts say it's under threat from social media and texts, yet today the world has nearly five billion e-mail addresses, at 2.1 per online user.

But if you're over 50 and typical, you've got just one. Which is a really, really bad idea.

Far from simplifying your life, having just one actually complicates it. Let me give you a for instance.



**E-MAIL
ACCOUNTS:
The more the
merrier.**

Buy just about anything these days, from a left-handed screwdriver, to a pack of Meccano-set furniture, and the vendor wants your e-mail address. Officially, for his sales records. Unofficially, so he can swamp you the way Amazon pioneered: 'If you liked this item, you may like these other sev-

en hundred...'

Buying online is even worse. Even e-mail providers want an e-mail address to be able to give you an e-mail address.

What it all means is the tedious daily click and zap, deleting the average eight spam messages sent a day for every person on the planet.

So here's this week's priceless tip. Sign-up for at least one extra, free e-mail address. Dish it out happily to everyone who asks, and keep your 'real' address for just friends, family and work.

The biggest advantage is not actually having to download all the junk mail which hits this backup account. That's because you're not going to access it with your normal

e-mail 'client' (programs like Microsoft's Outlook or Mail, Thunderbird, Apple Mail etc).

Instead, go to its website. Under your name will be a list, still without downloading anything. You can simply go tick, tick, tick against all the junk in the list, skipping any you might actually want to read, and then hit the delete button just once.

Voila - they are consigned to e-mail oblivion. Nothing is downloaded, including viruses. There is no futile, irritating beeping coming from your smartphone. No waiting for spam to creep in at its petty pace, before you can get to that vitally important family or work message.

Mailing it

FREE e-mail accounts certainly cost less than the proverbial 'dime-a-dozen', letting you use the service in return for showing you some advertising or harvesting your personal data.

Most providers will indeed let you have more than one address, so in principle if you want multiple Gmail or Yahoo mailboxes, yes you can. Or how about the freebie addresses from your Internet Service Provider, which most of us don't actually use because we already had an established and portable one?

For an account with an address entirely different to your 'real' one, there are plenty of other providers who dish them out like sweets: Yandex, Zoho, Proton, Mail.com....

Sadly, there is some bad news (for me at least) and that is that the best address has already been claimed: hotmale@hotmail.com.

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



| THURSDAY | BBC one | BBC TWO | itv | CHANNEL 4 | CHANNEL 5 | sky sports main event |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 25 JANUARY | 6:15pm Pointless | 6:00pm Tennis | 8:30pm Bargain Holidays: What's the Truth? | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 6:30pm Neighbours | 7:00am Live European Tour Golf |
| | 7:00pm BBC News at Six | 7:00pm Eggheads | 9:00pm Emmerdale | 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers | 7:00pm Home and Away | 10:00am My Icon |
| | 7:30pm BBC London News | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 9:30pm The Cruise | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 7:30pm 5 News Tonight | 10:15am Cricket |
| | 8:00pm The One Show | 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby | 10:00pm Transformation Street | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 8:00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies | 4:15pm My Icon |
| | 8:30pm EastEnders | 9:00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure | 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun | 4:30pm SKY Sports News |
| | 9:00pm Big Cats | 10:00pm A House Through Time | 11:30pm ITV News London | 8:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | 5:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 10:00pm Death in Paradise | 11:00pm The Mash Report | 12:45pm Great Art | 9:00pm Hunted | 11:00pm Celebrity 100% Hotter | 6:00pm Live PGA Tour |
| | 11:00pm BBC News at Ten | 11:30pm Newsnight | 12:45pm Joanna Lumley's Postcards | 11:00pm Derry Girls | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | Featured Groups |
| | 11:30pm BBC London News | | | 11:30pm The Undateables | | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| | 11:45pm Question Time | | | 12:30am The Super Orgasm | | Live ICC U19 Wc |
| 12:45am This Week | | | | | | |
| FRIDAY 26 JANUARY | 6:15pm Pointless | 7:00pm Eggheads | 7:30pm ITV Evening News | 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers | 6:00pm 5 News at 5 | 7:00am Live Rugby 7s: Sydney |
| | 7:00pm BBC News at Six | 7:30pm Great American | 8:00pm Emmerdale | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 6:30pm Neighbours | 11:00am Cricket |
| | 7:30pm BBC London News | 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby | 8:30pm Coronation Street | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 7:00pm Home and Away | 4:15pm Info not available |
| | 8:00pm The One Show | 9:00pm Mastermind | 9:00pm River Monsters | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 7:30pm 5 News Tonight | 4:30pm SKY Sports News |
| | 8:30pm Match of the Day Live | 9:30pm A Vicar's Life | 9:30pm Coronation Street | 8:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast | 8:00pm The Wine Show | 5:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 11:00pm BBC News at Ten | 10:00pm Monty Don's Paradise Gardens | 10:00pm Lethal Weapon | 9:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats | 9:00pm Costa Del Celebrity | 6:00pm Live PGA Tour |
| | 11:25pm BBC London News | 11:00pm QI | 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 10:00pm The Last Leg | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | Featured Groups |
| | 11:35pm The Graham Norton Show | 11:30pm Newsnight | 11:30pm ITV News London | 11:00pm The Last Leg | 11:00pm Will and Grace | Live PGA Tour Golf |
| | 12:25am Witless | 12:05am Drive | 11:45pm Through the Keyhole | 12:05am First Dates Hotel | 11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother | Live ICC U19 Wc |
| | | | 12:45am Take Me Out | 1:10am Machete | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | |
| SATURDAY 27 JANUARY | 6:40pm And They're Off...For Sport Relief | 7:15pm Hugh's Wild West | 6:00pm The Chase | 6:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo | 6:05pm Rich House, Poor House | 9:30am Live European Tour Golf |
| | 7:25pm Pointless | 8:15pm A House Through Time | 7:00pm Local News and Weather | 7:30pm Channel 4 News | 7:05pm The Wonderful World of Puppies | 2:00pm Cricket |
| | 8:15pm All Together Now | 9:15pm Dad's Army | 7:05pm ITV News and Weather | 8:00pm Great Canal Journeys | 8:00pm Greatest Ever | 4:15pm Gillette Soccer Saturday |
| | 9:20pm Casualty | 9:45pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs | 7:20pm You've Been Framed! Take Me Out | 9:00pm Village of the Year | 9:00pm Celebrity Wind Ups | 6:15pm Gillette Soccer Saturday |
| | 10:10pm BBC News | 10:15pm QI XL | 7:45pm Take Me Out | 10:00pm Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 9:00pm Blind Date | Football |
| | 10:25pm Weather | 11:00pm Darcey Bussell: Dance Beyond Boundaries | 9:00pm The Voice UK | 11:00pm The Monuments Men | 9:55pm 5 News | 6:30pm Football |
| | 10:30pm Hard Sun | 11:30pm Birdman | 10:30pm Through the Keyhole | 1:20am Snake Eyes | 10:00pm Football on 5 | 8:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf |
| | 11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights | 1:20am Bows | 11:30pm ITV News and Weather | | 11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | Live Rugby 7s: Sydney |
| | 12:50am The NFL Show | | 11:45pm Jaws 4: The Revenge | | 12:00am The X Files | |
| | | | 1:15am Jackpot247 | | | |
| SUNDAY 28 JANUARY | 7:30pm Countryfile | 7:00pm Britain's Cycling Superheroes - The Price of Success? | 5:30pm Local News and Weather | 7:40pm Channel 4 News | 1:30pm Police Interceptors | 5:30pm Sports Sunday |
| | 8:30pm Still Open All Hours | 8:00pm Yellowstone | 5:40pm ITV News and Weather | 8:00pm Posh Pawn | 2:30pm Open Season 2 | Football |
| | 9:00pm Call the Midwife | 9:00pm Dragons' Den | 6:00pm The Chase | 9:00pm The Biggest Little Railway in the World | 4:00pm Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves | 6:30pm La Liga Greatest Games |
| | 10:00pm Mcmafia | 10:00pm Chris Packham: In Search of the Lost Girl | 7:00pm Dancing on Ice | 10:00pm SAS: Who Dares Wins | 7:00pm Bulletproof Monk | 8:40pm Football |
| | 11:00pm BBC News | 11:00pm The Mash Report | 9:00pm Vera | 11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats | 9:00pm Billionaire Kids | 10:45pm Live PGA Tour Golf |
| | 11:20pm Regional News | 11:30pm Insert Name Here | 9:00pm ITV News and Weather | 12:00am Shutter Island | 9:55pm 5 News | 12:30am EFL Goals: Championship |
| | 11:25pm Weather | 12:00am Cleverman | 11:00pm Weather | 2:25am Holocaust: Night Will Fall | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | Live NFL: Pro Bowl |
| | 11:30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights | | 11:15pm Peston on Sunday | | 11:05pm The Boy Next Door | My Icon |
| | 12:30am The Women's Football Show | | 12:10am Next of Kin | | 12:40am The Town | My Icon |
| | | | | | | |
| MONDAY 29 JANUARY | 8:30pm Inside Out | 7:00pm Eggheads | 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show | 6:00pm Four in a Bed | 7:00pm Home and Away | 3:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 9:00pm EastEnders | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 9:30pm Coronation Street | 6:30pm Extreme Cakemakers | 7:30pm 5 News | 4:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 9:30pm Panorama | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | 10:00pm Next of Kin | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 8:00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights | 5:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 10:00pm Silent Witness | 9:00pm Only Connect | 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 9:00pm Police Interceptors | 6:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:00pm BBC News | 9:30pm University Challenge | 11:45pm Killer Women with Piers Morgan | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | 7:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:30pm Regional News | 10:00pm Winterwatch | 12:45am An Hour to Catch a Killer with Trevor McDonald | 9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well | 11:00pm Extraordinary People | 8:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:40pm Weather | 11:00pm Two Doors Down | | 10:00pm The Undateables | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | 8:40pm Football |
| | 11:45pm Have I Got Old News for You | 11:30pm Newsnight | | 11:00pm First Dates Hotel | | 10:45pm PL Greatest Games |
| | 12:15am Miriam's Big American Adventure | 12:10am Weather | | 12:05am Derry Girls | | 11:00pm The Debate - Live |
| | | | | | | Live ICC U19 Wc |
| TUESDAY 30 JANUARY | 8:00pm The One Show | 6:15pm Flog It! | 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal | 6:30pm Extreme Cakemakers | 7:00pm Home and Away | 2:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 8:30pm EastEnders | 7:00pm Eggheads | 5:00pm Tipping Point | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 7:30pm 5 News | 3:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 9:00pm Holby City | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 6:00pm The Chase | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 8:00pm FIA World Rally | 4:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 10:00pm Silent Witness | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | 7:00pm Local News and Weather | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 9:00pm Caught in the Act | 5:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:00pm BBC News | 9:00pm Winterwatch | 7:30pm ITV Evening News | 9:00pm Secret Life of the Zoo | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | 6:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:30pm Regional News | 10:00pm Murdered for Love? | 8:00pm Emmerdale | 10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E | 11:00pm One Night with My Ex | 7:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:40pm Weather | 11:00pm Samia Shahid | 8:30pm Best 100 Walks in Britain | 11:00pm Make Me a Better Brain | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | 8:00pm Transfer Centre |
| | 11:45pm Love and Hate Crime | 11:30pm Newsnight | 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 12:00am Before We Die | | 8:30pm Football |
| | 12:45am Stacey Dooley Investigates | 12:10am Weather | 11:45pm Girlfriends | | 1:05am Celebrity Big Brother Super Casino | 11:00pm Special |
| | | | | | | Live ICC U19 Wc |
| WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY | 6:15pm Pointless | 7:00pm Eggheads | 8:30pm Coronation Street | 7:00pm The Simpsons | 7:00pm Home and Away | 3:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 7:00pm BBC News | 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys | 9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family | 7:30pm Hollyoaks | 7:30pm 5 News | 4:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 7:30pm Regional News | 8:00pm Big Dreams, Small Spaces | 9:30pm Coronation Street | 8:00pm Channel 4 News | 8:00pm Police Interceptors | 5:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 8:00pm The One Show | 9:00pm Winterwatch | 10:00pm Girlfriends | 9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it Kiri | 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors | 6:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 9:00pm The Truth About Getting Fit | 10:00pm The New-Builds are Coming: Battle in the Countryside | 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather | 10:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency? | 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother | 7:00pm SKY Sports News |
| | 10:00pm Wonders of the Moon | 11:00pm Mock the Week | 11:45pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow | 11:00pm 24 Hours in A and E | 11:00pm When Kim Met Kayne | 8:00pm Soccer Special Pre-Match |
| | 11:00pm BBC News | 11:30pm Newsnight | 12:45am Info not available | 12:00am Pokerstars | 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side | 8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special |
| | 11:30pm Regional News | 12:10am Weather | 1:10am Jackpot247 | 1:05am Championship Cash Challenge | | 11:00pm Sky Sports News Ten |
| | 11:40pm Weather | | 4:00am Tenable | | | 12:00am SKY Sports News |
| | 11:45pm Match of the Day | | | | | Live ICC U19 Wc |

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



TV COUCH CRITIC

THOUGHT I would give *Vera* a try on Sunday *ITV*. Sorry to say it doesn't work for me. Brenda Blethyn dressed as a cast-off from the old lady in the long gone *Heartbeat* series in a dodgy hat, blue scarf and coat that's seen better days.

Her P reg Land Rover tops it off. It's an easy watch but I just didn't feel it somehow. Just one last thing, do they address people as 'love' in Northumberland?

Sometimes having a zap round the channels away from the mainstream brings up some watchable or repeated TV, and *Dave on Demand's American Pickers* is always worth a half hour of your time. Two clued-up buyers scour the country searching for antiques or collectables to buy and sell. These guys don't settle just for small items, they will buy anything that looks like there's a profit in it.

In one programme set in upstate New York they met up with First Officer John Skiles, famed for manning the aeroplane that landed in the Hudson River, who had barns full of flying memorabilia.

They went away from there laden with an aeroplane engine, rare air show posters and magazines, and wheels, allowing them to make a sizeable profit. Take a look, no thinking required.

Hard Sun, a BBC six-part drama for Saturday

Vera plods, Mellor triumphs and repeats appeal

nights kicked off last week and went straight in to the action. Agyness Deyn the ex-model turned actress, made an unusual but creditable cop who can verbally and physically mix it with her peers. There's skulduggery everywhere you turn in this pre-apocalyptic thriller, which starts after a computer document saying the world has five years to doomsday is leaked.

The intelligence services are on her trail and they have all her hangout covered. Looks like a hit from the Beeb, but it's still early days.

Homes Under the Hammer (BBC 1) should be axed immediately as this tired old format has reached its end point. Buy cheap, renovate cheap, make money, and move on. As if two presenters aren't enough they have now roped in a third! Come on Beeb, don't waste licence payers' money any longer, put us out of our misery, get shut, it's had its day.

Girlfriends (ITV) is another Kay Mellor hit (she can do no wrong in my book) that focuses on three lifelong friends played by Miranda Richardson, Zoe Wanamaker and Phyllis Logan. All have some form of crisis and they together solve them as only girlfriends do. The storyline



HIT: From left, Zoë Wanamaker, Phyllis Logan and Miranda Richardson in *Girlfriends*.

MISS: Brenda Blethyn in *Vera*.

is quite simple as most of Mellor's tales are, but the script is crisp, understandable and most of all plausible.

Still going strong on Sundays is *Dragons' Den* (BBC 2). The series has gone through its fair share of multi-millionaires over the years but it's still a really good watch. There's something more than a bit satisfying watching suc-

cessful candidates sealing a deal with these astute business giants.

Death in Paradise (BBC1) has finally bagged the man for the part at the third time of asking as British cop Jack Mooney is now played by Ardal O'Hanlon. He has the right amount of clumsiness mixed with a thorough detective's brain to nail the villain.

Critique: P M San Fulgencio, Costa Blanca

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Nick Horne - writer of *The Rich Pick* - travelled widely with his expat parents in his youth but has based himself in London - limpet like - for most of the last four decades despite working in global media. For the past 20 years with a high end quarterly magazine read by the commercial and political elite of the Middle East. Travelling extensively and learning who is supplying the exclusive needs and exquisite wants of a minute fraction of planet Earth's population.

A Picasso portrait, an E1 Million watch and a high-tech chair. 'The Rich Pick' of Nick Horne in a new weekly column.

THE impulse for the unique or to personalise is irresistible, the cost can be great, rather than just own a Rolls Royce it must be bespoke, a unique expression of their taste. Such a person and family will frequently travel; often in their own aircraft, which naturally has a shower en suite to the bedrooms.

Three near unique objects; a Picasso portrait, a chair and a watch, irresistible objects to a person with the wealth to buy anything.

Consider a chair that is near perfect, and improve it. David Hugh Limited launched its latest creation the Elysium-R chair at Rolls Royce Motor Cars London. Displaying it in the dealer's window next to the latest Phantom

Million Euro wristwatch!



PABLO PICASSO: Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter), December 1937.

model. One of just 18 on offer worldwide.

The Elysium-R neutralises

gravity 'by implementing flotation theory' to take comfort to a whole new level. Presented in

near black pure aniline leather made from Swedish cattle with a black chrome plated stainless steel base and an almond gold frame. Black anodised aluminium arm rests, gel filled, are



ELYSIUM-R: The near perfect chair.

For the serious watch collector; very serious wealth is an obligation. The RM 50-03 Tourbillon McLaren F1 a Richard Mille at £964,000 (€1.08m) makes a statement on the wrist, though on-

ly to those who recognise the wristwatch for what it is. A rare wristwatch one of a kind or created to order.

Finally; a unique portrait painted by Picasso in 1937 has emerged from a distinguished private collection and depicts his golden muse Marie-Thérèse Walter. Painted just months after his masterpieces *Guernica* and *Weeping Women*. Picasso at the very peak of his creative energy.

Described as 'One of the greatest portraits by Picasso to appear on the market in recent years' by Thomas Bompard; Head of Sotheby's London Impressionist & Modern Art 'Of all the artist's styles and decades this is the one that most epitomises the legacy of Picasso as a portraitist of women.'

Soon to be offered at auction in London. If you ask, you possibly cannot afford it though Sotheby's will share an estimate auction bid upon a serious enquiry. Those with the ability will be there among the bidders or sending their agent.

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.

Geography lesson for the less experienced

MIKE SENKER refers to 'countries like El Salvador, Africa and Haiti.'

In order that your less experienced readers are not misinformed, Africa is not in fact a country - either Central American or Caribbean.

It is a continent comprising approximately 54 countries. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain transferred three million Africans from their homeland to a life of slavery on the Caribbean islands. The indigenous Caribbeans were not African - nor were those of Central America.

David R Worboys, Nerja

Bang free

THE festivities in Canillas de Albaida to 'celebrate' the San Antonio animal holiday happened last weekend (January 13/14) and are most definitely not animal friendly. As is customary at any festival in Spain, there was the constant noise of bangs going off all day and evening and many dogs, including mine, were so frightened inside that they certainly wouldn't dare venture going outside for a walk. So I think that it would be nice just for once to have a

La Cala should retain charm

A defining moment?

HAVING lived in La Cala de Mijas for more than a decade, I am one of an increasing number of people who identify how the Costa del Sol village has improved in recent years.

Though ongoing expansion with new builds slightly inland concern many, a coastal boardwalk, more quality shops and restaurants and other improvements go some way to balancing some of the possible negatives of its growth from its once small fishing village identity.

However, in recent days I note that extensive infrastructure improvements in Calle Antequera (new footpaths, road resurfacing,



Photo Credit: Jyk Wikimedia

ICONIC DONKEY: Outside the picturesque town hall.

lighting and drainage) has resulted in a shaded public seating area and two old trees - a much-loved characteristic of the residential street locally referred to as Coronation Street by many - in being removed.

This is sad, for although all-important extra public street parking has been provided by the infrastructure project, La Cala should also retain characteristics of its local charm.

JS, name and address supplied

bang free festival that would be not only pet friendly but people friendly too.

Delphine Penfold, Competa

Boaring news

TO all the people in Benidorm, Calpe and Pego suffering from wild boar problems. You must remember the recipe created by a famous Spanish chef for a succulent pork roast which begins 'First remove wild boar from your radiator.'

Ian Royle, Calpe

Postal delays

REGARDING problems in Orihuela with non-delivery of post over the Christmas period. We in Nucia Park have also suffered in a similar way with post taking days to arrive or the postman having to make his delivery at 8.30pm. Complaints to our post office fall on deaf ears. They blame the Benidorm office or suggest the problem is with the UK (even when the letters are from the local bank). Several times we have had bills arrive to be paid on the day of delivery.

My question is, is there somewhere to make an official complaint or is this common for all parts of Spain and we have to put up with it?

Dennis Jackson, La Nucia

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.

Spain set for winter sun

As much as I love this weather we do need some rain desperately.

Joanne Booth

Perhaps cleaning the municipal bins with sea water instead of drinking water may help with the shortages!

Katrina Barratt

Spanish hotels fear Tunisian competition

Tunisia after the shootings - wide berth, no matter if it's free, same with Turkey and Egypt - they don't have what I'd say a safe haven as yet. Marie Ross Main

Tunisia is the only holiday I ever went on that I did not like and felt threatened and I have been on over 30 foreign holidays all over the world. Gill Reynolds

The Spanish government needs to invest more in tourism if they want to keep tourism moving forward. Due to the climate it's ideally suited to theme parks like Disney, Universal Studios and MGM aimed at families. These can be located out of towns.

The Spanish economy needs more all year round jobs, not just seasonal work. This would also benefit local business and jobs in general. It's been needed for a long time in the south. Pps, Estepona

Comments from EWN online

Ryanair still top despite turbulence

Jet 2 are doing extremely well, better planes and flight. Jim Fennessey

Yes Jim but they don't necessarily go to where I want to go! Ryanair go Alicante-Newquay, no choice. Jenny Dodd

Much of Ryanair's problems were towards the end of last year. It will be interesting to see if that has affected their customer loyalty this year. Geoff Kerr

Brit faces jail over starting forest fire

Absolutely fair! He would have been well aware of the risks and must be held accountable. Stephen Richards

This is spot on fair, risks taken by anyone means accountability must be taken too. Debbie Harrison

I hope he gets traditional Spanish hospitality amongst the inmates. Rodolfo Losada

'Drunk' passenger forces flight diversion

Why allow on flight if drunk?? I wouldn't want anyone sitting with or near me if they are drunk!!!!!! Mandy Garside Chatwood

Bloody disgrace, well done crew, poor passengers... She mustn't be allowed to fly again! Sian Foster

OMG what an idiot, well done Ryanair, hope the woman got prosecuted!!!! Sandra Dunn Bratton

Dangerous driver caught on video

He wasn't thinking, they rarely do, especially on the roads. Carl Glover

This happens too often, time to remove the offending driver's privileges of driving licence. David George Mitchell

The driver has been caught, according to N332. Hope the courts nail this one. Russell Bushby

Nerja nasty whilst Torrox keeps clean

NEW YEAR, same old optimistic nonsense from the town hall. I own up to actually living in Torrox and honestly don't know what they do with our sewage, but there never seems to be anything nasty floating off our beaches.

Nerja promotes itself as a world beater resort but surely pumping raw sewage into the sea should disqualify any town. One of your fellow English language papers had an interesting article about blockages caused by wet wipes etc yet Nerja's answer, when/if it is completed, is to pump waste three kilometres distance and 50 metres or so uphill to the new facility.

How long before it blocks up and overflows? I will give you your headline for that week - Crapistrano!

Oh dear, there goes my cheerful, positive start to 2018. Glad to see Mr Lee hasn't made any resolutions and is keeping up his Britain First membership for another year. When in doubt blame the immigrants but remember you are one as well!

Peter Thompson, Torrox

How a fake restaurant became London's hottest reservation

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

THERE are so many daft 'fake' stories doing the rounds now. But surely all are topped by the one about the man who created a fake restaurant in his garden, purely to hoax TripAdvisor.

'The Shed' in Dulwich, England, became an internet hit, ranked number one on TripAdvisor, even though nobody had ever eaten there!

Eventually it became so popular that Oobah Butler had to let people in, serving them ready meals from Iceland. Apparently he got the idea from a previous job of

writing fake reviews on TripAdvisor at £10 a post, praising restaurants in which he had never eaten, to boost businesses up the rankings.

Then he said he had a revelation: "Within the current climate of misinformation and society's willingness to believe absolute bullshit, maybe a fake restaurant is possible? It became my mission. With the help of fake reviews, mystique and nonsense, I was going to do it: turn my own shed into London's top-rated restaurant on TripAdvisor."

He produced a website, a concept to attract attention (dishes named after moods), got a photographer to 'immortalise' the 'food' (close-ups of shaving foam, bleach tablets and, at one point, his own foot) and friends to



Photo by Oobah Butler/Twitter

THE 'BREXIT SHED': A place of milk and honey...

write reviews like: "The earthy taste and freshness of the food was something else."

Now, TripAdvisor's a useful tool but you have to read between the lines and use

your own 'idiot filters.'

If there are only five star reviews, be suspicious; similarly, if only bad ones. You come across silly comments as well as the 'Emperor's New Clothes' attitude to

'being there'. This was a harmless prank, but the guy was correct about our era of fake news. (Incidentally, any chance he could cook up a Brexit deal that'll stand scrutiny for more than a few

minutes?)

PS, I'll certainly be recommending this unbiased article! Five stars! Plus a warning: this column may not be written by a real person.

Finally, still need a bit of last-minute encouragement to embrace 'Dry January'? Well, there's always dry cider, dry white wine and dry martinis. Always glad to help!

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

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

Advertising Feature

Christina Sharp

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Why winter is the best time to buy annual travel insurance

CHRISTMAS and New Year celebrations seem a lifetime ago, so how better to shake off winter blues than planning your next break? Kick start your journey with our travel savvy tips on why now is the best time to buy your essential annual travel insurance cover.

If you love travelling more than twice a year, and don't want the hassle of buying travel insurance each time you go, or worse still, the risk of forgetting to buy it, then Annual Multi Trip insurance is your best option.

Buying now means you can sit back and book as many holidays as you like, with the peace of mind that your travel insurance is sorted for the entire calendar year. As a regular traveller you'll save a fortune by avoiding shelling out on single trip insurance each time you go gallivanting.

January and February, are traditionally the busiest months for advanced holiday bookings as we get

lured by the blitz of holiday promotions. Buying your Annual policy now and opting for an immediate 'start date' means you are covered straightaway for holidays you book, or have already booked.

Buying now ensures that any winter sun or winter sports breaks are covered under one policy. But check before you buy, as most annual policies won't offer Cruise, or Winter Sports as standard. Globelink include cruise cover on all policies and Winter Sports on our Annual Multi Trip policies with a 45+ trip duration.

Don't leave purchasing your travel insurance to the last minute, and don't opt for a future 'start date' on your Annual policy under the misapprehension that you're not travelling for a while. Otherwise you won't benefit from your policy pre-departure elements.

For example, if the policy in-



PEACE OF MIND: Put your feet up and think of travel insurance.

cludes Cancellation, this protection kicks-in instantly as long as you opt for an immediate start date. Did you know that holiday Cancellation is one of the most common reasons for making a travel insurance claim? So do yourself a favour and start your policy immediately.

A good Annual Multi Trip policy lets you take as many trips as you like abroad, under the one policy. However, some companies place limits, so look out for restrictions on trips, and the 'individual trip duration.' Be sure to buy a policy that covers the longest trip you'll take.

Look out for special deals such as children go free, or couples discounts. This could save you a packet. Beware however, the cheapest policy may not provide the cover you need; and the most expensive may not be the best! Read the small print and choose based on your circumstances.

Take account of your holiday costs; value of luggage; and always declare pre-existing medical conditions. Sidestep this at your peril, as it could invalidate your policy and cost you dearly in both cash and anguish.

Wherever you travel, visit the Foreign & Commonwealth (FCO) Travel Aware website for travel safety and security advice and happy holidays!

Globelink Travel Insurance for Spanish and EU residents. Get an instant quote and cover with www.globelink.co.uk, or call (UK) +44 1353 699 082 or our Spanish link line 966 265 000.

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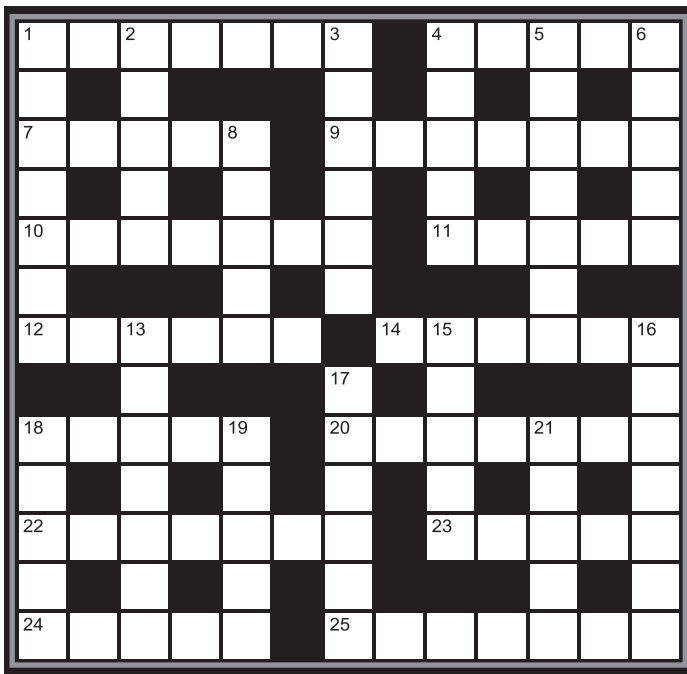
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Aspired, in a way, to helplessness (7)
- 4 Slogs away to get shine (5)
- 7 Only about five find the answer (5)
- 9 Strongly criticising the roof work (7)
- 10 Encourage another to breathe? (7)
- 11 Minor part in Oedipus Rex tragedy (5)
- 12 Stone alien missile (6)
- 14 Hit and miss or damn silly (6)
- 18 A drink for the American conscripts (5)
- 20 Leave, if there's a group performing (7)
- 22 Roman officer broke turbine (7)
- 23 Some of his language was jargon (5)
- 24 Fruit for specific days of the month (5)
- 25 Rushes to publish within seconds (7)

Down

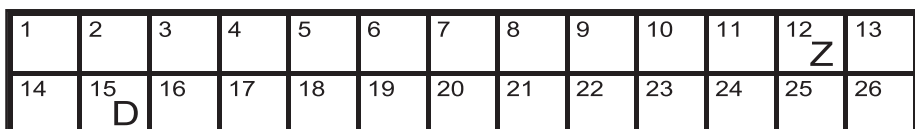
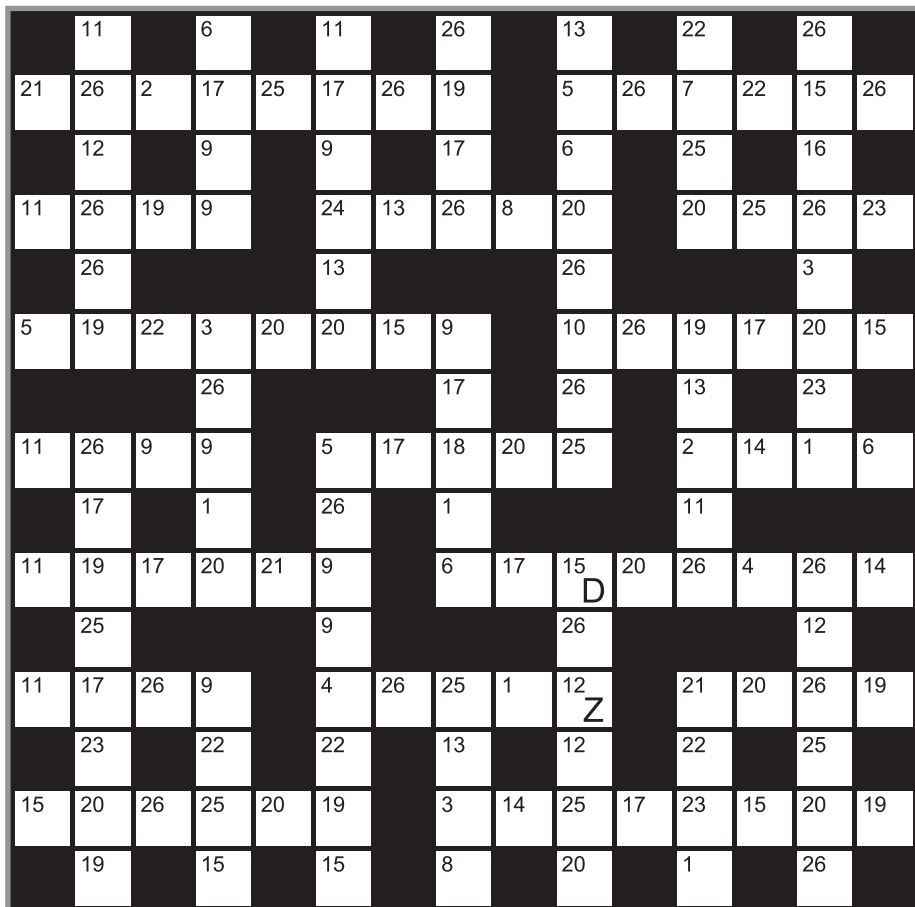
- 1 Tramp, one in collection of papers (7)
- 2 Auctions off prison rooms, we hear (5)
- 3 More hasty to produce a slice of bacon (6)
- 4 Elegance of old cricketer (5)
- 5 Left out by mistake, I met Dot (7)
- 6 Greek letter begins, 'Sir, I give



- my assurance' (5)
- 8 Some hotel items for the select few (5)
- 13 Disturbance after tea in old vehicle (7)
- 15 Gather a large amount (5)
- 16 Chap gets older, but copes
- 17 Menservants drink during TV's broadcast (6)
- 18 Went out with old hat (5)
- 19 Roy leaves mixed yoghurts for hooligans (5)
- 21 Empty shower after last showered (5)

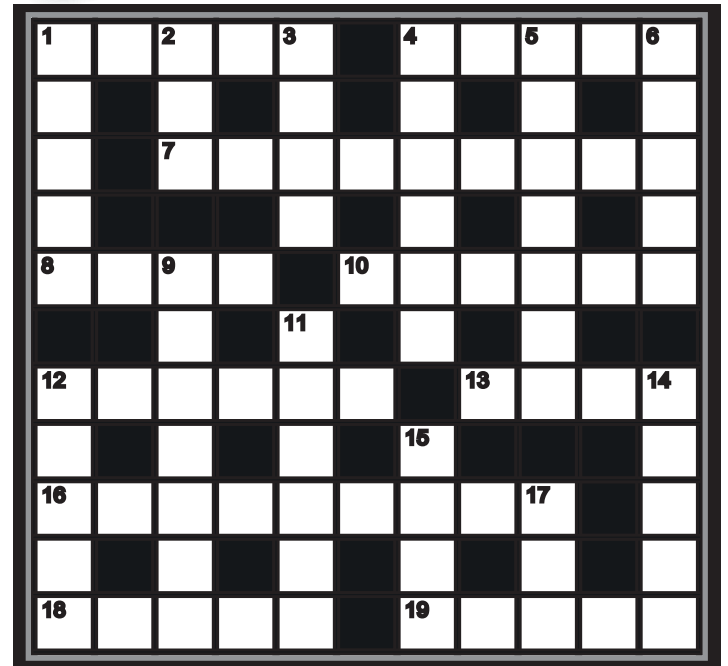
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents Z and 15 represents D, so fill in Z every time the figure 12 appears and D every time the figure 15 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

- 1 Clearly defined (5)
- 4 Clean with hard rubbing (5)
- 7 Large, hairy spider (9)
- 8 Chore (4)
- 10 Unusual mental ability (6)
- 12 Musical instrument (6)
- 13 Asks for alms (4)
- 16 Too soon or too hasty (9)
- 18 Thick, closely-spaced, compact (5)
- 19 Lacking self-confidence (5)

Down

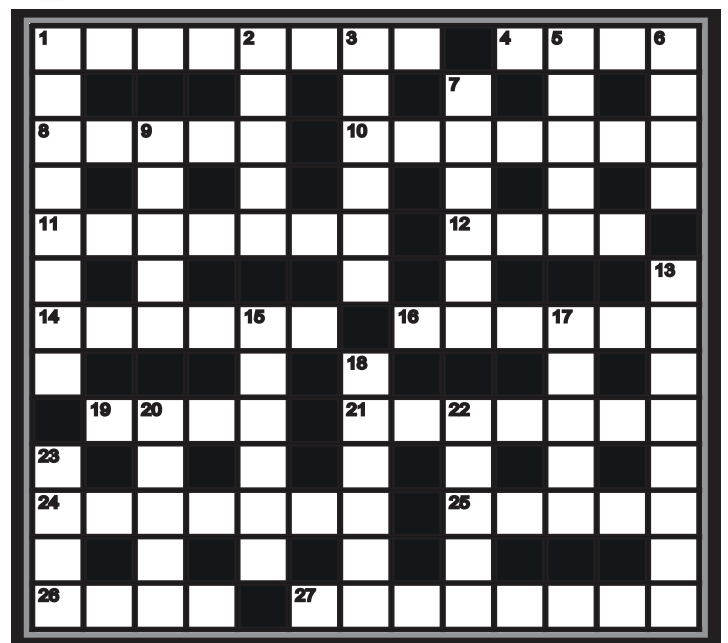
- 1 Woman's garment hanging from the waist (5)

Across

- 2 Social insect living in organised colonies (3)
- 3 Meat from a domestic pig (4)
- 4 Vocalist (6)
- 5 Everyday procedure (9)
- 6 Alloy of copper and zinc (5)
- 9 Person who treats injuries or diseases by manual operations (7)
- 11 Argument (6)
- 12 Roman god of love (5)
- 14 Small group of soldiers assigned to a particular activity (5)
- 15 Fair and impartial (4)
- 17 Tall, deciduous tree (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Shower (of rain) (8)
- 4 Pelota (4)
- 8 Guante (5)
- 10 Poppy (7)
- 11 Stadium (7)
- 12 Grosero (maleducado) (4)
- 14 To turn off (light, television) (6)
- 16 Pajitas (6)
- 19 Tin can (4)
- 21 Rescue (7)
- 24 Disculpa (7)
- 25 Mareas (5)
- 26 Plomo (4)
- 27 Prisionero (8)

Down

- 1 Storks (8)
- 2 Delante (5)
- 3 Nails (metal) (6)
- 5 Evitar (5)
- 6 Loyal (4)
- 7 Zanahoria (6)
- 9 Oyster (5)
- 13 Lift (elevator) (8)
- 15 Spit (roast) (6)
- 17 Coffin (5)
- 18 Oración (religión) (6)
- 20 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
- 22 Mushrooms (flat-topped) (5)
- 23 Caída (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' WE WERE GOING ELECTRIC - BUT THE THREAT OF DROUGHTS AND DESERTS...! '

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



TARGET:

- Average: 11
- Very good: 22
- Good: 15
- Excellent: 29

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

berk berm bier boor bore bort brim brio brit emir kerb mire moor more mort oreo rime riot rite robe rook room root rote term tier tiro tore tori trek trim trio biker biter broke brook broom merit metro miter mitre moire motor ombre orbit remit robot timer tribe trike booker boomer obiter reboot retook rookie roomie timber timbre **MOTORBIKE**

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday January 20



IRISH LOTTO

Saturday January 20



EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday January 16



Friday January 19



EL MILLON: WCN20873

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday January 18



JOKER: 3 973 025

Saturday January 20



JOKER: 3 031 690

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 21



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

You realise this week how liberating it is to share your thoughts and feelings with someone close. It is not always easy to do this, until you realise everyone has them. Some hopes and dreams are more attainable than others, of course, and someone has to find out which are which.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Reading the small print or being sure what is offered in a personal encounter is most important this week. Leave nothing to chance or you could be out of pocket.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Being over-generous with cash midweek could see you making a poor move.

Perhaps someone needs to be more hardworking or perhaps less of a spendthrift. Propping up a bad habit would be doing them no favours.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Time is precious this week because you are in demand. A chance lost in the past presents itself again but won't be too easy. Holding back just a little makes you more desirable. A want to travel could be cramped by financial considerations. If making extra money is too difficult, consider sharing something of value with someone else.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

A suggestion made by you recently did not seem to be taken seriously.

This week, however, negotiations could be opened.

Circumstances change and it may seem someone gave up too early. Bide your time and even hold your tongue when someone in a strong position spouts rubbish.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

After a relaxed weekend, it might prove difficult to take up the reins of work again.

However, midweek sees you trotting along happily and minding your own business when someone stops you in your tracks. When a challenge is issued, your natural stubbornness comes to the fore.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Confidence in a close relationship should be maintained.

Possibly someone who envies your position would like to see discord. A matter of spiritual or religious faith is questioned, but the answer comes more clearly and sharply than you would have thought.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

With a mind as sharp as a needle, you spin through the week, weaving your own charming spell. A bit of extra confidence works wonders for your mood. Something that you read sets you thinking about doing some writing or creating something artistic, perhaps even a musical.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

An emotional cut-off from the past is not as bad as anticipated. Indeed, it confirms in your mind who you are and what your place in the world is. Inherited traits knit easily with your present life and bring contentment.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Although energy is not high, there is the need to have some kind of challenge. With the brain active, it is an ideal time to plot and plan your next moves. Maybe something that has been delayed might now be advanced. You find it hard to choose between opportunities.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

An investment made recently is built upon and brings peace of mind.

Finances do need consideration but more in the long than the short-term. Much is happening in the background that does not require your attention but, all the same, be aware.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The imagination stirs and the heart races at a suggestion this week. Your strong intuition tells you it is the right thing to do.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Speak, 4 Focas, 10 Enter, 11 Seaside, 12 Mas joven, 13 Damp, 15 Ninety, 17 Colour, 19 Sage, 20 Farmacia, 23 Receive, 24 Nests, 25 Toser, 26 Pared.

Down:

- 2 Patos, 3 Airports, 5 Ojal, 6 Ahijado, 7 Hermanastro, 8 Ashes, 9 Despertarse, 14 Tormenta, 16 Negocio, 18 Paseo, 21 Cisne, 22 Wise.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Peach, 4 Courage, 8 Chagrin, 9 Sward, 10 Satin, 11 Meander, 12 Diddle, 14 Meagre, 17 Setback, 19 Snaps, 21 Arena, 22 Initial, 23 Redeems, 24 Sorry.

Down:

- 1 Picks, 2 Adapted, 3 Heron, 4 Cinema, 5 Upstage, 6 Award, 7 Endorse, 12 Despair, 13 Leakage, 15 Glacier, 16 Skeins, 18 Trend, 19 Slips, 20 Splay.

QUICK

Across:

- 1/11 Dry ice, 3 Pact, 5 Acre, 6 Swap, 8 Rant, 12 Rush, 15 Sofa, 16 Drag, 17 Pike, 18 Eat.

Down:

- 1 Dear, 2 Yarn, 3 Pester, 4 Tip, 7 Adds, 9 Alto, 10 Tirade, 13 Urge, 14 Hint, 15 Sip.

CODE BREAKER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | N | V | E | B | Z | K | Q | T | L | W | I | G | S |
| 14 | O | D | C | M | P | R | U | J | H | Y | X | A | F |

KAKURO

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QUIZ: DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

- Seven Tears was a UK number one hit single in 1982 for which dance band?
- The Latin-American ballroom dance the rumba originated on which Caribbean island?
- The mazurka is a lively folk dance in triple time principally associated with which country?
- What is the name of the American-born dancer/choreographer who became internationally known for his Irish dance shows Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, Feet of Flames and Celtic Tiger?
- Which actor starred, directed and produced the epic 1990 American Western film Dances with Wolves?
- Which American actress and former teen model starred as the 18-year-old welder Alex Owens in the 1983 American romantic drama film Flashdance?

- Which French impressionist artist is noted for his many paintings of dance scenes, including The Dance Class, Dancers at the Barre and Dancers in Pink?
- Which group topped the UK singles chart in 1962 with Dance On?
- Which Lerner and Loewe musical features the song I Could Have Danced All Night?
- Which newsreader and television presenter was the first ever series winner of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing in 2004?

Not a lot of people know that... the earliest known evidence of dancing comes from 9,000 year-old cave paintings in India.

Answers:

- GOOMBAY DANCE BAND,
- CUBA, 3. POLAND,
- IRISH,
- MICHAEL FLATLEY, 5. KEVIN COSTNER, 6. JENNIFER BEALS,
- EDGAR DEGAS, 8. THE SHADOWS, 9. MY FAIR LADY, 10. NATASHA KAPLINSKY (dancing with Brendan Cole)

65 years as a cartoonist and painter

by John Smith

AS he heads towards his 90th birthday, cartoonist and Costa del Sol resident, Peter Maddocks took the time to reminisce with *Euro Weekly News*.

We are delighted that Peter supplies a weekly cartoon on an exclusive basis to the paper, as he has retired from commercial illustration and only paints for fun and the excitement of creating a new artistic work.

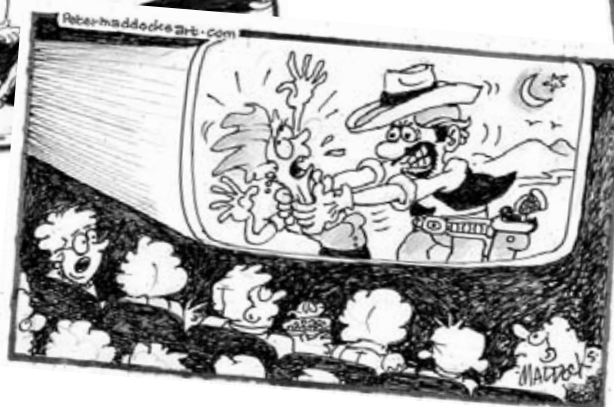
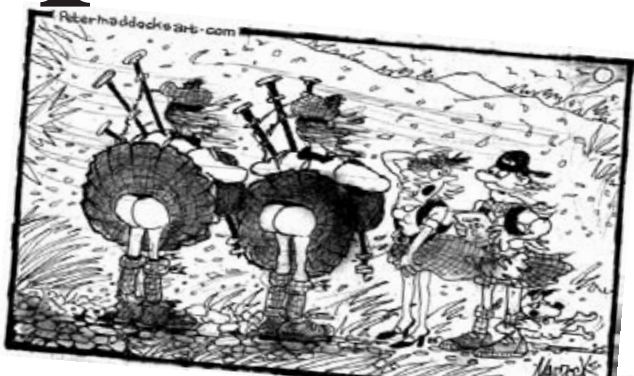
Having joined the Merchant Navy at the age of 15 in 1943, he not only braved the dangers of war, but says that he actually had a great time travelling the world and discovering new experiences and adventures.

This was quite a change for a young man from Birmingham, who had first started drawing at the age of six, before winning a scholarship at the age of 11 to attend the Moseley School of Art.

With a wicked glint in his eye and a smile on his face, Peter said "My tutor was Norman Pett, who drew the risqué Jane cartoon strip for the *Daily Mirror*, which saw the heroine out of her clothes as often as she was in them. There I was drawing daffodils whilst he was drawing naked women in the classroom!"

After swapping the sea for a land based job, Peter set up his own advertising agency and started designing cinema posters, as well as writing Kit Carson stories.

When he was very young, his teacher told him that whilst his art was good, his lettering needed improvement. Having studied fonts, he was determined to be involved in letter-



ing the cowboy stories as well.

Whilst he had a love of painting, when he was invited to draw a sample cartoon for the *Daily Sketch*, his was delighted to be accepted as one of their main contributors and as this was in 1953, he is now celebrating 65 years as a cartoonist.

"I preferred to paint, but with cartoons I could take a thought, transfer it to paper quickly with a pithy comment and get paid almost immediately" he said, explaining why he had never become a commercial artist.

He quickly became much sought after by all of the major newspapers of the time including the *Mail*, *Telegraph*, *Express*, *Mirror*, as well as *Mayfair* and *Private Eye*. He eventually became Cartoon Editor for *Express Newspapers* and regularly produced a satirical look at events in 10 Downing Street.

During that time, he helped

to found the British Cartoonists' Association and travelled back to the UK in 2016 to help celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

With two of his three sons (there is also a daughter) he decided to set up an animation studio and attracted interest from the BBC for three cartoon series. *The Family-Ness*, which centred on the life of the Loch Ness Monsters, *Jimbo and the Jet Set* and *Penny Crayon* featuring the voice of Su Pollard.

He also worked with legendary animators Halas and Batchelor and spent a number of years working for them in Berlin, but admits that this wasn't the best time of his life.

Eventually, after writing a number of self-help books on



PETER
MADDOCKS:
In his own
eyes.



year-old.

Peter is a pleasure to chat with and confided that he stopped riding his motor scooter just two years ago. He is still driving his car on a daily basis, although he had been a little surprised with the ice that had formed on his vehicle the other day.

Although he has been living by himself in Spain for all of these years, he admits that he struggles with the Spanish language.

But he has developed a perfect arrangement with local shopkeepers saying "If I can't make myself understood, I whip out my drawing pad and produce a picture of what I want to buy. It seems to work pretty well and the people in the shops seem happy to keep the sketches."

Many people living by themselves could be lonely, but not Peter Maddocks as he simply loves to paint. As long as he manages to be creative at least once a day, then he considers himself a happy man.

He has the gift of being able to follow the news, think up a few funny lines, produce an accompanying image and then invariably change the words to make the cartoon even funnier. Readers enjoy seeing Peter's work each week in the Time Out section of the six *Euro Weekly News* editions.

And we, at the newspaper, want to thank him for his continued decision to prepare a new and amusing cartoon exclusively for us, week in, week out and congratulate him for his 65 years of professional work.

The low down on carbs

IF you have lived in fear of carbohydrates ever since the Atkins diet became famous in the early 2000s you may be in luck.

One scientist has revealed the best time to eat carbs without increasing our likelihood of gaining weight. Dr Michael Mosley - the inventor of the 5:2 diet - teamed up with researchers from the University of Surrey to experiment on whether eating the substance at different times had an effect on weight; with interesting results.

Volunteers were all given the same amount of carbohydrates to eat within a day but were told to eat them in the morning for the first five days and then in the evening for the following five days.

Scientists then took their blood glucose readings and found those who ate high levels of carbohydrates in the mornings had their blood glucose response raised by 15.9 points, according to one publication, while eating carbs in the evening surprisingly only raised it by 10.4 points.

This flies in the face of advice given by professionals for years to avoid carbs



Photo by Unsplash

BAKING GOOD: Scientists have proved it's better to eat carbs in the evening.

in the evening as they were thought to cause blood sugar levels to spike, turning into fat before the body had time to lower them before bed.

This could be good news for anyone who has been avoiding carbohydrates af-

ter 3pm for fearing of piling on the pounds, as it seems the opposite could in fact be true.

The group from the University of Surrey now plan to repeat their experiment with a larger test group to get more data.

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A birthday party at 11am?

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WHEN I came back from the UK at Christmas I got the flu. Not my normal, sniffy, man cold stuff. I got THE FLU.

I don't know whether it's my age but I was out for the count for five days. I couldn't get out of bed. Mrs S went to the pharmacy and got me all the medications but nothing worked. So I got to thinking - has anyone had the flu jab? If so, does it work?

I finally felt well enough to venture out and in fact I had booked to go back to England for my mate's 70th birthday party. We have been friends since we were five years old so there was no way I was going to miss it.

I'd booked my flights and hotel and car and they were all paid for or so I thought. A few days before I went I got an email from Ryanair telling me that if I wanted to take hand luggage, with wheels, into the cabin I'd have to pay extra.

Now when I booked I thought it was included so I went on to their live chat and told them it was a liberty. Of course, they were not interested and I paid the extra but

lots of people didn't and it was fun watching people trying to smuggle hand luggage on to the plane. The staff were not having any of it.

I have a favourite deli I go to when I'm in the UK and I decided to go there for a late breakfast on Saturday before I left for the airport to come home. As I was on my own I couldn't sit in one of the lovely booths that I like by the window and I was given a seat round the other side where I was the only one sitting for five minutes. Then it happened.

The door opened and I realised that the reason I was the only one round there was that the 20-odd five-year-olds hadn't arrived yet, but they had now! Who has a birthday party at 11am for five-year-olds in a deli? And who sits a grumpy old man on his own next to them?

There has to be some sort of rule about that. The noise was horrendous, but they did seem to be enjoying themselves. But come on people, use yer loaf - at least warn me and let me decide whether to stay or go.

Sorry to hear the man who invented predictive text died this week. His funfair will be next monkey.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email: mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

How to avoid road rage

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



KEEP CALM: It is not worth getting angry while driving.

FOR this week's driving tips, Guardia Civil ofers spoke to the head of driving standards at the UK's Institute of Advanced Motorists Peter Rodger, who talked about how to avoid becoming a road rage victim, and what to do if it does escalate.

The first point is that with any conflict between two parties, both are likely to have played a part. So try to take yourself away from the problem - let the other driver go on ahead. You might feel wronged, but letting the other party go will make no difference to the rest of your day.

If someone is being confrontational or aggressive, don't make eye contact and don't react visibly.

If the conflict is more serious, call the police, especially if you feel there is a threat or possibility of violence against you.

If the other party approaches you in your car, can you drive away safely? If you can, consider doing so. But don't accelerate dan-

gerously, or drive off if you think the other driver is going to chase you.

If you or better, your passengers, can film any behaviour on your mobile phone it will help in terms of evidence, including the registration number of the other vehicle involved. Don't open your door, don't open your windows fully and don't start or get provoked into an argument.

If you were at fault, admit it and apologise. It may be enough to diffuse the situation quickly. And do not do anything that can be interpreted as retaliation.

Hopefully by now the matter is over and you are driving away. If you feel upset or emotional pull over and get some fresh air or walk around if you need to before resuming your journey.

Peter said: "Road rage does not affect everyone every day. If you're finding it is happening very often, you might want to think about how you engage with other road users."

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

Can they sell UK home?

Q. WE want to sell our main home in the UK. We have owned it for 24 years and have lived in it for 95 per cent of the time. However, for the past year it has been rented out to tenants. In the UK, if a person sells their 'main residence,' they do not pay Capital Gains tax (CGT). Even if we are non-resident in the UK, we can still pay almost no capital gains tax if we comply with certain conditions. There is a system called 'Private Residence Relief' that reduces the CGT down to very little. We want to sell our UK home, but we do not know what the tax position is if we are Spanish (Canarian) resident.

P H (Canary Islands)

A. I doubt that you are a tax resident of the Canary Islands. Do you pay Spanish income tax? Have you filed Form 720 declaring your assets held outside Spain? Per-

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



haps you are simply away from your UK home for a

time. The Private Residence Relief provisions that I consulted mention three years of absence without penalty, for example. Get professional help in the UK.


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

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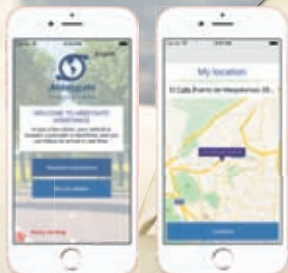
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The colossal sound of 12 tenors



Photo Credit: Facebook

TRUE BLEND: The 12 Tenors.

WHEN 12 tenors get together, audiences are entitled to expect to hear something different and this is the case with a show that is coming to Palma in March.

There is a true blend of different musical styles which incorporates opera, traditional zarzuela and even pop/rock which somehow manages to sound quite exceptional.

The song choice takes into account the diverse range of experience and background of these 12 fine signers and include titles such as the well-known song *Kalinka* by the Russian Iwan Larionow, *Volare* by the Gypsy Kings, *Can Can* by Jacques Offenbach, *You Can Leave Your Hat On* by Joe Cocker and *Libiamo* by Guiseppe Verdi

All of those performing have studied music in various forms, have trained voices and some have been involved in musicals but they blend together perfectly in order to prove that whilst opera is important it isn't the only type that those designate as having a tenor voice can perform.

With this programme they show that not only arias are appropriate to their voices but also modern international music.

Tickets for the March 16 performance cost from €39 to €45 and can be obtained from the Palma Auditorium box office.

The big band sound: Cutting a rug

WHILST his plane may have disappeared whilst on active service in the Second World War, the music of Glenn Miller continues to inspire.

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra which has been playing constantly around the world recreates the sound of the great trombonist and band with such all-time favourites as *In the mood*, *American patrol*, *Chattanooga choo choo* and *Moonlight serenade*.

As part of the tour - which will see the orchestra play at the Palma Auditorium on March 25 the orchestra is supported by the Irresistible Andrews Sisters and dancers, the Swing Time Jivers.

Tickets for the show which lasts for more than two hours cost €42 and can be obtained from the box office.



Photo Credit: www.pasadena-roof-orchestra.com/

INSPIRED: Pasadena Roof Orchestra.

Piano music for all

RUSSIAN classical pianist, Dmitri Novgorodsky started playing piano at the age of five and is now considered to be one of the greats to have merged from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

As the first Russian musician to be awarded the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance degree by Yale University, now 52 he has travelled the world per-

forming numerous concerts.

As part of a teaching cycle when he will be giving a Master Class to students on the island, he will be performing at the Conservatori Superior de Musica de les Illes Balears in Palma on Wednesday March 14 at 8pm.

His free concert will consist of works by Bach, Beethoven, Scriabin Chopin; and Strauss.

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Photo Credit: Hyde XXI

ROCK MUSICAL: A scene from Dos Mundos bajo un mismo Sol.

A musical first for Mallorca

FOLLOWING a successful premiere on January 14 at the Teatre de Santa Maria, the first Rock Musical to be written in Spain will have two nights in Palma.

Dos Mundos bajo un mismo Sol (Two Worlds under the same Sun) is an inventive story that combines its own concepts, with theories based on Sumerian and Egyptian civilisation.

It looks at our current society and recent discoveries of the universe, and aims to reflect on how far society advance and how far we can go.

Hyde XXI, the Mallorcan Steampunk Metal Progressive group has created this show that presents some curious innovations, since the viewers will be able to choose the end of the work

through a mobile App designed exclusively for it.

The group, founded in 2009, was nominated for the best metal music album in Spain in 2011 by the UFI Nacional awards. In 2014 they published their third and latest album, *Pseudoinvolucion*, which contained the seeds of the pseudo-musical that they present now.

Recommended for anyone over the age of five, the show combines different artistic disciplines with live music, actors on stage, video presentations and a light show.

The performances at the Palma Auditorium cost from €20 and start at 10.30pm on Saturday February 17 and 7pm on the Sunday.

Classic fairy tale set to new music

AFTER bringing *Frozen* to the Madrid stage, director Rafel Burnet is now presenting his version of *Beauty and the Beast* in Alcudia.

The Mallorcan director has put together a musical version of the evergreen story which itself has also enjoyed the Disney treatment but his version concentrates on some of the less well-known characters in the story.

The musical which is performed in Span-

ish consists of 12 songs written by Jaume Carreras who has worked on numerous musicals and movies, winning the 2000 Goya Award for *Los Girasoles*.

Although the entire show is performed by just seven actors, they are supported by special effects, lighting and 3D projections.

Tickets for the show which is to be staged at 6pm on Saturday February 3 cost €15 from the Alcudia Auditorium.

Guided tour in Palma

FOR those who want to discover more about Palma and some of its interesting architecture, the Palma Council has an open house every Sunday.

Residents and visitors are invited to enrol for a guided tour of the council building in English with the tours starting at 11am and noon.

Places are limited so those who are interested need to register with their telephone number and email address by calling 618 914 517 or emailing visites@palma.cat.

Tours are also possible with a German-speaking guide with registration at the same number and email address.

Son Fornes open day

THE Archaeological Museum of Son Fornes is due to hold its monthly open day at the site in Montuiri this weekend.

The site is centred around an 18th century flour mill. It also features a museum which exhibits findings from the Iron Age, as well as the classical and medieval periods.

The flour mill has been fully restored and is located around 2.5km from Montuiri. It was declared an Artistic Historical Monument in 1966.

The site is open from 10am and entrance is free on the open day. Recreational and educational activities are also available.



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Cava was first made in 1872 by José Raventós who established a new industry with Codorniu cellars established at Sant Sadurní d'Anoia between 1895 and 1915.

They were designed by renowned Catalán architect Josep Puig i Cadafach.

Tragically in 1930 the Phylloxera plague infested the vineyards, but the family fought back with innovative viticultural techniques and ensured survival, with Codorniu producing more than 100,000 bottles of cava annually by the end of the 20th century.

Nowadays, Codorniu with modern instal-

lations and the latest equipment continues to control the production process of its cavas from vineyard planting to finished product.

Wines produced with different blends of Chardonnay, Macabeo, Xarel·lo, Parellada, Pinot Noir and reserve wines are: Anna de Codorniu Brut, Codorniu 1551 Brut Natural, Codorniu Mediterranea Brut Natural, Cuvée Raventós Brut Natural, Codorniu Rosé Brut, Cuvée Reina Maria Cristina Brut, Delapierre 'D' Brut, Delapierre Glacé Prestige Brut, Gran Codorniu Brut, Jaume de Codorniu Brut and Non Plus Ultra Reserva Vintage Brut.

Codorniu has been one of the innovators of Wine Tourism in Spain, providing the infrastructure necessary for an interesting visit to their cellars at Sant Sadurní d'Anoia which in 1976 were declared a National Monument of Historical and Artistic Interest by King Juan Carlos.

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

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



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



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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



Ref 3118, Lluçmajor, 106,500€

Apartment in good state of repair, 3rd floor. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, 2 balconies. No lift. Living area 90m² plus terraces.



Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

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



THE extravagant mansion where Gianni Versace lived features in the new film *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*, which premiered this week.

Viewers will get a look inside the luxurious estate where the designer was tragically murdered by Andrew Cunanan in 1997.

Today, the house is known as the Villa Casa Casuarina, a 19,000 square-foot exclusive boutique hotel.

It features 10 custom guest suites with marble bathrooms, separate living areas, and balconies.

Other amenities include a pool, a spa, two private lounges and a rooftop bar.

Those thinking of treating themselves to a stay at the mansion will have to brace themselves for some serious pricing.

Suites start at \$899 (€734) and \$1,199 (€979) on weekends, but the excitement from the film could drive those rates up quickly.

Casa Casuarina was originally built in 1930 by Alden Freeman, heir to an oil fortune. In 1992, Versace was on a walk with his family and was drawn to the grand Spanish Architecture and the 'Kneeling Aphrodite' statue outside.

The designer splashed out €32 million to completely reconstruct the building, adding a new wing, tiled pool and thousands of 24-karat gold mosaics.

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Mallorca Prime Homes, with its multi-lingual staff, prides itself on its customer service where each person who gets in touch is treated as an individual and is entitled to receive a service that is second to none.

Buying a property is probably the largest expense that anyone has to commit to and it can be a very trying time. Mallorca Prime Homes goes out of its way to learn what their customers are looking for and facilitate helping every step of the way, whilst also being able to offer legal assistance regarding sales, purchases or rentals.

Putting a property on the market can often be a traumatic event and the reasons for doing so are sometimes quite complex. The staff at Mallorca Prime Homes, who fluently speak English, Spanish, German and Russian go out of their way to listen to their clients in order to ensure that they market the property to a wide and potentially affluent audience.

Many of their clients (both sellers and buyers) have been attracted by positive feedback from friends and family. This speaks volumes for the high regard in which the company is held by customers from across the globe, with many coming from England,

Germany, Russia, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa as well as locals from Spain.

Mallorca is a beautiful destination for a holiday or a permanent residence mainly because of its spectacular weather. Mallorca Prime Homes, whilst operating mainly on the south west of the Island, does in fact have the ability to cover the whole of the island to suit all tastes and pockets whether the client would like to buy, sell or rent a property.

In a modern world people expect to receive an efficient service and Mallorca Prime Homes manages to combine old-fashioned ideals with the most up to date marketing solutions. This means that properties are marketed efficiently and thoroughly, with both personal contact and extensive media platforms.

After many years of experience on the mainland, Mallorca Prime Homes opened their business on the island in 2011 and have steadily built up a reputation of professionalism, trustworthiness and exclusivity.

This sits at the heart of the business because their experts go out of their way to carefully select high quality and attractive properties suited to each client's taste.

Open from 10am to 7pm Monday to Friday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm, the company can be contacted by phone on +34 971 69 21 21, or by email on info@mallorcaprimehomes.com.

Alternatively, you are welcome to stop by their office on Avda. Rey Jaime I, Nº 116, local 3, 07180 Santa Ponsa, Mallorca or visit their website www.mallorcaprimehomes.com

Advertising Feature

Working together to improve life

IN 2012 Mark Wiersma and wife Ans Lammers purchased a former coal mine estate on Mallorca, covering three hectares.

There are still some of the old buildings on the estate such as a storage building for the coal and the mine tower.

And the couple live in Mallorca during the winter and then spend the summer in the Netherlands or Sweden.

In 2011 they completed house renovations in Sweden and wanted another project so whilst living in a 100 person town in Sweden was fine they started to search for another 'project' and checked out Mallorca for a couple of weeks in early spring 2012.

After having seen many properties they were about to leave without buying anything, until they found their paradise, the old mine complex.

The couple have created a small orange garden, a small vineyard and of course they enjoy the nice weather all year around except the hot summer months of

July and August.

The idea to create Hovos.com

There is always a lot to do on La Mina San Cayetano, indeed too much for them to handle and although

friends help them when they are here, it is still not enough to get everything done. Even though it is just a small vineyard and orange garden and some other cultivated gardens with flower beds, it needs regular attention.

"We recruited a few volunteers through websites like *Wwoofers*, *HelpX* and *Work-Away* and this kind of worked, but I was not really impressed by these websites.



TEAM EFFORT: Working together to help each other.

Photo by www.hovos.com

"So the idea came up to create our own marketplace for hosts and volunteers. We named it *Hovos.com*, which stands for HOsts and VOLunteers,

About Hovos

Hovos is a marketplace for hosts and volunteers. A typical host is someone who needs help with something, which could be anything, from fixing a roof to weeding or pruning, teaching a language, au-pair etc. In return for the help - it's usual that the volunteer helps four to five hours per day, five days a week - the hosts offers accommodation and board.

The plan is to take this format to a higher level by recognising three types of host:

- 1) *Help Exchange Hosts*: offering accommodation and board in return for a few hours' work per day, no money involved
- 2) *Work Exchange Hosts*: offering accommodation and board but also some sort of pocket money for the volunteer
- 3) *Experience Exchange Hosts*: offering accommodation and board, but also some sort of course or workshop: the traveller pays the host.

Right now they have some 13,000 volunteers and travellers registered and around 1,600 hosts.

which is a unique name" explained Marc.

What they did before Hovos

"Before Hovos we were the owners of one of the leading home exchange websites, *HomeForExchange.com* and prior to selling that, were involved with numerous online services, website development, building complete internet casinos (see our timeline on www.pimpernel.com)" continued the entrepreneur.

Time to start planting seeds for spring

GRAEME TYRRELL

IF you like to grow your own plants to save cost, add interest from the huge range of plants available from seed, or just want to grow your plants in the way you like, now is the time to start planting.

Seeds are relatively cheap for many garden varieties in comparison to buying seedlings. A packet can provide seed for a series of plantings, to allow a continuous harvest of vegetables or a sequence of flowers over spring and summer.

I use special trays to grow a batch of seedlings, and when they are ready to plant out into the garden, I plant another batch from the same packet. It works well with vegetables like lettuce or flowers, including petunia, that have a long growing season, which permits planting through all of spring and summer.

There is a huge range of different plants that can be grown from seed, that cannot usually be found as seedlings or small

plants in the nurseries. This makes it much more interesting to garden with many unusual and exotic plants. This year I am growing a variety of passion fruit, sent over from Australia, that is not generally available here in Spain.

Growing your own can also be a great way to coordinate with other gardeners and neighbours, to have something to exchange if you grow more than you need. Probably half my garden is planted with varieties obtained in this way.



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Hugh Carville is a famous face on Mallorca, having entertained the masses for 5 years at popular venue 'The Stadium'. He's a music aficionado who can tell his Black Sabbath from his Black Lace.

Hugh's radio career started when he was a regular host of the legendary weekend radio show 'English Radio Mallorca'. On air he highlighted weekly events and was one member of the popular team who's show has now become part of Mallorca's history.

Hugh has his finger on the pulse of what's happening on Mallorca and brings you local news, events, charity updates, gossip, and much more each day on Spectrum Mallorca.

Hugh has lived on Mallorca for 10 years and shares a home with his fiancé in Palmanova. He loves to help with the various charities on the island and enjoys walking in the mountains of Mallorca. Having learnt his DJ trade in various clubs and bars in and around London, he decided to make his move to the wonderful island of Mallorca; which he now calls home. You can listen to Hugh in the mornings on Spectrum FM from 8am to 12 pm.

Have an event? Get in contact with Hugh on hugh@spectrumfm.net or via Facebook @mallorcaspectrum

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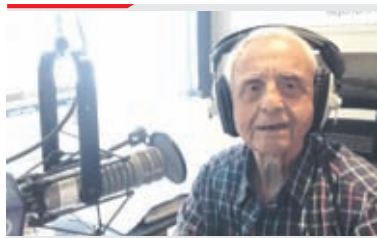


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OVER the years, hundreds of you have informed me that your male and female dogs like to mount you sexually by rubbing on your leg, a cushion or a toy. This is called masturbation which should not be encouraged.

Some owners stand their rights and say the dog has been spayed/neutered and it cannot



OVER-EXCITED: Don't allow your dog to mount you.

do any harm. Dogs that are spayed are able to have sex, but are unable to breed. Quite often, behaviourists and vets decide to spay the animal since testosterone is running high, which causes excitement and makes the animal high.

To say the least, it is unhealthy to allow a dog - male or female - to mount you.

In fact I have known large breeds that love it so much they will not let go, and often it takes two or three people to remove the dog. This is very confusing for the dog and it can turn aggressive. The other danger is that this can happen to a child or elderly person.

Many owners are unaware that dogs will leave sperm on the leg, and often on its body, which leaves a smell. Some dogs like cushions; these should be removed.

When a dog is mounting a leg he/she is very comfortable so how do we make this uncomfortable? Simply flick them off your body like you would a fly or just get up and walk away with a 'no' then say 'good dog' but keep walking.

If you have a dog that likes to do this it is advisable to speak to your vet.

Keeping pets happy at home while you're on holiday

MOST of us like to go away on holiday at least once a year, and January seems to be the time to plan our seasonal escapes. But what to do with the pets? If like me you worry about intelligent pets becoming bored, stressed or agitated if left at home for long periods, or even in unfamiliar surroundings while you are away then think about finding housesitters to stay in your home and care for your pets.

Many people are finding that house-sitters are a good solution - they stay in your home to care for your pets, to play with them and make sure they are comfortable and safe in their own environment.

What do you need to do?

- If you have pets and need house-sitters - Register on our site as a 'homeowner' and provide photos and general information about your location and



Photo by Brittany Sharran

KEEP YOUR PETS HAPPY AT HOME WITH PET-SITTERS: Intelligent pets need entertainment.

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Peter, Pet owner in Spain
We found this to be a well run website with a personal touch. Well worth trying.
 (See more reviews in Trustpilot)

your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £75 per year we help you at every step.

- If you have experience with home and pet care and want to house-sit in Spain or abroad - Register as a 'house-sitter,' build a profile with photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners with pets. Choose a Premium plan for £75 per year, you can build a large profile with more prominence online.

Save

Hurry! Join now to secure 2017 prices being held through January 2018.

Who are the pet-sitters and why will they want to house-sit for free?

Most of the pet-sitters and house-sitters who join HouseSitMatch are looking to spend time in a new location and exchange their service for free accommodation. It's a working holiday with agreed requirements on both sides.

Brave new world

PET owners can now keep their pet up to date on all their next social media exploits with BEPUPPY, the first pet social network.

The revolutionary social network now allows owners to tag their pets in posts, through the use of dedicated usernames.

When you register a pet, BEPUPPY assigns them with their own web address, for example 'Bepuppy.com/+fluffy', allowing owners to then tag their pets in their online activities.

This will allegedly allow pet owners to communicate with each other at a distance, and could prove useful when owners find themselves separated from their furry friends.

For example, pet-sitters

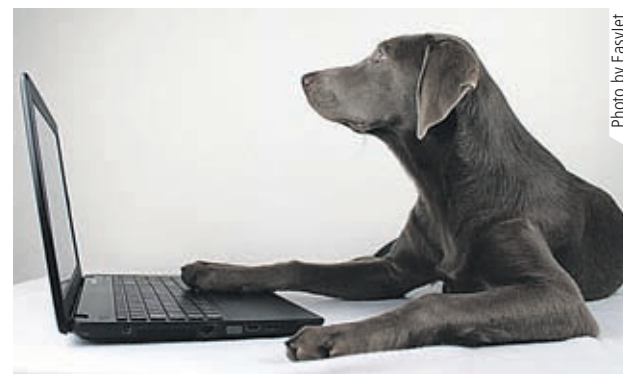


Photo by EasyJet

CYBER PUP: Is your dog computer savvy?

will be able to reassure nervous owners while they're away by tagging their dogs in a photo taken during a walk in the park, or during dinner time.

It will also allow the pet-sitters to keep check on the animals once they've said goodbye, just by searching for the animal in the network so

they don't have to bother their owners. In this way it could also be a useful tool for friends and family members to keep updated of any potential updates in the pet's life.

The feature even has an 'alert' service in case the animal gets lost, meaning anyone can communicate sightings or contact the family of a missing pet.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation!

Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HouseSitMatch.com
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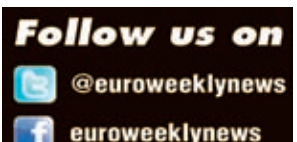
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Excitement and sadness

THE fourth leg of the Volvo Ocean Race saw Scallywag, the Hong Kong based team arrive in first place to the joy of a large home crowd.

Donfeng came in second but overall leaders, the Spanish boat MAPFRE came in a surprising fifth after trailing for most of the race.

It was the first time that the Spanish team has finished off the podium and means that their overall lead is cut to four points after four legs.

Skipper Xabi Fernández admitted that the result was far from ideal, but pinpoints a bit of bad luck in the Doldrums as the key reason his crew finished down the rankings into Asia.

By managing to push MAPFRE down the leader board, the race has become much more open and although there are still seven more legs, taking the vessels many thousands of miles, at least it hasn't become an early 'one horse race.'

Amongst the excitement however there was considerable sadness as a collision between Vestas 11th Hour Racing, and a fishing vessel resulted in a fatality of a crew member of the fishing vessel.

The incident occurred approximately 30 miles from the finish of Leg 4, outside of



Photo by Volvo Ocean Race Facebook

IN COLLISION: Vestas 11th Hour Racing suffered a fatal accident.

Hong Kong waters. Race Control at Volvo Ocean Race headquarters was informed of the collision by the team moments after it happened on Friday January 19 and they issued a Mayday distress call on behalf of the other vessel, alerting the Hong Kong Marine Res-

cue Coordination Centre (HKMRCC) and undertook a search and rescue mission.

HKMRCC later informed Race Control that a commercial vessel in the area was able to rescue nine of the crew and that a 10th crew member was taken by heli-

copter to hospital but later died.

None of the Vestas 11th Hour Racing was injured and after arriving in Hong Kong and expressing their sadness at the event will now be assisting the investigation in order to try to identify what happened.



Photo by Sculati and Partners

CRUISING HOME: The Azimut S7 wowed the judges.

The S7 makes waves at the Dusseldorf Boat Show

THE Azimut S7 has won the European Power Boat of the Year 2018 award at the Dusseldorf International Boat Show. With the event taking place on January 20, the yacht took home the prize in the over-45 ft category.

Designed by Stefano Righini and Francesco Guida before being

unveiled last September at the Cannes Boat Show, the Azimut S7 has an innovative layout.

The exteriors have diamond-shaped deckhouse windows in a design that reflects light to give the boat a unique character.

It has four spacious cabins, a platform expander and a garage

for jet skis and other equipment.

The EPY awards are the highlight of the boating calendar and the result represents a huge success for the Italian brand, and a stamp of quality of its models by the industry. Each year a panel of international experts from leading publications choose the winners.

The boats are put through rigorous testing and assessment based on their design, onboard safety, performance, handling and quality/price ratio.

The Azimut S7 has been designed and built to the highest standards and is covered by the HTS High Technical Standard declaration.

The yacht is also eligible for CEA and NMMA certification for vessels under 24 metres.

Azimut Yachts are stealing the show

ITALIAN yacht builder Azimut has six of its models on display at the Dusseldorf International Boat Show.

These include two that are fresh out of the factory, Atlantis 51 and Azimut Flybridge 55.

On a business level, the yachting season (which started in September 2017) has been very good for the Italian brand. It has reported an order book increase of 30 per cent against the same period the previous year.

The international event is taking place in the German city from January 20-28.

The sporty and aggressive styling of the Atlantis 51 is the work of designers Marco Biaggi

and Filippo Salvetti who have worked with Azimut since 2009.

Performance and space on board are two of the standout features of the yacht.

Sleek exterior lines and exteriors featuring soft wave-like shapes are the distinctive features of Flybridge 55.

The yacht's two designers, Stefano Righini and Achille Salvagni also have a longstanding relationship with the Azimut company, and the latter has brought his distinctive residential architecture-influenced style to

the interiors.

Azimut Yachts' Managing Director, Marco Valle said: "Our launch strategy has proved to be a winning one.

"A key factor has been the support of a team of architects who have different styles and approaches, with whose help we are successfully bringing to market products with strong personalities."

RAPID PROGRESS: The Atlantis 51 is expected to be popular with buyers.

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**Clarkson Quote
of the Week**

On the BMW Z3: And if you are clinically insane, by which I mean you wake up in the morning and think you are an onion, here's your car."
Some might say...



X-Class glamping!

MERCEDES' brand new X Class pickup has a camper van conversion option.

The German car giants turned a few heads when they announced their first ever pickup late last year, announcing the X220d and the upscale X250d.

Prices are thought to begin at approximately €30,932 for the X220d while the X250d range starts at €34,148.

And now brand new images have been released of the X-Class to show that it can be more than just the average pickup.

In the new images, the X-Class has been given a makeover by specialist firm Tischer, turning it into a car perfect for camping.

The firm have added a cabin, which can be taken on and off, that sits directly on the load bed of the truck, with plenty of room inside for the perfect getaway.

Unbe-leaf-able

Nissan's newest LEAF selling fast

JUST three months after the new Nissan LEAF was announced, the car giants have revealed that they have sold more than 12,000 of the cars already; before even hitting showrooms.

Three hundred thousand customers have purchased the original Nissan Leaf since it went on sale in 2010 and the car giants have revealed the staggering numbers of people to already purchase the new model.

The New 2018 LEAF made its European bow at the Nissan Futures 3.0 event in October and on the company's newest release, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Nissan Europe, Philippe Saillard, said: "The new Nissan LEAF is the most advanced and accessible 100 per cent electric vehicle.

"It is also the icon of Nissan Intelli-

gent Mobility, our blueprint for a future in redefining the way customers drive and how vehicles are powered and integrated into society.

"This is a car that is more enjoyable, more connected and more exciting to drive than any other mainstream electric vehicle in history. It is simply amazing."

When it comes to specifications, the new LEAF will have overhauled the old model and will now have improved acceleration, capable of reaching 0-100kmh in just 7.9 seconds.

Its electrical range will allow drivers to travel 415km on a single charge, while charging time from alert to 80 per cent takes just 40 to 60 minutes.

A completely redesigned interior focuses on the driver and combines



SELLING FAST: Nissan's brand new LEAF.

space with functionality, while a number of new futuristic features have also been added.

The Leaf is packed with Intelligent Mobility innovative technologies, including ProPILOT Park, which is an automatic parking function capable of both parallel and bay parking after the driver selects a spot proposed by the system.

Another innovative feature is the car's e-pedal. By releasing the accelerator, the car will decelerate and eventually come to a complete stop, without the need to press the brake.

This allegedly helps reduce fatigue and stress in city driving.

The new Leaf will officially hit European showrooms at the beginning of next month.

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Lexus CT200h F Sport

THE luxury hybrid hatchback class is a significant niche market, with models aimed at those seeking premium quality and sporty styling in a compact package.

Add eco-credentials to the mix and one contender moves to the head of the list, the Lexus CT200h, just revised and enhanced for 2018.

It is a hybrid, mating a 1.8 litre petrol engine, with an electric motor and CVT auto transmission, and the result is smooth refined driving, from a car with visual charisma and a luxurious interior.

Prices start at €26,414 (£23,495) for a well-kitted entry version, though the mid-range F Sport I tested features revised body styling for a more muscular image, and extra equipment.

For €30,343 (£26,995) you get special F Sport front grille,

bumpers and rear spoiler, F Sport steering wheel, aluminium pedals, special 17 inch alloy wheels and sports suspension. You also get leather upholstery, large display screen with satnav, dual-zone climate control and a raft of safety features, including a pre-collision system and lane-keep assist.

The petrol engine and electric motor combine to give 134

hp, with a 0-100 kph time of 10.3 seconds and a top speed of 180 kph (112 mph). Fuel economy is 24.3 kpl (68.9 mpg).

The road stance of the Lexus CT200h F Sport is head-turning, and it stands out in a sector which includes rivals such as, the SEAT Leon, Audi A3 and BMW 1 Series.

The Lexus is smooth and quiet, the gearshifts seamless.

The sports suspension is quite firm, as you discover on rough surfaces, but is well-set for assured and composed handling.

The cabin has a premium look and while the dashboard is unusually styled and appears complex, it has a logical layout. Seating is comfortable, there is ample room for four occupants and a big boot - 385 litres, expandable to 985 litres.

This Lexus offers distinctive styling, luxury features and strong residual values which hallmark the brand.

STATS PANEL

- **Model:** Lexus CT200h F Sport
- **Engine:** 1.8 litre petrol with electric motor
- **Transmission:** Auto electric CVT
- **Performance:** 0-100 kph 10.3 seconds, top speed 180 kph (112 mph)
- **Economy:** 24.3 kpl (68.9 mpg)
- **Emissions:** 94 g/km



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

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Ron gone

Former Barcelona star Ronaldinho retires

FORMER Barcelona forward Ronaldinho has retired from professional football at the age of 37 according to his agent Roberto Assis.

The superstar, who is considered one of the best players to ever play the game, has been without a club since he left Brazilian side Fluminense in 2015.

Assis wrote in a column for Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*, "He has stopped, it is ended.

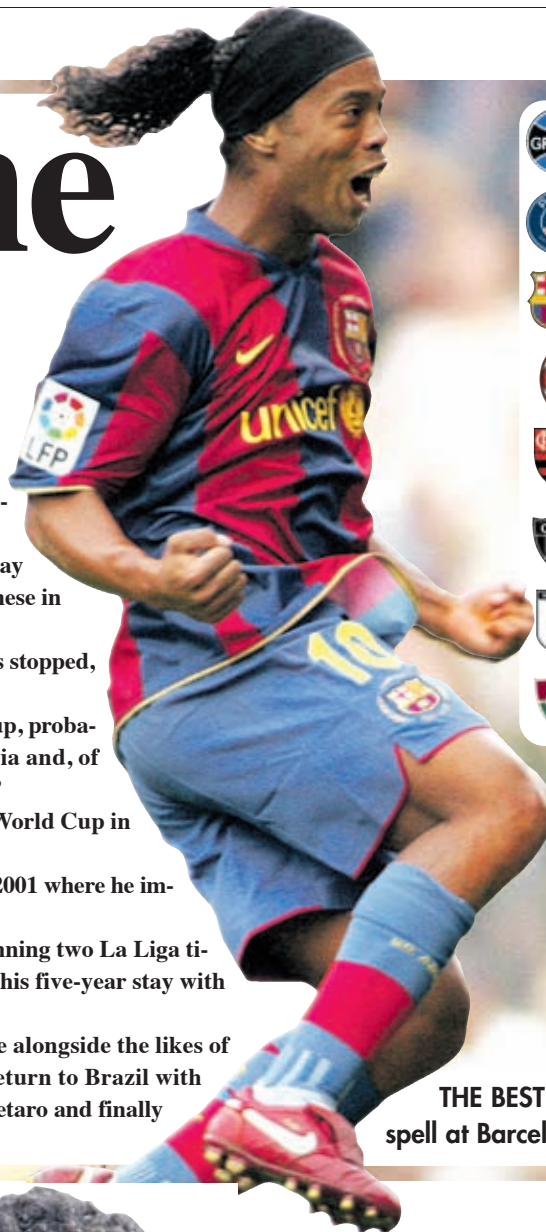
"Let's do something pretty big and nice after the Russia World Cup, probably in August. We will do various events in Brazil, Europe and Asia and, of course, we are arranging something with the Brazilian team as well."

The Brazilian enjoyed an illustrious career in which he won the World Cup in 2002, the Champions League in 2006 and the Ballon d'Or in 2005.

He began his career in Brazil with Gremio, before joining PSG in 2001 where he impressed ahead of a move to the Nou Camp in 2003.

Many would say that it was there where he defined his career, winning two La Liga titles, a Champions League trophy and the 2005 Ballon d'Or during his five-year stay with the Catalan club.

Ronaldinho then formed part of the 2010/11 Serie A winning side alongside the likes of David Beckham, Andrea Pirlo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic before a return to Brazil with Atletico Mineiro in 2011, followed by spells with Mexican side Queretaro and finally Fluminense.



| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | 1997 – 2000 | Gremio (Brazil) | 121 Matches • 58 Goals |
| | 2001 – 2003 | PSG (France) | 77 Matches • 25 Goals |
| | 2003 – 2008 | FC Barcelona (Spain) | 207 Matches • 94 Goals |
| | 2008 – 2011 | A C Milan (Italy) | 95 Matches • 26 Goals |
| | 2011 – 2012 | Flamengo (Brazil) | 72 Matches • 28 Goals |
| | 2012 – 2014 | Atl. Mineiro (Brazil) | 85 Matches • 27 Goals |
| | 2014 – 2015 | Queretaro (México) | 29 Matches • 8 Goals |
| | 2015 | Fluminense (Brazil) | 9 Matches • 0 Goals |

THE BEST EVER?: The Brazilian enjoyed a fantastic spell at Barcelona before moving to AC Milan in 2008.

Ex-Brazil striker Ronaldo reveals plans to buy lower league club 'in Spain or England'

FORMER Brazil striker Ronaldo has announced that he is thinking about buying a lower league football club in either Spain or England.

The ex-striker, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers to ever grace the game, hung up his boots in 2011 after a career stretching 18 years.

The 41-year-old's name has been regularly talked about as the future Brazilian Football Federation's President.

But, for the time being, the two-time World Cup winner has ruled himself out of the running for the presidency, but has revealed that he would be interested in owning a club in either the Spanish or English second division.

"It would be a great honour, but before that I want to experience running a big club," he told *Folha de S Paulo*.

"I'm thinking about buying a club in the second division in Spain or England.

"I want to do something innovative. I think



SPAIN ON HIS MIND: Ronaldo has said he is thinking about buying a club in either Spain or England.

I'm prepared for the challenge."

Former Real Madrid, Barcelona, AC Milan and Inter Milan striker Ronaldo scored 300 goals across his career and won many of the top trophies all over the world.

Nine Saudi players move to Spain as part of Saudi-La Liga partnership

NINE separate loan deals for Saudi Arabian players across Spain's top two divisions occurred this weekend as part of a deal between the General Sports Authority (GSA) of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) and La Liga.

The deal has been done which will see all the players, who currently play in the Saudi first division, join La Liga sides ahead of Saudi Arabia's return to the World Cup later this year, their first tournament since 2006.

Three players who were instrumental in helping the national team to World Cup qualification will join La Liga first teams, while the others will join Segunda division sides and youth academies respectively.

Players joining La Liga sides include Yahya Al-Shehri who has signed for Leganes, Fahad Al-Muwallad joins Levante and Salem Al Sawsari has signed for Villarreal.



PLAYERS: Have joined on an initial six month loan deal.

Elsewhere, Jaber Issa joins Villarreal B while Nooh Al Mousa moves to Real Valladolid, Abdulmajeed Al Sulayhi signs for Rayo Vallecano, Ali Al Namer joins Numancia and Abdullah Al Hamdan has sealed a switch to Sporting Gijon.

In a statement, La Liga said: 'LaLiga Santander and LaLiga 1 | 2 | 3, the first and second division of Spain's professional football competition, respectively, announced that they will take nine players from Saudi Arabia on loan.

'The incorporation of

players from Saudi Arabia in the Spanish clubs follows a rigorous scouting programme that spanned multiple months to identify the best talent.'

The statement continued: 'For the Spanish clubs, adding players from Saudi Arabia not only expands their squads, it also means added exposure in the Arab world.

'As part of the agreement with La Liga, SAFF is also working to create local football academies in Saudi Arabia under the brand, technical supervision, and expertise of La Liga.'

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REAL MADRID are currently as close to the relegation zone as they are to current La Liga leaders Barcelona. Last year's Champions currently sit on 35 points, 19 points behind Barcelona and 19 points ahead of 18th placed Deportivo La Coruña.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

www.euroweeklynews.com

Carlos Sainz wins Dakar rally Age just a number

FIFTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Carlos Sainz has won the Dakar rally for the second time in his career.

The Spaniard held an hour and 45 seconds lead going into Saturday's final stretch in Cordoba and finished 43 minutes ahead of Toyota's Nasser Al-Attiyah in second-place.

He finished in 49 hours, 16 minutes and 18 seconds overall and celebrated by climbing on top of his car at the end of the South American rally.

Following the celebrations, the rally driver thanked fans and his team for support on social media.

He said: "Finally we win the Dakar thanks for the incredible support during these days!! Fantastic job from Lucas Cruz (co-driver) and Peugeot Sport."



Credit: @LucasCruz74/Twitter

CELEBRATIONS: Sainz (right) celebrates his Dakar rally win with co-driver Lucas Cruz.

Sainz's second Dakar trophy comes eight years after his first in 2010, when he drove for Volkswagen in the second edition of the famous rally.

He finished ninth in Saturday's finale, but was under less pressure after 13-time winner and closest rival Stephane Peterhansel, known as 'Mr Dakar,' crashed on Friday.

His son, F1 Driver Carlos Sainz Jr, was one of many

to congratulate the 55-year-old in the aftermath of the victory.

Accompanying a photo of the pair when Sainz Jr was a child, the 23-year-old wrote on Twitter: "Today I am probably the proudest son of his father in the whole world. Winner of the toughest Dakar ever done at 55 years of age and he did it in his own way. Congrats matador! Congrats Lucas Cruz!"

King of Singapore Garcia wins first tournament of the year

SERGIO GARCIA has started 2018 where he left off last year as he won the Singapore Open by five shots.

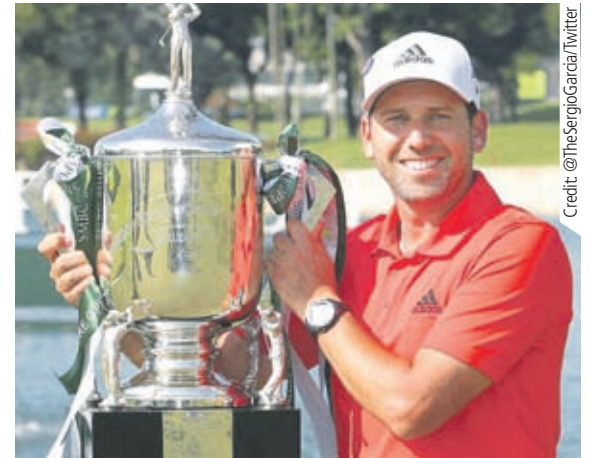
The Spaniard carded a three-under par 68 in the final-round to finish the tournament at 14-under, 270.

The 38-year-old recorded just three bogeys across 72 holes and the victory gives Garcia the 33rd title of his professional career.

Garcia was forced to return to the course at dawn on the final day as play was suspended on Saturday due to lightning strikes.

The 38-year-old flew through his last nine holes of his penultimate round in 4-under for a round of 66 to take a one-shot lead into the final round.

He returned to the course not long after and wrapped up the title in stunning fashion, recording a 68 after recording 10 straight pars to win the tournament that he finished 11th in this time last year.



Credit: @TheSergioGarcia/Twitter

HITTING NEW HEIGHTS: Garcia won his 33rd title with a victory in Singapore.

Garcia enjoyed an excellent season last year as he won three times on the Tour, including the Andalucia Valderrama Masters which he hosted, as well as the Masters at Augusta National for the first time.

His season was topped off at the end of the year by being named the Hilton European Tour Golfer of the Year for the first time.

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