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MALLORCA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Thief gunned down

by Joe Gerrard

A 25-year-old has died in hospital after being shot while he and others allegedly attempted to rob thousands of euros from a villa in Porreres.

Three other men have since been arrested and held in connection with the robbery which saw the group allegedly demand money from the elderly owner of the house. Freddy EB, the twin of the man shot, reportedly handed himself in.

Pau Rigo, the 77-year-old homeowner, reportedly shot the 25-year-old at point blank range with a shotgun.

He said he acted in self defence and feared for his life, according to Spanish media.

Dozens of police officers and a helicopter searched for the accused men for hours after authorities were first alerted to what had



Picture by Masqueguardiacivil/Instagram

UNDER INVESTIGATION: Police cornered off the area following the shooting.

happened at the house.

The Guardia Civil have been attempting to establish the course of events from accounts they have gathered so far in their investigations.

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Happy Balearic Islands Day!

MALLORCANS are celebrating Day of the Balearic Islands today (Thursday), with events planned throughout the island.

The holiday marks the day when the islands were granted their autonomous community status on March 1, 1983. This year is the 35th anniversary of the statute coming into effect.

Medieval markets, concerts, sports events, exhibitions and public readings are planned.

See us on page 28



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NEWS EXTRA**Jailed for sex abuse**

A 47-YEAR-OLD man found guilty of sexually assaulting the nine-year-old daughter of his friends at their home in Palma will go to prison for two years and pay €5,000 in damages following a court ruling.

Drugs seized

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for alleged drugs trafficking after police raided a site in the El Molinar area of Palma and seized more than 250 marijuana plants.

Police raids

GUARDIA CIVIL officers have arrested seven people during raids on several houses in Manacor and Felanitx as part of an operation against an alleged group of thieves operating on the islands.

MP denies corruption charges

Russian politician on trial as part of mafia money-laundering

by Benjamin Park

A RUSSIAN MP has appeared in a Spanish court on trial with 18 other suspects accused of money-laundering for a mafia gang through purchasing luxury villas in Mallorca.

Vladislav Reznik, a member of United Russia, lives in Russia but voluntarily attended the trial in Madrid and told the court that he had turned up in order to prove his innocence.

Spanish prosecutors claim that Mr Reznik had links to alleged Russian gang bosses Alexander Malyshev and Genady Petrov who are currently on the run.

The case dates back 10 years to 2008, when 20 Russian mafia suspects were arrested as part of Spanish police's 'Operation Troika'.

Prosecutors also allege that money laundering by Moscow gangsters in Spain first began in the 1990's when wealthy Rus-

sians started purchasing luxury villas in the Balearic Islands and the Costa del Sol.

According to reports, Spanish prosecutors believe that more than €50 million of Russian mafia money was laundered through property purchases in Spain by the so called 'Tambovskaya-Mayshevskaya' gang, based in St Petersburg.

Mr Reznik, who denies



Twitter

ON TRIAL: Russian MP Vladislav Reznik.

charges of both money laundering and being a member of a criminal organisation, told the court that he bought a property in Mallorca for €1.2 million with his own, personal money and not that of the Russian mafia.

"I got nothing from anyone for free and paid (with) my personal money," Mr Reznik told the court.

"I do not have criminal money."

However, Mr Reznik, whose wife Diana Gindin is also on trial, did admit to meeting Petrov in Mallorca, claiming that he knew he was a success-

ful businessman.

And at the trial, prosecutors produced wiretapped conversations which they claim proved Mr Reznik's involvement with the criminal gangs.

According to reports it is claimed that the Russian MP was informed by another alleged gangster, Ilya Traber; also on the run, about Petrov's willingness to sell his villa.

For most of the suspects, prosecutors have demanded sentences of up to five-and-a-half years in prison alongside fines that could reach up to €100 million.

Two of the accused have already struck deals with the prosecution to secure lighter prison sentences and smaller fines.

Mikhail Rebo was given a two year prison sentence and a €1.6 million fine, while Leonid Khazine was given a suspended seven month sentence and fined €26,000.

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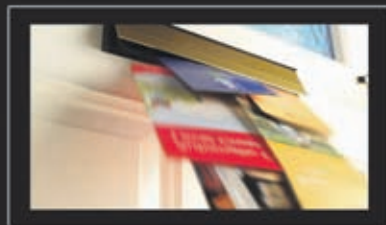
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Council plea over rapper

PALMA'S council have requested the rapper Valtency be acquitted following a Supreme Court decision to uphold his three and half year prison sentence for slander and inciting violence. The motion passed following a vote by councillors said the ruling violated his right to free speech.

Home concerns

MALLORCA'S infrastructure councillor has raised the building of luxury homes in the village of Deia at a meeting in Madrid amid concerns it would impact on the Tramuntana mountain range. Mercedes Garrido said the Petit Deia development could have a visual impact on the area.

Tunnel closes

A WOMAN aged around 60 was taken to hospital after losing control of her car which then overturned and resulted in the closure of the Bendinat tunnel. She was reportedly trapped inside the vehicle, which blocked two lanes of the motorway, until firefighters rescued her.

Officer trial

PRIVATE prosecutors have requested 12 years in prison for a police officer accused of harassing a colleague. The court heard the man forced the complainant to clean, buy him sandwiches and tobacco, controlling his movements and having him watch. The man denied the charges.

Tributes paid

PALMA'S mayor visited the Memory Wall in the city's cemetery to pay his respects to the victims of Francoism for a Day of Remembrance on Sunday. Antoni Noguera said citizens should fight to defend democracy and that the victims of fascism would be remembered.

GHOST TOWN: Villagers are possessed by evil spirits that emerge from a mysterious crack in the ground each year.

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 3

Photo by Twitter

Black as the devil

ACCORDING to legend, they escape the underworld through a mysterious crack in the earth once per year.

And in the small village of Luzon, Castile-La Mancha, the demons roam the streets in one of Spain's most macabre celebrations.

Known as the Festival of Devils and Masks [La Fiesta de los Diablos y Mascaritas], revellers daub their faces with oil and soot before don-

ning horns and cow bells as they transform into servants of evil.

A set of huge, fearsome teeth carved from a potato completes the fiendish look of the diablos, innocent villagers possessed by evil spirits.

They wander the village, 'cursing' onlookers by smearing them with black marks.

The only people safe from their sinister touch are the mascaritas, white-masked figures clad in tradi-

tional women's clothing.

While the first records of the bizarre ritual date back to the 14th century, its genuine origin is unknown.

Outlawed during the reign of former dictator Francisco Franco, the event was rebooted in the 1980s.

Today, any type of costume - from cartoon characters to nuns to pirates - can be worn to avoid the demons' wicked touch.

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Will to win

EWN scoops national award



Karl Smallman

'HONOURED': EWN publishers Michel and Steven Euesden (centre) accept their award.

THE *Euro Weekly News* has bagged a national press association award for the second year in a row.

It comes after Spain's leading English-language weekly newspaper picked up the Professional Trajectory Award at the 2018 Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards.

According to the organisers, the award is won by a company 'for its successes and outstanding professional journey.'

The jury featured Jose Manuel Velasco, president of Global Alliance, the international confederation of PR and communication management associations, and Miguel Justribo, Corporate Communication Director of Telepizza Spain, among others.

Other winners included national daily newspaper *El Español*, Spanish news website *El Diario*, and American streaming giant *Netflix*.

The association said in a statement: "We want to recognise the *Euro Weekly* - the leading English newspaper - as an invaluable information resource for the foreign community living on our coasts."

The AEEPP Awards event is now in its 12th year and is considered to be among the most pres-

tigious press awards in Spain.

The AEEPP comprises around 100 publishing firms which together produce more than 900 titles covering both online and printed media, with an estimated annual readership of almost 130 million.

EWN publishers Michel and Steven Euesden were on hand to collect the award at the glittering gala event, which took place in the auditorium of the famous Royal Post Office building in Spanish capital Madrid.

After collecting the award, a delighted Michel said: "The EWN Media Group is a family of people who work day and night throughout the year with dedication and passion."

"We are so honoured to have received this award from the AEEPP."

"As a team we work hard and believe in the future of all printed and digital publications."

"We would like to give thanks to our wonderful clients and readers."

"But in the main this award is for a team that has given everything over the last year, and we must also recognise their partners, as anyone in the world who works in print will understand."

"A massive congratulations to everyone."

POLL OF THE WEEK

Should Spain be allowed to co-manage Gibraltar Airport?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Do you agree with the Balearics' decision to ban tourists from travelling to the islands in diesel or petrol cars?

Yes **54%**No **46%**

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UK benefit cheating great-gran - who secretly owned Spanish holiday home - avoids jail



BENEFIT CHEAT: Great-gran Sally Folan.

- 6,075** views UK Benefit cheating great-gran who secretly owned Spanish holiday home avoids jail
- 3,928** views Thousands trapped as Canary Islands battered by heaviest storm in years
- 3,378** views Police officer dies after pitched battle between football fans in Spain
- 3,119** views Beach in Spain crowned as best in Europe and sixth best in world for 2018
- 3,053** views Ryanair crew declare mid-air emergency on flight from Spanish island to UK

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From Front Page

Death probe

Man killed after failed robbery

by Joe Gerrard

LOCAL POLICE said events began at around 9am on Saturday when the householder and businessman Pau Rigo was outside his home near the road to s'Olivar.

Two of the accused reportedly jumped him and took him inside the house where they beat him and then locked him in a room with his wife.

The robbers demanded he hand over money from a safe. Local Police said they were targeted because the man had thousands in coins from his slot machine business.

Rigo handed over around €10,000 but the group demanded he give them more, according to the son of the family.

The 77-year-old told the robbers he was going to get them more money. He returned with a shotgun and fired at Mauricio EB, a Colombian member of the

gang who bled heavily and suffered severe abdominal trauma as a result.

The remaining accused men fled the house after which Rigo alerted the emergency services and the security company which ran its alarm system.

Local Police from Porreres arrived shortly after and they were joined by two ambulances who took the wounded 25-year-old to hospital for an emergency operation. He reportedly died at around 2.30pm later that day.

Rigo and his wife were also taken to hospital and he was treated for injuries caused by the beating. The woman reportedly suffered a nervous breakdown.

Local Police launched a major operation to locate the robbers after they had fled, believing that they were hiding in the area. Their efforts were ended hours later after deciding the accused were elsewhere.

Mark RV, 58 and Jose Antonio

SL, 44 were arrested and are suspected to have been among those involved in the attempted robbery. Freddy EB has turned himself into police. They appeared in court for initial hearings in Manacor yesterday (Wednesday).

Criminal lawyers have reportedly said the 77-year-old may be able to argue he was acting in self defence should he be taken to court.

The court would have to determine whether the measures were a proportionate response in the circumstances.

If they were deemed to be so then Rigo would be exempt from criminal proceedings and would not be required to pay compensation to the victim's family, they added.

The investigation remains open as police are set to work to determine if those arrested were responsible for other robberies that have been reported in the area.

Parliament opens doors



OPEN DAY: Guided tours around the building of the Balearic Islands in Palma will be on offer from 4pm to 8pm today.

THE Balearic Islands Parliament is set to hold an open day in its building in Palma to mark the Day of the Balearic Islands today (Thursday).

A ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of the islands

being given autonomous community status, which coincides with the day, was held at midnight.

Students from the islands are also set to do readings from different articles of the

Statute of Autonomy. The president of the Parliament will also deliver a speech.

Guided tours are also set to be offered to the public on the hour between 4pm and 8pm, according to the Parliament.



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Purr-fect bikini bod

SHE'S the former Atomic Kitten singer who recently hit the headlines after changing her lifestyle.

Kerry Katona, 37, appeared keen to flaunt her beach body during a winter jaunt to Spain.

The Whole Again hitmaker slipped into a tiny fuchsia bikini as she showed off her toned physique while toping up her tan by the pool.

She again donned her favourite brown wig and posed for the waiting paparazzi before relaxing on a sun lounger and snapping some cheeky selfies.

The mum-of-five moved in with pal and Real Housewives of Cheshire stunner Ampika Pickston after splitting from third husband George Kay.

And she showed off her body transformation on Loose Women after revealing exercise changed her figure when she stopped taking drugs for bipolar disorder.

She said: "Exercise is a massive thing, more than anything and I've been off medication now for about eight months."

NAKED AMBITION: Emily Ratajkowski and (inset) her Vanity Fair Spain cover.

Photo credit Twitter



PINK AND PERKY: Kerry Katona.



Laying it bare

SHE'S the model who shot to fame after appearing semi-nude in Robin Thicke's controversial Blurred Lines video.

And Emily Ratajkowski, 26, again bared all as she appeared topless on the cover of Vanity Fair Spain before stripping naked in a series of sizzling snaps inside the glossy magazine.

And the Westminster-born stunner shared a sultry image from the shoot on social media after the eye-popping cover hit the shelves.

Pay slips don't lie

COLOMBIAN pop superstar Shakira has allegedly paid almost €20.5 million to Spanish tax authorities.

The Whenever, Wherever singer - who lives in Barcelona with footballer husband Gerard Pique - reportedly forked out after being warned she could be prosecuted for tax evasion.

But Spanish media have reported that she may appeal the sanction after paying more than €20 million in tax during 2011.



WAKA WAKA: Shakira.

Is Love Island host dating CBB star?



Photo credit Twitter

FLACKING HELL: TV presenter Caroline.

SHE spends six weeks per year hosting ITV2's racy dating show Love Island in Spain.

But Caroline Flack, 38, showed she has been up to a little matchmaking of her own after stepping out with Celebrity Big Brother's Andrew Brady, 27.

The pair appeared totally enamoured as they were snapped enjoying an evening stroll in London, as they

walked arm in arm before Caroline brought her hand to rest on her toy boy's backside.

She is said to have enjoyed a 'string of dates' with the Cheshire-based project engineer after they met at a party.

They fuelled speculation over their blossoming relationship after sharing social media posts that appeared to be taken in the same room.

Classy ladies

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA set tongues wagging after a set-to between Porsha Williams and Marlo Hampton in Barcelona.

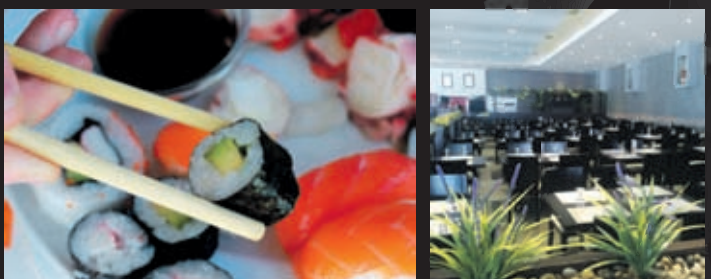
Porsha stormed home from the Spanish trip early in the wake of the drama after Marlo accused her of having 'smelly breath.' The incident was aired during an episode entitled 'Barcelona Breakdown.'

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Bullring on fire

FIREFIGHTERS recently put out another fire at the old Son Puigdorfil bullring on the outskirts of Palma.

The fire is believed to have broken out in one of the vaults under the bullring, where old

tyres, glass bottles and plastic packaging have been dumped, amongst other rubbish.

The firefighters blamed the fire on the garbage that had accumulated.

The abandoned structure

has collected a lot of debris and rubbish over the years since it went out of use and allegedly is known to attract squatters due to its quiet location and the shelter it provides.

Young people are also known to use the site as a place to drink alcohol and throw parties.

As a result, local firefighters are regularly called there to put out fires, which have caused local residents to frequently complain about the safety hazards the bullring poses.

The Son Puigdorfil bullring, which has been abandoned for decades, was once the site of the bullfights held in Son Puigdorfil to celebrate the end of the harvest.

It is close to the neighbourhoods of Son Rapinya, Son Dameto and Son Espanyol, as well as the San Cayetano School, and residents from Son Rapinya recently lamented the deterioration of the cultural landmark to local media sources.

NEWS EXTRA

Water works investment

THE Balearic Water Agency has awarded almost €186,000 for repair works to the Muro wastewater treatment plant, with works set to start this month and finish around July.

Pension gap

WOMEN retirees make an average of €390 less per month than men which is a gap of almost 35 per cent, according to a study from UGT Balears and Fundacion Gadeso.

Woman held

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman who allegedly posed as a social worker so she could steal valuables from the homes of the elderly has been arrested in Palma and charged with five counts of robbery.

OUR VIEW

Spain's never-ending corruption problem

THE news that Spain has risen in a global corruption ranking may not come as a surprise.

The country has been plagued by scandal in recent years, with members of the Royal Family, political parties, large corporations, and the police implicated.

Its Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index score has now dropped by eight points (out of 100) since 2012, with its latest tally of 57 worse than most other European nations.

According to official figures, almost 1,500 individuals faced corruption trials in Spain between July 2015 and the end of 2016, while the issue has long ranked as the second biggest cause for concern after unemployment among the population.

In 2013 a European Council report questioned the integrity and impartiality of Spain's chief anti-corruption prosecutor, who was appointed by the government, and issued a series of 11 recommendations to help Spain tackle the problem.

But three years later, it concluded that none had been 'implemented satisfactorily.'

Some blame religion, since Catholicism allows for confession and absolution of sins, while others claim that corruption is a habit born in dictatorial times, when cheating the state was akin to an act of resistance.

And unless political forces can come together and deal with the issue as a state policy transcending individual parties, it appears that systematic corruption is here to stay.

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Coughing up for stabbing

A 22-YEAR-OLD man accused of trying to kill a 16-year-old boy by stabbing him in the chest in Palma has paid €4,000 in compensation.

The defendant reportedly wrote to the victim asking for forgiveness over the alleged stabbing. He appeared in court for a preliminary hearing on attempted murder charges ahead of the start of the trial set for March 26.

Prosecutors have requested the court sentence the 22-year-old to 15 years in prison and five years of probation should he be found guilty.

They also asked for a ban on him contacting the victim for 20 years and to pay more than €6,800 in damages to him over the alleged attempted murder.

The trial is connected with events said to have taken place in February last year. Prosecutors claimed the de-

fendant had gone with his cousin to meet her ex-boyfriend, the alleged victim, to arrange returning some belongings.

The defendant allegedly attacked the 16-year-old when he and his cousin arrived at the park in Palma.

He punched him in the face and then took a 10 centimetre-long knife out of his shirt which he plunged into the alleged victim's chest.

The defendant then fled and the 16-year-old was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Air had entered the gap between his chest and lungs which put his life at risk and he needed stitches on two scars that resulted from the assault.

The 22-year-old was later arrested by Local Police in Palma and was remanded in custody on March 1, 2017. The trial continues.



SEIZED: A nine millimetre pistol as well as four mobile phones were found in the vehicle the suspect was in.

Man held over alleged gun possession

A MAN accused of possessing a firearm has been arrested by National Police in the Son Ferriol area of Palma.

Officers made the arrest after their patrol reportedly saw the man sat with two others in a parked vehicle handling a nine millimetre pistol.

Police searched those inside and the vehicle itself and found the gun along with four mobile phones, a tablet computer and other items.

They then arrested the suspect on suspicion of possessing illegal weapons last Friday. The investigation remains open to trace the origin of the gun and the vehicle.

NEWS EXTRA

Official trial

COURT hearings have opened over alleged slander and insults against the president of the Association of Parents of Separated Family from the Consell de Mallorca's Equality director, who accused him of advocating macho violence.

Bank fined

A COURT in Palma has ordered a bank to pay €17,000 to one of their clients for authorising a payment from his account to a nephew that didn't exist after it was hacked.

Ship route

MALLORCA is set to be linked to France by sea for the first time in 15 years when a ship Corsica Ferries sets out on its first voyage between the Port d'Alcudia and Toulon.

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DEEP CLEAN: Nearly 20 tonnes of waste were removed last year.

Twenty tonne clean-up

ALMOST 20,000 kilos of waste were collected during clean-up activities on beaches and the seabed in Calvià last year.

According to reports, a total of 19,929 kilos were collected in 13 different clean-ups across Calvià in 2017 which saw more than 600 volunteers from a number of groups and associations take part.

As a result of last year's figures, the town hall has announced it will continue to collaborate with clean-up operations this year, and there will also be projects coinciding with the EU Green Week and the Observers

of the Sea programme.

The town hall also thanked those involved in last year's clean-ups who included the hotel associations of Palmanova-Magaluf, Illetes-Cas Català and Santa Ponsa; Port Adriano and Puerto Portals marinas; Santa Ponsa Yacht Club, Palma Diving, Ondine, Palomondrius, Apnea Mallorca, Isurus, Zoea Mallorca, Creu Roja Illes Balears, Marineland-Asproocio, the Fundació Joves Navegants, the association of volunteers Protemar and representatives of Civil Protection and Calvià 2000.



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NEWS EXTRA**House to be torn down**

A HOUSE currently being built in a protected area near the town of Felanitx is set to be demolished after authorities made the order over the three-storey property.

War crimes

THE Balearic Islands government has officially declared the killing of three Republican residents of Maria de la Salut by Francoists during the Spanish Civil War a crime against humanity after a cabinet meeting.

Works begin

LANDSCAPING and paving has begun on the Calle Creuer in Muro, with works set to turn over part of the area to walkers in the next six weeks following demands from residents.

Eight held over spate of burglaries

EIGHT people accused of stealing from several homes across Mallorca have been arrested by the Guardia Civil.

Those detained allegedly committed 20 burglaries in Felanitx, San Llorenç des Cardassar, Villafranca, Porreras, Campos, Santanyi and Manacor.

Televisions, sound systems, computers, jewellery and weapons were among the items taken from the homes which have now been recovered. The total value of the stolen goods is estimated to run into tens of thousands of euros.

Police began their investigation after a number of people complained saying items had been burgled from their homes late last year.

Officers tracked down the suspects who were a group of young people living in Felanitx and Manacor, police said. Thirty Guardia Civil officers then raided three homes belonging to the suspects and arrested them.

The number of robberies reported to have been committed



Picture credit: Guardia Civil

RAIDS: Thirty Guardia Civil officers entered three homes and arrested the alleged burglars.

could rise as the origin of the stolen goods continues to be established, according to police. Some of the items recovered have been returned to their owners.

Police plan to display the stolen items they still have at the Guardia Civil station in Felanitx between 9am and 8pm, from Monday until Friday.

They have invited those who believe they may have been victims of the burglaries to come so they can identify which items may belong to them.

The investigation remains open as police continue to establish how many robberies took place and who the owners of the stolen goods are.

Smoked out

A 27-YEAR-OLD who allegedly stole a car before going to rob several packets of cigarettes from a tobacconist has been arrested by National Police.

Police said the accused hit the owner of the car and made off with his keys at around 10pm on Monday.

He escaped in the stolen vehicle and drove to the tobacconists in Playa de Palma three hours later.

The man then allegedly broke the window of the shop, with a manhole cover, before taking 155 cigarette packets from inside, according to reports.

Police arrested the man and found the stolen tobacco hidden under a sheet behind the car he had allegedly taken. The investigation remains open to establish if anyone else was involved.



Picture credit: National Police

RECOVERED: Police found the packets of cigarettes hidden underneath a sheet behind the stolen car.

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Two week review

Commentary by Moneycorp

THE last two weeks have shown just how large the shadow of Brexit looms over the pound. UK PMI's for manufacturing (55.3) and construction (50.2) were lower on the month and below forecast, but this seemed to have little impact on sterling. The pound was particularly rattled by a report this week stating that 'Brussels will have the power to punish the UK at will during the transition period'.

The main news came on 'Super Thursday' when the Bank of England released the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting. In this case, the news was no news as the interest rate remained unchanged at 0.5% after a unanimous vote from the MPC. There were however hints that rate rises would be on the cards this year as the Bank of England upgraded forecasts for UK growth from 1.6% to 1.8% for this year.

If the economy progresses as forecast, the MPC highlighted that 'monetary policy would need to be tightened somewhat earlier and by a somewhat greater extent over the forecast period'. The trade deficit is another concern, even with sterling's 10% post-referendum devaluation, imports still outweigh exports.

There was a brief flutter upwards when the headline rate of CPI inflation in Britain came in at 3.0%, unchanged from the previous month and a tick higher than forecast. After an initial, and brief, reaction the pound returned to previous levels. The first

in a series of Brexit speeches kicked off on Valentine's Day, with a speech by Boris Johnson. The market didn't feel the love and the pound remained unchanged, largely because the speech held more rhetoric than substance and investors are hungry for concrete plans.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi addressed the European Parliament this week, but seemed no closer to ending the ECB's money-printing asset purchase programme, saying that while inflation was heading towards its 2% target "we cannot yet declare victory on this front". His words did, however, impact sterling, when he said the bank was making preparations for a disorderly Brexit.

Germany's Chancellor Merkel announced the formation of a coalition in which the SPD will control the finances. After four months of discussion and significant concessions by Mrs Merkel's CDU it looks as though Germany will once again have a government. The new coalition is likely to cut back on 'austerity' and be more generous with its financial support for Euroland. Germany showed 0.6% growth for the third quarter, and consumer prices in the country rose by 1.6% in the year to January.

The US dollar seems to be acting free from any

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correlation to the economic data. Despite generally positive figures, including two PMI readings from the manufacturing sector, the dollar enjoyed mixed fortunes. Towards the end of the week, figures presenting a similar outlook, including Markit's measure showing an unchanged 55.5 and half a point about forecast, the ISM figure beating expectations by a third of a point and a 0.7% rise in construction spending, saw the greenback rise again as equity and bond prices took a dive.

Of the two US services sector PMI's, the one produced by Markit was on target and unchanged

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on the month. The other, from the Institute for Supply Management, was up by four points at 59.9 and that is the one to which investors pay more attention. Retail sales data showed an unexpected fall by 0.3% in January, having been forecast to increase by 0.2%. Investors appear to be waiting for rate hikes from the Fed this year; nonfarm payrolls increased by £200k in January and average earnings were up by an annual 2.9% which is a sign that the anticipated three rate hikes in 2018 may come to pass. Reports of rising inflation further bolstered these hopes. The latest iteration of the budget had little impact despite forecasts showing that America's national debt could increase by up to 50% over the next 10 years.

Canada has released a mixed bag of stats recently. The New Housing Price Index edged lower to 0.0%, shy of the estimate of 0.1% and the first time the index has failed to post a gain since January 2015. Housing Starts was almost unchanged at 216,000, beating the forecast of 211,000.

Canadian unemployment rose from 5.7% to 5.9% as the loss of 88k jobs pegged the participation back from 65.8% to 65.5%. It was the biggest monthly jobs loss in nine years but the currency escaped pretty much unscathed, because part-time jobs in Ontario accounted for most of the change following a 20% increase in the minimum wage last month. It seems that this factor was taken into account and the news had little impact on the value of the Loonie.

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Raising refugee awareness

A SAILBOAT of refugee charity, Proactiva Open Arms has visited Palma in the hope of raising awareness of the current refugee situation.

The boat, called the Astral,

arrived in Palma yesterday (Wednesday) and has reportedly saved more than 15,000 people in the Central Mediterranean during rescue missions.

Since 2017, the sailboat has been used to raise awareness among schoolchildren and citizens about the current emergency humanitarian situation in the central Mediterranean as well as letting people see firsthand examples of the organisation's rescue work.

Having already visited Ibiza and Palma, the Astral will also visit the Puerto Portals Marina, Soller, Alcudia, Ciutadella on its tour of the Balearic Islands before making its final stop in Mao on March 13.

Visits to the boat are free and can be made between 10am and 1pm and 4.30pm



RESCUES: The Astral has saved more than 15,000 people in the central Mediterranean

and 8pm.

Proactiva Open Arms is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation whose main mission is to rescue refugees from the sea that arrive in Europe fleeing wars, persecution or poverty.

The organisation specialises in surveillance and rescue missions of boats carrying people who need help in the Aegean and Central Mediterranean sea, as well as raising awareness about the situations.

Councillors show solidarity with jailed rapper

COUNCILLORS from the leftist Podemos party wore t-shirts bearing free speech

slogans to a meeting of the Balearic Parliament in support of Mallorcan artist Valtoryc.

Alberto Jarabo, the party's spokesperson, said the representatives wore the slogans in order to protest against a loss of rights and to ensure the situation does not get worse.

"This is a setback in terms of rights and it will not be accepted as normal," he said. The news comes as

Spain's Supreme Court ruled against Valtoryc, whose real name is Josep Miquel Arenas, in an appeal over a three-year prison sentence.

The sentence was originally handed to the rapper over lyrics in his songs which were said to be slanderous and incite violence.

Arenas said words in his songs were protected by free speech laws and that he was commenting on Spanish politics.

NEWS EXTRA

Population growth

THE number of people living in the Balearic Islands has risen by around 306,000 during the last 15 years, which is the equivalent of the population of Palma.

No more cars

COUNCILS from the Balearic and the Canary Islands reportedly joined forces to ask the government to implement new regulations ensuring the 'substantial' amount of vehicles that flock to the islands is limited as much as possible.

Cheap trip

PALMA has been revealed to be the cheapest destination for Spaniards to travel to in Easter according to a new study by travel search engine Kayak, costing an average of €77 per night.

Storm aid

SPAIN'S government has allocated more than €5million in aid to cover damage caused by the storms in the Balearic Islands in the winter of 2017, according to delegate Maria Salom.

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Pushing for power changes

THE representative of the Balearic Islands, the Spanish Senate, has tabled a motion for a new electric cable to be laid between Mallorca and Menorca.

Francesc Antich, the Partido Socialista (PSOE) senator for the islands, said a thermal power plant on Menorca had to operate at higher capacity as a result.

Running costs at the plant have reached €135 million as a result, while it would cost around €30 million to install a new cable, the senator added.

The motion is also set to ask for specific quotas on renewable energy for the islands. It is set to be addressed by the Climate Change Commission of the Senate later this month.

Feeling electric

€3 mil eco-car purchase planned

by Joe Gerrard

THE Consell de Mallorca is set to spend around €3 million on new electric cars for urban centres across the island.

The purchase will mean an extra 100 electric vehicles will be on Mallorca's roads over the next two years.

A total of 77 electric vehicles, including 15 cars, 48 vans and lorries and 14 motorcycles have already been sent to councils across the island.

The purchase will aim to renew the Consell's fleet of vehicles and replace those which run on conventional fossil fuels, according to reports.

Miguel Ensenyat, the President of the Consell de Mallorca, said the planned purchase was part of the authority's commitment to its sustainability objectives.

"We want to continue to promote sustainable development and fight against greenhouse gases," he said.

The purchase is part of a plan which aims for all the vehicles operated by councils on the island to be electric.



Photo by Awauto Volkswagen/Twitter

GOING ELECTRIC: An extra 100 electric vehicles will be available to councils on the island over the next two years.

The Consell's local co-operation councillor Joan Font said the use of electric vehicles, both by councils and privately, was increasing in Mallorca.

"We want our cars to serve as an example to neighbours. The advantages of electric cars are many in terms of efficiency, maintenance costs and of course the reduction in noise and air pollu-

tion," he said.

The purchase of the vehicles is part of a package of environmental measures currently being implemented by the Consell.

These include replacing and improving climate control systems in council buildings, as well as increasing energy and lighting efficiency.

NEWS EXTRA

Mainland flights

SPAIN'S Congress of Deputies has approved plans for the government to examine which air routes from the mainland to Mallorca could be classed as a public service, meaning airlines would have to guarantee fair prices.

Power fire

PALMA firefighters put out a blaze caused by the wiring outside a restaurant on the Calle Lluís Martí in the city, which was reportedly not badly damaged as a result.

Bar probe

GUARDIA CIVIL officers have investigated 14 bars and pubs in Mallorca to ensure they are complying with licensing laws, with officers examining tobacco sales, fire safety provisions and food standards.

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COMPROMISE REACHED: Residents and bar and restaurant owners have agreed on proposals over terrace sizes.

Downsizing on the terraces

RESIDENTS and restaurant owners in Palma have agreed on plans to reduce the size of terraces on road sides following deadlock over the proposals.

The measures were agreed after the city's council mediated between locals and those running food and drink establishments.

Biel Barcelo, the president of the Cuitat de s'Arenal residents' association, said his group had accepted a counter offer from the establishments on the proposals.

Bar and restaurant owners have suggested a compromise which would create different

sets of rules for the size of the terraces depending on how many residents in a given area.

Pressure for them to be brought in came from locals who argued the terraces reduced the amount of room available to pedestrians on streets with bars and restaurants.

Leisure establishment owners said measures that would reduce the size of terraces would hurt business due to them having less room to seat customers.

Antoni Noguera, Palma's mayor, along with one of his deputies Aurora Jhardi, agreed to help negotiate the deal which

aimed to be acceptable to all parties, according to reports.

The new proposals state that terraces in the Playa de Palma will be reduced by two metres in size to 1.9 metres, with the space saved reserved for pedestrians.

In the area from the Calle Perla to Palma's aquarium outside seating areas will be reduced in size to 2.7 metres due to there being fewer residents in that area.

Terraces will be limited to 1.9 metres in size between the Calle Perla and the Torrent des Jueus because of the amount of locals who live nearby.

On the road again

THE Can Mallol road, which connects the villages of Establiments and Puigpunyent with S'Esglaira, has reopened to the public so those that live on the outskirts of Palma can use it once more to travel between the different parishes.

The pass had been closed for more than a decade; after a Swiss national bought the farm land it lies on more than a decade ago and made the path private.

A court in Mallorca ruled that the path should be made public again, following a drawn-out case that has taken several years to resolve.

Angel García de Jalón, member of the Establiments Neighbourhood Association told

local media sources that it was 'a great day' as their mission to reclaim the path had been a struggle for so long.

The local Councillor for the Environment, Sandra Espeja, revealed that 'the path will be part of the Ruta de Pedra hiking trail' and that temporary signs are already being installed to guide the way until the plan becomes officially approved.

The Ruta de Pedra allows hikers to discover the dry stone landscapes of the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, which has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site, as well as the chance to visit historical ruins and explore local architecture and gastronomy.

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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.

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Blazing controversy

Police slammed over shock video

POLICE in Spain have attempted to defend their actions after a video appears to show officers 'ignoring' a man lying unconscious on the ground after leaping from his apartment to escape a fire.

The 40-year-old man jumped around six metres from his first-floor balcony and lay unconscious on the pavement as officers appeared to ignore him.

He is now in an intensive care unit in hospital in a critical condition.

The incident happened in Calle Espinosa in the San Anton neighbourhood of Cartagena in southern Spain.

A video shot by a neighbour shows that, for more than two minutes, members of the Local and National Police forces ignore the critically injured man lying on the ground.

However, the Local Po-



FIRE JUMP: The man lies unconscious on the floor after leaping from his blazing flat.

lice of Cartagena say that the video 'is only an extract' of what happened, and that, moments before the officers, immediately after arriving at the scene, had approached the person to check their status, and, once they found that he was unconscious, and did not respond, called the health

teams to act.

The Local Police stress that its officers are trained in first aid and say that 'a person in that state cannot be moved because of the risk of causing more serious injuries.'

Therefore, they say that the actions of the officers 'was the correct one.'

Easter flight fear

Ryanair boss warns of strikes

LOW-COST Irish airline Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary has warned of potential strikes in Europe during Easter week.

Earlier this month O'Leary warned of possible disruptions as the airline prepares to extend its recent recognition of pilot unions to cabin crew staff but did not specify what markets were likely to be hit.

He said the airline would rather see bookings damaged by the uncertainty around a strike than give in to 'laughable' union demands.

According to respected news agency Reuters he told a press conference in Lisbon, "We had a strike in Germany on December 22... we expect the next one will be in Ireland - or maybe it will be in Portugal - during Easter week."

However, no flights were cancelled during the four-hour strike in Germany before Christmas which O'Leary referred to.

Irish pilot union FORSA/IALPA has not announced any strike plans, but has said pilots had rejected an offered pay rise from Ryanair.

It added that the airline was refusing the union's demand to be recognised as the exclusive body for collective bargaining.

O'Leary said he was making 'significant progress' in talks with SPAC, the Portuguese pilots union, but management had offered a pay rise directly to Portuguese pilots and that 75 per cent of pilots had accepted the offer.

A Ryanair spokesperson said, "As we explained in our Q3 results on February 5 last 'as we finalise union discussions along similar lines to that agreed in the UK, we expect some localised disruptions and adverse PR so investors should be prepared for the same'."

The February third-quarter results statement said, "In certain jurisdictions unions representing competitor airlines will wish to test our commitment to our low cost, high pay/high productivity model to disrupt our operations."

"We are fully prepared to face down any such disruption if it means defending our cost base or our high productivity model."



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A HUMAN trafficking gang that operated in Spain and the UK and forced women into prostitution has been broken up following simultaneous police raids in the two countries.

Twelve people have been arrested and four women have been safeguarded.

It is claimed that the gang 'recruited' their victims in Benin City, Nigeria forcing them to eat a raw chicken heart and drink whisky, taking clippings of their hair and nails and using voodoo threats.

The criminals then used fraudulent documents to traffic the women to Europe,

Human traffickers used voodoo tricks

where they were housed in squalid conditions in Italy for several days.

Once they arrived in Spain the women were hidden in their madam's houses and forced to clean and take care of the children, whilst the organised crime group made arrangements for the submission of applications for asylum by the victims.

The ring leaders were based in Torrelavega, Spain. It is claimed they controlled

the whole network from the city and if the women could not pay their debts their family was threatened by phone.

A European Arrest Warrant was issued by Spain and a house search took place in the UK as one of the individuals was living in Manchester. The UK-based culprit was arrested alongside seven in Cantabria, two in Vizcaya and two in Ali-cante in Spain.

Fake taxi driver held

POLICE in the south of Spain have taken a 'taxi' off the road that had no MOT, no licence, no legal meter, a broken seat and a window jammed shut with wood to prevent it from opening.

Suspensions of the Local Police in Sevilla were raised when they spotted the general

state of disrepair of the vehicle as it dropped off two tourists at the train station in the city.

Police officers also found the car was generally dirty and covered in dents.

The vehicle was impounded by the police and the driver denounced.

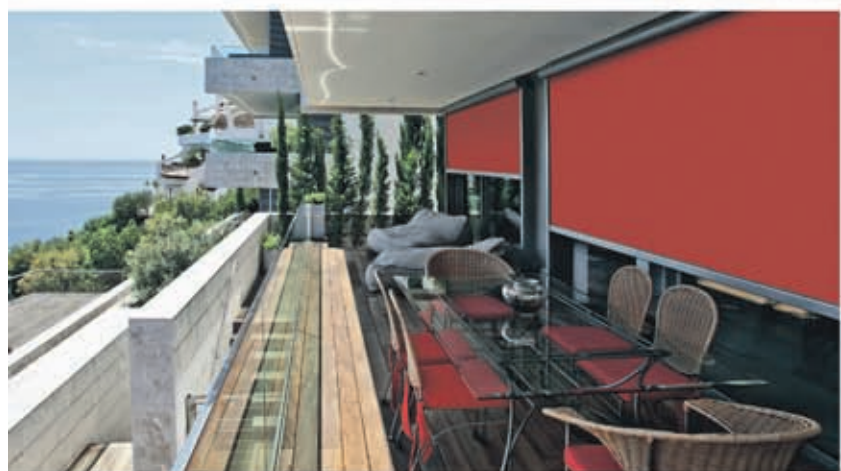


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Gangland killers



Photo credit: Guardia Civil/Twitter

STREET WARRIORS: A gang member at the time of his arrest and (inset) the men arrive at Alicante's provincial court.

A COURT CASE involving 35 members of MS-13, the murderous street gang also known as Mara Salvatrucha, is underway on the Costa Blanca.

A total of 12 sessions are scheduled for the trial, which will run until May, with the defendants facing prison sentences of two to 30 years for a range of charges including illegal weapons possession, attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, money laundering and drug trafficking.

It comes after a major police sting saw investigators swoop on the gang's Spanish headquarters in Ibi, Alicante, plus cells in Madrid, Barcelona and Gerona in the wake of a wiretapping probe.

The crackdown was designed to stop the organisation from expanding its operations in Spain, where it had been receiving funds from kingpins in the dangerous Central American country of El Salvador.

It also prevented the assassination of two people, including a man who witnessed the stabbing of a Romanian member of the Latin Kings - an enemy crew - in Alicante Port.

Among those on trial are several local bosses, who allegedly orchestrated violent territorial battles with rival gangs and set up drug trafficking networks.

But the majority are 'soldiers,' many of them children, who committed robberies and other petty crimes to pay the monthly membership fee of €100.

According to reports, defence lawyers have negotiated a number of reduced sentences in exchange for confessions, although this has not been made official with the trial due to recommence on Thursday March 8.

Originating in Los Angeles, United States, most MS-13 members are from Central America, particularly El Salvador.

They are famed for the tattoos covering their bodies and their motto 'Mata, roba, viola, controla' (kill, steal, rape, control). The gang is mostly active in the US, El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Canada, and was planning to gain a foothold in Spain.

Man Utd fans held

A POLICE officer was left injured after alleged public order and assault offences by Manchester United football fans in Spain.

Five arrests were made for causing serious public disturbances, destruction of furniture and assaults on the Local Police after the football game in the city of Sevilla.

The men had stayed on in the city following Manchester United's 0-0 Champions League draw with Sevilla on Wednesday.

It is claimed rocks were thrown at a hotel, a police car windscreen was smashed, motorcycles were pushed over and a biker attacked.

Local Police and National



CREDIT: Twitter/FutbolAndalus

FIRE AT NIGHT: Trouble ahead of the Sevilla versus Manchester United clash.

Police officers who tried to calm the scene were allegedly attacked by the five Brits, aged between 27 and 30 years

old.

One officer received a hand injury that required medical attention.



NUMBERS TRIPLE: Almost 22,420 people attempted to reach Spain by boat last year.

Migrant numbers triple

Emergency services overwhelmed

THE amount of people who came to Spain by boat as migrants stood at almost 22,420 last year, with nearly 250 people losing their lives at sea.

Migrants arriving in the country by land and sea numbered almost 28,590 in 2017. The amount of people travelling on other routes into Europe fell, according to a human rights group.

The Andalucian Human Rights Association (APDHA) said there were no adequate structures or means to offer people dignified treatment when they arrived.

This was evident in Malaga, Barbate and Motril, some of the main entry points for those arriving by sea, they added.

"The measures of containment agreed with origin countries, repression exercised

against migrants and closing Europe's borders have not been capable of stopping the movement of people," the group said.

"The reality is unbearable," they added.

More than 6,000 people have died trying to reach Spain in the last 20 years, according to data from APDHA.

The group said the figure could be higher because for every person that was confirmed dead there were two unaccounted for.

Extreme poverty, armed conflicts and a lack of opportunities for the future meant that for many leaving their countries for Europe was the only alternative, they added.

Morocco was the main country of origin for migrants arriving in Spain. Algeria,

Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Gambia and Syria followed but sub-Saharan Africans were the largest single group, APDHA said.

Figures showed there was a fall in the number of women making the journey to Spain but that the number of migrant children arriving had risen by more than 66 per cent.

Wooden craft, jet skis, toy boats and surfboards were among the ways used to make the journey, according to the group.

APDHA said: "Barbed wire, patrol boats, returns, death and suffering cannot continue to be the response of this country to people fleeing war or hunger. History will judge us by the cruelty and inhumanity exercised by our rulers."

Police officer dies

A POLICE officer died after supporters of Athletic Bilbao and Spartak Moscow clashed on the streets of the city in northern Spain.

It is believed the Ertzaina officer suffered a heart attack during the violent scenes in San Mames near the stadium that has left an unknown number of people injured.

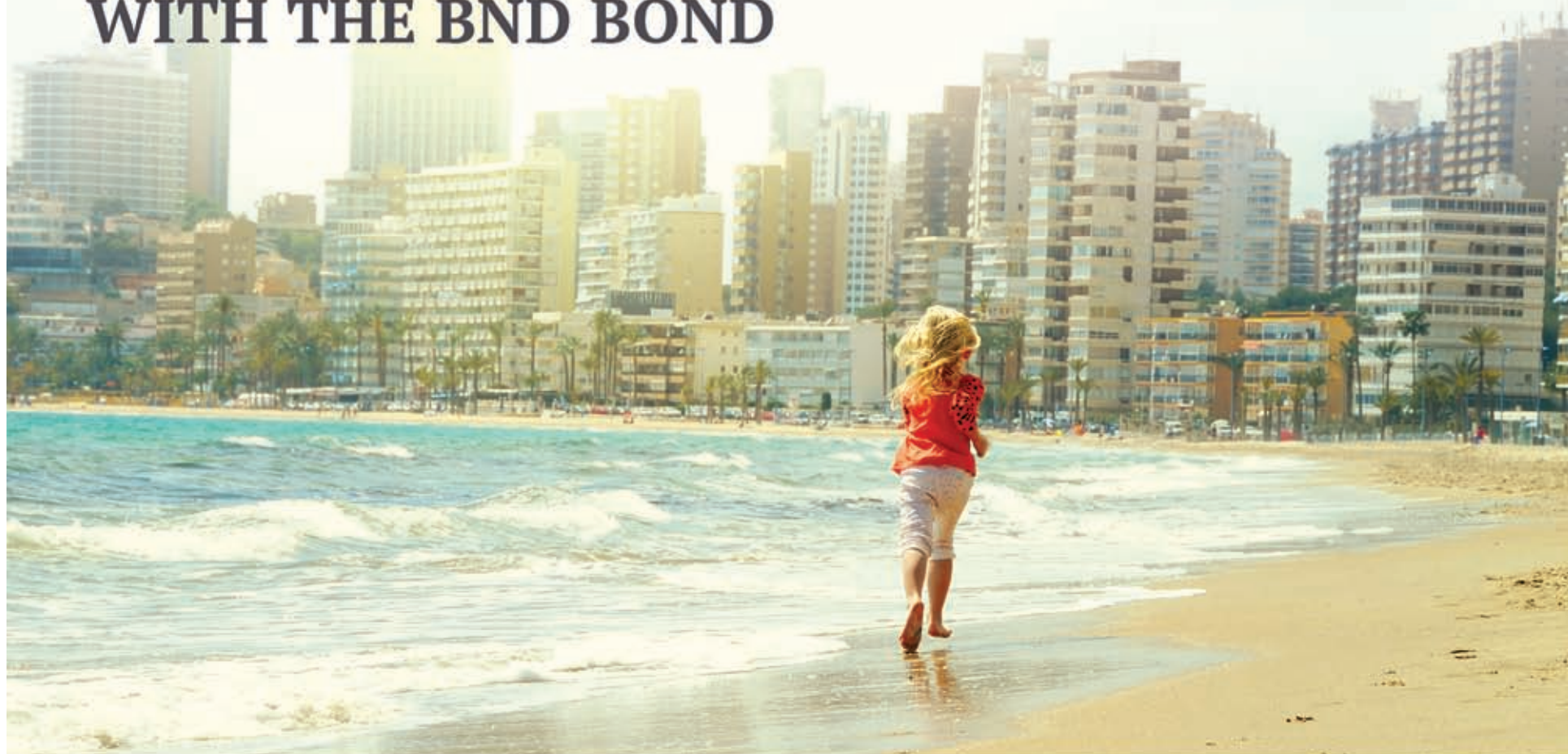
The officer was rushed to the Basurto hos-

pital but he could not be resuscitated.

Flares were fired and glasses, bottles, stones and even golf balls were used as weapons turning the area into a battle zone. More than 600 police were on duty after warnings that trouble may erupt with the 2,500 travelling Russian fans.

Five people have been arrested so far - three of them Russians.

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SWEDEN



On the hunt

HUNTERS in Sweden have officially been given permission to reduce the country's lynx population during a licensed hunt from March 1 to April 15 to protect the local reindeer.



HUNTED: Sweden's lynx population.

Starry fries

SWEDEN has just been granted its first ever Michelin three-star restaurant, after the honour was awarded to Stockholm's Frantzén during a gala in Copenhagen and the country now has 26 restaurants in the Michelin Guide.

Leaders meet

SWEDISH Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will meet Donald Trump in the

White House on March 6 to discuss how the two countries can work together on defence, external relations and security.

Foreign meddling

SWEDEN'S intelligence service

has warned that 'foreign powers' might attempt to interfere with their upcoming general election in an attempt to weaken the democratic system, as has reportedly happened in countries such as the USA.

GERMANY



Pay bumped

WORKERS for the world's largest car-maker Volkswagen in Germany announced they had secured a 4.3 per cent pay bump, as well as tripled contributions to their company pension fund.

Russian email story alleging cooperation between Russian trolls and the Social Democrat party's youth leader after a satire magazine revealed it duped the paper with false information.

Fake news

BILD, Germany's biggest newspaper, came under fire for publishing a fake

Boar bating

GERMANY has issued a decree allowing hunters to shoot wild boar to stop

the animals from passing the African swine fever virus on to farm pigs.

Locked up

A 53-YEAR-OLD German Catholic priest was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison, and years of therapy in a psychiatric institution beforehand, for more than 100 cases of sexual abuse.

FRANCE



Snowed in

A LANDSLIDE trapped 2,000 people in the Monts d'Olmes ski resort in the Pyrenees after it blocked the only access road to the town.

Rough census

AT least 3,000 homeless people are living on the streets of Paris according to data gathered by the city's first ever homeless census, which is believed to be a low estimate.

Tourist hotspot

VISITOR numbers in Paris have hit a record high according to tourism officials, with the city receiving 2.9 million more visitors last year than the year before, an increase of 9.5 per cent.

Bill bother

FRANCE has unveiled a controversial new immigration bill which has been criticised by rights groups for being too soft and branded repressive by NGOs.

BELGIUM



Protect privacy

A BELGIAN court has ordered Facebook to stop illegally collecting their user's data or they will face up to €100 million in fines, and has also been ordered to delete all the data it gathered on Belgian citizens.

Rapid rise

THE Belgian-raised Australian Senator Mathias Cormann, who spoke little English before he first visited the country, became Australia's acting prime minister for a few days while Malcolm Turnbull visited the US.

Gun scare

POLICE in Brussels locked down part of a suburb amid reports that someone had been murdered and there was a gunman still at large.

Car crazy

A NEW study revealed Brussels residents walk less than their European peers and only 6 per cent of their journeys are made on foot or by bicycle.

NETHERLANDS



Medal winners

THE Netherlands' women's speed skating team succeeded in taking home the silver at the South Korea Winter Olympics while the men's team took home the bronze.

Green gain

MOST of the large-scale solar power farms in the Netherlands are reportedly being built by non-Dutch companies because the substantial subsidies available for the projects attract foreign developers.

Narco state

DUTCH police have warned the Netherlands is on its way to becoming a narco-state, saying organised gangs have free rein and many victims do not report incidents.

Baby break

NEW dads in the Netherlands will get five days paid leave - up from two days - during the first four weeks of the baby's arrival from next year.

NORWAY



Safety first

THE Norwegian Public Roads Administration has allegedly ordered 800 reflective vests to give to rental car companies in order to protect tourists that stop to take photographs while driving.

Curler cheated

NORWEGIAN curler Magnus Nedregotten called on Winter Olympics organisers to find out if they could expedite the investigation into the Russian athlete, who beat him to bronze, that failed a drugs test so he could claim the medal.

New tip-off

POLICE in Hordaland County have announced they plan to reopen an investigation into the disappearance of 32-year-old Trine Frantzen who vanished in 2004 after receiving a new lead.

Off the hook

A MAN accused by police of being behind an arson attack against an asylum centre and sentenced to seven years in prison has been acquitted after his brother confessed his guilt.

DENMARK



Top nosh

TWO new restaurants in Denmark were handed their first Michelin stars: MeMu in Vejle and Jordnær in Gentofte meaning the country now has 30 stars awarded across 26 restaurants.

Call for action

DANISH Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen pleaded with Donald Trump on Twitter to "respond to the request of your youngsters who demand gun control" in the United States, following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

New worlds

A DANISH PhD student from the Technical University of Denmark has reportedly discovered 95 new exoplanets - planets that orbit around other stars - with the help of the Kepler telescope.

Axe attacker

POLICE arrested a 29-year-old man at a strip club who was suspected of attacking a couple with an axe in Birkerød and then robbing a bank two days later.

Cheap flight island boom

IRISH budget airline Ryanair has announced a €162 million investment in Palma de Mallorca Airport.

The splurge will see the no frills carrier base two additional aircraft at its Balearic Islands hub during the peak holiday season, bringing its fleet to 10.

It will also launch six new routes to France, Germany and Luxembourg including Berlin Tegel, Düsseldorf, Luxembourg, Nuremberg, Strasbourg and Stuttgart. The move will see Ryanair fly a total of 53 routes from Mallorca this summer.

TV rights in streamland

By Matt Ford

SPANISH production firm Mediapro is set to auction off TV rights to European football in Spain.

The move comes after Mediapro last year teamed up with Qatar-based beIN Sports to win rights to the next three seasons of the UEFA Champions and Europa Leagues, narrowly beating rival Telefonica.

And the broadcaster is now looking to make a profit on its investment.

"We'll ask for offers to be sent to us at the beginning of March," said Mediapro President Jaume Roures. "Then at

the start of April, we'll see where the genuine interest is."

Digital giants Netflix and Amazon could enter the bidding, although there exist doubts over whether they have the technical capacity to stream live matches to millions of viewers.

The rights to the Spanish La Liga for 2019-2022 are also set to be sold over the next few months, and La Liga president Javier Tebas has admitted he is aiming to rake in €1.3 billion per year, a 30 per cent increase on the cur-

rent deal.

But industry experts say he is being optimistic after Sky recently paid just over €4 billion for the 2019-2022 English Premier League rights, 16 per cent less than the previous agreement.

A report from Credit Suisse said: "Mediapro seems to be trying to generate interest in the football rights from new over-the-top (OTT) players, but the lack of OTT interest in the recent UK Premier League... suggests global OTT players such as Amazon are less likely to bid for Spanish domestic football."

Bottom line cranked up

SPAIN'S Banco Sabadell has revealed plans to increase profits by almost 80 per cent over the next three years.

The country's fifth-biggest lender said it is aiming for a cost-to-income ratio of 47 per cent by 2020, down from over 50 per cent last year.

Sabadell bought British bank TSB from Lloyds in 2015 and will this year stop paying its former owner to operate its legacy banking platform after it launched its own version at the end of 2017.

Quote of the Week

"We are analysing a deduction in income tax that recognises the inherent costs of disability for taxpayers of a very advanced age." **Spain's Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro** after being quizzed on the recent countryside protests over pensions.



Photo credit Alfonso Dastis/Twitter/Shutterstock

BREXIT BARGAIN: Gibraltar Airport and (inset) Alfonso Dastis with the UK's Secretary of State for Exiting the EU David Davies.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Fuel's gold for Spanish firm

MADRID-BASED energy behemoth Repsol has confirmed the €3.81 billion sale of its 20 per cent stake in Spanish utility Gas Natural to Rioja Bidco Shareholdings - a company controlled by international private equity firm CVC Capital Partners.

Top partners

SPAIN has reinforced its position as Morocco's top trading partner for the sixth consecutive year as turnover between the countries reached a staggering €57.8 billion in 2017, according to the European Commission's statistics branch Eurostat.

Juicy profits

FRENCH telecommunications giant Orange has revealed that Spain was its fastest growing market in 2017, with the company's 20 million Spanish customers generating €1.58 billion in pre-tax profit for a 17 per cent year-on-year rise.

Spain demands rock share deal

SPAIN has demanded joint control of Gibraltar Airport in the wake of Brexit.

Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis spelled out the plans in an interview likely to infuriate the British and Gibraltarian governments.

Speaking to *The Financial Times*, the official said Spain is seeking a bilateral deal which will include the two countries "managing the airport together" while co-operating more closely on tax

fraud and tobacco smuggling.

He also admitted the Spanish government's ultimate aim is to obtain sovereignty over the rock.

"Sovereignty is something we aspire to, that we are not renouncing, but in these negotiations it is not the issue," he said, before claiming the government's main focus is on easing transport between Gibraltar and Spain, with ideas including a common border control and pre-registering frequent visitors.

€2.5 billion investor lift

SPANISH state-owned lender Bankia plans to fork out €2.5 billion of excess capital to shareholders between 2018 and 2020.

The firm's new strategic plan comes in the wake of its €22.4 billion bailout in 2012.

And it is now aiming for a €1.3 billion profit in 2020 as it moves away from mortgage lending towards consumer loans, proper-

ty development and corporate activities after the European Union eased several restrictions.

Meanwhile, British insurance firm Aviva has confirmed it is to offload its Spanish life insurance and pensions assets Cajamurcia Vida and Caja Granada Vida to Bankia for €202 million, retaining only a handful of small stakes.

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CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 26				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,818.50	30.10	1.68	25,235.32
Associated British Foods	2,682.50	37.50	1.42	21,034.78
Admiral Group	1,927.75	4.75	0.25	5,448.46
Ashtead Group	2,063.00	10.00	0.49	10,317.22
Antofagasta	909.00	9.20	1.02	8,892.43
Aviva	500.05	-0.75	-0.15	20,169.85
AstraZeneca	4,808.00	56.00	1.18	60,780.67
BAE Systems	568.00	3.00	0.53	19,163.64
Barclays	210.38	0.58	0.28	34,485.87
British American Tobacco	4,447.00	-13.00	-0.29	102,066.94
Barratt Developments	553.60	4.20	0.76	5,745.15
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,848.50	-2.50	-0.06	5,252.35
British Land Co	652.80	2.40	0.37	6,284.17
BHP Billiton	1,533.20	17.20	1.13	31,554.35
Bunzl	2,016.50	5.50	0.27	6,701.87
BP	479.90	3.80	0.80	94,095.71
Burberry Group	1,544.25	3.75	0.24	6,547.43
BT Group	243.05	-1.00	-0.41	23,068.42
Coca-Cola HBC	2,463.50	4.50	0.18	9,091.44
Carnival	4,802.00	5.00	0.10	10,249.45
Centrica	144.43	0.28	0.19	7,348.34
Compass Group	1,535.25	8.75	0.57	24,591.17
Croda International	4,591.50	53.50	1.18	5,942.90
CRH	2,465.50	-0.50	-0.02	20,897.41
DCC	6,730.00	-30.00	-0.44	5,949.70
Diageo	2,486.75	9.25	0.37	61,600.64
Direct Line Insurance Group	389.45	1.25	0.32	5,361.13
Evrax	435.80	3.60	0.83	6,123.46
Experian	1,566.25	3.25	0.21	14,482.18
easyJet	1,645.00	13.50	0.83	6,736.65
Ferguson	5,229.00	7.00	0.13	13,121.76
Fresnillo	1,326.25	15.25	1.16	9,815.42
G4S	262.55	1.65	0.63	4,077.59
GKN	428.30	1.80	0.42	7,253.46
Glencore	401.35	5.10	1.29	58,355.29
GlaxoSmithKline	1,297.40	1.40	0.11	65,676.25
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,720.00	2.50	0.15	8,139.31
Halma	1,217.50	10.50	0.87	4,646.81
Hammerson	477.00	0.80	0.17	3,714.60
HSBC Holdings	720.40	-3.00	-0.41	149,428.94
International Conslidtd Airs Gp	594.10	6.90	1.18	12,693.68
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,632.50	3.50	0.08	8,902.94
3i Group	930.90	-6.10	-0.65	9,049.79
Imperial Brands	2,623.50	9.00	0.34	25,426.63
Informa	691.20	2.80	0.41	5,693.88
Intertek Group	4,940.00	8.00	0.16	8,088.89
ITV	171.88	1.33	0.78	6,933.77
Just Eat	873.20	3.40	0.39	5,975.51
Johnson Matthey	3,185.00	25.00	0.79	6,212.42
Kingfisher	358.40	5.40	1.53	7,791.70

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 26				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	948.90	1.80	0.19	6,918.54
Legal & General Group	260.30	1.00	0.39	15,528.03
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	68.77	0.12	0.17	50,247.35
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,085.50	29.50	0.73	14,108.72
Micro Focus International	2,063.00	32.00	1.58	9,003.18
Mediclinic International	604.10	-4.30	-0.71	4,460.33
Marks & Spencer Group	300.10	0.70	0.23	4,851.49
Mondi	1,884.75	7.25	0.39	9,354.19
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	224.35	0.35	0.16	5,227.55
National Grid	763.10	5.10	0.67	25,184.42
NMC Health	3,484.00	-14.00	-0.40	7,070.56
Next	4,925.50	-3.50	-0.07	7,149.56
Old Mutual Group	254.90	0.80	0.31	12,464.97
Paddy Power Betfair	8,460.00	25.00	0.30	7,190.49
Prudential	1,831.00	-1.50	-0.08	47,941.62
Persimmon	2,481.00	9.00	0.36	7,673.01
Pearson	710.60	10.60	1.51	5,484.69
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,018.00	98.00	1.66	41,306.45
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	270.90	2.50	0.93	33,193.27
Royal Dutch Shell	2,264.25	5.75	0.25	103,803.33
Royal Dutch Shell	2,293.00	8.00	0.35	85,528.19
RELX	1,517.00	-1.00	-0.07	16,133.58
Rio Tinto	4,020.75	19.25	0.48	54,056.41
Rolls-Royce Group	838.50	1.70	0.20	15,612.10
Randgold Resources	6,112.00	98.00	1.63	5,808.29
RSA Insurance Group	640.00	0.20	0.03	6,270.14
Rentokil Initial	293.75	0.15	0.05	5,427.48
Sainsbury (J)	256.95	1.45	0.57	5,591.80
Schroders	3,426.50	-0.50	-0.01	7,865.58
Sage Group (The)	705.00	7.00	1.00	7,648.75
Segro	589.60	2.20	0.37	5,843.05
Shire	3,002.00	-22.00	-0.73	27,228.40
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,505.00	9.00	0.36	6,196.20
Sky	1,104.75	0.25	0.02	18,909.19
Standard Life Aberdeen	372.75	-3.35	-0.89	11,350.24
Smith (DS)	482.40	2.50	0.52	5,281.87
Smiths Group	1,593.75	5.75	0.36	6,341.88
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	468.40	4.20	0.90	6,569.51
Smith & Nephew	1,268.50	3.50	0.28	11,129.52
SSE	1,242.75	-8.75	-0.70	12,371.76
Standard Chartered	830.00	0.40	0.05	27,409.45
St James's Place	1,135.00	12.50	1.11	6,044.74
Severn Trent	1,765.75	-0.25	-0.01	4,050.85
Tesco	205.35	-0.05	-0.02	16,981.40
TUI AG	1,545.50	-0.50	-0.03	9,274.84
Taylor Wimpey	190.50	0.10	0.05	6,268.91
Unilever	3,818.00	57.50	1.53	45,951.07
United Utilities Group	685.70	-1.10	-0.16	4,515.47
Vodafone Group	204.90	1.05	0.52	53,989.62
WPP Group	1,366.50	11.00	0.81	17,518.72
Whitbread	3,927.50	28.50	0.73	7,217.92

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

DOW JONES				
CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 26				
COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	237,020	+0,43%	1,020	140.221,49
AMERICAN EXPRESS	98,8000	+1,49%	1,4500	84.518,09
APPLE	175,500	+1,74%	3,000	887.850,79
BOEING CO	356,660	+0,21%	0,740	209.120,03
CATERPILLAR	162,410	+2,23%	3,550	96.345,34
CHEVRON	112,59	+2,46%	2,70	213.166,74
CISCO SYSTEMS	44,000	+2,47%	1,060	216.011,56
COCA-COLA	44,04	+1,19%	0,52	187.171,12
DOWDUPONT	73,26	+1,85%	1,33	169.816,32
EXXON MOBIL	77,53	+2,20%	1,67	327.589,92
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,4900	-0,89%	-0,1300	125.831,95
GOLDMAN SACHS	266,77	+2,04%	5,34	100.373,31
HOME DEPOT	188,3500	+1,55%	2,8800	218.730,99
IBM	155,52	+1,53%	2,34	143.368,05
INTEL CORP	47,7300	+4,21%	1,9300	222.487,20
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	117,3100	+2,03%	2,3300	399.166,65
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	132,0200	+1,62%	2,1100	352.175,91
MC DONALD'S CORP	163,0600	+1,49%	2,4000	129.781,81
MERCK AND CO. NEW	54,87	+0,55%	0,30	149.606,46
MICROSOFT	94,060	+2,54%	2,330	721.391,31
NIKE	68,16	+1,53%	1,03	88.164,64
PFIZER	36,2600	+1,45%	0,5200	215.121,93
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	81,050	+0,26%	0,210	203.848,36
TRAVELERS CIES	139,74	+1,53%	2,10	37.687,77
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	133,15	-0,32%	-0,43	105.698,70
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	230,16	+1,35%	3,07	221.614,16
VERIZON COMMS	48,29	+0,88%	0,42	196.384,28
VISA	122,93	+2,12%	2,55	220.406,91
WAL-MART STORES	92,8900	+0,13%	0,1200	274.790,50
WALT DISNEY CO	107,2500	+1,91%	2,0100	160.735,39
M - MILLION DOLLARS				

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9139

PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0027

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1470

£1.0616

£1.3153

£1.2059

£1.4708

£1.3555

PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0069

£0.0054

£0.0133

£0.0113

£0.0193

£0.0167

.....

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 21/02/2018

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Vicor Corporation	\$ 25.80	7 ▲ 37.23%
Financial Engines, Inc.	\$ 38.30	8.35 ▲ 27.88%
The Trade Desk, Inc.	\$ 59.94	11.54 ▲ 23.84%
Universal Electronics Inc.	\$ 54.25	10.40 ▲ 23.72%
Emmis Communications Corporation	\$ 3.90	0.5835 ▲ 17.59%
Blue Buffalo Pet Products, Inc.	\$ 40	5.88 ▲ 17.23%
Momo Inc.	\$ 35.75	5.22 ▲ 17.10%
Mammoth Energy Services, Inc.	\$ 24.40	3.25 ▲ 15.37%
KemPharm, Inc.	\$ 6	0.738 ▲ 14.03%
Frontier Communications Corporation	\$ 9.10	1.04 ▲ 12.90%
BJ's Restaurants, Inc.	\$ 43.65	4.95 ▲ 12.79%
Most Declined		
Universal Display Corporation	\$ 130.40	24.50 ▼ 15.82%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 7.36	1.26 ▼ 14.62%
LifePoint Health, Inc.	\$ 42.75	6.95 ▼ 13.98%
Digitrad Corporation	\$ 2.05	0.30 ▼ 12.77%
Acacia Communications, Inc.	\$ 37.05	4.79 ▼ 11.45%
James River Group Holdings, Ltd.	\$ 34.45	4.09 ▼ 10.61%
Anika Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 51.69	6.02 ▼ 10.43%
MDC Partners Inc.	\$ 8.75	0.95 ▼ 9.79%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 17.08	1.45 ▼ 7.83%
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 2.86	0.24 ▼ 7.74%
ChemoCentryx, Inc.	\$ 9.56	0.71 ▼ 6.91%



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Outlook: Brexit, Italian election in focus

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday

Contact me at euroweekly@currenciessdirect.com



Euro

EUR/GBP: Holding firm at £0.88

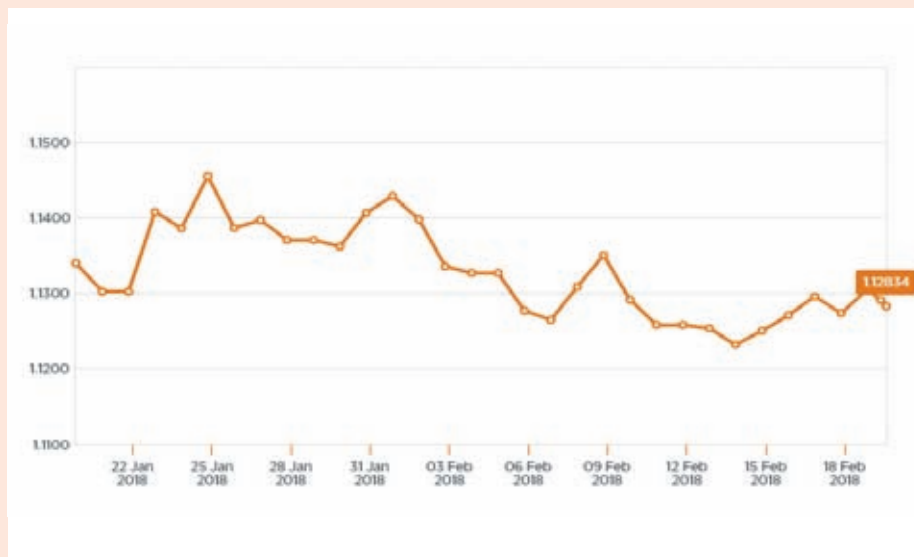
EUR/USD: Up from \$1.22 to \$1.24

Speculation that the European Central Bank (ECB) will remain dovish on the subject of monetary policy for the foreseeable future has countered the impact of a run of positive Eurozone data over the last few weeks.

That being said, the euro is still standing firm against rivals like the pound and US dollar.

Italy will be taking to the polls in March and most experts expect the election to result in a coalition government, with Silvio Berlusconi's conservative alliance projected to take the biggest share of votes.

The impact this would have on the euro largely depends on which parties Berlusconi allies himself with. If Berlusconi opts for Matteo Salvini, the euro would be pressured lower thanks to his opposition to the single currency



THE POUND: Has steadily strengthened in the hope that the UK will secure a soft Brexit.

and preference for returning to the lira.

Pound

GBP/EUR: Down from €1.14 to €1.12

GBP/USD: Up from \$1.38 to \$1.40

After getting off to a fairly positive start to the year, the pound failed to sustain its initial momentum and has reversed gains against a number of the majors. Demand for the pound eased

on concerns that government fissures will have a negative impact on Brexit negotiations.

Investors were also concerned as EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier intimated that the UK achieving a transitional deal after Brexit should not be taken for granted.

Brexit worries prevented the pound from deriving much benefit from the Bank of England

(BoE) indicating that rates could rise sooner than currently forecast at its first policy gathering of 2018.

Any Brexit related news is liable to be the driving force behind pound exchange rate movement over the next few weeks. UK data will also be of interest, as any reports which reduce the chances of the BoE increasing interest rates in 2018 will put the pound under pressure.

US Dollar

USD/GBP: Down from £0.72 to £0.71

USD/EUR: Down from €0.81 to €0.80

The Federal Reserve increased interest rates in December 2017, but the move had been so long expected that it failed to boost the US dollar. In fact, USD exchange rates actually softened as the Fed implied that interest rates would only be raised a further three times in 2018 rather than the four times hoped for.

The US dollar remained on soft form for much of January, although the currency has since recovered from its worst levels against the pound.

The Fed is forecast to increase borrowing costs at its March gathering, and if it indicates that a further three adjustments could be made over the rest of the year we could see the US dollar jump.

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Welcome to the future

AI DOMINATES MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

MORE than 2,000 companies and 100,000 people have flocked to Barcelona for the annual Mobile World Congress.

The wireless industry's biggest trade show also offers ideal networking opportunities for executives, bankers and analysts to get together.

Major trends at this year's show include cybersecurity, ultrafast fifth generation mobile networks and blockchain technology.

But the stars of the show are the latest smartphones, artificial intelligence (AI) devices and autonomous drones.

Highlights so far have included the launch of Samsung's Galaxy S9 handset, featuring an improved camera and augmented reality functions designed to challenge Apple's iPhone X.

The South Korean giant also showcased an updated version of its digital assistant Bixby, demonstrating how it can live translate a piece of text.

Chinese tech firm Huawei unveiled its first 5G-capable chip, enabling its devices to access faster internet speeds, before using the AI of its flagship Mate 10 Pro phone to drive a Porsche sports car round an obstacle course.

The company is now comfortably the world's third biggest smartphone maker behind Samsung and Apple after bagging a 10.4 per cent market share in 2017.

Spanish company Telefonica - one of Europe's top three telecommunications firms - revealed its plans to move some focus from fibre, mobile and television to value-added services, big data and cognitive intelligence as it presented its AI-powered digital assistant Aura.

Set to be launched in Spain, the UK (where it will be called O2 Ask), Germany, Argentina, Chile and Brazil over the weekend, Aura is the result of a collaboration with Facebook, Google and Microsoft.

And it will shortly become one of the first digital assistants to be inte-



Photo credit Mobile World Congress/Telefonica/Twitter

ROBO-PHONES:
An attendee snaps a selfie and (inset) Telefonica's Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete introduces Aura.

grated with Google Assistant, benefiting around 120 million customers who use Android devices, and Cortana, Microsoft's digital assistant used by more than 600 million worldwide.

Telefonica chairman-CEO Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete also revealed in a keynote speech some of Europe's biggest telecommunications players, including Telefonica, Deutsche Telekom, KPN and Orange, are working to develop a 'global data portability ecosystem' allowing customers to take usage data with them when they travel.

Elsewhere Nokia - whose phones are now licensed by Finnish company HMD Global - announced a revamped 4G version of the classic 8110 'banana phone,' while Sony unveiled its new Xperia X72.

The five-day event ends today (Thursday).

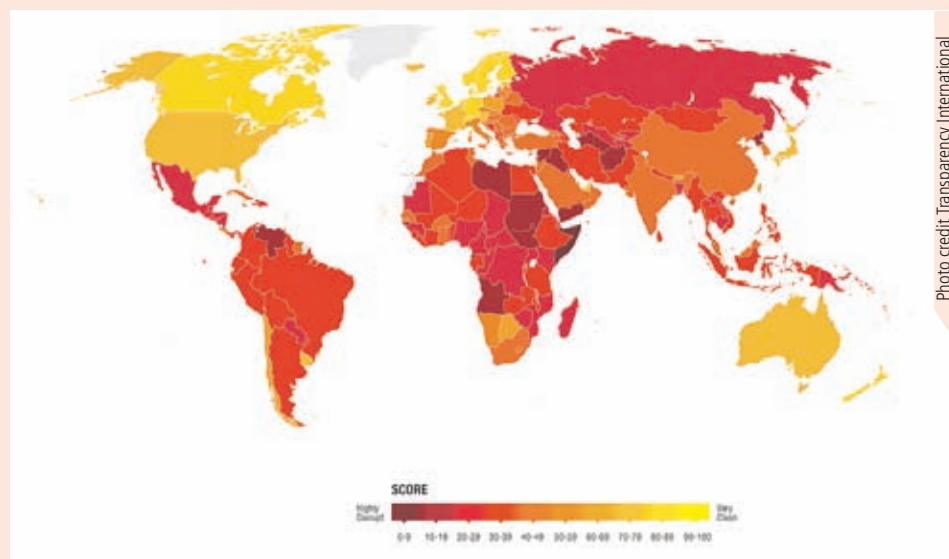
Outrage over sexist PR firm

SPANISH PR agency Impulsa Comunicacion has lost two major clients over a sexism row.

Coca Cola and glass repair company Carglass have dropped the Barcelona-based firm after a woman was turned down for an account executive position because 'the successful candidate will work with Carglass and Coca Cola... they need a man who can handle the pace of working with big companies.'

Rejected applicant Carla Focada tweeted an image of the email, captioning the image: 'It is incredible that companies that practice gender-based discrimination in the workplace still exist.'

And after the post went viral - prompting public slap downs from both named brands - the Impulsa website was mysteriously shut down.



ALARMING: More than two thirds of countries scored less than 50, meaning they have a 'high corruption burden' according to the report.

Corruption in Spain exposed

SPAIN has risen in a global corruption ranking.

It comes as Germany-based non-governmental organisation Transparency International released its 25th annual Corruption Perceptions Index, which lists 180 countries according to how they are perceived by the public sector.

Each is given a score of zero to 100, with 100 being the least corrupt. Spain scored 57 - one point less than in 2016 - to finish joint 42nd in the table alongside Cyprus, Dominica and the Czech Republic.

The least corrupt countries were

New Zealand and Denmark, which scored 89 and 88, respectively, with the UK finishing joint fifth with 82, the same score as Canada, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Germany.

Somalia, with a score of nine, South Sudan (12) and Syria (14) were the three most corrupt countries, with two thirds of nations scoring less than 50.

The 2017 index is based on 13 surveys covering factors including the enforcement of anti-corruption law, access to information, political conflicts of interest and expert assessments.



Uranium mine scheme sparks pollution panic

A SPANISH plan to open a uranium mine near the Portuguese border has sparked outrage.

"Portugal will do everything it can to obtain the relevant information and, from there, ensure safety and zero impact on our side," said Joao Matos Fernandes, Portugal's environment minister.

Speaking to an environmental parliamentary commission, the official was quizzed how the government would ensure that pollution from the mine would be confined to Spain.

He replied that "we have performed all due diligence alongside Spain," but added that organisation of the scheme "has created a problem" after his requests for updates were ignored or answered "inadequately." And he has now demanded a meeting "because due protocol has not been fulfilled

satisfactorily by our counterpart."

Spain carried out an environmental impact analysis on the prospective site at Retornillo, around 40 kilometres from the border in rural Salamanca, Castilla y Leon, in 2013.

Since then the mine has been discussed repeatedly in diplomatic channels, with Spain adamant that the project has not yet been given the green light. But announcements posted on the website of Australia-based mining firm Berkeley Energia suggest that construction is due to begin later this year, leaving environmental campaigners and other critics furious.

The project is reportedly being financed by the sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman, which has contributed more than €105 million.

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Honestly, give her a break!

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



JUST when you think you've heard it all, up pops another 'gem.'

This week's mind numbing whinge was a real humdinger. Pop singer Jesy Nelson was accused of 'cultural appropriation.'

My God. What had she done? Nicked a Massai make-up box? Pilfered a Pyramid? Wrong, it was much worse than that! Apparently, objections had been raised because the Little Mix member had - wait for it - chosen Dreadlocks for her new hairstyle!

Yep, for just a millisecond the world suddenly stopped spinning. You really couldn't make it up.

Unfortunately, although intelligent, clear-thinking human beings consider accusations of this calibre utterly laughable, many don't. In fact, through social media, this young lady was subsequently the recipient of a whole deluge of racial hatred and threats.

If ever there was a glaring example



JESY NELSON: New hairstyle causes backlash.

of reversed racism, this was most definitely it. Normally, one never gets to see the petty-minded pillocks who come up with these diatribes of non-

sense, but I actually switched to Sky News during the week and lo and behold one of them was sitting there.

"Ah," she spouted piously. "You

have to understand that dreadlocks are an important part of our African heritage. For a westerner to imitate our culture is extremely insulting to many of 'our people' and should not be allowed to happen!"

Er... What? Hold on a minute. If there's one problem that is often the bane of people of African descent it's their hair. The girls in particular, spend fortunes on wigs or having it straightened. Many have it dyed blonde. I don't hear any white Europeans screaming racism or 'cultural appropriation.' The whole sorry diatribe is ridiculous.

Beau Brummel invented the suit and tie. In that case just about the whole of the planet is 'offending' the British culture. It's all nonsense of course. Merely more stirring by the trouble-making minorities who infiltrate our societies like plagues of vindictive virus. If I had my way people like this would be arrested for stirring up racial hatred.

The thing that always baffles me is that if these people hate western society and culture so much, why on earth do they live in it? Can you imagine

living in an environment you despise and where you are utterly miserable? No wonder they never stop moaning and whinging.

Anyway, I have good news for them. According to the revered Oscar Wilde, far from being an insult, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. S'there.

Delighted to see the teacher who was accused of 'misgendering' a female pupil by referring to her as a girl, is suing the school on the grounds of discrimination and constructive dismissal.

The teacher, who is also a pastor, stated that the school had systematically and maliciously breached his human rights. Chances of winning? Don't hold yer breath.

Many Happy returns this week to my old mate Jess Conrad. Look out for him in his new ITV series starting any day now. Hang in there JC, not many of us left!

*Keep the faith,
Love Leapy*

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leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

Spare a few Bitcoins mister?

Terence Kennedy has watched the price of Bitcoin, convinced it can't go higher. Every day. For years.

TECH FOR THE TIMID



TAKE pity on poor James Howells from Newport in Wales. His local council still won't let him sift through the landfill site to find the hard-drive he dumped in 2013. It could be worth €66 million.

Or €33 million when you read this. Or nothing.

Cryptocurrencies are on a rollercoaster ride, and a novelty currency which bought part of a pizza a decade ago, could see you sunning in Monte Carlo today with hot and cold running margaritas. Or wiped out, as the 'bubble will burst' doomsayers predict.

James Howells' discarded hard-drive held the so-called 'blockchain' codes for 7,500 bitcoins he bought for just €140 in 2009. His computer was trashed in 2013, its codes forgotten.

He's not alone. An Australian threw away a hard-drive with 1,400 bitcoins on it in 2012. His loss today:

€12 million. And an American techie used 10,000 of the novel new exchange medium in 2010 to buy a pizza. Some pizza: €88 million today.

Holland's fabled tulip mania of the 1630s, where one bulb could be the cost of a house, has nothing on the madness that's happening right now with 1,400 cryptocurrencies out there and rising.

Even the silly ones attract obscene amounts. Dogecoin was dreamed up as a joke by a couple of techno-pranksters in 2013. It has no underpinning assets and no actual value, but investors sniffing from the same glue-pot

and desperate to jump on the bandwagon to buy anything bearing the name 'coin,' have thrown nearly a billion euros at it so far.

Potcoin underpins legal and illegal cannabis purchases, Dentacoin is exactly what its name suggests (for dentists), Kanye West sued Coinye into oblivion, there's Titcoin (no, don't ask), and heaven help us all, Trump

coin will



help to build the wall.

Yes I confess, for a split-nanosecond I was also swept along by the hype, the famous 'FOMO' (Fear Of Missing Out) as I wondered whether to invest my vast and ill-gotten gains in Bitcoin.

Two things quickly become apparent.

One: There are more dodgy bitcoin dealers out there than you could shake your savings-book at, and many will also be happy to sell you a bridge.

Two: Do you really want to be known a month, a year or a decade from now, as the loser whose life-savings will barely buy a pizza?

My favourite cryptocurrency of them all? The 'joke' one whose name makes absolutely no bones about what you're getting, yet is still worth double its 2016 cost: Ponzicoin.

**BITCOIN:
Chock-full of
goodness?**

Mine the gap

IF you really want to swing aboard the cryptocurrency train, many think Bitcoin has already left the station.

But there are more than a thousand others being 'mined' which might, just might, become 'the next big thing'.

Ethereum cost €1 in 2015. Today it's worth over €700. Maybe next week, double, or nothing. Or search the web for Ripple, Stellar, IOTA or even the cheapie Litecoin.

To buy coins you need a so-called 'wallet,' usually held by a cryptocurrency exchange like Coinbase, Kraken, Bittrex or Coinmama.

But beware: Japan's Mt Gox exchange famously lost 850,000 coins to hackers in 2014. Two months ago the Coincheck exchange lost a breathtaking €400 million.

Personally I'm sticking with normal gold coins - the ones filled with chocolate.

Another terrible killing

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



LET'S start with good news. Last week I had a run in with Ryanair live chat. Basically they were not interested in my problem. Anyway the next day I found an email address and within two hours they had replied and refunded my money. So well done Ryanair for that - all you have to do now is teach your live chat people to act the same way.

There has been yet another terrible killing spree in an American school. Seventeen people were mowed down by a lunatic with an AR-15. Trump's answer to this? Make buying these killing machines harder than getting a drink if you are 18? Consider banning them completely?

No, his answer is to arm teachers. The man is a complete raving lunatic and so is anyone who thinks that is a good idea. They are teachers! The clue to what their duties are when they turn up for work is in the name - they TEACH! There was an armed guard at the school in Florida. He did not do anything for whatever reason. Why not arm all the kids over 18? It's all just nonsense and all Trump does, by fumbling through meetings, is show himself up as a bumbling fool who has zero empathy for these poor kids and fami-

lies involved. He talks about the FBI doing nothing and says if they spent less time investigating him they might have stopped the shooter.

All the NRA disciples are spewing out their BS and every time I see them on TV their argument is being destroyed, not by politicians, but by the kids that are being involved in these massacres.

That's the major difference with this terrible incident from the others. This time the young people involved are speaking out. I've seen them on TV and they are calm, eloquent and sincere.

They have no commercial interest - they are just talking from the heart and using their brains. They will not be deterred and it's disgusting to see and hear how some NRA nuts and politicians that are on their payroll are trying to discredit these youngsters.

These are the voters of the future. They can make change happen and, in my opinion, they will do it. Major companies in the USA are at last realising that offering their members NRA discounts is not in their best interests any more and they are stopping them. The NRA answer is to tell their members to boycott these companies.

It has been proven time and time again that countries with strict gun controls have less people killed with guns than countries that don't. I wonder why?

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Email: mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

School bus checks complete

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.

OFFICERS from the Guardia Civil traffic department have been carrying out extra checks and surveillance on school buses.

During the five-day campaign, inspections on both the vehicles and the drivers were conducted.

These included checks of the authorisation and documents that these vehicles must have to perform in service, verifying that the technical conditions and safety elements of the vehicle satisfy the minimum standards required by the regulations.

Safety is the highest priority for this type of transport and the annual incident figures do reflect school transport as being amongst the safest ways for children to travel to school.

According to Gregorio Serrano, the director of the DGT, "the safe mobility of minors is one of the priorities of the DGT."

"Every day there are thousands of students who use the school bus to go to school and return home, so we have to keep checking that these trips are made safely."

He added: "With this type of campaign, we remind parents of the right to demand from schools or parent associations that school buses meet all the regulatory requirements to carry out this type of transport."

Inappropriate speed and distractions are the main causes of incidents in which this type of vehicle is involved, so speed controls will be carried out, as well as other factors such as not using a mobile phone or other devices whilst driving. Alcohol and other drug controls will also be increased.

Statistically, 90 per cent of incidents in-



SCHOOL BUSES: Must meet regulations.

volving school transport take place at the time of getting in or out of the vehicle.

In many cases these are caused by the child being distracted, or the fact that the school bus driver or the parents are not paying full attention.

To avoid this type of incident, it is recommended that parents respect bus stops, allow enough time for taking and collecting children, and do not wait on the opposite side of the road.

Due to the importance of seat belts in saving lives in the event of an incident, special attention will be paid to the use of these in school buses that have them installed. Although all new buses that enter service must be fitted with seat belts, older vehicles are still allowed to continue without seat belts until time allows for their replacement. Currently, only around 60 per cent of the school bus fleet have seat belts installed.

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

Can owner change the use?

Q. I live on a large and long-established urbanisation. In the centre of the urbanisation for more than 30 years stood the only bar, which has been closed for the past 18 months.

Now the property has been changed to a church. I would like to know if the

urbanisation management committee is obligated to notify members of the change of use, and whether the change of use must be formally approved by the town hall.

B B (Costa Blanca)

A. The owner of the property must apply to the town hall for permission to change its use. When the town hall grants this permission, it notifies the Community of Property Owners. The owner has the right to

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain

change the use of his property to any activity which is permitted in that area, and which

does not constitute a bothersome activity. There is no requirement for the community administration to notify the members, but they can vote at the AGM to appeal against the town hall's authorisation of the change of use.

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



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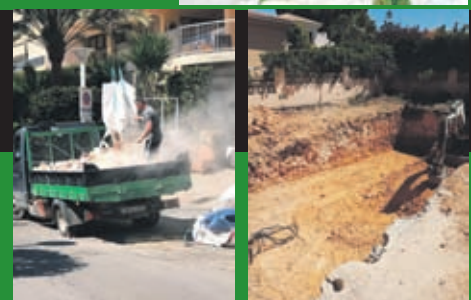


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team in to help you.

In addition to building preparation we have also been involved in
excavations in order to create cellar space and Darren has good
experience of this from his past work in the UK. This excavation work
also includes swimming pools.

We also prepare plots of land ready for building.



Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



STATISTICS and their cousin averages are slippery customers.

On average when Bill Gates - of Microsoft fame and leader of the Gates Foundation - enters a restaurant everyone in the room on average is a billionaire. Similarly, on average house prices in London recovered by the fourth quarter of 2017 and prices rose on average by £4,000 (€4,526) between November and December.

On average London houses now cost £227,000 (€256,873) according to the Land Registry. Prices on average appear to be up by 5.2 per cent year on year. Of course statistics and averages can be useful illustrations but they can also hide and disguise some spectacular outliers in the range of prices that houses command. That we all place so much weight on statistics is a good reason to be very cautious of them as well.

Hidden in plain sight is one wealthy man's house. Consider Dr Gert-Rudolf Frick, heir to the Daimler automotive dynasty who placed the Park House Estate on the market in September 2013 for an eye-watering £105 million (€118.8 million).

Park House sits in more than half an acre of private walled gardens in central London. Half an acre of ground close by the museum district in South Kensington to the west of Buckingham Palace and described as 'a country house

London house price cut of 60%



WHAT'S IT WORTH?: London is pricey, but Park House (inset) is set to sell with a 60 per cent discount on the original asking price, a mere €45.3 million.

in the middle of London. From no window can you see a car passing by.'

Boasting six bedrooms, five bathrooms and seven reception rooms it was recorded as the 'finest house to come on to the market in the capital for 25 years.'

But despite adding a five-bedroom house and two one-bedroom flats on the site as part of the package the Park House Estate failed to sell.

Recently reports appeared that a buyer has eventually emerged though it took three and half years to do so and a headline grabbing price cut of slightly more than 60 per cent, too. Which is spectacular, though the selling price of £40 million (€45.3 million) as reported is weighty and considerable in any language. The Park House Estate is without doubt exceptional as is the price sought and realised for it.

A news story headlining a price cut of one individual property or indeed a price rise does not signify a trend nor does it reflect the mood of the market as a whole. It does speak volumes though of the value attached to a given property by a specific willing buyer and seller on any given day. If you really desire that ideal villa you will pay as much as you can sensibly afford for it, but no more than you believe it is worth and less if you can convince the seller.

Advertising Feature

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BENIDORM: The place for holiday rentals.

seven years are available, which generate returns of 8, 9.5 and 11 per cent respectively.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
1 MARCH	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm The Inside Story 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News 11:45pm Question Time 12:45am This Week	6:20pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Athletics 10:00pm Civilisations 11:00pm Mock the Week 11:30pm Newsnight 12:15am Top Gear 12:20am Nigel Slater's Middle East: Lebanon 2:20am Royal Recipes	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Pets 9:00pm Emmerdale The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska Serial Killer with Piers Morgan ITV News at Ten and Weather	6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces Married at First Sight The Job Interview Gogglebox 24 Hours in Police Custody	6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Secret Life of Puppies 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun 10:00pm Panic at 30,000 Feet: Airline 11:00pm Emergency Concorde	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Cricket 4:30pm Live ATP 500: Dubai 7:30pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Football 11:15pm The Debate - Live 12:15am Live World Golf
FRIDAY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm MasterChef 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm Requiem 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News 11:35pm The Young Offenders	6:20pm Great British Railway Journeys 6:50pm Athletics 11:00pm QI 11:30pm Newsnight 12:05am The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story 12:55am A Hijacking 2:35am The Sheriffs are Coming 3:35am Julius Caesar Revealed	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Love Your Garden 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Lethal Weapon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London	6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast 10:00pm Gogglebox 11:00pm The Last Leg 12:05am Rude Tube	6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Inside Kensington Palace 9:00pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard 10:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald 11:00pm Will and Grace	9:00am Cricket 4:30pm Football Centre 5:00pm Football Centre 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Football 11:15pm The Debate - Live 12:15am My Icon 2017 12:30am Born to be Wilder 1:00am Sky Sports News 2:00am Cricket
SATURDAY	6:10pm A Question of Sport 6:40pm Celebrity Mastermind 7:10pm BBC News 7:20pm Regional News 7:23pm Weather 7:25pm Pointless 8:15pm All Together Now 9:20pm The Final 10:10pm Casualty 10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City 11:10pm BBC News 11:25pm Weather	3:30pm Me and My Dog 4:30pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 5:30pm Hugh's Wild West 6:30pm Athletics 10:30pm A Little Chaos 12:20am The Help Drama based on Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel 2:40am Civilisations	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News and Weather 7:20pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm You've Been Framed! 8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night 9:30pm Takeaway 10:50pm The Voice UK 11:45pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories ITV News and Weather	3:30pm Coast v Country 4:35pm A Place in the Sun 5:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 6:35pm The Supervet 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages 9:00pm Britain at Low Tide 10:00pm 10 Cloverfield Lane 12:00am Predator	6:00pm Rich House, Poor House 7:00pm The Secret Life of Kittens 8:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald 9:00pm The Queen Mary: Cruising with the Royals 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Football on 5 11:00pm The Championship. Live Live Championship Boxing	7:00am Cricket 10:00am Cricket 12:30pm Football 1:30pm Football 4:15pm Rugby Union 6:15pm Football 8:30pm Boxing 12:30am Born to be Wilder Follow the remarkable journey of American heavyweight Deontay Wilder.
SUNDAY	5:50pm Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa 7:05pm BBC News 7:20pm Regional News 7:25pm Weather 7:30pm Countryfile 8:30pm Hold the Sunset 9:00pm Call the Midwife 10:00pm Strike - Career of Evil 11:00pm BBC News 11:20pm Regional News	3:45pm Athletics 7:00pm Back in Time for Tea 8:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes 9:00pm Top Gear 10:00pm Life and Death Row 11:20pm The Mash Report 11:50pm Top Gear Extra Gear 12:15am Cleverman 1:10am Question Time 2:10am Holby City 3:10am This is BBC Two	3:00pm What Would Your Kid Do? 4:00pm Britain's Brightest Family 4:30pm Tipping Point 5:30pm ITV News and Weather 5:45pm Local News and Weather 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Dancing on Ice 9:00pm Endeavour 11:00pm ITV News and Weather 11:15pm Peston on Sunday	3:25pm The Simpsons 3:55pm Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters 5:55pm Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb 7:40pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Posh Pawn 9:00pm Churchill's Secret Affair 10:00pm Homeland 11:05pm 8 Out of 10 Cats 12:05am Does Countdown Lee Mack	5:20pm The Dirty Dozen 8:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm When Award Shows Go Horribly Wrong 12:50am Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success 1:50am Cruising with Jane McDonald	8:00am Total Goals 9:00am Cricket 12:30pm Boxing 1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 8:00pm Live World Golf Championship 1:00am Football 1:30am La Liga Icons 1:45am Football
MONDAY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Inside Out 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Classic Mary Berry 10:00pm MasterChef 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm Imagine...	3:15pm Yes Chef 4:00pm A Place to Call Home 4:50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve 5:50pm More Creatures 6:20pm Great and Small 7:00pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Top Gear 9:00pm Only Connect	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Kyle Files 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Marcella 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody 11:00pm Electric Dreams	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights 9:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue 10:00pm The Flying Scotsman 11:00pm The X Files 12:00am The X Files 12:55am Traffic Cops	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Cricket 4:30pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Football 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Sky Sports News 2:00am Live WWE Late Night Raw
TUESDAY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Shetland 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm This Country	3:15pm Yes Chef 4:00pm A Place to Call Home 4:50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve 5:50pm More Creatures 6:20pm Great and Small 7:00pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Top Gear 9:00pm Back in Time for Tea	3:00pm James Martin's American Adventure 4:00pm Tenable 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm 100 Year Old Driving School 9:00pm What Would Your Kid Do?	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild 9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Tichmarsh 10:00pm Wild Britain with Ray Mears 11:00pm Elizabeth	11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Sky Sports Daily 1:00pm Sky Sports News 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Sky Sports News 4:00pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Info not available 8:30pm Info not available 10:45pm Cricket
WEDNESDAY	4:45pm Coast and Country Auctions 5:30pm Antiques Road Trip 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Immigration: Who Should We Let in? - Panorama 9:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build 10:00pm Earth's Natural Wonders	6:25pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes 10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story 10:50pm Live at the Apollo 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Benidorm 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights	6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Supervet 10:00pm One Born Every Minute 11:00pm Damned 11:35pm 24 Hours in Police Custody 12:35am 999: What's Your Emergency? 1:30am Pokerstars	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents 11:00pm Most Shocking 1:55am Super Casino	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily 1:00pm Sky Sports News 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Sky Sports News 4:00pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 8:30pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Sky Sports News

|| 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.

'Sorry Jane, you should be in the life boat'



TV COUCH CRITIC

WE have to remember that although it's been cooler in Spain recently, the UK is shivering, so I thought I would ask a couple of friends visiting from Milton Keynes (recent visit to escape the cold) what they had been watching as the temperature plummeted.

Now, Graham and Robert are no nonsense TV people. They know what they like and they stick with what they know. So why, please why, did they recommend I catch up with *Cruising With Jane McDonald*, final episode Friday April 2, Channel 5?

I like Jane McDonald, I like rivers and water, I like travelling and don't even mind ships where very small cabins with even smaller balconies are now called Staterooms, but I did not enjoy Jane's trip along the Mekong in Vietnam.

Everyone, but everyone on the ship not only knows Jane, but seems to be a signed up fan club member. It put me in mind of eating foods which lower cholesterol. We all know we should like them, there is no reason to dislike them, but as soon as the cam-



TOTAL LET-DOWN: Cruising With Jane McDonald.

eras are turned off, we are back to cheese and crackers to finish a meal.

Jane is travelling the Mississippi in the final show. Two predictions, firstly she is going to walk around in a shawl which could pass at any decent Sunday market on the Costas as a tablecloth and second, she is going to close the show belting out something by Elvis. I won't know if I'm right about Elvis or the tablecloth because I can't watch Jane be educated about the biggest maximum security prison in the US or sugar plantations. I don't much like Elvis songs either.

RIP: Emma Chambers.

Gogglebox, Channel 4, Fridays was back last week. This is cheese and crackers TV and I love it.

Leon isn't gracing the *Gogglebox* screens this time around, but I just know he's sitting somewhere in a massive armchair saying just what he thinks about TV and telling June, in his own unique way, just how much he still loves her. Thank you Mr Bernicoff.

In separate news, one half of the Brighton hairdressing duo has announced he is leaving the show to chase a TV career. Oh dear, this won't end well. Chris Butland-Steed (the one with the better beard)

hasn't thought this one through.

Paul O'Grady already has any shows Chris might think he could be part of in the bag. Good luck though Chris.

This week I also wanted to say 'thank you' to Emma Chambers, who sadly passed away aged just 53. Emma was and always will be Alice Tinker, the Verger to the Vicar of Dibley. Try not to smile when you remember that wedding dress.

I don't know how much of the BBC's Winter Olympics coverage you have caught, but I have been blown away by most of the action in the freezing South Korean temperatures. The competitors equally match their Summer Games counterparts and if the reaction to Spain's first medal at the Winter Games in 26 years is anything to go by, the Winter Olympiad will continue to go from strength to strength.

Looking ahead, fellow Geordies Ant and Dec continue their *Saturday Night Takeaway* with the 100th offering this Saturday. The seemingly joined at the hip Alfie Boe and Michael Ball are the stars of the end of the show, and Scarlett Moffatt shows that she is more than *Gogglebox* with a surprise for a family who don't know what's coming - do we believe that?

Happy viewing.

Critique: Adam Whalley-Lewis, Casares, Costa del Sol

Nora Johnson Breaking Views

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

Charities on life support... but charity begins at home!

THERE appears no let-up in allegations of misconduct by charity aid workers. UN believes more than 600 women and children suffered sexual abuse and exploitation by its peacekeepers. Oxfam workers in Haiti reportedly paid teenage prostitutes with rice, aid staff swapped wheat for sex in Africa, while those in charge knew what was going on 10 years ago.

Many charities do fantastic work, but disillusionment takes its toll. Very high executive pay, immoral behaviour, rather self-righteous finger wagging, chugging and other aggressive marketing ploys will inevitably bring lasting changes. Oxfam's far from an isolated case. The whole charity section needs root and branch reform.

Infuriated supporters of Oxfam are already withdrawing

their contributions. But is this missing the point? Abuse is rampant in all sectors, and all organisations (political parties, churches, schools, colleges, businesses) are inclined to nip in the bud reports of abuse in order to protect their reputations.

This encourages further abuse because perpetrators don't fear repercussions and victims doubt they'll be believed. What's needed is an independent body to scrutinise all claims of abuse, safeguards and sanctions across the whole of society.

So, let's support charities we trust - like Cudeca here on the Costa del Sol - and reduce the UK foreign aid budget so that it's in line with other countries.

The Department for International Development (DfID) now has a statutory require-



IN THE DOGHOUSE: Oxfam workers reportedly paid prostitutes with rice in Haiti.

ment to spend 0.7 per cent of Britain's gross national income on development aid annually. In 2016 this came to £13.3 bil-

lion! The appalling Oxfam scandal simply demonstrates how impossible it is for staff at DfID to manage this huge

amount of taxpayers' money and ensure it's properly spent.

British taxpayers are still sending financial aid to India,

now one of the world's fastest growing economies. They're still sending money to Nigeria, the world's sixth-largest oil producer, while we have such scandalous problems in need of funding at home...

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have purchased my crime thrillers (all profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity) following my piece here two weeks ago. And keep those donations going to Cudeca!

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.

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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
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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'FOR THE LAST TIME - WHERE DID YOU HIDE OUR CHICKENS?'

Trivia from around the world

*** The longest tunnel in the world runs from Switzerland to Italy under the Alps. It is 57km long and took 17 years to build.

*** There are at least 20 different ways to say 'Sorry' in Japanese.

*** The United States pays Cuba \$4,085 in rent for the Guantanamo Bay prison camp, but they refuse to cash the cheques.

*** A crack in the earth appeared in Ethiopia in 2005 and is expanding; leading scientists to claim a new ocean will form over it in around 10 million years.

*** Saudi Arabia imports sand and camels from Australia. The sand in Saudi Arabia is reportedly not fit to build on.

*** There is an ongoing lightning storm at Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, with storms lasting around 10 hours a night for 140 to 160 nights a year.

**SOUNDSCAPE:** Researchers found music and moods were closely related.

DID YOU KNOW?

The type of music you listen to can change the way you perceive the world, according to research. A study found people listening to happy music thought they saw happy faces that were not there.

Women's wit

When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak."

Audre Lorde,
writer



Famous quote

If you want a happy ending that depends, of course, on where you stop your story."

Orson Welles, actor

World of English

Cybersquatting - The act of registering well-known names as internet domains in order to sell them on.

YOUR STARS
FOR NEXT 7 DAYS**AQUARIUS**
(January 21 - February 19)

You are looking to having everything your own way, which may not be entirely out of the question. The only sticking point could be that you are not even willing to be sharp with someone who has been far from straight with you. Be prepared to trip over a loose end later if you do not tie it up now.

**LEO**
(July 24 - August 23)

What you truly want in life is now becoming clear to you. Not for you the fuzzy ideas of the past. Now, you realise that, if you do not give a strong lead, then others will lead you. To avoid going backwards now you must be determined and clear. Show others that you are firmly taking the lead in your future.

**PISCES**
(February 20 - March 20)

So far as your work or business life is concerned, those in authority may seek to see things done their way. Where they seem to pay lip service to your needs, that is all it is talk. Be clear that you want action and that you will not give in easily. Humour will not help.

**VIRGO**
(August 24 - September 23)

With your self-confidence on a high note, you are ready to sing the song of your future. There will be highs and lows but that is what makes life interesting and exciting. Do not now avoid changes for the sake of peace. What is exciting and balanced this week is where your future lies.

**ARIES**
(March 21 - April 20)

Putting yourself first is necessary at the moment. There is so much happening this week that you may be tempted to run yourself ragged trying to do it all yourself. It is possible to persuade others to give a hand and, although it may seem too much trouble at the time, you will reap the benefits in the longer term.

**LIBRA**
(September 24 - October 23)

Where you see things failing to go your way, it may seem that others are being unfair. It is unlikely to be that simple. Perhaps, by being too easy-going and friendly, you have given the impression of not being particularly caring. State your case and change the tune.

**TAURUS**
(April 21 - May 21)

You should bear in mind that you are the best one to decide what you want, when you want it and how you will go about getting it. Others may offer you short cuts, but is that really going to deliver the goods? I think not.

**SCORPIO**
(October 24 - November 22)

Judgement may be impaired this week and it would be advisable to get second and even third opinions. In much the same way that you sometimes have an instinctive feel for things and situations, you now have this sensation about a certain person. An unbiased and imaginative opinion scatters your stress.

**GEMINI**
(May 22 - June 21)

You know where you are going and who with, but there is this one unresolved thought in your mind. It is just a thought, isn't it? Or is it more? This is something only you can answer. Be prepared this week to take advice and ask questions.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(November 23 - December 21)

This week be prepared to be forthright when it comes to a certain difficult situation. This involves someone trying to get you to make a decision you are either not sure of or against. Your good humour is unlikely to deflect them but being openly insistent may.

**CANCER**
(June 22 - July 23)

You are still looking more to the past than to the future, but now it seems that circumstances are urging you to move ahead at more of a pace. Because the matter becomes urgent, it may seem to you that circumstances are overtaking you. The choice is still yours if you show speed and determination.

**CAPRICORN**
(December 22 - January 20)

Are you being pushed into a corner? There is no need to respond with aggression, but a smooth and fast move is required to avoid this. They say that forewarned is forearmed. You know more of the circumstances than I do, but there is someone you can call on as an ally, isn't there?

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY



Saturday February 24

(2) (11)
(35) (40)
(48) (55)

BONUS BALL

(7)

IRISH LOTTO



Saturday February 24

(1) (10)
(30) (31)
(42) (47)

BONUS BALL

(25)

EURO MILLIONS



Tuesday February 20

(6) (14)
(19) (25)
(29)

LUCKY STARS

(5) (11)

Friday February 23

(10) (17)
(18) (28)
(47)

LUCKY STARS

(3) (7)

LA PRIMITIVA



Thursday February 22

(4) (8)
(11) (23)
(34) (35)

REINTEGRO

(02) (2)

Saturday February 24

(4) (5)
(12) (27)
(43) (45)

REINTEGRO

(40) (7)

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA



Sunday February 25

(4) (17)
(25) (33)
(40)

REINTEGRO

(5)

EL MILLON: XPN91473

JOKER: 6 822 466

JOKER: 3 544 370

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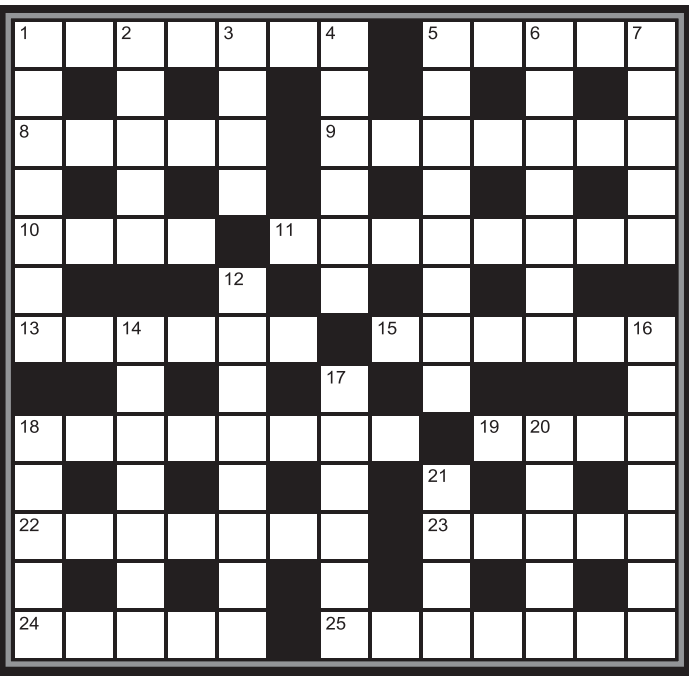
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Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Socialist leader in fitting decline (7)
 - 5 They secure money for the government, so we hear (5)
 - 8 Former performance is precise (5)
 - 9 Tramp on the dock, it's rougher (7)
 - 10 A small pond, pure and simple (4)
 - 11 Carte blanche for an unpaid employee (8)
 - 13 Chair for a biker (6)
 - 15 Pay back when a Peru company is reformed (6)
 - 18 On the edge? Potentially alarming anyway (8)
 - 19 Spot British group (4)
 - 22 Castle Hotel is demolished for ski lodges (7)
 - 23 Runner has nothing for the party (5)
 - 24 A novice gets a large amount of grant (5)
 - 25 Tureen I transported in train (7)

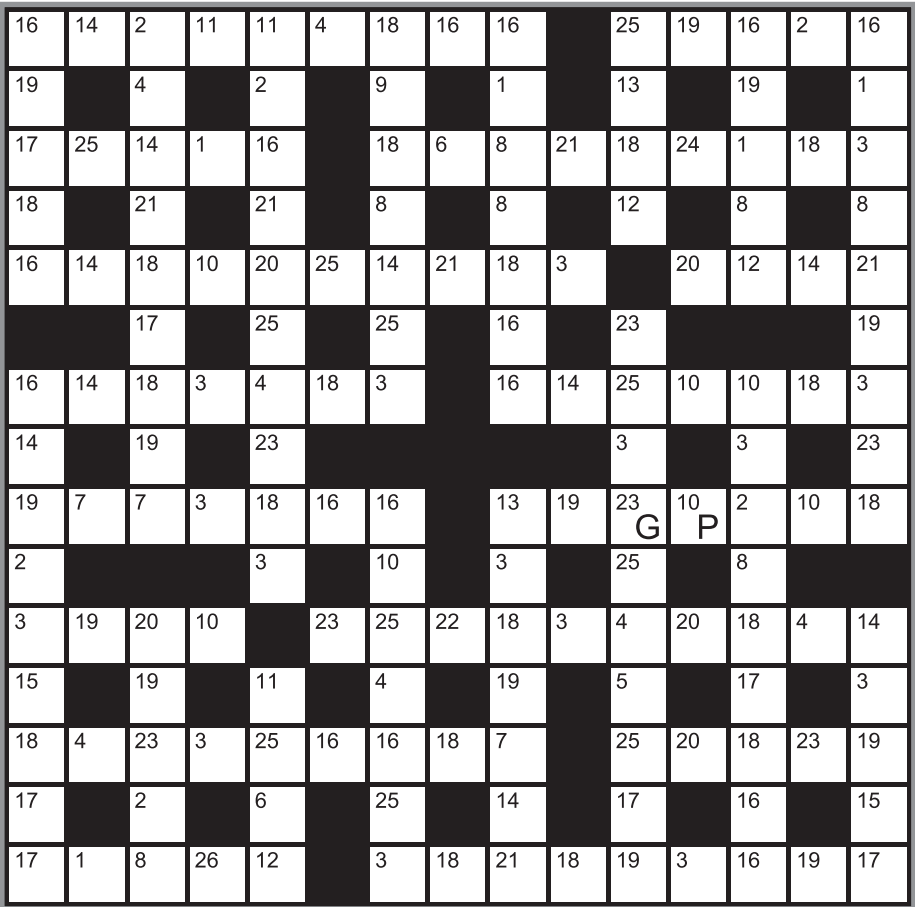


- Down**
- 1 Doctor East, half American, is a wishful thinker (7)
 - 2 A way to ventilate a rising flight (5)
 - 3 Consumes ingredients from meat safe (4)
 - 4 Knight's tunic is the result of bad art (6)
 - 5 Meddled with chopped up damp

- 6 Silver discovered in elegant old US city (7)
- 7 A little bit of quiet colour (5)
- 12 Grounds for having a coin sent outside (8)
- 14 Liar cut-off limit (7)
- 16 Help too difficult for a nuisance on the road (7)
- 17 Was confused in her cable (6)
- 18 Came about a century later to a city in Saudi Arabia (5)
- 20 Pick up king, then knight (5)
- 21 Help needed in a punt (4)

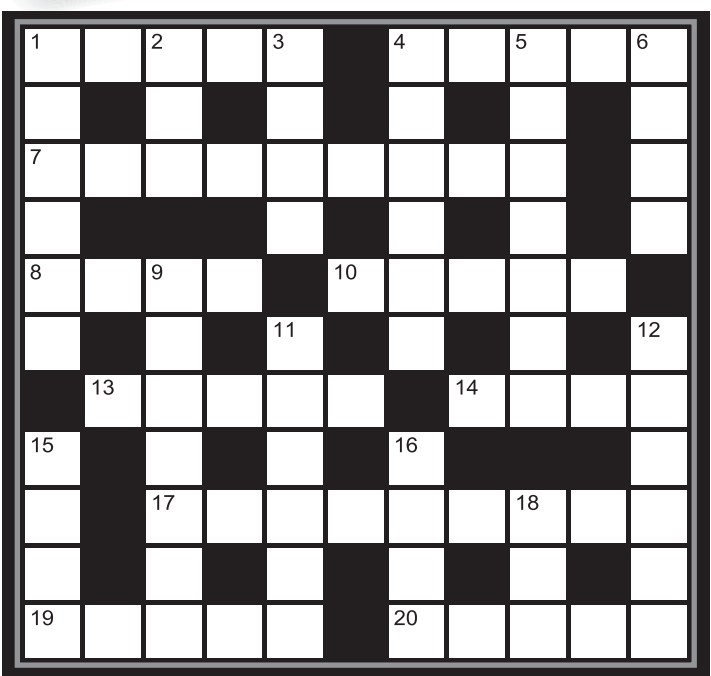
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 10 represents P and 23 represents G, so fill in P every time the figure 10 appears and G every time the figure 23 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

Quick

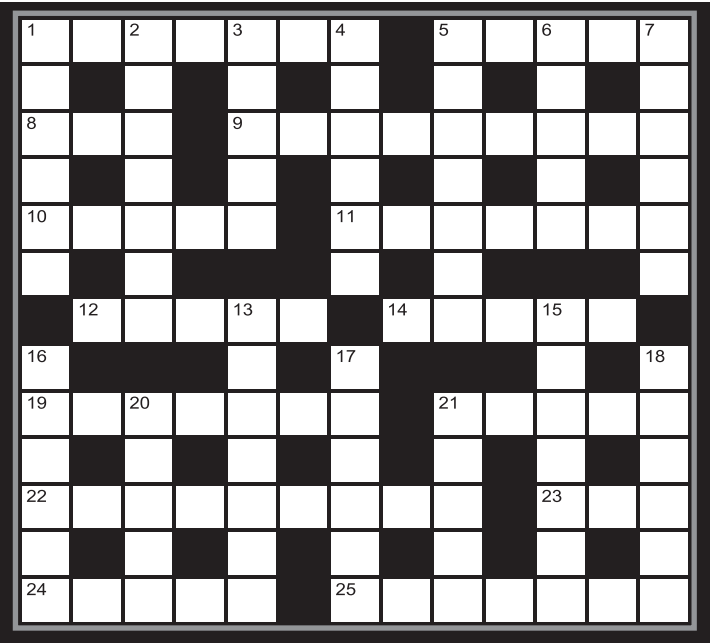


- Across**
- 1 Card game (5)
 - 4 Bad-tempered (5)
 - 7 Spaceman (9)
 - 8 Ill (4)
 - 10 Commence (5)
 - 13 Old-fashioned (5)
 - 14 Interlocking plastic building blocks (4)
 - 17 Schedule (9)
 - 19 White heron (5)
 - 20 Irreligious individual (5)

- Down**
- 1 Express approval of (6)
 - 2/18 Knapsack (3,3)
 - 3 Chess piece (4)
 - 4 Place of worship that has its own altar (6)
 - 5 Summary (7)
 - 6 Free from danger (4)
 - 9 Talk idly or rapidly (7)
 - 11 Allow (6)
 - 12 Rule (6)
 - 15 Metal enclosure (4)
 - 16 Come to a halt (4)
 - 18 See 2

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 1 Scorpion (7)
 - 5 Rocas (minerales) (5)
 - 8 Brazo (de persona) (3)
 - 9 To cross (over)
 - 10 Temprano (5)
 - 11 Ostras (7)
 - 12 Fly (insect) (5)
 - 14 To lower (5)
 - 19 Español (7)
 - 21 Signature (5)
 - 22 To pass (overtake) (9)
 - 23 Murciélago (3)
 - 24 Autumn (5)
 - 25 To show (7)

- Down**
- 1 Abbots (6)
 - 2 Wardrobe (for clothing) (7)
 - 3 Preparado (5)
 - 4 Estrecho (calle, pasillo) (6)
 - 5 Magazine (journal) (7)
 - 6 Swan (5)
 - 7 Estrés (6)
 - 13 Watch out! (7)
 - 15 To approve of (7)
 - 16 Tin (ore) (6)
 - 17 Ritmo (6)
 - 18 Shepherd (6)
 - 20 Fir tree (5)
 - 21 Tenedores (5)

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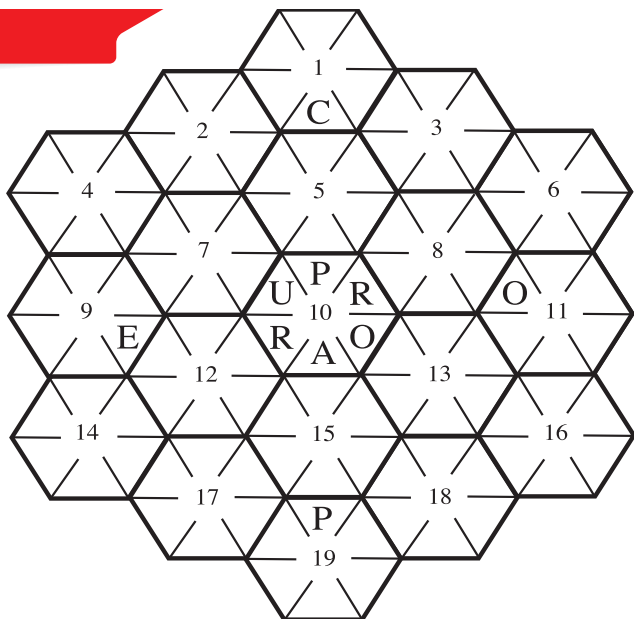
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Hexagram

AMPERE
ASSENT
BICEPS
COERCE
DUGOUT
OBLONG
PETREL
PLEASE
PONCHO
ROSTER
SORREL
SORROW
TANDEM
TEETER
TELLER
TINSEL
UPROAR (10)
WHEEZE
ZOUNDS



The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells **MUST BE THE SAME**. The letters in the words must be written **CLOCKWISE**. The word in cell 10 (**UPROAR**) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

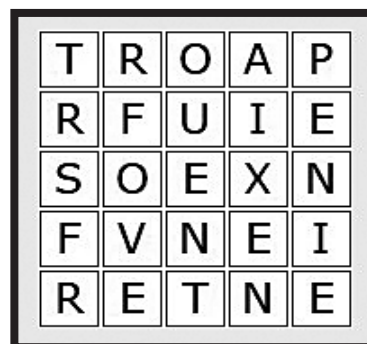
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Stodgy 2 Sludge 3 Faulty 4 Scenic
5 Golden 6 Opaque 7 Census 8 Duplex
9 Vestal 10 Sextet 11 Closer 12 Utmost
13 Curate 14 Fiasco 15 Meadow
16 Detour 17 Cowboy 18 Droopy
19 Carboy.

Boggled

How many English words can you find in the Boggled grid, according to the following rules?

- The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'. They can be adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Words must contain at least four letters and may include singular and plural or other derived forms.
- No letter may be used more than once within a single word, unless it appears twice.
- No vulgarities or proper nouns are permitted.



TARGET:

- Average: 22
- Very good: 44
- Good: 30
- Excellent: 57

SCORING:

4 letters: 1 point 7 letters: 5 points
5 letters: 2 points 8 or more letters: 11 points
6 letters: 3 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

dead dean dear dado exam earl
earlier nature damn dart dope dopier
dram drat axed maxed made mart
marl matt mature maturer hard harm
hart harp harrier hope taxed tarp
tarrier trade traded tram true truer
trip tripod tripe triple trier turtle
equip phat pram pique pile pier lire
lieu ripe rile quip quilt quilt quire

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



TARGET:

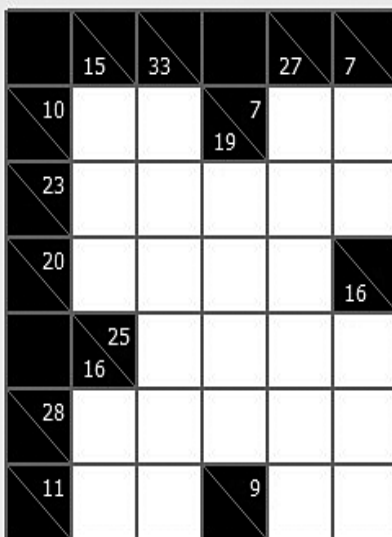
- Average: 11
- Good: 15
- Very good: 22
- Excellent: 28

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

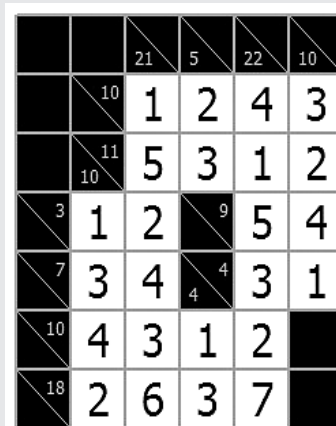
arvo aver ever over pave rave rive rove veep veer vert
veto vote avert evert ovate overt paver pivot prove
reave revet rivet trope vapor viper vireo vitae
voter privet vetoer overate overeat private EVAPORITE
OPERATIVE

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.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

Across:

1 Return, 4 Jail, 8 Nectarine,
9 Opal, 10 Depend, 13 Stalls,
15 Oslo, 18 Lollipops,
19 Wasp, 20 Aspire.

Down:

1 Raucous, 2 Tonga, 3 Rich,
5 Agile, 6/18 Lie low,
7 Camel, 11 Diocese,
12 Plain, 14 Atlas, 16 Sushi,
17 Boss.

CODE BREAKER

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

CRYPTIC

Across:

1 Arrest, 4 Causes, 9 Airdrie, 10 Trade,
11 Turn, 12 Hairline, 14 Haven, 16 Agony,
20 Betrayal, 21 Ha-ha, 24 Drama,
25 Shatter, 26 Sateen, 27 Tennis.

Down:

1 Adapts, 2 Rarer, 3 Spry, 5 Alter ego,
6 Station, 7 Skewer, 8 Debar, 13 Delaware,
15 Attract, 17 Abides, 18 Waist,
19 Madras, 22 Acton, 23 Kale.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

1 Unlucky, 5 Sapos, 8 Seagull, 9 Loros,
10 Trece, 11 Obtener, 12 Bucket, 14 Gansos,
17 Reinado, 19 Arcos, 22 Enero,
23 Earring, 24 Oveja, 25 Singers.

Down:

1 Upset, 2 Llave, 3 Chupete, 4 Yellow,
5 Split, 6 Parents, 7 Sastres, 12 Barbero,
13 Chinese, 15 Alacrán, 16 Towels,
18 Ahora, 20 Crime, 21 Signs.

App of the week



Thunderly

An app for storm lovers everywhere which allows users to track weather events in real time on an animated globe. It includes a day and night cycle and lighting history.

QUIZ: MIND THE GAP

All the answers contain the names of London Underground stations

- Because of the colour of the order's habit, what nickname is often given to members of the Roman Catholic order of preaching friars founded by St Dominic?
- Founded in 1787 and based since 1814 at Lord's cricket ground in St John's Wood, which cricket club is generally known as the MCC?
- From which London prison did two Provisional IRA members Pearse McAuley and his cellmate Nesson Quinlivan escape on July 7, 1991?
- Melanie Blatt, Shaznay Lewis and Simone Rainford were the original members of which girl group formed in London in 1993?
- What is the name of the friendly, marmalade loving bear from deepest, darkest Peru

created by Michael Bond?

- What was the title of Gerry Rafferty's first British hit single, which reached number three in the UK charts in 1978?
 - Which famous British vehicle manufacturer has produced models called: Astra, Belmont, Chevette, Vectra and Zafira?
 - Which Grade I listed building is the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London?
 - Which song was the winning entry for Sweden in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest?
 - Which word can precede: blood, bottle, clearing, piggy, river and sand?
- Not a lot of people know that... there is only one Tube station that does not have any letters of the word 'mackerel' in it: St John's Wood.*

Answers:

- BLACK FRIARS
- MARYLEBONE Cricket Club
- BRYXTON
- ALL SAINTS
- PADDINGTON
- BAKER STREET
- VAUXHALL
- MANSON HOUSE
- WATERLOO (Abba)
- BANK

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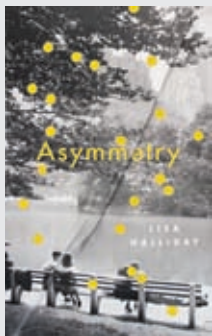
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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Out of balance

ALICE, a young American editor, begins a relationship with the much older writer Ezra Blazer.

Years later the economist Amar is detained in Heathrow Airport while travelling to Kurdistan to see his brother.

Alice's story takes place in the early days of the Iraq war and is a coming of age tale that revolves around an unexpected romance in New York.

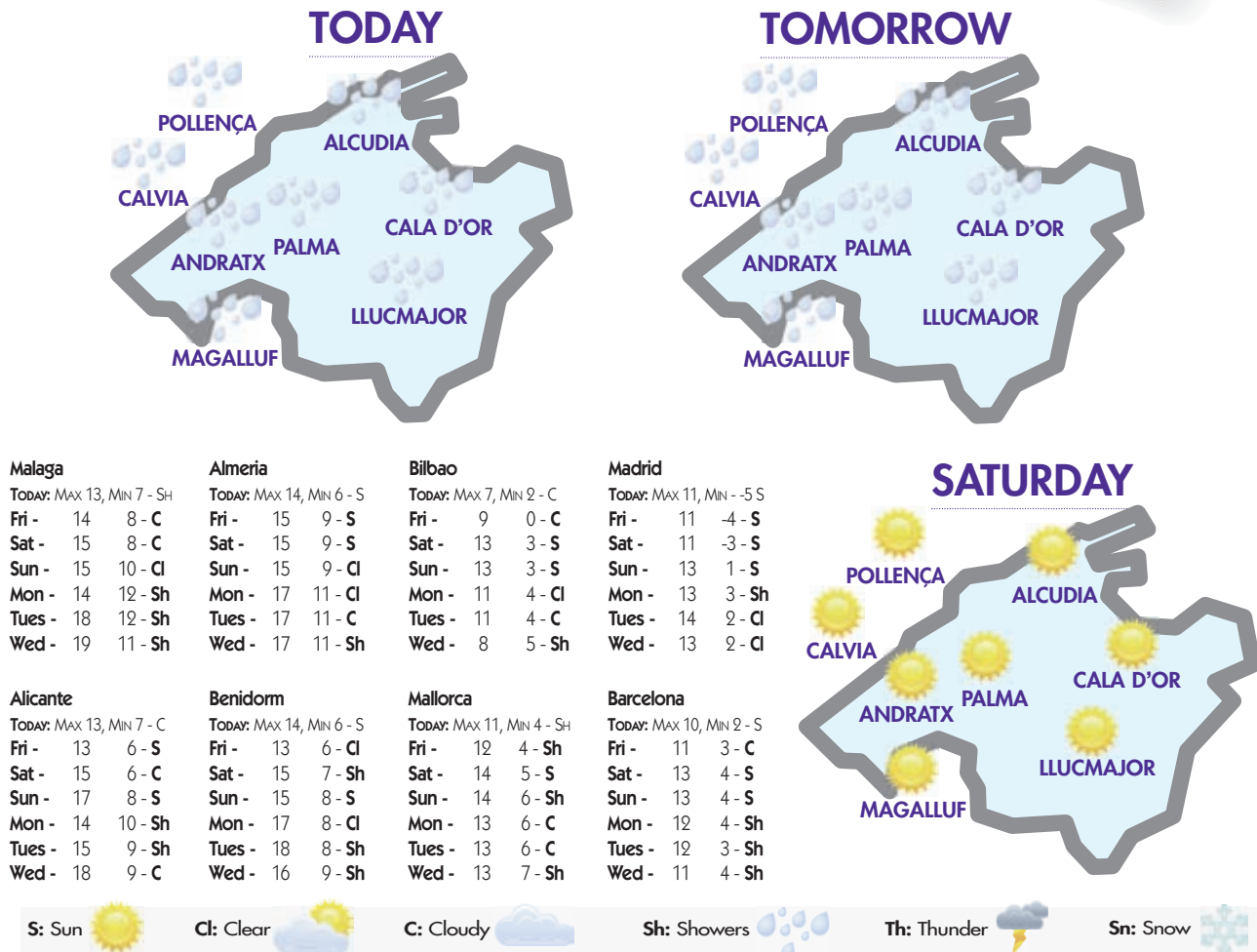
Amar tells his account of a weekend spent in an airport holding room in 2008.

These two characters are worlds apart, but both their stories intertwine through deep human drama. Told in three sections: Folly, Madness and Ezra Blazer's Desert Island Discs, Lisa Halliday's *Asymmetry* explores the imbalances of contemporary life.

books@euroweeklynnews.com

Mallorca

weather



Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for any errors in published forecasts

BIRTHDAYS

• **Ron Howard, Director; March 1, 64**
The Oscar-winning filmmaker behind *A Beautiful Mind* and *Apollo 13* was originally known for playing Opie on *The Andy Griffith Show* and *Richie Cunningham* in *Happy Days*.

• **Chris Martin, Singer; March 2, 41**
Coldplay's front man was born in Whitestone, England and played his first gig with *The Rocking Honkies* which are rumoured to have been booed by the crowd. He has since found success with albums *X&Y*, *A Rush of Blood to the Head* and *Viva la Vida* with his current group.



Jessica Biel.

• **Jessica Biel, Actor; March 3, 36**

The star of *The Illusionist* began modelling in adverts from the age of 12. She played Erin in the 2003 film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

• **Kenny Dalglish, Footballer; March 4, 67**

Dalglish scored 230 goals during his 21-year long career, playing for Celtic FC and Liverpool as well as the Scottish national team. He went on to manage Liverpool and has won two FA cups while at the

team, once as a player and the other as its coach.

• **Moira Kelly, Actor; March 6, 50**
The voice of Nala in Disney's 1994 film *The Lion King* has also played Kate Moseley in *The Cutting Edge* and Karen Roe in *One Tree Hill*.

• **Rachel Weisz, Actor; March 7, 48**
The Westminster-born film star founded the *Talking Tongues* theatre company while a student at Cambridge University before her movie career. She has had roles in *The Mummy*, *The Constant Gardener*, *The Bourne Legacy* and *Constantine*. She was also a model from the age of 14.

This week in history

509 BC - First triumph

The Roman Republic holds its first triumphal celebration after Publius Valerius Publicola defeats deposed King Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, beginning a tradition that would last throughout the empire's history.

1284 - Wales incorporated

The Principality of Wales is absorbed into the Kingdom of England under the Statute of Rhuddlan.

1519 - Cortez lands

Conquistador Hernan Cortez arrives in modern-day Mexico in search of the wealth of the Aztecs. He would go on to conquer the land for the Spanish crown.

1657 - Edo ablaze

The Great Fire of Meireki starts in Edo (Tokyo). It would go on to last for three days and kill more than 100,000 people.

1869 - Periodic table

Dmitri Mendeleev unveils the world's first periodic table to the Russian chemical society, which would become the standard graphic depiction of the elements.

1876 - Telephone patented

Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for the telephone. He had previously raced rival inventor Elisha Grey to be the first to submit proposals for the device.

1970 - Nuclear treaty signed

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons comes into force after being ratified by 43 countries. It requires countries never to acquire the weapons and to work towards nuclear disarmament and was extended indefinitely in 1995.

2003 - First ICC session

The International Criminal Court holds its inaugural session in The Hague in Holland with the power to prosecute people for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

DVD

A powerful comedy



THE USSR's ruthless ruler Josef Stalin (Adrian Mcloughlin) has just been found dead.

Soviet officials quickly arrive to decide the future of the country and rival factions soon emerge. On one side is secret police head Lavrentiy Beria (Simon Russell Beale) and leading Communist Party figure Georgy Malenkov (Jeffrey Tambor). On the other is Nikita Khrushchev (Steve Buscemi) and labour minister Lazar Kaganovich (Dermot Crowley).

The Death of Stalin takes a humorous look at the ensuing power struggle.

FEET
FEED
HEED
HERD
HARD
HARE
Solution

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.

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

Word Ladder

HARE

Move from the start word (**HARE**) to the end word (**FEET**) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

FEET

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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Electric cars in Mallorca could cause major problems

IT was announced recently that the Balearic government is to ban new petrol and diesel cars over the next few years.

Once again, this is a prime example of the government's failure to do 'joined up thinking'!

If everyone has to have an electric car, how will current drivers be able to afford one if they are unable to sell their current petrol/diesel vehicle?

How will people be able to afford all the new sets of batteries when they pass their 'drop dead date' a few years later and they are currently made of lithium which is mined, shouldn't this proposal wait until a new form of battery is invented?

Power brown-outs and black-outs occur on the island now so what can be done to improve the supply to cover the huge amount of electricity required to charge all these electric vehicles?

How many electric buses, coaches, vans and heavy goods lorries are on the market as well as agricultural equipment and gener-


Roundabout positions can cause accidents

I HAVE been a Driving Instructor in the UK for 56 years and also employed by the DSA as a Driving Examiner.

I have an HGV Licence which I also use to teach HGV drivers. I have travelled worldwide and driven in all the countries in Europe and the USA and OZ, Canada, New Zealand. Can I point out that the Spanish driving at roundabouts is dangerous and an accident black spot?

In God's name IF you are turning left at a roundabout why not approach in the left lane with a left signal on then change to a right signal and the right lane to exit just after the exit prior to your exit?

I find the Spanish way of always



BENIDORM: Is a fun place to be.

going round the outside (right) lane irrespective of where you intend to go bloody dangerous and the big cause of accidents at roundabouts. There needs to be TV announcements to inform Spanish drivers how to signal lane position and leave roundabouts before more are killed and maimed.

J Barry Clark, DSAADI UK

Editor's note:

Barry thank you for your letter. Recently the authorities and the Guardia Civil have been encouraging drivers to always enter the right hand lane as early as possible and to exit roundabouts from that lane but it obviously is taking time for some Spanish drivers to come to terms with this.

ators?

Motorcyclists have little choice in electric bikes and the price is far higher than petrol powered models.

Even though it is just under eight years away for the diesel ban, and 18 for the petrol vehicles, how long will 'traditionally fuelled' vehicles be allowed to be on the road? Why not move to hydrogen powered vehicles?

Brian Gatcombe, Mallorca

Many thanks

THROUGH your paper could I express my thanks to the Local Police at Calle el Parquet Nijar? On Sunday we visited Nijar.

While in the town I used the ATM at a bank branch when my card was jammed in. Thinking this may be some sort of fraudulent device I went to the Local Police station where an officer went above what I would have expected.

He came back to the ATM with me to check and then we went back to the station where he telephoned the bank to report the problem, then contacted my bank in the UK to help.

Unfortunately I didn't get the officer's name, but if you could pass on my thanks through *Euro Weekly News* I would be very grateful.

Ron English at present on holiday at Vera Playa

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.euroweeklynnews.com.

English football 'hooligans' arrested

It's not important if they were football supporters or not, take their passports off them.

Helen Massingham

Most Brits don't misbehave, it's the minority morons who cause the trouble. I have been holidaying in Spain since the late 60's and have never caused any nuisance ever.

Sheila Bowman

Arrest them, put them in a Spanish prison, once their sentence is complete, deport them and shred their passports.

Trev Vennard

British government debates expat vote

If you leave the UK why would you still want to vote? OK so people will say pensions, but what is so bad about the UK that people leave but still want to have a vote? I know people move with work so they are not staying out of the UK permanently. I did watch the full debate live this afternoon - an interesting debate.

Libbyj Ogden Rainey Phelp

Because Libbyj many expats still have property, pensions, investments, and if you were in the civil service or army you still pay tax in the UK. Makes sense to be able to have a say in what happens. We also have family we are concerned about who

Comments from EWN online

still live there.

Jenny Dodd

As a Scot living in Spain I do not have the right to vote in Spanish general elections, only local ones. After the Brexit farce I doubt many of us would vote Tory!

Claire Twigg

Priors finally receive payout for demolition

So sorry that money is an insult, but they have to move forward now, this ordeal is shocking. Nasty bullying.

Sandra Russell

About time, hope they have many years to enjoy a good life.

Gill Reynolds

I hope this paves the way for more victims to be compensated

Pps Estepona

Police officer dies after football fans clash

Frankly, the whole of European football fans should boycott the World Cup this year otherwise there will be blood shed!!

Steve Homer

So sorry for this man's family, yes it was a heart attack but it was the violence that caused it. DEP.

Gill Reynolds

Watched the build up preparations... so much was set in place roads / transport, etc even schools in area closed all day. Guess they never expected it to be bad pitchside.

Lydia Taylor

UK benefit cheating great-gran avoids jail

People come to Spain wanting things now which most of us have worked all our lives to achieve. I love it when they say 'I am 40 years old and paid in to the system all my life.' Try paying in for 40/45 years then claim your rewards. If you need to work then be very certain you can make it here without benefits as they don't exist in Spain. Don't expect others to bail you out.

Gill Reynolds

Nerja fan

I LOVE Nerja because it is essentially Andalucian. Unfortunately many of our newer developments are faceless, featureless boxes. It was therefore very pleasing to see the new hostel built on Calle Cruz, near the entrance to the underground car park. The developer is clearly proud of traditional Spanish architecture. Can we have more?

Gordon Clark, Nerja

Likes Leapy

WHAT an excellent article, we have sent it to all our friends and family.

We cannot praise you every week for all your many excellent articles, we read them all.

We hope that you can get one or more of the GB papers to publish your excellent articles.

Kind Regards
Andrew and Lucie Murray UK and Pacheco

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Keep cool in the cold

SEVERAL Olympic snowboarders recently revealed how they soothe their sore muscles and protect their skin in cold weather.

While you may not be hitting fresh powder every day in sub-zero temperatures, these tips will still come in useful when exercising or during a particularly cold spell this winter.

Chloe Kim, Olympic gold medallist and the only athlete to win three X Games gold medals before the age of 16, swears by an anti-inflammatory, plant-based gel to help soothe sore muscles, which can come in very handy after a particularly intense workout.

Essential oils are also great at stimulating blood flow and relieving any soreness so try adding a few drops of

lavender, ylang-ylang or camphor to your bath at night.

The snowboarders also said they always insist on wearing sun cream, which is good advice for anyone wherever you are, as your skin is actually in more danger during winter. Many people forget sun cream is just as important at this time of year as the sun can still be incredibly strong,

CHLOE KIM: Take care of yourself like the Olympian.



even when it's cold or cloudy.

Buying a moisturiser or face cream with added SPF is an easy way to remember to stay protected and will keep your skin feeling supple and smooth.

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SO MUCH CHOICE: Almond, cashew or peanut butter?

Go nutty for nut butter

NUT butters are packed with protein, and are also full of those good fats which help to keep your heart healthy. However, are some versions better than others?

Nut butters generally fall into two kinds: raw and roasted. Roasting nuts apparently does not change their nutrition levels and gives them a more rich and toasty flavour.

However, many companies that roast the nuts beforehand often do so in oil,

which increases the fat content as they absorb 2 to 5 per cent of the oil they are cooked in.

You can also get 'no added' or natural nut butters. While a 'no added' butter means it still has added oil, peanuts and preservatives, just no sugar and salt, the 'natural' kind should be free from all of these.

Aside from traditional peanut butters which are high in protein and a good source of vitamin E, you

can also get almond butter, cashew butter, macadamia butter and walnut butter.

Almonds are a good source of magnesium, calcium and vitamin E and are low in cholesterol whereas cashews are rich in iron and magnesium.

Macadamia nuts contain manganese and thiamine and can lower cholesterol while walnuts are packed with folate, fibre and omega-3 fats which have been proven to boost brain function.

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

**SPANISH TOUR:** The brothers in concert.

Cafe Quijano Tour 2018

THREE brothers, Manuel, Oscar and Raul Quijano from Leon formed Cafe Quijano in 1998 and played together until 2007 releasing four albums in the meantime.

During that period they also composed music for the Spanish release of the Disney movie Lilo and Stitch and worked for the Castilla y Leon tourist department to try to help promote the region and increase the number

of visitors.

When in 2007, brother Manuel, the lead singer released his own solo album they decided to call it a day and go their separate musical ways.

Last year, they decided to get back together and have embarked on a massive Spanish tour with many dates sold out as former fans flock to hear them revisit their back catalogue.

The band, who now play a mix of instruments, will be appearing at the Trui Theatre in Palma this Friday as part of their tour, where they will perform all of their best known Latin pop in a two-hour show which will also include a number of new compositions and their latest single.

Tickets which can be obtained from the theatre box office and cost from €24.50 to €38.

Modal music workshop

ONE of the masters of stringed instruments, Efred Lopez will be spending three days teaching his experimental workshop of modal music in Palma.

The workshops which will concentrate on instruments and music covering the traditions of the eastern Mediterranean: Greek, Turkish, Tunisian, Arabic, Azeri or Afghan will cost €150 and take place at the Teatre Municipal Mar i Terra from Friday March 16 to Sunday March 18.

For the last 10 years this virtuoso has organised work-

VALENCIAN:
Efred Lopez: on stage.



Photo by Xara Ca Revolt flickr

shops in modal music, composition, medieval music and sound engineering in various centres throughout Europe.

The programme for this weekend of workshops will be Friday, from 4pm to 8pm

and Saturday 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm. Finally an intensive Sunday sees the training take place from 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm.

For information on how to enrol, call 971 720 135.

Celebrate Andalucia Day

WHILST the last few days have seen celebrations of Balearic Day, yesterday was also Andalucia Day, where businesses in that region celebrated with a public holiday.

The Casa de Andalucia in Calvia is organising a free event at the Auditori de Peguera to recognise Andalucia Day this Saturday starting at 8pm.

There will be music,

dancing, food and lots of fun including performances from Isla Grana, Arborea, Amigos de Tito Aznar and the Escuela de Baile de la Casa de Andalucia en Baleares.

Upcoming wine region

PRIORAT as one of the upcoming Spanish wine regions has recorded an extraordinary leap in quality and reputation over the last decade.

This small area which qualifies as Denominació d'Origen Qualificada (DOQ) is in Tarragona Province in Catalunya and is one of only two - alongside Rioja - regions to qualify as DOCa, the highest qualification.

It produces mainly red and powerful wines.

Characterised by a terroir of volcanic origins with black slate and quartz soil known as llicorella with vineyards on terraces at 100m - 700m, the area has low yields due to the rocky soil that does not allow water accumulation.

Wine production in the area dates from the 12th century, when monks from the Monastery of Scala Dei introduced viticulture and the prior ruled as a feudal lord, giving rise to the name Priorat.

At the end of the 19th century, the phylloxera pest devastated the vineyards and replanting was undertaken only in the 1950's. In the 1980's bulk wine production was phased out

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi

**PRIORAT:** On the march.

and bottling of quality wine was introduced.

The traditional grape variety in El Priorat is the red Garnacha tinta, which is found in all the older vineyards. Other red varieties are Garnacha Peluda, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

White varieties are Garnacha blanca, Macabeo, Pedro Ximénez and Chenin.

The traditional reds are a single grape bottling of Grenache and Carignan, or a blend of these with French grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Syrah. Usually aged in oak barrels for 18 months followed by six months in the bottle, Priorat wines have a consumption optimal two years later.

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The Raggles unplugged



Photo Credit: Facebook

IRISH BAND: The three Raggles.

WITH St Patrick's Day just around the corner and falling on a Saturday (March 17) there will be plenty of musical celebration as well as sinking of the 'black stuff'.

One Irish band that has been connected with Mallorca and the Irish scene for 25 years are the Raggles (formerly the Raggle Taggle Gypsy's) who play in Santa Ponsa as part of the celebrations on Sunday March 18.

It was late March 1993 when Paul McKee and Brendan O'Neill arrived in Mallorca looking for some gigs for the summer. Carrying a few instruments and with little

money they carved out a career which has literally taken them around the world.

Whilst they hope to organise a get together of all of their past members later this year to celebrate their 25th anniversary, this gig in Santa Ponsa will be a tribute to the island with a three-piece consisting of Paul, Brendan and percussionist Sebastian.

The band's performance will blend in perfectly with the family atmosphere with free attractions for the children, entertainment, a craft market, food and drink (with plenty of Guinness, of course), as well as a great selection of fabulous street entertainment.

Balearic Islands Youth Orchestra

AS part of the Cala Millor Festival, the Balearic Islands Young Orchestra and Ciutat de Mallorca Choir will be performing at the Auditorium Sa Maniga, Cala Millor this Saturday with tickets costing €8.

The Illes Balears Youth Or-

chestra (JOIB), conducted by Joan Barcelo, was created in 2015, and within just three years it has established itself as a prestigious platform for young professional musicians, who need these entities to grow their careers.

In addition, the orchestra is formed with the aim of bringing the orchestral music to all the Balearic Islands.

The Youth Orchestra has offered a large number of concerts in Majorca, Ibiza and Catalonia.



FREE CONCERT: The Orquestra de Cambra de Mallorca.

Contrasting Bach, Beethoven and Bartok

AS part of their 2017-2018 season there will be a free concert by the Orquestra de Cambra de Mallorca, with Tomeu Moll at the piano.

The programme which starts at 8pm this Saturday at the IES in Marratxi includes Romanian Dances by Bela Bartok, Concert for keyboard BWV 1055, by JS Bach, and Quartet

No. 11, known as the Serious Quartet by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The Orquestra de Cambra de Mallorca was created in 2016 by Bernat Quetglas, its current director, with the aim of bringing concert music to the whole of Mallorca and is a relatively small professional group composing of 25 to 40 musicians.

50 years of funk

MANACOR welcomes American trombonist, composer and arranger Fred Wesley, one of the creators of funk, along with James Brown and George Clinton, with whom he collaborated in the 60's and 70's.

His new jazz trio, Fred Wesley & Generations will be appearing at the Auditori de Manacor on Friday March 16 at 8.30pm with tickets costing from €15.

Teaming up with Italian Leonardo Corradi (considered one of the best instrumentalists of the Hammond b3 organ in the world) and French drummer Tony Match, the trio will pay homage to legendary organist Jimmy Smith but will also perform a selection of new pieces, combining their own creativity and classic jazz standards.

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Celebs and super-rich in world of privacy and plenty

IN 2004, Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart were seen in Barcelona together and became the surprise couple of the season.

The actress was shooting for the film *Fragile* in the city, and her new boyfriend had travelled to accompany her.

Ford did not like being pursued by cameras every time he left his hotel, so he was provided with a luxury apartment right in the centre of Barcelona.

This then set a trend among celebrities for requesting exclu-



Credit: Wikimedia, Andrei Dan Sucu

HOTEL MAJESTIC: Happy to cater for the luxury market.

sive yet private accommodation, to avoid the paparazzi.

Moreover, Barcelonian hotel

groups are keenly tapping into the market of billionaires who visit the city and are looking to

rent high-end properties with all the extras including a butler, personal shopper, tour guide, or a Michelin-starred chef.

The Majestic and Murmuri Hotel Group for example, are happy to cater to these niche needs.

A spokesman from the company said: "Imagine that a couple goes out for the night to see a play.

"When they return they want to immediately have dinner with friends, so they ask us to arrange it and we do it."

Prices in the group's Majestic Residence range from €450 to €1,200 a night, apart from the cool €15,000 a night that is charged for the penthouse suite.

Majestic and Murmuri's journey began 10 years ago when it snapped up 28 apartments in the middle of the housing crisis, for €1.2 million each.

Their extraordinary success since has been based on a simple model of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room and kitchen within 70 square metres.

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

Ref 3117, Vallgornera, 170,000€

Apartment with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, laundry room, large balcony, garage, community pool, aircon. Living area 73m².



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

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



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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



Ref 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.



New house has Banderas in a Huf



Credit: Twitter @ConstructChat

BUTTERFLY EFFECT: The stylish and eco-friendly designs are seeing demand soar.

ANTONIO BANDERAS has travelled around the world for the glitziest Hollywood functions, but these days the Spanish movie star is more likely to be seen cycling through leafy Surrey.

Banderas, 55, recently bought a €2.7 million five-bedroom home with Dutch-German girlfriend Nicole Kimpel, 36, in Cobham, which he has described as a 'magical' setting.

The prefabricated home, by German building firm Huf Haus, is an eco-friendly contemporary design featuring a stylish blend of wood and glass.

The Mask of Zorro actor, who divorced Melanie Griffith in December 2014, has sold the LA home he shared with her for

€12.9 million.

Banderas recently starred in *The 33*, a film about the Chilean miners who were trapped underground for 69 days in 2010 with Juliette Binoche.

He is now commuting from his home in Surrey to study at the prestigious Central Saint Martins college in London, and plans to launch his own fashion label.

Surrey has clearly struck a chord with Banderas who said recently: "I am not a party person any more, so I have the space and peace to write and really get inside my own head and I am working on several scripts.

"Above all I am surrounded

by nature and love watching the deer and foxes that come to my garden.

"All this wood and glass, it is a beautiful concept. I have owned a lot of houses with many types of architecture but I think this is my favourite so far."

The A-list actor was introduced to the home by Nicole's father, who previously owned two Huf Houses and found the Cobham property for the couple.

There are now about 200 Huf houses in the UK which have distinctive post-and-beam structures, eco-friendly credentials and generous glazing.

Banderas' model has a classic 'butterfly' split-roof, with

four large reception rooms and more than an acre of gently sloping gardens.

He so charmed by the house that he plans to build a beachside Huf in Marbella.

The company deliberately restricts the number of houses built as the factory can put up only 200 homes a year, with just 20 to 30 of those in the UK.

Seen as the Rolls-Royce of kit homes, factory production in Germany takes four months after which the flat-pack is shipped to the UK along with a team of builders.

Assembly of the shell takes a week or less, with the interiors (including electrics and plumbing) taking a further 12 to 14 weeks.



Lifestyle Properties

Mallorca Real Estate



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3
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Calvia - LP-1964
Country Finca with Guest Apartments.



1
1
34m²
40m²
€160,000

Portals Nous - LPC-1955
Apartment with Sea Views.



3
2
80m²
86m²
€285,000

Cás Catala Nou - LPC-1961
Apartment with Partial Sea Views.



3
2
97m²
97m²
€340,000

Puerto Portals - LPC-1956
Modern Apartment close to the marina.



4
2
87m²
107m²
€410,000

Puerto Portals - LP-1944
Apartment with Sea and Marina Views.



2
1
54m²
61m²
€155,000

Santa Ponsa - LP-1960
South Facing Apartment with Communal Pool.



3
1
70m²
82m²
€350,000

Santa Ponsa - LPSC-325
Front-line Apartment with Sea Views.



2
2
90m²
110m²
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Natural gardens

LIVING in Spain, relaxing, strolling, drinking and eating in natural surroundings is an easy thing to do on as many days as possible, whatever the time of year.

Valentine's Day was a good example even though no Valentina was around.

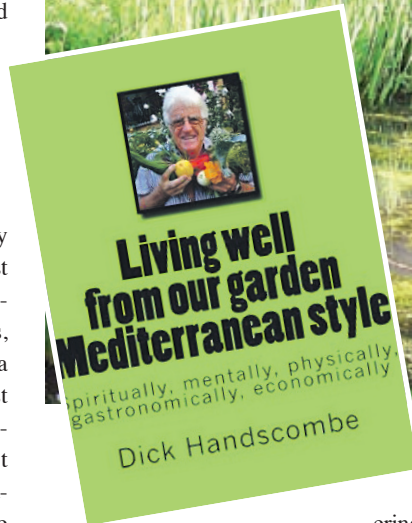
The morning awoke cold with a four-degree centigrade nip in the air but a bright blue windless day followed and by 1pm it was pleasantly warm to have a tapas lunch on a south facing terrace.

By 2pm one was tempted to strip off for a two-hour early sun tanning and vitamin D topping up session. Then before things started to chill down it was interesting to observe how quickly the natural world reacted to the warm direct sunshine which took the liquid in a south facing thermometer up to 48 degrees.

For the first time this year the Koi carp were continuously cruising the surface, two

plump toads crept out from beneath a large rock and plopped into the pond, a welcome red squirrel ran with amazing balance along the electricity line across the nearby street, for a second time this month a youngish hedgehog came out of hibernation, and naturally common garden birds visited nesting boxes and the thickest shrubs to see if one met their needs. Sadly rarer species disappeared 15 years ago when copses were felled and many new houses built.

On the flower front early spring colour is led by the first yellow crocuses, winter jasmine, acacias, euryops, oxalis, nasturtiums until popped in a salad, and aeoniums. The first blues already follow with rosemary, echiums and the first heads of broccoli for daily eating. Looking through the study window across to the local mountain ridge seems that this afternoon will be as sunny as yesterday, but today I need



to give some shrubs and a tunnel path for summer shade along the southern edge of the garden some urgent

pruning to achieve some interesting shaping and heavier flowering.

The 20 builder's tubs that comprise today's salad bed are in full production having had no heavy frosts - at least as yet.

There were 21 varieties of salad leaves and flowers in the starter salad served to guests three evenings ago.

If you have yet to start to eat a few healthy garden flowers and leaves, if not raising vegetables in a raised bed or two, a read through the book *Living well from our garden Mediterranean style* could be an interesting read on a sunny terrace or in front of an evening fire.

It is most easily obtained speedily and inexpensively from Amazon Books.

Naturally it would be possible to organise a talk on the topic for a local social or gardening club, or radio station.

Budget ideas for your garden

IF your garden is looking a little tired and is in need of some sprucing up, now's a great time to put the work in so its ready come summer for all the outdoor antics you'll no doubt be partaking in, from barbecues to badminton games.

Whatever you get up to, you want your garden to be looking its best but you don't have to spend a lot to make it look good.

Simple lighting designs such as fairy lights or well-placed tea lights can make all the difference to your outdoor space.

When it comes to furniture, keep it simple, sleek and stylish.

A one-colour scheme can help bring it all together and prevent it feeling cluttered.

Meanwhile some metallic paint is an easy way to refresh any old, iron garden furniture.

Colourful pillows and throws could also smarten it up.

Don't forget to add cute accessories made from old knick knacks such as a cute bird feeder made from a vintage teacup.

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

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David
THE Dogman



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“THERE is no doubt that there is a link between animal abuse and human abuse,” says Dr Rhonda Schulman, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

“The statistics are frightening, but it is important that everyone, including veterinarians, recognise this serious problem because animal abuse in a home is very likely a sign of an even bigger problem within that family.”

It is estimated that nearly 90 per cent of pets living in homes where domestic abuse is taking place are either abused or killed, and nearly 60 per cent of women who seek assistance from shelters to escape abuse have had a pet killed by an abuser.

In an abusive situation the family pet is often used by the abuser as leverage to control the person being abused. Threat of harm to a beloved pet can be a very powerful tool for the abuser. Abuse of the pet is also a way to inflict mental an-



NEGLECTED:
Make sure your animals are well looked after.

guish on the abused. Many women are reluctant to leave the abuser for fear that the pet will be harmed.

Until recently there have been few options for abused women with pets. Now domestic violence shelters have begun to implement ways to protect not only the women and children but their pets as well. “Abuse can also be self-propagating within a family,” says Dr Schulman. “For instance, the mother or father abus-

es the child and then the child abuses the pet. This is sometimes the only way the child can assume any sense of personal power.”

Witnessing the abuse of a family pet can influence children to become abusive later in life, because they have learned the behaviour through observing and identification with the abuser.

Studies have also shown that children who torture animals are at higher risk

than others to grow up to use violence against people. Many adults who have committed serial murders or mass violence tortured animals as children.

“This means that if a child is exhibiting this sort of behaviour, it is extremely important to take it seriously and intervene while there is still a chance to positively influence the child’s development,” says Dr Schulman.

“Veterinarians are starting to take a

more active role in spotting abuse and providing help for people who are in abusive situations; however, many veterinarians still do not ask questions when presented with suspicious circumstances, either they do not wish to be involved or because they don’t know how to help,” says Dr Schulman.

It has been shown that women in abusive situations will seek medical care for themselves and their pets when they feel it is safe to do so. They may not volunteer how the injuries came about, but may give such information if asked. “Sometimes all it takes is asking,” says Dr Schulman. “As a profession, veterinarians need to start getting involved. Simply posting flyers for the local women’s shelter in the veterinary clinic might encourage women to seek help if they need it. “In order to help people at risk, we have to work together, and that includes professionals in all areas of health care, including veterinary medicine,” says Dr Schulman.

Need pet-sitters to keep an eye on your pets at home?

MANY of our homeowners these days tell us they need a friendly house-sitter to stay in the house and look after their pets while they travel away on holiday. Do you have pets that need a friendly presence and a watchful eye?

Keeping pets safe at home in their own environment

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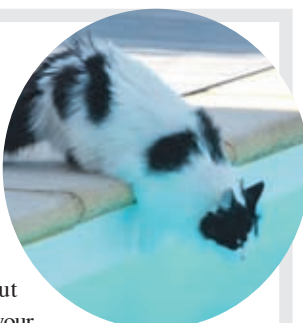
ister on our site as a ‘homeowner’ and provide photos and general information about your location and your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £79 per year we help you at every step.

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~ Sonia, Estepona, Spain ~ Home & Pet owner
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However, some dogs prefer their own crate, so they can enjoy some privacy away from the hustle and bustle.

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chooses to get in a few winks, it's probably best not to let your dog sleep in your bed with you, especially if she's a new introduction to the home.

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The first Delfino 95' has been delivered

THE Delfino 95' Christella II, the first yacht to be built in the Class displacement product line, has been delivered to its owner.

An exterior design featuring flowing lines and extensive glazed surfaces is matched by remarkably spacious and liveable interiors.

At a ceremony held in Viareggio, Italy, the owner from the Czech Republic received the Christella II, a yacht with voluminous interior and exterior lines designed by Giorgio M Cassetta.

According to the manufacturers Benetti, while the defining characteristic of the Delfino 95' is without doubt its livability. Other unusual design features are the transformation of all functional elements into decorative components and an original light design, drawing on the collaboration of UK-based design firm Aqualuce.

The interiors have warm colours and the main wood used is Canaletto walnut, selected without flaming, interspersed with printed leather panels. The flooring in communal areas is parquet, while carpet has been chosen for the cabins.

The lower deck has four double cabins for guests, two with double beds and two with twin beds, whilst accommodation is provided



STUNNING: The new Delfino 95'.

for five crew members.

The main deck features classic shapes and settings. The owner's cabin, almost seven metres wide and 3.2 metres long, has a separate wardrobe and a bathroom with a

spacious shower cubicle.

The main lounge stands out for the two huge glazed surfaces that extend over its entire length, on each side, and the sliding door that connects it with the outdoor space.

The positioning of the entire command station on the top level allows the service area to be concentrated on a single deck, making it more practical for crew members to perform their work and

“The lower deck has four double cabins for guests, two with double beds and two with twin beds, whilst accommodation is provided for five crew members.”

providing more privacy.

The upper deck contains a rest and relaxation area, a sun lounging area, the helm station, a dining area with opening roof and mood lighting, plus an open air living space in the stern.

The garage can accommodate a tender up to 4.40 metres in length and the yacht is fitted with two 1000hp Man V8 engines, driving it to a top speed of 14.5 knots.

Possible halt on marina and dock expansion

IT has been reported that the Balearic government has had something of an about face with regards to the future of marinas on Mallorca in particular.

The ports authority has been looking to see a combination of expansion of existing marinas and dock facilities as it believes that the demand will only expand in the coming years, especially during the summer months.

This decision follows some significant increases in the cost of moorings due to new



Percy Germany flickr

| SUPERYACHTS: At dock may be a thing of the past.

contracts, but some of the ports do not fall under the control of the Balearic government.

Considering that Palma has an annual Superyacht exhibition and various marinas have been courting these expensive behemoths to visit them and spend money on mooring as well as refuelling and partying.

Whilst there are a number of specialist engineers and fitters on the island, many have come from overseas and if Mallorca wants to have a growing and healthy boating industry it needs to train new generations who want to see a growing industry.



| VOLVO OCEAN RACE: First and second were so close.

Almost a photo finish in Auckland

TEAM AkzoNobel has won leg 6 of the Volvo Ocean Race, racing 6,344 miles from Hong Kong to Auckland in 20 days, nine hours and 17 minutes and 26 seconds.

It was a tremendous win, and came after an epic final 24 hours, when a ridge of high pressure off the north east coast of New Zealand stalled the progress of the leading boats, allowing those behind to close what had appeared to be an insurmountable gap.

In the end, the margin at the finish was just two minutes between first and second

place, with three other boats all with 20 minutes of each other.

It's the first leg win for team AkzoNobel and earns the team an important eight points on the leader board, after fighting all the way to the finish with Scallywag.

"Our team never gives up," said Scallywag skipper David Witt. "We just didn't pull it off this time. We had our chances, but AkzoNobel were just a little bit too good this time. But we've come a long way since leg one."

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MOTORING FACT



In 1941, Henry Ford made a car out of soybeans.

SEAT launches Cupra as independent brand

SPANISH car giants SEAT have officially launched CUPRA as its own independent brand.

The announcement was made at an exclusive event in Barcelona where the new brand's first model was also revealed, the CUPRA Ateca.

CUPRA, which has always been SEAT's ultimate expression of sportiness, is born to captivate car enthusiasts around the world.

CUPRA becomes its own entity, created to develop models in conjunction with SEAT and with the firm commitment to grow independently.

SEAT President Luca de Meo said: "CUPRA is a big opportu-

nity for SEAT, for our customers and for the business.

"The whole project has surfaced as the dream of a group of people who were looking for a way to conquer a new group of car lovers."

As part of its new identity, CUPRA will also encompass the entire motorsport and racing division, an area that until now was the responsibility of SEAT Sport and which will be directly integrated into the new brand.

The CUPRA logo, which was revealed a few weeks ago, is inspired by the attitude of tribal civilisations and reflects the values that the new brand is keen to transmit - passion, precision, de-

termination and courage.

As part of the announcement, the brand's first model, the CUPRA Ateca was also revealed.

"CUPRA Ateca offers versatility like no other brand. It's about a unique model in its segment, with 300 PS, 4Drive and a new seven-speed DSG gearbox.

It is the best example of balance between sportsmanship, fun at the wheel and ease of use in everyday life," said SEAT Executive Vice-President for Research and Development, Dr Matthias Rabe.



Photo by SEAT

SEAT: The CUPRA Ateca will be the brand's first model.



FORD has achieved the Guinness World Record for largest billboard with a new advert in Madrid.

The billboard, which advertises the brand new Ford EcoSport is plastered on the side of the Edificio España building, the eighth tallest in Spain.

Measuring 5,265 metres, approximately 20

Guinness World Rec-Ford!

tennis courts, and weighing 2,000 kilos the board eclipses the previous record set in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in 2014.

Director of Marketing for Ford Spain, Elena Burguete, said: "Our Guinness World

Record title for the largest billboard demonstrates the creativity that drives our company.

"Ford's message is 'go further,' and that's what we aim to do with our campaign for the launch of the new EcoSport. It's a great way

to deliver the message 'Life is out there, are you?' to as many people as possible, right in the heart of Madrid."

When the advertising campaign ends at the end of the month, it will be donated to the Apascovi Foundation employment centre for people with disabilities who will re-use all of the materials for other projects.

Jay Kay's funky Mini sells for almost €26,000

A MINI Countryman that was owned and restored by pop icon Jay Kay has been sold for €25,600.

The Jamiroquai singer of-flooded his pristine Mini estate at an auction last Saturday despite recently giving it a full makeover.

He fitted it out in homage to the much sportier Mini Cooper S, with a full body restoration that transformed the motor from a bare shell into a gleaming red classic.

Work commissioned by Jay Kay has included a new sportier gearbox, a specialist handling kit and brand new state of the art disc brakes, along with a

respray in tartan red paint.

A new, much more powerful four-cylinder 1.3 litre engine was also installed, giving the Mini much more bark than before.

Inside is a red leather interior with a period cigarette lighter, and a hint of the modern with a hidden Bluetooth audio system.

After spending several thousand pounds on the makeover, the musician has used the car sparingly as a runaround at one of his holiday homes.

The characterful Mini Countryman went under the hammer with Silverstone Auctions, at their Stoneleigh Park sale in Coventry.



Twitter @soldbyauctions

AUTOMATON: The classic car features a variety of Jay Kay's flourishes.

Auctioneers anticipated offers of between €17,000 and €21,000, and were delighted with the final price.

Originally introduced in 1961, the Countryman is one of many classics in the Mini range, designed as an estate car which can be used as a small van.

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La Liga Preview

Barca seek to extend record unbeaten run

by Ben Park

BARCELONA will look to extend their record unbeaten run as they travel to struggling Las Palmas later tonight (Thursday).

The league leaders thrashed neighbours Girona 6-1 on Saturday as a Luis Suarez hat-trick, Messi's brace and a stunning strike from Philippe Coutinho saw the Catalan giants set a new club record of 32 games unbeaten.

Following tonight's fixture, they host Atletico Madrid at the Camp Nou just four days later in a top of the table clash.

Atletico, who currently sit in second, will be without highly rated duo Yannick Carrasco and Nico Gaitan after announcing that they had left for Chinese side Dalian Yifang earlier in the week.

Elsewhere, Real Betis continue their push for a Europa League place as they host Real Sociedad later this

evening (Thursday).

Betis are hot on the tails of Sevilla in sixth having won four of their last six league games and will be looking for a win against bottom of the table Sociedad, before factio Valencia on Saturday.

At the other end of the table, Alaves will hope to pull further away from the relegation places as they face struggling Levante.

The Babazorros El Glorioso have hit a rich vein of form in recent weeks, winning three of their last four, and victory over tonight's relegation rivals may all but secure their safety before heading to Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Last season's champions Real Madrid will look to continue their recent good form as they welcome Getafe to the Bernabeu on Sunday.

Madrid have refound their scoring boots in the past few games, much thanks to the return to goalscoring form of Cris-

tiano Ronaldo, and will look to continue to boost their confidence ahead of their Champions League second-leg with Paris Saint German on Tuesday.

Full fixture list

Today (Thursday)

Real Betis vs Real Sociedad

Las Palmas vs Barcelona

Alaves vs Levante

Saturday

Villarreal vs Girona

Sevilla vs Athletic Bilbao

Deportivo La Coruña vs Eibar

Leganes vs Malaga

Real Madrid vs Getafe

Sunday

Levante vs Espanyol

Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid

Real Sociedad vs Alaves

Valencia vs Real Betis

Monday, March 5

Celta Vigo vs Las Palmas

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	25	20	5	0	68	12	65
2 • Atlético	25	17	7	1	41	11	58
3 • Real Madrid	25	15	6	4	62	27	51
4 • Valencia	25	15	4	6	49	29	49
5 • Villarreal	25	12	5	8	36	29	41
6 • Sevilla	25	12	3	10	33	40	39
7 • Betis	25	11	3	11	43	50	36
8 • Celta	25	10	5	10	43	37	35
9 • Eibar	25	10	5	10	32	38	35
10 • Girona	25	9	7	9	35	36	34
11 • Getafe	25	8	9	8	29	22	33
12 • Athletic	25	7	10	8	26	28	31
13 • Leganés	25	8	6	11	21	28	30
14 • R. Sociedad	25	8	5	12	47	47	29
15 • Espanyol	25	6	10	9	22	32	28
16 • Alavés	25	9	1	15	22	37	28
17 • Levante	25	3	11	11	21	40	20
18 • Las Palmas	25	5	4	16	18	52	19
19 • Deportivo	25	4	6	15	24	53	18
20 • Málaga	25	3	4	18	16	40	1

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	27	23	3	1	79	20	72
2 • M. United	28	18	5	5	53	20	59
3 • Liverpool	28	16	9	3	65	32	57
4 • Tottenham H.	28	16	7	5	53	24	55
5 • Chelsea	28	16	5	7	50	25	53
6 • Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	45
7 • Burnley	28	9	10	9	22	25	37
8 • Leicester City	28	9	9	10	40	41	36
9 • Everton	28	9	7	12	32	47	34
10 • Watford	28	9	6	13	38	47	33
11 • Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	33	43	32
12 • Brighton	28	7	10	11	26	37	31
13 • West Ham Utd.	28	7	9	12	35	50	30
14 • Huddersfield Town	28	8	6	14	25	48	30
15 • Newcastle United	28	7	8	13	27	38	29
16 • Southampton	28	5	12	11	29	41	27
17 • Crystal Palace	28	6	9	13	25	43	27
18 • Swansea City	28	7	6	15	21	41	27
19 • Stoke City	28	6	8	14	28	54	26
20 • West Bromwich	28	3	11	14	22	42	20

Premier League preview

Manchester City face tough double-header

MANCHESTER CITY play Arsenal for the second time in four days later tonight (Thursday) hoping to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League.

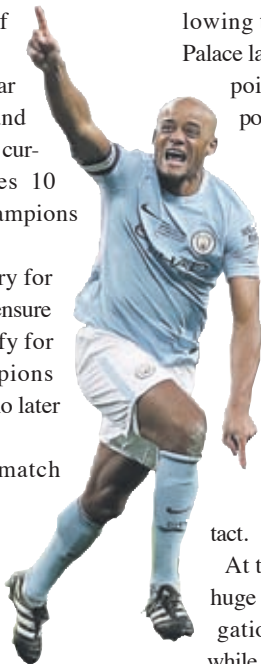
The runaway league leaders were far from their brilliant best against tonight's opponents in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday, but still coasted to a 3-0 victory over the North London side.

Goals from Sergio Aguerro, Vincent Kompany and David Silva were enough to brush aside a very poor Arsenal at Wembley to secure the Citizens' first trophy of the season.

They sit 13 points clear at the top of the table and face an Arsenal side who currently find themselves 10 points adrift of the Champions League places.

Anything but a victory for the Gunners will all but ensure that they will not qualify for next season's Champions League competition, who later face Brighton on Sunday.

Following their match
CUP WINNERS:
City comfortably beat Arsenal 3-0 in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday.



against Arsenal, City are back in action no less than three days later as they welcome Chelsea to the Etihad.

Chelsea will be looking to bounce back from their loss at the hands of Manchester United on Sunday and get back into the Champions League places.

In order to do that they will need Tottenham to lose, who continue their own quest for a top for spot as they host Huddersfield at Wembley on Saturday.

Spurs opened up a two-point gap between them and fifth placed Chelsea following their late win against Crystal Palace last weekend and also sit just two points behind third placed Liverpool.

Liverpool themselves will go back up to second in the table if they beat Newcastle on Saturday at Anfield.

The Reds ran riot against West Ham last weekend as goals from Emre Can, Mohamed Salah,

Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane ensured that their unbeaten record at Anfield in the Premier League remained intact.

At the other end of the table, two huge games in the battle against relegation as Southampton host stoke while Swansea face West Ham.

Just six points separate Swansea in 18th and Watford in 10th, meaning up to 11 teams are facing the real threat of relegation with just 10 games left to play of the season.

On Monday, Manchester United will look to consolidate their Champions League position as they travel to relegation threatened Crystal Palace.

The Red Devils held on to a memorable 2-1 victory over Chelsea on Sunday as goals from Romelu Lukaku and Jesse Lingard were enough to see off last season's champions, while Palace could find themselves back in the Premier League bottom three before they

Full fixture list

Today (Thursday)

Arsenal vs Manchester City

Saturday

Burnley vs Everton

Leicester City vs Bournemouth

Southampton vs Stoke City

Swansea City vs West Ham Utd

Tottenham vs Huddersfield Town

Watford vs West Bromwich A

Liverpool vs Newcastle United

Sunday

Brighton and H A vs Arsenal

Manchester City vs Chelsea

Monday, March 5

Crystal Palace vs Manchester Utd

Full speed ahead!

FORMULA ONE teams have begun their 2018 pre-season testing in Barcelona.

The first test of the week-long pre-season testing officially got underway on Monday; with drama unfolding from the get go.

McLaren got off to the worst possible start as Fernando Alonso lost a wheel after six laps on the first day.

The two-time champion lost control at the final corner of Spain's Circuit de Catalunya and his right wheel came loose of the car.

At the time, McLaren Executive Director, Zak Brown said: "There is no drama. It is quite an easy fix.

"It is what testing is for. All the teams will have a variety of issues. We will lose very little time. No

big deal at all."

Alonso had been on course to set the fastest time of the day so far when he crashed out and was back out before the end of the day, setting the fifth fastest time; before they lapped quicker than they managed in the whole of testing last year on day two.

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo set the pace on day one and was the only driver to complete 100 laps, finishing ahead of Valtteri Bottas' Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen for Ferrari.

Testing continues for the rest of the week and after this week's session, another test will take place in Barcelona between March 6 and 9, before the season officially gets underway in Australia on March 25.

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LIGA President Javier Tebas has announced the date for this season's second El Clasico. The long-anticipated clash between Barcelona and Real Madrid will officially take place on Sunday May 6 at 8:45pm to reportedly appeal to the American market.

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1 - 7 March 2018

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SuperJavi steals the show

SPANISH figure skater Javier Fernandez stole the show at the exhibition gala at the end of the Winter Olympics with a super performance.

The exhibition gala sees figure skaters from around the world come together to perform routines that are not judged and enjoyed by large crowds.

Fresh from taking his first Olympic bronze medal in Pyeongchang, the 26-year-old performed his 'SuperJavi' routine, which he first debuted in 2013, with a standout mo-



SUPERJAVI: The bronze medallist wowed with his performance.

ment coming when the Spaniard was covered in a bucketful of water by an accomplice while lying on the ice.

During his performance, 'SuperJavi' also showed off by doing press ups and paraded around the rink in his Spanish inspired super-

man costume for his 1980's inspired routine.

Other highlights from the exhibition gala saw the Olympic Athlete from Russia Alina Zagitova dressed in a skin-tight tiger suit and Uzbekistani skater Misha Ge combine dance moves with boxing.



Credit: Twitter

NEYMAR: Expected to return before the end of the season in time for the World Cup.

Neymar to sit out crucial clash

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN forward Neymar is expected to miss his side's crucial Champions League tie with Real Madrid after suffering a fractured metatarsal and a twisted ankle injury.

The world's most expensive player played a pivotal role in his side's 3-0 win over Marseille on Sunday, but left the field in tears as he was stretchered off after rolling his ankle.

Fears of a broken ankle were quickly allayed after the Brazilian underwent scans on Sunday and Monday, which reportedly revealed that the injury is not as bad as first expected.

PSG confirmed on their official website "Further examinations on Monday have confirmed (Neymar has) a twisted right ankle and

a hairline fracture of the fifth metatarsal."


While no indication was given as to how long the 26-year-old will be out for, he is expected to miss a number of weeks due to the injury, but should reportedly recover before the end of the season in time for the World Cup.

Madrid take a 3-1 lead to Paris after they came from behind to secure a memorable victory at the Bernabeu. Late goals from Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcelo gave the holders a commanding lead ahead of the second leg after the Portuguese superstar's 100th Champions League goal for Real had levelled Rabiot's opener.

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