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ISSUE No. 1706 || 15 - 21 March 2018

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Scam gang takedown

TWENTY-ONE people have been arrested in Malaga City for defrauding the Spanish government.

Police are still searching for other suspects after the group allegedly falsified documents to claim social security benefits.

The gang are said to have created fake contracts which fraudulently entitled their beneficiaries to more than 5,300 days of social security contributions worth €76,703. Among those arrested is said to be the group's leader who allegedly created a series of false fishmonger companies purely to simulate legal employment.

Police carried out their investigation between January and February and were able to locate the alleged gang leader's main helpers and 17 other people. Four of those arrested are said to be salesmen who handed out the false contracts to those hoping to fraudulently claim unemployment and other benefits. Other contracts are said to have been designed to help people make false contributions towards their pensions as well as to help foreigners who did not have a legal work status in Spain.

The operation's headquarters in Malaga City came under police scrutiny at the beginning of the year when police noticed the fishmongers had accrued a substantial debt with the Department for Social Security. After investigating, officers were able to confirm the companies were not trading as they said and arrested 21 people on suspicion of defrauding the benefits office.

Sexual assault

One held after town centre shop attack



CLOSE CALL: The man reportedly tried to assault the woman in Nerja town centre.

by Sally Underwood

A 40-year-old man has been arrested for attempting to sexually assault a store worker.

The Sevilla native, identified only as JCCC, was released on bail pending a trial and has been ordered to stay 300 metres away from his alleged victim and her place of work.

The incident, which took place in Nerja, saw the man allegedly attempt to assault the woman as she worked in a clothes shop in the town's centre. The 24-year-old victim claimed the man entered the shop around 4pm as she was alone.

She said the man threw her onto the ground before grabbing her by the neck

and threatening to kill her if she screamed. The victim explained she was able to kick the attacker off and he ran out of the shop. Police later arrested the suspect as he sat inside his car in the El Playazo area.

The attack is the second of its kind to make the news in Axarquia this year after a 24-year-old man

was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting his friend in Almachar.

The Spaniard now faces prosecution after his alleged victim told police he abused her after she passed out drunk at a house party.

According to the victim, the man later admitted the facts to her during a mobile messaging chat.

Coke cruise mule jailed

A MAN has been sentenced to six years in prison for trafficking cocaine in his stomach.

The 39-year-old Latvian national was found guilty at a court in Malaga City after bringing 102 balls of the narcotic on a boat from Casablanca in Morocco.

When intercepted, police found 1,024 grams of 80 per cent pure cocaine in the man's stomach. The court found this would have had a street value of between €44,246 and €111,185 and the man was subsequently convicted of crimes against public health.

Last December Spanish police arrested North Africa's largest drug smuggler.

Officers from the National Police and Tax Agency brought down a family allegedly using real estate and financial institutions as a smokescreen for their operation. The officers also uncovered one ton of the narcotic hidden inside pineapples as it was shipped from South America.

Officers were forced to search thousands of fruits after finding 33 kilograms of cocaine hidden in cylinders coated in yellow wax inside pineapples in one shipment from Costa Rica.

A 72-year-old Moroccan man was arrested, believed to be the head of the organisation. Police say the accused had been smuggling drugs since the 1970's, starting with hashish before graduating to cocaine and moving to Malaga to evade detection.

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by Joe Gerrard

THOUSANDS of people are estimated to have turned out for the funeral of Gabriel Cruz, the eight-year-old boy whose body was found after a 12-day search.

Angel Cruz and Patricia Ramirez, Gabriel's father and mother, were joined by mourners including Spain's Interior Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at Almeria's Cathedral de la Encarnation and was led by the Bishop of Almeria, Monsignor Adolfo Gonzalaz Montes.

Police have arrested Ana Julia Quezada, the girlfriend of Angel Cruz, after officers reportedly found the body of the eight-year-old in the boot of her car.

Spanish media have reported that she has since confessed to killing Gabriel.

Mourners gathered outside the cathedral shouted "You are not alone" and "We are all Gabriel."

Patricia Ramirez thanked everyone for their support and messages of affection when speaking to the media at the service.

"I don't have enough words of thanks for all the good deeds from people involved, although this has not had a

happy ending," she said.

She added she did not wish for people to talk about Quezada.

"This woman does not deserve to be discussed, let us not talk about her," she said.

"The little fish is swimming to heaven and I would like all the people to send a fish with a nice word wherever they want," she added.

Fishes were the eight-year-old's favourite animal and became a symbol of the search efforts while they were ongoing.

Hundreds of people paid their respects to Gabriel when his coffin arrived at a chapel dedicated to his memory on Monday.

Around 12,000 people in Almeria City held a five minute silence for the eight-year-old following the discovery of his body on Sunday.

King Felipe, the Junta de Andalucia President Susana Diaz, Sevilla mayor Juan Espadas and Malaga mayor Francisco de la Torre observed a minute's silence at a Sevilla conference on Monday.

Towns across Almeria also held minute's silences and authorities in Nijar declared three days of mourning following the news that Gabriel's body had been found.

Quezada was placed under surveillance shortly after she al-



FINAL JOURNEY: Gabriel Cruz's funeral was held on Tuesday with leading Spanish politicians in attendance.

legedly found a t-shirt at the bottom of the Las Aguilas ravine. It was said to belong to Gabriel and confirmation came later that it had traces of his DNA on it.

She was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning after officers saw her remove some-

thing from a well on the Cañada de la Soledad farm, in Rodalquilar.

Guardia Civil officers who watched her do this then asked to search her car and found Gabriel's body in the boot, according to police.

It has since been reported that Quezada confessed to killing the eight-year-old. She allegedly told police she acted in self defence after he attempted to assault her.

Results from a post-mortem examination found Gabriel had died from asphyxiation.

Credit: Juan Ignacio Zoido, via Twitter

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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Food poisoning

SIX people have been hospitalised in Malaga after contracting food poisoning from an unknown source. The patients have complained of nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and pain. A public health body has now commissioned a study to determine what caused the outbreak.

Pension fraud

A 50-YEAR-OLD woman has been sentenced to one year and nine months in prison for collecting her grandfather's pension for 13 years after he died. The woman claimed the benefit from the man's death on November 20, 2003, until April 14, 2016.

Return to sender

POLICE in Malaga have returned an envelope containing €10,000 to its 73-year-old owner. A worker from a logistics company found the wet and rain-damaged envelope on Calle Cervantes before handing it in to Local Police. Officers contacted the bank named on the document which helped them find its owner.

Language help

THE University of Birmingham has unveiled a new English language website helping older expatriates in Spain. The site, www.supportin-spain.info, will help residents in Spain with common day-to-day problems including with health advice.

Farmers protest

REPRESENTATIVES from Almuñécar Council and local farmer's organisations met to discuss increasing water supply to farmland which had allegedly been suffering due to the drought in recent months.

The farmers also plan to hold a demonstration outside the town hall today (Thursday) to voice their demands.

Rallying call for equality

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 5



GIRL POWER: More than 5 million women downed tools before joining peaceful protests across Spain.

WOMEN in Spain are looking to the future after millions took to the streets to mark International Women's Day.

Historic marches took place in more than 200 Spanish towns and cities in a united stand against a range of issues including domestic violence and the gender pay gap.

And estimates suggest that more than five million people took part in the two-hour 'feminist' strikes that preceded the rally, which was

backed by 10 unions and some of Spain's most important female politicians and cultural figures.

Public transport was ravaged and some of the marches brought traffic to a standstill as protesters congregated under the slogan 'If we stop, the world stops.'

The event places Spain at the cutting edge of feminist movements worldwide.

The mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena, tweeted "This isn't only

about calling for true equality, but also about facing the need to change how the world treats women," while her Barcelona counterpart Ada Colau said that she joined the strike "to show that without women the world really does stop."

But the Spanish government did not agree, after the ruling Popular Party said that the strike was "for feminist elites and not real women with everyday problems."

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All fired up



Photo credit: Facebook

SET ABLAZE: Valencia's famous Las Fallas statues.

THIS weekend the city of Valencia welcomes spring in style during the annual Las Fallas festival - a loud, boisterous fiesta where the city is literally set alight.

The festival started as a celebration of St Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters, but has since evolved into a five-day fire extravaganza. The quiet city's population of around one million more than trebles in size during the celebrations as people flock from across the globe to witness the festivities.

The festival is all about the creation of 'ninots' - huge lifelike statues made from wood, cardboard, paper-machè and plaster which are paraded through the city streets, then destroyed in a giant firework display at midnight on the dot.

The ninots tend to depict lewd, satirical scenes relating to current events and will often make fun of Spanish politicians or Spanish celebrities.

These bawdy giants can cost up to €60,000 to create and are crafted by local neighbourhood or-

ganisations. The labour process is intensive and can take up to 12 months to complete so as soon as that year's festival is over, work already begins for the next event.

During the early evening on the final day of the festival, a group of people with axes chop carefully placed holes in the ninots and fill them with fireworks.

On the run up to midnight, the streetlights are all switched off, the crowds start to chant and the fireworks are lit as the clock strikes 12.

In recent years, the local firemen have come up with methods to protect the town's buildings from being accidentally set alight by the fireworks, including covering them with fireproof material.

Every year, one of the ninots is saved from obliteration by a popular vote. The pardoned statue - called the ninot indultat - is then displayed in the local Museum of the Ninots along with the other lucky escapees from previous years.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Following recent parliamentary debates, should Spain decriminalise insulting the crown?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following recent controversy in Spain, should bars and restaurants be allowed to ban children?

Yes 77% **No 23%**

EWN online this week
216,651 Page views

TOP 5 stories



CREDIT: Facebook

TRAGIC DISCOVERY: The body of Gabriel Cruz Ramirez has been found.

- 23,254** views **Police find body of missing eight-year-old boy in Spain, 'girlfriend of father arrested'**
- 15,028** views **Explosive 'weather bomb' heads to Spain with heavy rain, strong winds and big waves**
- 9,028** views **Almost whole of Spain covered with severe weather warnings**
- 8,216** views **TV favourite 'A Place in the Rain'... sorry 'Sun' films in soggy Spain**
- 6,577** views **DNA of child on t-shirt found during search**

**For week 5 - 12 March*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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

OUR VIEW

‘Let the kind acts be what remains’

OUR thoughts are with the family of Gabriel Cruz Ramirez.

The tragic eight-year-old’s body was found in the boot of his father’s girlfriend’s car 12 days after he went missing in Nijar, Almeria.

More than 3,000 people flocked to Almeria’s Cathedral to pay their respects at his funeral on Tuesday, with several high ranking Spanish politicians in attendance.

And while much ire has been directed towards the prime suspect in the case, it is the words and advice of the child’s mother, Patricia Ramirez, that should resonate the most.

Carrying herself with great dignity throughout the horrific ordeal, she appealed “for rage not to spread any further, for nobody to retweet rage-fuelled things, because that is not who my son was, and it is not who I am.”

Her words came after a vengeful social media storm erupted in the wake of Gabriel’s body being discovered, with the suspect even being physically attacked while surrounded by police.

And yet the woman who could have been forgiven for feeling the most hatred instead chose to vilify those who reacted with anger to the death of her son.

In doing so, she captured the hearts of a nation, and in a world that feels less-tolerant than at any time since the middle of the last century, her unflinching dignity should serve as a valuable lesson to us all.

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NEWS EXTRA

3 migrants rescued

THREE Moroccan migrants aged 18, 19 and 23, have been rescued in Malaga port after spending seven hours hidden in the hull of a boat coming across from Melilla in bad weather. The youngsters had allegedly snuck onto the ship unnoticed and were taken to the police station once discovered.

House fire

A WOMAN has been hospitalised after being caught in a house fire in the centre of Malaga. The fire broke out around 9pm on Calle Santa Teresa.

Safety first

A POLITICAL PARTY in Malaga has called on the council to improve women’s safety on night buses saying there are not enough stops, forcing women to walk long distances in the dark.

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TOWIE crew film in Spain

THE ONLY WAY IS ESSEX cast have been filming in Barcelona.

But seven regular cast members have been axed by ITVBe bosses over their 'boring storylines,' according to rumours.

Stalwarts Lauren Pope, Courtney Green, Chloe Meadows and Amber Turner are still on board, though, and the quartet certainly turned heads as they flashed the flesh after slipping into some revealing outfits.

Lauren, 35, rocked a skimpy white crop top and high-wasted jeans in the winter sun as she strolled alongside co-stars Bobby Norris, Chloe Lewis and Georgia Kousoulou.

Elsewhere in the city, Courtney, 22, was snapped in a lacy bodysuit and miniscule denim hotpants as she braved the chilly conditions.

Chloe, 25, opted for an all-green ensemble featuring a revealing green blouse with matching trousers as she flaunted her ample curves, while blonde beauty Amber, 24, kept her surgically-enhanced assets under wraps in a thigh-skimming minidress.

TRENDING:
Sara Carbonero.

Photo credit TOWIE/Twitter



THE ONLY WAY IS BARCA: Lauren Pope (second from right) and co-stars in Spain.



Photo credit Twitter

She's a keeper

SHE'S the sports reporter who stole the heart of a world champion goalkeeper.

And Sara Carbonero, 34, has another reason to celebrate after an internet firm revealed that she was the most searched-for Spanish woman over the past year.

She married former Real Madrid star Iker Casillas in 2016, after the pair shared a famous kiss live on TV in the wake of Spain's 2010 World Cup win.



WEDDED BLISS: Penelope and Javier.

Date night

THEY'RE the Spanish Oscar winners who have been in love for a decade.

And Penelope Cruz, 43, and husband Javier Bardem, 49, were all smiles as they attended the Spanish Actors and Actresses Union Awards Gala in Madrid.

The couple married in 2010 and recently starred together in the drama flick Loving Pablo, for which they were nominated for best actress and actor, respectively.

Celebs set to seek divine inspiration



Photo credit BBC

A PILGRIM'S TALE: The group at the start of their mammoth trek.

IT'S the 790-kilometre trek across northern Spain that attracts hundreds of thousands of walkers each year.

And now seven British celebrities have spoken of their experiences on the Camino de Santiago religious pilgrimage after they traipsed from Jean-Pied-de-Port in the French Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela, Galicia.

The group included Gogglebox star

Kate Bottley, comedian Ed Byrne, Line of Duty actor Neil Morrissey, M People singer Heather Small, Strictly Come Dancing finalist Debbie McGee, journalist Raphael Rowe and TV presenter JJ Chalmers.

Also known as the Way of St James, the hikers' exploits will be screened in a new three-part BBC Two show entitled Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago.

Royal welcome

QUEEN LETIZIA OF SPAIN completed a busy week of appointments with a charity appearance.

The stylish royal, 44, attend an event for Rare Diseases Day at the Goya Theatre in Madrid.

And she took to the stage to present an award after chatting to members of the organisation plus victims of the diseases.

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NEWS EXTRA**Red card for pitch**

A PROMISED new football pitch in El Morche has hit the skids after opposing political parties failed to vote through the motion, saying there were 'other priorities' at the moment.

Equality in

AROUND 500 people have taken to Nerja's streets demonstrating for gender equality. Protestors displayed banners saying 'without us the world stops' to commemorate International Woman's Day.

No pool

THE opening of Rincon de la Victoria's first indoor swimming pool has been delayed even further after a contest to find a company to manage the site was cancelled.

Opening night

NERJA showed it is home to some hot property after an award-winning real estate company chose to open its new office in the town's centre.

Maklarhuset opened the doors to its modern offices at a packed reception which saw residents and local businesses turn out in support for the new venture.

The Swedish company, which already has many offices in Scandinavia, Spain and the Balearics, was inaugurated by Managing Director, Cecilia Andersson, who has been selling property for more than 15 years.

Located on Calle Diputacion, the agency offers homes for sale from Rincon de la Victoria to Almuñecar



HOT PROPERTY: Cecilia Andersson (second from the left) opens her new office.

and as far inland as Compeña and Frigiliana. Maklarhuset, which has won best customer service awards for eight of the last

10 years, offers a multilingual team, with English, Spanish, Swedish, German, Danish and Norwegian spoken in its Nerja office.

Their new office on Calle Diputacion, 19, Nerja, is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm and can be contacted on 951 546 520.

46,3%

Of Spaniards said they felt depressed last year according to a study by the Centre for Sociological Investigations.

False report

THREE people have been arrested for allegedly trying to defraud an insurance company.

Two women aged 20 and a man aged 25 now face trial for reporting the theft of €11,000 during the course of a violent burglary at their home in Velez-Malaga.

The alleged fraud began when one of the women told members of the National Police she had been babysitting a friend's child at home when two armed and masked men burst into the house before threatening her with a knife and gun. She told officers the men said they would kill her if she screamed before searching the house for valuables and making off with the cash.

The woman even handed police two ski masks she said the robbers had dropped as they ran off. However officers quickly established the crime had not taken place.

A similar event took place earlier this year in which a woman was sentenced to a year in prison for filing a false complaint against a Nerja resident.

Rosa AGD, as she was named, was also ordered to pay a €2,700 fine and €5,150 in damages after a court found her guilty of lying about a theft to collect the insurance money.

The convicted had told police she had her purse stolen from a shop in Torre del Mar in August 2012, and even named an innocent man as the culprit.

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EXPANDING: El Morche's healthcare centre.

Health centre now one step closer

TORROX'S mayor has signed an agreement to begin works expanding El Morche's health centre.

At the signing, Mayor Oscar Medina handed over office space to the Junta de Andalucía regional government, to be used for the enlarged premises. He commented, "It is the first step to expand the El Morche health centre, following an agreement between the council and the Junta de Andalucía to facilitate this site, which has been long-requested by residents and tourists.

It will be located in a tourist area which doubles in population during the summer months. He added, "The council team has been working on this issue since the beginning of the legislature, in light of the obvious need to expand the current El Morche office, which today is closer than ever to being achieved."

The El Morche health centre will be expanded by around 200 square metres, doubling its current size. Plans to improve the centre also include additional services, as well as a new doctor and nurse.

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Pension protest continues

PENSIONERS are continuing to protest over reductions in the standard of living.

Thousands of Malaga's pensioners have taken to demonstrating outside the Casona del Parque each Monday to complain over their stagnating incomes.

One protestor, known only as Car-

men, has told a publication she 'snapped' after receiving a letter from Spain's Employment Minister, Fatima Bañez, explaining her pension would only rise by 0.25 per cent this year, an increase of only €1.6 a month from 2017.

Carmen claimed the letter, which was

received by many other retirees, caused a 'sea change,' and said it was "time to nail her colours to the mast."

It seems the problem may only get worse after it was announced the number of over-65s in Malaga is set to double in 20 years. By 2040 almost 30 per cent of

residents will be aged over 65, twice the current amount, according to research carried out by experts.

In Malaga Province the number of people aged between 16 and 65 is expected to decrease by 8 per cent, meaning a potential 90,000 fewer people in work.

NEWS EXTRA

Streets get makeover

ALMUÑECAR Council has moved forward with the renovation works on the San Joaquin and San Pedro streets, estimated to cost more than €150,000, which will create 67 jobs for locals.

Belt up

A MAN has been arrested in Malaga for driving without a licence and with four children who were not wearing seatbelts. The 30-year-old was stopped by police during checks in the city centre.

€5m plot

VELEZ-MALAGA Council has opened a bidding process for businesses to buy 33 urban plots for development in the municipality. The land is worth around €5 million.

PETER MADDOCKS

Link for Peter's books:
publishedbyme.blogspot.com
petermaddockart.com
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<http://petermaddockart.com>

Down in the dumps in Velez-Malaga

EXPERTS have warned that a new landfill has sprung up in Axarquia.

Officials from the Cabinet of Nature Studies (GENA) have called on the council to intervene after a new dump has opened at the old El Prado brick factory in Velez-Malaga.

GENA claims the area has become a landfill after work was undertaken to remove asbestos from the building's roof, "some of which works have not been completely fin-

ished," a representative of the group, Jose Luis Gamez, has said. He wants the council to step in to prevent further dumping and prevent health and safety risks.

The site is one of several to have sprung up in Axarquia. A court in Torrox is currently investigating 34 people for allegedly being complicit in an illegal dump in Rio de la Miel, Nerja.

The site, which is located in the National Park of Tejada,

Almijara and Alhama, to the east of Nerja, was previously a working quarry owned by the council. The area was later used as a dumping ground for 16 years, between 2000 and September 2016. The Public Prosecutor's Office labelled the landfill 'a genuine environmental disaster.'

Nerja's current mayor, Rosa Arrabal, was summoned to testify in the trial, alleging she had no knowledge of the site until shortly before its closure.

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Ticket to ride for train line

WORK on a €530 million international rail freight corridor connecting Spain and Portugal is underway.

The project will link Caia, near the Spanish border town of Badajoz, to Portuguese ports at Lisbon, Sines and Setubal.

Combining new and existing rail lines, the corridor will be capable of running 51 trains per day once complete, with an 11 kilometre section already in the process of an upgrade.

Bids for the remaining four contracts are currently being invited.

Rocking good time to talk

A THINK TANK funded by Spain claims that Brexit offers the ideal opportunity to negotiate a 'new status' for Gibraltar.

Published by the Elcano Royal Institute, of which the largest donor is the Spanish government, the policy paper says that it is the first time that Gibraltar has been pressurised to urgently resolve doubts over its status in relation to the European Union (EU).

The report added that while the rock may not be one of Spain's top priorities, the country is keen to

By Matt Ford

maintain its strong economic ties with the UK.

"Brexit opens the possibility of renegotiating the actual situation of Gibraltar," the researchers said, adding that the current situation "opens the door to a new status for Gibraltar that is favourable to all involved parties and acceptable to the legitimate interests and aspirations of Spain."

Gibraltar has been a British Overseas Territory since 1713 despite Spain's repeated claims to sovereign-

ty, and its 33,000 inhabitants voted overwhelmingly in favour of remaining in the EU in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Around 8,000 Spaniards also commute to the peninsula each day for work.

The Elcano report goes on to say that it is in the mutual interest of both countries to examine how Gibraltar might retain links with the EU after the UK formally cuts ties in 2019, although the authors point out that their view does not necessarily reflect that of the Spanish government.

Car firm sets sales record

SEAT is aiming to set a new record in the wake of record returns.

The Spanish carmaker generated operating profits of €191 million last year, an increase of 24.8 per cent on 2016.

Parent group Volkswagen said that spiralling costs were offset by a leap in sales, after the company turned over almost €9.9 billion in 2017.

The company sold 468,400 vehicles worldwide, and this year offloaded 78,800 in January and February for a year-on-year increase of 23.1 per cent.

Quote of the Week

"I want to put Spain and the UK on the spot... both sides knew there was no evidence." Moroccan citizen Farid Hilali, 49, who was in 2004 wrongfully jailed over 9/11 reveals that he is seeking €1.8m in compensation.



Photo credit: Partido Popular/Shutterstock

PRIDE OF CATALUÑA: But Barcelona has fallen down the pecking order.

Catalan firms opt for LGBTQ+ focus

BUSINESS owners in Barcelona are aiming to transform the Catalan city into a top destination for LGBTQ+ holidaymakers.

A number of entrepreneurs have joined forces to create 'gay-friendly companies,' with the goal of hosting the Europride festival in 2022.

The move comes amid fears that cities including London, Amsterdam and Tel Aviv have moved ahead of Barcelona, traditionally a popular destination in the sector.

And they will present their initial proposals at the Barcelona Global Summit later this month.

Juan Julia, president of the Catalan Association of Gay and Lesbian Companies and Axel Hotels chain, said change is needed.

"We need to alter our model," he told Spanish media. "Based on case studies from other cities, we should focus on ways to raise the profile of tourists and promote new products to attract gay and lesbian people all year round."

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Overdue overtime

ALMOST 60 per cent of employees in Spain receive no overtime pay, a new study by recruitment agency Adecco has shown, with 46.4 per cent receiving no form of compensation whatsoever and 13 per cent getting only 'extra breaks.'

On track

THE Spanish government is to pump €660 million into doubling the capacity of capital Madrid's Atocha railway station, which will be able to handle 40 million passengers per year once the revamp is complete, according to development minister Iñigo de la Serna.

Lidl bit less

GERMAN discount supermarket chain Lidl has revealed that it reduced prices in Spain by 0.06 per cent last year, while the remaining brands in the sector raised them by an average of 2.1 per cent.

Bogus cash con scotched

THREE people have been held in a fake money-printing sting.

Investigators from Spain's National Police swooped on five properties in Portugal, seizing €70,000-worth of bogus €20, €50 and €500 bank notes.

Most of the forged cash was sent to Spain, but some was recovered as far afield as Austria,

Italy and Estonia.

Detectives also seized a heat-stamping machine, coloured dyes, a guillotine, four inkjet printers, a scanner, a computer, rolls of metal tape used to make holograms and several ink cartridges during the raids.

It comes in the wake of an 18-month probe after a spike in counterfeit notes was reported in Badajoz, Extremadura during summer 2016.



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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 12

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,705.10	-47.10	-2.69	23,979.60
Associated British Foods	2,402.50	-204.50	-7.84	20,599.36
Admiral Group	1,961.25	47.25	2.47	5,428.35
Ashtead Group	2,048.00	38.00	1.89	9,612.74
Antofagasta	899.90	5.50	0.61	8,576.95
Aviva	534.90	15.50	2.98	20,411.34
AstraZeneca	4,898.00	112.50	2.35	60,979.51
BAE Systems	598.90	-2.90	-0.48	18,770.29
Barclays	225.51	14.76	7.00	36,231.96
British American Tobacco	3,910.25	-363.25	-8.50	97,743.70
Barratt Developments	510.15	-38.45	-7.01	5,492.02
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,869.00	13.00	0.34	5,154.89
British Land Co	653.80	16.20	2.54	6,314.02
BHP Billiton	1,437.90	2.10	0.15	29,649.26
Bunzl	2,054.75	14.75	0.72	6,785.87
BP	478.18	-0.02	-0.18	94,652.58
Burberry Group	1,718.75	51.25	3.07	6,876.09
BT Group	241.20	1.80	0.75	23,867.14
Coca-Cola HBC	2,267.50	-250.50	-9.95	9,242.05
Carnival	5,243.00	505.00	10.66	9,858.10
Centrica	156.58	14.78	10.42	7,933.80
Compass Group	1,574.25	22.75	1.47	24,457.53
Croda International	4,637.50	5.50	0.12	6,070.06
CRH	2,449.50	4.50	0.18	20,503.20
DCC	6,940.00	105.00	1.54	6,058.17
Diageo	2,380.25	-66.25	-2.71	60,052.53
Direct Line Insurance Group	376.40	-14.00	-3.59	5,275.88
Evrax	462.75	25.75	5.89	6,293.87
Experian	1,528.75	-51.75	-3.27	14,354.22
easyJet	1,577.25	14.25	0.91	6,267.94
Ferguson	5,362.00	44.00	0.83	13,271.71
Fresnillo	1,219.50	-19.00	-1.53	8,909.04
G4S	258.95	-3.25	-1.24	4,007.77
GKN	446.30	11.20	2.57	7,238.00
Glencore	369.80	-2.27	-0.61	52,405.08
GlaxoSmithKline	1,336.00	0.00	0.00	66,776.97
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,773.75	53.25	3.10	8,127.45
Halma	1,231.50	19.50	1.61	4,559.49
Hammerson	458.75	3.35	0.74	3,628.03
HSBC Holdings	712.45	6.65	0.94	140,637.95
International Consoltdtd Airs Grp	634.50	10.50	1.68	12,944.75
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,674.50	84.50	1.84	8,688.25
3i Group	922.90	0.50	0.05	9,045.95
Imperial Brands	2,773.25	181.25	6.99	24,754.24
Informa	707.80	0.48	0.07	5,861.97
Intertek Group	5,112.00	60.00	1.19	8,150.22
ITV	154.58	1.38	0.90	6,193.09
Just Eat	754.80	-33.60	-4.26	5,232.26
Johnson Matthey	3,201.50	-48.50	-1.49	6,193.07
Kingfisher	377.05	26.35	7.51	7,612.35

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	981.25	64.15	6.99	6,868.12
Legal & General Group	271.60	9.10	3.47	15,742.54
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.03	-0.26	-0.39	48,658.34
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,995.00	59.00	1.50	13,595.55
Micro Focus International	2,094.50	71.50	3.53	8,728.50
Mediclinic International	608.20	-9.20	-1.49	4,475.07
Marks & Spencer Group	272.15	-5.55	-2.00	4,526.54
Mondi	1,991.00	6.50	0.33	7,297.08
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	223.20	-4.70	-2.06	5,305.30
National Grid	790.90	7.20	0.92	26,669.41
NMC Health	3,682.00	168.00	4.78	6,991.54
Next	4,556.00	-216.00	-4.53	6,773.64
Old Mutual Group	253.80	-2.70	-1.05	12,529.25
Paddy Power Betfair	7,925.00	40.00	0.51	6,767.52
Prudential	1,837.25	-9.25	-0.50	47,540.60
Persimmon	2,737.50	140.50	5.41	7,870.71
Pearson	758.50	7.10	0.94	5,882.99
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,004.00	194.00	3.34	40,483.00
Royal Bank of Scotland Grp	266.30	4.50	1.72	31,470.19
Royal Dutch Shell	2,318.00	56.50	2.50	104,125.13
Royal Dutch Shell	2,350.00	62.50	2.73	85,790.37
RELX	1,681.75	169.25	11.19	15,946.73
Rio Tinto	3,652.00	-74.50	-2.00	49,669.15
Rolls-Royce Group	939.70	13.90	1.50	17,055.27
Randgold Resources	5,933.00	-101.00	-1.67	5,623.90
RSA Insurance Group	567.00	-68.20	-10.74	6,486.99
Rentokil Initial	283.90	11.50	4.22	4,856.07
Sainsbury (J)	245.25	2.25	0.93	5,296.11
Schroders	3,476.00	72.00	2.12	7,628.26
Sage Group (The)	708.30	12.50	1.80	7,542.57
Segro	661.90	62.90	10.50	6,055.67
Shire	3,106.75	-85.75	-2.69	29,380.64
Smurfit Kappa Group	3,179.00	-41.00	-1.27	7,560.50
Sky	1,341.25	3.25	0.24	23,034.83
Standard Life Aberdeen	374.50	4.10	1.11	11,064.25
Smith (DS)	514.40	4.20	0.82	5,471.96
Smiths Group	1,620.75	10.75	0.67	6,278.56
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	484.10	10.50	2.22	6,608.67
Smith & Nephew	1,339.00	8.00	0.60	11,593.25
SSE	1,234.75	-22.25	-1.77	12,655.82
Standard Chartered	799.85	20.95	2.69	25,655.56
St James's Place	1,177.25	24.25	2.10	6,110.88
Severn Trent	1,772.75	-53.25	-2.92	4,232.78
Tesco	215.90	3.20	1.50	17,194.38
TUI AG	1,524.50	-7.50	-0.49	9,060.44
Taylor Wimpey	188.58	0.48	0.26	6,146.05
Unilever	3,758.25	-136.25	-3.50	47,792.56
United Utilities Group	702.60	0.00	0.00	4,766.40
Vodafone Group	221.49	14.49	7.00	55,376.71
WPP Group	1,228.50	24.00	1.99	15,621.60
Whitbread	3,803.50	-128.50	-3.27	7,207.73

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3M	241,350	+2,12%	5,010	143.116,52
AMERICAN EXPRESS	99,0500	+2,55%	2,4600	84.978,34
APPLE	179,980	+1,72%	3,040	911.495,70
BOEING CO	354,520	+1,66%	5,790	207.448,72
CATERPILLAR	158,250	+3,03%	4,660	94.107,83
CHEVRON	117,22	+3,41%	3,87	223.977,19
CISCO SYSTEMS	45,370	+2,32%	1,030	224.836,42
COCA-COLA	44,82	+0,83%	0,37	190.753,42
DOWDUPONT	72,23	+2,34%	1,65	167.433,50
EXXON MOBIL	74,56	+0,59%	0,44	315.012,94
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,9400	+2,89%	0,4200	128.936,25
GOLDMAN SACHS	270,77	+1,66%	4,43	102.672,07
HOME DEPOT	182,1600	+2,37%	4,2200	211.502,63
IBM	159,31	+1,98%	3,10	146.815,74
INTEL CORP	52,1900	+2,86%	1,4500	243.172,80
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	118,0400	+2,88%	3,3000	404.044,47
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	133,8000	+1,32%	1,7400	357.738,09
MC DONALD'S CORP	157,2400	+1,81%	2,8000	124.799,73
MERCK AND CO. NEW	55,14	+0,69%	0,38	148.519,65
MICROSOFT	96,540	+2,23%	2,110	741.873,55
NIKE	66,30	+1,83%	1,19	86.114,00
PFIZER	36,7700	+0,74%	0,2700	218.976,13
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	80,290	+0,40%	0,320	201.856,77
TRAVELERS CIES	142,30	+1,88%	2,63	38.583,38
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	134,07	+2,14%	2,81	106.754,41
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	225,43	+0,31%	0,70	218.769,23
VERIZON COMMS	49,01	+0,00%	0,00	199.201,31
VISA	124,51	+1,87%	2,29	224.444,79
WAL-MART STORES	88,7200	+0,91%	0,8000	261.607,91
WALT DISNEY CO	104,7300	+0,67%	0,7000	156.953,65

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CLOSING PRICES MARCH 12

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Spark Energy, Inc.	\$ 11.20	2.60 ▲ 30.23%
Coherus BioSciences, Inc.	\$ 11.85	2.75 ▲ 30.22%
Tintri, Inc.	\$ 6.55	1.40 ▲ 27.18%
LexinFintech Holdings Ltd.	\$ 19.09	3.09 ▲ 19.31%
Yangtze River Port and Logistics Limited	\$ 4.65	0.71 ▲ 18.02%
Willdan Group, Inc.	\$ 26.54	3.85 ▲ 16.97%
Hurco Companies, Inc.	\$ 47.90	6.15 ▲ 14.73%
PDL BioPharma, Inc.	\$ 3.04	0.39 ▲ 14.72%
Proteostasis Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.12	0.51 ▲ 14.13%
Protagonist Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 23.08	2.85 ▲ 14.09%
NCS Multistage Holdings, Inc.	\$ 17.69	2.10 ▲ 13.47%
Most Declined		
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 6.60	1.06 ▼ 13.84%
Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.	\$ 2.58	0.32 ▼ 11.03%
UTStarcom Holdings Corp	\$ 5.25	0.64 ▼ 10.87%
Calithera Biosciences, Inc.	\$ 8.10	0.85 ▼ 9.50%
Approach Resources Inc.	\$ 2.55	0.26 ▼ 9.25%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 10.76	1.09 ▼ 9.20%
Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.	\$ 26.80	2.41 ▼ 8.25%
National Beverage Corp.	\$ 90.60	8.13 ▼ 8.23%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 16.16	1.42 ▼ 8.08%
Rimini Street, Inc.	\$ 7.69	0.67 ▼ 8.01%
Otonomy, Inc.	\$ 5.025	0.425 ▼ 7.80%

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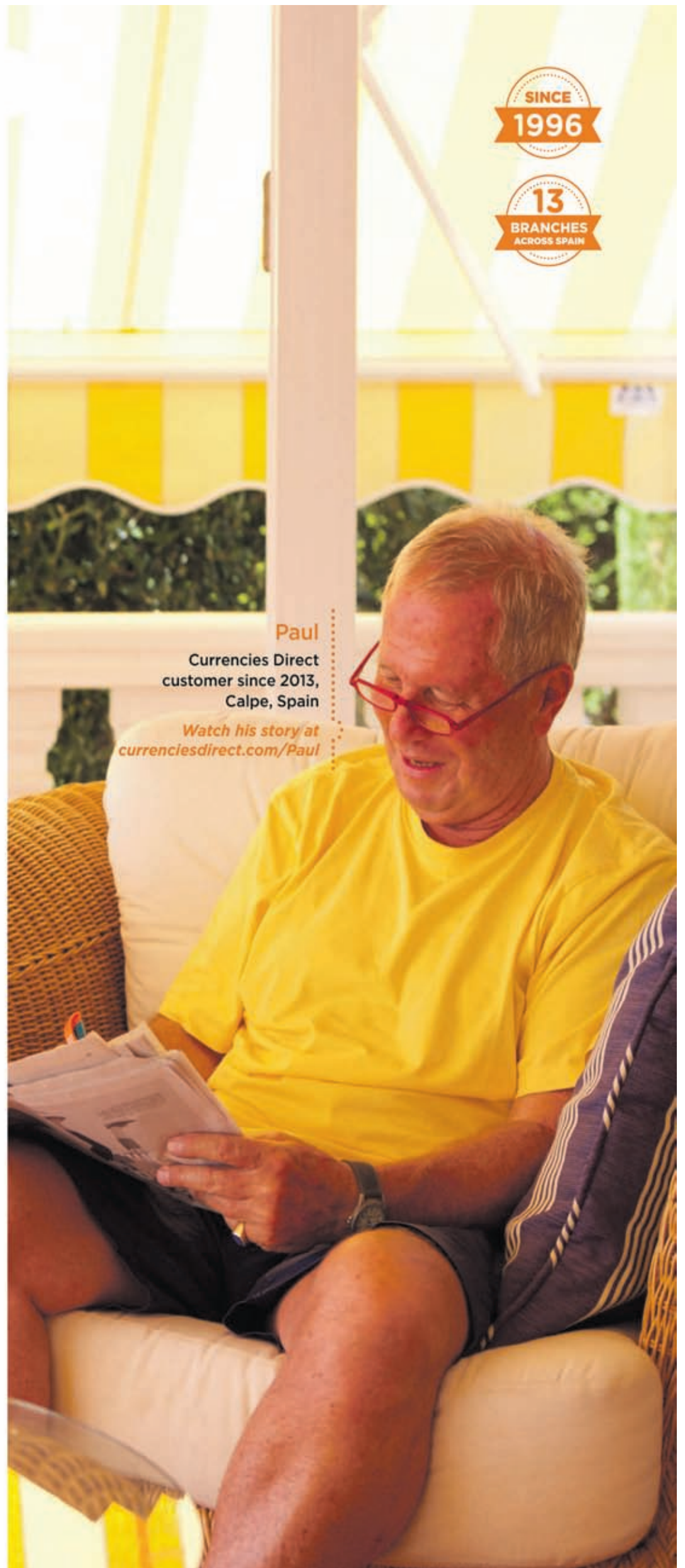
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€6m solar storm erupts

'LIKE GOING TO WAR WITHOUT WEAPONS'

SPAIN'S biggest research and development centre for renewable energy is unable to spend money.

The Solar Platform in Almeria (PSA) has reportedly been handed millions of Euros in European Union grants, but restrictions imposed by the Spanish government have left bosses unable to splash out.

Set up in the Tabernas Desert during the 1970's, the centre is the most important for solar thermal energy in Europe.

Ex-PSA director Sixto Malato said: "Spain has installed the equivalent of two nuclear power stations in solar thermal energy plants... if it occupied 1.5 per cent of the world's deserts, we could generate enough electricity for the entire planet."

The PSA has designed technology used by major power plants in the United States, China and North Africa, and is a popular proving ground for new solar energy systems.

Around €6 million-worth of funding cannot be spent after the Spanish Treasury, in 2016, began to roll out measures designed to limit outlay.

The latest ruling was approved in January.

It blocks public research agencies from spending more than half of their funds until the 2018 National Budget is approved, with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's embattled Popular Party thus far unable to get its plans approved by Spanish Congress.

The standoff has seen 14 researchers - 35 per cent of the team - laid off from the PSA, leading to Malato handing in his notice.

One of them, a woman who has several children and had worked there for 15 years told Spanish media: "Our problem is due to the state of science in Spain and the scarcity of work opportunities for highly trained people, I used to get the best grades in my class, and now my employ-



Photo credit Change.org

OFF GRID: Almeria's Solar Platform.

ment prospects are the most unstable."

The constraints have also impacted on research, with several projects months behind schedule. Waterspout has a €3.5 million budget to develop water purification technology for Uganda in southern Africa, but there is no-one in charge of it after the lead researcher was, in February, made redundant.

Researcher Eduardo Zarza said how an experimental steam generation system, which is among the platform's 'most emblematic' has been out of action for four months as he is unable to buy spare parts.

Malato confirmed that a number of requests for the Treasury to exempt 15 EU science contracts from the spending restrictions have not been answered to date.

NOT GRAPE NEWS AFTER HARVEST SLUMP

Wine prices to increase

WINE lovers are facing a price hike in the wake of last year's catastrophic grape harvest.

Global wine production last year fell to its lowest level in half a century after vineyards in Spain, as well as the world's two other top producers France and Italy, with the weather to blame.

Extreme and unseasonal hot and cold temperatures ravaged all three countries, with the areas producing Spanish Rioja and Italian Prosecco coming off worst.

Dan Jago, chief executive of posh wine merchant Berry Bros and Rudd, told UK media: "We'll start to see those [2017] wines coming to the market now and I think for higher volume, lower price wine you will see cost increases.

"Prices for things like Pinot Grigio or generic Spanish reds will rise by between 10 per cent and 30 per cent and it's how much of that retailers will pass on," said the former Tesco wine business chief. "Prosecco was very hard hit by frost, so there will be less



PRICEY PLONK: The price of Spanish wine could rise by 30 per cent.

of it and the price will go up."

According to The International Organisation of Vine and Wine, global wine production plummeted by 8 per cent in 2017 after the worst grape harvest since 1961.

The fall is set to see 2.9 billion fewer bottles hit the market this year.

A senior figure in the wine industry said that the sector had endured a 'perfect storm' in 2017, with issues affecting wine-growing regions across the planet.

"There is price pressure in two places, right at the top end, in premium claret, and in entry level wine," he

explained. "In a £5 bottle only 50p is for the wine so you are looking at a small increase of say 12.5p... on a £100 bottle of wine you've got a material price change.

"In a good year producers will try and profit and in a bad year they will try and eat some of the losses, it's in their interests to do so. At some point prices will have to reflect the cost of production but supermarkets will work hard to keep wine affordable because like eggs, milk and a loaf of white bread, people know the price of a bottle of Pinot Gigio."

Planemaker to axe 3,700 jobs as jet projects fail to take off

AIRBUS has warned that up to 3,700 jobs - including 800 in Spain - could be lost as it downscales assembly of its A380 and A400M planes.

The European manufacturer said that the cuts would also affect the UK, France and Germany as issues continue to plague Europe's priciest civil and military aerospace projects.

Production of the A380 superjumbo, the world's biggest passenger jet, will be slashed from six to eight per year from 2020.

The underperforming project was almost axed until Dubai's Emirates airline ordered 16 of the planes for €12.85 billion.

And just eight A400M troop transporters will be built, down from a forecast 15 this year and 11 in 2019, after losses soared beyond €8 billion.

Shot in the arm for civil service

SPANISH civil servants are to receive their first pay rise since 2009.

It comes after unions thrashed out a deal with the government which will see employees receive between 6.1-8.8 per cent boost in wages over the next three years.

Civil servants lost 11-23 per cent of their buying power in the wake of the economic crisis.

Tens of thousands of jobs axed as Spain imposed austerity measures on the central administration, army, justice and public health sectors.

The CC OO union confirmed the agreement in a statement after it earlier rejected the government's proposed 1 per cent pay hike.

"We're moving towards an increase that will recover their lost purchasing power," said CC OO official Antonio Cabrera.

SPAIN SLAMMED IN SMOG SMACKDOWN

Green tax reforms looming

THE Spanish government is aiming to increase taxes on diesel fuel.

A raft of other environmental levies will also be reformed as Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro, revealed that the bulk of such taxation will be managed by the country's 17 regional governments.

And chief among the proposed changes is a move to scrap current tax breaks for drivers of diesel and other highly polluting vehicles.

The announcement comes after European Commission (EC) lawmakers in Belgian capital Brussels again slammed Spain over its low income from environmental taxes.

In a report on the Spanish economy, the EC officials pointed out that green taxes in Spain last year generated incoming funds equivalent to 1.9 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to



DIRTY DIESEL: A digital sign warns of dangerous air pollution and (inset) summer smog clouds the air in Madrid.

the European Union (EU) average of 2.4 per cent.

The document points out "the low level of taxes on unleaded gasoline and diesel," in particular "the case of diesel, on which Spain applies the minimum excise duty, despite the fact that diesel has a higher carbon and energy content

than unleaded petrol."

It continues: "Taxes on transport only generate half the income in Spain than in the rest of the EU (0.2 per cent compared to 0.5 per cent of GDP)."

The EC has issued a number of scathing reports on the situation in Spain since 2012, with

the International Monetary Fund and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development following suit.

But while most developed countries have raised tax or applied restrictions on diesel, Spain has done nothing notable to date, according to the report.

The Spanish government is in danger of being hauled before the EU Court of Justice for consistently breaching recommended limits of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in Madrid and Barcelona since 2010.

NO₂ is a by-product emitted by both petrol and diesel motor engines that can trigger breathing and other respiratory problems in otherwise healthy people.

In December 2016 Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy pledged to raise an additional €500 million annually through green taxes, but the scheme was shelved shortly afterwards.

The government's latest batch of proposed reforms aims to transfer responsibility to the regional governments, while suggesting that road taxes on the most polluting vehicles could also be raised if local councils become involved.

New minister choice sparks fear and fury

ROMAN ESCOLANO is Spain's new Economy Minister.

The 53-year-old from Zaragoza replaces Luis de Guindos, 58, who recently left to become Vice-President of the European Central Bank.

Escolano has resigned from his position as Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), to accept the role.

The first major appointment of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's second term in office, the move was condemned by opposition parties and unions.

Albert Rivera, leader of the Ciudadanos party said: "The balance is not positive for Spain, because in the end what we gain with de Guindos leaving we lose with Escolano's march back to Spain."

Secretary General of the CC OO union, Unai Sordo, added that he believes Escolano will continue de Guindos' approach, "increasing social inequality."

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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Money keeps the world going round

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



IRRESPECTIVE of those who would label me a racist.

Or the luvvy ostrich brigade, who seem to be in permanent denial, after my recent trips to the UK I can, without fear of contradiction, assure you that the country, particularly the large cities, are positively awash with immigrants. London in particular has an enormous immigrant population.

The majority work in the thousands of retail outlets, including shops, petrol stations, restaurants and most taxi companies. They are also firmly entrenched in many infrastructure operations, from councils to postmen, and even gas meter readers. It's somewhat strange to see my prophecies of some 30-odd years ago, actually come to fruition. To be quite honest I don't even really care any more. I no longer live there, never will again, and am quite happy now residing in a country that seems to have escaped (so far) the overwhelming influx of these cultures from other lands. Well good luck I say.

Perhaps these new 21st century UK residents will make a better job of it. Shouldn't be too difficult. What did strike me however was the age of



Photo credit Saudi Embassy UK

MEET AND GREET: Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia with Theresa May last week.

the new populace. The majority of immigrants are young Asian men. Consequently a large number of those who now reside in the UK fall into the 30 to 45 age groups. Which means they will all become old around the same time! Wow that'll be fun! And what happens when the untold millions

of illegals reach their three score and 10? Who on earth will look after them all? Ah well, good luck. One thing is for sure, it won't be bothering me.

It's not love. It's not sex and it's certainly not charity that makes the world go around. The thing that keeps this old planet spinning happily

through the universe is money, pure and simple. Always has been, always will be.

That's why ultimately, apart from a few diplomatic noises, the usual 'ongoing investigation' and a bit of political window dressing, even this latest poisoning atrocity will be kicked around 'til it finally disappears up its own proverbial.

Russia has billions invested in the UK. Imports and exports amount to billions more. You don't think that in the long run any government is going to risk all that going up the Swanee do you?

For the same reason Saudi Arabian hierarchy will always be wined, dined and fawned over by British royalty and politicians. If the Saudis withdrew all their money and dropped out of present and future trade deals, the UK economy would probably collapse altogether. A few thousand deaths and atrocities committed in some far off (extremely poor!) Arab country, will definitely not be allowed to interfere with any of that. And you can happily take that to any bank you like.

Many congrats to the EWN for picking up yet another prestigious (AEEPP) award in Madrid last week. Congrats all. Proud to be a part of it. Onward and upward.

columnists@euoweeklynews.com

Keep the Faith

Love Leapy

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

If help is just a tantrum away

When a call centre tells you how important your call is but acts as though it isn't, there are other options, suggests Terence Kennedy

TECH FOR THE TIMID



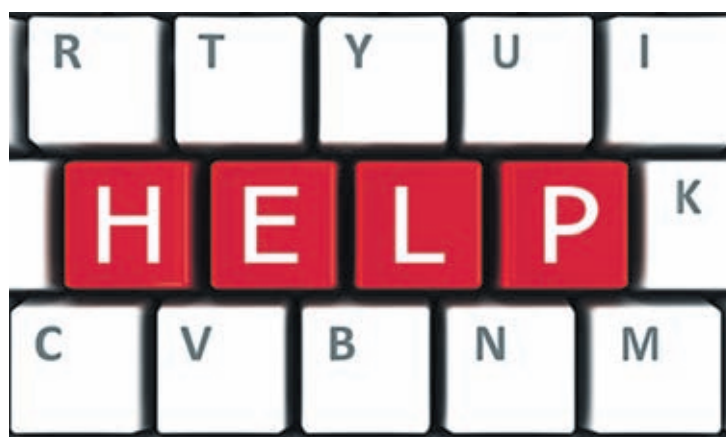
SUCH a nice man phoned from 'Windows' in India the other day, offering to fix a problem my computer didn't have.

Like growing numbers of scam-resisters with a nasty streak, I strung him along happily for nearly half an hour before he finally slammed down the receiver with, I presume, a cheery wave of the fist.

There are of course real support people out there doing sterling work for those who need help when tech goes wrong or ain't quite right.

Not that the firms that have taken our money for a product with the offer of support always make it easy to get it. An hour on hold while being Vivaldi'd into a coma by customer service is enough to unhinge the sanest of us.

So what to do when your shiny



SUPPORT: Press one if you're rational.

new toy refuses to cooperate, your software turns hard or the gadget supposed to change your life won't even let you change its batteries?

Yes you could phone a friend, as the quiz show has it, or even an (expensive) independent technician. Or indeed customer support.

But there's another way. These days there's pretty much an online forum for everything, peopled by

kindred souls ready to give their time and expertise freely to those using your very same products or services.

Buy technology and if it goes wrong (or even if it doesn't), why not sign up for the user forum that's sure to exist for it? Simply Google the name of your product and add the word 'forum' after it, and you'll be gob-stoppered at what pops up.

The other day I struggled to mount a memory chip in my computer. Within minutes YouTube had served me up a dozen useful videos, job done.

Trust me, whatever has happened to you with your product has happened to dozens, even hundreds of others, so why would you tear your hair out trying to reinvent that wheel?

And at least you will never suffer the indignity inflicted so famously on one hapless customer, unable to get her new computer up and running despite nearly an hour online with the call centre assistant. Finally he asked her if she still had the box the computer came in. She did.

"Here's what you do," he instructed. "You pack it all back in the box, take it back to the store and tell them they should refund your money, because you are simply too stupid to own a computer."

He was of course fired.

Forum fitting

TYPE 'Windows 10 forum' into a search box and good luck with the 22 million results.

Forums linked to product manufacturers are often a safe start. IBM, Dell, Firefox, Adobe and thousands of others all endorse forums linked to their products. Their own support staff may even visit these sites and sometimes help out.

Their help is always free. As with my friend from 'Windows India', if money is mentioned a rodent should be smelled.

Once you get a taste for being part of a dedicated online community, who knows what other heights you may reach?

There are forums for geeks, forums for fans, forums for feminists, even forums for those who like joining forums.

I did however draw the line at signing up for one I stumbled across last week: www.icechewing.com.

SEMANA SANTA SPECIAL: What to expect from the upcoming

Semana Santa is coming to town

With Easter almost upon us for another year, David Noon recounts the weird, wacky and wonderful traditions that make the Semana Santa period so spectacular in Spain

STOOD with the Catedral de Santa María de la Sede to my left and the entrance to the Alcázar of Sevilla on my right, my first taste of Semana Santa is one I will never forget.

I watched on in awe as spectators lined the streets three or four people deep, scrambling in order to see the cofradías (brotherhoods) clad in all manner of coloured, hooded gowns.

Some were carrying candles, others silver staffs, while many more were tucked away, huddled bare-footed beneath the floats that carry religious effigies on board.

It was at the sight of the costaleros making their way with the image of the Virgin Mary atop that sent the crowds into raptures.

Coupled with the bright colours of the brotherhoods as well as the long, loud blasts on the horns, the beating of the drums and the smell of incense, it is fair to say that my first experience of Spain's Easter holiday was a sensory awakening like no other.

If truth be told, it was one of the more surreal moments of my life and I wasn't entirely ready for it.

And I wasn't the only one to be overwhelmed by the situation. Next to me, a group of older ladies dressed head-to-toe in black lace wailed in the streets as tears streamed down their faces.

It was a kind of emotion that I had never seen before.

As Daniel Gil, a

**5 tonnes,
the average
weight of the
Pasos (floats)**

25-year-old teacher English teacher from Sevilla, tells me 'Semana Santa in Sevilla is like nowhere on earth.'

"In Sevilla, the emotion during Semana Santa is like nowhere else," he says. "My father used to carry the floats and now I take my turn. It is a duty and an honour to be a part of the celebrations.



**58
religious
brotherhoods
in Sevilla**

day until late at night to be together and to take part."

He adds: "If you are a kid growing up in Sevilla, you always want to be a part of the Semana Santa processions when you are older."

While Semana Santa is celebrated in

"In all of Spain, Semana Santa is an important week, but in Sevilla hundreds if not thousands of people come out on-

to the street every

day until late at night to be together and to take part."

While Semana Santa is celebrated in

South America and Easter is a staple of most Western calendars, nowhere on earth quite marks the resurrection of Christ with as much vigour and enthusiasm as Spain.

A week of celebrations, traditions and most importantly processions is enjoyed by all as traffic grinds to a halt to allow the ceremonies to take place.

In Sevilla, 50,000 robe-wearers take part in the most iconic procession on the planet which sees thousands descend on the country from across the globe every year.



In total 58 different brotherhoods all take their turn to parade through the street, with some cofradías containing as



THE National Sculpture Museum donates over 100 images for use during the processions in Valladolid, making it one of Spain's most artistic parades.

• One of Spain's most unusual (and most politically incorrect) Easter celebrations is held in the town of El Bierzo in León. While knocking back glasses of special wine-lemonade, the locals replace the usual 'saludos' with 'salir a matar Judíos' (let's go kill the Jews). The tradition stems from a 14th century dispute between a nobleman named Suero de Quiñones and a Jewish lender, which resulted in a grizzly end for the Jewish lender after he mocked the death of Jesus.

• If the sight of hundreds of hooded men wasn't frightening enough, the Catalan town of Verges in Girona has stepped up the fear-factor a notch. On Maundy Thursday five of its residents, including three children, dress up in skeleton costumes, carry Death's sickle and dance around the streets to the sound of drums.

• If you thought get out of jail free cards were reserved for Monopoly, then think again. Each year, the government chooses a handful of Catholic inmates to be freed from their prison term. The tradition was brought in by

Skeletons, pub crawls and other (lesser-known) traditions



STRANGE TRADITIONS: Skeletons in Girona.

King Charles III in 1759, after a riot broke out in a Malaga prison when inmates found out Easter proces-

sions would be cancelled due to a plague outbreak. They forced their way out, carried Jesus's image through the streets and then returned to their cells.

• In León thousands of thirsty Easter revellers recreate the pub crawl that led to one of the city's well-known character's death. In 1929, Genaro Blanco was relieving his bowls against a wall after a day on the cervezas when he was struck by a rub-

bish truck. Year after year, more followers have joined the bar-hopping procession, the record being 15,000 in 2005.

• Much of Semana Santa's traditions relate to the idea of Christian penance. That is no more prevalent than in the town of Cuenca where participants in the 'Road to Calvary' procession mock Jesus on his way to the cross. For 12 hours, members of the public jostle the nazarenos, or penitents, and prevent them from carrying Jesus's image through the streets.

• Although not as gruesome as the ones seen in parts of South America, the Via Crucis in Valverde de las Veras is not for the faint hearted. Participants, known as empalaos, have their bodies strapped to a wooden cross and then walk barefoot through the streets.



g Holy Week



COFRADIOS: Nazarenos parade through the street.



SPECTACLE: Thousands of people flock to streets in Malaga.

What's behind the hoods?

IT must have been said a thousand times, but the nazarenos worn by the brotherhoods strike an uncanny similarity to the outfits donned by white supremacist group the Ku Klux Klan.

Of course, there is no political similarity but from a purely visual perspective the site of nazarenos does take some getting used to.

While some brotherhoods do don white hoods, they come in all sorts of colours - with purple seemingly the most favoured.

But where does the outfit come from?

Well, the use of this hat goes back to the time of the Spanish Inquisition.

In enacting punishments the members of the Inquisition placed a cap on the head of the condemned.



1179 AD is the oldest recorded Semana Santa procession

rhythm which echoes around the capital.

This represents the earth tremors that were supposed to have occurred when Christ died on the cross.

Arguably the most authentic - and sombre - celebrations take place in the region of Castilla La Mancha.

While Zamora, close to the Portuguese border lays claim to the oldest Semana Santa celebrations in Spain, dating back to 1179.

The city's population increasing five times during Holy Week, as up to 300,000 people flock to watch the ancient traditions.

Salamanca is also steeped in a rich Easter history, with festivities recorded as far back as 1240.

Meanwhile, Valladolid's processions see some of the oldest pasos carried through the streets, with some religious statues dating back to the 16th century.

No matter where you are in Spain this Easter, and regardless of your religious inclination, do not complain about the horns blaring throughout the night, or the drums banging during your weekend lie-in.

Instead embrace Spain's take on the Holy Week and let your senses be overcome with the spectacle that is Semana Santa.

FAMOUS FACES: Antonio Banderas in Malaga.

enced anything like my maiden (and only) Semana Santa in Sevilla, each procession I have witnessed in the years, cities and towns since has in one way or another been special.

For while the rituals can all be traced back to the 16th century and each celebration includes hooded-figures, processions, horns (sometimes at ungodly hours) and effigies of religious figures, every town or city has its own unique take on the Holy Week.

Andalucia is largely considered to play host to some of the most emblematic (and somber) celebrations.

Along with Sevilla, Malaga and Granada are also famous for their Easter celebrations.

Malagueno-cum-Hollywood-megastar Antonio Banderas usually makes an appearance at his hometown's processions and has even joined the ranks in carrying floats in the past.

Even in the smaller Costa del Sol town of Estepona, the procession takes an emotional twist as it stops on Calle

Terraza to allow for (a rather uncomfortable) five minutes of gypsy singing which takes place from a balcony overlooking the effigy of the Virgin Mary.

Meanwhile in Madrid around 20 processions take place, in the build up to Easter Sunday.

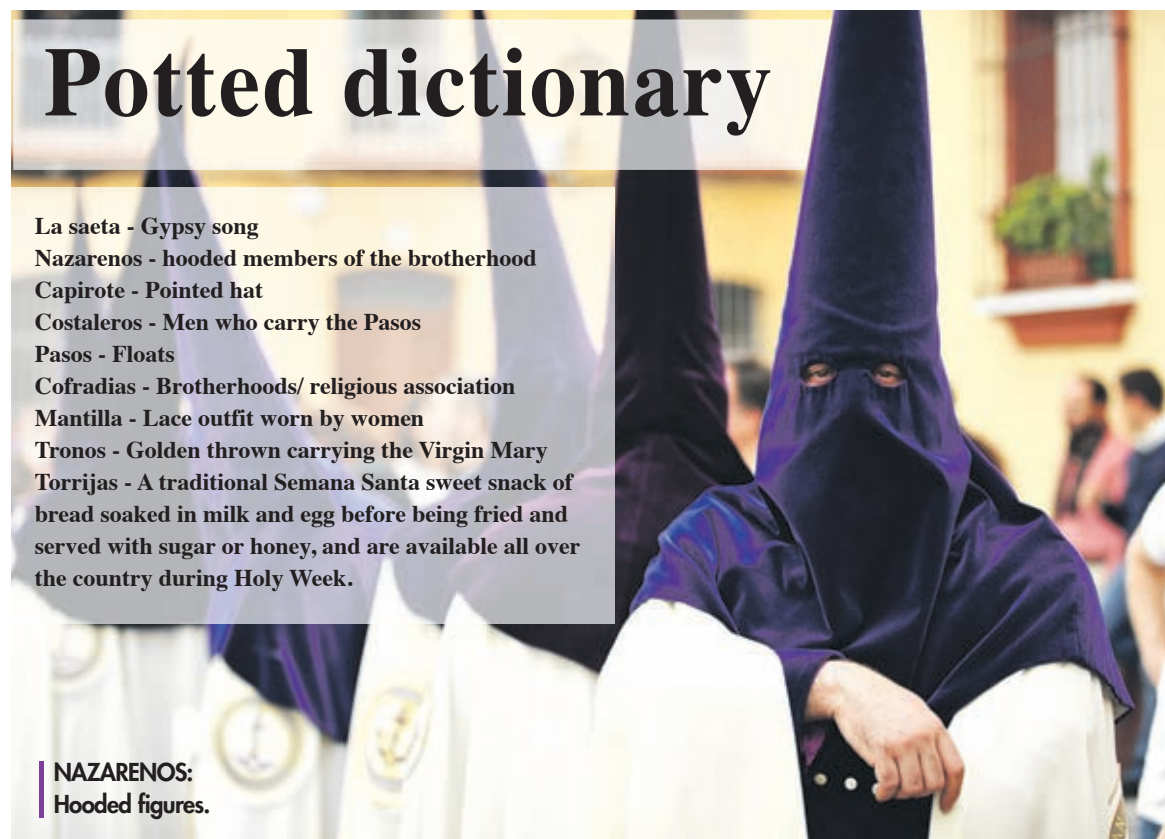
The main event, the Tamborada del Domingo de Resurrección, takes place on Easter Sunday at mid-day in the Plaza Mayor.

Whichever Brotherhood has been chosen for the year assembles dozens of drummers who beat out a constant

Potted dictionary

- La saeta** - Gypsy song
- Nazarenos** - hooded members of the brotherhood
- Capirote** - Pointed hat
- Costaleros** - Men who carry the Pasos
- Pasos** - Floats
- Cofradias** - Brotherhoods/ religious association
- Mantilla** - Lace outfit worn by women
- Tronos** - Golden throne carrying the Virgin Mary
- Torrijas** - A traditional Semana Santa sweet snack of bread soaked in milk and egg before being fried and served with sugar or honey, and are available all over the country during Holy Week.

NAZARENOS: Hooded figures.



50,000 people take part in Sevilla's processions

many as 3,000 nazarenos (the hooded figures).

The hooded nazarenos, are dressed in colour-coded medieval robes to match their cofradia. And their faces

are covered to repent en masse and in anonymity.

Yet spare a thought for the men crammed beneath the pasos (floats). Weighing up to five tonnes, the pasos can require up to 100 men to carry.

As the procession moves forward, there is few more moving sights than the shuffling of bare feet beneath the floats as each man grips the shoulder of the next man in front of him.

In the breaks in the procession, you can see the sweat pouring off those carrying the floats, especially during the heat of the day time celebrations.

This year, things get underway on March 25 and run through until March 31.

While I have never quite experi-

40-50 men are usually needed to carry each float, however the number can be as many as 100



Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



Room at the Top at the Corinthia London

THERE are many astonishing hotels in the world, in an occasional series I will look at Rooms at the Top. Not necessarily the top as in height above sea level, indeed many are at sea level, but rather the spectacular offer to the guest.

One such is the Corinthia London. Located south of Trafalgar Square on Whitehall Place on the fringe of Clubland and a short walk from royal parks and palaces, the processional route from Palace to St Paul's Cathedral passes close by, as well as the vibrant theatre district. The Corinthia London is a relative newcomer to the capital first opening in 2011, then rapidly accumulating recognition and awards confirming its status as a Flagship hotel of Corinthia Hotels, a Malta domiciled international luxury hotel company.

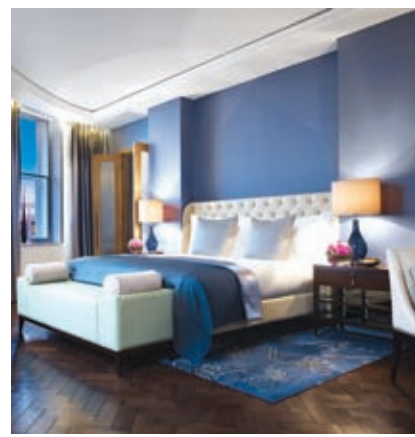
The Corinthia London offers 294 rooms including 36 suites and seven penthouses, as well as several world class restaurants and bars and a spectacular Spa to luxuriate in when not sampling all that the West End of London has to offer. The outfitting is elegant, even glorious, with furnishings of unsurpassed quality, attention to detail as well as a service culture that not only offers guests original artwork on the walls but chandeliers suspended from ceilings to achieve a level of glamour, even of grandeur.

A truly luxurious aspect to the Corinthia London is the space to truly breathe that the hotel offers its guests. Not only in the public spaces



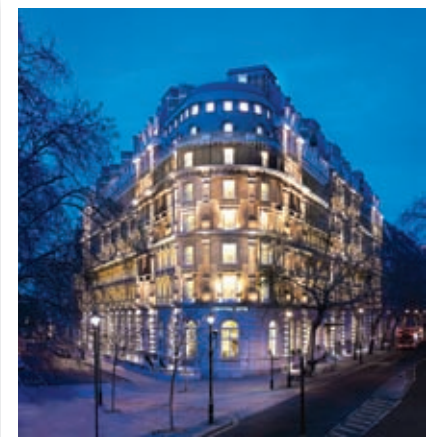
ELEGANT: Writer's Penthouse Double Height Lounge, Corinthia Hotel.

which are generous yet with private dining rooms and meeting spaces that bring the opportunity for secluded conversations, but also the guest's rooms. At the most accessible the Deluxe rooms offer an average of 32 to 39 square metres, rising in acreage with the Suites to an average of 46 to



OPULENT: A River Suite Bedroom at the Corinthia Hotel.

86 square metres. While the Penthouses, each of which is uniquely themed; each has its own private staircase and in some cases its own lift, offer from 100 square metres rising to the Royal Penthouse at 456 square metres. Many with double height ceilings, the rooms are quite probably the



MAGNIFICENT: Victorian Belle Epoch exterior of the Corinthia Hotel London.

most extravagant in terms of space in the whole of the capital.

The Corinthia Hotel London offers afternoon teas in her lounges and garden courtyards but does not have iconic status in London, it soon will.



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May's road to Brexit: a road to nowhere

BREMAIN IN SPAIN - a group campaigning for the rights of British citizens in Spain and the EU - points out that public reactions to Theresa May's recent speech have been as mixed as the PM's own messages.

While some have praised May for adding clarity and detail to her Brexit 'plan,' others criticised her obvious continuation of delusional thinking and unrealistic expectations.

Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, says: "While May publicly acknowledged that the UK cannot obtain everything it wants from any deal, she's still under the delusion that the EU needs us as much as we need it. May stated that we need to face hard facts and that 'life is going to be different.' It was noticeable that she chose the word 'different' rather than 'better,' so she is no longer pretending that leaving the EU will be beneficial to the UK."

May listed five tests for Brexit: that it respects the referendum result; is a lasting solution; protect jobs; maintains an outward-looking, tolerant democracy and protects the unity of the UK.

Wilson continued "Brexit itself, or at least May's hard version of it, would damage every one of her own tests. May's insistence in respecting the 'will of the people' as of June 23, 2016 is no respecter of democracy or the people if she only considers how they felt at that particular

snapshot in time. So many voters have reconsidered their feelings about leaving the EU, now that the true facts and ramifications are known. The 'will of the people' today is demonstrably different to how it was on referendum day and should not be ignored."

The most scathing attack came from Guy Verhofstadt, who said: "Theresa May needed to move beyond vague aspirations. We can only hope that serious proposals have been put in the post. While I welcome the call for a deep and special partnership, this cannot be achieved by putting a few extra cherries on the Brexit cake."

Wilson commented that "May's red lines are turning pinker by the minute - she needs to wake up and to accept that the EU has rules in place to protect the integrity of the single market and its members, and that the UK is not a special case."

"May's latest catchphrase, 'ambitious but practical,' is just another meaningless sound bite. I have written to Number 10 with my own suggestion on a replacement, when they have run out of ideas. I think in relation to Brexit, 'pointless and cancelled' just about covers it," she concluded.

Bremain in Spain is a group campaigning for the UK to remain in the European Union and to protect the rights of British migrants living and working in Spain. www.bremaininspain.com

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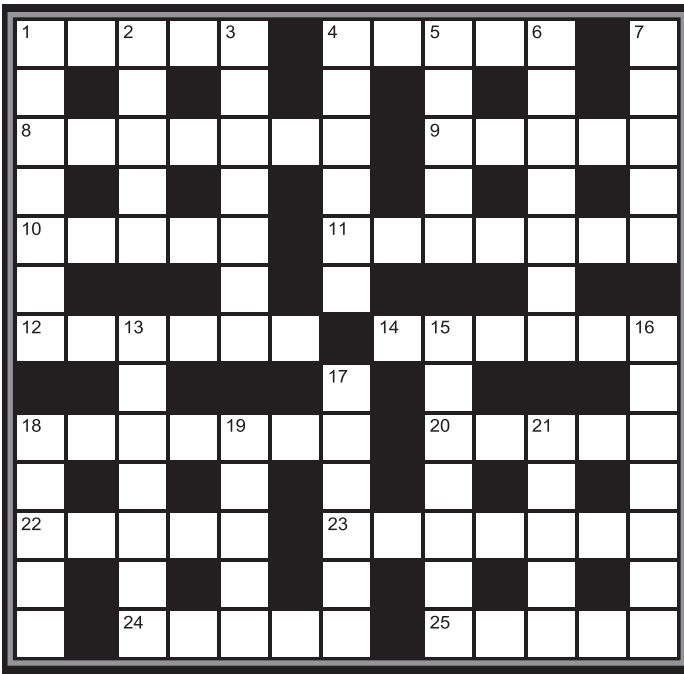


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Girl in difficulties, asks us and agrees (5)
- 4 Insensitive fool after credit (5)
- 8 Custodian's organised car tour (7)
- 9 Inexperienced bowler's environment (5)
- 10 Burning coal in Nuremberg (5)
- 11 Reds ran about, running these? (7)
- 12 Leisurely walk with small Scandinavian goblin (6)
- 14 Sea creature from urban renewal rush hour (6)
- 18 Stew made from pet goat (7)
- 20 Black is black in retail event (5)
- 22 Money from writer before church (5)
- 23 Smoothing things out at the end of the day (7)
- 24 Good man gets beer, but it's flat (5)
- 25 Old Testament character, New Testament incident (5)

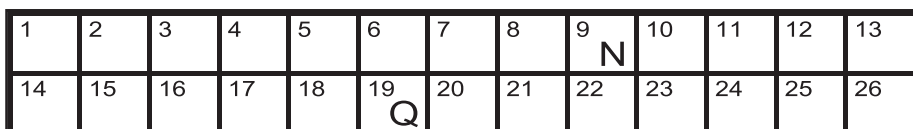
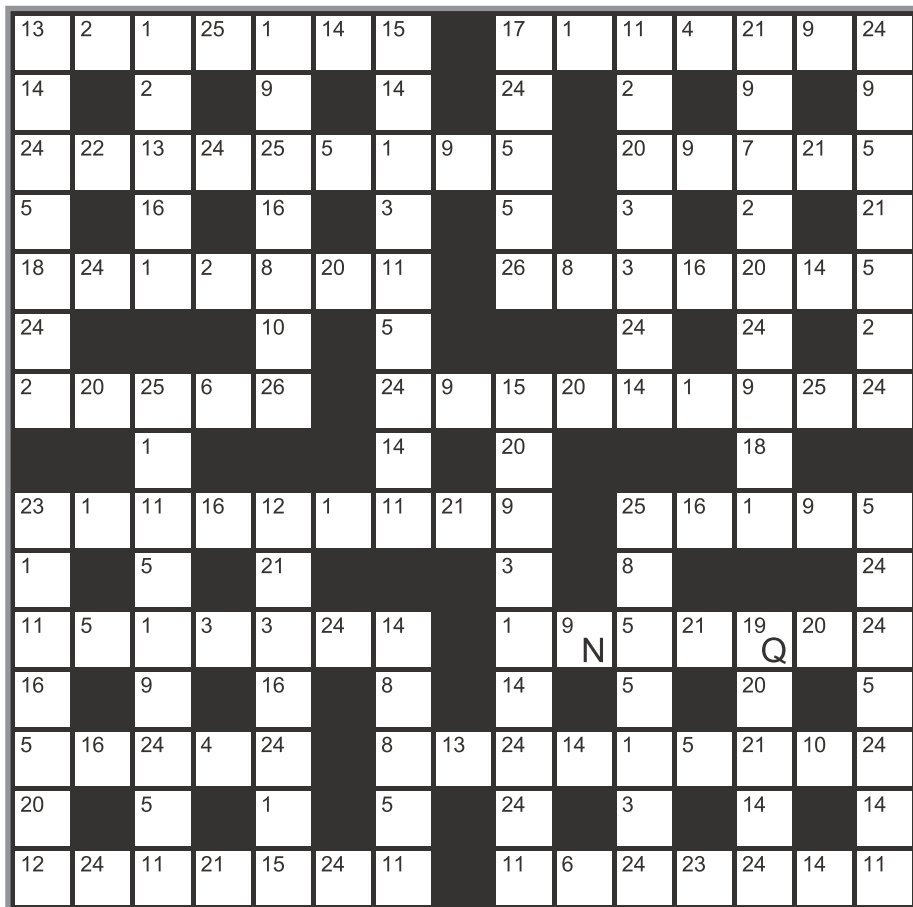


Down

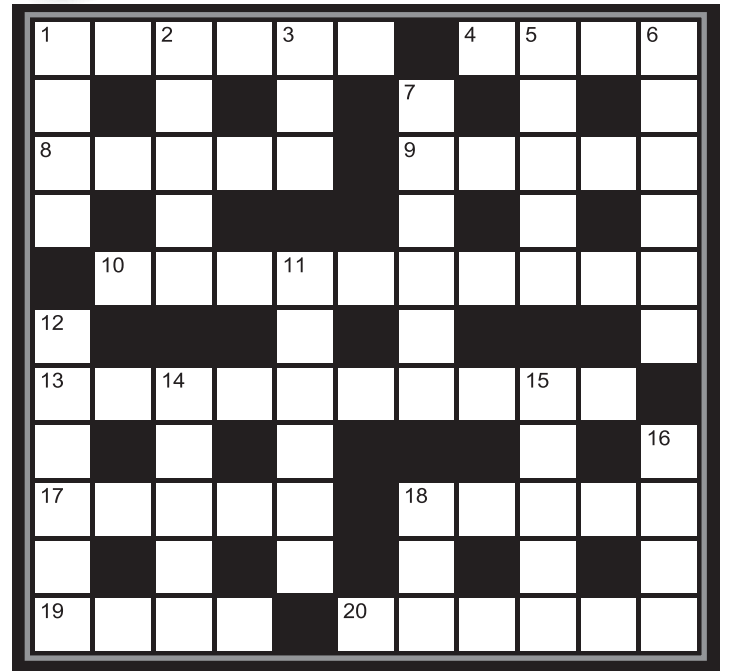
- 1 Bags naughty cheat on board (7)
- 2 Scour the bush country (5)
- 3 Unspoilt old city in South African region (7)
- 4 No care damaged part of eye (6)
- 5 Free range is a deadly sin (5)
- 6 Characters in sinister nerve agent plot are more relentless (7)
- 7 Britain finishes diver's problem (5)
- 13 Grades given to sailors (7)
- 15 Simple saint before getting crown of gold (7)
- 16 Dexterity is an insult, so we hear (7)
- 17 Creed moved east in retreat (6)
- 18 Student one may see through (5)
- 19 Some mistake lawyer for pack leader (5)
- 21 Cheese containing initially banned sweetener (5)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 9 represents N and 19 represents Q, so fill in N every time the figure 9 appears and Q every time the figure 19 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.



Quick



Across

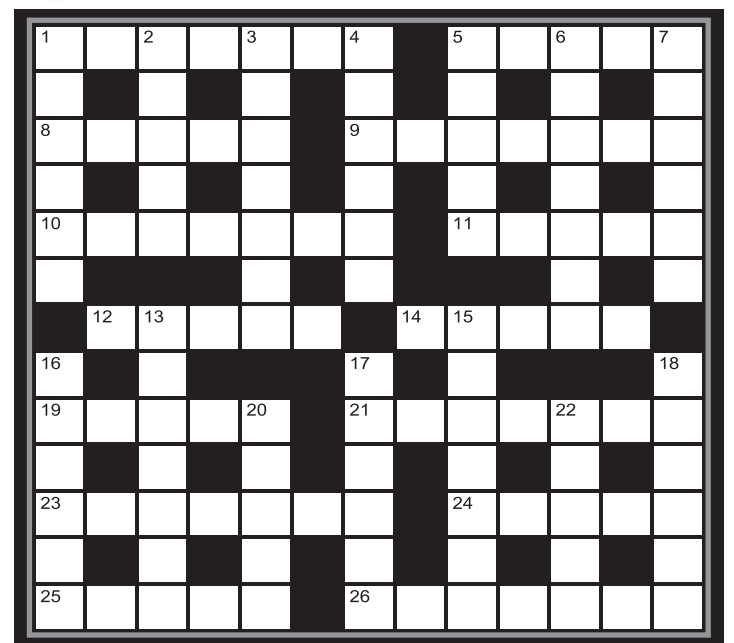
- 1 Safe (6)
- 4 Counterfeit (4)
- 8 Make fit or suitable (5)
- 9 Red, green or yellow fruit (5)
- 10 Lawful (10)
- 13 Help (10)
- 17 State of extreme confusion and disorder (5)
- 18 Body excluding the head and neck and limbs (5)
- 19 Falsehoods (4)
- 20 Make up one's mind (6)

Down

- 1 Adult male deer (4)
- 2 Desist from (5)
- 3 Long tailed rodent (3)
- 5 First letter of Greek alphabet (5)
- 6 Number of players in a cricket team (6)
- 7 Mexican foodstuff (6)
- 11 Beg persistently and urgently (6)
- 12 Annul or suppress (6)
- 14 Animal trap (5)
- 15 Welsh breed of dog (5)
- 16 Centre of 9 Across (4)
- 18 Bind (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Back (of person) (7)
- 5 Cangrejos (de mar) (5)
- 8 Able (capable) (5)
- 9 Terrace (patio, verandah) (7)
- 10 To show (7)
- 11 Saint (5)
- 12 Margarita (flor) (5)
- 14 Décimo (5)
- 19 Nickname (5)
- 21 Clothes shop (7)
- 23 By plane (2,5)
- 24 To taste (5)
- 25 De nuevo (5)
- 26 Respuestas (a preguntas, en examen, test) (7)

Down

- 1 Above (6)
- 2 Tuberías (5)
- 3 Lagartos (7)
- 4 Height (6)
- 5 Faces (body parts) (5)
- 6 En contra de (7)
- 7 Estación (parte del año) (6)
- 13 Lawyer (f) (7)
- 15 Handcuffs (7)
- 16 Flowerpot (6)
- 17 Press (newspapers) (6)
- 18 Goats (6)
- 20 Cebolla (5)
- 22 Oak (tree) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'ANTONIO - THAT CROCODILE YOU FOUND AT LOW WATER BY THE LAKES A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO... WAS IT ALIVE?'

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday March 10

3 7 36 **BONUS BALL**
42 53 59 50

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday March 10

12 27 30 **BONUS BALL**
33 38 40 34

EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday March 06

15 20 26 **BONUS BALL**
31 44 9

Friday March 09

9 14 21 **BONUS BALL**
32 44 12

EL MILLON: ZKK25877

LA PRIMITIVA
Thursday March 08

2 9 12 **BONUS BALL**
15 26 31 0

JOKER: 5 986 378

Saturday March 10

4 18 20 **BONUS BALL**
25 30 49 0

JOKER: 6 041 319

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday March 11

4 9 31 **BONUS BALL**
37 48 6

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)
LEO (July 24 - August 23)

More than one possibility presents itself in connection with a problem. A foreign visit or visitor figures highly in plans and solutions. A change in someone close is brought to your attention. Get people talking to make real progress. Some may be inclined to put their head in the sand but not you.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)
VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

A date on your calendar draws near. It seems less important than it did and you may be tempted to cancel. Think twice. The question of who to go on holiday with comes up and someone is keen to tie you down. Keep options open because things this week are changeable, indeed. An unexpected phone call brings surprise news.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

An opportunity to do something socially arises. It is not earth shattering, but could have a great long-term impact. Others seem to have confidence in you and enjoy your company this week. Having been given the chance to show what you are really capable of, allow your talents to show through.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)
TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

The past has been kind to you but also unkind. It is the same for most of us, so don't think that you have been singled out for a bumpy ride. Be aware that basing a decision made this week on what happened a long time ago could be a mistake. Take things one step at a time and ask lots of questions.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Should things go absolutely perfectly for you this week, then I would eat my hat. I don't usually wear one but would go to a charity shop immediately. Rolling round in your mind is the thought that, just as things start to go well, another problem crops up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Social life is squeezed because of business commitments. As you are a people person, there will be fun and times out aplenty this week. Burning the candle at both ends works for a while and there is the chance to meet someone that you admire.

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.

D	E	E
T	N	V
R	E	P

- TARGET:**
 • Average: 9 • Very good: 17
 • Good: 12 • Excellent: 22

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

herd hero hoed hoer hone hong horn hour hued huge hung
 dough henry heron honed honey horde horny hound hunger
 hydro rough dehorn doughy enough horned hoyden hunger
 hungry rehung roughed hydrogen GREYHOUND

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.

9	3	22	7	19
18				
15				
7	10	9		
14			5	3
15				

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:**
 1 Cesped, 4 Llorar, 9 Lilac,
 10 Lentils, 11 Entonces, 12 Obey,
 14 Ticket, 16 Earwig, 19 Bite,
 20 Regresar, 23 Cartero, 24 Lucha,
 25 Eneldo, 26 Nobody.
- Down:**
 1 Coldest, 2 Split, 3 Encender,
 5 Leña, 6 Rainbow, 7 Rusty, 8 Flies,
 13 Ladrillo, 15 Catorce, 17 Germany,
 18 Veloz, 19 Bache, 21 Sacro,
 22 Bend.

CRYPTIC

- Across:**
 1 Sack, 3 Las vegas, 8 Teacher,
 9 Spoor, 10 Pilot, 11 Praised,
 12 Poncho, 13 Plates, 16 Costume,
 18 Orion, 20 Usage, 21 Coronet,
 22 Elevates, 23 Grid.
- Down:**
 1 Setup, 2 Chaplin, 4 Abrupt,
 5 Gloss, 6 Strides, 7 White house,
 9 Small hours, 12 Picture,
 14 Thinner, 15 Rescue, 17 Spate,
 19 Noted.

QUICK

- Across:**
 1 Petticoat, 6 Lingo, 7 Tepid, 9 Ale,
 10 Sincere, 11 Private, 14 Urn, 16 Ahead,
 17 Twice, 18 Odourless.
- Down:**
 1 Polka, 2 Tangerine, 3 Irons, 4 Often,
 5 Dodge, 8 Prejudice, 11 Piano, 12 Audio,
 13 Enter, 15 Needs.

KAKURO

5	1							
1	6	3	2	4				
4	5	1	6	3				
3	2	4	5	1				
2	3	6	1	5				
					3	2		

CODE BREAKER

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

QUIZ: WINE LOVERS

- According to Genesis 9:20 which Hebrew patriarch 'began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard'?
- From which Italian island does marsala, the dark, sweet fortified dessert wine that resembles sherry, originally come?
- In Roy Clarke's long running TV sitcom Last of the Summer Wine, what was the nickname of the mischievous and impulsive character William Simmonite?
- In which country is the wine growing region of Barossa Valley located?
- What is the meaning of the Latin phrase 'in vino veritas'?
- What name is given to the science and study of wine and winemaking?

- Which group topped the UK singles charts in 1983 with Neil Diamond's Red Red Wine?
- Which of these wine varieties is the odd one out: (a) Cabernet sauvignon, (b) Chablis, (c) Merlot or (d) Shiraz?
- Which tall narrow wineglass shares its name with a high-pitched woodwind instrument?
- Written by Jeremy Paul, Leslie Stewart and Keith Strachan for a musical called Scraps, what was the title of the 1988 Christmas number one hit single for Cliff Richard?

Not a lot of people know that... according to the Wine Institute, more wine is drunk per person in the Vatican City than in any other country in the world.

Answers:

- NOAH, 2. SICILY, 3. COMICO, 4. AUSTRALIA (South Australia), 5. TRUTH IN WINE - UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, 6. A PERSON TELLS THE TRUTH, 7. OENOLOGY, as distinct from VITICULTURE, which is the agricultural endeavours of vine-growing and of grape-harvesting, 8. CHABLIS, 9. FLUTE, 10. MISTLETOE AND WINE

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THURSDAY - 15 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am The Repair Shop	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	7:15am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:35am Rusty Rivets
10:15am Holding Back the Years	7:30am Holding Back the Years	8:30pm Top of the Pops	8:05am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:15am The Sheriffs are Coming	9:00pm The Brain: A Secret History	8:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	10:05am Mofy
12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	9:00am Earth's Natural Wonders	10:00pm The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story	9:00am Winter Paralympics Breakfast	10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	11:00pm Crime and Punishment	10:00am Frasier	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	11:05pm Timeshift lifts the veil on the taboo that is corporal punishment.	10:35am Frasier	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
2:00pm BBC News at One	1:00pm The Daily Politics	12:00am Blues America	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2:30pm BBC London News	2:00pm Two Tribes	12:00am Second of a two-part documentary about blues music in the US	Nightmares USA	2:10pm Access
2:45pm Doctors	2:30pm Yes Chef	1:00am Top of the Pops	Undercover Boss USA	2:15pm Home and Away
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	3:15pm Your Home in Their Hands	1:30am Tom Jones at the BBC	1:00pm Come Dine with Me	2:45pm Neighbours
4:05pm Escape to the Country	4:15pm Planet Earth	2:30am The World's Most Photographed	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	3:20pm NCIS
4:45pm Coast and Country Auctions	5:15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan	3:00am The High Art of the Low Countries	3:10pm Countdown	4:15pm Fatal Defense
5:30pm Flog It!	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	4:00am The Secret Life of Books	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	5:00pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	4:30am The Beauty of Anatomy	A New Life in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:30pm The Repair Shop	5:00am This is BBC Four	6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
7:30pm BBC London News	8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea		6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	8:00pm The Secret Life of Kittens
8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Great Continental Railway Journeys		7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
8:30pm EastEnders	10:00pm Civilisations		7:30pm Hollyoaks	10:00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth
9:00pm MasterChef	11:00pm Match of the Day		8:00pm Channel 4 News	11:00pm Hunted and Confronted: Cowboys, Crooks and Chancers
10:00pm Not Going Out	11:30pm Newsnight		8:30pm Winter Paralympics	
10:30pm Still Game	12:15am Top Gear		9:00pm Location, Location, Location	
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	1:15am MasterChef		10:00pm My Baby's Life: Who Decides?	
11:30pm BBC London News	1:45am Nigel Slater's Middle East: Iran		11:00pm The Job Interview	
11:45pm Question Time	2:45am This is BBC Two		12:00am Winter Paralympics Highlights	
12:45am This Week				

FRIDAY - 16 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am The Planet's Funniest Animals	7:00am Coronation Street	7:00am The Chase	7:00am Good Morning Britain
10:15am Holding Back the Years	7:20am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records	7:25am Coronation Street	7:45am The Chase	7:00am The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	7:45am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records	7:55am Heartbeat	8:35am Pawn Stars	10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?	8:55am The Royal	9:00am Pawn Stars	11:30am This Morning
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	8:55am Emmerdale	9:55am Judge Judy	9:25am Ironside	1:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	9:20am Coronation Street	10:25am Judge Judy	10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show	1:55pm ITV News London
2:00pm BBC News at One	10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show	10:50am Judge Judy	11:30am The Protectors	2:00pm Cheltenham Festival
2:30pm BBC London News	11:15am The Bachelor	11:20am Judge Judy	12:00pm The Saint	2:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
2:45pm Doctors	1:05pm Emmerdale	11:30am Inspector Morse	12:00pm The Saint	6:00pm The Chase
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	1:35pm Coronation Street	11:55am The Royal	1:05pm The Avengers	7:00pm ITV News London
4:00pm Escape to the Country	2:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	12:00am Heartbeat	1:20pm Ironside	7:30pm ITV Evening News
4:45pm Coast and Country Auctions	3:40pm Coronation Street	12:35pm Coronation Street	1:35pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	8:00pm Emmerdale
5:30pm Flog It!	4:15pm Coronation Street	1:50pm On the Buses	1:50pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	8:30pm Coronation Street
6:15pm Pointless	4:45pm Coronation Street	2:05pm On the Buses	2:10pm Quincy, M.E.	9:00pm Undercover: Rough Sleeper - Tonight
7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:20pm On the Buses	2:35pm You're Only Young Twice	2:40pm Minder	9:00pm Emmerdale
7:30pm BBC London News	5:55pm You're Only Young Twice	3:40pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	3:10pm Minder	9:30pm The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska
8:00pm The One Show	6:25pm Rising Damp	4:15pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	3:40pm The Saint	10:00pm Four Days That Shook Britain
8:30pm EastEnders	7:00pm Heartbeat	4:45pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	4:15pm Coronation Street	11:30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
9:00pm MasterChef	7:35pm Coronation Street	5:20pm On the Buses	4:45pm Coronation Street	12:00am ITV News London
10:00pm Not Going Out	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	5:55pm You're Only Young Twice	5:20pm The Saint	12:15am The Late Debate
10:30pm Still Game	8:25pm Rising Damp	6:25pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	5:25pm The Saint	12:45am UEFA Europa League Highlights
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	8:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	6:50pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	6:30pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	
11:30pm BBC London News	9:00pm Judge Rinder	7:00pm Heartbeat	7:35pm The Avenger's Storage Wars	
11:45pm Question Time	9:30pm Take Me Out	8:05pm Pawn Stars	8:05pm Pawn Stars	
12:45am This Week	10:00pm You've Been Framed!	8:35pm Pawn Stars	8:35pm Pawn Stars	
	10:30pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Hornblower	9:00pm On Her Majesty's Secret Service	
	11:00pm Two and a Half Men	9:00pm Firefox	9:00pm On Her Majesty's Secret Service	
	11:30pm Two and a Half Men	9:00pm Rising Damp	9:00pm Born to Raise Hell	
	12:00pm The Hangover	9:00pm FYI Daily	9:00pm Live Premier League Darts	
	11:00pm FYI Daily	10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital	9:00pm The 2018 Unibet Premier League Darts season heads to the Motorpoint Arena Nottingham.	
	11:05pm The Hangover	10:00pm Killer Women with Piers Morgan	10:00pm Lethal Weapon	
	12:05am Family Guy	10:00pm A Touch of Frost	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	
		10:00pm Million Dollar Princesses	11:30pm ITV News London	
		10:00pm On the Buses	12:00am Sky Sports News at Ten	
		10:00pm On the Buses	12:00am Sky Sports News	
		10:00pm Rising Damp	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.

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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A warning about another scam to steal from visitors

I AM writing in the hope that you can warn people about a new con which cost my partner and I money. We were on our way back from Caleta to Torre del Mar and were walking along the sea front when we stopped to look at a property that has fallen into disrepair

Suddenly there was a splash and we had both been splattered by what we thought was seagull poo.

Within a few seconds a man who was very well dressed appeared on the scene with a bottle of water in his hand and offered to help us clean up.

He also had some tissues and helped to clean the disgusting mess off then leaving after about five minutes before we could thank him properly.

We then went to a local supermarket where we paid by credit card, but when we got back to the apartment discovered that all €70 in cash had disappeared from Colin's pocket and clearly the whole thing had been set up by this unscrupulous person, so be warned!

Marie and Colin Cooper,
Torre del Mar

European Press you got it wrong

WE read newspapers in four languages and enjoy yours for local news. But folks if you're going to print it get it right!

P38 European Press, Olympics the Netherlands ... incorrect!

We won 20 medals and we were fifth on the medal ranking list! Little Holland ... 17 million inhabitants. Ninety countries took part. We won eight gold, six silver and six bronze medals (where was the UK?)

However keep up the good work and we will keep on 'reading you.'

PS. Correction please next week.

PPS. In future I will also read your German and Belgium reports.

Karin, Javea



Photo Credit: Esmee Visser Instagram

Dutch Winter Olympics Medal Winners.

Editor's note: Karin thank you for your comments. There is a slight misunderstanding as the European Press page just gives snapshots of what was in different papers during the previous week. At that time, the Winter Olympics were still in progress and we simply reported that the Netherlands had just won two medals and of course the team went on to much greater things.

Changing lanes

IT must be embarrassing to discover after 56 years that: 'When you change lanes, the others have right of way.'

It does not matter if the road goes up or down or in circles, also called roundabouts because when you change lanes, the others have right of way. At least in Europe and other places where one drives on our side of the roads.

It was probably easier when one had only one lane in and one out from the roundabouts as we did in the 50's. Then we let the centripetal force rule.

Guillermo Ryberg

Roundabout review

GOOD DAY to you all.

Like Barry J Clark, I too was a driving instructor for a time in Sydney, Australia and I refer back to Barry's comments on the use of roundabouts here in Spain.

My partner's 19-year-old son recently enrolled in a driving school in Palma... I took a look at his highway code study book which is quite impressively detailed... except for one subject... there are NO, Nada pages describing the rules of a roundabout.

Is it a wonder why there is confusion leading to near misses and accidents in this area?

Chris Disney, Palma

Trust Leapy

TRY as I might I can find nothing to be offended about in your article this week, but I'm betting you will get a deluge of complaints from those who can (and want to). Well done mate, someone has to say these things because it is all 'emperor's new clothes' in the PC world that the UK is turning into at the moment.

If someone wrote your column in the UK there would be questions in parliament and MPs calling for you to be sacked for proffering such appalling opinions. A bandwagon would be set rolling, everyone would feel obliged to jump on it, and in no time at all there would be another nail in the coffin of free speech.

Angus Silvie

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.euoweeklynews.com.

Police find body of missing boy

So very sad to read this - I had been hoping all this time that he would be found safe and well. So sorry for the parents and grandmother, rest in peace little one.

Gillian Evans

How can anyone be so evil as to harm an innocent child... This is heartbreaking... I was hoping for a safe return. Sweet Gabriel .

Polly Anna

Just so so sad. RIP baby. How anyone could hurt a baby/child is beyond me. Just heartbreaking.

Wendy Dickeson

Does Benidorm need a break?

Very sad, but I think it's come to its end now. The humour is desperate, the scripts more and more ridiculous. It's a shame because it was really entertaining in the beginning and had a great cast. But the minute that guy started dressing as a woman I lost interest, it just wasn't funny anymore.

Jan Andersen-Page

Hasn't been the same since the Garveys left. Went downhill with the new characters!!

Jade Hamilton

Comments from EWN online

NOOOOO!!!! Leave Benidorm alone. I still love it. I do miss the Garveys though.

Catherine McGlone

Men jailed over death of homeless Brit

This story makes me feel sick to my stomach. They actually murdered this poor helpless individual. A two/half year prison sentence is a joke. How can anyone do such an evil act?

Jay Ellis

Not long enough jail time! Regardless of him having a drink problem, and his lifestyle, how can anyone be so cruel? Hopefully karma will catch them!

Lesley Molloy

Who has plastic ties big enough to do this on their person, sounds to me they were up to no good looking to humiliate someone and their victim wasn't in a fit state to fight them

off, three to one what a dam sin no one deserves this.

Marie Ross Main

Why did they only get such short sentences? They in fact killed this poor man, how low can you get?

Gill Reynolds

TOWIE swaps Marbella for Barcelona

Glad they are moving on I wish they would get rid - overrated thick people.

Elaine Khodhir

Thank the Lord... but Barcelona, really all the culture of the fabulous city will be wasted on these vacuous vile people. Can they just drop this rubbish?

Julie Wilkinson

O'Leary threatens to ground planes

The answer is obvious - do NOT book any flights with Ryanair, then he won't have to bother cancelling flights, because there won't be any passengers to transport, and nobody will be inconvenienced! See how long his business lasts.

Phil Murphy

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SATURDAY - 17 MARCH

SUNDAY - 18 MARCH

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	8:10am	The Pets Factor	8:00pm	Lost Kingdoms of Central America	7:00am	Winter Paralympics Live	11:35am	The Gadget Show
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Live	8:30am	Engineers	9:00pm	The Silk Road	9:00am	Winter Paralympics Breakfast	12:35pm	Police Interceptors
12:30pm	Classic Mary Berry	9:00am	Absolute Genius: Monster Builds	10:00pm	Below the Surface	10:00am	Frasier	1:35pm	Police Interceptors
1:00pm	Football Focus	9:30am	Beyond Bionic Robot Wars	10:45pm	Below the Surface	10:30am	Frasier	2:30pm	Police Interceptors
2:00pm	BBC News	10:00am	Gorilla Family and Me	11:30pm	TOTP2 St Patrick's Day Special	11:00am	Frasier	3:30pm	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
2:10pm	Weather	11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	12:15am	Irish Rock at the BBC	11:30am	The Big Bang Theory	4:30pm	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
2:15pm	MasterChef	12:00pm	Cats v Dogs: Which is Best?	1:15am	Top of the Pops	11:55am	The Big Bang Theory	5:30pm	We'll Take it Away!
3:15pm	MasterChef	12:35pm	Orson Welles Talking Pictures	1:45am	Top of the Pops	12:25pm	The Big Bang Theory	6:25pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
4:15pm	Wanted Down Under	1:35pm	Me and My Dog	2:15am	Lost Kingdoms of Central America	12:55pm	The Simpsons	7:25pm	5 News
4:45pm	Revisited	2:20pm	Final Score	3:15am	The Silk Road	1:25pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	FIA Formula E Live
5:30pm	Six Nations Rugby Union	3:30pm	The Repair Shop	4:15am	TOTP2 St Patrick's Day Special	1:55pm	The Simpsons	8:00pm	Uruguay. We'll Take it Away!
8:00pm	BBC News	6:30pm	Hugh's Wild West	9:00pm	Dad's Army	2:25pm	Casper	9:10pm	We'll Take it Away!
8:10pm	Regional News	7:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	9:30pm	Suite Francaise	4:20pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	10:00pm	Football on 5
8:15pm	Weather	9:00pm	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	10:00pm	Performance Live: Winged Bull in the Elephant Case	4:55pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	11:00pm	Football on 5 Goal Rush.
8:20pm	Pointless	9:30pm	The Silk Road	11:40pm	Defiance	5:25pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	11:30pm	Haymaker Fight
9:10pm	Casualty	10:00pm	TOTP2 St Patrick's Day Special	12:10am	Civilisations	6:30pm	Winter Paralympics Today	1:00am	Super Casino
10:00pm	Troy: Fall of a City	10:30pm	Britain at Low Tide	2:15am		7:30pm	Channel 4 News		
11:00pm	BBC News	11:00pm	Fantastic Four			8:00pm	Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages		
11:15pm	Weather	11:55pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown			9:00pm	Britain at Low Tide		
11:20pm	Match of the Day	12:55am	The			10:00pm	Fantastic Four		
12:20am	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights					11:55pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown		
12:50am	Gambit								
2:10am	Weather for the Week Ahead								
2:15am	BBC News								

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	7:05am	Coast	8:00pm	Only Connect	7:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond	8:25am	Fireman Sam
8:25am	Match of the Day	8:05am	The Instant Gardener	8:30pm	Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far.	8:25am	Mobil 1	8:40am	Olly the Little White Van
9:30am	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights	8:50am	Gardeners' World	9:00pm	University Challenge	9:00am	Winter Paralympics Breakfast	8:50am	Blaze and the Monster Machines: Wild Wheels
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show	9:20am	Countryfile	9:30pm	Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth	10:00am	Frasier	9:10am	Paw Patrol
11:00am	The Big Questions	10:15am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	10:00pm	Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook	10:30am	Sunday Brunch	9:30am	Nella the Princess Knight
12:00pm	Sunday Politics	11:45am	Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge	11:00pm	The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives	1:30pm	Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony	9:45am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
1:15pm	Lifeline	12:30pm	Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook	11:00pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	3:00pm	Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony	10:00am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
1:25pm	Songs of Praise	1:00pm	Escape to the Country	11:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	4:15pm	Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony	10:15am	Shimmer and Shine
2:00pm	BBC News	1:45pm	The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives	12:45am	Back in Time for Tea	6:15pm	The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	10:30am	Digby Dragon
2:10pm	Weather for the Week Ahead	2:45pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	1:45am	Catch Me If You Can	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	10:45am	Peppa Pig
2:15pm	Match of the Day Live	3:45pm	Money for Nothing	2:45am	Top Gear	8:00pm	Britain's Polar Bear Cub	11:00am	Peppa Pig
4:35pm	A Question of Sport	4:45pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	9:00pm	Famously Unfit for Sports Relief	9:00pm	Escape to the Chateau	11:00am	Football on 5
5:05pm	Match of the Day Live	5:45pm	Back in Time for Tea	9:30pm	Brooklyn	11:05pm	13 Commandments	11:55am	Football on 5
7:35pm	BBC News	6:45pm	Catch Me If You Can	11:10pm	BBC News	12:00am	Solace	12:25pm	Getting Even with Dad
7:50pm	Regional News	7:55pm	Weather	11:30pm	Regional News	1:55am	The Last Leg	2:30pm	Richie Rich
8:00pm	Countryfile	8:00pm	Hold the Sunset	11:35pm	Weather	2:50am	The Job Interview	4:15pm	My Girl
9:00pm	Hold the Sunset	9:00pm	Top Gear	11:40pm	Paddy McGuinness' Sport Relief Warm Up	3:45am	KOTV Boxing Weekly	5:15pm	5 News
9:30pm	Brooklyn	11:55pm	Women's Six Nations Highlights	12:40am	The Sentinel	4:25am	Gillette World Sport	5:20pm	My Girl
9:30pm	BBC News	12:25am	Being Blacker			4:55am	Dispatches	6:20pm	Junior Jumper
11:30pm	Regional News	1:55am	Question Time					9:55pm	5 News Weekend
11:35pm	Weather							10:00pm	The Equalizer
11:40pm	Paddy McGuinness' Sport Relief Warm Up							11:00pm	5 News
12:40am	The Sentinel							11:05pm	The Equalizer
								12:35am	The Expendables 2

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.

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MONDAY - 19 MARCH

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

2:45pm Doctors	3:15pm Your Home in Their Hands	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	1:15pm The Gadget Show
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	4:15pm Planet Earth I	8:30pm Great Irish Journeys with Martha Kearney	3:10pm Countdown	2:10pm Access
4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:15pm Spy in the Wild	9:00pm Treasures of the Indus	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	2:15pm Home and Away
4:45pm Money for Nothing	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	10:00pm The Art of Spain	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	2:45pm Neighbours
5:30pm Flog It!	7:00pm The Repair Shop	11:00pm Mary Magdalene	6:00pm Four in a Bed	3:20pm NCIS
6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm The Repair Shop	12:00pm Mothers, Murderers and Mistresses: Empresses of Ancient Rome	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	4:20pm A Deadly Affair
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Top Gear	1:00am Treasures of Ancient Greece	7:00pm The Simpsons	5 News
7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm Only Connect	2:00am Top of the Pops	8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:00pm Neighbours
8:00pm The One Show	9:30pm University Challenge	3:00am Top of the Pops	9:00pm Dispatches	7:00pm Home and Away
8:30pm Panorama	10:00pm The Funeral Murders	4:00am The Art of Spain	9:30pm Food Unwrapped	7:30pm 5 News
9:00pm EastEnders	11:00pm QI		10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	8:00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights
9:30pm Classic Mary Berry	11:30pm Newsnight		11:00pm Electric Dreams	9:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
10:00pm MasterChef	12:10am Weather		12:05am One Killer Punch	10:00pm Terror in the Air: Flights Out of Control
11:00pm BBC News	12:15am Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago		1:05am Seven Year Switch	11:00pm Armed and Deadly: Police UK
11:30pm Regional News			2:00am One Born Every Minute	
11:40pm Weather				

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	11:20am Inspector Morse	7:00am Goals of the 80's	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
5:00pm Tipping Point	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	1:35pm The Royal Heartbeat	7:10am Pawn Stars	8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier
6:00pm The Chase	4:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	3:40pm Classic Coronation Street	7:35am Pawn Stars	4:30pm Sky Sports News
7:00pm Local News and Weather	5:55pm Judge Rinder	4:15pm Classic Coronation Street	8:00am The Protectors	5:00pm Sky Sports News
7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm Take Me Out	4:50pm On the Buses	8:35am Ironside	6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
8:00pm Emmerdale	8:30pm You've Been Framed!	5:20pm On the Buses	9:40am Quincy, M.E.	7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
8:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	5:50pm You're Only Young Twice	10:40am Minder	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
9:00pm The Kyle Files	9:30pm Two and a Half Men	6:25pm Rising Damp	11:50am The Saint	8:30pm Football
9:30pm Coronation Street	10:00pm Family Guy	6:55pm Heartbeat	12:50pm The Avengers	11:00pm The Debate - Live
10:00pm Marcella	10:30pm American Dad!	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	1:55pm Ironside	12:00am Sky Sports News Live WWE Late Night Raw
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm Action Team	9:00pm Lewis	3:00pm Quincy, M.E.	
		11:00pm DCI Banks	4:00pm Minder	
		12:00am DCI Banks	5:05pm The Saint	
			6:10pm The Avengers	
			7:15pm Storage Wars	
			7:45pm Snooker	
			12:00am Born to Raise Hell	

TUESDAY - 20 MARCH

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

2:00pm BBC News	2:45pm Coast	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	3:30pm Yes Chef	8:30pm Secret Knowledge	1:00pm Channel 4 News	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	4:15pm Planet Earth I	9:00pm Immortal Egypt with Joann Fletcher	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	3:20pm NCIS
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	5:15pm Spy in the Wild	10:00pm Madame Tussaud: A Legend in Wax	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	4:20pm Dead Over Heels: An Aurora
4:05pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	11:00pm The Prosecutors: Real Crime and Punishment	3:10pm Countdown	Teagarden
4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	12:00am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	Mystery
5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	1:00am Treasures of Ancient Greece	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	5 News
6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea	2:00am Top of the Pops	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours
7:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys	3:00am Top of the Pops	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	3:00am A History of Art in Three Colours	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News
8:00pm The One Show	11:00pm Mum		7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen
8:30pm EastEnders	11:25pm The Archiveologists		8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9:00pm Holby City			9:00pm The Great	10:00pm Wild Britain
10:00pm Shetland			9:00pm Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	11:00pm The Expendables 3
11:00pm BBC News			10:15pm Seven Year Switch	
11:30pm Regional News				
11:40pm Weather				

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

7:00pm Local News and Weather	1:45pm Coronation Street	2:40pm Heartbeat	7:00am The Chase	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
7:30pm ITV Evening News	2:15pm Coronation Street	3:40pm Classic Coronation Street	8:00am The Chase	8:00am Bitesize
8:00pm Emmerdale	2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	4:15pm Classic Coronation Street	9:00am Ironside	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
8:30pm 100 Year Old Driving School	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	4:45pm On the Buses	10:00am Quincy, M.E.	8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier
9:00pm The World's Ugliest Pets	4:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	5:20pm On the Buses	11:05am Minder	8:30am Sky Sports News
10:00pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days	5:55pm Judge Rinder	5:50pm You're Only Young Twice	12:10pm The Saint	8:30am Sky Sports News
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	7:00pm Take Me Out	6:25pm Rising Damp	1:15pm Storage Wars	5:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
11:45pm The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska	8:00pm You've Been Framed!	6:55pm Heartbeat	1:45pm Snooker	6:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	6:00pm Goals of the 90's	7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
	10:00pm Paul	9:00pm Midsomer Murders	7:15pm Storage Wars	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:05pm FYI Daily	11:00pm Scott and Bailey	7:45pm Snooker	9:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:10pm Paul	12:00am Scott and Bailey	8:00pm Jaws 4: The Revenge	10:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
			1:05am FYI Daily	11:00pm The Debate - Live
			1:10am Jaws 4: The Revenge	

WEDNESDAY - 21 MARCH

BBC one BBC TWO BBC FOUR CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5

10:15am Holding Back the Years	8:15am The Sheriffs are Coming	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	9:00am Great British Railway Journeys	8:30pm Secret Knowledge	9:30am Frasier	1:10pm 5 News
12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming	9:30am Classic Mary Berry	9:00pm Metalworks!	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	The latest news coverage.
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	10:00pm Make! Craft Britain	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	10:00am BBC Newsroom Live	11:00pm Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork	1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:15pm Access
2:00pm BBC News	12:30pm The Daily Politics	12:00am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:15pm Home and Away
2:30pm Regional News	2:00pm Lifestline	1:00am Treasures of Ancient Greece	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:45pm Neighbours
2:45pm Doctors	2:10pm Coast	2:00am Top of the Pops	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS
3:15pm A Place to Call Home	2:30pm Yes Chef	2:30am Top of the Pops	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm McBride: The Chameleon
4:10pm Escape to the Country	3:15pm Monty Hall's Great Irish Escape	3:00am A History of Art in Three Colours	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm Murder 5 News
4:45pm Money for Nothing	4:15pm Planet Earth I	4:00am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues	6:00pm Four in a Bed	The latest news coverage.
5:30pm Flog It!	5:15pm Spy in the Wild		6:30pm Star Boot Sale	6:30pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is		7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	7:00pm Eggheads		8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News
7:30pm Regional News	7:30pm The Repair Shop		9:00pm The Supervet	The latest news coverage.
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea		10:00pm One Born Every Minute	8:00pm Moto GP
9:00pm MasterChef	9:00pm The Secret Helpers		11:00pm Damned	9:00pm Highlights
10:00pm Hardest Road	10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story		11:35pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
11:00pm BBC News	10:55pm Live at the Apollo		12:35am 999: What's Your Emergency?	10:00pm A Walk Among the Tombstones
11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight			12:20am The Equalizer
	12:10am Weather			

itv itv2 itv3 itv4 sky sports main event

9:30am Lorraine	7:45am Totally Bonkers	7:50am Heartbeat	7:00am The Chase	7:00am Netball
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show	8:10am Guinness World Records	8:55am The Royal Judge Judy	9:00am Ironside	9:55am My Icon
11:30am This Morning	8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?	9:55am Inspector Morse	10:00am Quincy, M.E.	10:15am My Icon
1:30pm Loose Women	8:55am Emmerdale	11:15am The Saint	11:05am Minder	10:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News	9:20am The Cube	12:10pm Storage Wars	12:10pm The Saint	11:00am Premier League Daily
3:00pm Judge Rinder	10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show	1:15pm Snooker	1:15pm Storage Wars	11:00am Premier League Daily
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	11:20am The Bachelor	1:45pm Snooker	1:45pm Snooker	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
5:00pm Tipping Point	1:15pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Barcelona's European Glory	Coverage and reaction from the latest Snooker event taking place.	1:00pm Sky Sports News
6:00pm The Chase	1:45pm You've Been Framed!	6:15pm The Avengers	Coverage and reaction from the latest Snooker event taking place.	2:00pm Sky Sports News
7:00pm Local News and Weather	2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	7:15pm Storage Wars	6:00pm Barcelona's European Glory	All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
7:30pm ITV Evening News	3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	7:45pm Snooker	6:55pm Heartbeat	3:00pm Sky Sports News
8:00pm Emmerdale	4:45pm On the Buses	7:45pm Snooker	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
8:30pm Coronation Street	5:50pm You're Only Young Twice	4:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami	9:00pm Endeavour	7:00pm Info not available
9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family	6:50pm Take Me Out	1:00am Cricket	11:00pm Law and Order: UK	1:00am Cricket
9:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm You've Been Framed!	1:15am Cricket	12:00am Law and Order: UK	1:30am Cricket
10:00pm Benidorm	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	12:55am Hornblower	Crime drama based on the hit US series Law and Order.	
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm Hell's Kitchen	3:00am Quincy, M.E.		
11:45pm Easyjet: Inside the Cockpit	11:55pm Family Guy	4:00am Teleshopping		
12:45am Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow	1:25am American Dad!			
1:35am Stuck on You	1:50am American Dad!			



TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

LET'S start this week with a nod to the tribute to Sir Bruce Forsyth on BBC 1, last Sunday. An artist pal who knows a thing about 'the business' ('hola' from España, Ian) would have been thrilled that Sir Bruce was remembered at the London Palladium. Ian has given many performances at the Palladium and like Sir Bruce, loves this special venue.

It was a lovely touch to have Tess Daly host the tribute, with just the right amount of respect and celebration. Stage and screen stars came out to pay homage and quite right too, but for me Lady Forsyth stole the evening. Bruce's wife is grace personified, you did him proud Wilnelia.

Thursday nights on BBC 1 look to be more interesting with the next instalments of two comedy shows which prove good writing can keep tried and tested formats fresh and current.

Firstly, Lee Mack and Sally Bretton are back for series nine of *Not Going Out*.

Episode one saw Lee mowing his parents-in-law's artificial lawn. When he asks Lucy (Sally Bretton) how it would look if they just said foxes did it, her reply 'like a John Lewis Christmas advert' was a true gem. The supporting cast are on point too, so this is one to watch.

'He really did do well, didn't he'



HOMAGE TO A LEGEND: Bruce Forsyth and (inset) wife Wilnelia speaks during his tribute show.



'LOVELY TV': Still Game.

support dogs and demonstrate agility and intellect some human-kind folk would be proud of.

The final was, very briefly, interrupted by demonstrators who take issue with the Kennel Club's search for perfection in each Breed, Group and ultimately in the Champion. I'm not going over the arguments here, but I will say that I get a warm glow thinking of the difference some of the dogs made to their human friend's lives and I thank them for it.

Looking forward, Toby Anstis is searching for an Ibiza bolthole via *A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun, Channel 4*, Saturday. He has a healthy budget and Laura Hamilton to help him.

Sunday sees Leicester City take on Chelsea in the last of the FA Cup games this weekend. Gary Lineker is hosting the BBC 1 coverage. I'm not saying where my vote goes on this one... Happy viewing.

Immediately following *Not Going Out, Still Game* returns to lighten the Thursday night mood even further. Regular readers might remember that I know a thing or two about all things Scottish and yes, I might even have enjoyed a dram in *The Clansman*, but this is lovely TV in the best comedy traditions. There are some less than politically correct references and some of the humour is too honest for some viewers, but you've guessed, I love it.

Ford Kiernan (Jack) and Greg Hemphill (Victor) are wonderful and supported by a great cast, including Jane Drennan as Isa. If you don't know the show (you should get to know it,

quickly) think 'Only Fools and Horses,' but in Glasgow and you are some of the way there.

Two shows to look back on are the 'Winter Paralympic' opening ceremony and the 'Crufts Final.' Channel 4 served up both and did a much better job than the 'didn't that used to be us' BBC. I continue to be blown away by the Winter Olympians and although I was surprised by how small the Paralympic teams are, I thought the opening ceremony was wonderful.

Now to the 'Crufts Final.' Channel 4 did a good job with their coverage. They mixed the usual search for doggie perfection with exceptional stories of how our canine friends act as

Clipping the wings, thrills and spills of no frills airlines

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

THE announcement that British Airways seats are to shrink in order to squeeze more passengers into economy rows on some aircraft is just the latest in a series of changes at the beleaguered airline, struggling to compete with budget rivals.

In January 2017, BA stopped free food on short haul flights. The following March it announced it was reducing legroom from 30 inches to 29 inches on some aircraft.

However, it was forced to reintroduce a second hot meal and free snacks on long haul flights after customer uproar when they were removed. Alex

Cruz, brought in from budget airline Vueling to cut costs, admitted 'mistakes had been made'.

In 2015, BA was voted number 20 on the Skytrax customer survey. By 2016, it had fallen to 25 and in 2017 fell to 40, worse than Garuda and Aeroflot. I mean, how much further does the former 'world's favourite airline' have to fall?

Three years ago easyJet celebrated 20 years as arguably everyone's favourite no frills airline, with Norwegian hot on its heels.

But it's Ryanair - without CEO Michael O'Leary fronting it - that's the more surprising.

In the past I've avoided it,

RYANAIR: On the up?

only using it if no alternative in terms of timing or destination. However, having recently returned to Spain courtesy of Ryanair (again, no alternative), I was amazed at the change.

Those of you familiar with Ryanair will recall the bad old days: the no frills flights but with all the usual trimmings.

The non-stop hard sell from the moment

you boarded to the moment you disembarked: scratch cards, duty-free goods, snacks, rail tickets, babies from east European orphanages. I made the last bit up but you get the message.

Finally, at this time of year with Easter just ahead, air travel's doubtless in many people's minds. But have you also given a thought to Easter trees? Apparently, retailers

don't want the seasonal decorating craze to end at Christmas. One major retailer's already reported a 22 per cent rise in sales of Easter baubles this year, featuring chicks, rabbits, sheep, butterflies... Whatever next? 'Summer' trees?

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 (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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TO READ MORE

Wine: friend or foe?

THERE has been a lot of dispute about how good drinking wine on a regular basis is for your health.

Some studies have suggested wine helps to protect against heart disease, while others reveal that drinking alcohol regularly can damage the brain and cause a wide range of health issues, from liver disease to depression.

Consuming small amounts of alcohol could help to protect some people from developing heart problems, according to research from the British Heart Foundation.

Red wine especially contains several antioxidants, such as quercetin and resveratrol, which may play a part in helping to prevent heart disease and cancer.

However, these antioxidants primarily benefit post-menopausal women and men over the age of 40, and when consumption is limited to two glasses of wine a week.

Eating well and leading a healthy lifestyle will also produce the same results and there is still little evidence that wine has the same effect on the health of young people, who are less at risk of heart disease.

Health experts advise you don't drink more than 14 units a week and to make you have several alcohol free days a week to give your body rest.

Foods to boost your brainpower



BRAIN GAIN: Eating salmon could keep your mind healthy.

IT'S important to maintain a healthy diet to keep your body in good shape and functioning effectively but eating well is just as important for your mind.

Paying attention to what you eat can really pay off, whether you need to stay on the ball for your next work meeting or working on a new project.

While there aren't any particular foods that can protect you against age-related brain diseases such as Alzheimer's or dementia, making sure you're consuming

all the nutrients your brain needs will help to promote cognitive health.

Eating whole grain foods, such as brown bread, rice and pasta, could help you to improve your concentration and focus as they release a slow supply of energy to the brain in the form of glucose. Omega-3 fats which help the brain to function effectively are found in oily fish such as salmon or mackerel. Good plant sources of these fats include walnuts, flaxseed, soya beans and pumpkin seeds.

Consuming omega-3 fats has been linked to decreasing the risk of dementia and memory loss, while also helping us to manage stress and produce the feel good chemical, serotonin, a natural mood booster.

Blueberries could also help to improve short-term memory as they contain protective compounds called anthocyanins, which help to delay short term memory loss according to research from Tufts University, USA.

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Dance yourself fit

ZUMBA has undergone an unprecedented increase in popularity in recent years, for good reason.

Combining dance with aerobics, the workout is suitable for people of all ages and abilities and has a wide range of benefits. It aims to improve flexibility, posture, metabolism, endurance and strength through combining various dance moves with fundamental resistance training.

The variation of controlled movements with fast, intense aerobic exercise means you burn anything from 300 to 600 calories in an hour as it keeps your metabolism in high gear for the entire time. It also helps to improve your stamina as the classes allow your body to get used to enduring exercise, which can help to make working out easier.

As Zumba is a combination of various different dance styles, such as samba, salsa, merengue, and mambo, it works out diverse muscle groups and gets joints used to different stretches and movements. It also helps to improve coordination, which often gets worse as we get older, by keeping your body in tip top shape. Not only does it help you to keep in shape, it could also improve your mood, releasing endorphins and eliminating stress hormones.

Going green for St Patrick's Day

ON St Patrick's Day, or Paddy's Day, as the Irish like to call it, people all over the world claim his or her percentage of Irish blood. Celebrated in major cities across the globe, March 17 is the official celebration date that showcases Irish culture and traditions.

The popular day commemorates the Irish patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, who according to legend, is said to have banished all the snakes out of the country and brought Christianity to Ireland.

For many the day represents an important reference to the Christian faith. However, for the younger generations the festivities revolve around the colourful parades, traditional Irish dancing, singing, street parties and a few pints of Guinness to 'wet the shamrock.'

Irish business networks and social organisations around the country have planned numerous events to promote the Irish language, food and customs. With the large Irish expatriate community across Spain, there is something for everyone to guarantee plenty of 'craic agus ceol'! (fun and music).

Each year Tourism Ireland take a proactive approach to 'greening' many popular and famous landmarks around the world and Spain is no exception. This St. Patrick's Day the Athletic Club Bilbao's San Mames Stadium will be lit up in green on March 16. Other landmarks include Madrid's Puerta de Alcala and Cibeles fountain, buildings around Murcia, Malaga, Tortosa and Zaragoza, the Tower of Hercules in A Coruña and the Marbella Arches.

Locations across the Costa del Sol include Malaga with a mass in the church of San Patricio with a Georgian choir at 11am.

The Six Nations final be-



Credit: Shutterstock - Wavebreakmedia

GOING GREEN: Revellers getting involved in the Paddy's Day celebrations.

tween Ireland and England will take place at 3.45pm (Spanish time) in the

Twickenham Stadium, London. With a little luck of the Irish, Ireland will be the

grand slam champions of the competition if they win. Let the shenanigans begin!

Added cheers to Ronda

SPAIN is an increasing popular choice among wine tourism travellers.

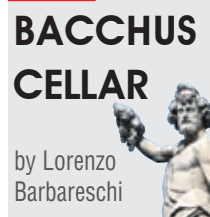
With the nation boasting the world's largest land area dedicated to vineyard cultivation, the Serranía de Ronda is among the latest additions to the official wine tourism routes throughout Spain with wines from the area being increasing locally and internationally valued.

The region's historical ties to wine dates back to Roman times when wine was produced in the nearby city of Acinipo (Phoenician for 'Land of wine,') and exported back to Rome.

Ronda's proximity to the Mediterranean, its unique micro-climate and geological diversity support cultivation of a diverse range of grape varieties including Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Tempranillo and Garnacha and gives wines very distinct aromas and flavours.

Locally produced wines are bottled under the DOs, or Designations of Origin, of Málaga and Sierras de Málaga.

A visit to the wineries in the surrounding countryside can be especially interesting in September as the harvest gets underway.



RONDA: Wine tourism on the up.

Among wineries to visit include: Bodegas Chinchilla: In the Ronda La Vieja area, close to Acinipo, a boutique winery with a façade displaying the name given to its wine.

Bodegas Descalzos Viejos: Formerly a convent and one of the most visited bodegas due to its historic appeal.

Bodegas Vetas: The smallest in Andalucía with just a couple of acres of land and with very low yields, Vetas crafts two treasures, the 100 per cent Petit Verdot and its very own, Vetas Selection.

Bodegas F-Schatz: A small family-run winery close to the Roman city of Acinipo that produces several distinctive wines.

Enjoy the visit and happy tasting.

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British buyers are still keen

BRITISH and foreign interest in the Spanish housing market remains strong according to the latest figures from the Spanish Land Registrar's Association for the last quarter of 2017.

The amount of homes purchased by foreigners reportedly increased to 15,266 in this time period, the highest it's been during these particular months for several years.

It also marked a 20.4 per cent increase from 2016, while housing sales in general in Spain were up 19.8 per cent.

The British led the international interest in Spanish homes at the end of 2017, making more than 2,300 purchases, followed by the French and Germans registering more than 1,200 and 1,100 purchases respectively.

There was also a 0.9 per cent increase in British purchases from the previous quarter, meaning they now account for 16 per cent of the foreign housing market in Spain.

From these figures it would



EAGER BEAVERS: Foreign buyers are still snapping up property in Spain.

seem that the Brits are undeterred by Brexit when it comes to buying property in Spain as they still maintain an eight point lead over the French,

who hold the second biggest share of the market.

During this time Spain's Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis came out to say that the

country's British expats would face "no disruption" after Brexit, which could have also had an impact on the interest of buyers.



PRICE PLUMMET: Zapatero has cut his losses with the house.

Zapatero sells house after price cut

THE former president of Spain, Jose Luis Zapatero, has revealed that he has finally found a buyer for his villa in Leon.

He managed to sell his home in Eras de Reneuva for €390,000, but this is almost half the price of €670,000 he originally set.

Zapatero began to build the house in 2011 with the intention of it being one of his main residences, and it is in one of the most exclusive areas of the city.

However, he soon abandoned the idea of returning to the place where he grew up, and the house was left half-built without any interior decoration for several years.

It is perhaps not surprising that the house has robust security facilities including a range of surveillance cameras and a large exterior wall.

It boasts a master bedroom, four en-suite bedrooms, a spacious living room, gym, home-cinema, cellar and swimming pool.

No real estate agency was involved in the deal as it was carried out directly between Zapatero and the buyers. The new tenants are already remodelling the interior of the building, which had been on the market for since 2013.

From the initial selling price of €670,000, it dropped to €542,000 and then €490,000, but the lack of interest resulted in the final selling price of €390,000.

Star struck by the desert's glass house

THE sparse but dramatic landscape of the Gorafe Desert in Granada, Spain, now features a glass pavilion for those who want to be as close to nature as possible.

Called La Casa del Desierto, the project aims to demonstrate the beauty of the country throughout all seasons, allowing guests to lie back, relax and fall asleep under the stars.

Standing on a wooden structure, the house is fully glazed with high performance, energy-efficient glass designed to withstand the challenging desert conditions.

It includes a bedroom, bathroom, living room covering

20 square metres, and sits on a wide open space overlooking the landscape.

Located in the northern part of Guadix, in the province of Granada, Andalucia, the desert of Coloraos de Gorafe owes its name to the shades of its red sandstone and to the diversity of rock formations in the area.

While it is considered to be a particularly uncompromising natural environment, the specialised glass keeps the house warm in the winter, while its solar protection properties ensures the building doesn't overheat in spring and summer.



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How to have your own premium fruit by pruning and thinning

IF you are concerned about the quality of fruit available due to the various treatments that they are given to grow, store and transport to just look good for selling, but which often taste way short of how fresh fruit off the tree tastes, then you might consider growing your own.

Normally we think that fruit trees will grow too big for the space we may have available, but fruit trees actually produce bigger and better fruit on trees that are well pruned to keep them small.

Knowing that you can have fruit on trees that you can keep to less than two metres tall and around a metre wide can allow you to find a space even in a container on a balcony or terrace.

The secret to robust, large fruit is in the pruning and thinning. I recently visited a local orchardist who specialises in growing peach trees that he takes directly to sell in the markets.



Photo Credit: Armas Vladimir Shutterstock

GROW YOUR OWN: Peaches ripening on the tree.

He showed me how over 20 years he had refined the best way to have the best quality fruit was to prune the trees hard, to allow plenty of open space between branches in winter, and to remove over half the fruits forming in spring to have space between the immature developing fruit.

This gives less quantity but

greater quality, something that the home gardener usually prefers. His trees were less than two metres tall so he could hand pick them without damage to the fruit or himself and the tree was easily accessible with the wide spacing between branches to access all the fruit.

This method is called forcing. Pruning and thinning forces the

plants to produce flowers and fruits that are larger and healthier.

The reduced number of produce get the benefit of the whole plant's root system, powered by more efficient exposure of sunlight to the remaining leaves and fruits due to the thinning out, and shortening of branches.

The technique can be used in the domestic garden to have fruit trees in small spaces, with quality fruit that can be picked fresh when ripe knowing that it has not been subjected to any chemical treatments.

You can choose your favourite fruit that will grow in a Mediterranean climate, if you only have space for one, or have as many types as your space and time allows.

If you have existing trees that you want better fruit from you

can use forcing by removing every second fruit or even two of every three, depending on the quality that you want.



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PETS PAGE
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Flea prevention time

David
THE Dogman

columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

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

Fleas are about ¼-inch long, are black/brown in colour, have no wings but do have long hind legs, which they use for jumping from one host to another. Fleas require a host - your cat or dog - in order to survive, as they live off their blood.

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

Outdoor prevention

Because fleas burrow deep into the grass, as well as under branches, leaves and soil, just

waiting for a host to latch onto, one of the most effective ways to prevent fleas from hopping onto your pet is to keep your lawn well groomed.

It is important to always rake the leaves as flea larvae don't like light. Watering your lawn on a regular basis may help keep fleas from residing in your lawn. "A majority of the fleas and larvae will be within 50 feet of your dog's favourite resting spot, so focus on those areas," reports Pet Supplies Review.

Another line of defence is topical medications, the best of which are available through your veterinarian. There are many different prescriptions available so contact your vet to determine which one is most appropriate for your pet.

Cleaning

Regular house cleaning, such as vacuuming weekly and regularly washing your pet's bedding, will go a long way toward preventing fleas.

Infestation control

If your dog is uncontrollably scratching itself: to determine if the cause is in fact fleas, do a couple of things. Look under your dog's fur for dark specs. Those black bits are flea dirt, they are actually flea faeces. Pick them off the pet and place them onto a wet paper towel. If the specs morph into something that resembles a bloodstain, then your pet has fleas.

Flea dirt is a lot easier to spot on lighter coloured pets. On darker coloured pets, comb through their fur with a flea comb, its bristles are very close together and it will pull out any flea dirt.

Now what?

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

Does your dog get nervous when it's away from home?

WHY do some owners prefer to keep pets at home?

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Why keep pets at home in their own environment?

If you are planning a holiday or for a business trip, keep your pets in their own environment where familiar surroundings can be a comfort. What they 'know' feels safer, it's familiar.

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MOTORING FACT

“ In the early years of the 20th century, horses were causing so much pollution with their faeces that cars were seen as the ‘green’ alternative. ”

SEAT sales soar in 2018

SEAT'S global sales continue to grow in 2018, with Spanish purchases leading the way.

In February, the company successfully maintained its sharp increase in sales from the beginning of the year with 39,900 vehicle deliveries, 25.9 per cent higher than the same month in 2017.

Sales figures for the year-to-date rose by 23.1 per cent to reach a total of 78,800 cars.

In January and February, Spain spearheaded the company's sales with a total of 17,100 vehicles sold, representing an 18.1 per cent increase, closely followed by Germany, with 13,700 units sold.

Other positive markets included Switzerland (2,100), France (4,300), Austria (3,500), the United Kingdom (6,500) and Italy (3,700).

SEAT is also growing strongly outside Europe, with Algeria remaining the brand's fourth biggest market at the beginning of the year after selling 4,700 cars, while sales in Israel also rose by 34.9 per cent with 2,100 cars.

SEAT Vice-President for Sales and Marketing, Wayne Griffiths, said: "There has been an outstanding increase in sales in the first two months of the year.

"We are one of the fastest growing car brands in the industry and are gaining market share in strategic markets.

"The SEAT Arona is widely popular in the market, as are the Leon, Ibiza and Ateca. In addition, the launch of the new CUPRA brand will have a positive effect in order to conquer new customers in the future."

A nice little earner!

Iconic cars from TV's Minder to go under the hammer

TWO classic cars from hit TV show Minder have been put up for sale.

Minder is synonymous for 10 series between October 1979 and March 1994, featuring famous second-hand car salesman Arthur Daley and sidekick Terry McCann.

And now Daley's iconic 1981 Daimler Sovereign and McCann's Ford Capri MK2, which featured heavily in the show, are set to be auctioned off, along with a host of other memorabilia from the hit 70's show.

Both cars were sold by H&H Classics in April 2016 for just over €94,000 (£84,000) but haven't been given a guide price as the seller is remaining



ICONIC: The two cars will go up for auction along with much more Minder memorabilia.

open to offers.

Although both cars are more than 40 years old, the two cars have less than 135,000 miles on the clock; with the Ford Capri having just 88,780 miles and the Daimler Sovereign only 44,108.

Speaking to British media, the seller said: "Since owning this collection, I have since met with Mr Dennis Waterman, Mrs Cole and the main writer Tony Hoare's partner Linda.

"During my meeting with Linda, I was privileged to be

shown Tony's office where he wrote many of the early Minder series and many others including the Sweeney etc.

"The office was also full of Minder memorabilia personal to the couple including photographs, signed posters and more importantly Tony's own copies of the scripts he had written. Most of this is now included in my very exclusive and unique private collection.

"This is an absolute one-off opportunity should a 'deserving punter' wish to be the future custodian of this quite unique collection of memorabilia.

"I truly believe that this collection should stay as a whole but will consider the thoughts of interested parties."

ROAD TEST
by Nick Fletcher

Nissan Micra Tekna

THE Nissan Micra has long been a popular hatchback particularly appealing to older buyers, but latest versions vastly widen Micra's attraction thanks to a cooler and

much trendier design.

With sharper lines, sporty visual touches and a fluent driving feel, the Micra can take on rivals such as the VW Polo, Ford Fiesta and Citroen C3

with authority.

Priced from €13,797 (£12,295), the new-look Micra comes as a five-door, though clever design 'hides' the rear door handles, giving it a sports coupe look. More sweeping and flowing body styling further boosts the image and a classy new cabin adds more plus points.

There are two petrol engines and one diesel, all giving low emissions and outstanding fuel economy. Entry levels version have adequate kit, but mid and upper range models add further equipment.

The flagship Tekna model I tested in 88 hp, 1.5-litre diesel form was laden with features which took its price to €21,703 (£19,340).

Auto air con, headlights and wipers, cruise control, alloy wheels, DAB radio, smartphone integration, rear parking sensors and rear-view camera were all standard, along with satnav and lots of safety features including intelligent emergency braking and

lane departure warning.

On the road, the Micra handles sweetly with excellent ride quality and assured cornering. The 0-100 kph time of 11.9 seconds isn't that quick but the car is so nimble you don't really notice. Top speed is 178 kph (111 mph) and emissions are very low at just 97 g/km. Fuel economy is also outstanding, 28.5 kpl (80.7 mpg).

Longer, lower and wider than the previous model, Micra has more head and legroom than its predecessor, and a substantial 300-litre boot, one of the largest in its class, and folding rear seats extend this to just over 1,000 litres.

There are rivals in the hatchback sector which are marginally faster and perhaps more fun to drive, but the visual cachet of the Micra, its low running costs and high level of safety features give it a distinct and more formidable presence in the hatchback market.

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La Liga Preview

Battle to avoid the drop heats up

DEPORTIVO host Las Palmas in a relegation six-pointer on Saturday as the fight to avoid relegation from La Liga heats up.

A win for either side would come as a welcome boost with both only managing to pick up just three points each in their last 10 games.

Both sides are without a win in six and now find themselves four and five points adrift of safety, with Las Palmas in 18th position and Deportivo 19th.

Elsewhere, Barcelona's march towards the title continues against 12th placed Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

The league leaders strolled to a 2-0 win over bottom side Malaga as they enjoyed more than 75 per cent of possession to give Malaga their seventh consecutive defeat.

Malaga, who have not won in over three months, are now 11 points from safety and will need a result against Celta Vigo on Saturday if they are to have any chance of survival.

Real Madrid will look to close the gap on Atletico Madrid as they host Girona on Saturday, but will need to be at their best to get past



Credit: Twitter

STRUGGLING: Deportivo are yet to win under Clarence Seedorf.

their opposition.

Girona continued their push for European football as they secured their third win in a row last time out thanks to a 2-0 win over Deportivo on Friday.

They now sit just a point behind six placed Villarreal, who face a tough tie against second placed Atletico on Sunday.

Weekend's fixtures in full**Tomorrow (Friday)**

Levante vs Eibar

Saturday

Deportivo la Coruña vs Las Palmas

Valencia vs Alaves

Real Sociedad vs Getafe

Real Betis vs Espanyol

Sunday

Leganes vs Sevilla

Barcelona vs Athletic Bilbao

Celta Vigo vs Malaga

Villarreal vs Atletico Madrid

Real Madrid vs Girona

Atletico got back to winning ways after their disappointing defeat to Barcelona with a 3-0 win over Celta Vigo thanks to goals from Vitolo, Correa and Antoine Griezmann.

That result leaves Diego Simeone's side eight points behind Barcelona at the top but only seven ahead of Real.

In the weekend's other matches, Levante host Eibar, Valencia take on Alaves, Real Sociedad play Getafe, travel to Real Betis and Leganes are against Sevilla.

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	28	22	6	0	72	13	72
2 • Atlético	28	19	7	2	48	12	64
3 • Real Madrid	28	17	6	5	67	30	57
4 • Valencia	28	17	5	6	54	30	56
5 • Sevilla	28	14	3	11	36	42	45
6 • Villarreal	28	13	5	10	38	32	44
7 • Girona	28	12	7	9	40	36	43
8 • Betis	28	12	4	12	46	53	40
9 • Eibar	28	11	6	11	35	41	39
10 • Celta	28	11	5	12	45	42	38
11 • Getafe	28	9	9	10	33	26	36
12 • Athletic	28	8	11	9	29	31	35
13 • Espanyol	28	8	11	9	26	34	35
14 • R. Sociedad	28	9	6	13	50	50	33
15 • Leganés	28	9	6	13	23	34	33
16 • Alavés	28	10	1	17	25	42	31
17 • Levante	28	4	12	12	23	42	24
18 • Las Palmas	28	5	5	18	20	57	20
19 • Deportivo	28	4	7	17	25	59	19
20 • Málaga	28	3	4	21	16	45	13

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	30	26	3	1	85	20	81
2 • M. United	30	20	5	5	58	23	65
3 • Tottenham H.	30	18	7	5	59	25	61
4 • Liverpool	30	17	9	4	68	34	60
5 • Chelsea	30	17	5	8	52	27	56
6 • Arsenal	30	14	6	10	55	41	48
7 • Burnley	30	11	10	9	27	26	43
8 • Leicester City	30	10	10	10	45	43	40
9 • Everton	30	10	7	13	35	49	37
10 • Watford	30	10	6	14	39	50	36
11 • Brighton	30	8	10	12	28	40	34
12 • Bournemouth	30	8	9	13	35	48	33
13 • Newcastle United	30	8	8	14	30	40	32
14 • Swansea City	30	8	7	15	25	42	31
15 • Huddersfield Town	30	8	7	15	25	50	31
16 • West Ham Utd.	30	7	9	14	36	57	30
17 • Southampton	30	5	13	12	29	44	28
18 • Crystal Palace	30	6	9	15	28	48	27
19 • Stoke City	30	6	9	15	28	56	27
20 • West Bromwich	30	3	11	16	23	47	20

Premier League preview

Liverpool look to get back on track



Credit: Twitter

BOUNCE BACK: Liverpool will look to get back on track after a 2-1 loss at Old Trafford.

JUST four games will take place in the Premier League this weekend as the FA Cup returns for the quarter-finals.

Liverpool host Watford in the late kick off hoping to bounce back from their 2-1 Derby Day defeat to Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Marcus Rashford scored a fantastic first half brace to hand Liverpool, who pulled one back through an Eric Bailly own goal, just their first defeat in their last six games.

They host a Watford side that lost their first game in three following two succes-

sive 1-0 wins against West Brom and Everton as they lost 3-0 to Arsenal at the Emirates.

Elsewhere, struggling Stoke City host Everton with both sides desperate to get out of their poor run of form.

Stoke were easily beaten by champions-elect Manchester City 2-0 on Monday and find themselves in the middle of a relegation battle.

Bournemouth, fresh off their 4-1 defeat to Tottenham host a West Brom side who have lost their last six consecutive Premier League games.

Boss Alan Pardew is expected to remain in charge for Saturday's fixture, despite going down 4-1 to Leicester at the weekend

In the weekend's only other fixture, Huddersfield Town host Crystal Palace.

Weekend fixtures in full

Bournemouth vs

West Bromwich Albion

Huddersfield Town vs Crystal Palace

Stoke City vs Everton

Liverpool vs Watford

FA CUP: Quarter-finals

THE FA Cup returns this weekend as the quarter-final stage kicks off with Swansea against Tottenham on Saturday.

The Swans reached the quarter finals for the first time since 1964 thanks to Jordan Ayew's and Nathan Dyer's second half goals secured a 2-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday in a replay.

Tottenham also needed a replay against League One Rochdale after a 2-2 draw in Rochdale, but former Swansea striker Fernando Llorente scored a hat-trick in the replay as Spurs breezed past their League One opposition 6-1.

Spurs are also likely to have Harry Kane missing after the England striker suffered an ankle injury against Bournemouth and was seen

leaving Wembley stadium on crutches and in a protective boot.

Elsewhere, 12-time winners Manchester United host Brighton as they look to retain the trophy they last won in 2016.

The Red Devils are yet to concede a goal in this year's tournament with wins over Derby, Yeovil and Huddersfield while Brighton reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 1986 with a 3-1 win over Coventry.

On Sunday, League One side Wigan Athletic, who famously put out Manchester City in the last round, will host Southampton, who have gotten to this stage for the first time since 2005, while Leicester take on Chelsea in the weekend's other fixture.



MAN UNITED boss Jose Mourinho is set to earn a whopping €1.9m for just four days work at this summer's World Cup. The Portuguese manager will appear as a TV pundit on Russia's RT TV.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

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GOLF is set to undergo radical changes - with amendments to the game's rules set to be implemented from 2019.

According to reports, golf's two major governing bodies, the R&A and United States Golf Association (USGA) have confirmed that changes, aimed at making golf easier to understand and faster to play, will come into place next year.

However, they have also announced that alterations have been made to the proposals released for public consultation released last year; the majority of suggested changes remaining.

From January, rule changes including allowing the flag to remain in the hole unattended while putting as well as no penalty for removing loose

items from bunkers will come into play.

In another move, the time for searching for lost balls will be reduced from five minutes to three, but instead the plan to have penalty or free drops from an inch have been changed and will now be taken from knee height.

David Rickman, the R&A's executive director of governance, explained to British media: "Our previous proposal had a number of difficulties with it, particularly around how close

Time for change!

R&A and USGA confirm rule changes from 2019



CHANGES: Players will now take penalty or free drops from knee height in one of many rule changes.

drop the ball where it is lost or out of bounds under a two-stroke penalty.

This has been added in the hope that it will address concerns raised at club level about the pace of play when returning to the original spot.

This rule is not intended for professional or elite level competitions, according to reports.

"We debated it quite seriously," Rickman continued.

"While some divots are easy to identify and distinguish from other damaged areas, as a divot gets older that becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish from a bad lie.

certain players would get to the ground in certain circumstances.

"Knee-height gave us that balance, gave us the ability to preserve the randomness of the drop. "But by being significantly lower than shoulder height and by allowing a player to get their eyes over the ball, they can be much more precise in terms of

the dropping procedure."

Other changes see penalties for accidentally striking the ball twice in the course of a shot removed while regulations involving lost and out of bound balls will be relaxed.

From next year, golf clubs can also use a 'local rule' which will allow golfers the option to

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