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MALLORCA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Cursach trial goes on

by Joe Gerrard

A court in Palma is set to begin the trial of Bartolome Cursach for his alleged possession of illegal weapons today (Thursday).

The Mallorca businessman, who created the Grupo Cursach chain of hotels, restaurants and nightclubs, was charged after police said they found an unregistered gun on his property.

Prosecutors have requested a year and a half prison sentence if he is found guilty.

They have also asked for a ban on him owning



ON TRIAL: Nightclub mogul Bartolome Cursach (inset) is charged with illegally possessing a rifle.

firearms for four years.

The trial follows a Guardia Civil search of two of Cursach's houses. They found a loaded 22-calibre rifle along with up to 640 rounds of ammunition, according to the charges.

Police claimed the weapon was not registered and that the businessman failed to provide a licence permitting him to own it legally.

Cursach was arrested last year and it is alleged he slept with the weapon kept under his bed, according to reports.



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NEWS EXTRA**Numbers
on the up**

PALMA'S airport saw an increase in the number of people flying into and out of it of 8.5 per cent last month on February 2017 levels, with a total of more than 781,600 passengers registered.

Drug bust

POLICE have shut down nine drug sales points in Son Banya, Rafal, Son Ferriol and Llucmajor as part of an operation to reduce the amount of cocaine and heroin sold on the island.

Storm Felix

MALLORCA was hit by winds of speeds up to 94 kilometres per hour on Sunday, with firefighters called out 15 times and delays and cancellations caused at Son Sant Joan airport by Storm Felix.

Gabriel laid to rest

Thousands attend funeral as dad's girlfriend held

by Joe Gerrard

THOUSANDS of people turned out for the funeral of Gabriel Cruz, the tragic 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 Juan Ignacio Zoido and Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria.

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 the day he went missing.

Mourners gathered outside Almeria's cathedral shouted "You are not alone" and "We

are all Gabriel" as those attending the funeral went inside.

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

"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 said.

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

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. Leading political figures including King Felipe also observed silences.

Ana Quezada, 43, was placed under surveillance shortly after she allegedly found a t shirt near the Las Aguilas treatment plant. It was said to belong to Gabriel and confirmation came later that traces of his DNA were on it.

She was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning after Guardia Civil officers



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

stopped and searched 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 hit him with the blunt end of an

axe after he insulted her.

Results from a post-mortem examination found Gabriel died from asphyxiation. Police found the axe yesterday morning, and Quezada is due in court in the coming days.

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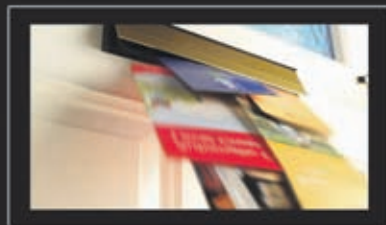


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P39**MOTORIZING**

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE

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Industrial estate fire

GROUPS of children celebrating birthday parties were among around 100 other people who had to be evacuated after a fire broke out at the Can Valero industrial estate in Palma. The blaze began at around 6.15pm last Thursday in a warehouse where plastic and wood was stored.

Gun march

A GROUP of Americans in Mallorca have organised a march against gun violence for March 24 in Palma. The demonstration, organised to coincide with March for our Lives protests taking place in the US, is set to begin at 10am at the Plaza La Lonja.

Plant disease

EUROPEAN UNION officials have visited Mallorca to check that measures to contain the spread of the Xylella tree bacteria are being correctly followed. It saw the delegation tour ports and airports to analyse plants travelling in and out of the island.

Brit death

A BRITISH technology entrepreneur has died while on his boat in Mallorca. Mark Proudfoot's wife Claire said the family were in shock following the death of the multi-millionaire from a suspected heart attack. She asked for friends to keep him in their thoughts.

Licence repeal

SPAIN'S National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) has told the Consell de Mallorca to repeal its licence and authorisation regime for the installation of commercial equipment. The order was made on the grounds that it restricts competition by protecting established companies, according to reports.

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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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1705 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 38 local stories.

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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-maché 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%**

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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

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NEWS EXTRA

Plastic bag campaign

A SMALL to medium sized businesses association has backed a campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags in Mallorca through a customer rewards scheme.

New firms

MORE than 590 new companies were created in the Balearic Islands in the first two months of this year, with most of these being construction, commerce and business services firms.

Car count

MALLORCAN authorities have said they will make a tally of the number of cars in each of the island's urban areas, including the number of rental vehicles, as a step towards road regulations.

Trials continue for mass tourism protestors

by Joe Gerrard

ONE of the members of a leftist group on trial following a protest against mass tourism has been fined by the Ministry of the Interior, according to the organisation's lawyer.

The news comes after three members of the Arran group gave statements to a court in Palma on the demonstrations which took place in Palma's harbour last summer.

Maria Marti, one of those who appeared before the judge, told the court that those on trials were victims of 'ideological persecution.'

Marti was up in court alongside another woman and a man with all three claiming they did not attend the protest which took place in July 2017.

A total of 12 Arran members have been charged for public disorder, damages and threats for their part in the demonstration.

Members of the group denied the claims and have said they protested peacefully. Some of those on trial have said they were not involved in the demonstration.

Josep de Luis, the defence lawyer for the



Credit: Arran/Facebook

PROTEST: Twelve protestors have been charged over the protest which took place in July last year.

group, told Spanish media only three of those charged were there on the day.

Around 40 people are believed to have taken part in the protest which was called in opposition to mass tourism on the island on July 22 last year.

A video posted on social media appears to show protestors setting off smoke flares and waving banners next to boats moored in Mallorca's harbour.

Authorities and restaurant owners

claimed the group covered diners in smoke and confetti as they made their way through the terraces next to the harbour. Several holidaymakers are believed to have been eating and drinking there at the time.

Police charged the 12 members of the group currently standing trial after examining posts on social media and using witness statements to identify them.

The trial continues with a further hearing scheduled for today (Thursday).

Top tourist d-easter-nation!

MALLORCA is the third favourite destination in Spain among foreign travellers during the Easter holidays.

According to a survey conducted by travel website TripAdvisor, Mallorca places behind only Barcelona and Tenerife among Spanish destinations chosen by tourists during the Easter period.

Among Spaniards, it reportedly places sixth behind Madrid, Tenerife, Sevilla, Benidorm and Gran Canaria, with 4 per cent more Spanish nationals predicted to travel this year compared to 2017.

The survey also claimed that among the main motivations behind travelling during the Easter period were visiting new places, visiting family and friends and taking advantage of a special offers.



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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.

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.



WEDDED BLISS: Penelope and Javier.

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

Funds for small towns

THE Consell de Mallorca has passed measures to make a total of €1.5 million in aid available to urban areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants for help with financing maintenance works to utilities.

New sea line

FERRY operators Trasmediterranea have announced plans to extend their high-speed maritime line which runs from Gandia on the mainland to Ibiza and Palma, to begin on June 8.

Plane claims

RYANAIR has denied it violated its own policies after a Balearics consumer association referred the company to the European Parliament amid allegations customers were being charged for hand luggage and child seating.

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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Free speech appeal

Rapper could take case to European courts

AN artist from Mallorca who lost an appeal against a three and a half year sentence for lyrics in his songs, now hopes the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) will acquit him.

Josep Miguel Arenas's lawyer, Juan Manuel Olarieta, has also filed an appeal for protection before Spain's Constitutional Court, claiming the sentence violates his client's right to free expression.

The rapper, who performs under the name Valtonlyc, posted a message on the social media site Twitter after the court acquitted two Spanish defendants sentenced on similar monarchy slander charges.

Arenas said on the site: "They will see when our sentence reaches them."

The ECHR struck down sentences for two people from Cataluña for burning a picture of former King Juan Carlos I.

Judges ruled the sentence violated their right to free expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The court in Strasbourg ordered the Spanish government to return their fines and to pay them €9,000 in compensation for costs.

Arenas announced a surprise concert that was set to take place yesterday in Barcelona at 8pm.



Credit: Valtonlyc via Facebook

APPEAL: Valtonlyc could appeal his sentence in the European Court of Human Rights.

TASTER DAY

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Credit: Dones IB3, via Twitter

PROTESTS: Demonstrators, including women reporters, gathered outside the Consell de Mallorca building with signs that read "Journalists stand up".



Credit: Estela, via Twitter

DEMONSTRATIONS: Protestors waved purple banners and signs in the protests, the colour of the feminist movement in Spain.

Marching for change

by Joe Gerrard

MORE than 20,000 people are believed to have turned out in Palma for the national feminist general strike organised for International Women's Day last Thursday.

The marches were organised nationally by Plataforma Feminista 8-M. They were called in protest against gender pay gaps, violence and inequality which demonstrators said continued to impact on women in Mallorca and Spain.

Protestors marched under the slogan 'If we stop, the world stops' and carried banners and signs which said 'I do not want your compliments, I want your respect,' among others.

Demonstrations took place in towns across the island, with a reduced service reported on Palma and Marratxi public transport and traders joining protests in Inca on market day.

The march in Palma left the Plaza de España at around 7pm and made its way through the city before reaching the Rambla de Palma. Parts of the Joan March, Comte de Sallent and Via Alemany were reportedly cut off due to the protests.

Demonstrators also gathered outside city hall and chanted slogans through megaphones. They were joined by local politicians for the protests which had the backing of several Spanish trade unions nationally.

Money allocated to grave excavations

AUTHORITIES in Mallorca have tendered a €480,600 contract for the exhumation of mass graves across the island and the identification of bodies in them.

The announcement comes as part of a 2018 Action Plan, with the approved amount added to the €756,000 already allocated.

The contract is set to see the company that wins the bid undertake digs at various sites in Porreres, Montuiri, Lluçmajor, Calvia, Marratxi, Santa Maria,

Alaro and Deia.

The contract's lead time is nine months, with a deadline for businesses wishing

to submit applications set for April 15, according to the Ministry of Culture's contracting service.

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Keeping schtum!

Homeowner refuses to speak to police over Porreres shooting

THE 77-year-old who shot dead a member of a group allegedly attempting to rob his Porreres house, turned down a request to testify before the Guardia Civil on health grounds.

Pau Rigo, who remains in hospital recovering from his injuries after the alleged burglary, refused the request to speak to a police homicide unit on Monday.

Fernando Mateas, the 77-year-old's lawyer, reportedly told police his client was not well enough to take questions from them over the shooting which left 25-year-

old Mauricio Escobar dead.

Rigo faces being summoned to appear before a court in Manacor to answer to homicide charges, according to reports in Spanish media.

Guardia Civil officers investigating the shooting and alleged robbery have yet to deliver their final report to the court, which will determine whether Rigo is formally charged.

Reports suggest police are considering charging the 77-year-old for the death, which took place on February 24.

Those who are considered

to have used proportional means to defend themselves and their homes in robbery cases can be exempt from prosecution under Spanish law.

More than 12,600 people have signed a petition in support of Rigo on the website *Change.org*, according to Spanish media.

The news follows the robbery which saw four people allegedly break into the 77-year-old's villa in Porreres and demand he hand over thousands of euros in cash.

Rigo is believed to have taken an opportunity to get

one of his shotguns while pretending to go and get more cash for the robbers. He returned and shot Mauricio Escobar who died later that afternoon.

The exact course of events remains unclear. Escobar's brother Freddy, who turned himself into police shortly after the robbery, claimed Rigo was not assaulted until after he fired on him.

The investigation remains open while officers wait for the results from the laboratory test, which will be included in their final report to the court.



Credit: Twitter

ARREST: The Son Servera police officer has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Cop held for alleged attempted murder

A LOCAL POLICE officer in Son Servera has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

According to reports, after a heated discussion, the 59-year-old officer allegedly attacked his partner before attempting to strangle her with a scarf.

After managing to escape, the 38-year-old woman went to continuing care point (PAC) to be treated for her injuries.

And following a state-

ment to the Guardia Civil, the officer was arrested later that evening.

Spanish media has reported that the man had a history of violence.

He had allegedly refused to give a breathalyser test when driving, and reportedly had a number of assaults to his name, which led the police to take his weapon away from him.

He is reportedly currently on leave.

Motion tabled for sewage study

THE Ciudadanos group in the Consell de Mallorca have called for a study into a new sewage system for areas of Mallorca.

The party are set to defend their motion at the Consell's next meeting. It

calls for authorities to look into the possibility of building a new waste treatment system in Cala Pi, Vallgornera Nou and Pas de Vallgornera in Lluçma-jor.

Catalina Serra, a spokesperson for

Ciudadanos, said the authority had approved the creation of a network in September 2016.

The latest motion calls on the Consell to create a committee to conduct feasibility studies into a sewage system.

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Economy update

Commentary by Moneycorp

THERE has been little in the way of good news for sterling, and even more positive results were tempered by a dose of reality.

UK retail sales in January were up by 0.1% from December and 1.6% more than in the same month last year, but were on average lower than they had been in October.

Borrowing stats released showed that the net repayment in January - a strong month for tax receipts - was bigger than expected. Wage growth at 2.5% and a fall in jobseeker numbers looked okay too but unemployment ticked up unexpectedly to 4.4%.

The pound dipped briefly after the downward revision of gross domestic product for the fourth quarter of 2017.

It came out at 0.4% and business investment growth came in at zero after an increase of 0.5% in Q3. A disappointing four-point fall in the CBI's Distributive Trades survey of retail sales, from 12% to

8%, got lost among the GDP data and did no real damage. Gfk's index of consumer confidence was a point lower on the month at 10, while the BRC's shop price index was down by an annual 0.8%.

The Bank of England governor repeated his assertion that because inflation is a full percentage point above its 2% target the Bank will have to increase interest rates.

The main focus continues to be Brexit. A report from Business Insider that the European Parliament is preparing a 'detailed,' 60-paragraph resolution which will call for more flexibility in future relationship talks with Britain was welcomed by investors early in the week, despite no official confirmation from Brussels.

Optimism that opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn would commit the Labour party to keeping Britain in the/a EU customs union after Brexit proved unfounded.

The question of the Irish border is becoming ever more contentious as the EU

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rejected the initial proposals of the British government; they are due to present a counter proposal today.

The disappointment at not reaching an agreement caused sterling to track lower across the board by an average of 0.6% late in the week.

The euro remains relatively steady, buffeted mostly by brief flutters from the pound and US dollar reacting to domestic news.

Germany released data that showed factory gate prices were up by 0.5% in January alone but there was little else to make the headlines from euroland.

European Central Bank president Mario Draghi met the European Parliament's Committee on Economic Affairs. There had been speculation that he might hint at a wind-down of the bank's asset purchase programme, on which it has so far spent more than €2.5tr. No such hint was forthcoming. This was compounded later in the week when Bundesbank president Jens Weidmann, Mr Draghi's likely replacement next year, echoed these views.

The implication is that euro rate increases could be a long time coming.

Meanwhile, the ecostats coming out of the Eurozone remain upbeat; gross domestic product data showed Sweden's economy expanding by 0.9% in the fourth quarter, while growth in France, Portugal and Switzerland came in at 0.6%, 0.7% and 0.6% respectively.

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Heat between the sheets

FOUR people have been treated for smoke inhalation symptoms after a mattress caught fire in a house in Palma.

According to reports, a strong smell of burning came from one of the rooms of the property, on the first floor of a building on Calle Eusebi Estada in Palma.

When one of the tenants of the property went to check on their roommate in the room, the mattress set alight, reportedly due to the air entering.

A woman, who was in the room, was unconscious and was evacuated along with the three other people sharing the flat, two women and a man, thanks to the help of some neighbours.

A neighbour told Spanish media: "She was unconscious; her roommate had to take her out of the room."



BLAZE: The fire began after a mattress set alight.

"My mother and my sister lifted her legs while she was unconscious until the ambulance arrived."

It reportedly took the emergency services to extinguish the blaze, which supposedly only affected one room of the house.

The three roommates that



Credit: Bombers de Palma

had been awake during the fire were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, while the unconscious woman was taken by ambulance to the Son Espases hospital for treatment.

Police have since opened an investigation into the cause of the fire.

NEWS EXTRA

Party meeting

THE executive of the MES per Mallorca party met for the first time with new joint leaders Bel Busquets and Guillem Balboa in Palma on Monday, with other new board members elected over the weekend.

Retirements

A CEREMONY has been held in the chapel of Can Campaner for 34 health workers to mark the retirement of staff who finished their careers between September and February.

New recruits

THE airline Air Nostrum are seeking cabin crew, with interviews to be held at the Tryp Palma Bellver hotel at 12pm on Wednesday, and those interested asked to submit CVs on their website.

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SWEDEN



New princess

SWEDEN'S Princess Madeleine gave birth to her third child with husband Chris O'Neill and the baby's grandfather, King Carl XVI Gustaf, announced she will be called Adrienne Josephine Alice during a meeting at the Royal Palace in Stockholm.



Credit: Princess Victoria of Sweden/Facebook

BABY JOY: Sweden's new princess, Adrienne Josephine Alice.

Making history

SWEDISH Prime Minister Stefan Löfven revealed that Sweden is willing to host a meeting between North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump after the country was named as a possible venue by US media sources.

Crazy chase

A MAN in Sweden reportedly threw a chainsaw and fire extinguisher at a police car during a high speed chase which started after he stole a patrol car from a local police station.

Sticky fingers

TWO men in Alingsås, Sweden were sentenced to two months in prison for stealing nearly €1,200 worth of chocolate, chewing gum and disposable razors.

GERMANY



Drugged up

RESIDENTS in German cities such as Mainz, Chemnitz and Berlin have some of the hardest drug habits in Europe according to a new EU drugs agency study which tested the wastewater of people for drugs.

positions in the new coalition government as Olaf Scholz became the new finance minister and Heiko Maas the new foreign minister.

released from prison, prompting anger from survivors.

Trading time

GERMAN trade unions representing metal workers have pushed for a 28-hour week for a total of two years with a limited loss of salary, allowing employees to take some time out to look after their children.

Making drama

A NEW TV drama depicting the Gladbeck bank raid and hostage-grab that happened 30 years ago has been released as the ringleader, Degowski was

On the rise

TWO politicians from Germany's Social Democrats have been given key

FRANCE



Men pay more

THE French daily newspaper *Liberation* asked men to pay 50 cents more on International Women's Day to highlight the 25 per cent gender pay gap that still exists.

Water works

A FRENCH family who was forced to live for 12 years without water after they failed to pay a €300 bill, and the water company cut their supply, have won the court case to get their water restored.

Wage shame

FRENCH businesses that pay their female employees less than men for the same work will have to cough up, said French President Emmanuel Macron, or will face being named and shamed on a public list.

Twinkle tower

THE Eiffel Tower is reportedly about to undergo a three-year makeover starting from October 2018 that will include being given a brighter coat of paint.

BELGIUM



Taken to court

MALE lawyers in Belgium earn twice as much on average as their female peers according to a study by the Perelman Centre of the Faculty of Law and Criminology at ULB.

School danger

MORE than 20 per cent of Flemish schools have an urgent asbestos problem according to Flemish environment minister Joke Schauvliege after an asbestos inventory was carried out in 300 schools last year.

Wolf strikes

IT is believed two ewes which were found dead in Limburg were killed by a wolf, which was later found dead on the side of the road in the same area.

Peeping Tom

POLICE in Ghent received several complaints after images of women which were secretly filmed in the dressing room at the HoGent sports centre appeared on a Dutch internet forum.

NETHERLANDS



Cross-continent

AMSTERDAM will have a new freight train connection linking the country to China, which will travel 11,000km in 16 days and carry clothing, car parts, alcoholic drinks and luxury textiles.

Pay plot

THE Netherlands' Green Left party leader Jesse Klaver called on MPs to back a proposal that will stop ING Bank increasing its chief executive's salary by more than 50 per cent.

Youth banking

A THIRD of Dutch children now get their pocket money paid directly into their bank account, according to research by Wijzer in Geldzaken, a government-backed organisation which helps people organise their finances.

Metro delays

THE opening of a new metro line in Amsterdam could be further delayed after a report revealed there was not enough time to train new staff and it had suffered glitches during the test runs.

NORWAY



Price not right

OLEMIC THOMMESSEN, the President of the Norwegian parliament, has resigned over controversy relating to building work at the assembly, after the costs increased from an estimated €110 million to €230 million due to mismanagement.

Revenge halted

THE Norwegian Parliament has voted against an anti-revenge porn proposal, claiming they need to hear more suggestions about whether the current punishments are good enough as the decision has received criticism for being 'passive and disappointing.'

Killing whales

NORWAY has announced it will increase its annual whaling quota by 28 per cent, amounting to more than 1,200 whales a year, in an effort to revive the hunt which has been declining in recent years.

Bus bother

A NORWEGIAN politician compared a public transport project in the Nord-Jæren area to an online 'Nigerian scam' after its costs increased by a whopping €510 million within the space of three months.

DENMARK



Outbreak scare

AT least four new-born babies have reportedly contracted MRSA at Aalborg University Hospital, and the hospital is now testing other patients to try to track down the source of the disease.

Priest punished

A COURT has sentenced a former priest to three and a half years in prison for sexual assault and harassment against several people, some of whom were under the age of 18.

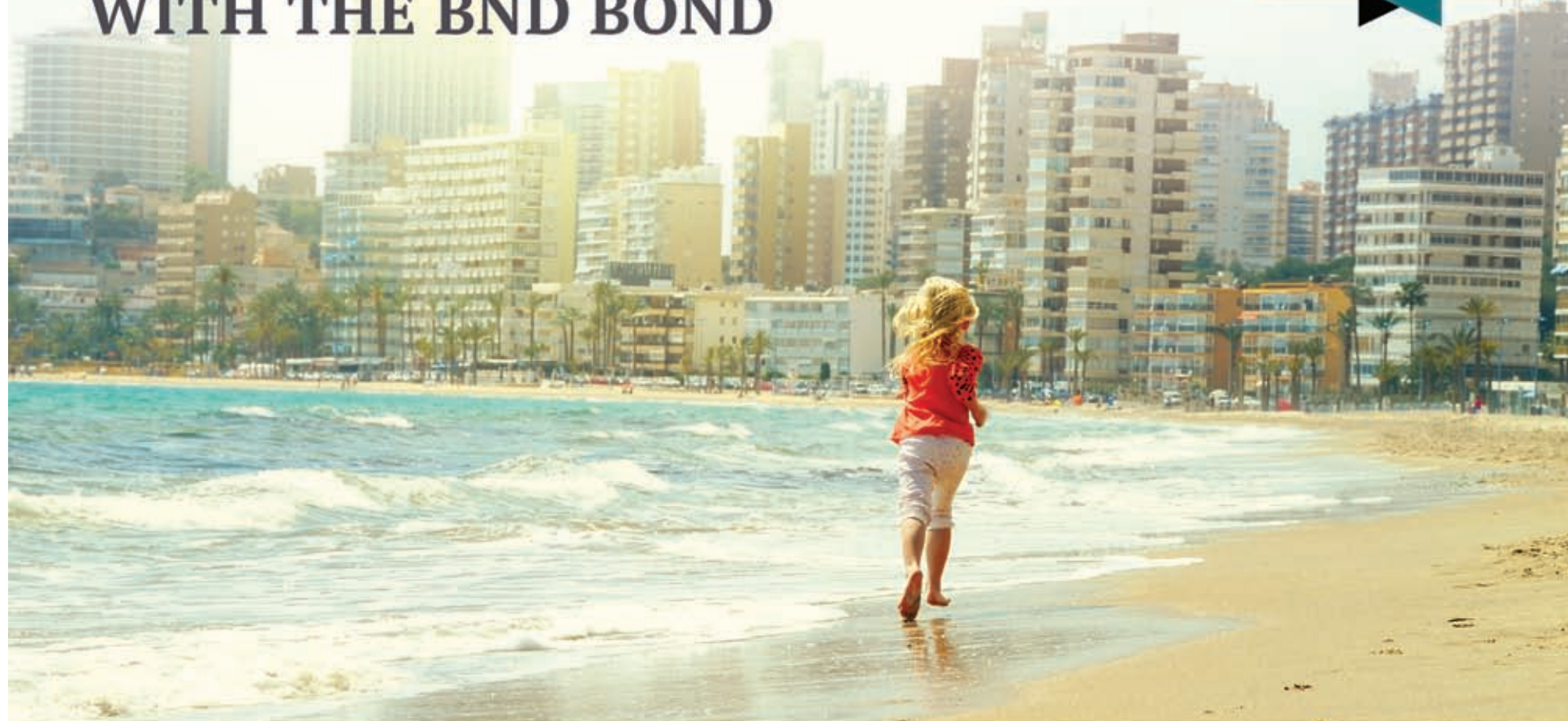
Tighten up

DENMARK has revealed it wants to continue the tightened border control arrangements currently in place by at least six months, after Immigration Minister Inger Støjberg said there was no justification to make the restrictions more lax.

Sea tragedy

A FIRE on board a ship - belonging to Danish shipping giant Maersk - while en route from Singapore to Suez has left several members of the crew unaccounted for, confirmed the company in a press statement.

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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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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
Evraz	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 Consldtd 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

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 12				
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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Denmark kroner					7.45020
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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

DOW JONES

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
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

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

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%

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9139

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0001

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1459

£1.0603

£1.3133

£1.2036

£1.4664

£1.3510

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0049

-£0.0048

-£0.0090

-£0.0086

-£0.0135

-£0.0128

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

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SP16085EN

€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.

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.

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 Grigio."

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 winned, 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.

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Keep the Faith

Love Leapy

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

Advertising Feature

O'Neill's the ideal place to enjoy St Patrick's Day

IF you hanker for great food like mother used to make, then O'Neill's Bar and Restaurant in Palma Nova is the place to visit.

According to the owner and chef Stuart, 'It's all about the food' whilst his wife Nikki added 'Everything we serve here is home-cooked, sourced from local ingredients.'

An Irish establishment is the ideal place to enjoy the atmosphere of St Patrick's Day especially as Ireland are playing England in the Rugby Union, for boasting rights or in the case of Ireland, the Grand Slam!

Indeed an Irish bar wouldn't be an Irish bar if it wasn't possible to obtain one of the finest pints of draught Guinness available on the island. It's not to be missed and with a pint of the black stuff in your hand on St Patrick's Day, everyone is an honorary Paddy! Of course Sunday lunch comes with a choice of lamb, roast beef, pork, honey roast ham and chicken served with six different vegetables, roast potatoes, mash and home-made gravy at €9.90.



O'NEILL'S: Best place around for a good craic!

Then for dessert there is a choice of bread and butter pudding along with rhubarb and apple crumble with other favourites such as bakewell tart, cheesecakes (various flavours), fresh meringues and the house special: chocolate & Guinness cake with a frosted Baileys top being part of the home-cooked traditional desserts available every Sunday

However, O'Neill's is more than a Sunday

restaurant, offering daily lunch specials every day (except Monday when they are closed) for less than €10. The stand out among these is Friday's fish and chip special. Beer battered fresh fish with hand cut proper chips (no sign of anything frozen here) accompanied by the obligatory mushy peas.

There is always a special offer or two with an evening meal deal of two main courses in-



cluding wine or a dessert (except for Sundays) at €23.50, great breakfasts and if you became a Lucky 7 loyalty card holder and buy six main meals then the seventh is free.

All sports are shown on a large flat screen TV displayed on the comfortable terrace with another four flat screen TVs inside for when it gets colder.

Situated next to Eroski in Palma Nova with easy parking, O'Neill's family restaurant is popular with locals and tourists alike.

A range of children's meals are available and so the next time you are thinking of eating out why not give O'Neill's a try for cheerful and friendly surroundings, fine home-cooked food and desserts to die for.

*O'Neill's Bar and Restaurant
C/Paris 8, Palma Nova - 971 683 010*

Menu also available for take away.

Facebook [oneillsbarpalmanova](https://www.facebook.com/oneillsbarpalmanova).

Catalan secondary effects

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

SPAIN has 17 autonomous regions but Cataluña, Cataluña, Cataluña fills the horizon and the media.

Even matters not directly related to Cataluña are influenced by it, for example the attraction of Ciudadanos

(C s)

for the voting public.

Young, pretty and articulate Ines Arrimadas managed to make Cs the most voted party in the Catalan elections, but instead was outnumbered by the two pro-independence parties in the regional parliament.

Had the PSOE and above all the Partido Popular not nosedived, Cataluña would have a Ciudadanos-led parliament by now, but while the two main parties emerged badly, Cs soars above them outside Cataluña.

The PSOE is still sorting itself out following the October 2016 debacle but the PP are now running scared and planning strategies and tactics to win back the public. It could all be in vain.

POPULAR CANDIDATE: Ines Arrimadas is boosting support for Ciudadanos in Cataluña.

The politically uncommitted, whose votes decide elections, resemble people who don't understand art 'but I know what I like.'

They don't understand politics, but also know what they like and that, at present, appears to be Ciudadanos, Albert Rivera and Ines Arrimadas.

Accompaniment to a siren song

THE theory has been around for some time that the independence Proces was a smokescreen erected by CiU politicians to conceal corruption.

In a country where pots and kettles are equally black regarding corruption, this was a normal accusation. It was also a convenient theory for the PSOE with its ERE redundancy scandal in An-

dalucia and the Partido Popular with a list as long as your arm.

Of course there was corruption in Cataluña: think the Pujol family, think Artur Mas, think the juicy 3 per cent commission picked up on government contracts.

Of course the Proces towards independence deflected attention from corruption as endemic as Valencia's or Madrid's.

But it is wishful thinking to hope that the independence cause is only a magician's sleight of hand, prompting the public to look in one direction while deceiving them with the other.

Separatism grew wings in 2012 during Mariano Rajoy's first term in office when Madrid's immobility, coupled with inflexibility and total lack of empathy, provided a perfect accompaniment to the siren song of independence.

With me or against me

EURO MP Elena Valenciano would have been elected president of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats inside the European Parliament.

Instead Pedro Sanchez vetoed the proposal with weasel words about 'we want unity' without specifying the identity of the 'we.'

What he did not say, but everyone knew,

was that Valenciano backed Sanchez's arch-rival Susana Diaz in last year's primaries.

In his bid to make himself invulnerable Sanchez considers that anyone not with him is against him. This policy is reinforcing his position inside the party but doing very little for the PSOE's standing in the opinion polls and even less for his standing with women voters.

Still on the sidelines

IÑIGO ERREJON is one of the Podemos founders but the party supreme Pablo Iglesias sidelined him a year ago. Errejon, too much of a challenge and toeing the party line with insufficient humility, was replaced as party spokesman by Irene Montero.

He is now visible again as he begins his campaign to dislodge the PP's Cristina Cifuentes.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com



Photo credit: Ines Arrimadas/Facebook

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

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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

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 rubbish 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.



**50,000
people take
part in
Sevilla's
processions**

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**



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**

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

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.

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.



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.

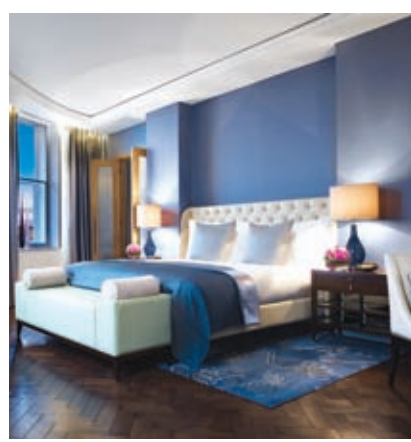
One such is the Corinthia London. Located south of Trafalgar Square on Whitehall Place on the fringe of Clubland and a short walk from royal parks and palaces, the processional route from Palace to St Paul's Cathedral passes close by, as well as the vibrant theatre district. The Corinthia London is a 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.



OPULENT: A River Suite Bedroom at the Corinthia Hotel.



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

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

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

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.

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

SUCH a nice man phoned from
TECH FOR THE TIMID



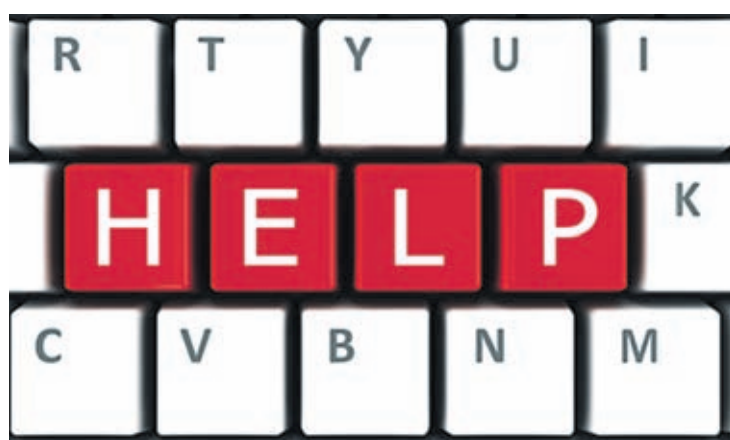
'Windows' in India the other day, offering to fix a problem my computer didn't have.

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 new toy refuses to cooperate, your



SUPPORT: Press one if you're rational.

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.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Mobile phones may improve road safety

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

A TEAM of researchers at the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid have been working on a project suggesting that rather than leading to potentially deadly distractions, a mobile phone can help road safety by advising drivers of safer speeds.

The technology behind intelligent speed adaptation systems (ISA) has been around since the 90's, mostly aimed at warning drivers who exceed the speed limit.

In theory, the technology can also be used to block the functions of the mobile and even prevent use when driving, although this part of the system has seemingly not been welcomed by many, despite the obvious safety benefits.

Through this latest development of the system, the researchers in Madrid have been developing ways that the technology can identify other hazards which may need speed adjustment such as bends, the camber of the road, the elevation etc.

It can even take into account the meteorological conditions, which may affect the adhesion to the road or visibility, for example, and the amount of traffic in each section.

The technology can also identify the type of vehicle in which it is travelling, adjusting its reports accordingly.

The system obtains the information in real time and establishes the safest speed for the next section of the road contemplating and calculating the conditions re-



MOBILE PHONES: Could be used to advise drivers how fast to drive.

ported, the stopping distance and the lateral acceleration of the vehicle as objective criteria. To the user, the mobile indicates the level of deceleration necessary.

For the definition of the interface, the analysis of the impact on the level of attention required to receive the information of the system is carried out.

Although there are no plans to release the system any time soon, the prototype has been tested in a vehicle, with different drivers, analysing their response to warnings and their degree of satisfaction and compliance with the limits set.

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

Can they force him to sell?

Q. Can you advise on our situation? We have a holiday home in Spain, owned by three brothers, with shares of A 50 per cent, B 25 per cent and C 25 per cent. Brothers A and B are resident in Spain.

Brother C is resident in the UK. A and B want to sell, C does not. Can A and B, with their 75 per cent ownership, override C?

LH (email)

A. In principle, no, you cannot. The only legal way to force a sale of a shared property is to go to court. Even a minority owner can bring this action.

The judge will usually try to mediate among the parties but if they cannot

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



agree, the judge can order the property sold at public auction and the proceeds divided among

the owners according to their shares. This auction generally ends badly for all parties.

One way to handle this might be to offer the holdout brother a larger share of the sale price than he is legally entitled to.

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 Breman 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.

Breman 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.bremaninspain.com



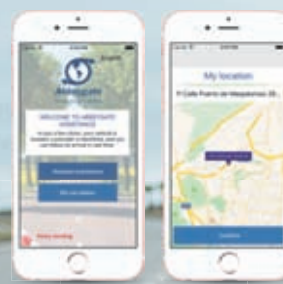
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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
15 MARCH	5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm Not Going Out 10:30pm Still Game 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News	5:15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm Great Continental Railway Journeys 10:00pm Civilisations 11:00pm Match of the Day	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Undercover: Rough Sleeper - Tonight 9:00pm Emmerdale 9:30pm The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska 10:00pm Four Days That Shook Britain	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 9:00pm Location, Location, Location 10:00pm My Baby's Life: Who Decides? 11:00pm The Job Interview	4:15pm Fatal Defense 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Secret Life of Kittens 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun 10:00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier 4:30pm Live Arnold Palmer Featured Grps 7:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf 8:00pm Live Premier League Darts 11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten
FRIDAY	5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm MasterChef 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm Requiem 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:25pm BBC London News	5:15pm Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan 6:15pm Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm Mastermind 9:30pm Gardeners' World 10:00pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Love Your Garden 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Lethal Weapon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 9:00pm Scruffs: Britain's Favourite Dog 10:00pm Gogglebox 11:00pm The Last Leg	4:15pm Locked Away 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Gadget Show 9:00pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard 10:00pm Jane McDonald and Friends 11:00pm Will and Grace	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 7:30am Rugby League 9:45am Rugby League 11:45am Live ICC Wc Qualifier 4:30pm Football Centre 5:00pm Football Centre 6:00pm Rugby Union 8:45pm Football 11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News
SATURDAY	4:15pm MasterChef 4:45pm Wanted Down Under Revisited 5:30pm Six Nations Rugby Union 8:00pm BBC News 8:10pm Regional News 8:15pm Weather 8:20pm Pointless 9:10pm Casualty 10:00pm Troy: Fall of a City 11:00pm BBC News	2:20pm Waterloo 4:30pm Me and My Dog 5:30pm Final Score 6:30pm The Repair Shop 7:00pm Hugh's Wild West 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 9:00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities 9:30pm Dad's Army 10:00pm Suite Francaise	3:25pm Six Nations Live England v Ireland. 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News and Weather 7:15pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm You've Been Framed! 8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 9:30pm The Voice UK 11:30pm ITV News and Weather 11:45pm Fast and Furious	4:20pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:25pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 6:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages 9:00pm Britain at Low Tide 10:00pm Fantastic Four 11:55pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	4:30pm The Nightmare Neighbour 5:30pm Next Door 6:25pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 7:25pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 7:30pm 5 News 9:10pm FIA Formula E Live Uruguay. Take it Away!	11:30am Soccer Saturday Pre-Match 12:00pm Soccer Saturday Pre-Match 1:00pm Football 4:00pm Rugby Shorts 4:10pm Rugby Union 6:00pm My Icon 6:15pm Football 8:40pm Live La Liga 2017/18 10:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
SUNDAY	2:15pm Match of the Day Live 4:35pm A Question of Sport 5:05pm Match of the Day Live 7:35pm BBC News 7:50pm Regional News 7:55pm Weather 8:00pm Countryfile 9:00pm Hold the Sunset 9:30pm Brooklyn 11:10pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	2:45pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago 3:45pm Money for Nothing 4:45pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes 5:45pm Back in Time for Tea 6:45pm Catch Me If You Can 9:00pm Top Gear 10:00pm Famously Unfit for Sports Relief 11:00pm The Mash Report	4:30pm The Harbour 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs 7:30pm ITV News and Weather 7:45pm Local News and Weather 8:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase 9:00pm The Durrells 10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital 11:05pm ITV News and Weather	1:30pm Winter Paralympics Today 3:00pm Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony 4:15pm Epic 6:15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Britain's Polar Bear Cub 9:00pm Escape to the Chateau 10:00pm Homeland	11:00am Football on 5 11:55am Football on 5 12:25pm Getting Even with Dad 2:30pm Richie Rich 4:15pm My Girl 5:15pm 5 News 5:20pm My Girl 6:20pm Junior Jumper 9:55pm 5 News Weekend 10:00pm The Equalizer	6:00am Sky Sports News 7:00am Sky Sports News 8:00am Total Goals 8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier 12:30pm Football 3:15pm Football 5:45pm Live PGA Tour Golf 9:00pm Live ATP 1000: Indian Wells Final 11:00pm Boxing 11:30pm Live LPGA : Founders Cup
MONDAY	4:45pm Money for Nothing 5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Panorama 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Classic Mary Berry 10:00pm MasterChef 11:00pm BBC News	3:15pm Your Home in Their Hands 4:15pm Planet Earth I 5:15pm Spy in the Wild 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys 10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 11:00pm Mum	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Kyle Files 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Marcella 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	4:20pm A Deadly Affair 6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Anglo Welsh Cup Highlights 9:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue 10:00pm Terror in the Air: Flights Out of Control	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier 4:30pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 8:30pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am Sky Sports News
TUESDAY	4:05pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm Money for Nothing 5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Shetland 11:00pm BBC News	5:15pm Spy in the Wild 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys 10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 11:00pm Mum	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm 100 Year Old Driving School 9:00pm The World's Ugliest Pets 10:00pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 10:15pm Seven Year Switch	4:20pm Dead Over Heels: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery 6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen 9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh 10:00pm Wild Britain 11:00pm The Expendables 3	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 8:30am Live ICC Wc Qualifier 4:30pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am Sky Sports News
WEDNESDAY	4:10pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm Money for Nothing 5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm Zoe Ball's Hardest Road Home 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	4:15pm Planet Earth I 5:15pm Spy in the Wild 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea 9:00pm The Secret Helpers 10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story 10:55pm Live at the Apollo 11:30pm Newsnight	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Local News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Benidorm 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Supervet 10:00pm One Born Every Minute 11:00pm Damned 11:35pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	4:15pm McBride: The Chameleon Murder 6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm Moto GP Highlights 9:00pm Qatar. 10:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors A Walk Among the Tombstones	7:00am Netball 9:55am My Icon 10:15am My Icon 10:30am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Sky Sports Daily 1:00pm Sky Sports News 4:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami

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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'



Photo credits BBC

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

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



'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.

Travel

Elche: a city of variety

ELCHE, and its predecessor La Alcu-dia, was settled by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Moors. So it is safe to say that the city has some history.

But the city offers far more than museums, in fact, part of its appeal is its variety.

The coastal location provides the obligatory beach attraction but there are cultural options aplenty for those looking for a more sophisticated experience.

Perhaps the most notable is the Basilica of Santa Maria, an impressive, Arabic-looking structure well worth a visit. Another must for architecture is the Torre de la Calahorra.

If greenery is your thing then the Palm Grove of Elche should be right up your garden path, having been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

Twinned with six towns - including Toulouse in France - Elche is within striking distance of Alicante, for those who want the allure of one of Spain's largest cities. Elche should be easily big enough for all travel needs and boasts a number of top restau-



PALM GROVE: Elche boasts a Unesco World Heritage Site.

rants and hotels.

The local football team, Elche CF, were in the top tier of Spanish football until last year, but could make a

return to La Liga in the coming seasons, giving football fans the chance to see giants like Real Madrid or Barcelona in quaint surroundings.

Alicante is an ideal tourist base

TORREVIEJA is not the destination at the top of many travellers' lists in Spain.

However, the city makes for an ideal base from which to see a number of quaint, charming villages and popular beach spots.

The waterfront promenade, lined with palm trees and Spaniards out for a stroll, comes alive in the evenings. Buskers and merchandise sellers add spirit to a number of endearing bench-based monuments, while the lively restaurant culture adds to the homely feel.

The real draw, though, is the sea view - particularly at sunset - and the ice cream vendors who serve all manner of flavours, from the exotic to the traditional.

Another tourist favourite is the go-karting just outside of town.

Though the city is not particularly authentic, or much different to other tourist-filled seaside towns, what is impressive is the number of nearby locations that you can day trip to.

With relatively cheap accommodation on offer, tourists can see the delights of countless local beaches. Try the quiet Lomas de Cabo-Roig or Punta Prima, wave-filled Guardamar, or popular sand and sun-filled La Zenia.

Nearby Spanish towns are also worth a visit for travellers after a more authentic experience.

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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? '

Trivia from around the world

*** Denmark's flag was first used in 1219, making it the oldest continuously-used by any modern country.

*** The town of Datang Zhuji in China is known as Sock City. It produces around eight billion pairs a year according to most recent data, a third of all socks made worldwide.

*** Iquitos, a city in Peru located deep in the Amazon rainforest, is home to 400,000 people but is inaccessible by road.

*** Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil-producing state and fourth in the world, with around 2.2 million barrels produced every day.

*** A 45,330-capacity stadium is currently being built for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar in Ash-Shamal, which has a population of less than 8,000 people.

*** Italy is home to 53 UNESCO World Heritage sites, making it the country with the largest number of such sites in the world.



BOTTLED IT: Some replies have taken more than 10 years to reach Harold Hackett.

DID YOU KNOW?

Harold Hackett has put more than 4,870 messages in bottles into the Atlantic Ocean since 2011. He has received more than 3,100 responses from people all over the world.

Women's wit

Perhaps when we find ourselves wanting everything it is because we are dangerously close to wanting nothing."

Sylvia Plath,
poet



Famous quote

No work or love will flourish from guilt, fear, or hollowness. No valid plans for the future can be made by those who cannot live in the now."

Alan Watts, philosopher

World of English

Mouse potato - Someone who spends a large amount of their working or leisure time on a computer.

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

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.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

May we consider for a moment what you thought that you would be doing, right now, five years ago? Yes, do you see what I mean? Breaking away from an old habit could be the best thing that you have done for a long time. .



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Taking a step back from the activity appeals right now. After an active time, energy needs building up. Basking in someone's glory shows you just how things could be. Give a new relationship more of a chance to grow. The avenues this person can open up to you will put a twinkle in your eye and a blush on your cheek.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

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.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

The strong urge to make physical contact with someone leads to a bit of bother. Not that there is anything wrong with a few hugs and kisses. It is the person or the timing that could be wrong. Love of something beautiful may lead to overspending.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

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)

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.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

A new start with someone, socially, shows great promise. Consider what you want to get rid of in your life and plan how to approach the task. A bit of military precision goes down well. Cast your net wide. It may be necessary to invest in a few theatre tickets or a weekend away.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

At some time in the future you may look back on this week and ask yourself, 'Why didn't I do that?' Let me help you to see the possibilities. The emphasis is firmly on your social life and someone special is about to step into it. Is the answer in online dating?



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 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.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Feeling really balanced and calm? Being aware that you have full knowledge of a situation is good, isn't it? Absolutely anyone could snap at you this week and have no success at all in upsetting you. To say that the period is tranquil is an understatement.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

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.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday March 10	Saturday March 10	Tuesday March 06	Friday March 09	Thursday March 08	Saturday March 10	Sunday March 11
(3) (7)	(12) (27)	(15) (20)	(9) (14)	(2) (9)	(4) (18)	(4) (9)
(36) (42)	(30) (33)	(26) (31)	(21) (32)	(12) (15)	(20) (25)	(31) (37)
(53) (59)	(38) (40)	(44) (44)	(44) (32)	(26) (31)	(30) (49)	(48) (37)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(50)	(34)	(2) (9)	(1) (12)	(16) (0)	(16) (0)	(6)
		EL MILLON: ZKK25877		JOKER: 5 986 378	JOKER: 6 041 319	

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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.

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick

1		2		3			4	5		6
						7				
8						9				
10										
12										
13		14						15		
										16
17							18			
19							20			

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.

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

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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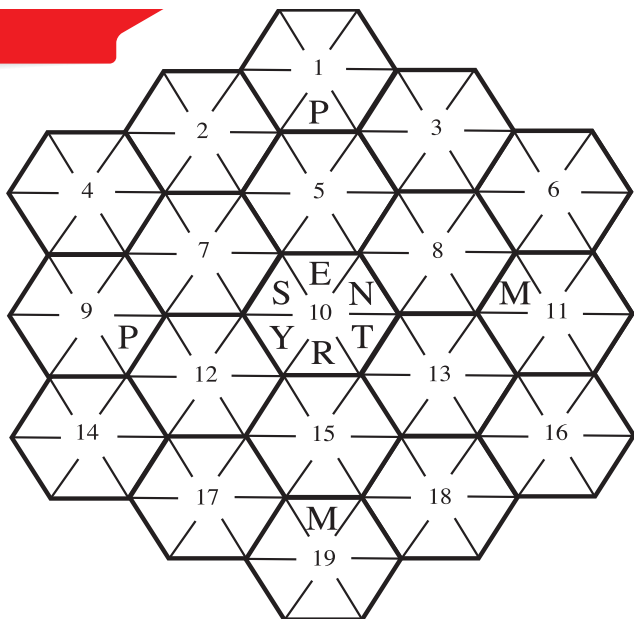
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Hexagram

ABRUPT
AGHAST
APOGEE
CHOPPY
CLOUDY
COUPLE
DEFECT
FAMILY
FATHOM
GLOSSY
HIATUS
IODINE
MICRON
MINGLE
OTIOSE
SENTRY (10)
SPURGE
SWISHY
THRONE



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

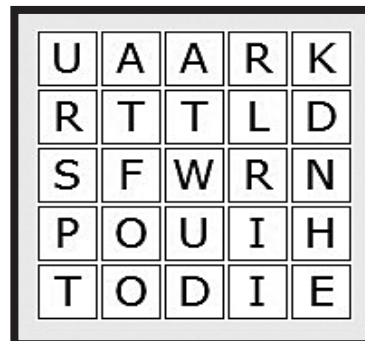
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Cantor 2 Slater 3 Azalea 4 System
5 Enable 6 Island 7 Treble 8 Strobe
9 Estate 10 Blouse 11 Ingest 12 Sleeve
13 Cursor 14 Teller 15 Escape
16 Coerce 17 Vessel 18 Collar
19 Splash.

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 20
- Very good: 40
- Good: 28
- Excellent: 51

SCORING:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

amino amir amrita annum manor mitt
minor miro mite iron tinpot tiro trim
triton trite trot trope fate unit unite
upon nitro norm note nope rite rota
rote rope tori tort torn tope toke teat
atop puma prim prima protea proem
port porn poem poke phon peon john
joke horn hope hike korma thorn
thorp them ikon mike

Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word **MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case N)** and there must be **AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD**. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

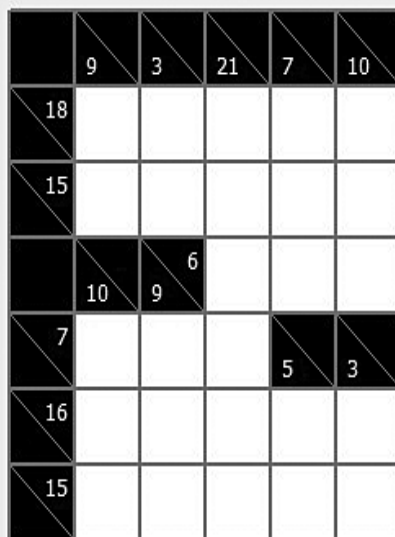
- Average: 9
- Good: 12
- Very good: 17
- Excellent: 22

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

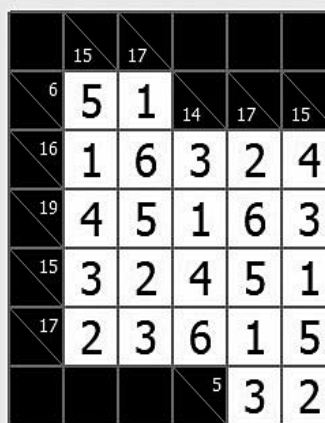
herd hero hoed hoer hone hong horn hour hues huge
hung dough henry heron honed honey horde horny
hound huger hydro rough dehorn doughy enough
horned hoyden hunger hungry rehung roughed
hydrogen GREYHOUND

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.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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.

CODE BREAKER



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.

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.

App of the week



Moleskine Actions

This app is made by the company that produces the premium notebooks, diaries and organisers and is designed to help users keep on top of tasks. It allows the user to make lists, create reminders and make digital cards in a clutter-free way.

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. COMPO, 4. AUSTRALIA (South Australia), 5. TRUTH IN WINE - UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, 6. A PERSON TELLS THE TRUTH, 7. OENOLOGY, 8. CHABLIS, 9. FLUTE, 10. MISTLETOE AND WINE
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.

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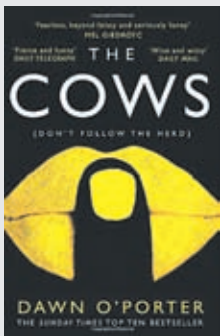
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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Send
in the
cows

CAM, Stella and Tara are strangers to one another. All share in common their efforts to live their lives in the face of society's demands to be part of the herd.

Cam is a confident blogger determined not to have children. Tara is a single and successful mum while Stella is struggling to cope with the death of her twin sister.

They are brought together after Tara is catapulted into online infamy, creating and strengthening their bonds of friendship. The challenges and catastrophes of each serve as inspiration to them all.

Dawn O'Porter's debut novel *The Cows* is about three women experiencing judgement on their way to finding their own voice.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Mallorca

TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



Malaga Today: Max 18, Min 9-C Fri - 16 8 - Sh Sat - 17 10 - C Sun - 18 10 - Sh Mon - 19 9 - C Tues - 19 10 - C Wed - 20 11 - C	Almeria Today: Max 16, Min 9-C Fri - 15 8 - C Sat - 17 11 - S Sun - 17 10 - C Mon - 17 10 - C Tues - 18 10 - C Wed - 18 11 - S	Bilbao Today: Max 16, Min 8-C Fri - 15 7 - C Sat - 13 7 - C Sun - 14 7 - Sh Mon - 11 8 - Sh Tues - 13 7 - Sh Wed - 14 9 - Sh	Madrid Today: Max 12, Min 4 - C Fri - 10 3 - C Sat - 11 2 - C Sun - 11 3 - Sh Mon - 13 3 - Sh Tues - 14 2 - C Wed - 14 5 - C
Alicante Today: Max 19, Min 9-C Fri - 18 9 - S Sat - 18 9 - C Sun - 18 9 - Sh Mon - 19 19 - Cl Tues - 20 8 - Cl Wed - 19 10 - Cl	Benidorm Today: Max 19, Min 9-C Fri - 17 9 - S Sat - 17 9 - C Sun - 17 9 - C Mon - 17 8 - C Tues - 17 8 - S Wed - 17 11 - C	Mallorca Today: Max 17, Min 9-C Fri - 15 8 - C Sat - 14 9 - C Sun - 14 7 - Sh Mon - 13 7 - C Tues - 14 7 - C Wed - 14 8 - C	Barcelona Today: Max 16, Min 7 - S Fri - 16 6 - S Sat - 16 6 - S Sun - 15 6 - C Mon - 13 5 - C Tues - 14 5 - C Wed - 14 7 - S

S: Sun ☀ Cl: Clear ☀ C: Cloudy ☁ Sh: Showers ☁ Th: Thunder ⚡ Sn: Snow ❄

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

BIRTHDAYS

• **Mark Hoppus, Musician;** March 15, 46

The singer and bass player of pop-punk band Blink 182 was also a member of the Goo Goo Dolls, two of the most popular rock groups of the late '90's.

Born in Ridgecrest in the US, he has also produced for bands such as New Found Glory and has hosted a radio show.

• **Lauren Graham, Actor;** March 16, 51

Graham was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and rode horses competitively before beginning her acting career. She found



Alex Jones.

fame as Lorelai Gilmore in the Gilmore Girls TV series and also appeared in *Bad Santa*, *Evan Almighty* and *It's Kind of a Funny Story*.

• **Alex Jones, TV host;** March 18, 41

Best known as the co-host of the BBC's *The One Show*, Jones studied film, television and theatre at Aberystwyth University.

• **Gary Sinise, Actor;** March 17, 63

Known for his roles in *Forrest Gump*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Apollo 13*, Sinise has

also starred in *Truman*, the biopic of President Harry S Truman and *Ransom*. He co-founded the Steppenwolf Theatre Company alongside Ethan Hawke, Gary Cole and *Of Mice and Men* co-star John Malkovich.

• **Hector Bellerin, Footballer;** March 19, 23

The Arsenal defender made his professional debut in 2013 before playing eight games while on loan to Watford that season. He began his youth career in his birthplace of Barcelona and played his first Spanish national match in 2016.

Sierra Nevada
SNOW REPORT



Snow is forecast to fall today (Thursday) for most of the day with highs of one degree Celsius. Tomorrow is expected to stay clear but more snow is forecast for the weekend through until Wednesday. Many Sierra Nevada slopes have been closed due to the conditions.

44 BC - Caesar assassinated
Julius Caesar is stabbed to death in the Roman Senate shortly after proclaiming himself Dictator of the Republic by Marcus Brutus, Gaius Cassius and other senators on the Ides of March.

673 - Tenmu crowned
Tenmu of Japan becomes Emperor and takes up the throne at the Palace of Kiyomihara in Asuka. He would go on to become a political and military reformer.

1241 - Mongols invade
The armies of Poland are defeated by those of the Mongols from northeast Asia in the Battle of Chmielnik, near Krakow.

1493 - Columbus returns
Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrives back in Spain following his first voyage to the Americas the previous year.

1621 - Pilgrims contacted
Samoset, a Native American from the Mohegan nation, becomes the first to make contact with the English settlers at the Plymouth Colony. He said hello, told them his name and asked for beer, according to accounts.

1804 - Napoleonic Code
The French Civil Code, or Napoleonic Code, is brought into law by the Emperor Napoleon. It would go on to influence the legal developments of several countries in Europe and elsewhere.

1962 - Dylan debuts
American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan releases his first studio album, which is self-titled. His music making still continues today.

1992 - Apartheid ends
South Africans vote 68.7 per cent to 31.2 per cent to put an end to Apartheid, the policy of legally requiring black people to live separately from white people.

DVD

Heat of the moment



IT is 2007, and Eric Marsh (Josh Brolin) of the Prescott Fire Department in Arizona is getting frustrated with the overruling of his suggestions for fighting forest fires.

Marsh gets permission from the town's mayor to organise its own 'hot-shot' crew dedicated to tackling the blazes. The new recruits are put to the test when the Yarnell Hill Fire breaks out.

Based on a true story, *Only the Brave* is a film about courage, camaraderie and sacrifice.

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.

Word Ladder

EASY

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

BEAT

EASY
EAST
VAST
VEST
BEST
BEAT
PEAT
PEST
PAST
EAST
EASY
Solution

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		

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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: Esme 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.euroweeklynews.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 - over-rated 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

Foods to boost your brainpower

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.

Dance yourself fit



ZUMBA: Combines dance with aerobics.

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.



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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 postmenopausal women and men over the age of 40, and when consumption is limited to two glasses of wine a week.

Going green for St Patrick's Day



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

ON Saint Patrick's Day, or Paddy's Day as the Irish like to call it, people all over the world claim their 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 Saint 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, Tor-

tosa and Zaragoza, the Tower of Hercules in A Coruña and the Marbella arches.

Mallorca will celebrate on Tuesday in Santa Ponsa with market stalls, marching bands, Irish dancers, a display of classical cars and Harley Davidson motorbikes, commercial cars and vans.

The Six Nations final between 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!



MONEY FOR NOTHING: Appearing in concert.

Sultans of Swing arrive in Palma

IF you missed last month's Dire Straits tribute there is a second and equally strong band playing the Palma Auditorium this Saturday.

As it becomes increasingly more difficult to attend the concerts of some of the great musicians of the 60's and 70's due to death, ill health or simple old age, it is becoming more and more attractive for audiences to attend 'tribute' concerts, performed by musicians who have studied their idols in minute detail and present musically perfect interpretations of the songs and music that fans know so well.

With Mark Knopfler concentrating on his

solo career and as a composer for film soundtracks, Dire Straits, the first group to sell one million CDs, have not performed together since 1995 and it appears unlikely that they ever will do so again despite their enormous success.

The Money for Nothing tribute band from the UK arrives, boasting that with their incendiary energy, the band formed in 2000 perfectly reconstruct both the sound and the look of one of the greatest rock bands in history.

Having received some rave reviews from British media, their show starts at 9pm and tickets cost €42.

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Having an ale of a time

MALLORCA'S first craft beer fair will be held at the Bierkönig Centre, in Playa de Palma, and will host a wide range of brands, including Beer Lovers, Cas Cerveser, Foreigner, Toutatis, Nau and Ralf.

The fair will be held from tomorrow to Sunday March 18, and will promote the island's best beer producers, as well as the finest culinary treats on offer from Typicde.

The doors will open tomorrow at 8pm and the fair will then stay open until 3am in the morning.

On Saturday and Sunday the opening hours will be from 12pm to 2am.

Entrance to the fair is free, with a



FEELING MALTY: Head to the Bierkönig Centre for Mallorca's first craft beer.



set price of €3 for a caña of craft beer.

Francisco Jimenez, the manager of Nova Hospitality, declared that the Playa de Palma was undoubtedly the ideal location to launch this kind of event, which will help to move the islands industry out of seasonal trade practices and generate business for local companies.

Different local bands will perform live every day, including The Red Suns, Old Noise and a Bon Jovi tribute group to help liven up the festivities.

The Bierkönig Centre has also recently introduced its own brand of 100 per cent artisanal beer with the name 'Nova Bierkönig'.

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Listen to the Genie of the Lamp



PANTOMIME season always ensured that at least one theatre somewhere in

ALADDIN: Love will conquer all.

the UK was packed with youngsters (and the not so young) cheering Aladdin and booing the wicked Abanazar.

All expatriates of a certain age will remember an elderly man dressed as Widow Twanky, a girl often playing Aladdin, Wishy and Washy, as well as the Genie of the Lamp.

Then along came Walt Disney Studios and turned the story into a heroic cartoon with music and all of the special effects that animation allows.

The natural progression was a stage musical and this will be presented at the Palma Auditorium on Saturday March 31 starting at 6pm with tickets costing €25 and €28.

This is a pure spectacle of song and dance where the goodies are good and the baddies are certainly very bad.

There's singing, dancing, fights and a magic carpet that will transport Aladdin and the Princess Jasmine across the silhouette of the city at night.

For those with very young children, little ones under three years of age don't have to pay and there are group discounts for bookings of four people or more at the Auditorium website.

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.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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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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.



Credit: twitter/goitorre

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

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 Colora 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.



Credit: guardiansun.es



DESERT DWELLING: The house is homage to the multi-purpose nature of glass.

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

Ref 3117, Vallgornera, 170,000€

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



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

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



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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



Ref 3118, Lluccmajor, 106,500€

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



Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

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



British buyers 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 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.



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



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**DICK
HANDSCOMBE**

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

How to have your own premium fruit by pruning and thinning



Photo Credit: Armas Vladimir / Shutterstock

■ GROW YOUR OWN: Peaches ripening on the tree.

sell in the markets.

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.

In gardening circles 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 quantity over quality that you want.

I remove two-thirds of my loquat tree's fruits to promote the largest fruits, as the trees are normally too abundant in quantity and the edible part of the loquat is small if not forced to become more enlarged.

Pruning to maintain a small tree requires shortening the leading branch, forming an open structure of branching from the trunk, removing branches too close to each other and shortening the side branches to the desired length.

Staying on deck

IF you want to carve out a space for spending quality time in your garden, for al fresco dining, reading or just to soak up the sun, some well designed decking will do just that.

It's important to think about the layout of your garden when planning your decking, and think how much space you'll have to use to make the most of it.

There's a wide range of different decking options available to suit your taste.

You could go for wood and create imaginative patterns using different shades, or opt for an environmentally friendly option by using plastic or wood waste blends.

Decking is also good for levelling out surfaces so it's a great idea if your garden is on a slope or slightly uneven.

You could lay out the decking across two separate levels and have steps linking them.

Taking your living room outside is very fashionable right now, so adding a bit of statement



■ DECKING HAPPY: Bring new life to your garden.

furniture with some stylish cushions and throws will help to create your own outdoor haven.

Use bold colours in complementary colours to really make an impact.

If you have any old furniture you're thinking of getting rid of, you could also give it a new lease of life by bringing it outside, as well as giving it a fresh lick of paint of course.



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Flea prevention time

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 1/4-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 also important to always rake



ITCHY: Protect your pup from fleas.

the leaves as flea larvae don't like light. Watering your lawn on a regular basis may also 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 blood-stain, 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 also have to treat your entire house.

Before buying every flea-destroying product on the market, thoroughly vacuum your house. Remove the vacuum bag, seal it and destroy it immediately, fleas are hearty parasites and will continue to live in the vacuum bag if not destroyed.

For dogs and cats (they can share fleas) a specially formulated flea bath product, available at your vet or pet store, will do the trick. Shampooing will have to be accompanied by extensive brushing with a flea comb.

Does your dog get nervous away from home?

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Why keep pets at home in their own environment?

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Is it puppy love?

OWNING a dog could make you look more attractive to strangers and get a date, according to new research.

People with dogs are often seen as being happier, more approachable and more empathetic.

Having a four-legged friend also suggests that men in particular are nurturing and capable of caregiving according to a chief adviser to *Match.com*, suggesting that they may make a good parent as well as a good partner.

One study that asked volunteers to rate people based on photographs, found they perceived someone as being happier, more relaxed and more trustworthy if they had a dog.

Meanwhile, experiments that sent men to ask for a woman's phone number found they were more successful if they had a dog with them.

A study on more than 1,200 *Match.com* users also found that nearly a third of people revealed they were 'more attracted to someone' because they had a pet, while more than half claimed they would not date someone who did not like pets.



PUPPY LOVE: Do people with pets have happier relationships?

Meanwhile most of the people who responded said they thought someone's choice in pets revealed a lot about their personality.

More than two-thirds of people also said they would judge their date based on how well they got along with their own pet.



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The very best in boating will soon arrive in Mallorca

BOATING lovers are counting down the days to the opening of the 35th Palma International Boat Show which will run from April 27 to May 1.

Once again, the Superyacht Show (the sixth to be held) will run side by side with this increasingly popular show.

So important are the shows now considered to be, that an increasing number of exhibitors have applied for space at the Moll Vell, and the amount of exhibition area is to increase by 15 per cent this year.

This means that the show will now take in the Muelle de la Industria Pesquera, so that the total area available will exceed 80,000 square metres.

In order to make it easier for visitors to view every exhibitor and to ensure that there are no 'dead areas', a temporary floating bridge will be constructed to link the areas of the Espigon de Consigna with the newly added Muelle de la Industria Pesquera.

The temporary bridge will be constructed in such a manner that it may be moved quick-



SHIP AHOY: A scene from the 2017 Palma International Boat Show.

ly and easily to allow access and exit of the exhibitor's vessels.

Bearing in mind the fact that the sister show hosts some exceptionally large Superyachts, the expansion will allow mooring of a

larger number of boats that can reach up to 65 metres in length.

The shows will be open from 11am until 8pm, except for the Saturday night where it will remain open until 11pm to allow for the

traditional Sea Night with additional entertainment.

Not only is this a great opportunity for Mallorca to promote its important position as a destination for leisure boating and the repair and commercial aspects of the business, it is also a superb employment opportunity for those in need of temporary work.

For the second year running, the show will host the Boat Show Investment Forum, which is aimed at entrepreneurs or start-up projects (with fewer than two years) and companies undergoing a growth phase (with more than two years) related to the boating sector, who are seeking private capital investment.

This Forum will take place on Monday April 30 at 11am in the conference room at Ports de Balears and anyone interested in participating, either as an investor or entrepreneur, should visit <http://www.keiretsuforum.es>.

To find out more about the show and also when it will be possible to purchase advance tickets, visit www.boatshowpalma.com/en.

The importance of the boating industry

DURING the sixth Nautical Congress held in Palma last week, it emerged that the Balearics boating industry generates €407 million a year.

According to a paper produced by Alfonso Novales and Maribel Martínez of the University of Madrid, the Balearics and Cataluña between them account for 40 per cent of Spain's total earnings from the nautical leisure industry.

With almost 200 businesses, Palma has the largest number of any city in Spain and the industry as a whole employs nearly 20,000 people directly and more than 60,000 indirectly across the country.

As the nautical capital of Spain, Mallorca is doing all that it can to train and educate new local people to become involved in the industry, whilst the annual Palma International Boat Show is an important showcase for the island, as well as a generator of valuable income.

Boat lovers will flock to Benalmadena

THE first South Spain Boat Show will be held at the Benalmadena Marina for four days from next Wednesday to the following Saturday.

Some of the most important shipyards in the area will be taking part, with a number of new models from various makers unveiled, as well as a selection of second-hand boats.

The organisers hope that this will become a major date in the boating calendar of the Costa del Sol and believe that visitors this year will get a taste of the excitement and pleasure associated with boating.

The exhibition will cover an approximate area of 2,500 square metres, and will be located in the boatyard of the port of Benalmadena and there will be a marquee erected in the esplanade.

The show is not just a com-



BENALMADENA MARINA: Will welcome the South Spain Boat Show.

mercial space for lovers of these boats, "we also want to encourage activities related to navigation at sea among visitors, such as rides, or give ba-

sic notions of boat handling," said the organiser.

Companies from around Malaga Province will be taking part in the show which is open

from 10am to 7pm and all who wish to attend as visitors will need to register by calling 952 564 700 or online at www.vaderobenalmadena.com.

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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.

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



Credit: Twitter

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

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.



NEW LOOK: The Nissan Micra.

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

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 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."



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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

successive 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 re-

main 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.

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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.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

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 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 should



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

der 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 penal-

ties for accidentally striking the ball twice in the course of a shot removed while regulations involving lost and out of bounds balls will be relaxed.

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

"So I think there are practical difficulties and philosophically one of the fundamental tenets of the game is that you play the ball as it lies.

"Playing the ball as it lies and playing the course as you find it are fundamental aspects of the sport."

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