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ISSUE No. 1707 || 22 - 28 March 2018

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Tragedy strikes

by Matt Ford

A young British man who fell to his death from a Palma de Mallorca balcony has been named.

James Walton, 22, was on a placement year from Sheffield Hallam University and was killed after a St Patrick's Day party with friends.

Doctors said the language student died due to fatal head injuries after plummeting from a fourth floor balcony onto the pavement below.

Originally from Ealing in London, he had been in Mallorca since last September to work as a global loyalty intern at Melia Hotels International.

The placement was part of his Bachelor's degree in Languages with International Business, of which he was in his third year.

Detectives currently believe that he lost his balance after a heavy drinking session with workmates and friends visiting from the UK.

A post-mortem examination took place yesterday.

James' body was found lying on Calle Aragon in Palma city centre by a pedestrian early on Sunday morning.



Photo credit Facebook/Google

Medics pronounced him dead at the scene after attempts to revive him failed.

His friends reportedly had no idea that he had fallen until police knocked on the door of their flat.

Investigators are not currently treating the incident as suspicious, and an official confirmed: "At this point in time everything is pointing towards it being accidental."

Friends have paid tribute to him via Facebook, with Melia colleague Maja Jaroszewska writing:

"Words can't describe how heartbroken we feel to have lost you so soon and so unexpected.

"You are forever in our

hearts. We will remember you, doing your amazing dance moves and winning dance offs with strangers.

"Thank you for being in my life."

A Foreign Office official told UK media: "We are in touch with local police and are providing bereavement advice to his family, following the death of a British man in Mallorca."

FATAL PLUNGE: The block of flats from which James (inset) fell.

See us on page 24



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See us on Page 37

Corruption appeal bid

PROSECUTORS have requested that the Spanish Supreme Court extend the sentences of Iñaki Urdangarin and Diego Torres to 10 and more than 12 years respectively.

The request comes as Urdangarin's lawyers asked for an acquittal, arguing he was not involved in the corruption alleged by prosecutors.

Urdangarin and Torres were both found guilty by a court in Palma of embezzlement, fraud and tax offences while working for the Balearic Islands Forum in 2005 and 2006.

Urdangarin was sentenced to six years and three months in prison and Torres to eight and a half years by the court. The hearings continue.

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NEWS EXTRA

No time to spare

DAYLIGHT saving time starts this weekend, with clocks going forward by an hour at 1am on Saturday, meaning we will lose an hour of sleep, but benefit from an earlier sunrise and sunset until October.

Appy tax

THE Spanish Tax Agency has released a mobile phone app - available by searching 'Agencia Tributaria' on both Google Play and Apple app stores - to help citizens submit their tax returns, this year's campaign running from April 4 to June 27.

By the book

THE Euro Weekly News Facebook page has soared past 25,000 'likes,' a year-on-year leap of more than 31 per cent, as the EWN website and social media continue to demonstrate rapid growth in 2018.

'We will defend our right to housing!'

by Joe Gerrard

MEMBERS of a pro-Catalan leftist group have hung a banner on a fence at the headquarters of the Consell de Mallorca's Town Planning department in protest over tourist rental properties.

Arran reportedly worked with the Endavant Osan group to display the banner, which claimed there were some 95,000 tourist flats in Palma.

The banner, written in Catalan, read: "There are 95,000 tourist rentals, we will stop them and defend our right to housing."

The two groups have reportedly claimed the action will be the first in a series of demonstrations over holiday properties planned for the coming months.

Tourist rentals are increasingly becoming an issue for Mallorcans, with some arguing they drive up residential rent and reduce the number of houses available. Opponents of groups such



PROTEST: The banner said the group would defend the right to housing of those in Palma.

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Est: 1978

as Arran argue such actions and opinions are 'tourist-phobic.'

The protest comes as 12 members of the group remain on trial for their alleged involvement in an anti-mass tourism demonstration in Palma's harbour last summer. Four of the 12 defendants claimed they were not at the demonstration in July last year.

It saw protestors carrying banners bearing anti-mass tourism slogans near bars and restaurants with holidaymakers inside. All the defendants deny the charges. The trial continues.

Burglary call airs

A NEWS programme has broadcast a recording of the owner of a house allegedly robbed in Porreres talking to the 112 emergency services line.

Pau Rigo, who shot one of the alleged thieves dead, made the phone call shortly after the gang reportedly broke into his home.

The recording, broadcast on Antena 3's Espejo Público programme, appeared to show the 77-year-old in distress while talking to the operative.

"Please, they're robbing me and my wife, it's very urgent. They're armed and they've caused us a lot of damage," the man can be heard saying in the recording.

"Please, come quickly, they have returned with reinforcements. They are armed with pistols, they will kill us, they are breaking the door," Rigo later says in the recording.

The recording comes as police continue to investigate the events surrounding the alleged break in that led to the death of 25-year-old Mauricio Escobar.

Escobar's family have reportedly begun seeking a private prosecutor to take the 77-year-old to court over the shooting.

Rigo's lawyers are expected to argue that he acted in self defence and feared for his life when he testifies in court in Manacor in the coming days. The investigation continues.

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Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

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MOTORING

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



P45

Vicious doctor attack

A DOCTOR was left with bruises to her head, neck and back after a patient allegedly came into her office and assaulted her with a computer keyboard. The patient, reportedly treated minutes before the attack, was restrained by workers and patients outside her office.

Teacher trial

A 54-YEAR-OLD who taught at a Lluçmajor school has been sentenced after being found guilty of downloading and sharing child pornography online. The court handed down an 18-month suspended prison sentence and disqualified the defendant from working with children for six and a half years.

Budget ideas

RESIDENTS of Palma will be able to propose projects for the city council's upcoming budget from now until April 8. A total of €1.5 million has been allocated to the participatory budget scheme, with a vote to determine the most popular ideas set for September.

Police meeting

NATIONAL POLICE representatives have met with Palma residents' associations to discuss their concerns and problems affecting the city. More officers were reportedly requested for the Mallorcan capital to deal with anti-social behaviour, with police stating that they would aim to use their resources efficiently.

War probe

THE office of the Balearic Public Prosecutor has said investigations into murders committed in Mallorca during the Spanish Civil War will have to halt until an Amnesty Law is passed. The probe relates to killings on the island between August 1936 and March 1937.

Spring break!

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 6



TOTAL WIPEOUT: Huge waves batter the Galician coast.

SPRING has sprung, but the winter chill lingers on.

Much of Spain has spent the week in the grip of a deep Siberian cold front that brought blizzards, strong winds and giant waves.

The north and centre of the country was badly affected by snow, with almost 200 stretches of road closed and schools shut down in Galicia, Cantabria, Asturias, Castilla y Leon, Castilla-La

Mancha and Cataluña.

Meanwhile a second storm battered southern Spain, with five-metre waves and gale-force winds lashing Andalucía and the Balearic Islands.

A motorist was killed in Jaen Province before a Guardia Civil officer lost his life after being swept away by flood waters while rescuing three people in Guillena, Sevilla.

The Arctic blast saw tempera-

tures plummet, with the mercury in some regions plunging to between 10-15°C below average for the time of year.

And the freezing snap came as the country said an official goodbye to winter on Tuesday, the first day of spring.

Falling on the vernal equinox, the date on which day and night both last for around 12 hours, it usually takes place on March 19, 20 or 21.

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Do you have news for us?

Email: newsdesk@euroweeklynews.com
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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1706 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 33 local stories.

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On the wing



Photo credit Matt Ford/Shutterstock

IN A FLAP: A huge group of white storks arrives at Tarifa in Cadiz and (inset) a short-toed snake eagle makes the crossing.

It is one of Europe's greatest natural spectacles. And the annual spring migration of millions of birds from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar to breed in Europe is in full swing.

With just 14 kilometres separating the two continents at the Strait, the area serves up ideal conditions for huge numbers of large soaring species from storks to raptors including eagles, kites, and vultures.

This is because they are not strong flyers, and rely on thermals - the columns of rising air that form above the land as it warms in the sun - to travel.

But thermals do not form over water, meaning the birds have to use the narrowest hop possible, rising as high as possible in Morocco before gliding over to Spain.

Spread over several months, peak numbers are observed from March to May, and on a good day it is possible to see literally thousands of birds of prey, storks and smaller birds make the crossing.

Although some stay in Spain, many continue on

their epic journeys to northern Europe, Greenland or Russia, having already crossed the Sahara, the world's largest desert, with some racking up more than 5,000 kilometres.

But there is concern that the migration is in danger, with the numbers of birds returning to their breeding grounds plummeting in recent years, with some species in danger of disappearing completely.

Threats from hunting to illegal poisoning, power lines, wind farms and draining of wetlands have had a devastating effect on populations, which are thought to have halved to 2.1 billion since the 1950s.

Yet it is still a not-to-be-missed extravaganza for nature buffs.

There are a number of dedicated migration watchpoints along the coast between Gibraltar and the kite surfing mecca of Tarifa, Cadiz, and the website [## POLL OF THE WEEK](http://c/ is a good source of information should you wish to take your seat for one of the greatest shows on earth.</p>
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In the wake of national protests, should Spain introduce life prison sentences for a wider range of crimes?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

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

Yes **67%**

No **33%**

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TOP 5 stories



COUPLE: Must pay £15,000 in costs to Tui for fraudulent claim.

- 8,339** views Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 for fake claim
- 8,132** views Police find body of missing eight-year-old boy in Spain
- 5,780** views Girl who died in window fall was daughter of woman arrested with body of dead boy in car
- 5,734** views Father's girlfriend confesses that she killed Gabriel Cruz Ramirez
- 4,227** views Drunk and aggressive Brit pair held after clash with airport police

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NEWS EXTRA

Tourism transfer passed

THE Balearic government has approved passing on responsibility for tourism to the authorities of each of the islands on April 1, with the government council set to sign off the decision by decree this Friday.

Archive move

THE director of Spanish radio and television has said the body's Balearic audiovisual archive will be returned to the islands after the matter was raised by Deputy Pere Joan Pons in the parliament in Madrid.

Rate rejected

THE European Commission has ruled out capping the price of flights between the Balearic Islands at €30 due to it violating regulations, adding that the measure could not currently be justified.

Prescription scam



ARRESTED: The 36-year-old allegedly used more than 100 fake prescriptions.

A 36-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for allegedly using more than 100 counterfeit prescriptions in order to buy drugs.

Police reportedly received a complaint from a doctor in Palma who claimed that he had detected numerous counterfeit prescriptions using his signature and seal.

After an investigation in collaboration with the General Directorate of Pharmacy of the Balearic Islands, they found a man who had allegedly used more than 100 counterfeit prescriptions across the island to obtain drugs only available via prescription, namely Zolpidem.

Zolpidem, also known as Stilnox, is a 'hypnotic' drug used to treat sleeping problems and is only available to purchase at pharmacies with a prescription.

Police were able to locate and arrest the man and at the time of his arrest, he allegedly had several prescriptions ready to be used as well as a stamp with the name and number of the doctor who had made the complaint.

It is not currently known whether the drugs were bought for personal use or whether they were later sold on to other people.

Sea life project launched

A WHALE and dolphin association has announced a study into marine animals living in the waters around Mallorca with the support of the Environment Ministry.

La Asociacion Turisops plan to examine how many creatures are present in the sea around the island with a view to having them incorporated into the Natura 2000 network.

The study is set to see researchers measure sounds made by marine animals throughout the year. It will examine whales and dolphins as well as birds and sea turtles.

It is part of a project backed by the Government of the Balearic Islands' Directorate General of Marine Environment.

The data collected will be analysed together with information from 2015 to provide a broader view of sea life in the area, according to reports.

The whale and dolphin species to be examined include common and sperm whales, as well as bottle-nosed, common and striped dolphins, among others.

Natura 2000 is a European Union body that works to support conservation areas for habitats throughout the continent.

The study is part of the Life Ip-Intermares project which aims to provide information on species under threat in order to help decide which areas should be declared as protected.

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Footie star's brekky quiz

HE'S the Liverpool legend who saved two penalties in a Champions League final shootout.

And Jerzy Dudek, 44, proved he is the master of confusion after showing off his eccentric breakfast choice while holidaying in Spain.

The Polish goalkeeper famously employed the 'spaghetti legs' tactic used by former Reds 'keeper Bruce Grobbelaar to distract opposition players during penalties at the end of the 2005 final against AC Milan, which Liverpool won 3-2.

And he warmed up for a round of golf in La Manga, Murcia, by tucking into a peculiar combination of baked beans, croissants, salami and half a cherry tomato on a cocktail stick.

He even posed with the meal before posting a snap on social media, captioned: 'What is your breakfast like? Mine today is to give a good result in the field.'

GOLDEN GIRL: Kylie's career has spanned three decades.

Photo credit Jerzy Dudek/Instagram



FULL SPANGLISH: Jerzy Dudek.



Photo credit Twitter

Minogue in vogue

SHE'S the pint-sized pop star on a whistle stop tour to promote her new album.

And Australian singer Kylie Minogue, 49, was all smiles as she stepped off the plane at Barcelona Airport clad in a fluffy white jumper.

The *Can't Get You Out Of My Head* hitmaker was in Spain ahead of her 14th long player Golden hitting the shops on April 6.

Reality lovebirds frolic on the beach



Photo credit Metisse Campbell/Instagram

SURVIVORS: Metisse and Tristan.

THEY hit it off while competing against each other in the South African savannah on *Survival of the Fittest*. And Metisse Campbell, 21, and Tristan Jones, 20, showed they are still going strong after being snapped on a Spanish beach.

The reality stars jetted off for their first holiday as a couple in the wake of their appearance on the ITV2 show dubbed the 'ultimate battle of the sexes.'

While Tristan donned a pair of pink swimming shorts, Metisse sent temperatures soaring after slipping into a revealing red bikini.

She was crowned the fittest of the winning girls' team at the end of the series and chose to split her £40,000 winnings with her teammates.

The pair were both models before their TV stint.



Celeb focus

Benidorm love story



Photo credit Laila Zaidi/Instagram

BESOTTED: Liam and Zaidi.

TWO members of the Benidorm cast have revealed they are a real life couple.

Adam Gillen plays Liam Conroy while Laila Zaidi joined the latest series as Rob Dawson's girlfriend Cyd.

And the pair appear to have got together while filming last summer, with a slew of social media selfies showing them together, including a recent jaunt to paradise island Mauritius.

Fun in the sun

IT'S a coming together of reality TV royalty.

Former *Ex on the Beach* and *TOWIE* star Megan McKenna and *Love Island* hunk 'Muggy' Mike Thalassitis have confirmed they are an item.

It comes after a series of racy snaps appeared of the pair as they holidayed together in Tenerife.

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OUR VIEW

NGOs must boost employees' rights

THE revelations about charity employees' wages in Spain are nothing short of a disgrace.

Full-time workers for giant non-profit organisations (NGOs) including the Red Cross, the country's biggest, can earn less than €800 per month gross, while managers bring home €3,500 plus.

The third sector rakes in €14 billion annually, representing 1.5 per cent of Spain's gross domestic product.

So why can it not afford to pay its staff a decent wage?

NGOs are by definition supposed to balance investments against revenue, but the behaviour of some suggests they are becoming ever more corporate.

And in a sector which aims to tug at the heart strings as it appeals for donations, there is an irony in the fact that many of its employees are victims of the same human rights issues they are battling to overturn elsewhere.

One anonymous staff member told Spanish media: "One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

This smacks of a worryingly institutionalised corporate approach by charity bosses in Spain, and suggests that NGOs may to an extent perpetuate the problems they were set up to solve.

Charity wage woe goes on - page 22

Now we want to hear your views.
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That's nearly a rap!

by Joe Gerrard

SPAIN'S National Court has begun moves to enact the rapper Josep Miguel Arenas' jail sentence, who failed to overturn a guilty verdict related to his song lyrics in an appeal.

The artist's legal team were given three days to present a case against his imprisonment last Tuesday. He would have 10 days to voluntarily enter prison after that if no further appeal is lodged in the courts, according to reports.

The rapper, who performs under the name Valtonyc, can request through his lawyers a suspension of the three and a half year sentence.

Suspension of the sentence is possible due to each of the crimes the 24-year-old was found guilty of carrying less than two years in jail.

The National Court has also ordered the seizure of a car belonging to the rapper in order to cover the €3,000 compensation to Jorge Campos.



Credit: Josep Arenas, via Facebook

FACING JAIL: Arenas, otherwise known as Valtonyc, was given three days to file a new appeal against his sentence.

Campos, the leader of the regionalist party Circulo Balear, was awarded damages after the court ruled the artist insulted him in one of his songs. The 24-year-old has been given a 10-day window to hand over the keys and documentation for the vehicle.

Arenas was sentenced to serve three and a half years in prison after courts ruled he glorified terrorism, slandered the monarchy and threatened politicians.

He attempted to appeal the sentence in Spain's Supreme Court but judges upheld it fol-

lowing a hearing last month.

The court ruled that lyrics in the songs glorified terror groups such as the Basque nationalist organisation ETA and the leftist militants GRAPO. He was also found guilty of insulting the crown and threatening politicians.

'The king has a date in the town square with a rope around his neck,' was one of the lyrics referenced by the court in their ruling.

The rapper's defence team argued the lyrics were intended to be allegorical and provocative but that they were not to be taken literally. The 24-year-old said he has been targeted for expressing his political views.

Arenas is reportedly considering taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights for a further appeal but this has not been confirmed.

Susanna Moll, a deputy mayor on Palma's city council, said the authority would not officially support a demonstration for the rapper to be freed.



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Credit: Guardia Civil

INVESTIGATION: Two people have been investigated following the discovery.

Turtley wrong!

TWO people have been investigated by the Guardia Civil in Sant Joan after being found with a stuffed turtle.

The stuffed animal, which is a green turtle, is listed as endangered by both the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

And it is believed that the two men found in possession of the animal did not have the correct legal documentation.

Green turtles, also known as the Chelonia Mydas, can be found in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and to possess the endangered animal without the correct documentation to prove the origin of the animal is a crime against flora and fauna.

NEWS EXTRA

Handgun control

THE Guardia Civil have said changes in arms regulations mean handguns not legally registered before this Saturday will have to be handed in to authorities, with unauthorised possession carrying a fine of up to €600.

Booze embargo

MAYORS from across Mallorca have jointly proposed measures to curb the promotion, sale and consumption of alcohol on the island at a meeting in Palma last Thursday, stating that binge drinking needed to be reduced.

Bottle brawl

A MAN accused of smashing a bottle over another's head following a fight in a nightclub in the Paseo Marítimo area of Palma has been arrested.

Corruption running riot

A RANKING of Spanish regions in terms of people being prosecuted on corruption charges has placed the Balearic Islands first for 2017 in proportion to its population.

A total of 40 people were issued with indictments or had oral proceedings brought against them in the islands, according to data from the General Council of the Judiciary.

A total of 411 people were charged with corruption nationally. Andalusia had the highest ranking overall with 144 people brought before the courts.

The number of people per head indicted for corruption in the Balearic Islands was one in every 29,000. The figure for

Andalusia was one in every 58,000. The Balearic Islands topped the ranking for 2017 in relative terms, followed by the Canary Islands.

The number of convictions for corruption nationally was 26 for the final three months of 2017. Seven of those convicted were in the Balearic Islands and only Andalusia, with five convictions, and Valencia, with three, had higher than two during that time.

A total of 33 of the 40 indicted for corruption in the Balearic Islands were men while seven were women. The number of Spanish nationals in that figure was 39, with one non-EU citizen also charged.

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Illegal site still in limbo

PALMA Council's Town Planning Department is set to decide on the legal situation of the Cursach Group's Megapark site 'within weeks', according to reports.

Jose Hila, a deputy mayor from the authority, said council workers were examining claims from the company that it was improperly denied licences for some of its venues.

The licence for Megapark, a leisure complex in the Platja de Palma area of the city, was refused after a report stated it did not meet legal requirements in February.

The announcement comes as the company announced it was filing for 'pre-insolvency' on March 9 despite a €70 million turnover last year and declaring a profit.

Pre-insolvency is an arrangement that allows a business to enter into debt negotiations with creditors to source funds before bankruptcy is declared. The time allowed for talks is three months.

The news comes as Bartolome Cursach, the head of the group, appeared in court last week accused of illegally possessing firearms.

NEWS EXTRA

Museum warning

THE Ciudadanos group on the Consell de Mallorca has claimed the island's new Maritime Museum will be 'born dead' due to the lack of funding they expect it to receive.

Four gassed

THREE adults and one four-year-old boy were reportedly taken to the Son Espases hospital in a serious condition, after inhaling butane gas from a stove for several hours in their home in Palma.

Plane deal

MALLORCA is set to receive a new firefighting plane ahead of the summer campaign against blazes in Spain, after the Environment Ministry reached an agreement with two companies to rent 10 aircraft nationally.

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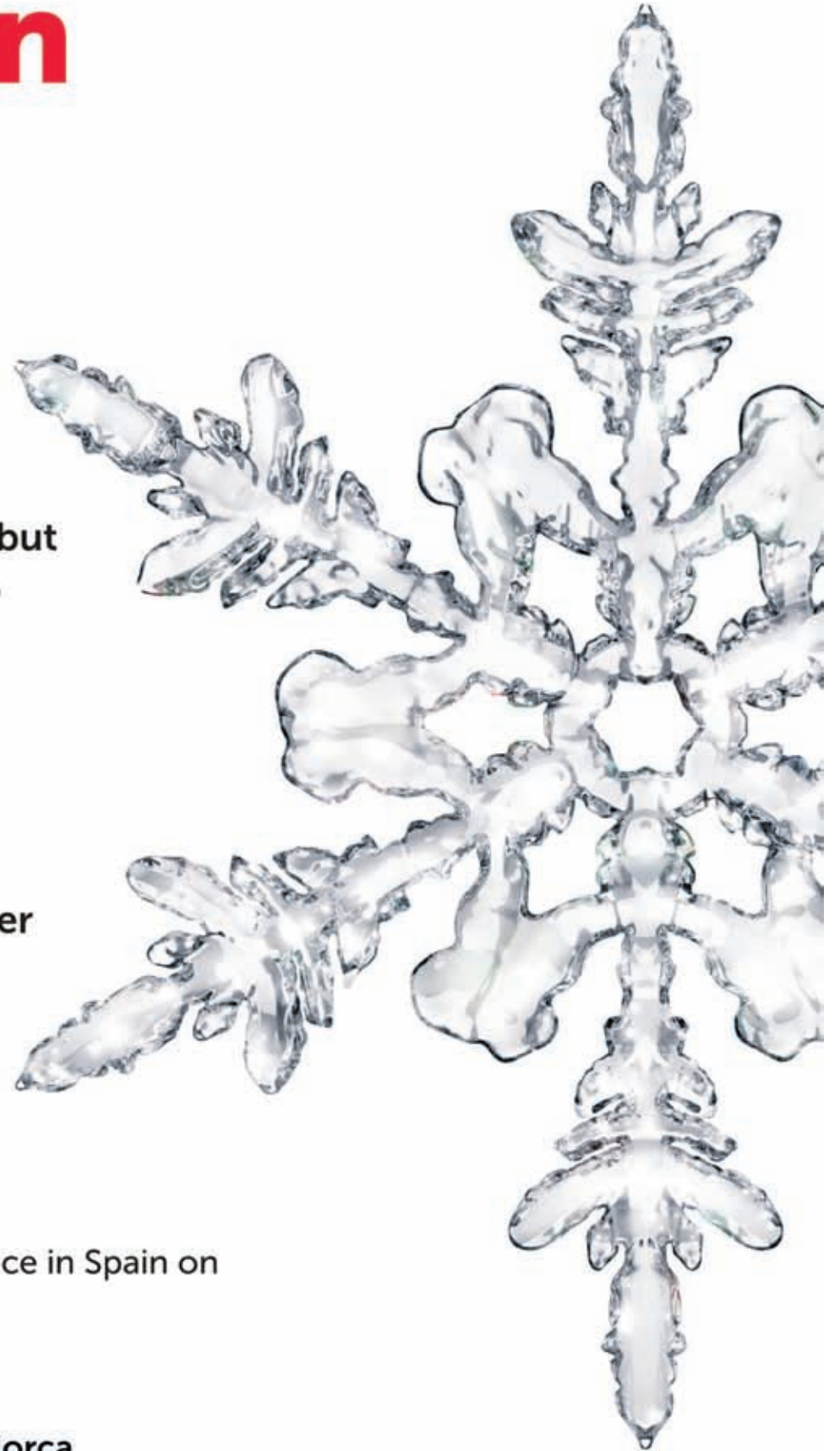
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TripAdvisor fined € 300,000

POPULAR travel website TripAdvisor has been fined €300,000 by the Balearic government for allegedly advertising tourist houses in Mallorca that don't comply with current regulations.

Vice President of the Balearic Islands Government and Minister of Tourism, Isabel Busquets reportedly specified that 25 'screenshots'

had been seen, clearly showing the website of offering the 'illegal' places.

Vice President Busquets is also quoted as saying that there were "many more than those 25" while also stating that monitoring is being done to check other similar platforms, many of which comply with current Balearic legislation.



SEIZED: The couple had allegedly spent more than €18,000 in just a few days.

Wheeler stealers

Couple arrested on suspicion of theft

A COUPLE has been arrested in Palma after they allegedly stole an estimated €30,000 from a disabled

family member. According to reports, the National Police received a complaint from a 53-year-old man, who suffers from a physical disability and requires a wheelchair as a result, claiming that he had woken up in the Palma hospital with no recollection of how he got there.

The man suspected that his nephew may have given him more medication than he usually takes for his disability in order to take advantage of him.

He reportedly continued to tell police that he kept

€30,000 in his wheelchair and also claimed that his nephew, who was allegedly staying with him for two

weeks while he was having remodelling work done to his house, knew that he kept the money there as he had seen him give €1,000 to the builder in charge of the works.

Following the complaint police launched an official investigation and quickly made a shocking discovery.

They found that the couple had allegedly spent more than €18,000 in the space of a few days, including two vehicles priced at a combined €5,900, six months memberships to a gym, several electronic devices

and had also begun dental treatment which they had budgeted at more than €4,000.

During a search of the couple's property, officers also found €2,000 in cash hidden behind a painting.

As a result the couple, a 32-year old man and a 30-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of theft.

NEWS EXTRA

Archive spending

THE Consell de Mallorca has earmarked €350,000 to support the organisation and improvement of official and private archives, with a new coordination centre for old documents also set to be created.

Price war

MENORCAN hoteliers are reportedly concerned a rivalry could emerge with their competitors in Mallorca over a share in the British tourist market, with those in the industry predicting prices could be cut to attract holidaymakers.

Fuel rules

HEAVY vehicles such as tractors, harvesters and diggers will now be exempt from the ban on diesel vehicles in the Balearic Islands, which begins in 2025, due to there being no electric equivalents.

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NEWS EXTRA

Suicide prevented

FOUR National Police officers stopped an 18-year-old girl from throwing herself off the roof of an apartment block in Palma by grabbing her from behind after receiving a call from her mother.

Toilet battle

SEWAGE authorities have backed the 'Do not feed the monster' campaign to discourage Mallorcans from throwing wipes down the toilet, with councils also backing the drive due to extra costs caused by such waste.

Girl found

THE Spanish Missing Persons service has said they have found 16-year-old Sara Estelia Coello Barb, who was reported as having disappeared in Palma after she did not return home from school last Friday.

Rent rates

IT currently costs between €700 and €900 per month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in the Platja area of Palma due to high demand, according to data from the Balearic College of Real Estate Agents.

Crash delays

TRAFFIC was reportedly backed up on the s'Arenal motorway in the direction of Palma due to five accidents on Monday which involved 10 cars and injured four people, including collisions and flipped vehicles.

Drug busts

AROUND 200 Guardia Civil officers took part in a Mallorca-wide anti-drug operation, which saw police, accompanied by air units, seize large quantities of substances from Palma, Felanitx and other areas.

ENTREPRENEUR and film producer, Jaume Roures, has approached the Mallorca authorities about the possibility of creating a project that merges Picasso's Guernica painting with the dome painted by Mallorca artist Miquel Barcelo at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

The project would involve creating an interactive, audio-visual tour encompassing the key points of the two works

created by these Spanish artists, which remain significantly important contemporary art references.

The Mallorca authorities are allegedly interested in the enterprise, since it would signify a cultural milestone of its kind for Mallorca. However, everything

will depend on the budget and the possibilities, according to the Councillor for Culture, Fanny Tur.

"Mallorca has been chosen as the base of this project, which will unite these two pieces of contemporary art, because it is Barcelo's homeland," said Tur. "It is

a very interesting project, but first we must know what the budget is, and once we have the paperwork and know the cost we will present it to the Es Baluard museum board."

Tur revealed that Roures is in the process of applying for permits.

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NORWAY



Ice cool

ARTISTS from Chinese city, Harbin constructed a church made entirely out of ice on a ski slope near the village of Beitostolen in an effort to attract more Chinese tourists to Norway's ski resorts.



Credit: Thoughts of Norway/Facebook

CHILLY CHURCH: Tourists observing the new ice building in Beitostolen

Crown taken

NORWAY'S title as the world's happiest country has officially been snatched by Finland, with the winner decided by factors such as good governance, generosity, health and income.

boards 10 years ago, the legislation has allegedly not had any impact.

Listhaug removed a Facebook post that caused controversy by claiming the nation's Labour Party considers 'the rights of terrorists (to be) more important than the security of the nation.'

MP controversy

NORWAY'S Justice Minister Sylvi

Board balance

ALTHOUGH Norway introduced a law that required companies to have at least 40 per cent women on their

GERMANY



Spending up

THE sharpest increase in consumer spending in Germany since 1994 was seen in 2017, according to the Federal Statistics Office, around €1.64 trillion splurged on personal goods, an increase of 3.6 per cent from the previous year.

lor Angela Merkel when he said he believes 'Islam does not belong' to the country in an alleged attempt to win back voters from the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

the US, noting a rise in deaths caused by an addiction to legal painkillers.

Leaders meet

GERMANY'S chancellor Angela Merkel visited Paris to meet with President Emmanuel Macron to discuss EU reforms such as bringing in a common Eurozone finance minister and budget.

Opioid crisis

ONE of Germany's leading newspapers claimed the country was on the brink of an opioid epidemic, as has been seen in

Causing conflict

HORST SEEHOFER, Germany's new interior minister, contradicted Chancel-

FRANCE



Joining forces

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has supported the UK's assertion that Russia was behind the poisoning of a former spy with a nerve agent, saying he plans to 'take action.'

Regal warrant

AN arrest warrant was issued for Princess Hassa bint Salman of the House of Saud, daughter of Saudi Arabia's King Salman, in Paris after she reportedly ordered her bodyguard to assault her decorator at her apartment.

Rail strike

FRENCH rail workers will stage strikes on two days out of five from April until June unless the government drops its plan to overhaul the state-owned operator SNCF which would strip the employees of several benefits.

Bling ring

POLICE have revealed a gang of teenage burglars were behind more than 1,500 break-ins over six months across the south of France looting up to a dozen houses a day.

BELGIUM



Royal visit

KING PHILIPPE and Queen Mathilde of Belgium recently visited Canada for a state visit, marking the first state visit by Belgian royalty since the 1970s.

Beer bother

MONKS from the Belgian village of Westvleteren who allegedly make the best beer in the world were outraged to discover that the Jan Linders supermarket sold bottles at around five times the usual price.

Footie fail

A DUTCH football player who played for Westerlo is suspected of carrying out armed robberies on a casino, a petrol station, a supermarket and two gambling offices in Turnhout.

Easy peasy

THE Belgian parliament has approved a bill that will allow foreign workers to be able to receive their work and residence permits in a single document, helping to speed up the relocation process.

NETHERLANDS



Sleep tight

ONE in five Dutch people have trouble sleeping, according to the national statistics agency CBS, with women, people on low incomes and older people more likely to sleep badly according to the research.

National snide

POPULIST party Leefbaar Rotterdam has claimed it wants to introduce new legislation to stop streets becoming 'un Dutch,' meaning it could prevent halal butchers, phone shops and other 'foreign' stores from opening.

Pot o' gold

WORKERS in the Dutch city of Vianen discovered an earthenware cooking pot containing more than 500 silver and gold coins dating back to the 15th century while carrying out excavation work.

Safety first

DUTCH car insurers have called for a 'black box' to be installed in every vehicle in order to increase traffic safety, make handling damage claims easier and prevent insurance fraud.

SWEDEN



Smart move

SWEDISH banking giant Nordea will move the company's head office from Stockholm to Helsinki so it can be within the European banking union, after 97 per cent of the bank's owners voted in favour.

Close call

MOUNTAIN rescue teams rescued six French tourists who went missing in the Swedish mountains after searching through the night using snowmobiles because the weather was too bad to use a helicopter.

Making progress

NORTH KOREA'S foreign minister Ri Yong-Ho travelled to Sweden for key talks with foreign minister Margot Wallström, to discuss setting up a meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un.

Tongues twisted

FINNISH-SPEAKING Swedes who are the country's largest national minority and are entitled to Finnish lessons in school claim their minority language rights are being threatened with students claiming they are constantly told to stop speaking Finnish.

DENMARK



Migrant halt

NEARLY 5,500 foreign citizens have been refused entry to Denmark at its border with Germany, according to the Danish National Police, since the new controls were brought in at the beginning of 2016.

Debate drama

THE leader of the Danish Social Democrat party is facing criticism after seemingly suggesting a Danish-Somali woman was less entitled to take part in a debate because of her immigrant background.

Family tragedy

A 39-YEAR-OLD man has been found guilty of murdering his wife and three children, after admitting the crimes at the start of his trial, in the Bronshøj neighbourhood near Copenhagen at a Frederiksberg City Court.

Park shooting

A 24-YEAR-OLD man linked to the Loyal to Familia crime gang died after being shot in Valby Park in Copenhagen, but police have declined to comment on whether the incident was connected to any possible connection.



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An offer they could refuse

A SPANISH restaurant chain is unable to trademark its name after European judges ruled it could 'shock and offend' people.

It comes after Italy launched a complaint after Spanish chain La Mafia, which runs 42 Italian eateries, applied to trademark the name La Mafia Se Sienta a la Mesa (The Mafia take a Seat at the Table).

But the European Court of Justice said that the Godfather-style branding is not compatible with 'fundamental EU values.'

Ryanair lands new airline

By Matt Ford

RYANAIR has agreed to buy a majority stake in a new Austrian airline founded by former motor racing champion Niki Lauda.

Europe's largest budget carrier will buy an initial 24.9 per cent stake in Laudamotion, which recently regained control of airline Niki from insolvent former owner Air Berlin.

This will rise to 75 per cent 'as soon as possible,' subject to European Union approval, the carriers said in a statement, with Ryanair set to pay a total of around €50 million.

It is the Irish low cost giant's first acquisition since it bought UK airline Buzz from KLM in 2003, closing it down a year later.

It has since tried to take over Aer Lingus and last year pulled out of an auction for Air Berlin last year amid claims that it was rigged in favour of German rival Lufthansa.

Lauda will become chairman of Laudamotion and oversee the company's rebuilding, while Ryanair will provide six crewed aircraft this summer to increase its fleet to 21

planes, with further expansion to 30 jets planned within three years.

Ryanair has reportedly beaten off competition from Lufthansa and British Airways parent IAG to secure the deal, which will see it launch a major push on the German and Austrian markets.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary said in a statement: "This Laudamotion partnership is good news for Austrian and German consumers/visitors who can now look forward to real competition, more choice and lower fares."

€18.8bn deal ends toll war

A POTENTIAL bidding war for Spain's biggest toll road operator has been averted.

It comes after Madrid-based construction firm ACS and Italian company Atlantia - which had been competing separately for months - agreed a joint takeover deal for the Abertis group.

Under the agreed terms, ACS's German arm Hochtief will buy Abertis for €18.18 billion.

But in the final holding, the Italians will own 50 per cent, ACS 30 per cent and Hochtief 20 per cent.

Quote of the Week

"Our concern is the citizens... we're trying to reach an agreement that at least maintains the general economic situation in Gibraltar." Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis discusses Spain's approach to the rock during Brexit negotiations.



Photo credit Viadi Private Islands/Flickr

ISLE TAKE IT: S'Espalmador is popular in summer when tourists head ashore for mud baths (inset).

Protected island sold at discount

A BALEARIC island between Ibiza and Formentera has been sold to a private bidder for €18 million.

An unnamed family from Luxembourg has bagged 137-hectare S'Espalmador after attempts to sell it to Formentera Council failed.

Former owners, Catalan architect Norman Cinnamond and his sister Rosy, confirmed the sale with the price dropped from €24 million after three

years on the market.

The island - which is almost three kilometres long and 800 metres wide - had been owned by the Cinnamond family since 1932.

It boasts a 13-bedroom house, chapel and watchtower, can be reached by foot from Formentera when the tide is low and is part of the protected Las Salinas Natural Park.

In summer it is a popular mooring spot for yachts, and many people head ashore for a mud bath.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Dress to impress

SPANISH clothing giant Inditex, which owns Zara among other brands, has revealed that net profit soared to €3.37 billion in 2017, placing the group ahead of long-term Swedish rival H&M, which posted returns of €1.6 billion.

Samba style

SPANISH energy firm gas Natural Fenosa will sink €95 million into two solar energy projects in Minas Gerais, Brazil, after snapping them up from rival Canadian Solar, with the plants set to become operational before the end of the year.

Anti-social

SPAIN'S data protection agency, AEPD, has slapped Facebook and WhatsApp with €300,000 fines for processing and sharing users' personal data without their consent, with the former currently appealing an earlier €1.2 million sanction for the same offence.

Ikos invests in luxury

INNOVATIVE Greek luxury hotel chain Ikos is to sink €150 million into its first Spanish project.

The company has snapped up the Costa del Sol Princess Hotel in Estepona, Malaga, which will be transformed into its latest 'infinite lifestyle' venture.

The resort will include 400 rooms, eight restaurants, upmarket sports facilities, a theatre, indoor

and outdoor swimming pools, a spa and 70,000 square metres of gardens, Ikos said in a statement.

It will become the brand's fifth hotel and first in Spain, and is set to open in 2020.

Ikos has created a buzz in the industry after redefining the all-inclusive boutique concept, and two of its Greek hotels were ranked in the world's top three in 2017.

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Barclays	209.75	0.25	0.12	35,327.44
British American Tobacco	4,455.00	271.50	6.49	96,791.84
Barratt Developments	566.00	38.80	7.36	5,431.26
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	3,856.50	143.50	3.86	5,289.73
British Land Co	633.00	1.00	0.16	6,262.93
BHP Billiton	1,440.00	-3.20	-0.22	30,363.14
Bunzl	1,960.00	-85.00	-4.16	6,869.85
BP	472.50	-1.25	-0.26	92,553.97
Burberry Group	1,598.50	-70.50	-4.22	6,930.46
BT Group	234.50	6.65	2.92	22,319.32
Coca-Cola HBC	2,385.50	-145.50	-5.75	9,359.59
Carnival	4,790.00	92.00	1.96	9,744.90
Centrica	138.75	0.40	0.29	7,768.57
Compass Group	1,558.50	18.50	1.20	24,124.99
Croda International	4,599.00	51.00	1.12	6,000.29
CRH	2,486.00	5.57	0.22	20,912.78
DCC	6,942.50	0.00	0.00	6,156.31
Diageo	2,500.00	64.00	2.63	59,941.82
Direct Line Insurance Group	390.00	1.70	0.44	5,365.25
Evrax	440.00	19.10	4.54	6,279.55
Experian	1,571.00	-34.00	-2.12	14,790.44
easyJet	1,632.50	-26.00	-1.57	6,454.63
Ferguson	5,263.00	0.00	0.00	13,187.12
Fresnillo	1,274.00	70.50	5.86	8,787.46
G4S	266.25	15.05	5.99	3,894.50
GKN	405.00	-21.90	-5.13	7,392.74
Glencore	381.50	-4.00	-1.04	54,691.41
GlaxoSmithKline	1,322.50	-0.90	-0.07	65,020.66
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,707.75	-26.75	-1.54	8,200.97
Halma	1,193.50	1.50	0.13	4,551.90
Hammerson	437.05	-1.25	-0.28	3,450.12
HSBC Holdings	710.00	2.70	0.38	139,917.55
International Consoldtd Airs Gr	641.50	9.70	1.54	12,940.64
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,755.50	-754.50	-16.73	8,635.44
3i Group	907.30	0.00	0.00	8,919.48
Imperial Brands	2,475.00	20.50	0.84	23,643.14
Informa	698.30	-31.30	-4.29	5,929.54
Intertek Group	5,022.00	69.00	1.39	8,011.43
ITV	158.58	10.98	7.44	5,957.61
Just Eat	805.00	55.40	7.39	5,128.90
Johnson Matthey	2,999.50	-138.50	-4.41	6,164.04
Kingfisher	342.70	-0.70	-0.20	7,569.81

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	960.25	53.45	5.89	6,740.61
Legal & General Group	260.25	-2.15	-0.82	15,617.64
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.00	-0.50	-0.74	48,137.71
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,048.00	52.00	1.30	13,935.35
Micro Focus International	1,936.50	52.00	2.76	8,378.50
Mediclinic International	774.00	172.20	28.61	4,419.04
Marks & Spencer Group	286.70	10.80	3.91	4,554.17
Mondi	1,885.50	-63.50	-3.26	7,168.54
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	230.50	19.50	9.24	4,980.24
National Grid	782.50	1.80	0.23	25,892.17
NMC Health	3,300.00	-148.00	-4.29	7,070.56
Next	4,712.00	-47.00	-0.99	6,928.60
Old Mutual Group	219.70	-29.30	-11.77	12,479.93
Paddy Power Betfair	7,287.50	-347.50	-4.55	6,502.01
Prudential	1,920.00	6.50	0.34	50,283.86
Persimmon	2,725.00	198.00	7.84	7,950.64
Pearson	743.50	-32.30	-4.16	5,965.74
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,735.00	60.00	1.06	39,759.41
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	255.00	-5.60	-2.15	30,812.42
Royal Dutch Shell	2,272.50	59.00	2.67	100,815.19
Royal Dutch Shell	2,250.00	1.50	0.07	83,168.53
RELX	1,635.25	149.75	10.08	15,760.74
Rio Tinto	3,725.00	-10.00	-0.27	50,143.11
Rolls-Royce Group	916.00	14.40	1.60	16,917.11
Randgold Resources	6,675.00	711.00	11.92	5,617.19
RSA Insurance Group	628.70	3.28	0.52	6,489.01
Rentokil Initial	250.50	-26.00	-9.40	5,074.71
Sainsbury (J)	231.60	-4.50	-1.91	5,239.28
Schroders	3,494.50	84.50	2.48	7,707.36
Sage Group (The)	759.90	72.90	10.61	7,471.07
Segro	591.30	-17.10	-2.81	6,111.84
Shire	3,200.00	-5.50	-0.17	28,769.99
Smurfit Kappa Group	3,234.00	76.00	2.41	7,423.67
Sky	1,324.75	15.25	1.16	22,691.03
Standard Life Aberdeen	380.00	4.90	1.31	11,100.28
Smith (DS)	495.55	-1.79	-0.36	5,336.55
Smiths Group	1,567.50	-23.50	-1.48	6,322.14
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	487.50	17.50	3.72	6,586.11
Smith & Nephew	1,343.50	14.50	1.09	11,603.26
SSE	1,265.50	26.50	2.14	12,480.13
Standard Chartered	767.50	0.10	0.01	25,363.25
St James's Place	1,149.25	7.75	0.68	6,034.16
Severn Trent	1,853.00	78.00	4.39	4,173.76
Tesco	206.50	-3.30	-1.57	20,878.64
TUI AG	1,642.50	97.00	6.28	9,054.57
Taylor Wimpey	185.50	1.35	0.73	6,116.81
Unilever	3,750.00	-37.00	-0.98	46,265.17
United Utilities Group	691.00	-3.40	-0.49	4,733.67
Vodafone Group	206.00	4.50	2.23	53,724.66
WPP Group	1,253.00	84.00	7.19	14,646.34
Whitbread	3,815.00	4.00	0.10	7,029.69

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

DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 19

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	237,220	0,57%	1,350	141.455,07
AMERICAN EXPRESS	95,6100	1,29%	1,2200	82.302,88
APPLE	178,020	-0,35%	-0,630	902.768,39
BOEING CO	330,470	0,15%	0,490	194.172,38
CATERPILLAR	156,460	1,22%	1,890	93.576,24
CHEVRON	115,40	-0,16%	-0,18	219.621,82
CISCO SYSTEMS	45,010	-0,71%	-0,320	222.364,12
COCA-COLA	43,46	-0,48%	-0,21	185.420,44
DOWDUPONT	67,96	0,12%	0,08	158.280,44
EXXON MOBIL	75,12	0,94%	0,70	317.809,66
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,3100	-0,35%	-0,0500	124.087,39
GOLDMAN SACHS	267,60	0,37%	0,99	101.623,58
HOME DEPOT	178,9600	0,50%	0,8900	209.318,94
IBM	160,26	0,41%	0,65	147.829,02
INTEL CORP	51,1700	0,57%	0,2900	239.335,20
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	115,4400	0,17%	0,2000	396.322,57
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	133,6800	0,47%	0,6200	357.335,66
MC DONALD'S CORP	162,3600	0,46%	0,7500	129.066,18
MERCK AND CO. NEW	55,67	0,76%	0,42	150.056,48
MICROSOFT	94,600	0,45%	0,420	728.488,73
NIKE	65,91	-0,72%	-0,48	85.601,34
PFIZER	36,7800	0,55%	0,2000	218.887,43
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	78,970	0,38%	0,300	199.108,87
TRAVELERS CIES	141,32	0,61%	0,85	38.358,20
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	128,33	-0,71%	-0,92	102.931,09
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	227,86	-0,71%	-1,62	220.685,21
VERIZON COMMS	48,56	0,56%	0,27	197.916,27
VISA	124,53	+0,91%	1,12	224.698,96
WAL-MART STORES	89,1700	1,90%	1,6600	265.799,68
WALT DISNEY CO	102,8700	-0,36%	-0,3700	154.758,28

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MARCH 19

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Aemetis, Inc	\$ 2.45	1.33 ▲ 118.75%
Teligent, Inc.	\$ 3	0.52 ▲ 20.97%
Aeglea BioTherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 10.64	1.59 ▲ 17.57%
Chicken Soup for the Soul Entertainment, Inc.	\$ 7.95	1.04 ▲ 15.05%
Amyris, Inc.	\$ 6.40	0.82 ▲ 14.70%
Proteon Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 2.45	0.30 ▲ 13.95%
Citi Trends, Inc.	\$ 26.47	3.10 ▲ 13.26%
Destination Maternity Corporation	\$ 2.77	0.31 ▲ 12.60%
Forterra, Inc.	\$ 8.74	0.96 ▲ 12.34%
Natera, Inc.	\$ 10.84	1.19 ▲ 12.33%
Spok Holdings, Inc.	\$ 15.65	1.60 ▲ 11.39%
Most Declined		
Energy XXI Gulf Coast, Inc.	\$ 4.08	1.33 ▼ 24.58%
SecureWorks Corp.	\$ 8.33	1.39 ▼ 14.30%
Sundance Energy Australia Limited	\$ 4.94	0.76 ▼ 13.33%
RISE Education Cayman Ltd	\$ 14.34	2 ▼ 12.24%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 7.92	1.09 ▼ 12.10%
ACM Research, Inc.	\$ 12.44	1.59 ▼ 11.33%
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.	\$ 9.28	1.17 ▼ 11.20%
Rockwell Medical, Inc.	\$ 5.58	0.64 ▼ 10.29%
Raven Industries, Inc.	\$ 33.60	3.35 ▼ 9.07%
Tintri, Inc.	\$ 3.19	0.31 ▼ 8.86%
The ExOne Company	\$ 8.36	0.75 ▼ 8.23%

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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£1.0651

£1.3234

£1.2126

£1.4811

£1.3643

PRICE MOVEMENT

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£0.0048

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£0.0090

£0.0147

£0.0133

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

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€14.8bn fraud windfall

'TRIVIAL' DROP AS TAX DODGERS TACKLED

THE battle against fraud in Spain continues.

And the national Tax Agency has revealed that last year it raked in almost €14.8 billion - a year-on-year decrease of €91 million - in sanctions from cases relating to illegal renting of homes and other financial crimes.

The total has plunged for the third consecutive year, after the bureau revealed that it made €14.9 billion in 2016 and €15.7 billion in 2015.

Agency director Santiago Menendez argued that the average income from fraud over the last three years beats that of the previous three by 3.5 per cent, as he said: "The results consolidate the upward trend in recent years... it is a trivial drop with no significant reason."

And the figures still far outstrip the €8 billion earned in 2008, when the Tax Agency employed 2,000 more people and the housing bubble - having yet to burst - fuelled a significant 'underground economy.'

Fines for undeclared rental income shot up to €522 million in 2017, an increase of around 40.5 per cent on 2014, when the agency launched an annual campaign of sending inspectors to suspects' homes.

Among 32,215 visits made by tax inspectors last year, 14,698 were related to non-payment of IVA, the Spanish equivalent to VAT in the UK.

Menendez added that the use of new technology capable of processing big data has allowed investigators to acquire almost €333 million from cases including "aggressive tax planning, 'hidden' companies, buying powers that did not match what was declared and assets abroad."

He explained that thanks to Spain's tax amnesty (a disclosure facility introduced in 2012), plus revelations exposed in the Panama



RICH TWIST: Spain has clamped down on cheats owing more than €1 million - who allegedly include pop star Shakira - says Tax Agency director Santiago Menendez (inset).

Papers and other legal documents, that his agency has new data available.

And the result is that tax debt fell by the greatest amount yet recorded in a single financial year.

Pending collection, the outstanding amount plummeted by 7.6 per cent compared with 2016, with the total of €42.4 billion the lowest since 2010.

The annual inventory of defaulters owing more than €1 million to the state, introduced by Treasury Minister Cristobal Montoro in 2015, also contributed heavily to debt reduction, with €1.2 billion raised from taxpayers "afraid to appear on the list," according to Menendez.

Photo credit Shutterstock/Twitter

Abu Dhabi set to invite bids for Spanish oil and gas giant

THE United Arab Emirates is seeking to offload part of Spanish oil and gas multi-national CEPSA.

It comes after the Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's state-owned holding firm, bought out French oil giant Total's stake in 2011.

The move saw the investment vehicle seal 100 per cent control of Spain's second-largest petrol company, which was at the time valued at around €8 billion.

But reports suggest that it is now worth much more, leading Mubadala to invite bids for a partial stake from a 'strategic ally' or 'major investment fund.'

Cepsa has been on an upswing since the takeover, breaking new ground in exploration and production, with several 'mega projects' in Asia and the Middle East.

UNION FURY OVER BELOW AVERAGE PAY

Charity wage woe goes on

THE working conditions of charity workers in Spain are under scrutiny.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) employ around 645,000 across the country, but both central and regional governments slashed third sector budgets during the 2008 financial crisis.

The move saw many of Spain's 30,000 NGOs freeze or reduce salaries, and conditions have not improved in the 10 years since.

"There is a latent instability," an administrator for several NGOs told Spanish media. "It's a sector that has been damaged and which requires a certain element of volunteering and a huge dose of personal motivation, which is exploited when it comes to unstable contracts and unpaid overtime.

"One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts



Photo credit Cruz Roja España

HELP FOR ZEROS: Charity staff are underpaid, critics say.

that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

Around 34 per cent of NGO contracts are temporary, and employment reforms introduced by the Spanish government in 2012 mean that companies and not-for-profits are able to ignore national labour

agreements and bring down salaries while maintaining investment.

In Teruel, Aragon, a full-time cleaner employed by the Red Cross now earns €765 gross per month in the wake of a 2.5 per cent January increase following a long

freeze on wages, while in Alicante part-time telemarketing staff can earn as little as €500.

Jose Luis Pascual, Red Cross Spain's Human Resources director, said: "We're not inventing low salaries, it's a fact. Should that be changed? Possibly."

When quizzed if €800 per month is enough to live on, he hesitated before admitting: "It would be very hard to cover everything... I don't agree that we ignore employment rights. In many cases, our salaries are better than others in the sector."

Critics, including unions, have panned Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and the regional authorities after spending on social issues was cut by 23 per cent since 2016 despite the national economic upturn.

Pilar Marmol, from the UGT union, added: "Many NGOs don't behave like NGOs; they're all about business. And when there's an [outsourced] tender, they're like vultures. They go as low as they can."

Cashing in on crowdfunding

A SPANISH provincial council has become the first authority in the world to set up its own crowdfunding platform.

The innovative scheme allows residents of Biscay in the Basque Country to invest in start-up projects chosen by the governing body.

According to venture capital think tank, Seed Capital Bizkaia, the move will boost investor confidence and reduce risk.

The goal is to launch eight start-ups - cherry-picked from around 30 applicants - in the first year of the scheme, with the council hoping to attract some 350 investors after agreeing to plough €240,000 into the project itself.

Businesses must be headquartered in Biscay, of which Spain's 10th largest city Bilbao is capital.



TRADING BLOWS: The US President claimed that European Union subsidies create unfair competition before announcing the tariffs.

MEPs condemn Trump olive tax

THE European Parliament has called on the United States to reverse President Trump's move to impose import duties of up to 20 per cent on Spanish olives.

The tariffs were introduced in January to protect producers in California after Washington said that growers in Spain benefit from subsidies allowing them to sell olives below fair value.

"The US has started a trade war and they have used us as scapegoats," said Gabriel Re-

dondo, chairman of exporter Agro Sevilla, at the time.

And MEPs in Strasbourg have hit back at the levies, claiming that the EU agricultural grants follow World

Trade Organisation rules.

"The European Parliament calls on the US authorities to withdraw their interim decision and re-establish a mutually constructive approach in this domain to the mutual benefit of producers and consumers on both continents," they said in a statement.

Spain exported 32 million kilos of black olives worth €70 million to the US in 2016, but says the new tariffs will cost the sector €350-700 million over the next decade.

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Thumbs down for €4.9 billion Hammerson takeover bid

A €4.9 BILLION bid for British shopping centre operator Hammerson sent the company's shares soaring by almost 27 per cent.

French firm Klepierre was behind the offer, which is being seen as an attempt to derail its competitor's €3.9 billion takeover of Intu Properties, which owns or has stakes in 17 shopping centres in the UK and three in Spain.

The deal is set to create the UK's biggest property group, worth an estimated €24 billion.

Klepierre said in a statement that it had offered 615p a share, but the bid was rejected by Hammerson chairman David Tyler within 24 hours. Tyler described the approach as "wholly inadequate and entirely

opportunistic," before advising shareholders to take no action.

He said in a statement that the board "sees absolutely no merit in Klépierre's proposal and has unanimously rejected it."

Klepierre is one of Europe's biggest players in the retail market, with more than 100 shopping centres in 16 countries.

The Hammerson takeover bid highlights the pressure currently gripping the sector, as more customers choose to shop online.

Hammerson owns or part-owns 37 shopping centres, including Birmingham's Bullring, and if the Insu deal goes ahead it will gain control of a €650 million scheme to create one of Spain's largest shopping complexes in Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol.

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You don't get more classic than that

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



NOT only is Vladimir Putin a gangster, he is actually your classic gangster.

I think the facts speak for themselves. He is undoubtedly an egomaniac and a bully. He is surrounded by thugs, hit men and bent politicians. He rubs out or 'subdues' any opposition. As a warning to others, those he considers 'ratfinks' are ruthlessly hunted down and 'eliminated.'

Both he and his henchmen are worth billions, and the general public of his domain consider him a hero. You don't get more classic than that.

Of course, that is where the resemblance ends. His operation makes the Capone, Gambino's and Mafia Dons of yore look like pussies.

However, in my opinion, through all this worrying new 'cold war' era I believe we can all console ourselves with one fact, Putin won't attack the West, certainly not nuclear. Why would he? He earns a big chunk of his ill-gotten gains from the West. He's not involved in all his skulduggery from a view of patriotism, or the old communistic ideals - heaven forbid. He's in it purely for the power and the money.

To take out the UK would be like Al Capone



Photo credit Twitter

VLADIMIR PUTIN: A 'gangster' but unlikely to attack the West.

destroying Chicago. He definitely doesn't want to terminate a golden egg layer of our magnitude. All that aside, I do truly believe that at this moment in time we are nearer to the ultimate holocaust than we have ever been - even during the Cuban missile crisis. At least in those days the USA and the USSR pulled most of the strings.

Both of these powers were fairly stable and had

reasonably sane leaders. Now they are all at it, and in my opinion a number are nowhere near stability. North Korea, run by a man/boy who thinks he's playing video games. Iran, who probably have a few tucked away by now, is run by a fanatical regime, who have vowed to destroy Israel - also a nuclear power. India, in an uneasy and still precarious 'truce' with fellow nuclear

power Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, threatening to develop nuclear weapons if Iran doesn't halt its own programme (some chance), France mmm! The ever-unpredictable China.

And, top of the bill, two megalomaniacs in the shape of Trump and Putin, who both think they are infallible. Sounds pretty volatile to me. Oh, I forgot about the good 'ol UK. Well I wouldn't worry too much about us. If Corbyn gets elected we'll all be sheltering behind our CND badges. Perhaps that means they'll leave the UK alone? Ha ha! Good luck all!

As most of you know, I have always believed in free speech. Thank the Lord I write for a publication that, although it may not always agree with my views, also considers free speech a human right!

I have always been a firm believer that if it ever came to being prevented from speaking the truth because it may 'offend' somebody, would mean we had either succumbed to the yolk of fascism or were finally being run by a bunch of lily livered leaders running totally scared. Well, try speaking out in the UK these days and you can take your pick!

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

Advertising Feature

Three ways to replace your missing tooth

IF you've been unlucky enough to lose a tooth (or two), perhaps from gum disease, tooth decay or trauma, it's wise to actively seek a solution for its replacement - even before the tooth has come out if at all possible.

"Sometimes it's not necessary to replace a missing tooth, it rather depends on where it is and what effect its absence could have on adjacent or opposing teeth in terms of movement - rotation, over-eruption, tilting and loosening," says Howard Forge, Practice Owner at Santa Ponsa Dental Practice. "However, if we feel you should replace it, with an implant for example, the 'gap' will rapidly lose bone density and volume so you need to act promptly."

Broadly speaking there are three solutions: a denture, bridge or implant.

Dentures are a cost-effective way of replacing multiple missing teeth and are favoured where insufficient teeth exist for a bridge - or an implant is not achievable. Fashioned from acrylic/resin or cobalt chromium, dentures last up to 10 years.

A bridge requires preparation of the adjacent teeth, so they must be firm and healthy (an x-ray will help assess this), but it is a relatively quick way to give back a new tooth. Fixed in place with strong adhesive, bridges have the look and



HOWARD FORGE: Practice owner at Santa Ponsa Dental Practice.

feel of real teeth and a lifespan up to 15 years.

The king of all tooth replacement solutions is the implant. Not involving or damaging adjacent teeth, implants look, feel and act like normal teeth.

"If bone exists, or can be created with grafting, an implant is a superior solution for single or multiple missing teeth - even if all teeth are absent," says Howard. "A simple surgical pro-

cedure is performed to create a small hole in the bone and into this a threaded titanium cylinder is 'implanted.' After a period of healing, around three months, a crown is attached to the implant. The majority of our clients say the procedure was painless or has caused them minimal discomfort - often much to their surprise."

The cost of a single implant is comparable with that of a three-unit bridge and, if looked af-



ter well, may last a lifetime - so could wind up being better value for money in the long run.

Contact Santa Ponsa Dental Practice on (00 34) 971 694 071, hforge@santaponsadental.com, www.santaponsadental.com - you can also find them on Facebook.

TECH FOR THE TIMID



All you need is pods

Terence Kennedy's listening life changed forever when he discovered the joy of podcasts.

IF you think silence is golden maybe give this week's column a miss. It's inspired by a Canadian lady who fills every unoccupied moment listening to podcasts, a hundred a week.

Mea not quite so culpa, I have to confess, and she's definitely the pod one out (sorry), but my own consumption does certainly max out at three or four a day.

My listening life changed radically when keeping my butterfly mind topped up during fallow periods suddenly meant I didn't have to put up with whatever dross was on the radio at the time, but instead a chosen programme I could actually control as my own DJ.

'Women's Hour' discussing hysterectomies might have been all well and good mid-morning when there was nothing else on, but podcasts meant I could now listen on demand to Melvyn Bragg discussing the finer points of three-toed newts or quantity

surveying. And I could hit the pause button so as not to miss a riveting second of it.

Initially we could tape radio programmes directly off-air onto cassettes. The tech breakthrough came with the iPod 17 years ago, then MP3 players and today there are two-thirds as many smartphones in the world as there are people.

Now four billion podcasts are downloaded each year and rising, with sensible users (unlike our Canadian lady or indeed me) spending an average of four hours a week listening to them.

In the western world, more people listen to podcasts than go to the movies. An American statistic John Lennon would have loved says there are more regular podcast listeners than Catholics.



PODCASTS: Four billion a year and rising.

Where original adopters were typically under 25, now the fastest growth is among the so-called 'silver surfers', those of us somewhat closer to our sell-by dates.

Downloading (mostly free)

pods straight off the web is the work of seconds to an MP3 player or increasingly now, a smartphone. And almost all will let you interrupt and pick up where you left off again at will, freeing you forever from the shackles of broadcast schedules.

There are hosts of apps for finding and playing podcasts. and for the latest pod experience, this year's 'next best thing' in tech, smart home assistants like Amazon's Echo and Google's Home can serve up unlimited podcasts on demand.

For the moment I'm stuck with downloading them straight off the web, as not all of us are (yet) blessed with a smart home assistant.

I was going to drop in a gag here about my wife fulfilling that role, but on reflection it could cost me my dinner.

Taking pod luck

TYPE 'podcasts' into your browser and prepare to be swamped.

A good place to start is with the traditional broadcasters, who all now package their output into free podcasts for downloading.

The BBC is a great source (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>), with simply hundreds free for the grabbing, all in the ubiquitous MP3 format which any player or phone can handle.

Other broadcasters like America's NPR (www.npr.org/podcasts/), or Australia's ABC (www.abc.net.au/radio/podcasts/) have their own treasure-troves. Services like Apple's iTunes have pages and pages of them. If you 'subscribe' they will even be downloaded automatically to your player without human intervention.

So all you have to do, as Shakespeare so famously said, is 'lend me your ears'. Perhaps adding headphones for domestic harmony.

The Golden Man of Malaga

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



PABLO PICASSO led Sotheby's London's Impressionist and Modern Art and Surrealist Art in February and last week the most popular Museum in London the Tate Modern opened Picasso's Golden Year exhibition which focused on his creations of 1932.

A year of two halves the first part dominated by his urgency to meet the deadline of his first major retrospective held in Paris in June 1932 at the Galeries George Petit.

The painting that crowned the Sotheby's sale Pablo Picasso's 'Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter)' achieved the second highest price for any work ever sold at auction in Europe - priced at €56.7m - as three bidders competed. This painting was created in 1937, the same year in whose final months saw his master work 'Guernica,' which happily may be seen by Spaniard and visitor alike at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, regarded by most as the greatest anti-war statement in art.

In a decade of extraordinary significance many see echoes of the trajectory of that decade in the profuse and varied output of an artist who never seemed to stand still. By 1932



Photo credit Sotheby's

PRICEY: Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter).

Picasso was an established artist, famous and wealthy. Tailored suits and chauffeur driven car attest to that as well as the Paris apartment and country chateau.

At a moment when some entertained the thought that Picasso was at his peak, perhaps even past it, he continued to search and discover. For an impoverished immigrant from Spain who would have blamed him for slowing and enjoying the fruits of his youth?

Also 1932 was the year that Picasso is considered to have reinvented himself. Here he can be seen to be exploring surrealist distortion, painting and sculpture. It also saw the start and development of his relationship with his muse Marie-Thérèse Walter, by 1935 his wife Olga Khokhlova had left him for the south of France.

The darkening clouds of war marked with the Spanish Civil War which began in 1936 and ended in 1939, with the rest of Europe engulfed in what came to be known as the Second World War months after its conclusion.

Picasso was a man of his times. As an artist his times cover much of the 20th century. The triumphs, anxieties and tragedies, the vast scope of his art continues to fascinate and attract. For a determined collector a fascination that very occasionally may be satisfied by an acquisition.



**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THE DURRELLS have returned to *ITV* on Sunday evenings to bring a touch of Corfu to our weekends. This is the third series of the drama very loosely based around Gerald Durrell's memoir about his life in 1930's Corfu and is a perfect tonic if you are fed up with talent(less) shows and movie reruns.

I like the soft storylines, the scenery and the fact I could watch it with my Mum and not have to worry about anything nasty flashing across the screen. There are few shows which could simultaneously carry plotlines about giving up on finding love, taking up the harp and juggling multiple girlfriends and still be OK to watch con mi madre - but *The Durrells* does it really well. The Greek sunshine helps to make you feel just a little bit warmer too.

Immediately after *The Durrells* have gently guided us around their Greek lives, Amanda Redman wizzes us to Southern India with the return of *The Good Karma Hospital*, *ITV* Sunday evenings. I'm really not sure about Dr Ruby (Amrita Acharia) on that motorbike you know, the helmet must play havoc with her hair, but fans of the show will be pleased that she is still around to be put in her place by Ms Red-

The Durrells, Good Karma and a chateau



Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

PERFECT TO WATCH WITH MUM: The Durrells.

man and to continue her strange flirting antics with Dr Varma; I say flirting, I think that is what's happening, but Dr R can be so grumpy she will surely find herself heading for a night shift at *Holby City* if she doesn't crack a smile sometime soon. This isn't hard hitting, point making medical stuff, but it does what it sets out to do and I like it.

Sticking with Sunday night viewing for just a little bit longer, I'm so pleased that *Channel 4* are serving up another series of *Escape to the Chateau*. The Chateau de la Motte Husson is in the Loire and over the previous three series has been restored by Dick and Angel - she is the

brains and he is, well everything else. Dick can fix just about anything and knows how everything works, frankly I could do with him for a couple of days in mi casa, just to pull everything together.

Having 'done up' the Chateau, the couple are running an obviously successful foodie and wedding business and it's lovely to watch. You might struggle with Angel's hair and the fact Dick sometimes looks like an eccentric Englishman being Bohemian in the French countryside, oh wait, that's exactly what he is!

I don't know what to make of BBC2's new show *The Secret Helpers*, *BBC2* Wednesdays.



MANE ATTRACTION: Escape to the Chateau.

The format links people who need help or advice with random people around the world via secret earpieces. Family and friends aren't aware of the earpiece advice as their loved ones muddle through their personal challenges.

The advice givers include a Catholic nun, a retired NY police officer and someone in Denmark who is neither a nun nor a policeman, they just seems to be Danish. Now, the get-you-to-watch element seems to be the people getting advice. Show one helped out Dan who was left blind after two strokes and first time parent Brett who just wants to be a good Dad. You know I will be coming back to this one!

Looking ahead, *The Voice* is slowly drawing to a close with the knockout shows continuing on *ITV* on Saturday. I have no idea who is going through... *Happy viewing.*

It's no joke any more - not like the old days

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

YOU know what I miss? I miss jokes. Nobody tells jokes anymore. Yeah, there are loads of comedians but they are all, bar one or two, observational comedians. Years ago, when I was out with friends, we would all sit around telling or repeating jokes.

The types with a build up then a punch line. In fact, although I'm now very definitely labelled 'Mr Grumpy,' I was known for my sense of humour and my party trick was to be able to tell a joke on nearly any subject. My point is it doesn't happen now.

Why? Because everyone has 'jokes' on their phones 24/7. There are jokes on Twitter, Facebook etc etc. Nobody is actually telling them - they are just there to read. There's no delivery, no comic genius timing like the great comedians they used to have on the TV. My favourite show was actually called *The Comedians* and was just a bunch of guys telling joke after joke.

Most were so politically incorrect but hilarious and I'd try to remember as many as I could to add to my repertoire. I also get loads of videos and GIFs (not sure what that actually

stands for) on WhatsApp now.

I don't mind the odd one but I've got one friend who can send what seems like a 100 a day. Most are not funny and many are just YouTube stuff and when I tell him it's enough he gets the hump. Hope he reads this!

I watched a bit of the winter Olympics and thought the Russians were banned for their vast government run doping scheme that allowed them to win loads of medals by cheating. So I was to see, not their Olympic team, but a bunch of people called 'Olympic Athletes from Russia.'

What a lot of hogwash! One-hundred-and-sixty-eight of them took part and, guess what, two of them failed a drugs test! I don't get it - they were Russian athletes from Russia and no, they didn't march under their flag.

But it's simple - they were banned for cheating, got slung out, found a loophole, got back in and surprise, surprise, they cheated again! It's like the asthma drugs and the cyclists.

I know three people that have asthma. One can't walk up a flight of stairs and the other two won the Tour de France. When I took drugs I wouldn't have even been able to find my bike, never mind ride it!

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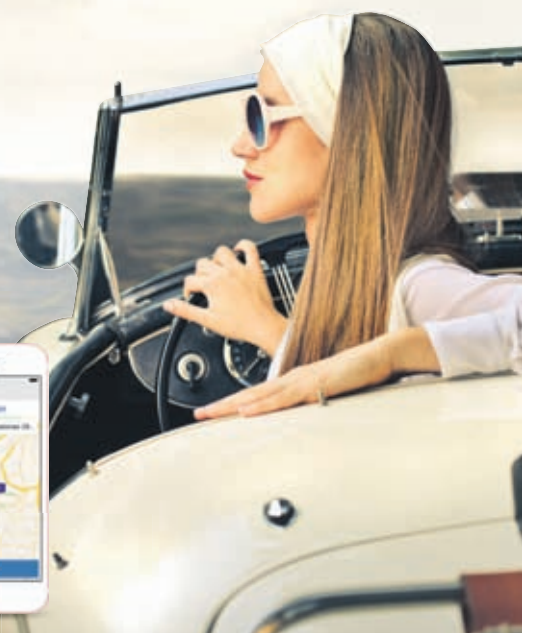
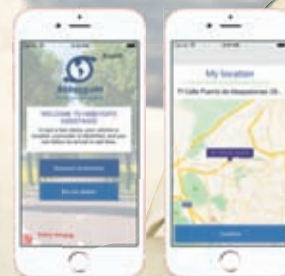
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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
22 MARCH	5:30pm Flog It!	3:15pm Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape	5:00pm Tipping Point	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm Secrets in the Attic	7:00am Cricket
	6:15pm Pointless	4:15pm Planet Earth	6:00pm The Chase	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News at 5	9:25am Cricket
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:15pm Spy in the Wild	7:00pm Regional News and Weather	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours	5:00pm Cricket
	7:30pm BBC London News	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:00pm Home and Away	6:00pm Cricket
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	6:30pm Sky Sports News at 5
	8:30pm EastEnders	7:30pm The Repair Shop	8:30pm Pets	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
	9:00pm MasterChef	8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea	9:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Casebook	8:00pm Live Premier League
	9:30pm Not Going Out	9:00pm Big Cats	9:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun	11:30pm Live World Golf Championship
	10:00pm EastEnders	10:00pm Civilisations	10:00pm Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald	10:00pm My Baby's Life: Who Decides?	10:00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth	1:00am F1: Grand Prix
	10:30pm Still Game					
11:00pm BBC News at Ten						
FRIDAY	3:15pm A Place to Call Home	5:15pm Spy in the Wild	5:00pm Tipping Point	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News at 5	7:00am Cricket
	4:00pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	6:00pm The Chase	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	9:25am Cricket
	4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm Regional News and Weather	6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Cricket
	5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	6:00pm Cricket
	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm The Gadget Show	6:30pm Sky Sports News at 5
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	9:00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	8:30pm International Football	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Sandringham: Holidaying with the Queen	7:00pm Live World Golf Championship
	7:30pm BBC London News	9:30pm Gardeners' World	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Jane McDonald and Friends	8:30pm Live Super League
	8:00pm Sport Relief 2018	10:00pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	11:35pm Regional News and Weather	9:00pm Britain's Favourite Food	11:00pm Will and Grace	11:00pm The Debate - Live
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten			10:00pm Gogglebox	11:30pm Lip Sync Battle UK	12:00am Sky Sports News
	11:25pm BBC London News			11:00pm The Last Leg		1:00am Cricket
11:35pm Sport Relief 2018						
SATURDAY	3:05pm Gymnastics	3:30pm Me and My Dog	3:30pm Britain's Brightest Family	3:50pm Car S.O.S.	3:30pm Live Premiership Rugby	6:55am Live Australian F1 GP: Qualifying
	4:50pm The Boat Race	4:30pm The Repair Shop	4:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase	4:50pm Coast v Country	6:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	8:40am The F1 Show
	7:15pm Doodlebugs	5:00pm The Secret Helpers	5:00pm Tipping Point	5:50pm A Place in the Sun	7:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	9:10am Paddock Uncut
	7:30pm BBC News	6:00pm Big Cats About the House	6:00pm The Chase	6:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	8:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald	9:25am Cricket
	7:40pm Regional News	7:00pm Hugh's Wild West	7:00pm ITV News and Weather	7:30pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle	5:00pm Cricket
	7:43pm Weather	8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	7:20pm Local News and Weather	8:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	9:55pm 5 News	6:00pm Football
	7:45pm Pointless	9:00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	7:30pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Britain at Low Tide	10:00pm King Tut's Treasure Secrets	8:30pm Boxing
	8:40pm Who Dares Wins	9:30pm Dad's Army	8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	10:00pm Everest		12:00am Boxing
	9:20pm Casualty	10:00pm Picasso's Last Stand	9:30pm The Voice UK	12:20am Predator 2		12:30am AJ: The Knockouts
	10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City		11:30pm ITV News and Weather			1:00am Cricket
11:10pm BBC News						
SUNDAY	7:05pm BBC News	5:00pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives	5:00pm Tipping Point	1:30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	12:20pm Police Interceptors	7:05am Live Australian F1 Grand Prix
	7:20pm Regional News	6:00pm Real Steel	6:00pm The Chase	2:30pm The Simpsons	1:20pm The Man in the Iron Mask	9:30am Live Australian F1 GP: Paddock Live
	7:25pm Weather	8:00pm Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall	7:00pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs	3:30pm Formula 1	3:25pm A Knight's Tale	10:10am F1: GP: Race Replay
	7:30pm Countryfile	9:00pm Top Gear	7:30pm ITV News and Weather	6:15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	8:05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	12:25pm Cricket
	8:30pm Hold the Sunset	10:00pm Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives	7:45pm Local News and Weather	7:30pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	2:00pm Football
	8:30pm MasterChef	11:00pm Mock the Week	8:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase	8:00pm Homes by the Med	9:55pm 5 News	4:30pm Football
	9:00pm MasterChef	11:30pm Top Gear Extra Gear	9:00pm The Durrells	9:00pm Escape to the Chateau	10:00pm The Bodyguard	7:00pm Live World Golf Championship
	9:30pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor	11:55pm Life of Crime	10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital	10:00pm Homeland	12:35am Whitney Houston	1:00am Cricket
	11:00pm BBC News		11:00pm ITV News and Weather			
	11:22pm Regional News					
MONDAY	5:30pm Flog It!	4:40pm Blitz Cities	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm Kidnapped: Desperate Hours	2:30am Cricket
	6:15pm Pointless	5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	5:00pm Tipping Point	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News	7:00am Cricket
	7:00pm BBC News	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	6:00pm The Chase	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	6:30pm Neighbours	10:30am Live ATP 1000: Miami
	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	5:30pm Live ATP 1000: Miami
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	6:00pm Miami Super League Full Time
	8:00pm MasterChef	8:00pm Top Gear	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	3:30am Sky Sports News
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Only Connect	8:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Dispatches	9:00pm Paralympics: Britain's Worst Winter	4:00am Sky Sports News
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm University Challenge	9:00pm The Kyle Files	9:30pm Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday	10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7	5:00am Sky Sports News
	10:00pm The Queen	10:00pm Hospital	9:30pm Coronation Street	10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody		
	11:00pm BBC News		10:00pm Marcella			
11:30pm Regional News						
TUESDAY	3:15pm A Place to Call Home	5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	3:15pm NCIS	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
	4:00pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	5:00pm Tipping Point	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm Marriage of Lies	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	6:00pm The Chase	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News	11:00am Premier League Daily
	5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	6:30pm Neighbours	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Mountain	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	1:00pm Sky Sports News
	7:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	5:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami
	7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	8:30pm International Football: England v Italy Live	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen	9:25pm Football
	8:00pm The One Show		11:15pm ITV News	9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	11:30pm Parker in Camp
	8:30pm EastEnders		12:05am International Football Highlights: England v Italy	10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	10:00pm Britain's Wild Rivers	12:00am Sky Sports News
	9:00pm Holby City				11:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Smith	
10:00pm Come Home						
WEDNESDAY	3:15pm A Place to Call Home	5:15pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF	3:00pm Judge Rinder	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
	4:05pm Escape to the Country	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:45pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	5:00pm Tipping Point	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm The Goldbergs	11:00am Premier League Daily
	5:30pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	6:00pm The Chase	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:00pm The Big Bang Theory	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Mountain	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm The Big Bang Theory	1:00pm Sky Sports News
	7:00pm BBC News	9:00pm The Secret Helpers	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Hollyoaks	6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
	7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	8:00pm Sky Sports News
	8:00pm The One Show		8:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm The Supervet	9:00pm The Goldbergs	8:00pm Sky Sports News
	8:00pm The One Show		9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family	10:00pm One Born Every Minute	9:30pm The Big Bang Theory	9:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami
	9:00pm BBC News and Regional News		10:00pm The Real Full Monty	11:00pm Are You Autistic?	10:00pm Don't Tell the Bride	
9:01pm DIY SOS the Big Build		11:30pm ITV News		11:00pm Five Star Hotel		
10:00pm MasterChef						

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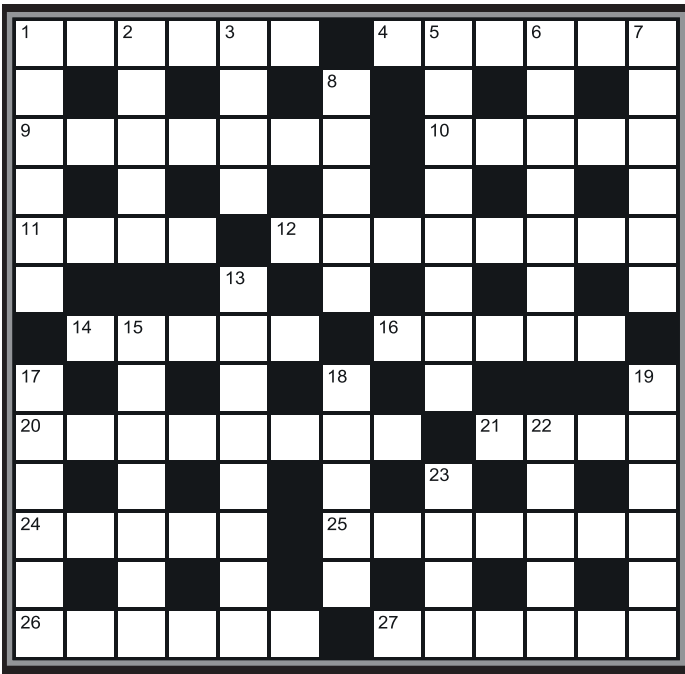


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Clues I arranged for Watergate (6)
- 4 Has faith in repaired struts (6)
- 9 Plead for British cheese, for a change (7)
- 10 The Irishman I love for the terrace (5)
- 11 Parking on a great many building sites (4)
- 12 I acted in poor show (8)
- 14 Take the road to the river, going back by horse (5)
- 16 It's reported the dogs have reached the tops of the mountains (5)
- 20 Is a huge fan of dual seat contraption (8)
- 21 Encourage some of our generation (4)
- 24 President and African leader's animal (5)
- 25 Increase Green movement around Louisiana (7)
- 26 A duty list or back rest, maybe (6)
- 27 Withhold food from pop star vegetarian's diet (6)



Down

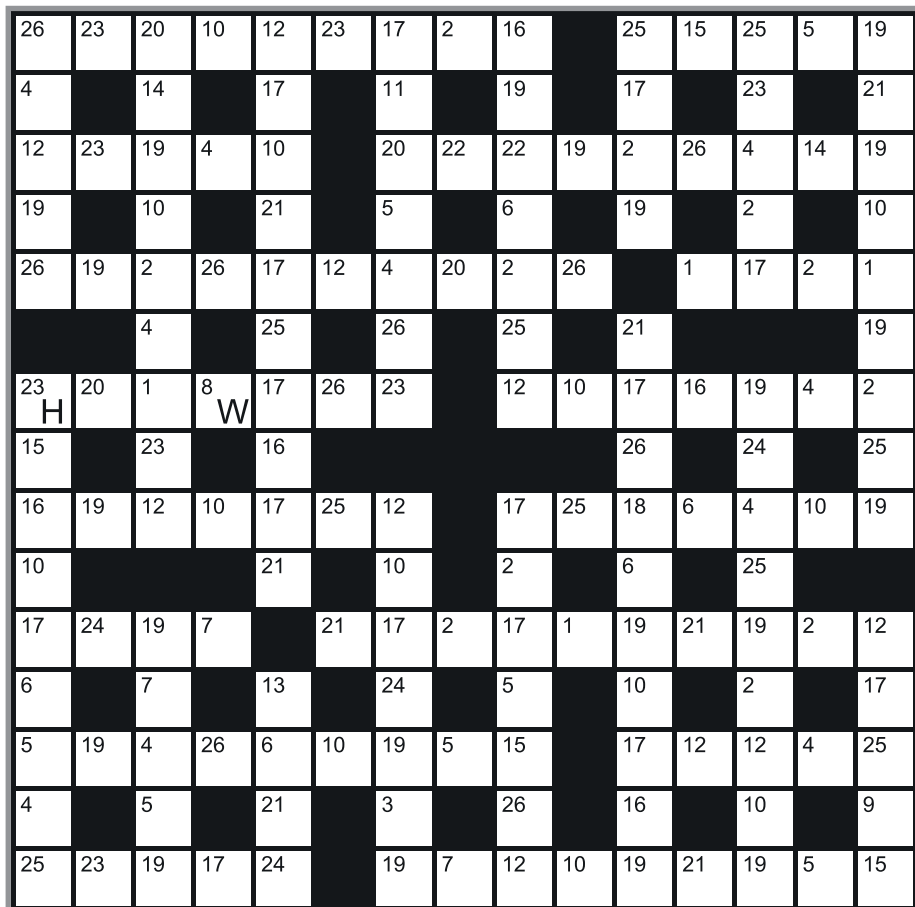
- 1 Delicate bust remodelled on the French (6)
- 2 Disturbed by the unexpected result (5)
- 3 Cook some borsch effortlessly (4)
- 5 About being put into twosomes,

- 6 Difficulty is fixed by rugby player (7)
- 7 Inclined to work in a sleigh (6)
- 8 She's caught in the beam (5)
- 13 State challenge to accept European rule (8)
- 15 Forgery of art stun absentees (7)

- 17 Hold up picnic container? (6)
- 18 Put off in high-altitude terrain (5)
- 19 Remove delegate and Latin sweetheart (6)
- 22 More uncommon rubles are registered (5)
- 23 Spot partial job lot (4)

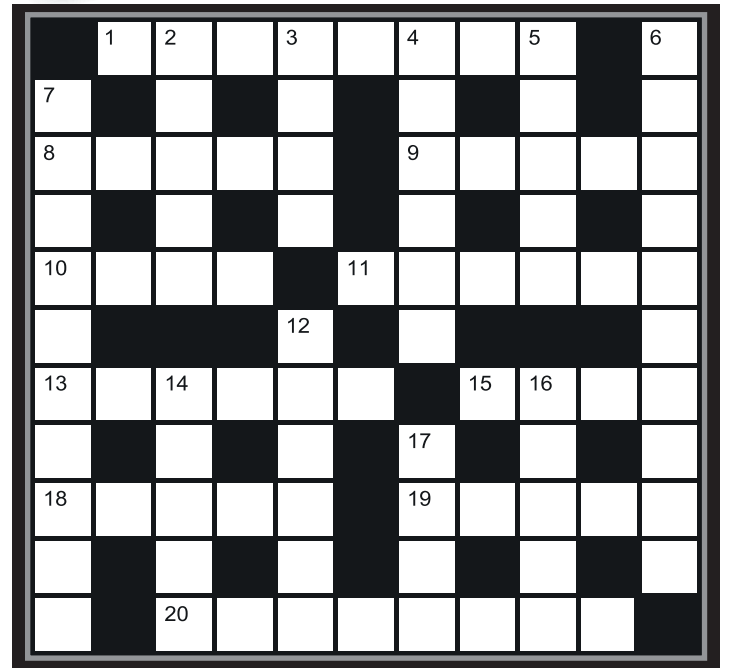
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 8 represents W and 23 represents H, so fill in W every time the figure 8 appears and H every time the figure 23 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

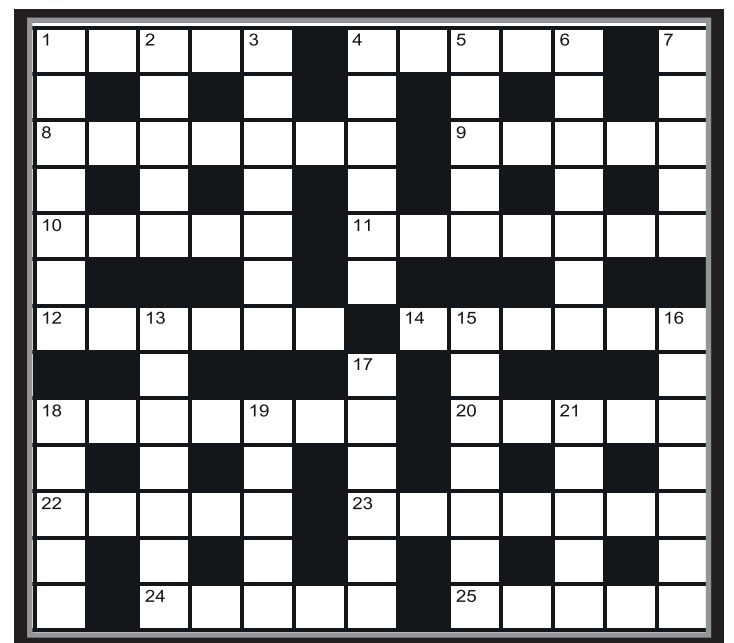
- 1 Journalist (8)
- 8 Escape or avoid by cunning (5)
- 9 Giver (5)
- 10 Speed (4)
- 11 Report or maintain (6)
- 13 Salted roe of the sturgeon (6)
- 15 Silvery-white metal (4)
- 18 Defendant's plea of being elsewhere at the relevant time (5)
- 19 Shoulder firearm with long barrel (5)
- 20 Natural opening in something (8)

Down

- 2 Precise (5)
- 3 Kitchen appliance (4)
- 4 Slightly intoxicated (6)
- 5 Scope (5)
- 6 Implausible (10)
- 7 Mischievous elf in Irish folklore (10)
- 12 Arrived at without due care or effort (6)
- 14 There you are (5)
- 16 Establish by deduction (5)
- 17 Worry unnecessarily or excessively (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Levantarse (3,2)
- 4 Alterado (5)
- 8 To hold on to (7)
- 9 Codo (5)
- 10 Cuchara (para comer) (5)
- 11 To achieve (7)
- 12 Tailor (6)
- 14 Dove (6)
- 18 To know (someone) (7)
- 20 Code (cipher) (5)
- 22 Cocineros (5)
- 23 Elected (7)
- 24 Roncar (cuando se duerme) (5)
- 25 Forma (figura) (5)

Down

- 1 Vasos (para beber) (7)
- 2 Cloth (for cleaning) (5)
- 3 Pareja (compañero) (7)
- 4 Magpie (6)
- 5 Vapor (5)
- 6 Ankle (7)
- 7 Menos (5)
- 13 Cantantes (7)
- 15 Arqueros (7)
- 16 Impresionante (7)
- 17 Brisa (6)
- 18 To cook (5)
- 19 Basket (5)
- 21 Friend (f) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'IT'S HER - MARY POPPINS, AS SOON AS THIS CRAZY WIND DROPS - GET HER AUTOGRAPH'

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.

		21	22	24	12
	11				
	17				
10					
17					
20					
13					
11					

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.

T	D	E
O	N	I
U	C	D

TARGET:

- Average: 12
- Very good: 24
- Good: 16
- Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

dent even need neep nerd neve peen pend pent rend rent
teen tend tern vend vent enter event nerve never preen
trend deepen eterne evened evener needer nerved rented
repent tender vendee vender veneer vented venter entered
preened preteen pretend prevent repented PREVENTED

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday March 17

7	8	13	BONUS BALL
24	45	46	39

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday March 17

4	10	13	BONUS BALL
22	25	31	30

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 13

9	11	13	BONUS BALL
33	49		12

Friday March 16

4	17	24	BONUS BALL
27	31		11

EL MILLON: ZPF44617

LA PRIMITIVA

Thursday March 15

5	9	11	BONUS BALL
20	22	29	0

JOKER: 3 794 358

Saturday March 17

8	21	35	BONUS BALL
36	37	43	1

JOKER: 4 497 057

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday March 18

3	4	5	BONUS BALL
13	20		9

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

The last time that you sat down and thought about your finances it was confusing. Things are a lot simpler now. Keep emotions and the needs of others out of the equation. Balance is what this week is all about. Get the percentages right now and it is plain sailing for the immediate future.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

At last it is clear that the future holds something quite exciting. Looking back during the past few years there has been a build-up to this moment. Treading a new path is half the story. There is much to be discovered both outside and inside your sphere.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Something comes to your attention that makes you feel both anger and injustice. As you are urged to speak out and put your cards on the table, you hesitate. Be sure to have the true facts of the matter because this gives you real confidence. Keep emotions out of the equation and speak with a balanced view.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Your heart is saying 'Let's get out and have some fun'. Your head is saying 'Okay, but let's leave it until later'. Which is right? Well, one thing is for sure, emphasis on finances is restraining. You are, however, building on something strong for the future.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

There is a strong urge to be up and doing something to further your artistic needs. Be sure that you know what is important. Keep it simple and aim straight for it. There may be other options to be explored, but do not go off at a tangent. To do so would see you have many fingers in many pies but making little real progress. Trust your instincts.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

What others see as our way ahead is not always the path which we want to tread. It would be easy to be cosy and not take a chance. Is that what you really want? Outside influences are heavy and pressing at times.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Although you are feeling more confident in many ways, there is also a secret insecurity. There is a strange emotional atmosphere this week, which perplexes you. An unusual feeling that you need to change your surroundings cannot be put down to a seasonal 'nesting' instinct. Let this be a time to pay more than lip service to your ideals and beliefs.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Be sure not to put up with tedious comments. Someone is trying to rile you. Who are they to think this way? It is foolish and impossible to please this person. Avoid them and move on to something out of their sphere.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Waiting for just the right time to do and say things this week can produce miracles. Spontaneity may be your watchword but forward planning is where real progress is at the moment. It's not a week to expect co-operation from others.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Who wants you to go where and who wants you to do what? Each day seems to be spoken for before it arrives. Spending your life like this means running out of credit on your health. Do not neglect your well-being for the wishes of others. Give yourself permission to love and care for yourself as you do so much for others.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If you are James Bond, I see no surprises in the week ahead. If you are not, then I certainly do. Something quite shocking crosses your path, so be cautious in your approach to new situations. Keep your eyes and ears open and be prepared to seek advice. Your social life may be dynamic, but what has to be done is irrefutable.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

There are plenty of people who will tell you that what you seek does not exist. They will also tell you that what you feel is unsustainable. This is, however, no time to compromise your dreams or emotional needs. Taking a bright view and a chance now seems unusual to those round you. Who knows best?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Espalda, 5 Crabs, 8 Capaz, 9 Terraza, 10 Mostrar, 11 Santo, 12 Daisy, 14 Tenth, 19 Apodo, 21 Roperia, 23 En avión, 24 Sabor, 25 Again, 26 Answers.

Down:

- 1 Encima, 2 Pipes, 3 Lizards, 4 Altura, 5 Caras, 6 Against, 7 Season, 13 Abogada, 15 Esposas, 16 Maceta, 17 Prensa, 18 Cabras, 20 Onion, 22 Roble.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Susan, 4 Crass, 8 Curator, 9 Green, 10 Ember, 11 Errands, 12 Stroll, 14 Walrus, 18 Pottage, 20 Sable, 22 Pence, 23 Evening, 24 Stale, 25 Event.

Down:

- 1 Sachets, 2 Scrub, 3 Natural, 4 Comea, 5 Anger, 6 Sterner, 7 Bends, 13 Ratings, 15 Austere, 16 Sleight, 17 Recede, 18 Pupil, 19 Akela, 21 Bribe.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Secure, 4 Fake, 8 Adapt, 9 Apple, 10 Legitimate, 13 Assistance, 17 Chaos, 18 Torso, 19 Lies, 20 Decide.

Down:

- 1 Stag, 2 Cease, 3 Rat, 5 Alpha, 6 Eleven, 7 Fajita, 11 Insist, 12 Cancel, 14 Snare, 15 Corgi, 16 Core, 18 Tie.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

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

QUIZ: TOYS R QUIZ

- 'How gentle is the rain that falls softly on the meadow' is the opening line of which 1965 UK Top five hit single by The Toys?
- In which 1968 British musical adventure fantasy film did comedian Benny Hill play the part of the Toymaker?
- Released in Japan in November 1996 and the rest of the world six months later, what was the name of the electronic toy displaying a digital image of a creature that had to be looked after and responded to by the 'owner' as if it were a pet?
- The name of which famous toy is derived from the Danish phrase for 'play well'?
- What is the nationality of the sculptor and professor of architecture Ernő Rubik, the inventor of the famous 3-D combination puzzle the Rubik's Cube?
- Which actor is the voice of Woody (Sheriff Woody Pride), a pull-string cowboy doll in the Toy Story series of films?

- Which comedy duo starred in the musical film Babes in Toyland, first released in November 1934?
- Which mechanical drawing toy was invented by Frenchman André Cassagnes in 1960?
- Which of these toys was the first ever winner of the British Association of Toy Retailers' Toy of the Year award in 1965: (a) Hot Wheels, (b) James Bond Aston Martin die-cast car or (c) Spirograph?
- Which toy shop, the oldest and largest toy shop in the world was founded as Noahs Ark in High Holborn in 1760 but moved to its current site on Regent Street in 1881?

Not a lot of people know that... the yo-yo is believed to be the second-oldest toy in the world. Its name likely derives from the northern Philippine Ilocano language word 'yoyo'

Answers:

1. A LOVERS CONCERTO, 2. CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, 3. YAMA-GOTCHI, 4. LEGO (lego/gotchi), 5. HUNGARIAN (born in Budapest), 6. TOM HANKS, 7. LAUREL AND HARDY - the film is also known by the alternate titles Laurel and Hardy in Toyland, Revenge is Sweet and March of the Wooden Soldiers, 8. LETCH A SKETCH, 9. JAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DIE-CAST CAR - Spirograph (1967) and Hot Wheels (1969), 10. HAWAII

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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

Not convinced by Couch Critic Issue 1704

THIS guy certainly has no taste and I'm all shook up!

However I'm so pleased that his friends Graham and Robert do have taste along with myself and family and friends.

I so look forward to Jane McDonald's cruising programme as Jane is so vibrant and comes across with so much enthusiasm, the cruises are all so different.

We are so lucky to live here in Spain but there's a big wide world out there to explore so why not be tempted to try something different? I feel sure that so many people will be tempted by this programme, cruising is already very big business and I think Jane will have encouraged a lot more people to try one, going to different countries and seeing different cultures.

Before the end of each programme I am trying to guess what song she will be singing, never guessed yet. A shawl that looks like a tablecloth um, I must look for one of those at my Sunday market.

Looking for news about Altea wildfowl

I WONDER if any of your readers can put me in the picture regarding the swan and duck that are always together in the river mouth by Altea Yacht Club. I often drive by there and it really pleases me to see the pair of them so contented together.

The only thing I've heard is that they both used to live on the river mouth by the flags in Altea but, after hooligans broke one of the swan's wings, a local animal charity moved them both to their present location, which is hopefully safer for them. Thanks in anticipation.

Roy Gough, Altea



Photo Credit: Somos Gos Facebook

Paco the Swan and friend.

*Editor's note
Back in September of last year, Paco the Swan was rescued by the animal charity Somos Gos as he had a problem*

*with his wing and was depressed.
Perhaps readers will be able to give more information about current whereabouts.*

So Adam;

Are you lonesome tonight? No because you're watching Jane cruising,

Can't help falling in love but perhaps not with Jane's cruising.

Don't be cruel so what can one say?

Perhaps You're the Devil in disguise!

Ann Rosser, Calpe

Difficult journey

I REFER to the waterfall article in Issue 1705. Thought this would be a great visit, so yesterday set off from Quesada. When we arrived there some 2.5 hours later we discovered that the access road was closed. What your article FAILS to mention is that at this time of the year the access road is CLOSED, and we were informed by Spanish locals that it was a 7km walk to the falls and thus another 7km back!!!! As it was around 4pm we gave it a miss, so will have to return later in the year, do you know when the road is opened?

Bill Peters, Quesada

Editor's note

We have been unable to find any reference to the access road being closed for part of the year on local tourism websites, and there was no answer when we phoned the tourist office in Cazorla. Most likely is that the road was damaged or flooded and you were extremely unlucky.

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.

Girl rescued after dangerous stunt

Downright stupid if you ask me and her parents should be made to pay for the emergency services costs and she should repay it out of her pocket money! When will this generation learn?! Get a life... everything isn't about uploading photos and videos of yourself to see how many people like you!!

Tessa Green

Where the hell were her parents while this was going on?

Christine Petrie

Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 fine

Thankfully there was a sensible judge in this case. Now she needs to throw the book at the doctor and law firm who are involved.

Clare Lloyd

Fantastic...and so they should. People don't like to hear this but I remember as a Main Line Holiday Rep in Benidorm, overhearing people discussing on their way to resorts from the airport ways of trying to claim on the insurance!!... and this just makes it more problematic for the genuine claims and of course is part of the reason premiums are so high for everyone... Of course it's all over the world this horrible claim culture...

Stephen Chatt Milne

Comments from EWN online

Brilliant. About time these thieves we taken to task and made cough up.

Gerard O'Brien

Police roll out 'invisible' speed cameras

If they are invisible how is that going to improve safety... just another money making measure.

Alex Walker

Invisible cameras do nothing to improve safety. Visible warnings improve safety, they cause people to slow down. This is a punishment, pure and simple. What would improve road safety is targeting lorry drivers who drive with disregard for other road users.

Robert Mitchell

Just don't speed. Simple! What's the hurry anyway? Relax and enjoy your holiday.

Dean Grande

Starving lions and tiger rescued

I've now watched the video of these poor injured, starved and very sad lions and a tiger. These circus people are disgusting and should be prosecuted to the highest degree, let's hope they are.

Chris Gregory

Thank God they were rescued. Thank you to all who achieved this.

Danusia Bourdon

This circus used to come to the town where I live. Hateful treatment, so glad they are safe now.

Jenny Brodie

Thank the Lord for this rescue. Will the circus owners be prosecuted?

Mary Povey

Ryanair: 'We're still Europe's No 1 customer service airline'

They are great, they get you there cheap what more do you want for 30 quid?

Tim Northern

Our View Brexit

IT is clear which extreme end of the political divide Colin MacGregor sits (Issue 1705). He seems to assume that because he favours Brexit, the majority of expats think likewise. Let me repeat what we all know. What is relevant is that a majority in the UK now favour Remain, because they realise they were fed false, misleading and inadequate information prior to the referendum. It is now irrelevant how they voted in June 2016. This is not a case of 'whining because we lost.' The future direction of the UK is at stake.

The government should not be too timid or too proud to admit we got it wrong. There is still time for a meaningful referendum.

David R Worboys, El Capistrano Village, Nerja

Mood food

GUT health is fast becoming one of the biggest wellness trends of 2018, with new food products, diets and books being cultivated around the concept.

Looking after your gut basically means taking care of the ecosystem of fungi, yeasts, bacteria and viruses which live in the intestinal tract.

Several reports claim that having a healthy gut helps to reduce chronic inflammation that can cause all manner of diseases, but could also have a significant impact on our mood.

This is because the gut produces many hormones and transmitters that have an impact on the brain, such as serotonin which helps to regulate sleep, social behaviour and mood.

Some studies have claimed that the gut produces 95 per cent of the body's serotonin which is why an imbalanced intestinal tract can have a big impact on our emotions.

Conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome has also been linked to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, with several studies showing more than a third of people with IBS also suffer from the disorders, compared to the 7.8 per cent of the general population.

Eating food high in fibre can help keep you in high spirits as it feeds the gut bacteria, while 'probiotic' foods such as live yoghurt, sauerkraut, kombucha and kimchi will make sure your gut is packed with a wide range of 'good' bacteria.

Dairy: the good and the bad

WHILE it isn't wise to give up entire food groups unless you are advised to by your doctor - like when you have an allergy, for example - it is becoming increasingly popular to cut dairy completely out of diets.

You may notice several changes to your body if you decide to go dairy-free - whether you need to or not - both good and bad.

This is because each food group fuels your body with different nutrients that are needed by your body to work properly, including dairy, however the US National Library of Medicine claims that two thirds of the world's population lack the enzyme needed to digest cow's milk.

This means your digestion may improve and you may feel less bloated if you cut out dairy, however, you



could also feel more bloated at first as your body reacts to the change in your diet.

You also might get fewer headaches as cheese contains a natural chemical called tyramine which can cause migraines and headaches.

However, dairy also con-

tains vitamin B2 and people with a deficiency of this vitamin can suffer from migraines as a side effect, so make sure you eat lots of spinach, mushrooms and almonds which can contribute to this.

You could also miss out on other essential nutrients such as calcium and vita-

GOT MILK: Giving up dairy has both positive and negative side effects.

min D if you go dairy-free so eat lots of fatty fish, as well as plant-based milks, which are normally a good alternative source of the nutrients you need.

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

Hamlet head to auditorium

PALMA'S Palacio de Congresos auditorium is set to host a performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet between April 11 and 15.

Performed by the Morgana Theatre Company in the Mozart hall, the play, named 'The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark', follows the story of old Hamlet, King of Denmark who was brutally murdered by his own brother.

The cruel king's brother marries

his sibling's widow and announces himself as king, much to the dismay of the king's young son, Hamlet.

And when the ghost of hamlet's father appears in the night and tells him the details of his death and who was responsible, Hamlet seeks revenge.

Ticket prices start at €20 and can be purchased via the Taquillas Auditorium and also on +34 971 734 735.



PERFORMANCE: The actors playing Ophelia, Hamlet and Gertrude last year.

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EXHIBITION: Previous work by Niels Jensen.

Jensen returns to the Rialto

POPULAR Scandinavian artist Niels Jensen will return to the Rialto Living centre

for his brand new exhibition.

Beginning today (Thursday), 'Escenarios' will be at the Rialto Living until April 24 and is Jensen's second show in Mallorca.

In his latest exhibition, Jensen has used a distinctive mixture of techniques, symbols and colours to create a body of work with energy that identifies with his personality.

His work at this exhibition has also been described by media as a 'personal suggestive and poetic language that will not leave anyone indifferent.'

Born in Denmark, Jensen is known for his passion for art but also music, having composed and released seven music albums all in different genres; pop, punk and experimental.

He had his first art exhibition in the 1990's and since then, he has had his work shown in cities all over the world, including Shanghai, Copenhagen, Paris, London and Barcelona.

He first had an exhibition at the Rialto Living's art gallery in 2016 and has now returned for his newest exhibition, which will adorn the walls of the Rialto Living until towards the end of April.

For the chosen few

BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA is a Spanish winery founded in 1864 by Don Eloy Lecanda y Chaves and owned since 1982 by the Alvarez family.

Don Eloy, a Spanish winemaker, brought several grape varieties back from the Bordeaux region where he trained to his Castile homeland, including Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, all of which are still used today together with Tempranillo and Malbec.

In the 20th century, Vega Sicilia - located in the Ribera del Duero DO in northern Spain - earned a reputation as one of Spain's most notable wineries with its top bottles selling for an average of €300.

The name Vega Sicilia refers to the Catholic Saint Cecilia with no connection to the island of Sicily.

Many of Vega Sicilia's 250 acres are planted with old vines, some more than 100 years old, resulting in a low yield during harvest.

The wines are aged in barrel and bottle for many years and depending on vintage for decades before release.

For example, in 1991 the winery released the 1968 and 1982 vintages after 23 and nine years ageing.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA: Family-run since 1864.

Vega Sicilia produces three cuvees:

Unico: This Gran Reserva is the signature wine released 10 - 15 years after vintage. Taken from some of the oldest vines it consists of Tempranillo (80 per cent) and Cabernet Sauvignon (20 per cent) and accounts for about a third of production.

Valbuena 5°: Aged for five years, it is composed mostly of Tempranillo, with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vega Sicilia Unico Reserva Especial: A non-vintage blend of different Unicos, aged at least for 10 years; it can include grapes from vintages harvested more than 30 years apart and usually only available to private customers.

Happy tasting.

Advertising Feature

Asian style at the two Gran Wok restaurants in Palma

THERE are two superb Asian themed restaurants in Palma where you can eat as much as you like and be spoiled for choice.

The concept is simple but the execution is exceptional with a whole choice of Asian delicacies which you simply choose for yourself from a truly enormous range.

Some food is already cooked but a huge range of raw ingredients are available for you to pick and then take to the expert chefs to cook for you with a range of different sauces.

Asian often suggests Chinese food and whilst there is a great choice, the Gran Wok also offers a range of freshly made sushi, but that's not all, as you can also enjoy a selection of meats from the Argentinian barbecue.

The Gran Wok at Gran Via Asima 5, Poligono Son Castello 07009 Pal-



PLENTY OF CHOICE: Enjoy a great meal at the Gran Wok.

ma has the following set prices:

- Monday to Friday lunch €10.50
- Monday to Thursday night €11.50
- Friday night, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays €14.50
- Children €6.50

The sister restaurant at Calle de Textil, Poligono Son Valenti 07011

Palma has slightly different pricing at:

- Monday to Friday lunch €10.95
- Monday to Thursday night €12.95
- Friday night, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays €14.95
- Children €7

The choice in both restaurants is

enormous and if you don't eat enough of the various Asian delicacies and Argentinian grilled meat, then there is also a range of tempting desserts to try.

The wok is a great utensil used throughout much of Asia and is used in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and

Thai kitchens, so the options at Gran Wok are never ending no matter how many times you decide to visit.

Whilst those who love meat, fish and shellfish will find plenty to enjoy, vegetarians are also catered for, with a wide range of fresh vegetables which can be cooked in a variety of different styles.

There is also a good selection of soft drinks, beers and wines all at sensible prices.

Open for lunch and dinner these two restaurants offer an economic yet exceptionally tasty option for a meal out for a couple, a family or even for larger celebrations.

Knowing me, knowing you

THE Auditorium de Palma de Mallorca will host an ABBA tribute band, Dancing Queen, for a night of music which is set to leave the audience head over heels.

The ABBA tribute band have been performing together for 15 years and when all is said and done, they really know how to create a show using the band's original tones and harmonies.

Across the years, the group has performed an estimated 2,000 concerts throughout Europe and is considered one of the best tribute acts to the

Swedish stars, leaving audience members across the continent saying thank you for the music.

In terms of money, money,

money; tickets cost just €29 and are available from the auditorium itself or on the hotline +34 971 734 735.

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Ghost town comes alive again

SESENA, a town that came to symbolise the excesses of Spain's last real estate boom, has begun building again.

It was a decade ago that ghost-like buildings in the Castilian countryside became an emblem of out-of-control speculation and of the housing crash.

However, Sesena, (34km south of Madrid), is making plans to build thousands of new homes after councillors approved the 'Quixote Park' project in late January.

Mayor Carlos Velazquez says proposals to combine homes with an industrial park on the site prove that the



BUILDING BLOCK: The housing crash left Sesena littered with unfinished homes.

town has learnt from the mistakes of the past. In fact Sesena's change in fortunes is a sign of how soaring demand is causing Madrid's real estate and rental markets to heat up again.

Fernando Encinar, co-founder and head of research at Idealista said:

"There is as yet no bubble but there is a mini-boom. People will start to move out of the capital to the satellite cities."

As Spain's economic recovery stretches into its fifth year, property prices are rising strongly in the Madrid region, where they climbed 12 per cent in 2017.

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Ever heard of Llucmajor? 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, Llucmajor, 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.



Groundbreaking house goes into its shell

MEANDRE'S shell-shaped house is northern Spain is an innovative and futuristic design that maximises space.

The layout is impressively groundbreaking in that it turns traditional notions of space planning in a house inside out.

A normal design is based around a central common space, with other rooms leading off from it.

However, in this new concept the common space is hugging all rooms, forming a common corridor around the whole structure where the other spaces become separate shell-shaped cells.

Russian architecture firm Meandre has produced a vision here that provides complete privacy for bedrooms, with windows opening only into internal garden space.

Other rooms are transparent with glazing on all sides, while the suites are positioned in a way that allows them to be lit with natural light in the morning.

In the evening, only the living and dining areas re-

ceive sunlight, and there is courtyard access from the corridor but not the rooms.

This unique design is a mesh of functional and bioclimatic ideas, a new aesthetic that is vividly memorable.

The geometry of simple lines and arches gives the house a stylish facade, while the dome ceilings of the rooms increase the sense of space and allow more natural light.



Credit: Meandre



SHELL SUITS: The design is simple, stylish and innovative.



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Companion planting

Finding the right friends for your plants

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DESIGNING the plantings in your garden takes a lot more skill than just what looks good on paper.

It is a good idea to also know which plants can help and support each other's characteristics and needs. Many plants provide attributes that can greatly benefit each other.

Something as simple as providing shade where a taller, more sun tolerant plant can shelter a softer, sun sensitive one is a way to use plants to benefit each other.

Trees are an obvious example of a good means of providing shade for a variety of plants that cannot tolerate the hot Mediterranean sun.

In the vegetable garden corn can provide shade for beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, peas, potatoes and many other shorter heat intolerant plants, including flowers.

There are also plants that are incompatible. Tomatoes will not grow well with corn. Sun-loving plants or plants that need low nitrogen will not do well in a well prepared nitrogen-rich corn bed. Many culinary herbs fit into this category.

Companion planting can be very detailed. If you want to find natural ways to improve your garden, it is important to at least understand the basics of it.

Pests can be repelled by adding flowers and herbs such as marigolds, thyme, sage, lavender, tansy, mint and many more. Some plants will attract beneficial insects, such as zinnias which attract ladybirds. Garlic and onions are good pest deterrents but they can stunt the growth of some legumes including beans and peas.

There are many guides on companion planting and there is a lot of variation in advice so it is best to research ideas you



Photo Credit: Miyuki Satak Shutterstock

COMPANION PLANTING: Peas and spring onions.

like and just try it out to see if recommendations work for your plants in your environment. It can be a help to research plants beneficial to the specific problems you have with your plants and use those.

Combining plants known to support each other and ones that are detrimental to each other

is also very handy to know. Lavender growing under or around fruit trees susceptible to codling moth will give them some protection.

Growing flowers in vegetable gardens is becoming more popular as people learn of the benefits of different flowers to deter damaging pests and to

attract beneficial ones.

Do not be too concerned that you cannot follow garden plans for companion planting exactly.

Plants may not be crucially affected and some advice is regional. It is just an additional skill for better gardening. You can still get enjoyment from learning for yourself what

works well and what does not.

It may be more detrimental to plants to be dug up and removed to another place if you find established plants are not where they should be to get the benefit of companion planting.

The most important thing is that you can feel good about gardening.

Marching into spring

SPRING is on the horizon, so now is the perfect time to really start to get stuck into your gardening.

With the last of the winter weather (hopefully) out of the way, your garden is sure to really start sprouting in the next few weeks, so make sure you get on top of it before it gets on top of you.

Besides, the days will be get-

ting longer, not to mention warmer, so why wouldn't you want to make the most of it?

First things first, start by trimming any unruly hedges or bushes, giving your lawn a mow and removing any weeds. The sooner you get started on this, the less work you'll have to do later.

Now is also the best time to get planting your bulbs if you want to see your garden in full bloom come summer.

At the end of the month, you should make sure to lift and separate your winter perennials to get a better display next year.



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Denning is a natural instinct

David
THE Dogman



columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

SAFE AND HAPPY: A place of her own.

DOMESTICATION of dogs is a fairly recent event in the history of canines on earth. Although wild canines have been around for millions of years, they have only spent a few thousand of those as our pets. As a result, they still retain some of their 'wild' instincts, and one of those is the instinct to 'den.'

Canines have a definite instinct to hide out in dens. If they do not have one available, they will 'make their own.' We frequently see our dogs under desks or the dining room table, if they can fit. When a dog digs a hole in your garden one reason might be the instinct to make a den.

What this behaviour is all about is a canine's natural desire to have a place he can call his own.

Many people dislike the idea of

'caging' or 'crating' their dog, feeling as if it is cruel and somehow hampering his freedom. This is not true. Just go to a friend's house who has a dog that has been properly crate (or cage) trained.

The dog will often seek out this refuge when he is tired, stressed, or just wants to be away from it all. Your friend probably feeds her dog in or near his 'den', has provided soft, comfortable bedding for his 'den', and has plenty of toys for him to play with or to chew nearby. What dog would not want to stay in a place with so many luxurious amenities?



Many people leave a cage or crate available for their dog so he has his own place to go to. The door is always open and the pet comes and goes as he pleases.

To him it is not a cage, but rather an

indoor doghouse that he feels secure in.

Other advantages of cages or crates include:

- Safety for your dog and house.
- Having your young or untrained dog in

a cage may protect your house from dog-related destruction while you are away or are unable to watch him.

I know of a woman who forgot to put her 10-month-old giant breed puppy in his cage. She came home to papers ripped up and spread all over, and toilet paper strewn throughout the house.

A crate can prevent this type of disaster from happening. It can also prevent the young, unsupervised animal from hurting himself by chewing electric cords or becoming ill from something he ate during his escapade.

- When travelling with your pet, a crate in your car can protect both your pet and the driver from being disturbed. Whether you choose a plastic crate or a wire cage, you will be doing both you and your pet a favour when you get him his own 'den.'

Mature pets need understanding care

IF you are fortunate enough to have had a pet live with you into old age, you'll understand what I am about to describe. With every year, every noticeable limp, their comfort becomes more important both to you and to them.

They may not be as agile as they once were, and despite obvious enthusiasm and excitement about the prospect of going out with you, perhaps their gait is a little arthritic and the tail wagging somewhat shorter in duration than before.

Just like humans the older our pets become they may need prescribed medications and treatments to keep them well and comfortable. This can make a trip away more of a challenge.

Do you take them somewhere for the duration of your absence or keep them at home? Often pet owners express a wish to keep mature pets at home. They say it is less stressful if they know their location, familiar smells, and their routines.

Fortunately, today in the age of the internet there are options available to access affordable pet care for when we go on holiday. Joining a membership network where the house and pet-sitters are all checked on registration is easier than ever.



Keeping mature pets at home can be a great solution.

On HouseSitMatch.com the sitters offer an exchange of services free for home and pet care swapped for free accommodation.

It is easy to join our membership network online and we can help you get started. Check out our Trustpilot (link to <https://www.housesitmatch.com/testimonials/>) references online to see what our verified customers say about us too.

"Excellent company and we have always had brilliant house sitters from here!"

Jules Ross - home and pet owner in Malaga

So if you have holiday plans for this year, and especially if you have mature pets, it is best to find your house-sitter now and ensure you have good pet care at home for free!

Standard membership costs £49 per year. Premium membership costs £79 per year and offers larger adverts and more support at every stage.

Walk this way

OWNING a dog can work wonders for your health, much more so than most other pets.

A new survey by Harringtons pet food discovered that dog owners walk their four-legged friends more than 1,000 miles on average each year and play 2,080 rounds of fetch.

The study, which surveyed 2,000 dog owners, also found that they take their dogs for a walk roughly 10 times a week, and each trip lasted an average of 34 minutes.

Therefore, owning a dog is an easy way to reach the recommended goal of 10,000 steps a week, helping you to stay fit and healthy without it seeming like a chore.

However, the survey also revealed that couples or families who own dogs fight at least twice a week about whose turn it is to take their pooch for a walk.

Nonetheless, owning a

dog can also work wonders for your mental health, as exercise in any form releases endorphins, a natural mood booster.

It is also a great social activity as dog walkers bump into four other peo-

ple on average while out with their pet and stop to have a chat on half of these occasions.

They also tend to have one break to grab coffee or a drink in a pub along the way.



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Another new superyacht from Italy

BENETTI has successfully launched its third Mediterraneo 116' unit, a 35.5-metre yacht with a fibreglass and carbon fibre body, for delivery April 30. Possibly in time for Palma.

The exteriors are designed by architect Giorgio M Cassetta, while the interiors have been developed by Benetti's interior style department in partnership with Radyca.

The flowing, streamlined design of the exteriors is reflected in the layout of the interiors and the decor, where light and big spaces come together to create bright, comfortable settings.

The indoor area of the main deck contains a comfortable lounge with a dining area and an American bar to enjoy the shared settings to the full.

Further forward, the master suite is dominated by two large glazed surfaces and furnished with wood floors in the night area and marble for the bathroom area.

Next to the master suite, a comfortable studio with sofa and TV creates a private rest and relaxation area.

The stern area on the upper deck,



Credit: Benetti

THE MEDITERRANEO: A 35.5-metre super yacht.

with wood flooring everywhere, is dominated by a roomy dining area with a big round table seating up to 10 people.

The interior is designed for relaxation, with a sky lounge furnished with a large sofa, a 75-inch TV and a game table with four seats. A big

Jacuzzi and a completely personalised sun lounging space are the center of the bow area.

The four guest cabins are on the lower deck. The two VIP cabins with double beds are arranged symmetrically, while the other two guest cabins have sliding twin beds and

pullman beds.

Still on the lower deck, the three crew cabins are located in the bow area and, with the captain's cabin next to the helm station on the upper deck, provide accommodation for up to seven people.

Top speed is 15 knots thanks to

two MAN V12-1400, of 1,029 kW giving a cruising speed of about 14 knots.

It has an impressive range at 10 knots of 3,200 nautical miles, with stabilisation during navigation and at anchor provided by electric stabilising fins.

British boat wowing the US

BRITISH manufacturer of high quality motor yachts, Pearl Yachts, with exteriors designed by former 'dragon' Kelly Hoppen, have been attending a number of major boat shows.

After exhibiting in Cannes, the impressive Pearl 80 crossed the Atlantic to appear in Fort Lauderdale and Miami, but its season will come to a



Credit: Sculati & Partnerso

THE PEARL 80: In Florida waters.

close when it moves on to the Palm Beach International Boat Show which opens today (Thursday).

Visitors will not only have the chance to view this innovative new vessel

but will also be able to peruse the entire range using virtual reality goggles.

According to the company, which was founded in 1997, the new Pearl 80 with its impressive manoeuvrability, a class-beating fly bridge, a jet-ski garage and a hydraulic bathing platform, breaks new ground for a yacht of this size.

It is not reported whether it will be able to cross back to Europe in order give visitors to the Palma Boat Show a chance to see the boat at the end of April or the soon to be launched Pearl 95.

Major regatta across Mallorca

THE 49 Trofeo Princesa Sofia IBEROSTAR promises to be one of the most contested in the history of the regatta, with the high number of experienced teams that will race against the young squads battling for gold at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Four hundred and twenty-one boats, with over 500 sailors from 49 nations have entered for the event co-organised by Club Nàutic S'Arenal, Club Marítimo San Antonio de la Playa and Real Club Náutico de Palma.

This high number of entries have forced the organising committee to relocate the Nacra 17 class to Club Nàutic s'Arenal, together with the 49er, FX, 470s and Finn.

This will give more space for the significant Laser fleet at Club Marítimo San Antonio de la Playa which is also the venue for the RS:X.



Photo Credit: © Jesús Renedo

FLASHBACK: A scene from last year's regatta.

The Sofia IBEROSTAR gathers together, year after year, the best European sailors and also attracts teams from all around the world. At this moment, the most important Olympic classes' event in Spain has 49 nations registered.

The participation of nations such as China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia

and Thailand is highlighted due to their geographical distance, the complexity in travel and equipment shipment logistics.

The regatta will be held from next Friday until April 7 with racing scheduled to start on April 2 with the medal race on the last Saturday to decide the winners among the top classified sailors.

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MOTORING FACT

Domino's Pizza co-founder Jim Monaghan traded his shares, half of the business, for a Volkswagen Beetle in 1961.

Rock and Roll-ing in style

THREE vintage supercars previously owned by rock and roll superstars have gone under the hammer at auction for staggering fees.

Billed by some as the 'rock stars' cars' auction, the three cars formerly owned by Paul McCartney, Sir Rod Stewart and Pink Floyd's Nick Mason went up for auction as part of Bonhams' Goodwood Members' Meeting sale on Sunday, March 18.

Paul McCartney's limited edition 1967 Lamborghini



Credit: Bonhams

COOL: Mason's former Ferrari has been dubbed the 'coolest car ever made.'

400 GT, one of just 247 ever built, belonged to McCartney during the Beatles' heyday and went on sale for a stunning €559,000 (£494,000).

According to reports, the former Beatle had the car specially converted to right hand



Credit: Twitter

LIMITED: The 1967 Lamborghini, previously owned by Paul McCartney, is one of only 247 ever made.

drive in the late 1960's before eventually selling it on in 1979.

Tim Schofield, head of the auction house's motor department, told British media: "There is certainly a market

for celebrity owned vehicles, especially when the cars themselves are desirable marques and models such as this Lamborghini.

"Paul McCartney, he has had some fantastic cars in his time and this is no different.

"It was first registered to him in February 1968, the heyday of his time with The Beatles."

Also sold at the auction was Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason's 1974 Ferrari Dino 246 GT Spider.

Dubbed the coolest car ever made, the jet black supercar has 'Nero' painted down the side of it and fetched almost €476,000 (£420,000) when it went to auction.

Also under the hammer was Sir Rod Stewart's bright red Lamborghini Diabolo.

The 200mph supercar, which Sir Rod reportedly bought for himself at Christmas 1991, after his album went platinum in six countries, fetched €154,000 (£136,000).

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Land Rover Discovery S

THE Land Rover Discovery is an iconic model, visually unmistakable, refined on-road and unrivalled off-road.

There are impressive rivals in its sector including the Audi A7, Volvo XC90 and Mercedes GLE, yet there is such mystique about the Discovery it is arguably in a class of its own.

There are around a dozen versions of Discovery with petrol and diesel choices, starting from around €51,794 (£45,895) for the featured car, the entry-level S version. It is quite well equipped with features including touch-screen infotainment, air-con, cruise control, powered tailgate, alloy wheels, air suspension, and safety kit including lane departure warning and auto emergency braking.

The popular choice four-cylinder twin-turbo 2.0 litre diesel offers a hefty 237 hp, delivering 0-100 kph time of 8.3 seconds, top speed of 195 kph (121 mph) and

Stats panel:

- **Model: Land Rover Discovery**
- **Engine: 2.0 litre diesel**
- **Transmission: 8-speed automatic**
- **Performance: 0-100 kph 8.3 seconds, top speed 195 kph (121 mph)**
- **Economy: 15.3 kpl (43.5 mpg)**
- **Emissions: 171 g/km**

respectable fuel-economy of 15.3 kpl (43.4 mpg). Emission figure is 171 g/km.

The exterior styling is cool and classy, the cabin has more wow-factor than any other in the sector, and when you start driving, it is surprising how quick and agile the car is, partly due to being around 480 kg lighter than previous models.

The diesel unit is impressively smooth and quiet, the eight-speed auto box seamless. The ride qual-

ity is refined, and while there is some body-roll on tight corners, the car still feels planted and assured. While permanent four-wheel drive is standard you can, at the turn of a dial, tailor the response to suit mud, snow or even sand.

Most of the time, the Discovery will be on the tarmac but should the terrain get tough, it can certainly cope. I've driven one up a Scottish mountain in deep snow and it never faltered!

Discovery gets top marks for practicality - even the third-row seats at the back can take adults in comfort and there is still boot space of 258 litres. With all seats folded down, there is a van-like 2,400 litres available.

Overall, Discovery S is a great package at an attractive price for a premium seven-seater with all wheel drive and plenty of style and image.

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

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Spain to take on world champions Germany

By Benjamin Park

SPAIN face a tough double header in their penultimate round of friendly fixtures ahead of this summer's World Cup in Russia.

La Roja will head to current world champions Germany on Saturday, before hosting the Germans' final opponents in 2014, Argentina, at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid on Tuesday.

Spain go into the matches in good spirits having not lost a match since the 2016 European Championships, but will be without front man Alvaro Morata after the Chelsea striker was left out by Julen Lopetegui.

The 25-year-old, who has struggled since his €85.7 million (£75 million) move from Real Madrid, got his first goal of 2018 in the 2-1 FA Cup quarter-final win over

Leicester on Sunday but has been replaced by rejuvenated former Chelsea man Diego Costa. There were also first time call-ups for Chelsea's Marcos Alonso, Valencia playmaker Dani Parejo and Villarreal's Rodri.

Speaking to English media, Lopetegui was adamant that his final selection for the World Cup was far from made, but was full of praise for the newcomers in his side.

He said: "There are players who are not on the list whose chances of going to the World Cup are intact.

"We've now got two exciting matches against two great sides and after that everyone will have their chances. The fact players haven't been called is down to various things; form, injuries and also to see new players better."

"We felt it was the right time for them to come in and take a look at them.

"We like (Rodri) a lot. He's very young but he's ready. We've liked watching him a lot, the reports from his club and the under-21's are excellent and we thought it was a good time to see him closer."

Elsewhere, England will hope to secure two victories in their penultimate double header.

England boss Southgate's side will be without key man Harry Kane after he was ruled out until April, as they head to the Netherlands on Saturday ahead of hosting Italy at Wembley on Tuesday.

Southgate has handed a place in the squad to three uncapped players ahead of the fixtures, all looking to state their claim for a place on the plane to the World Cup.

Burnley duo Nick Pope and



Credit: Twitter

FRIENDLIES: Germany ran out 1-0 winners the last time they faced Spain in 2014.

James Tarkowski receive their first call-ups on the back of the club's good form this season, alongside Swansea centre-back Alfie Mawson. Bournemouth midfielder Lewis Cook has been called up for the second time after he was originally called up for the 0-0 draw with Brazil in November.

There are also recalls for Arsenal pair Jack Wilshere and Danny Welbeck, while West Brom's Jake Livermore also retains his place in spite of his club side's poor form this season.

West Ham's Joe Hart also retains his place in the three lions' squad despite several high profile mistakes for the struggling Londoners this season, while high profile absentees include Chelsea captain Gary Cahill and Manchester United's Chris Smalling.

Other fixtures will see Argentina play Italy tomorrow (Friday) as well as Russia against Brazil and France take on Colombia before Portugal face the Netherlands on Monday and Germany host Brazil on Tuesday.

By Benjamin Park

SPAIN missed out on automatic qualification to next year's Rugby World Cup in dubious circumstances as they were beaten 18-10 in Brussels amidst ugly scenes at the final whistle.

Los Leones looked on course to qualify for just their second ever World Cup and their first since 1999 ahead of the match, needing just a win over bottom side Belgium in their final qualifying match to leapfrog Romania into top spot.

But Spain were undone as Belgian fly-half Vincent Hart kicked six penalties, scoring all of his sides points in the process, in a game controversially overseen by Romanian referee Vlad Iordachescu and two Romanian assistants.

Tempers flared after the final whistle with several of the Spanish players confronting the referee, while others sarcastically applauded the official's performance as he had to be escorted from the field by security.

The result means that Romania qualified for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and extended their record of competing at every World Cup since its inception in 1987, while Spain must now beat Portugal in a playoff; before the winner faces a two-legged tie against Samoa to secure a place in Japan.

Captain, Jamie Navara, was quick to apologise for his side's actions after the final whistle but remained critical of the referee and his assistants.

He told Radio Marca: "I'm the captain and I would like to apologise for what happened with the referee.

"The image at the end of the game does not represent the sport nor the values of this team. It must be understood however, we've lost part

"We've lost part of our dream"

Tempers boil over as Spain fail in their bid for automatic Rugby World Cup qualification



Credit: Twitter

UGLY SCENES: Spanish players confronted the Romanian referee at the final whistle.

of our dream."

While Spanish coach, Santiago Santos, also seemed incensed with the way the match was officiated.

"We weren't allowed to play," he told the media.

"The referee kept stopping the game at every moment. Our game was stopped continuously, the

Belgians benefited from many more decisions.

"The difference between penalties against us and for us was huge. When we were trying to come back in the game the play kept on being interrupted."

Reports suggest that the Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) made an official request for the officials to be changed on February 19 given the po-

tential outcome of the fixture.

The appointment was made by Rugby Europe, whose president is former Romanian player Octavian Morariu, as opposed to the governing body World Rugby.

The FER have since made a formal claim to both Rugby Europe and World Rugby for the game to be replayed, while Rugby Europe themselves have also released a statement regarding the match.

It reads: "Rugby Europe has always operated the highest standards of match official selection whatever the competitions. Our structures have provided a pathway for some of the world's top officials.

"While we appreciate that this is a subject of high-emotion, it would be inappropriate to comment on a match official performance before the usual full review has been undertaken.

"This is a usual procedure and occurs for every match.

"(The) Rugby Europe selection committee is waiting for the assessment report of the supervisor for Belgium v Spain match officials. This committee will meet in Poznan next Friday on the occasion of the Rugby Europe U18 Championships.

"Its agenda will be modified and a large portion of the meeting will be devoted to the analysis of every stage of the Belgium v Spain game.

"Following this meeting, a statement will be released to Rugby Europe Board of Directors for dissemination."

And it has now been confirmed that World Rugby will investigate the circumstances, with the governing body stating that it will look at the 'context of events' around the result.

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CRISTIANO RONALDO scored his 50th career hat-trick as he scored four for Real Madrid in a thrilling 6-3 win over Girona at the weekend, as he also took his tally to 17 goals in his last eight games.

TO READ MORE

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

THE Formula One season officially kicks off this weekend, getting underway with the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

All eyes will be on last year's champion Lewis Hamilton and his battle with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who will both be attempting to win their fifth titles respectively.

Mercedes will also be looking to pick up their fifth consecutive constructors' title this season but the infamous fifth title may be the hardest of all, with several competitors set to rival them for the championship.

Alongside Ferrari, who will be desperate to reclaim the title, Red Bull finished

Start your engines!

Formula One season begins in Australia

the year hot on Mercedes' heels; and young Red Bull driver Max Verstappen is also tipped for a good year this season.

Verstappen, 20, is one of nine drivers this year under the age of 25 in this year's championship and is an outsider for the title after a strong performance in 2017.

The young Belgian-Dutch driver showed glimpses of what may be to come in 2018 last season with wins in Malaysia and Mexico, and he will certainly be in contention, along with last year's Abu Dhabi champion, Valtteri Bottas and Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, whose future still remains seemingly up in the air.

The Australian is out of



Credit: Twitter

BACK: The F1 returns this weekend, with Brit, Lewis Hamilton aiming for his fifth driver's championship.

contract at the end of the season and there is currently no news of him close to agreeing a new deal, unlike

youngster Max Verstappen who signed an extension with the team until 2020 last year.

If Red Bull hit the ground running, we may see a change of heart from the 28-year-old but a reported 2019

move to Mercedes continues to seem the likeliest alternative at the moment.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso and McLaren will be positive heading into the season after posting the third fastest time in testing, despite five breakdowns, while the Australian GP will also see the return of Alfa Romeo, who teamed up with Sauber ahead of the 2018 season.

This weekend's race in Australia will also be an F1 first as it will be the first ever season opener to feature two four-time world champions.

Action gets underway from 2am tomorrow (Friday) with P1 followed by P2, ahead of Saturday's Qualifying, which begins at 7am.

And the season's racing will officially begin at 7.10am on Sunday.

After Australia, the Formula One season heads to Bahrain on April 8 and then Shanghai the following week before taking a two week break ahead of the Azerbaijan GP in Baku on April 29.

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