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Taken by storm

Island recovers from wash out

by Matt Ford

Several incidents were reported to emergency services across Mallorca after the island was struck by wind and rain.

Falling trees, floods, landslides and cut off roads were among the 48 notable cases the 112 emergency services line recorded during a 28-hour period from Saturday to Sunday.

The damage was left in the wake of Storm Hugo

which passed through the Balearic Islands over the weekend.

Winds with speeds of up to 120 kilometres per hour were recorded in the Serra d' Alfabia during the downpour. A total of 270 litres per square metre of rain was registered in Escorca, according to reports.

Firefighters from Palma were called out after the brickwork facade of a building collapsed on the

Calle Delme in the Establiments area at around 12.45am on Sunday. Two people were evacuated from the building as a result.

Emergency personnel also responded to floods on the Cami de Son Anglada outside Palma which swept a car into the road, leaving it partly submerged in the torrent. No one was in it at the time.

Guardia Civil officers

and Mallorcan firefighters also had to rescue eight people trapped in the Coanegra stream, with one reportedly displaying the symptoms of hypothermia.



DELUGE: Firefighters from Palma had to pull a car from a flooded road during the storm.

Photo credit: Bombers de Palma/Twitter

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NEWS EXTRA**Tourism transfer**

THE Balearic Islands government has approved passing responsibility for tourism promotion onto the Consell de Mallorca, which will officially begin its management of the policy from this Sunday.

Lights out

THE Consell de Mallorca switched off the lights in nine of its buildings to mark Earth Hour last Saturday, an international campaign organised by the World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness of climate change.

Selling ban

AUTHORITIES in Palma are reportedly considering barring 'flying dealers' from selling goods on the city's streets, with those in favour arguing they disturb tourists while leftist groups claim many traders are victims of organised crime.

Franco symbols get the boot

by Joe Gerrard

THE Balearic Islands Parliament approved measures to do away with Franco-era symbols and references in the region at a meeting held on Tuesday.

The Law of Democratic Memory mandates the removal of all monuments, icons and symbols placed on the islands during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco.

It also annuls all political sentences handed down to the dictator's opponents during and after the Spanish Civil War.

The Law was passed with votes in favour from the left-leaning Partido Socialista (PSOE), Mes per Malloca and Podemos parties.

The conservative Partido Popular and the centrist Ciudadanos and Proposta per les Illes (PI) also voted in favour

after their amendments to the measures were accepted.

Proposals for fines of up to €150,000 for failing to remove the symbols could not be agreed upon during the meeting.

The passing of the law comes as the body unanimously approved the so-called

Grave Law in May 2016.

That law requires authorities to locate and identify the 2,000 people believed to have disappeared during the conflict and dictatorship.

The body also resolved this month to investigate the alleged murder of 52 people committed during the war's first months, August 1936 to March 1937, as possible crimes against humanity.

Bartomeu Barcelo, the Balearic Island's Superior Prosecutor, said that in principle the authority was prevented from undertaking the investigation due to the Amnesty Law of 1977.

Mallorca and Ibiza were among the first parts of Spain to fall to Franco's nationalist forces during the conflict which resulted in an estimated 250,000 to 1,000,000 killed.



Credit by oldpicsarchive.com

REMOVAL: The Law seeks to undo Francoist measures against Republican opponents.

Cursach's club probe

PALMA'S City Council has reportedly inspected several sites belonging to the Cursach group for the first time 'in years.'

Authorities have looked into the Pacha nightclub and the Megasport venue. They have also ordered works be torn down which they said were carried out without a licence.

The council also examined the Megapark site which they claim operated without a licence since its opening in 2005. A resolution for the case is still pending.

Inspectors said they also uncovered a series of irregularities at the Megasport site and that extensions were installed there without a permit. The issue is yet to be resolved.

Miguel Perez-Marsa, the Cursach group's general director, reportedly wrote to a deputy mayor from Palma's council, Jose Hila, which said only 'technical' irregularities had emerged from the probe.

The letter went on to state that the authority had denied the company the presumption of innocence during the inspections.

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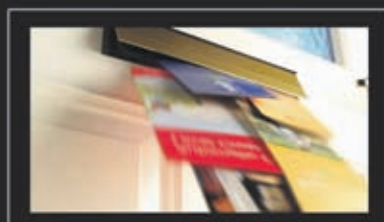
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Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

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ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE

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Open again for high season

PALMA Airport's Terminal A reopened for the start of the tourist season last Sunday after it was closed last November. Airport authorities put in new flooring and areas for passport control while the terminal was closed due to the fall in traveller numbers over winter.

Crime rise

MALLORCA'S crime rate rose by 5.6 per cent last year, according to statistics from police and the Ministry of the Interior. Palma accounted for almost 40 per cent of criminal offences registered in the Balearic Islands, with robberies making up the majority of incidents reported.

Royal visit

KING FELIPE'S mother, Reina Sofia, has arrived at the Marivent Palace in Palma for her annual visit to Mallorca for Holy Week. The former Queen attended a concert at the city's cathedral in aid of tackling drug addiction with President of the Balearic Islands Francina Armengol.

Consell hirings

A PROGRAMME from the Consell de Mallorca created for unemployed young people with higher education qualifications to carry out works of 'general interest' has hired 65 people for contracts lasting seven months, according to officials. The project is part of a €1.4 million investment programme.

Kidnap call

NATIONAL POLICE have requested cautions for what they allege were two attempted kidnapping cases on the island in recent days. On one occasion, a teenager was reportedly approached in Palma by a man who told her to get into his car, while an 11-year-old in Manacor was also similarly targeted.

Passion and pain

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 7

LENTING A HAND: Thousands of people have attended Holy Week parades in Malaga this week.

THE biggest religious festival of the year is underway across Spain.

Elaborate processions continue to take place today (Thursday), tomorrow and Sunday as Holy Week (Semana Santa) draws to a close.

Organised by brotherhoods known as cofradias, the spectacular events see members known as nazarenos parade through towns and cities dressed in the capirote, a conical hood traditionally used

to cover the faces of penitents.

And while the more traditional, sombre processions take place in cities including Zamora in Castilla-La Mancha, where the celebration dates back to 1179, it is in Andalusia where glamour and a holiday atmosphere are to the fore.

The most jaw-dropping festivities take place in regional capital Sevilla and Malaga on the Costa del Sol, attracting hundreds of

thousands of spectators and serving up some stunning images.

The biggest draw in Sevilla is this evening's La Madrugá, which runs during the night on Maundy Thursday and continues into the early hours of Good Friday.

In Malaga the cofradias carry huge, heavy tronos (thrones, known elsewhere as pasos) depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ or the Sorrows of Virgin Mary on their shoulders.

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130

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1707 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 49 local stories.

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79 years on



RECOGNISING THE SACRIFICE: Citizens of Madrid search through the remains of their homes after the city was 'liberated' by the nationalist forces of General Franco (inset) in March 1939.

SPAIN could finally be ready to exorcise the ghosts of its bloodiest internal conflict.

This Saturday marks 79 years since the end of the Spanish Civil War.

And a new museum in Teruel, Aragon, is set to become the first in the country dedicated to telling the story of the three-year battle.

The war began when General Francisco Franco's troops launched a brutal nationalist military uprising against the democratically elected Republican government of president Manuel Azaña on July 17, 1936.

By 1937 the nationalists had captured much of northern Spain, while Madrid was under siege.

In 1938 and 1939 they advanced on Cataluña, cutting off Barcelona from the capital and sealing Franco's victory on April 1, 1939.

But the conflict was distorted in the four decades until his death in 1975, as the dictator attempted to airbrush the Republicans from Spain's history books, and the issue has on the whole been neglect-

ed by governments since. A recent survey revealed that 69 per cent of 14- to 17-year-olds in Spain received 'little to no' information about the civil war in school history classes. War memorials that appeared across Spain in the wake of the war named only the Nationalist dead, while the relatives of thousands of missing Republicans were told to 'say nothing and forget' as Franco brainwashed a nation. It is only in the last decade that a generational shift has been sparked, after the controversial Law of Historical Memory was in 2007 passed by socialist prime minister Jose Zapatero.

The decree formally condemned the Franco regime and honoured victims on both sides.

And it has culminated in a move that would previously have been unthinkable, as the city of Teruel, which was bombed by both sides in a famous battle, seeks the green light to begin work on the country's first official civil war museum.

Should it go ahead, it could mark an important step in Spain coming to terms with its fascist past.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Following his arrest in Germany, should former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont be extradited to Spain?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

In the wake of national protests, should Spain introduce life prison sentences for a wider range of crimes?

Yes **86%** No **14%**

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TOP 5 stories

RED ALERT: Another 'weather bomb' on way to Spain TODAY and TOMORROW



STORM HUGO: Bringing strong winds, rain, snow and high waves to Spain. (File photograph)

- 7,360** views Another 'weather bomb' on way to Spain
- 5,770** views Check your €20 banknotes it could win you €6,000
- 5,689** views Low-cost airline launches new Costa del Sol flights from UK
- 5,418** views Warnings of flight delays and cancellations as French air traffic controllers strike
- 5,150** views 800 flights cancelled and 100,000 passengers affected

**For week 19- 26 March*

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Band of brothers

HE'S starring in a new series about the life of Malaga-born painter Pablo Picasso. And Antonio Banderas, 57, was this week back in his hometown where he took part in traditional Palm Sunday celebrations alongside girlfriend Nicole Kimpel, 37, and daughter Stella, 21. The Hollywood A-lister donned a white robe as he joined local brotherhoods for the annual Virgen de Lagrimas y Favores procession.

The life aquatic

SHE'S married to Australian Thor musclem Chris Hemsworth. And Spanish actress Elsa Pataky has landed a starring role in the first Netflix series to be filmed in her hubby's homeland. The 41-year-old beauty is set to play Adrielle Cuthbert, the 'ruthless leader of a group of dangerous half-siren half-humans,' in upcoming drama Tidelands.

Back to her breast!



Photo credit You Tube

SIZZLING DISPLAY: Danielle Sellers.

SHE'S the former page 3 girl who found fame on ITV dating reality show Love Island. But Danielle Sellers showed she's still got front after frolicking topless on a Spanish beach. The 23-year-old left little to the imagination after peeling off her bikini top before paddling in the shallows while barely covering her assets with her hands.

Glam Pam's carpet stroll

EX-BAYWATCH beauty Pamela Anderson turned heads after slipping into a silk gown for a charity event in Madrid. The blonde star, 50, has recently been involved in a family spat, but she was all smiles as she accompanied Marbella-based actress Maria Bravo on the red carpet at the Global Gift gala. Maria founded the international trust for needy children, and Pam has been a regular ambassador. It comes after her 21-year-old son Brandon made the news for punching his father, and her ex-husband, Tommy Lee in the mouth. She posted a blog on her website in which she wrote that her son hit his father "in the nose for all of us who he has hurt. "Now Tommy feels humiliated - and is attempting to destroy his own son. "This is the Devil - this is the disease of alcoholism."



Photo credit Twitter

SILKY SKILL: Pammie hits the red carpet in Madrid.

On-off stars TOWIE-gether for good



Photo credit OK! Magazine

ARGIE BARGIE: 'The GC' and James.

THEY finally confirmed their commitment to one another on an ITV reality show. And The Only Way Is Essex stars Gemma Collins, 37, and James 'Arg' Argent, 30, have splashed out on a holiday home on the Costa del Sol as they prepare to get married and start a family. Speaking to OK! magazine, Gemma said Arg was a 'changed man' after shocking viewers of the season 22 TOWIE pre-

mier by revealing 'part of going to Spain is to relax my body to prepare for a baby.' During a visit to a financial adviser on the show she added: "We got matching watches and we've bought a holiday home in Spain and now we're setting up a joint bank account. "What it is, I'm a big roller, I earn well, I spend well. If Arg is watching the football, I'll have a massage girl come round."



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Two held for assaulting elderly couple

TWO men accused of being behind a spate of robberies in the Santanyi area, including one which allegedly involved an assault on an elderly couple, have been arrested.

Guardia Civil officers began their investigation after receiving a number of complaints claiming thefts had taken place in empty homes in the town.

Police said the two suspects also targeted the home of the couple on two occasions. They reportedly broke into the property with their faces covered and made off with around €370 and a gold chain in the first robbery.

The alleged thieves then returned to the house and forced the couple to hand over credit cards, as well as their security codes about a month later. They then went to a cash machine near the house and withdrew around €2,200, according to the Guardia Civil.

Police said they were able to identify the two suspects



Photo by Guardia Civil

BREAK INS: Police found the clothes and weapons they claim were used in the robberies during a search of one of the suspect's homes.

after weeks of investigations and interviews with witnesses.

Those who provided reports to the officers said they had noticed the two suspects were living a lifestyle seemingly beyond their known income.

Guardia Civil officers received a warrant from the courts to search the home of

one of the suspects, during which they reportedly found several stolen items. Police said they also found the clothes and weapons used in the break in at the elderly couple's house.

Police then arrested the two accused robbers and have charged them with a total of 12 counts of robbery in Santanyi.

Proceedings have been sent to a court in Manacor.

Authorities make move on fossil fuel sites

THE Consell de Mallorca has called on the Spanish Energy Ministry to declare two offshore oil rigs expired.

The request comes as Alvaro Nada, the Energy Minister for the government in Madrid, said authorities would work to speed up the closure of the Murterar plant.

The Consell said the oil platforms, which lie off the coast of Tarragona on the Spanish mainland, had already passed its expiration date set by law.

Sandra Espeja, the Consell's environment spokesperson, said the authority be-

lieved it was their duty to preserve the sea and to work towards moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

"We cannot do anything but demand compliance with the legislation and certify these sites as expired," she said.

The news comes as Energy Minister Nada met with the Balearic Islands President Francina Armengol to discuss closing the Murterar plant. Nada reportedly told Armengol the government was prepared to help boost regional renewable use.

A KITE which was reportedly poisoned after eating rats which contained rodenticide has been put back into its natural habitat in the Pla de Mallorca by the island's Consell.

Returned home

The bird was found by

conservation workers during a night time survey of species on the island. It was discovered lying on the ground which suggested to the workers that it was not well as kites

sleep in trees. The kite was taken to

the Consortium for the Recovery of Fauna for treatment.

It reportedly recovered quickly due to the amount of poison in the rat which was eaten being low.

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Puidgemont and rapper protests

DEMONSTRATORS took to the streets of Palma for two separate protests to call for the acquittal of the rapper Valtonyc and the release of former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont.

The first of the marches took place on Saturday when an estimated 700 people gathered in the Plaza de España.

They chanted slogans and carried banners which read: 'Three years and six months in prison for singing,' among others.



Credit: AlternativaAra/Twitter

PROTESTS: Demonstrators make demands.

The second protest saw 400 people demonstrate outside the headquarters of the Spanish gov-

ernment on Monday. The rally opposed the arrest of Puigdemont in Germany this week.

Catalan health measures passed

AUTHORITIES in the Balearic Islands have approved regulations requiring those working in the island's public health sector to have knowledge of Catalan. The decree, passed at a meeting on Friday, mandates that medical staff must obtain qualifications in the lan-

guage within two years of taking up their post.

The Balearic health minister Patricia Gomez said the measures were passed with the consensus of all parties. Three councillors voted against it on the grounds that it may not be legal.

NEWS EXTRA

Teaching vacancies

MORE than 5,000 people are expected to apply for the 1,008 new teaching jobs in the Balearic Islands, with around 4,800 already registered for the process which will begin in June.

Media event

PALMA'S Palau de Congressos is set to host a social media marketing training programme in June, with more than 600 people set to attend the largest event of its kind in Spain.

Train call

A *TRADE UNION* representing workers on Mallorca's railways said it was considering advising its members strike to halt works to lines due to what they said was the management's failure to comply with agreements.

OUR VIEW

Brexit link triggers democracy doubt

THE Vote Leave revelations bring into question the very democratic foundations of the UK.

Pro-Brexit whistleblower Shahmir Sanni, former treasurer of campaign organisation BeLeave, claimed that his supposedly independent operation was used to funnel €712,000 to a digital services firm on behalf of the official Vote Leave campaign.

He also said Vote Leave and BeLeave shared office space and the campaign fronted by Conservative MPs Boris Johnson and Michael Gove advised the latter how it should spend money.

If proven, Sanni's claims could mean the Vote Leave campaign violated election rules, according to reports, first by making an unofficial donation and second by working alongside another campaign organisation with which it did not share a spending cap.

And the situation has arguably been worsened in the wake of evidence given to the Commons culture committee by former Cambridge Analytica employee Christopher Wylie.

He told MPs: "I think it is completely reasonable to say there could have been a different outcome of the referendum had there not been, in my view, cheating."

When considered together, the allegations raise serious concerns about the Brexit result, and more importantly, whether Britain's democracy remains intact.

And that should trigger alarm bells in leavers and remainers alike.

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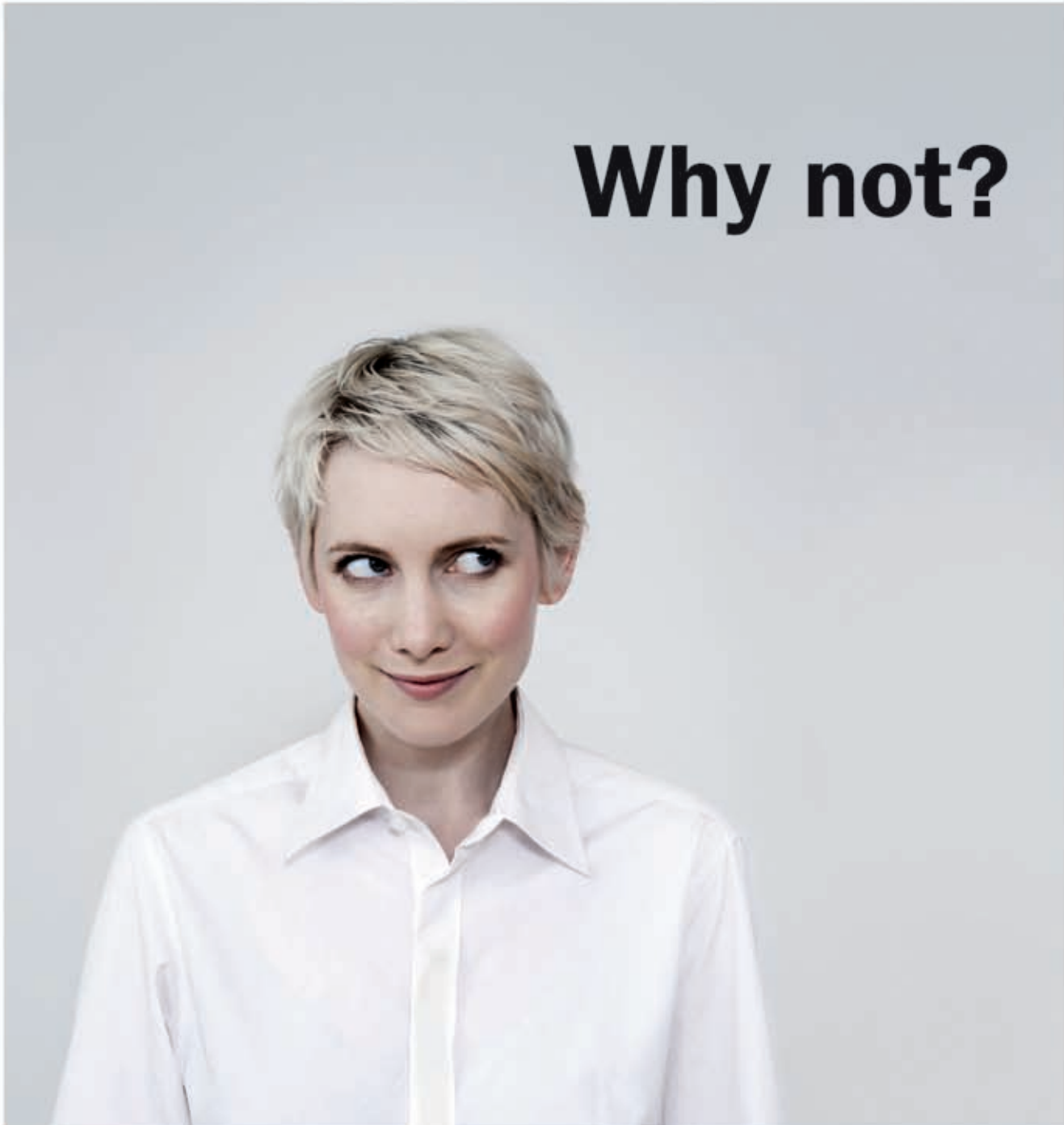
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NEWS EXTRA

Dependent home places

THE Balearic Islands' government has said it would create an extra 70 places in private residences for people requiring care, an increase of 50 per cent according to the authority.

Line savings

THE city of Palma will save around €400,000 a year from the taking over of the management of the 010 municipal information phone line, according to Mayor Antoni Noguera and civil service spokesperson Aurora Jhardi.

New vehicles

THE management of the Balearic Islands' emergency medical services has bought a total of 58 new ambulances, with 38 equipped for basic life support, 20 for advanced care and eight for all terrains.

Booze cruise video 'against code'

THE Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has ruled an advert for a Magaluf 'booze cruise' has breached its code for reportedly linking alcohol with increasing the chances of having sex.

The Facebook video, which advertises the Sunset Booze Cruise, appears to show several people drinking, kissing and brandishing signs which read 'Magaluf girls getting moist,' among others.

The ASA said in its ruling

that the images implied those going on the event would be 'sexually successful.'

"We considered images of a sexual nature were featured on the event page, such as images showing two people kissing and a man rubbing his face into a woman's chest.

"We considered the ad's emphasis on the large quantities of alcohol offered and the inclusion of the images selected from the image gallery to promote the Booze Cruise

event linked alcohol with sexual activity and therefore breached the Code," the ruling stated.

A total of three complaints were upheld as a result of the ruling. The authority added the video appeared to show under 25's being used to promote drinking, which also breaches the Code.

Magaluf Events, the company which organised the excursion, denied the video featured revellers under the age of 25.



Credit: Sunset Booze Cruise MagalufFacebook

COMPLAINTS: The ASA said the organisers of the cruise were attempting to link alcohol and sexual activity.

ONE of the alleged robbers

involved in the Porreres case was joined by the homeowner, who shot another assailant, to help police reconstruct events at the villa.

Freddy Escobar and Pau Rigo met at Manacor's court on Friday morn-

Porreres robbery pieced together

ing before going to the house with authorities.

The visit took place with the goal of establishing the order in which the events on February 24 took place.

Police investigating the alleged

break in said they have already

determined the part played by each of those involved.

Guardia Civil officers have been guarding the property to prevent interference in inquiries. The investigation continues.

Bullfight cancelled

ANIMAL RIGHTS groups have welcomed the cancellation of a bullfight scheduled in Inca this Sunday.

Anima Naturalis, CAS International, the Franz Weber Foundation and Avatma all registered their support for the move.

Aida Gascon, director of Anima Naturalis, said: "It seems the Balearic Islands will be the cradle of the most drastic reform against bullfighting."

It comes as Spain's Constitutional Court lifted its suspension on the Law of Bulls in the Balearic Islands, a measure which banned the killing of the animals.

The law was previously placed under review after the Spanish government appealed against its passing, claiming it was unconstitutional.



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Kingpin sent down

Scouse coke boss caged for 15 years

by Matt Ford

A DRUGS kingpin who hid out in Spain has been jailed for 15 years.

Dad-of-four James Manning, 40, was behind a ploy to send two kilos of cocaine with a street value of more than €355,000 to Glasgow.

Speaking at Liverpool Crown Court, Judge Elizabeth Nicholls told the gym owner from Speke in Liverpool: "You moved within the highest ranks of those involved in the drugs trade and on an international level.

"You had substantial influence on others in the chain both upwards and downwards."

She said that he had been "immersed" in the world of drugs and supplied secure Blackberry mobile phones to "mobilise people to execute his orders."

And the judge added: "You demonstrated in the trial that you are an unscrupulous, manipulative and dangerous individual who is prepared to go to any length to achieve your goals and protect your interests.

"I have no hesitation in placing you in a leading role. You were directing



Credit by Police

FLYING VISIT: David Gordon (inset top) and James Manning (inset bottom) fled to Ibiza after a drug shipment was seized by police.

these drugs operations throughout."

The consignment - one of several that Manning is accused of managing - was intercepted by police on the M74 motorway near Lockerbie, Scotland, with the drugs hidden in the rear footwell.

A day later, Manning and accomplice David Gordon, 34, fled to Ibiza on separate flights before returning to the UK after several weeks, where they were spotted at Glasgow Central railway station.

Manning then fled to Dubai, where he laid low before being held by investigators when he flew back to Manchester Airport after almost a year in the Middle East.

Scotsman Gordon, from Stewarton in Ayrshire, was in January caged for 10 years over his role in the plot.

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Advertising Feature

Brexit transition

Commentary by Moneycorp

THE pound had a good week. Warnings about the possible hacking of Britain's infrastructure by the Kremlin were ineffective at holding back the pound at the end of last week and there was a raft of positive stats and announcements to provide support.

Britain and the European Union have come to an agreement about a 21-month Brexit transition period. It isn't the finished article and it contains a couple of big gaps, not least regarding Ireland, but investors signed up for it and they marked sterling higher on Monday.

The good news is that a transition agreement has been reached, giving people and companies certainty about their situation until December 31, 2020. The less good news is that they still cannot be sure what will happen after that. Nevertheless, two and a half years of certainty is better than 12 months, so the pound went up on Monday, strengthening by an average of 0.6%.

Rightmove's index of UK house prices is up by 2.1% on the year. The UK consumer price index data showed inflation slowing from 3.0% to 2.7%, more of a deceleration than the 2.8% forecast by analysts.

Traditionally, such a miss would have sent the pound lower but on this occasion it just wobbled a bit. The stats following limited the damage as there was total earnings growth, from 2.7% to 2.8%, showing that incomes are rising faster than prices.

Towards the end of the week, the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee were released, confirming that the interest rates will remain at 0.5%. The committee voted 7-2 to keep the rates the same, but provided some hawkish signals which could lead to change after the next meeting in May.

The evolving tone is in response to recent data regarding the rate of inflation and employment, and a proposed deal to increase NHS pay by at least 6.5% over three years, which could have a knock on effect

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on public sector pay.

The retail sales report for February gave mixed signals, sales volumes grew by 0.8% compared with January, but there was a drop of 0.3% in non-food items, suggesting consumers are spending on essential items such as petrol and groceries and that household budgets remain somewhat constricted.

The move had been largely expected by economists; the pound gained slightly against the euro and the US dollar ahead of

the decision dipped slightly as the news approached but appears to be retaining most of the gains and has reached its highest level against the euro since June 2017.

In contrast, there was very little news from Euroland. Brexit negotiations impact the sterling much more than the euro and with so much drama elsewhere, the narrowing of the Euroland trade surplus from €23bn to €22bn in January made little impact either way.

In the US, the dollar dropped half a cent after the chairman of the Federal Reserve Jay Powell announced a rise in the benchmark rate by a quarter of a percentage point to target a range of 1.5% - 1.75%.

The dollar dropped by half a cent as a response. The move was expected, and the 'dot plot' chart of members' predictions for the future course of interest rates was a tad more hawkish than the last time it appeared in December. Another two rate increases are on the cards for 2018 but there might just be three before Christmas.

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Wet but happy bunnies

SPRING has officially sprung, despite the recent cold spells and generally unpleasant winter weather all over Europe, the past week heralded the official meteorological change of seasons.

Last Sunday, the Classic Car Club was on the roads of Mallorca once more. The early Easter run organised by Pam Gardner and Stan Hunter took participants on an exploration of the western and central mountainous and spectacular parts of the island.

Uniquely, there was a choice of routes, both starting at Palma Nova with coffee at the very good and ever popular Cafe Palmano-va Fundacion Amadip.

Points were awarded for discovering various clues

along both routes, as well as for the collection of eggs secretly put there by their own Easter bunny!

That was the plan, however the weather had different ideas, the day and night before were probably the wettest so far this year.

The storms had left the routes strewn with a heavy coating of brown seeds, branches and even a fallen tree! It made the driving difficult, but everybody enjoyed the challenge.

In spite of the conditions, 57 hearty and enthusiastic participants turned up for the run, which saw them travel from Palmano-va, through Calvia and onto Puigpunyent where the run split into a more difficult red route, along the coast road to La Granja in Es-

porles and a green route that was a little easier.

Unbelievably, the rain held off briefly for the run, but the clouds descended on the higher roads which made for difficult visibility.

From La Granja, the cars headed up to Valldemossa and then back down through Establiments to Genova, arriving at Mood Restaurant in Portals. A delicious three-course meal at Mood completed what everybody agreed was a great day!

The winners were Helen Pitt and Lou in Helen's MGB, second place Richard and Jenny Wills in their Renault 4 and third, Jean Pierre and Otto in J-P's Austin Healey.

The next Classic Car Club run will be on Sunday April 29.



NOMADS: Gave fun-filled performances.

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NOMADS certainly 'broke a leg' with their latest production, A Spoonful of NOMADS.

With all three performances filled to the rafters, a total audience of more than 260 witnessed the cast sing and dance through an adaptation of Mary Poppins.

They received fantastic support from each audience who, from their glowing comments, had great fun and enjoyed the show as much as

the cast.

With topical references to the Suffragette movement and the 100-year anniversary of women gaining the vote, not to mention Brexit, the regular appearance of a French policeman and a larger than life Banks family, the show was another resounding success.

Once again, all profits from the weekend will be donated to local or national charities.


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Credit: Ryanair

RYANAIR: 'Avoid these excessive claims chasers deductions.'

Ryanair slams 'claim chasers'

A HIGH COURT judge in the UK has rejected a case against Irish low-cost airline Ryanair by a firm of solicitors over flight delay compensation claims.

Cheshire-based Bott & Co had sought to recover their fees in compensation cases where Ryanair had settled directly with their customers.

In court the firm said they handle around 25,000 compensation claims a year and the average payout is €325 (£285) of which the legal firm takes one third.

They said that in most cases airlines pay the firm, which deducts its fee and passes the remainder of the compensation to the client.

But the company revealed that in 2016 Ryanair began to settle directly with passengers.

Bott & Co said it had tried to recoup their fees from the passenger, but 30 per cent did not pay so they sought to recover it

from Ryanair.

Judge Edward Murray threw out their claim and ruled, "Ryanair has established a straightforward and easy to use process for its passengers to make their flight delay compensation claims, either online or by correspondence, without the assistance of a third party."

David Bott of Bott & Co said, "We are very disappointed in the judgment in our case against Ryanair as we believe it is wrong and we will be appealing the decision.

"For over five years we have worked tirelessly to bring airlines to account under Regulation EC261/2004 and in doing so, to improve the rights of millions of air passengers flying in or out of the UK each year.

"This latest judgment is of course a setback for the freedom of choice of passengers in getting help on

their compensation claims in an area of law that is not without its complexity.

"We have always offered the 'direct to airline' approach for our customers and provide free letters of claim on our website with a free flight delay checker for passengers to check their eligibility under the Regulation.

"Despite this, thousands of passengers choose to use our paid service rather than having the hassle and additional delays of dealing directly with the airline.

Ryanair's Kenny Jacobs said, "We welcome this London High Court ruling upholding Ryanair's policy of communicating with, and paying EU261 compensation directly to, our consumers.

This will help prevent 'claims chaser' firms like Bott & Co, Fairplane, Hayward Baker, Sky Legal, Flightright, and Flight Heroes, deliberately and needlessly dragging consumers through the courts so they can grab more than 40 per cent of customers' compensation, for providing no useful service.

"Where customers have a valid claim for compensation, they can make their claim directly on the Ryanair.com website and avoid these excessive 'claims chasers' deductions.

"As part of our 2018 'always getting better' customer plan, Ryanair has established a dedicated claims team to process these valid claims within 10 working days and to make it as straightforward as possible for our customers."

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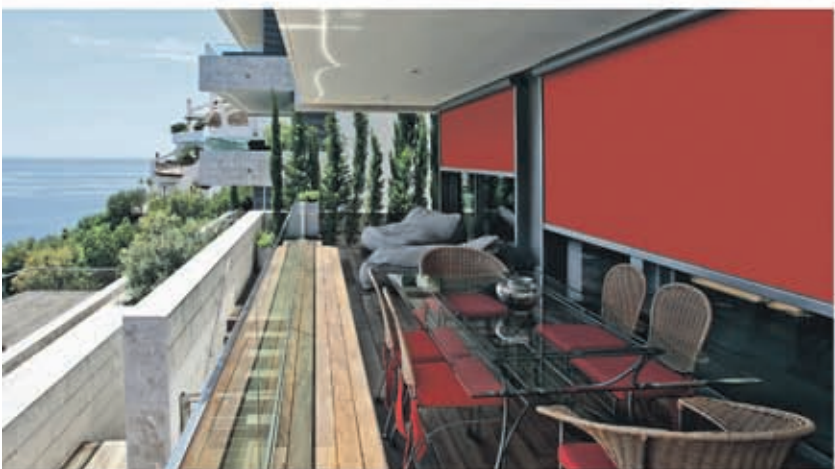


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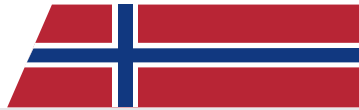
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NORWAY



Ski success

SALES of Norwegian ski lift passes have reportedly increased by 15 per cent after a snowy winter, according to industry interest organisation Alpinanleggenes Landsforening.



STAY COOL: Winter sports enthusiasts are flocking to Norway's slopes.

New market

THE opening of a new multiplex owned by Odeon sees the end of a law enforcing privately-owned cinemas that has been in place in Norway's capital since 1918.

Burka ban

THREE Norwegian ministers have presented a proposal banning face-covering garments at schools, day-cares and other educational institutions, to ensure

'good communication in educational contexts.'

Ironic role

PER SANDBERG, a 58-year-old mem-

ber of the anti-immigration Progress Party who was once charged with hitting an asylum seeker from the former Yugoslavia, is replacing Sylvi Listhaug as Norway's Minister of Justice, Public Security and Immigration.

GERMANY



No tolerance

GERMANY'S new interior minister Horst Seehofer laid down a 'zero tolerance' policy in his first speech to parliament, claiming the country needs a 'strong state' to protect its citizens.

admitting to the rape and murder of student Maria Ladenburger in the city of Freiburg in October 2016.

Runaway crane

A LARGE mobile crane that was stolen in Stuttgart has remained incognito from German police and is believed to have been driven for hun-

dreds of miles without being caught.

Tense relations

GERMANY has expressed concern about sharing intelligence information with Austria after their new government gave the green light to controversial raids on the homes and offices of domestic security officials.

Justice served

HUSSEIN KHAVARI, whose age is unknown, has been jailed for life after

FRANCE



Terror attack

POLICE killed suspected terrorist 26-year-old Redouane Lakdim, after he shot three people dead and injured 16 others in a series of attacks in the town of Trèbes.

Country strikes

TENS of thousands of people who work in the public sector went on strike across France to protest against President Emmanuel Macron's plans for change, causing around 30 per cent of flights to Paris to be cancelled.

Time's up

FRENCH ministers are proposing a bill, which is backed by President Macron, which would charge sexual offenders on-the-spot fines of up to €750 for public sexual harassment.

A load of ham

CLAIMS that the American beefburger is now outselling the classic French ham baguette have been scoffed at by many French nationals, despite hamburger sales reaching 1.4 billion in the last year.

BELGIUM



Taxi tips

BELGIUM'S Uber users are reportedly now able to tip their driver using the Uber app if they are especially pleased with the service they had.

Not so dope

NEW statistics produced by 15 scientists claim the current cannabis policy in Belgium is having a harmful impact on society, with violence and health problems on the rise.

Rapist held

POLICE in Antwerp have questioned four suspects and charged one of them over the alleged gang-rape of two Dutch women who were drugged and sexually abused while on a night out.

Air secrets

BELGIAN media sources have reported that the Belgian Air Force perhaps concealed information regarding the purchase of new drones, as was the case when it purchased the F-16s.

NETHERLANDS



Royal visit

KING ABDULLAH and Queen Rania of Jordan paid an official two-day state visit to the Netherlands, meeting King Willem-Alexander and members of the Dutch Parliament, after they had been forced to postpone the trip in November.

Wheely upset

A RETIRED lawyer has lost his case against Amsterdam's mayor for not doing enough to crack down on poor cycling habits, but claimed he had not lost because he had more than 10,000 messages of support.

Spying vetoed

DUTCH voters have rejected the motion that intelligence agencies in the Netherlands be given the right to install wire taps on whole areas, instead of just individuals, and share this information with other spy agencies.

Killer week

ACCORDING to Statistics Netherlands, the week from February 26 to March 4 was the deadliest in the country since the Second World War as 3,887 people passed away, more than half of who were over 80 years old.

SWEDEN



Making amends

SWEDEN has offered compensation to transgender people forced to undergo sterilisation in order to get official recognition for their sex change, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

Snow tragedy

A 45-YEAR-OLD man has died in an avalanche in Harjedalen just north of the Ojon Lake, but his three friends were able to escape uninjured.

Energy struggle

GAS giant Gazprom has appealed a Swedish court ruling that demanded it pay more than €2 billion to Ukraine's gas firm Naftogaz after Gazprom cut its deliveries to the country in the middle of the winter in 2009.

On track

SWEDEN'S transport agency, Transport Analysis, claimed more than 90 per cent of trains arrived on time in 2017 but trains were delayed by 47,000 hours last year in total.

DENMARK



Pork protection

DANISH conservative parties have supported a motion that involves erecting a 70-kilometre-long fence along the border with Germany to prevent the country's large pig population from being infected by the African swine fever virus.

Solid evidence

A CORONER told the Copenhagen district court that Swedish journalist Kim Wall did not die in an accident as Danish inventor Peter Madsen, who has been accused of strangling her, has claimed.

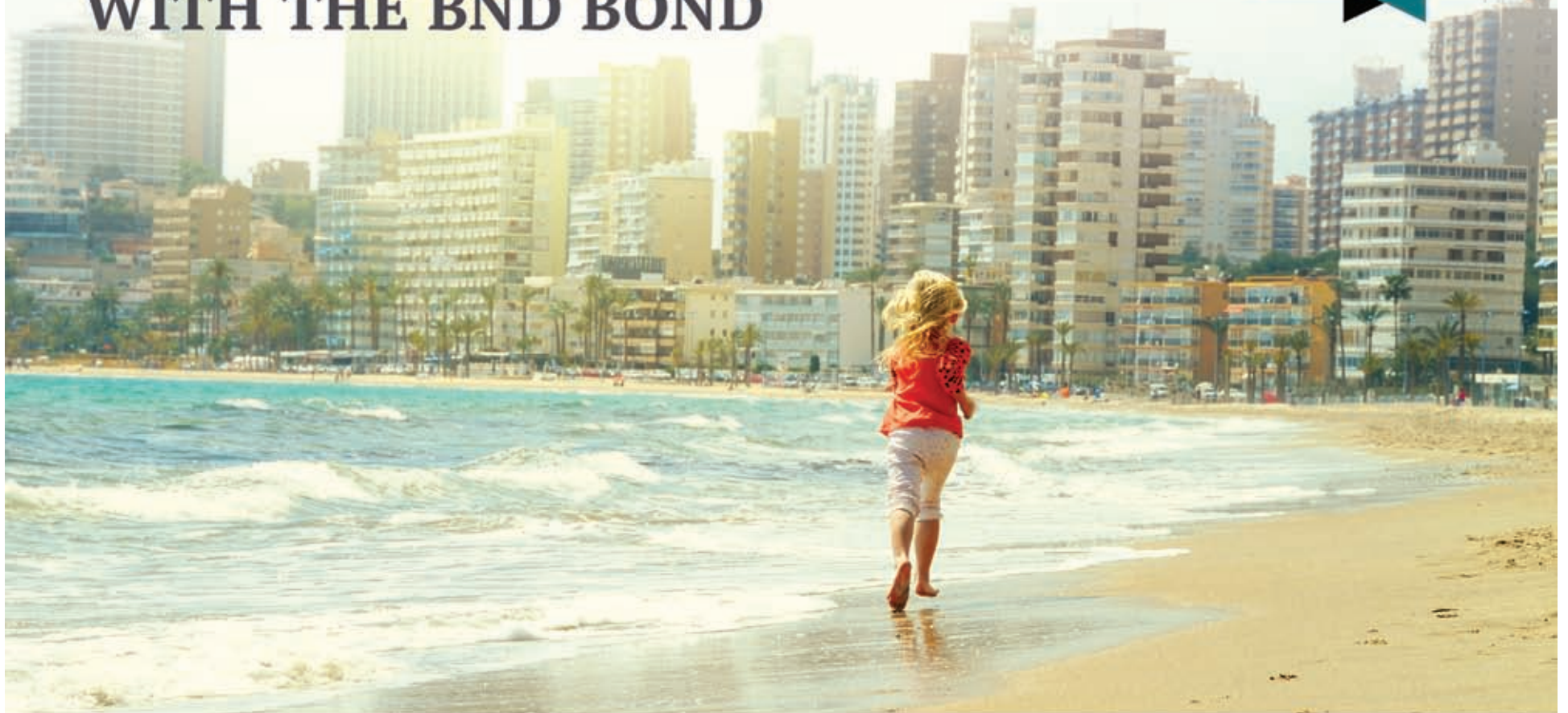
Towering high

SEVERAL neighbourhoods in Copenhagen are constructing housing blocks of up to 32 storeys tall, according to radio station DR P4 København, to meet the demand of people who want to live in the capital.




Job high

MORE than 2,728,800 people were in employment in January, according to figures from Statistics Denmark, marking the highest ever employment figures for the country.

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Spain lodges FB complaint

SPAIN has accused embattled social network Facebook of abusing the data of 21 million users. It comes as the Cambridge Analytica scandal continues to engulf the American firm, with the Brexit campaign and senior UK politicians including Boris Johnson and Michael Gove now implicated.

And the Spanish Agency for Data Protection has accused the online giant of illegally collecting data on political ideologies, religious beliefs, gender and personal tastes of millions of accounts in Spain.

Handshake boosts budget

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy could finally get his 2018 budget passed.

Negotiations have been frozen for weeks with opposition groups unwilling to sign off the conservative minority government's proposals.

But Albert Rivera, leader of centre-left Ciudadanos - Spain's fourth-largest political party - has revealed that he has reached an agreement to support the budget after Rajoy 'yielded' to some of his demands.

These include an increase of 2 per cent on minimum state pensions, a

By Matt Ford

salary boost for young workers, an extra week of paternity leave for new fathers, €1,000 per year grants for the education of children aged 0 to three years, income tax reductions for those earning less than €17,000 per year, and the dismissal of Senator Pilar Barreiro, who is under investigation for fraud, forgery and embezzlement.

"The government knows how to count seats and without our support this [budget] could not happen," Rivera told Spanish media.

Rajoy must now appeal to other par-

ties to get the budget approved, since he remains seven seats short of a majority vote despite Ciudadanos' support.

He is expected to appeal to Basque nationalist party PNV, but its leaders have repeatedly said they will not negotiate the budget while the controversial Article 155, invoked by Rajoy to impose direct rule over Cataluña last October, remains active.

A PNV official said: "The latest events in Cataluña and Spain have left us very concerned, and talking about budgets seems a little frivolous... let them find support from other groups."

Exec rakes in €20m salary

REAL MADRID boss Florentino Perez' number two has become the highest-paid executive in Spain. Marcelino Fernandez Verdes, CEO of civil engineering firm ACS and president of German subsidiary Hochtief, last year earned €20.46 million to top the national ranking by more than €4 million.

The businessman is lined up to assume presidency of ACS when Perez eventually steps aside, with the latter's pension fund currently amounting to a jaw-dropping €41 million, according to reports in Spanish media.

Quote of the Week

Let me be clear: instead of risking a trade war, which he seems eager to wage, we should be aiming for greater cooperation. Make trade, not war, Mr President." EU leader Donald Tusk urges Donald Trump to think twice over trade tariffs.



FACE THE MUSIC: Ticket prices have come down after the government halved a controversial tax, with 91,000 paying to see US rockers Guns N' Roses last year.

Rise in audiences boosts gig profits

SPAIN'S live music industry is booming.

A new report by the country's Asociacion de Promotores Musicales (APM) shows that ticket sales increased by 20.6 per cent to €296.2 million in 2017.

"Spain's consolidation as an unavoidable destination for the big tours by international artists... especially in large venues selling out thousands of tickets, like the Rolling Stones and U2, as well as a new mar-

ket comprised of Latin stars like Ricky Martin, Maluma, Luis Fonsi and Morat, were reasons for a fourth-year increase in live music profits," says the study.

Ricky Martin was the biggest draw, with 115,806 people drawn to his One World tour, while more than 91,000 saw November Rain hitmakers Gun N' Roses and Colombian reggaeton star Maluma attracted almost 71,000.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Attack of the clones

CHINESE smartphone giant Xiaomi, which last year opened its first three shops in Spain, has achieved a ranking of fourth in the Spanish market within four months, ahead of the likes of Apple and LG, according to sales figures.

Bottling it

MANAGEMENT company AENA is to ensure that all newsagents and vending machines in Spain's airports offer small - 330 or 500 millilitre - bottles of water for sale at a maximum price of one Euro.

House that

SPANISH real estate firm Testa has snapped up 1,458 rental properties from Valencia-based financial services group Caixabank for around €228 million, with the company forecasting the move to increase annual turnover by €8.7 million.

Vatican sparks outrage

A SPANISH website is taking on the Pope.

The Vatican has launched a crackdown on the commercial use of its name and emblems, and the move has triggered a debate over whether the Holy See is legally able to claim ownership of the 'brand.'

But Gabriel Ariza of the online portal *Info Vaticana.com* argues that the Catholic Church

has started a 'political witch hunt' against the site for its exposing of corruption in the institution.

"We have already taken down logos and other vestiges that can relate us to the Vatican, but they just want to shut us down," he said. "We think that serving the Church is defending it from its enemies."



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Dram good performance

BOTTOMS UP AS WHISKY SALES SKYROCKET

SPANIARDS' favourite tittle is whisky, a report says.

According to the latest data from the Spanish Federation of Spirit Drinks (FEBE), 214 million litres of spirits were sold across the country in 2016.

The boozy blowout produced revenues of almost €7.6 billion - €1 billion more than UK drinkers spent over the same period - and provided 330,000 jobs while swelling the public treasury's coffers with €1.3 billion obtained via indirect taxes.

And consumers chose whisky as their go-to imbibe, as year-on-year sales grew by almost 2 per cent for a 27 per cent market share.

Trendy rival gin was the second-most popular spirit, accounting for 22 per cent of the market as sales increased by 9.9 per cent.

But rum sales dropped by 2.3 per cent, leaving the Caribbean classic a distant third in the market with a 16 per cent share.

Less popular still were liqueurs (13 per cent), brandy (9), anisette (7), vodka (5) and tequila (1).

A FEBE official confirmed that figures for 2017 are currently being analysed but are not expected to differ wildly from 2016, meaning 'whisky will be the most-consumed beverage, followed by gin and rum.'

Scotch whiskies topped the national brand ranking, accounting for 73 per cent of sales, with Johnnie Walker, Ballantine's, J&B, Chivas, Grant's and William Lawson's among the most popular.

The gin market was more evenly-spread, with 47 per cent of boozers opting for Spanish brands and 53 per cent preferring international products, with Malaga's Larios 12 the best-selling overall.

Rum sales were dominated by dark varieties, which accounted for



GIN AND BEAR IT: Spain's thirst for whisky shows no sign of being quenched with gin a distant second.

86 per cent of the market, while the most popular brands included Bacardi and Havana Club from Cuba, plus Barcelo and Brugal from the Dominican Republic.

But Vicente Montecinos, director of market research group NPD, believes that vodka will be the next big thing in Spain.

"Vodka is a growing market," he told Spanish media. "Spirits move slowly with fashions and trendy brands including Smirnoff, Absolut, Grey Goose and Zubrowka are becoming more popular.

"The Spanish vodka Basmmom, made from potatoes, has won international awards and is another that is on the rise."

Gross domestic product record as Aragon tops regional charts

THE Spanish economy continues to grow.

And new data from the National Statistics Institute has revealed that gross domestic product (GDP) last year rose most in Aragon among the country's autonomous communities.

The northern region saw its GDP increase by 3.6 per cent in 2017, with Asturias (3.5 per cent) and Madrid (3.4 per cent) completing the top three.

These figures eclipse the European average of 2.4 per cent, with only Castilla y Leon (1.9 per cent), and La Rioja (1.8), plus the African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla falling to beat the benchmark.

GDP per capita smashed records in 2017 with Madrid (€33,809) topping the rankings, followed by the Basque Country (€33,088) and Navarra (€30,809).

EQUITY FUNDS 'ARE LIKE MIGRATING BIRDS'

€10bn deal world's biggest

IT was the biggest real estate deal of 2017.

The €10 billion agreement which saw American asset management firm Blackstone snap up the property portfolio owned by failed Spanish bank Banco Popular leads the worldwide ranking for sales involving a single asset or portfolio.

It came after rival banking group Santander acquired Banco Popular for a token €1 last June, and involved forming a company of which Blackstone bought a controlling 51 per cent stake.

The remaining 49 per cent remains with Santander as part of its Banco popular rescue package.

It leaves Blackstone, which also picked up the housing portfolio of Catalunya Caixa - now part of BBVA - among others, as one of the largest real estate owners in Spain.

And the huge deal was followed a few months later by American private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management successfully bid-



BLACKSTONE: Now one of Spain's biggest real estate owners after snapping up the property portfolio formerly owned by Banco Popular (inset) in the wake of the bank's collapse.

ding €5.5 billion for 80 per cent of BBVA's property portfolio.

"It is striking how some of the opportunistic private equity funds move in flocks like migratory birds," says Borja Sierra, interna-

tional executive vice-president of real estate consultancy firm Savills Aguirre Newman.

"One minute they are calm in a pond in Africa and then they start flying and travel 4,500 kilometres

to an island in the middle of the ocean to breed.

"This happened in Spain from 2009.

"One of the birds usually starts the flight and takes the lead, marking the direction of travel, and in this case it is Blackstone.

"They have consistently been pioneers and trend markers for their competitors, and as big investors they don't get involved in small operations."

Compiled by New York-based real estate number-crunchers Real Capital Analytics, the list shows that five of the 10 most expensive deals not involving a company takeover last year took place in China, with two in the UK.

The latter pair of sales included the €5.1 billion acquisition of shares in a portfolio of hospitals and nursing homes by Chinese insurer Taikang, and a €2.1 billion stake in the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent purchased by Royal London Mutual Insurance Society.

€500m energy deal confirmed

AMERICAN multinational banking giant JP Morgan has become Spain's biggest investor in solar energy.

The financial services firm has revealed it is to snap up a €500 million controlling stake in a 660 megawatt solar project in southern Spain and Portugal via its investment vehicle Sonnedix.

The scheme includes a number of plants in Andalusia, Extremadura and Murcia, which will generate 495 megawatts, with the remaining 165 megawatts produced by Portuguese facilities.

Together, the project will generate enough electrical energy to power 400,000 homes per year, with Barcelona-based supplier Audax signing a 20-year deal in what is reckoned to be the biggest long-term solar power contract ever agreed in Spain.



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Spain remains on debt row

TARGET BEATEN BUT DEFICIT STILL EXCESSIVE

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has revealed that the country met its European Union (EU) debt target for the first time last year.

The leader tweeted: 'Spain achieves: we have in 2017 reduced the public deficit to 3.07 per cent (4.3 per cent in 2016). A fundamental fact to continue growing, create employment and guarantee our public services.' It is the smallest difference between public spending and revenue that Spain has registered since the financial crisis broke out a decade ago, and just beats the 2017 target of 3.1 per cent set by the EU.

The final figure of 3.07 per cent is equivalent to an overspend of €35.7 million, a Treasury official confirmed.

It sees Spain continue to claw its way out of a financial black hole triggered by the international banking crisis of 2008, which was later deepened after the country's housing bubble burst in 2009.

The twin collapse saw public debt soar to 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) after it climbed by more than €100 million in the space of a year.

But the economy has recently spluttered into life, growing by around 3 per cent per year since 2015 and slowly reducing debt in the wake of sweeping cuts and tax increases which in 2012 totalled €65 billion of austerity measures.

The government has been working to a model designed by Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro which has been dubbed the 'Montoro adjustment,' whereby a small increase in public spending is permitted provided the total is lower than the nominal growth in GDP (with inflation).

Spain will however remain in the EU's Excessive Debt Procedure (EDP), a corrective process for countries with a public deficit of more than 3 per cent, for at least another year.



MAN WITH A PLAN: Brussels believes that Mariano Rajoy could have reduced deficit further but chose not to do so.

It could soon be the only one of the EU's 28 member states with an open procedure after the UK, Greece, Portugal and Croatia last year exited the process, with France expected to follow.

EU officials reportedly believe that Rajoy's government has intentionally maintained the EDP because if Spain was to reduce debt below 3 per cent new limits would be imposed, including a €7 billion 'structural adjustment' that would force Madrid into further cuts or tax hikes. The 2018 deficit target for Spain is 2.3 per cent, but there is a widespread consensus in Brussels that the country will again fail to meet it and will instead try to remain at least a 10th above 3 per cent in order to avoid the new adjustment, with regional and local elections due in 2019.

Photo credit Ministerio de Hacienda/Shutterstock

Photo credit Cuatrecasas/Shutterstock

INHERITANCE TAX SHAKE-UP ANNOUNCED

Non-EU loophole slams shut

SPAIN'S highest court has ruled the Spanish practice that charges non-residents of Spain a higher rate of inheritance tax to be discriminatory and therefore unlawful.

According to reports, this has now left the window open for those who have paid the higher rate to file claims for refunds.

In a landmark case, the Spanish Supreme Court has ruled that the practice is no longer acceptable even if the non residents of Spain live in a third country that isn't part of the European Union.

As a result, non-European Economic Area (EEA) citizens that have paid Spanish inheritance tax in the last four years are expected to now be able to apply for a refund.

According to Madrid-based tax partner of Cuatrecasas law firm, Antonio Barba, said the judgement will have a 'huge impact on Spain's current inheritance and gift tax rules by not only forcing Span-



LEVY BREAK: Many non-EU nationals could be due a tax rebate, says lawyer Antonio Barba (inset).



ish authorities to amend the current legislation but "opens the door for taxpayers to claim refunds of all taxes paid under the discriminatory rules in the past four years, the standard term of the statute of limitations for taxes."

He told International Investment: "We estimate several hundred non-EU taxpayers to be entitled to apply for a refund of inheritance taxes paid [by them] to Spain during the last four years.

"Just think that many provinces of Spain, [such as] Balears and Andalucia, where foreign investments in real estate are huge.

"Most of the investors are EU residents - who are not affected by this last judgement, as the law was amended to give them tax breaks two years ago. But there are still quite a few investments from the US, Latin America, China, etc."

Blue passport fury as British firm snubbed

UK HOME SECRETARY Amber Rudd signed off a €560 million blue passport deal without knowing who had won the contract, it has been claimed.

The controversial deal will see post-Brexit British passports produced by Gemalto, a European company listed on the Dutch and French stock exchanges.

And according to the Home Office, the process was a blind tender, meaning ministers had no clue which firm submitted each bid.

UK-based De La Rue and French company Oberthur also competed for the contract, with the final result sparking a major backlash, with critics calling the decision a 'humiliating symbol' of the post-Brexit UK.

But the Home Office said the deal will save taxpayers €137 million over five years.

Social security fraud savaged

THE Spanish labour inspectorate has slammed a 'huge' social security fraud.

It comes after the Social Security department revealed that an estimated 300,000 'false' self-employed people in Spain receive more than 75 per cent of their income from a single client.

An official from the labour inspectorate told the Congress that the majority are forced to register as self-employed 'so that the company that pays them does not have to pay social security.'

But the practice may now be living on borrowed time after Fermin Yébenes Salices, president of the Labour Inspectors' Union, appeared before a government subcommittee to discuss reforms to self-employed labour laws in order to crack down on the problem.

I really do lose the will to live

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



GREAT contender for our, 'You thought you'd heard it all' trophy this week.

British police will now no longer attend any shoplifting episodes unless the 'haul' exceeds £200! Apparently, this new policy, which effectively decriminalises shoplifting, has been quietly introduced by ministers over the last few months. Well, we're all in the wrong game, aren't we?

Personally, I see this as a great way to becoming an entrepreneur. We can become wholesale goods suppliers. All we need is a few trucks going around to various collection points and a staff of average 'tea leaves.' We then send them out to various stores, equipped with shopping bags and a calculator. When they have nicked £199 worth of goods, they simply leave the store and drop the stuff off at the pre-determined pick up points. Job done.

Actually, the opportunities are limitless. We could supply our own shops. We'll call them



GRENFELL TOWER: More questions are now being asked about the tragedy.

SHOPLIFTING: 'Effectively decriminalised.'

'Lifted.' I can see us on every street corner. Pound and charity shops will become a thing of the past. One day we could even be quoted on the stock exchange. Ok Leapy, simmer down. Got a bit carried away there. Also, not quite sure how we could prevent stores from nicking their stuff back!

You really couldn't make it up though could you? Oh, and by the way. Don't rely on shop se-

curity staff to do the plod job. They can be prosecuted for laying a hand on you! Sometimes I really do find myself losing the will to live.

I see yet another toe rag fraudster has been convicted of pretending to be a Grenfell tower victim. This latest individual hailed from Zimbabwe and lived miles from the tower, yet still managed to con social workers into handing over £19,000 before being 'sussed.' With this in mind I decided to ask Google (yes, I do research occasionally!) just how many false claims had actual-

ly been made by these despicable fraudsters, who are already presumably enjoying the fruits of the UK's utterly misguided luvvie approach to our immigrant population.

What popped up to my request for more info was indeed something of a revelation. The Metropolitan Police Service have published a form under the freedom of information act. Far too lengthy to put in this blurb, it contains some 20 or so questions that have been put to the MPS since the tragedy. Talk about a waffle.

'Not in the interest' seems to be a phrase that crops up a great deal. I suggest those who are interested take a look. Enter 'Information about the fatalities during the Grenfell fire tragedy' and up it all comes in pdf format. Some weeks ago, I also took quite a lot of disdainful stick when I revealed information given to a friend of mine from one of the firemen who was actually on the scene. This brave firefighter told my associate he had seen at least 40 bodies in one flat alone.

I see rather more official questions are now being asked about this previous 'Leapy Rant' revelation. Remember you read it here first folks. Have a great week. Enjoy the onset of spring. And whatever ya do.

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It's a funny thing, but the less we have to walk, the more we want to. Typically we live longer, fuller, fitter lives and people taking walking holidays tend to be higher income explorers, or empty nesters enjoying their hard earned freedom and leisure time.

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TECH FOR THE TIMID



Give us a break

Don't cry for me Argentina if something breaks, says Terence Kennedy

THERE'S rejoicing aplenty in our household when a device breaks. It means we can buy a new one without a guilty conscience.

Filling your country mansion with gadgets by the thousand is all well and good if you're a moneyed technophile like Stephen Fry - though to be fair to the great man, manufacturers probably throw scads of free stuff at him in the hope he'll promote it to his 13 million Twitter followers.

As a lesser mortal I grew up with the constricting ethic that you only buy what you will actually use, and you don't replace it until it breaks. And I've never got over it.

In fact until repairing stuff started becoming something of a dead art a decade or two ago, I would even give up precious free time in hand-to-hand combat with a dodgy toaster, menacing an innocent amplifier with a deadly soldering iron or perhaps the most futile exercise of all, using a couple of euros' worth of glue to do a reverse Humpty Dumpty on a vase



DIY: 'Do you feel lucky, punk?'

costing just half that in the local second-hand emporium.

Now when stuff dies we buy new stuff. Lots of new stuff. We've all got drawers full of dead phones, and even the poor in Africa would sneer at my old Nokia 1100.

It's becoming increasingly difficult

to even open up our technology, though the web has any number of people doing 'teardowns' of the latest devices - even on a thousand euros' worth of new iPhone, the spoiled brats.

Fortunately there is still some stuff you can build yourself if you are so

waywardly minded.

When my computer died at the ripe old age of 10, I felt like a child with a new Meccano set (rather dubiously renamed Erector sets in the USA, where they don't do double entendres).

I got to work happily assembling my own Dagwood-sandwich-type computer from a case, a power supply, a motherboard, RAM chips, a hard drive, a gaggle of YouTube videos and more bad language than the average sailor.

For the most part though, we just buy.

It's an ethic hard to knock when a friend recently spent more to fix an ageing laptop than it would have cost him to buy another one on eBay, or a new one for €50 extra.

Oops, I just 'accidentally' dropped that irritating bedside clock I've hated with a passion every morning for years. Hooray I can finally buy a new one. As Groucho Marx said, if you don't like my principles, I have others.

Make do and mend

THE 'Maker Movement' is a worthy one but they're fighting a losing battle.

Look them up on the internet and perhaps there's one near you, kindly souls with technical expertise, meeting locally over a weekend to repair all sorts of dead technology brought in by members of the public.

'Makers' even produce their own cookbooks of repair recipes.

Some are printed but they are mainly found online, if you're brave enough to tackle technology designed to resist even the most determined siege.

It certainly is morally satisfying to breathe new life into an old toaster, or to get that old Apple Newton back up and running again - even if only to find that Steve Jobs took its proprietary software with him to the grave.

Men choose tote bags for the style

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



OVER the years I have destroyed more briefcases than I care to remember, much less admit to, mainly by stuffing them full of paper, newspapers and magazines as well as other random objects.

Of course some only use their briefcases to carry their lunch or more recently their lunch plus their laptops and sundry charging devices. The briefcase has been the staple accessory of the European male of a certain sort for decades. While the hat vanished, the briefcase strode on.

So why have men adopted the tote bag? It is at root only a simple strong large square bag with robust handles.

Yet a global trend has emerged and been seized upon by traditional all male brands like Dunhill London with their Duke tote costing €3,317, or James Purdey and Son - famed for their guns - with 'The Keeper' tote in two versions, heavy at €1,295 and lightweight at €1,025. Suitable for the campo or elite shopping streets of Milan, Marbella or Madrid.

But French and Italian houses have not allowed the grass to grow under their feet. Berluti's elegant 'Silhouette Leather Tote' at €2,681,

Ermenegildo Zegna Couture with their 'Pelle Tessuta Brown Tote,' a snip at €2,796. And Connolly England have created their casual Nubuck version which can be yours for just €1,146.

Not to ignore the more traditional manufacturers who have found a sudden extension into high end men's fashion. One such is Ichizawa Shinzaburo Hanpu of Kyoto, Japan, now celebrating 110 years of manufacturing canvas bags with unobstructed interiors and robust handles serving the task intended when first designed to carry heavy blocks of ice from the ice house to home.

The brand has suddenly found a global demand from men looking for a practical and stylish alternative to the briefcase. As Ichizawa will only deliver mail order within Japan itself, you could visit their shop or they now have a stockist in London, Trunk Clothiers of Marylebone, who will deliver to

JAMES PURDEY AND SON, LONDON: 'The Keeper' a tote suitable for the shoot, field and town.



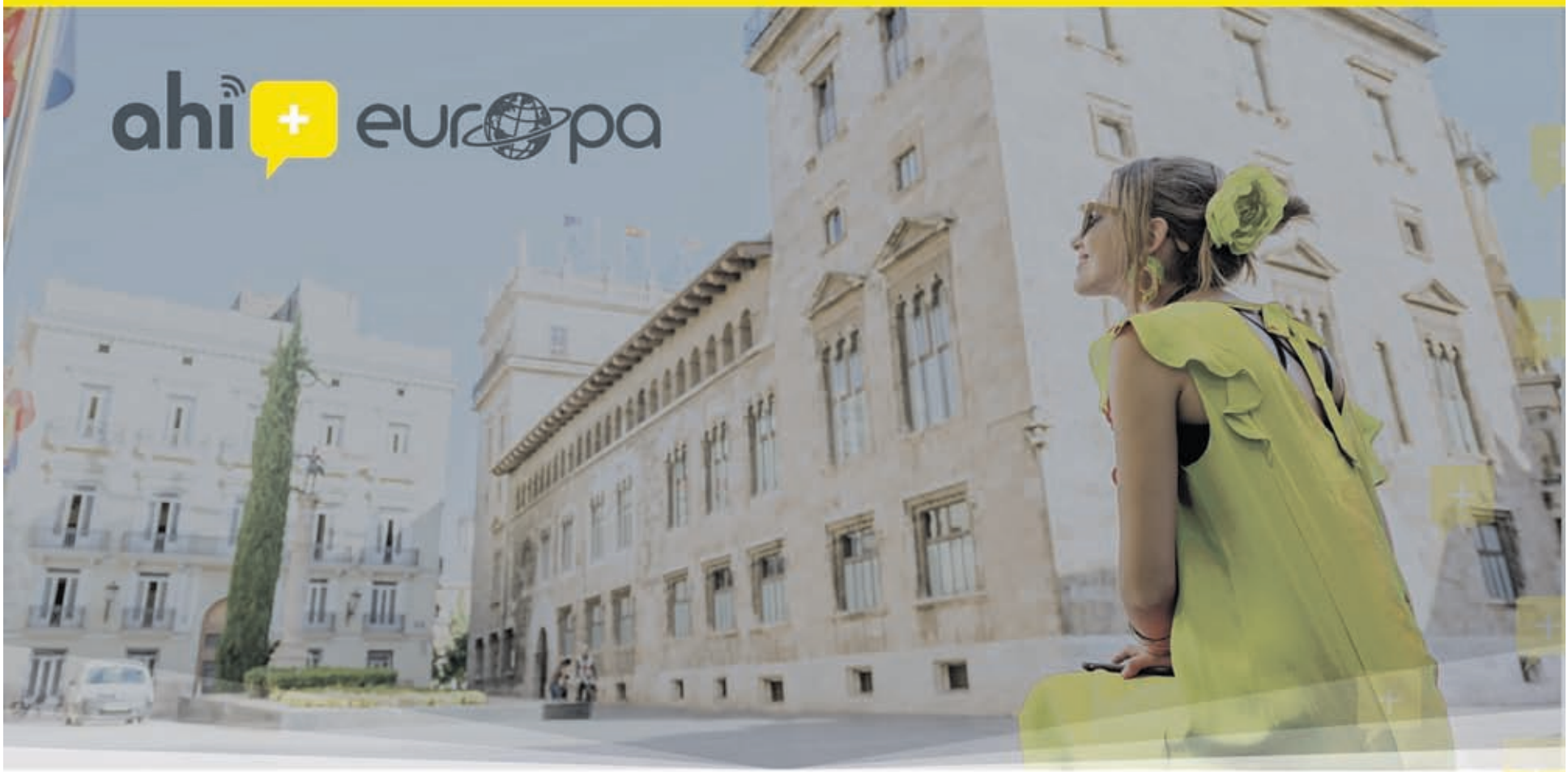
FIND YOURSELF A TOTE BAG

- Museo del Prado www.museodelprado.es/en, Madrid.
- Ichizawa Shinzaburo Hanpu www.ichizawa.co.jp, Kyoto, Japan.
- Trunk Clothiers www.trunkclothiers.com, London.
- James Purdey & Sons www.purdey.com, London.
- Dunhill London www.dunhill.com, London, global.
- Berluti www.berluti.com, France, global.
- Ermenegildo Zegna www.zegna.co.uk, Italy, global.
- Connolly www.connollyengland.com, London.
- LL Bean www.llbean.com Maine, USA.

Spain or pretty much anywhere.

LL Bean of Maine in the USA have a similar heritage founded in 1912 and will deliver their version of the tote to pretty much anywhere on the planet.

The question that is no doubt uppermost in your mind though is where did I get my current tote? The perhaps surprising answer is the Museo del Prado, Madrid.



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TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

I HOPE that springtime has sprung wherever you are reading this. I'm writing this week's piece in the beautiful Boulevard Cafe in Estepona, with a view of the Mediterranean, silently praying that Jane McDonald doesn't go by on a cruise somewhere or that her army of loyal fans don't descend on my café con leche - I check with the owner, seems I'm fine, Jane is sailing around Cuba apparently - catch up with Jane on *5 SELECT*, Monday if Jane, cruising and a bit of singing are your thing.

No cruise ships on *BBC2* on Saturday evenings as Giles Coren and Monica Galetti guide us around some *Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby*. Last week Giles and Monica were in Ireland, roaming around Ashford Castle. We learned that the castle, which is beautiful, was built over 800 years ago by the De Burgo family and more recently was home to the Guinness family.

What I like about this programme is that it does what it says on the tin. Yes, we get to see wonderful hotels, but also get a glimpse of what is going on beyond the showpiece guest experience - Giles Hoovering the walls and Monica doing something with falcons.

Amazing hotels, singing and a touch of class



DOES WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN: Monica Galetti and Giles Coren in *Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby*.

If the chap cleaning and the lady covering the birds of prey segment doesn't prove Auntie is committed to gender equality, I don't know what would... Next time the *Amazing Hotel* is a former grain silo in Cape Town; Giles and Monica are tasked with cleaning the windows during the worst drought to hit the Cape for 100 years. It is a shame we can't send over some of the rain that's been falling across Spain over the last few weeks.

If you caught *Picasso's Last Stand* on *BBC2* last week you netted a gem. The show used his final years in the 1960's as a hook for Sir John Richardson (Picasso's biographer) to try to

persuade us that Picasso produced some of his best work in his final years. I don't need to be persuaded. Sir John elegantly made the case, through memories of Picasso's family and friends, that although his final pieces weren't universally welcomed at the time and are some of his most explicit work, his creative genius shone through. For a short while, you can make your own mind up via *BBC iPlayer*.

What did you make of *The Real Full Monty: Live* *ITV* on Wednesday night? I thought Alexander Armstrong and Ashley Banjo did a great job in pulling everything together whilst supporting the male celebrities to take every-



HATS OFF: The Real Full Monty Live.

thing off in front of a live audience in Sheffield. The stripping celebrities wanted to raise awareness of testicular and prostate cancer and I take my hat off to them all.

The personal stories were moving and made the show so much more than some of the pre-show headlines suggested. This wasn't just someone who used to be in *EastEnders* and a rugby hunk getting their kit off, this was a prime time push to save lives.

A group of lady celebrities, supported again by Ashley, take a turn to do the same as the men and to raise breast cancer awareness tonight (Thursday) on *ITV*. Look out for Ruth Madoc in a *Calendar Girls* pose and Coleen Nolan showing the other ladies how it's done.

I applaud everyone involved.

Happy Viewing.

A recipe for leaving a very bad taste in the mouth

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

NEWS that the Metropolitan Police responded to calls relating to the recent KFC closures - 'Please do not contact us about the #KFCCrisis, it is not a police matter if your favourite eatery is not serving the menu that you desire' - makes you wonder, whatever next?

Last year, Police Scotland's emergency call handlers were amazed when a woman reported the theft of her snowman. Other calls included a request to check a woman's height, another reported a 'dirty look' from a neighbour and a

woman asked for help with a large spider in her home.

Some 2.8 million 101 non-emergency calls are made every year in Scotland with just under half a million 999 emergency ones.

Heck, if crime writers like myself came up with motives as weak as these for calling out the cops in our thrillers, we'd be nicked for wasting readers' time!

The East Midlands Ambulance Service was asked if storing cracked eggs in a fridge was a 'health risk'. Other daft 'nuisance' calls included someone with a broken toenail, someone wanting a taxi home, another with toothache, and a patient who didn't want to wait 30 minutes for their GP appointment.

And according to the BBC, ambulances and emergency response vehicles were de-



KFC CLOSURES: Have prompted panic among Brits.

ployed more than 1,500 times to five patients in 12 months, while a single patient reportedly called the ambulance service almost 10 times a day.

Maybe I'm being thick here (no need to comment), but why?

I remember reading a story about the 1950's when boys

were taught as Wolf Cubs (and maybe still are) how to make an emergency telephone call from a GPO red call box.

Even at less than 10 years

of age, they had more accrued wisdom than all the examples of 'adults' quoted here.

Finally, 999 calls due to loud bangs heard in Manchester city centre recently turned out not to be an emergency. It was a hen party popping balloons on a 'Butler in the Buff'. Good grief! (Actually, that's not what I wrote originally but a much more restrained comment!)

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

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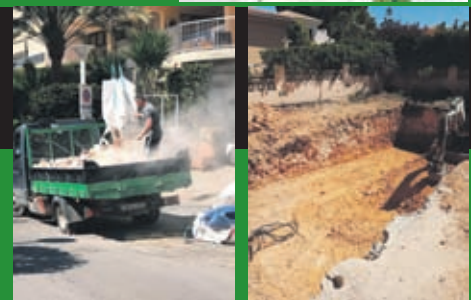


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There are some new services that are being offered this year including
the supply of ton bags. The idea is that Darrmar supply the ton bags for
you to fill at your own pace, with your own manpower and they will be
picked up ready for disposal when full and will be priced per bag.
However if you want to take the hard work from this get Darrmar's
team in to help you.

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

We also prepare plots of land ready for building.



YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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Summer is coming and so are motor homes

WE are writing to express our concern regarding the increase in motor homes/caravans invading this beautiful area of coastline.

Visiting cars to Playa Carolina beach (totally monopolised by mobile homes) found difficulty in parking. This serves as a car park and not a caravan park!

Not content with parking on vast areas of local coastline it is now noted they are also using various spaces in town areas including the Health Centre.

Please advise on local authority policy regarding this increasing menace?

With thanks.

David and Sally, Aguilas

Editor's note

It would appear that the answer lies in the hands of local authorities and police. If these motor homes are parked illegally they can be moved on, although in some towns they are allowed to stay for 48 hours.

Pets or pests?

FRONT page news? Pet shame fury?

Mobile phones or cloaking devices?

DRIVERS may have noticed that pedestrians leap out in front of you, whilst using their trusty mobiles as some sort of defence and not having even seen your car coming, are not alarmed when we have to make an emergency stop in order to avoid hitting them.

The worst offenders are in the town, since there are plenty of zebra crossings for them to practise their art and anywhere near the crossing will do!

Hybrid cars are great for drivers, but I reckon that in electric (silent) mode these will be a real hazard to the 'mobiles' who may only rely on their hearing to identify a road user.



Photo Credit: Duncan Harris Wikipedia

UNAWARE: Phone zombies.

We no longer have to remember anything any more cos with our trusty Smartphone, just click on Google and voila, there it is! Ah we knew that was what we had forgotten.

Now where on earth did I put

my mobile phone? I know I will ring my mobile from my fibre optic landline and hope I did not leave it in silent mode - Telefonica is useful after all!

Brian Johnston, Benalmadena

Since moving to the coast I've never encountered such hysteria about unwanted animals. It's an industry here, over a hundred charities, thousands of sappy people wasting millions of euros, when an inexpensive injection would solve the problem.

Then people could turn their attention to the desperate plight of the millions of hungry, brutalised humans right across our planet.

The number of stray dogs in the world is nearly half a billion, and five million of these live in Spain. That's just dogs. For goodness sake let's put them down. We really need to take a serious look at our priorities.

Edmund Taylor, Fuengirola

Big cats

COULD you not run a piece asking all readers to report the location of any circus they know of (*Issue 1707*)?

That way every single one could be checked and hopefully have their animals removed after local protests.

"It comes after months of negotiations between officials from the circus, local authorities and animal rights groups, with lawyer Raquel Lopez from the DeAnimals law firm acting as mediator."

If the above is true and those animals were in such awful conditions how does this square with animal rights legislation? Is the law here so toothless?

There should not have been negotiations, the animals should have been removed, the circus owners jailed pending trial, with prison time, large fines and life bans at the end of it.

I have lived here 40 years and it shocks me that my adopted country still has such a long way to go.

John Little, Alicante

Spitting mad

BACK in the 40's and 50's, spitting was considered to be a health hazard, regrettably, in recent years it has become commonplace in a sporting context and most noticeably amongst the footballing fraternity.

The revelation Jamie Carragher spat at a critic has caused outrage but isn't it time for this disgusting and unhealthy habit to be condemned and stopped?

It sets such a terrible example to children as they tend to mimic their heroes!

Ken, San Fulgencio

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.

Carles Puigdemont held in Germany

From fantasy to reality in one action - bet the smile has been wiped off this face now!

David Baxter

Criminals go to prison. Traitors doubly so.

Peter Harvey

Great news.

Gill Reynolds

He should now face all charges levied against him and be made to pay for all the disruption he has caused to the whole of Spain. Jail him.

Malcolm

Clocks going forward to be scrapped?

Yes! It takes me days to get into the new routine and the animals are totally confused?

Carol Raines

It was tried a few years ago, no one liked it.

Maggie Champion

I hope not. It gives the illusion of summer coming.

Marita Langley-May

I like the lighter evenings.

Lynn Nickeas

Comments from EWN online

Pilots suspended over mid-flight videos

Their crime was getting caught. I'm sure many of the pilots on the short haul flights mess around to relive the boredom during the two-hour flights. Engage auto-pilot, disengage brain.

Ron Curtis

I'm almost sure the plane landed safe and well so what's the problem.

Shel Louise

Almost everything mid flight is automated.

Felicia Ang

Brit fine for spitting on cabin crew

Hopefully BA will ban her for life too.

Jean Gray

Should have had at least a five-year ban from flying.

Gill Reynolds

Good! I cannot stand anyone spitting, absolutely disgusting.

Janet Lawrenson

Anti-tourism groups threaten summer protests

The problem here is that tourism is booming and it is making life hard for the average Mallorquines. The cost of renting a home is now almost the same as their monthly wage. Prices are soaring. The island is very rich because of tourism, but it's not being passed on to the working people.

Barbara Jago

There are two sides to every story. Having lived in Mallorca I can understand both views. Although tourism is needed there are different types.

I am sure you will agree with the locals when they say they are fed up witnessing hundreds of drunken youths chanting and screaming, etc etc in the streets, all night and every night of the week in some holiday areas. They want them to enjoy their island but not at the detriment of all else.

Jan Andersen-Page

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Checking your details at

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

AS they go about their duties patrolling the roads of Spain, the Guardia Civil traffic police have a whole range of tools in their arsenal to both help those in need, and of course deal with those drivers who break the law.

One piece of kit carried by all of the officers, often stored in the panniers of their motorbikes, or inside their patrol cars, is their Personal Digital Assistant, or PDA.

The device is linked via Bluetooth to a thermal printer, and so able to issue fines on the spot, and pools its data with the central office of the DGT traffic department.

The PDA can be used to check driver and vehicle details, such as if you are actually qualified to drive, if you've been banned, if you own the vehicle you are driving, and details about that vehicle and its insurance.

The whole process of checking the information is almost instantaneous, but it can take a lot longer if the information provided by the driver is either inaccurate, or unknown.

One particular problem facing foreign drivers is when they are not registered as residents in Spain, or have not transferred their licence to a Spanish one.

For those who have, you are likely to be sent on your way a lot quicker than those with no registered details, as a single check of a driver's NIE number links all of the relevant driver and vehicle details together, so



ON THE ROAD: A Guardia Civil PDA in action.

the officers can almost instantly find the information they are looking to confirm.

However, when the information is not linked, such as for drivers who haven't swapped to a Spanish licence, then the process takes a lot longer to complete, and your journey is likely to be increasingly delayed as a result.

Converting your UK licence to a Spanish version is a relatively easy process. It can be done at your local DGT traffic office, or you can hire one of the many specialist advisors who will complete the administrative process on your behalf, and a simple medical and computerised reaction test is all that is keeping you from joining the many residents who have already converted and enjoy an easier life on the roads.

There is more information on the process available at our website, n332.es, as well as links to find your local traffic office and the information required to complete the process.

Q. WE are an apartahotel consisting of 130 privately owned apartments.

Three quarters of these are in the letting pool, which is run as a hotel by our managing agent, who is also our administrator. Because of the conflict of interest, we have agreed by a large majority at last year's AGM, to split the community from the business.

Our administrator refused to accept this, so we called an AGM. The administrator refused

to send out the notice so we did it ourselves. We won by 50 votes to seven. We also invited the notary and our lawyer. We got a written and stamped report from the notary and the minutes taken by the lawyer.

Now the administrator will not give us the legal minutes book. I have been told that we cannot bring a court case against him until the minutes have been stamped and registered. Can you advise? *LS (Costa Blanca)*

A. IN general, yes, but if you have a notarial record of the proceedings and results, which should be called an

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



'Acta de Presencia', this should serve as the basis to request a judge to order the release of the minutes book.

I'm now a convert to BA

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



SO just when I thought Ryanair was getting their act together they mess up again. I was booked on a flight to the UK on Thursday. My hire car was booked and my hotel was booked and at 1am on Wednesday I got an email from Ryanair telling me my flight's been cancelled because the French air traffic controllers are going on strike.

Let's just digress on to that for a moment. Why do the ATC think that by punishing the public anybody is going to have the slightest sympathy for their cause? Anyway, I'm now left with the job of finding a new flight to the UK. All the flights to Stansted were full and every other airport was too expensive or I couldn't get a direct flight. Ryanair's choice was to cancel and get a refund or to book a new date which is no good to me because I was only going 'til Sunday.

I finally, at 2.30am, found a BA flight to a different airport to where my hire car was being collected. So I now have to contact them to try and get a car there and then return it to Stansted. I'm informed by them that to do that it's going to cost me double the price I've al-

ready pre-paid. Why? Because when you pre-pay you can't change anything. You have to start again even when changing the pick-up time. I finally told them I'd get car from the original destination and they agreed to change the pick-up time. All I had to do now was get from one airport to the other and my mate agreed to get me.

I got to the airport expecting to see lines of people because of all the cancelled flights. Guess what - the only company that had cancelled flights to the UK was Ryanair! There were some cancelled by airlines going to France but to the UK none.

This got me wondering why. So I asked the two pilots that were waiting to get on my flight. Well actually, I suppose technically, I was waiting to get on their flight and they told me it's easier and cheaper for Ryanair to just cancel the flights than get involved with the admin and overtime payments to staff. They really don't do themselves any favours. So I am now a convert to BA flights to London City Airport which, by the way, actually came with a meal included too. Maybe my mate at Talk Radio Europe, Bill Padley, can ask his ABTA contact why Ryanair always do the thing that manages to pee their customers off the most.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
29 MARCH	5:30pm Flog It!	4:40pm Blitz Cities	5:00pm Tipping Point	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	12:45pm My Icon
	6:15pm Pointless	5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots:	6:00pm The Chase	6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:00pm Home and Away	1:00pm Sky Sports News
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	Inside the RAF	7:00pm ITV News London	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	2:00pm Sky Sports News
	7:30pm BBC London News	6:10pm Put Your Money Where Your	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	2:30pm Live PGA Tour
	8:00pm The One Show	Mouth Is	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	Casebook	Featured Groups
	8:30pm EastEnders	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm Tonight	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Goodbye Bargain-	6:00pm Live LPGA Golf
	9:00pm MasterChef	7:30pm The Repair Shop	9:00pm Emmerdale	9:00pm Location, Location,	Loving Brits in the Sun	8:30pm Football
	10:00pm Not Going Out	8:00pm Mountain	9:30pm Coronation Street	Location	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it	10:45pm Live Premier League
	10:30pm Still Game	9:00pm Big Cats	10:00pm The Real Full Monty	Indian Summer School	Away!	Darts
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	10:00pm Civilisations	11:30pm ITV News at Ten and	20 Kids and Counting	11:00pm Do the Right Thing	11:30pm Jd Ringside: The
11:30pm BBC London News	11:00pm Match of the Day	Weather	Gogglebox	with Eamonn and Ruth	Countdown	
FRIDAY	5:45pm Flog It!	7:30pm Eggheads	7:00pm Paul O'grady: For the	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	8:00am Good Morning
	6:45pm Pointless	8:00pm The Repair Shop	Love of Dogs	6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:00pm Home and Away	Sports Fans
	7:30pm BBC News	8:30pm Mastermind	7:30pm ITV News London	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	7:25pm 5 News Tonight	8:30am Rugby Union
	7:50pm BBC London News	9:30pm Gardeners' World	7:45pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:35pm Kensington Palace:	10:30am Cricket
	8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm Pilgrimage: The Road	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	Fit for a Princess	1:45pm Live Super League
	8:40pm The Silent Child	to Santiago	8:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Britain's Great	4:00pm Live Super League
	9:00pm EastEnders	11:00pm Episodes	9:00pm Love Your Garden	8:30pm Food Unwrapped	Cathedrals with Tony	6:30pm Football
	9:30pm Room 101	11:30pm The Assassination of	Coronation Street	9:00pm Britain's Favourite Food	Robinson	8:30pm Football
	10:00pm MasterChef	Gianni Versace - American	10:00pm Furious 7	Gogglebox	Jane Mcdonald and	11:15pm Jd Ringside: The
	10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	Crime Story	12:30am ITV News at Ten and	11:00pm Lee and Dean	Friends	Weigh in
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	The Way	Weather	11:30pm 8 Out of 10 Cats	Will and Grace	11:45pm Cricket	
SATURDAY	7:43pm Weather	2:00pm Cromwell	6:00pm The Chase	2:20pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm Can't Pay? We'll	7:00am Cricket
	7:45pm Pointless	4:15pm Canterbury Cathedral	7:00pm ITV Evening News	3:25pm Coast v Country	Take it Away!	7:30am Cricket
	8:35pm Who Dares Wins	5:15pm The Secret Helpers	7:15pm Regional News and	4:25pm A Place in the Sun	8:00pm Cruising with Jane	8:00am Total Goals
	9:20pm Casualty	6:15pm Big Cats About the House	Weather	6:30pm The Secret Life of	McDonald	9:00am Total Goals
	10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City	7:15pm Easter from King's	7:30pm You've Been Framed!	The Zoo	9:00pm Inside Windsor	10:00am Total Goals
	11:10pm BBC News	Dad's Army	8:00pm Info not available	Channel 4 News	Castle	11:00am Soccer A.M.
	11:25pm Weather	8:30pm Attenborough's Wonder	9:30pm The Voice UK	Coastal Railways	5 News	12:30pm Football
	11:30pm Match of the Day	of Eggs	11:00pm ITV News	with Julie Walters	10:00pm Secrets of Henry	3:55pm Rugby Union
	1:00am Forget Me Not	10:00pm Hamlet	11:20pm Info not available	Britain at Low Tide	Viii's Palace	6:30pm Football
	2:30am Weather for the Week	1:15am Civilisations	1:25am Goodwood Members'	Zoolander 2	11:00pm Conspiracy: The Nazi	8:40pm Live PGA Tour Golf
Ahead	2:15am Therese Desqueyroux	Meeting Highlights	AVP: Alien vs. Predator	King	12:00am Cricket	
SUNDAY	5:30pm Escape to the Country	3:15pm Canterbury Cathedral	6:00pm The Chase: Celebrity	5:00pm Dumbo	4:15pm Joe Kidd	12:00am Cricket
	6:00pm Songs of Praise	4:15pm RAF at 100 with	Special	6:15pm The Great Celebrity	5:50pm Space Cowboys	7:00am Cricket
	6:35pm BBC News	Ewan and Colin Mcgregor	7:00pm You've Been Framed!	Bake Off for Stand	8:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it	8:30am Total Goals
	6:50pm Regional News	War Horse	7:30pm ITV Evening News	Up to Cancer	9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it	9:00am Total Goals
	6:55pm Weather	8:00pm Down the Mighty River	7:45pm Regional News and	Channel 4 News	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it	10:00am Cricket
	7:00pm The Big Painting	with Steve Backshall	Weather	Homes by the Med	1:30pm Live Nissan Super	1:30pm Sunday
	Challenge	9:00pm Top Gear	8:00pm Info not available	Escape to the	9:55pm 5 News	4:30pm Live Nissan Super
	8:00pm Countryfile	10:00pm Unsealed: Conspiracy Files	9:00pm The Durrells	Chateau	10:00pm The Lonely Life of	8:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf
	9:00pm The Generation Game	11:00pm Mock the Week	10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital	Homeland	12:00pm The Nation's Favourite	12:00am Cricket
	10:00pm Ordeal by Innocence	11:35pm Top Gear Extra Gear	11:00pm ITV News	The Green Mile	George Michael Song	
11:00pm BBC News	12:00am Selma	11:15pm Sherlock Holmes	The Supervet			
MONDAY	7:25pm Weather	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:30pm Regional News and	7:00pm The Simpsons	4:10pm Oliver!	8:30am Good Morning Sports
	7:30pm Celebrity Mastermind	8:00pm Top Gear	Weather	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Neighbours	Fans
	8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Only Connect	7:45pm ITV Evening News	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm Home and Away	9:00am Good Morning
	8:30pm MasterChef	9:30pm University Challenge	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:30pm The Million Pound Holiday	7:55pm 5 News	Sports Fans
	9:00pm EastEnders	10:00pm Dave Allen at Peace	8:30pm Coronation Street	Club	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	Cricket
	9:30pm Classic Mary Berry	11:00pm The Unique Dave Allen	9:00pm The Kyle Files	Travel Man	Casebook	1:30pm Football
	10:00pm Lenny Henry: The	Z for Zachariah	9:30pm Coronation Street	The Island with Bear	9:00pm Police Interceptors	4:00pm Live Super League
	Commonwealth Kid	1:00am Unsealed: Conspiracy	10:00pm Marcella	Grylls	10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7	6:00pm Football
	11:00pm BBC News	Files	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and	Kiss Me First	11:00pm Police UK: Armed	8:30pm Football
	Regional News	2:00am David Attenborough's	Weather	12:05am Greg Davies - The	and Deadly	11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten
11:25pm Weather	Natural Curiosities	The Real Full Monty	Back of My Mums Head	Caught on Camera	12:00am Cricket	
TUESDAY	4:30pm Money for Nothing	6:15pm Put Your Money	6:00pm The Chase	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:00pm 5 News	10:00am Cricket
	5:15pm Flog It!	Where Your Mouth Is	7:00pm Regional News and	5:00pm A New Life in the	6:30pm Neighbours	3:00pm Info not available
	6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	Weather	Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Sky Sports News
	7:00pm BBC News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Four in a Bed	7:30pm 5 News	6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
	7:30pm Regional News	8:00pm Attenborough's	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	7:00pm The Masters
	8:00pm The One Show	Wonder of Eggs	8:30pm 100 Year Old Driving	7:00pm The Simpsons	Casebook	Countdown
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm Great Indian	School	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Secrets of the	7:30pm Sky Sports News at 6
	9:00pm Holby City	Railway Journeys	9:00pm Info not available	8:00pm Channel 4 News	National Trust with	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	10:00pm Come Home	Hospital	10:00pm Info not available	9:00pm The Great Celebrity	Alan Titchmarsh	8:30pm Football
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Cunk on Britain	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and	10:15pm Seven Year Switch	11:00pm Everest: World's	11:00pm The Debate - Live
11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight	Weather	11:20pm Gogglebox	Greatest Mountain	12:00am Sky Sports News	
WEDNESDAY	4:00pm Escape to the	6:00pm Put Your Money	5:00pm Tipping Point	3:10pm Countdown	6:30pm Neighbours	3:00pm Live Masters - On
	Country	Where Your Mouth Is	The Chase	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	the Range
	4:30pm Money for Nothing	7:00pm Eggheads	6:00pm Regional News and	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	7:30pm 5 News	5:00pm Sky Sports News
	5:15pm Flog It!	7:30pm The Repair Shop	Weather	6:00pm Four in a Bed	8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet	6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
	6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Today at the Games	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:30pm Star Boot Sale	Casebook	7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
	7:00pm BBC News	9:00pm The Secret Helpers	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed	8:00pm Masters - Par 3 Live
	7:30pm Regional News	10:00pm The Assassination of	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	Doors	11:30pm Sky Sports News at
	8:00pm The One Show	Gianni Versace -	9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family	8:00pm Channel 4 News	Housing Yorkshire:	Ten
	9:00pm MasterChef	American Crime Story	Coronation Street	9:00pm The Supervet	Somewhere to Call	12:00am Sky Sports News
	10:00pm Patrick Kiely Doc	11:00pm Live at the Apollo	10:00pm Benidorm	10:00pm One Born Every Minute	Home	1:00am Sky Sports News
11:00pm BBC News	Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and	11:00pm First Dates	Why Do Men Earn	2:00am Sky Sports News	
11:30pm Regional News	Weather	Weather	12:05am Gogglebox	More Than Women?	3:00am Sky Sports News	

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' I'M A FACE IN THE FANTASTIC PICASSO SERIES -
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YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

Involvement in a situation connected with someone close may not be the best option this week. Giving advice is all well and good so long as you are sure of your facts. Your loyalty to someone is not in doubt but your help should be more from the sidelines than direct.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Some disruption to your plans annoys you but there's no point getting in a huff. Outside influences cannot be stopped but you are able to keep calm yourself. Rising to the bait will play into someone else's hands. Although a situation must be dealt with, do it in your own time and in your own way. Allow yourself the pleasure of saying 'I told you so!'



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

It seems that you are putting a lot of effort into whatever you do without getting as much out as you would like. However, as the week goes by, you will realise that it is only a temporary situation. Sometimes, it takes others a period of adjustment before they are ready to accept changes of a personal nature.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

The brick wall that you start banging your head against this week is not an illusion. It is, indeed, true that others are not responding to you in an expected way. By Wednesday this wall will start to fall and people will be more receptive. There is a time and place for everything and you will find it eventually.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Everything seems an effort at the beginning of this week but as energy levels pick up you will gain momentum. Tackle one thing at a time and realise that Rome was not, indeed, built in a day. As the weekend approaches you will begin to realise that you have been far more effective than you thought.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

You really do need to come to an understanding with friends over a social matter, although this may take a little effort this week. It is clear that there are those who are less helpful than others, but this could be because of a misunderstanding.

Maybe you need to put forward your plans a little more forcibly so that no one can misunderstand.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Be a social animal this week and you will strengthen both people and business contacts. After being busy last week, you may be inclined to take it easy. If it is the case that you really are low on energy, then use the telephone or email to full advantage to keep in touch.



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Someone well and truly treads on your toes this week and it really puts your teeth on edge. There are some bridges that may not be mended at the present time and are best left alone. Show your generous side but resist the urge to give in on an important issue because you are likely to regret it later.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

What a lovely surprise to find that something you have always wanted is coming your way at last. Keep a firm hand with finances and take control if you want to organise things for the better. Your destiny is, for the most part, in your hands.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Be cautious this week with your money. You have been aware for some time now that a change in your finances is likely. You have this in common with many others in your situation. Seeking professional help can be free and can make a big difference.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

A special chance to try something new should not be passed over. No one expects wonders from you, they are happy just to see you enjoying life. A recent change in your attitude to your future is already showing.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Your home life gives you the most satisfaction at the moment even though someone seems to be challenging you. Some things are best ignored until they go away of their own accord and that also often applies to people. There is a time for everything and choosing it will make a task that could be difficult that much easier.

Trivia from around the world

*** Accents in Britain change noticeably around every 40 kilometres.

*** There is a clinic in Cambodia where blind people are employed to give massages so they can make a living.

*** The Ontario area of Canada has more than 250,000 lakes, containing about one fifth of the world's fresh water.

*** Algeria is the largest country in Africa, but only around 12 per cent of it is inhabited. The Sahara desert covers about nine-tenths of its land area, with the vast majority of its population living on the coast.

*** Jerusalem in Israel has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times and captured and recaptured 44 times throughout its history.

*** Ecuador became the first country to legally recognise



LOUDEST ANIMAL: The volume of a blue whale's call is louder than the sound of a plane taking off.

DID YOU KNOW?

Blue whales are capable of producing the loudest sound in the animal kingdom. Their calls can measure up to 188 decibels and it is possible to detect them at distances of 800 kilometres away, partly because sound travels better in water.

the rights of nature in 2008. The law states that it has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate itself.

Women's wit

“Mental fight means thinking against the current, not with it. It is our business to puncture gas bags and discover the seeds of truth.”

Virginia Woolf,
writer



Famous quote

“You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.”

Friedrich Nietzsche,
philosopher

World of English

“Mistigris - A joker or other extra card played as a wild card in some versions of poker.”

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday March 24	Saturday March 24	Tuesday March 20	Friday March 23	Thursday March 22	Saturday March 24	Sunday March 25
(3) (11)	(2) (17)	(26) (29)	(5) (7)	(1) (7)	(17) (18)	(3) (8)
(16) (36)	(24) (25)	(37) (39)	(11) (46)	(24) (34)	(21) (23)	(9) (20)
(43) (59)	(35) (40)	(44)	(50)	(36) (48)	(27) (48)	(37)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(49)	(36)	(9) (11)	(8) (11)	(29) (8)	(6) (2)	(5)
		EL MILLON: ZSK88461		JOKER: 2 271 456	JOKER: 5 736 038	

LOTTERY

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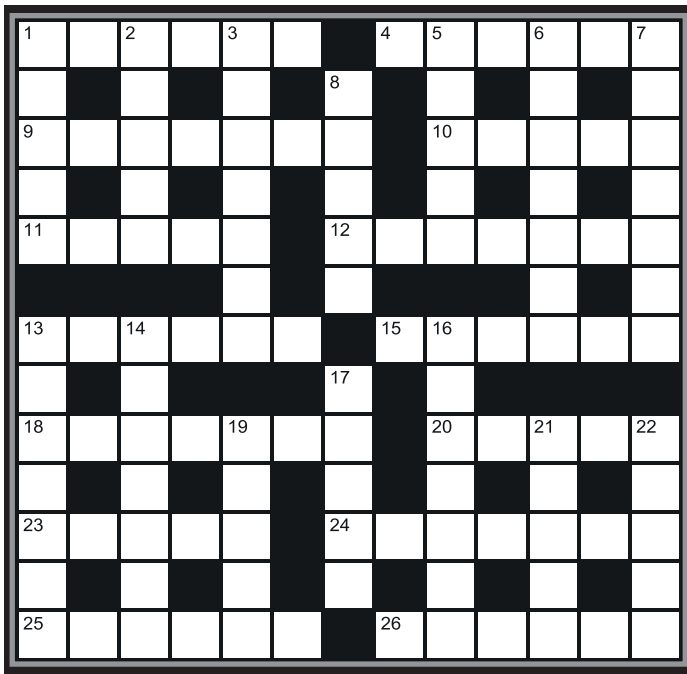


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Quietly shelve promise (6)
- 4 After a short time Sue's ordered dessert (6)
- 9 Not many? Wrong, the opposite (7)
- 10 Exercise makes doctor unwell (5)
- 11 Two ways to get staff (5)
- 12 Second ruler promises to be significant (7)
- 13 Weak coffee blend is found here (6)
- 15 Standing, the street gets at us (6)
- 18 Run small vehicle for use on holiday (7)
- 20 Foundation and front of building unaltered (5)
- 23 Supply comedienne's final wisecrack (5)
- 24 Party leader has to be present and be in charge (7)
- 25 Some may reminisce; nice views are picturesque (6)
- 26 Fish's name for a hairstyle (6)



Down

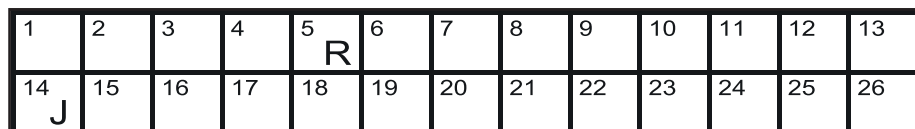
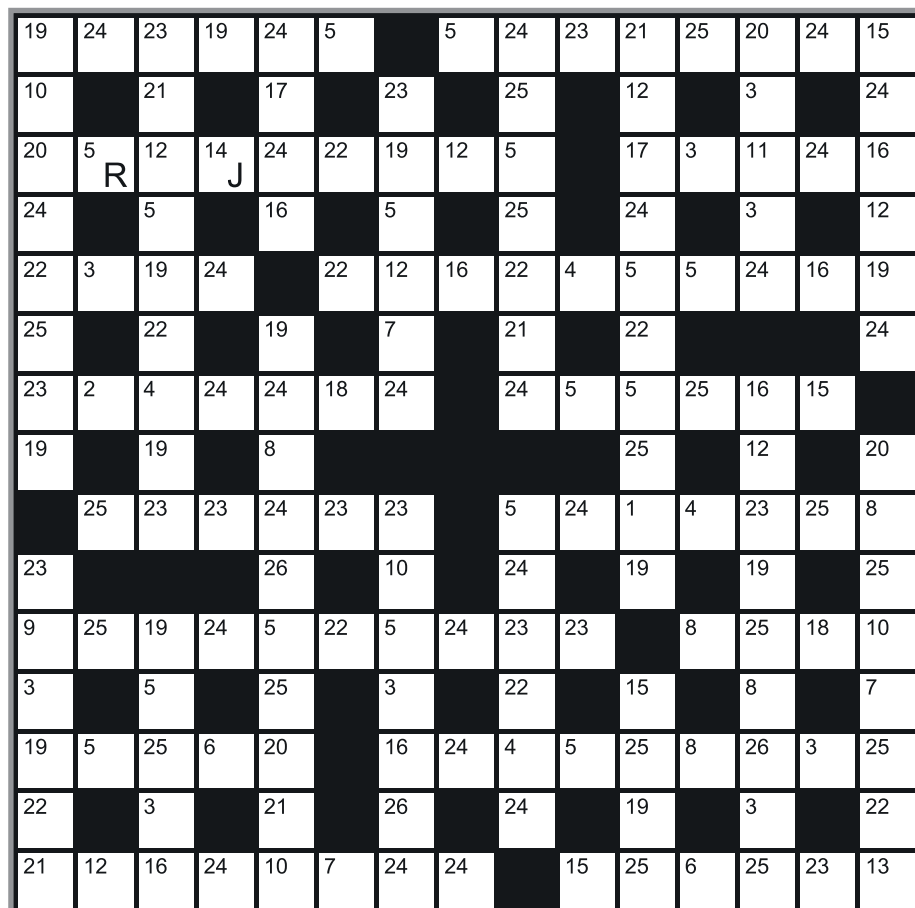
- 1 Spare recipe for fruit (5)
- 2 Additional piece of text rarely seen (5)
- 3 Cultivated chap served fish (7)
- 5 Group of monks giving command (5)

- 6 Prolong a race incident (4,3)
- 7 Listens, sort of, then joins up (7)
- 8 A source of inspiration can cause merriment (5)
- 13 Looks after Australian beer (7)
- 14 Certain after a time to see deletion (7)

- 16 A colourful scene created by gold on furniture (7)
- 17 Beef's good and ready for eating (5)
- 19 Drink from fractured pipes (5)
- 21 Society to do away with talent (5)
- 22 Fish detected by its odour? (5)

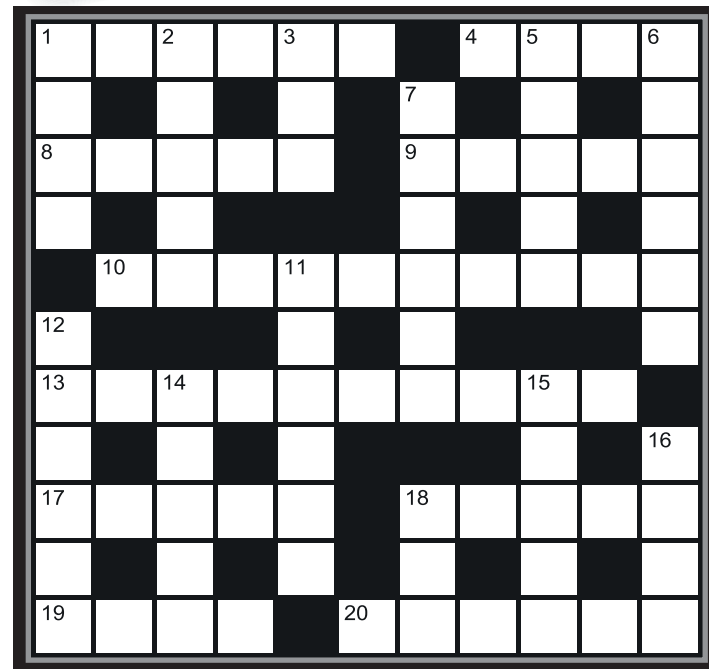
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 5 represents R and 14 represents J, so fill in R every time the figure 5 appears and J every time the figure 14 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

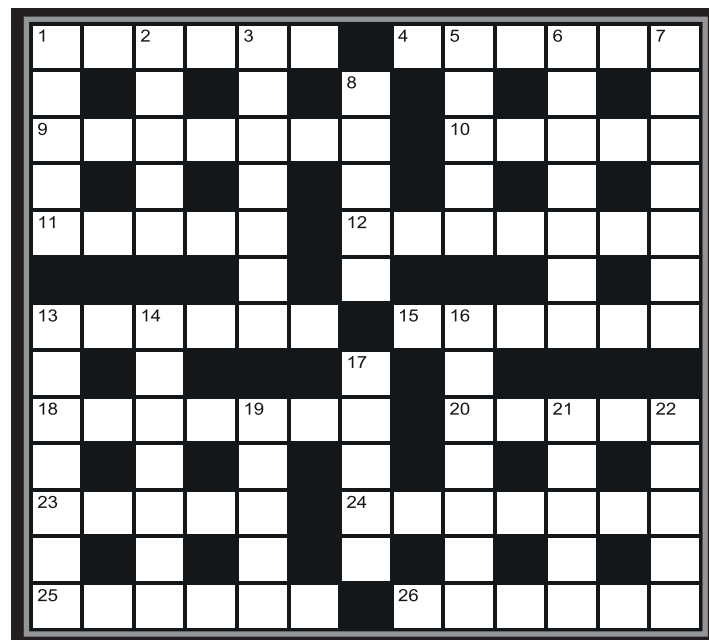
- 1 Stout, strong and sturdy (6)
- 4 Strong wind (4)
- 8 Cause fear in (5)
- 9 Loud cry (5)
- 10 Harmonica (5,5)
- 13 Workplace for the conduct of scientific research (10)
- 17 To yearn or long for (5)
- 18 Reddish (5)
- 19 Outbuilding (4)
- 20 Unequivocally detestable (6)

Down

- 1 Over hasty (4)
- 2 Informal party or social event (5)
- 3/18 Become angry (3,3)
- 5 In the middle of (5)
- 6 Stretch out (6)
- 7 Companion (6)
- 11 Serving dish (6)
- 12 Casual pants (6)
- 14 Courageous (5)
- 15 Exhibition of cowboy skills (5)
- 16 Organs of sight (4)
- 18 See 3

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Saturday (6)
- 4 Sword (6)
- 9 Calf (animal) (7)
- 10 Estar de acuerdo (5)
- 11 Autumn (5)
- 12 Fencing (sport) (7)
- 13 Antena (6)
- 15 Esfera (6)
- 18 Calefacción (7)
- 20 They (f) (5)
- 23 Molar (tooth) (5)
- 24 Breath (respiration) (7)
- 25 Trapo del polvo (6)
- 26 Avispón (6)

Down

- 1 Wise (5)
- 2 Bug (insect) (5)
- 3 Defeat (7)
- 5 Jerga (5)
- 6 Línea aérea (7)
- 7 Promedio (7)
- 8 Panadero (5)
- 13 Avergonzado (7)
- 14 Lectores (personas) (7)
- 16 Prefix (7)
- 17 Equal (5)
- 19 Imagen (5)
- 21 Lino (ropa) (5)
- 22 Corto (longitud, distancia) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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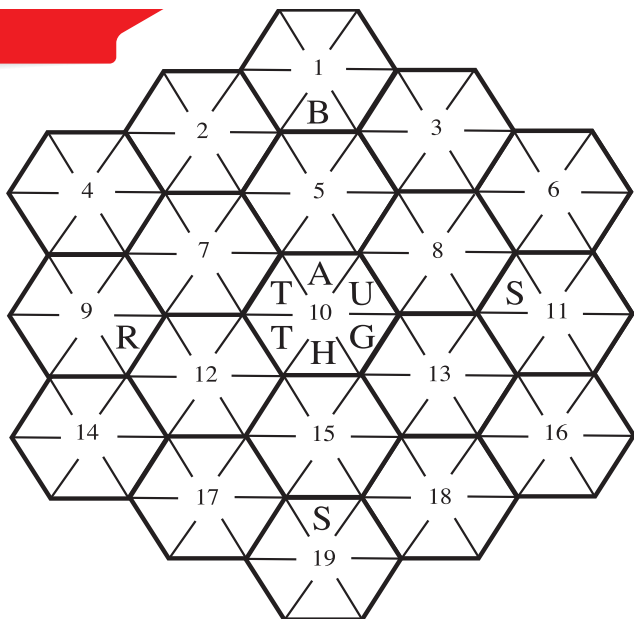
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Hexagram

- APATHY
- AVIARY
- BREAST
- CHANCY
- CITRUS
- CREAKY
- CRUTCH
- EXPECT
- FICKLE
- HARASS
- OBLONG
- OCULAR
- PSYCHO
- QUAHOG
- SPHINX
- SQUEAK
- STUCCO
- TAUGHT (10)
- TONSIL



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

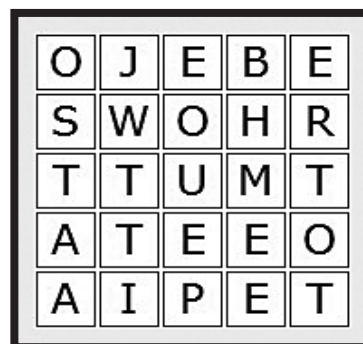
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Beyond 2 Medico 3 Screen 4 Gravid
- 5 Myriad 6 Raised 7 Judged 8 Ironic
- 9 Girdle 10 Jangle 11 Tundra 12 Valued
- 13 Pagoda 14 Please 15 Bedlam
- 16 Blanch 17 Versus 18 Employ
- 19 Beggar

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 23
- Very good: 45
- Good: 32
- Excellent: 59

SCORING:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

leer terra terras tree trad trash true
trues reel rete veer vert flee fleet flier
flop flour flout floe float floaty rhea
rheas rash rase rues dart darter dash
durra dues duet duty dopy dour doty
dote plod play plot purr purdah purdahs
poly pour pout pouty poet lour loud lout
hart hard hear heard head advert
auto your shard shad shear sheet sard
sear ease turret tour typo tear teas
tease tees atop

Nonagram

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



TARGET:

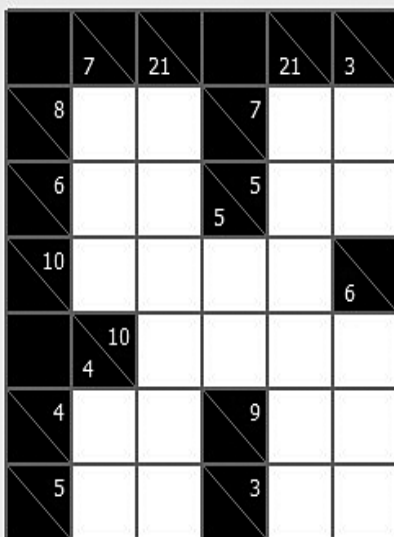
- Average: 18
- Good: 12
- Very good: 17
- Excellent: 21

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

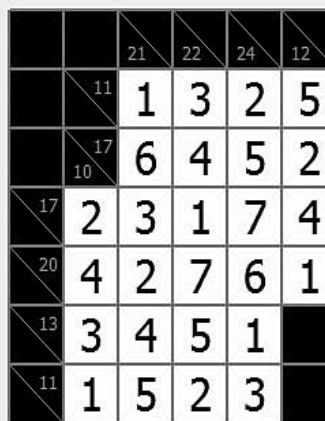
cent coin cone dent dine dint done dune icon into nice node
note nude once tend tine tone tune unco undo unit unto cento
conte conte count dined donut dunce induce noted ounce tined
toned tonic tuned tunic undid unite untie coined docent induce
induct inducted noetic notice united untied conduit counted
induced noticed education inducted DEDUCTION

Kakuro

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

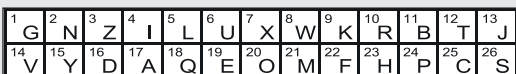


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

- Across:** 1 Reporter, 8 Evade, 9 Donor, 10 Rate, 11 Allege, 13 Caviar, 15 Zinc, 18 Alibi, 19 Rifle, 20 Aperture.
- Down:** 2 Exact, 3 Oven, 4 Tiddly, 5 Range, 6 Farfetched, 7 Leprechaun, 12 Facile, 14 Voila, 16 Infer, 17 Fret.

CODE BREAKER



CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Sluice, 4 Trusts, 9 Beseech, 10 Patio, 11 Lots, 12 Indicate, 14 Steed, 16 Peaks, 20 Adulates, 21 Urge, 24 Panda, 25 Enlarge, 26 Roster, 27 Starve.
- Down:** 1 Subtle, 2 Upset, 3 Chef, 5 Repaired, 6 Setback, 7 Sloped, 8 Shine, 13 Delaware, 15 Truants, 17 Hamper, 18 Deter, 19 Delete, 22 Rarer, 23 Blot.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Get up, 4 Upset, 8 Agarrar, 9 Elbow, 10 Spoon, 11 Cumplir, 12 Sastre, 14 Paloma, 18 Conocer, 20 Clave, 22 Chefs, 23 Elegido, 24 Snore, 25 Shape.
- Down:** 1 Glasses, 2 Trapo, 3 Partner, 4 Urraca, 5 Steam, 6 Tobillo, 7 Fewer, 13 Singers, 15 Archers, 16 Awesome, 17 Breeze, 18 Cocer, 19 Cesto, 21 Amiga.

App of the week



Citymapper

An app that lets users see the public transport schedules and systems of cities in detail. Users can check nearby departure times, find the fastest routes, follow step-by-step directions and receive alerts if lines are disrupted. New routes can also be created.

QUIZ: LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

1. In Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, what is the name of the merciless moneylender who speaks the lines: "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? If you wrong us, shall we not revenge?"
2. Stars of the famous US comedy TV show *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*, what were the first names of Rowan and Martin?
3. In which decade did the comedian Charles Penrose record the famous music hall song *The Laughing Policeman*?
4. Name any two of the four original presenters of the television light entertainment programme *Game for a Laugh*?
5. Which 17th century Dutch artist painted the oil on canvas work known as *The Laughing Cavalier*?

6. Which chemical compound used as an anaesthetic in dentistry and surgery is also known as laughing gas?
 7. Which five words complete this phrase from the poem *Solitude* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox: "laugh and the world laughs with you, ----"?
 8. Which member of the kingfisher family is also known as the laughing jackass?
 9. Which parody of the Nobel Prize is awarded every autumn to celebrate 10 unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research? Since 1991, the prizes have been awarded to "honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think"?
 10. Who reached number six in the UK singles chart in 1973 with the novelty single *The Laughing Gnome*?
- Not a lot of people know that... the science of laughing and its effects on the body is known as **gelotology**.

Answers:

1. SHYLOCK
2. DAN Rowan and DICK Martin
3. 1920s - recorded June 1922, released April 1926
4. JEREMY BEADLE, MATTHEW KELLY, HENRY KELLY and SARAH KENNEDY
5. FRANK HALS
6. NITROUS OXIDE
7. WEEP AND YOU WEEP ALONE
8. KOOKABURRA
9. IG NOBLE AWARDS
10. DAVID BOWIE

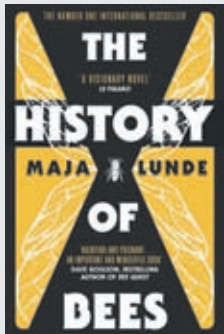
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BOOKS



Buzzing through time

THREE beekeepers, three countries, and three generations from the past, present and future. William, George and Tao all share in common their attempts to handle their relationship not only with the animals and nature but also with their families.

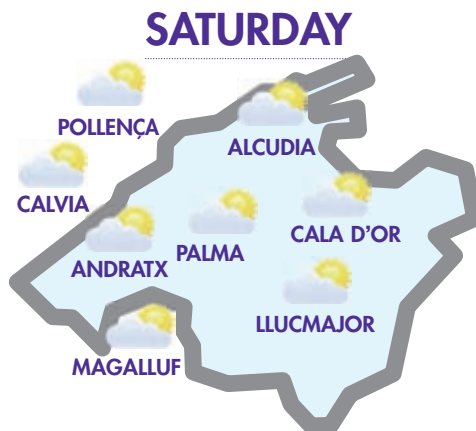
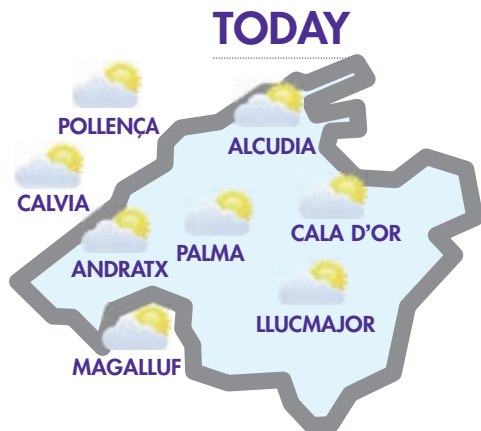
William is a biologist and seed merchant living in England in 1851 who is working on a new type of beehive. George, who lives in the United States in 2007, is engaged in a battle against modern farming with hopes his son can be his salvation. In China in 2098 Tao works painting pollen on-to trees long after bees have died out.

All three narratives on humans relating to nature and each other come together in Maja Lunde's *The History of Bees*.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa del Sol

weather



Malaga	Almeria	Bilbao	Madrid
TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 9-S	TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 10-C	TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 7-SH	TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 5-CL
Fri - 17 8-Sh	Fri - 17 9-C	Fri - 12 7-Sh	Fri - 10 4-Sh
Sat - 18 10-S	Sat - 18 11-S	Sat - 13 9-C	Sat - 12 7-Sh
Sun - 20 11-S	Sun - 20 13-S	Sun - 18 11-C	Sun - 15 8-C
Mon - 20 11-C	Mon - 22 13-C	Mon - 18 10-C	Mon - 15 7-Sh
Tues - 20 10-Sh	Tues - 19 12-C	Tues - 16 8-C	Tues - 14 6-Sh
Wed - 19 10-S	Wed - 19 12-C	Wed - 15 7-Sh	Wed - 14 4-CL

Alicante	Benidorm	Mallorca	Barcelona
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10-S	TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 9-S	TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 10-C	TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 8-C
Fri - 19 9-C	Fri - 17 8-Sh	Fri - 16 10-Sh	Fri - 15 7-Sh
Sat - 20 10-CL	Sat - 18 10-S	Sat - 15 11-S	Sat - 16 8-CL
Sun - 21 11-S	Sun - 19 11-S	Sun - 17 10-S	Sun - 18 9-C
Mon - 21 12-CL	Mon - 19 11-S	Mon - 18 11-S	Mon - 18 10-CL
Tues - 20 11-C	Tues - 18 11-C	Tues - 20 11-C	Tues - 17 10-C
Wed - 20 10-C	Wed - 17 10-Sh	Wed - 17 10-C	Wed - 17 8-Sh

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

• **Brendan Gleeson, Actor; March 29, 63**
The Dublin-born actor played Alastor 'Mad Eye' Moody in the Harry Potter film series, and has also featured in Gangs of New York, In Bruges and Troy. Gleeson worked as a teacher before debuting first in a play and then in Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*.

• **Eric Clapton, Musician; March 30, 73**
Clapton first found success playing guitar for The Yardbirds. He went on to play for Cream and Derek and the Dominos and has also had a lengthy solo career. He is

nicknamed Slowhand due to the slow clapping from audiences while he replaces broken guitar strings onstage.

• **Al Gore, Politician; March 31, 70**
The Former Vice President of the United States and Nobel Prize-winning climate activist served under Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2001. He also ran against George W Bush for the Presidency in 2000 in an election controversially decided by the Supreme Court.

• **Susan Boyle, Singer; April 1 57**
Boyle was born and raised in

Blackburn, Scotland and shot to international fame in 2009 for her rendition of Les Miserables' *I Dreamed a Dream* at a Britain's Got Talent audition.

• **Michael Fassbender, Actor; April 2, 41**
The star of *Inglourious Basterds* and *12 Years a Slave* made his debut in the *Band of Brothers* TV series. He was born in Heidelberg, Germany and moved with his parents to Kerry in Ireland when he was two years old. He married Alicia Vikander in 2017.



Susan Boyle.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT



Snow is forecast for today (Thursday) but skies should clear up over the weekend with highs of three degrees. It is expected to snow again on Monday and then temperatures will rise up to seven degrees as the skies clear. 117 of the 128 Sierra Nevada ski slopes are now open.

286 - Maximian appointed
Roman Emperor Diocletian grants the general Maximian the title of co-emperor, giving him control over the western territories of the Empire. He would go on to spend much of his time in the position putting down rebellions.

801 - Barcelona falls
King Louis the Pious of the Franks captures Barcelona from the Moors following a siege which lasted several months.

1492 - Alhambra Decree
Castile Queen Isabella orders all 150,000 Jews and Muslims living in her kingdom to convert to Catholicism or face expulsion in the Alhambra Decree.

1549 - Brazil capital
The first capital of Brazil, Salvador da Bahia, is founded by Portuguese settlers. It later became the seat of the first Roman Catholic diocese established in the country.

1800 - Beethoven premier
Ludwig Van Beethoven premieres his First Symphony at a concert in Vienna. He would go on to compose eight more, including the well known Fifth and the Ninth.

1856 - Crimean War ends
The Treaty of Paris is signed between Britain, France, Russia and the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey), formally ending the Crimean War and making the Black Sea a neutral territory.

1959 - Dalai Lama flees
The 14th Dalai Lama arrives in India and gains political asylum following an uprising against Tibet's occupation by China which began in 1951.

2017 - Brexit begins
The British government formally triggers Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, officially setting in motion its departure from the bloc.

DVD

Into the unknown



SCIENCE lover August 'Auggie' Pullman (Jacob Tremblay) is every inch the ordinary boy. But he doesn't look it, he says. He has undergone 27 surgeries after being born with facial deformities.

For most of his life he has worn an astronaut helmet in public to hide his face and he was home-schooled, with his parents fearing the reaction of other children.

Auggie's first day at school sees him and his family face new challenges in the film *Wonder*.

RACE
RICE
RIME
RIMS
ARMS
ARMS
Solution

Sudoku

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

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

Word Ladder

ARMS

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

RACE

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

HAMILL CARE INTERNATIONAL (HCI) is a new company yet has a long history and an exemplary pedigree.

Founder and Chief Executive Sandra Hamill has spent 30 years front-line care in a wide range of environments.

She has worked in hospital wards in the UK National Health Service, owned and operated care units in the United Kingdom and USA and now provides day-to-day nursing care and holiday care to residents and visitors on Mallorca.

The HCI philosophy sees it acting as a single stop solution and care provider capable of fully adapting to the needs of each individual client and patient who has entrusted them with their well-being, whether for the provision of a single service, care during a holiday visit, or on a year-round basis.

The key focus of HCI is the organisation and provision of assisted holidays and ongoing longer term care for those who are either not totally able to look after themselves due to disability, infirmity or age, or who need more extensive care

Advertising Feature

A health care company that puts the patient first

and support.

The HCI team of nursing, care and support staff are all professionals dedicated to the provision of quality care in a friendly, relaxed and reassuring environment.

HCI have experience in working with an exceptionally wide variety of clients from all walks of life and possessing various disabilities: or persons who just need a little support with activities of living and can provide an extensive range of mobility aids and disability equipment to meet the most demanding requirements

Being experienced property managers, HCI has a large portfolio of accommodation specially selected, categorised and adapted to meet the requirements of disabled visitors.

Whilst a hotel with disabled facilities might be the preference of some, others might choose to stay in more relaxing and private accommodation away from the crowds.



HELPING: HCI can help the elderly cope with illness.

As professional nursing and care providers with many years' experience in the care of disabled persons with specific needs, there are very few circumstances which they are unable to accommodate.

HCI will also accommodate other family members and personal carers who can be integrated into the care package which is always tailored to meet precise individual needs whilst imposing the minimum of constraints. When needed, HCI can provide a catering ser-

vice with meals specially prepared on-site to meet individual dietary requirements whilst as an added benefit the company is particularly experienced in the care of seniors and young children.

In summary, HCI is basically a care service providing personal and nursing care for residents of Mallorca, and a bespoke one stop shop for rental of mobility aids, care and nursing support for travellers to Mallorca.

If you or someone close to you needs round the clock at-



THE BEACH: No longer out of bounds.

tention of just some care or nursing support, as well as rental of mobility equipment,

translation and companionship to medical appointments at hospitals or doctors, HCI should be your first port of call.

One very important additional service that they also provide are qualified nurse escorts for clients to and from their home country, if they need to travel.

Hamill Care International SL
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Illes Balears
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+34 636 284 328
hamillcare@gmail.com
www.hamillcare.com.

Veganism harmful?

VEGANISM is gaining popularity across the globe, but several concerns have been raised over whether it could have an impact on your hair health.

While many vegans are well informed about their diets, hairdressers have reported that their clients who have cut out animal products completely complain they have more brittle hair and weaker hair growth.

This could occur because vegans find it more difficult to consume a high amount of protein after they have cut out meat, fish and dairy products.

Hair is made up of a chain of proteins so having a deficiency will directly impact your hair. Therefore, it is important to supplement your diet with alternative sources of protein such as pulses, and speak to a nutritionist if you need more advice.

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

Deirdre Quierly

The Secret Wound and Eden Burning



DEIRDRE QUIERY: Author and artist taken in Port Soller.

EXCLUSIVE

by John Smith

WHO is the Belfast Deirdre Quierly and why is she living in Mallorca?

"I WAS born in Belfast on March 24, 1957. My parents bought a small terraced house from which we were evicted at gunpoint in 1971 during the troubles.

"We were forced to squat in an abandoned house on the Crumlin Road which was called 'The Peace Line.' From the age of 11 to 18 when I went to University I knew violence.

"Two uncles were murdered, the house taken over by the IRA and the family

taken hostage with a cousin killed in cross fire and three bombs placed outside the door. I knew what hatred meant and what it does to people and that knowledge formed the basis of my first novel Eden Burning.

"I became a bank manager, a human resources manager, and a management consultant.

"I left Northern Ireland with its violence and became 'successful,' with three company cars in the driveway, a beautiful Oxfordshire cottage and wonderful friends.

"I gave it all up 16 years ago."

"Why? It wasn't in pursuit of a place in the sun. I felt that there was something else to learn about life that would never happen staying in that corporate world with all of its bonuses, privileges and VIP trips to Hawaii.

"For the first year in Mallorca, we lived in an olive grove with no running water, no fixed line telephone, no internet and no TV. I began to write and Eden Burning was published. We had no money other than to use the equity of the house sale in Oxford.

"We made friends with the local community as we both spoke Spanish. We invited at least a hundred local Mallorquin people to our home with a sprinkling of Germans and Argentinians. That mixture of people from an expat background inspired me to write The Secret Wound.

"I found the expat world quite confusing, so removed from the corporate world that I knew so well. Many of them were devious, jealous, envious and typically not fun to be around. As we were renting our

property we were considered not to be in the wealthy 'in set.'

"Whereas with the local Mallorquins I found them solid, salt of the earth people, a bit miserable to be honest but welcoming and trustworthy. I had to learn how to navigate this complex world compared to Oxford. I wrote The Secret Wound to make sense of it and have fun with it."

Synopsis - The Secret Wound

The Secret Wound draws the reader into a complex web of relationships within the expat community in Mallorca, discovering their dangerous secrets and a potential murderer in their midst.

One of their members carries a dark and deadly secret from their past, and has murderous plans for a fellow expat.

Gurtha who is a successful Consultant and exhibits art, discovers his mother Nuala has been murdered. He takes 40 days in Mallorca to give himself time to think about where his life is going. At the end of these 40 days he discovers who has killed his mother and why. His life takes on a new sense of direction as the discovered truth is unexpected and terrifying.

Deirdre who is also a prolific artist as well as a writer (see www.deirdrequierly.com) also spared some time to respond to a number of questions which give a greater insight into the person behind the literature.

What is your greatest fear?

I love the question. The answer is my husband Martin dying. We have been married 38 years and I can't imagine life without him.

What is your favourite food?

OMG - the simpler the better - a vegetarian pizza from Pizza Express with jalapeno peppers.

Who would you invite for a meal dead, alive or fictional?

Jack Kerouac, the author of 'On the Road.' He died lonely with his friends not visiting him. He was a pioneer writer of 'The Beat Generation' and I think he needed a good pizza, bottle of wine, a chat and a big hug.

What is your secret pleasure?

Doing nothing, chilling out

watching *Breaking Bad* on the TV.

Which is your favourite band?

U2.

Where do you find the energy to keep going?

My husband promising me treats if I meet my writing deadlines!

What song would you like played at your funeral?

Tupelo Honey by Van Morrison

If you could go back in time when would it be to?

The 1920's, be a flapper and dance the Charleston.

What's top of your bucket list?

A visit to Venice which my husband has promised me when I complete my deadline for finishing the third novel *The Painter*.

Where were you born?

Belfast, Northern Ireland. I shot into the world alone apart from my mother being there of course. No nurses. That explains everything.

What question should I have asked?

What have I learnt in the last one year? I'm not telling you it would shock you.

What would you change about your life?

I wouldn't have come to Mallorca and would have stayed in that lovely cottage in Oxford. The mortgage would be paid off. I could sit and watch *Breaking Bad* by the warm glow of logs from an Inglewood fireplace. I know I said that I came here to learn something. I've learnt it. But I can't go back. There's no going back. (Sob...sob)

What do you like most about Spain?

I like the way the Christian world meets the Arab world and the natural beauty of Mallorca.

What do you miss from the UK?

Pizza Express and Pret A Manger. I've obviously got a lot of food issues going on here!

The two books are available from

www.urbanepublications.com and www.amazon.co.uk.

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Time for tea

TO keep you in the Easter spirit, Age Concern, Mallorca will be holding their Easter afternoon tea next Wednesday commencing at 3.30pm.

The venue is Coleman Hall, Calle Nuñez de Balboa 6, Son Armadams, Palma.

There will be scrumptious sandwiches, hot cross buns, yummy home-made cakes and Easter surprises and of course the fun quiz.

Easter bonnets are welcome, they might even have a prize for the best!

Please book before Tuesday April 3 by calling: 678 352 040 or emailing: mallorca@ageconcern.org.es They look forward to seeing you.

Calling all bargain hunters

CALANOVA Cancer Charity Shops on Avenida Joan Miro 352 and 354 are holding a special furniture and paintings market today, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 7pm.

Come and grab a bargain!

There will be beds, mattresses, drawers, office furniture, tables, lamps, rugs, chairs, sofas and much more up for sale.

Items are nearly new, in excellent condition at bargain prices.

All of the proceeds will be given to the cancer charities.

A soiree with the stars

THE Fundacion JoyRon (JoyRon Foundation) a charity supporting 'children in need in the Balears' is hosting an upcoming charity gala dinner 'a soiree with the stars' on the April 21 at Finca Son Mir in Palma from 7.30pm.

It will be a sumptuous and elegant charitable fundraising event in aid of the foundation.

This spectacular event will include a cocktail reception with a live music accompaniment, followed by a spectacular three-course gourmet dinner prepared by their trio of master chefs: Marc Fosh, Adrian Quetglas and Fernando Arellano.

There will also be a choice of cocktails, beer and wine bar throughout the night (until coffee is served) and live stage entertainment during dinner.

After dinner, there will be dancing into the early hours with a singer and DJ, and a fundraising raffle and auction with many wonderful and exciting prizes.

The ticket price is €110.00 per person and the dress code is black tie or lounge suits.

For more details please go to the event website page: www.soiree-with-the-stars.com or contact Ronald Hawes on: 608 531 211 or

email: info@joyronfoundation.org.

Tickets are selling fast but there is still limited availability, so if you would like to attend please register at the above event web page.

If you are unable to attend this event, but would still like to support the 'children in need in the Balears,' they ask if you would kindly consider donating either an auction or raffle prize to assist them in raising additional funds, for the benefit of the children, who are orphaned, in care, suffering from a life threatening illness or living in a level of poverty which deprives them of social activities.

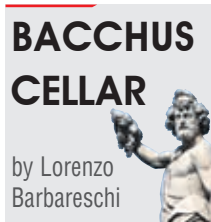
For more details about the foundation and projects completed, visit: www.joyronfoundation.org.

Your presence and/or contribution in some way guarantees to help them make this event a night to remember and at the same time helping the 'children in Need in the Balears.'

To donate to the auction or a raffle prizes, please contact Nick Jones on: 672 211 058 or email: nick.jones@premierfx.com.

Finca Son Mir is located on Cami Vell de Sineu, 07198 Palma.

An unnatural fizz



VINHO VERDE is not a 'green' wine nor a grape, but a region (DOC) for its production.

It may be red, white or rose, and translates as 'young wine' usually consumed three to six months after harvest. Vinho Verde in northern Portugal - the nation's largest wine region - has produced wine for more than 2,000 years, and is now responsible for approximately 85 million litres each year, of which 86 per cent is white.

Made from local grape varieties Loureiro, Arinto, Trajadura, Avesso, and Azal, the whites are lemon - or straw-coloured with 8.5 to 11 per cent alcohol. The most successful is Alvarinho, which displays tropical aromas, an

VINHO VERDE: A Portuguese gem.

overall lemony character, high acidity and alcohol levels, and Loureiro which is more floral.

White Vinho Verde are light and fresh and known for vibrant fruit, natural acidity and low alcohol which makes them ideal for pairing with seafood, salads and Asian cuisine, or served as an aperitif.

The reds made mostly from Vinhão, Borraçal and Amaral grapes have an inky texture, are low in alcohol, have sour flavours and are seldom exported. The roses are fresh and fruity, and usually from Espadeiro and Padeiro grapes.

Many of the Vinho Verde wines have a light fizz, origi-

nally a natural by-product of fermentation in the bottle, but nowadays a result of added carbon dioxide mainly for en-masse export as better labels do not have any bubbles.

The Vinho Verde image as a young wine has led importers pressing producers to deliver wines freshly bottled, thereby preventing the development of high quality single-varietal labels. Popularity of Vinho Verde has surged in the last decade with consumers discovering it as one of the most affordable and versatile wines on the market, with prices from around €5.

Happy tasting.

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Shining sun on your savings

If you have money burning a hole in your pocket, why not think about buying a second property in Spain and reap the rewards of a wise investment?

You can choose to invest in property by either buying real estate as cheaply as pos-

sible to sell in the short term at a higher price or by investing in a steadily growing market to receive rental income over the longer term. Which option you prefer will dictate how and where you spend your hard earned cash.

Valencia offers good opportunities for short-term resale properties.

With rock bottom prices often 40 per cent lower than their peak in 2007, you can still grab a bargain but you need to act quickly.

Prices are steadily on the rise given that investors are looking south of Cataluña in light of the general political instability there and the almost pre-

crises levels of property in Barcelona. Another option is Madrid where residential property is currently about 13 per cent cheaper than in 2008. Here, the capital also

offers promising returns with prices expected to grow by almost 11 per cent.

For buy-to-let investments, look for areas that have steadily rising property prices. You need to also decide if you wish to offer either short-term or long-term rentals. However, with short-term rentals commanding prices of 400 per cent more over the summer months than monthly long-term rental prices, that choice can be an easy one!

For short-term rental properties, consider lo-

cations close to golf courses or ski resorts. This means you can offset the majority of your annual mortgage repayments during the high season and take advantage of low season golfing and skiing rentals to provide a solid secondary income stream.

It will come as no surprise that properties along the Costas can offer fantastic opportunities for this. House prices along the Mediterranean coast are steadily on the increase, having witnessed a 3 per cent

rise in 2017 and in the sunnier climes of the Canarys, house prices are expected to increase by almost 8 per cent in 2018.

For non-coastal options, Granada and the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountains can offer you serious rental income all year though.

Whether for short-term resale or long-term rental, now is the time to capitalise on your savings as Spanish property prices slowly creep upwards since the economic crash 10 years ago.

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

Ref 3117, Vallgornera, 170,000€

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



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

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



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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



Ref 3118, Lluçmajor, 106,500€

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



Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

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



GOLDEN RETURNS: See your savings grow under the Spanish sunshine.



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Mallorca Real Estate



LPS-335 €2,950,000
 5 bedrooms 2/1wc 655m² 1505m²
 Nova Santa Ponsa - Luxury Villa.



LP-1970 €640,000
 3 bedrooms 2 108m²
 Port Portals - Frontline sea view apartment.



LPS-333 €609,000
 3 bedrooms 2 158m²
 Nova Santa Ponsa - Off plan apartments.



LPSC-329 €2,590,000
 5 bedrooms 6 470m² 1300m²
 Santa Ponsa - Modern Sea view Villa.



LP-1903 €1,495,000
 2 bedrooms 2/1wc 192m²
 Port Portals - Frontline garden apartment.



LPS-243 €2,499,500
 7 bedrooms 4/1wc 700m² 1400m²
 Santa Ponsa - Villa with stunning views.



LPC-1981 €636,300
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 Palmanova - Great investment villa.



LPSC-331 €550,000
 3 bedrooms 2 197m² 547m²
 Calvia Village - Country villa with views.



LPC-1779 €995,000
 4 bedrooms 2 140m²
 Port Portals - Frontline luxury apartment.

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Paying for your child's tuition fees? Save money on your currency transfers

Putting your child through higher education can be seriously costly, with tuition fees and living costs typically amounting to tens of thousands of pounds in just a few years. If you're living abroad but transferring money back to the UK to fund your child's time in University, the process could be made costlier still if you're using your bank to manage the currency transfers.

A new school of thought

When it comes to transferring money overseas, moving your funds through your bank seems like the logical choice on paper. But in reality, what should be a quick and simple task can end up taking considerably more time than it should.

If you're looking for a simpler and speedier alternative, consider the benefits attached to using a leading currency broker.

Whether you need to make regular, smaller currency transfers or have a large lump sum to transfer, currency brokers can help you save time and money. They can also help you understand the volatility of the currency market and teach you how to time your currency transfers effectively.

For example, while the EUR/GBP exchange rate initially strengthened considerably in the wake of the UK's vote to leave the EU in 2016, the pairing has experienced significant fluctuations ever since.

This exchange rate movement can make

planning your transfers a bit of a pain. With complex Brexit negotiations still ongoing, the EUR/GBP exchange rate will remain unstable for the foreseeable future, so it's important to be prepared for sudden shifts.

Do your sums

One major advantage to using a currency broker like Currencies Direct is that they don't charge transfer fees (unlike many banks) ensuring that the money you're sending to the UK is not reduced by unnecessary costs. Transfer fees can quickly add up if you make frequent transfers, so you could end up saving hundreds of euros a year.

By using a currency broker you can also ensure that you're getting the most competitive exchange rate for your transfer, meaning you'll get more for your money.

Revise your options

Using a currency broker also takes a lot of hassle out of the transfer process, as you can set up payments 24/7 from the comfort of your own home and arrange

for them to be made automatically on pre-set dates.

You can also make instant or 'spot' transfers whenever you need to, so you don't need to wait to move the money if your child needs some emergency funds.


Another option you might want to look into is a forward contract, which gives you the ability to fix an exchange rate for up to two years in advance of making a transfer - protecting your funds from negative market movements.

By doing a bit of research into the different transfer options available you can eliminate the hassle and get more from your currency transfers. Find the services that suit your needs and you'll quickly discover how much you can save.

At Currencies Direct, we've helped over 210,000 customers save on their currency transfers since 1996. Just pop into your local Currencies Direct branch or give us a call to find out more about how you can save money on your currency transfers.

Get in touch - Mallorca

Mallorca

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THE recent wet weather this winter is enough to keep even the most enthusiastic gardener out of the garden.

Waterlogged soil is best not walked on if it is for growing plants. The compaction of saturated soil is very damaging, as even when it dries out the effects of compression last and cause clods of soil in summer that are difficult for plant roots to penetrate. This doesn't mean no gardening, indoor gardening is always a possibility.

Tropical species are a very popular form of plant for indoor gardening. They give a different range of plants that cannot be grown in the outdoor Mediterranean garden.

If you grow tropical plants in pots they can grace the terrace or balcony in summer and be retired to the indoors in winter, or they can be a permanent indoor feature in a bright, warm area of the home.

A favourite, which is hardy and fast-growing in the right conditions, is the impressive glossy-leaved trumpet flow-

Growing the Sun Parasol or Mandevilla



Peach Mandevilla.

Photo Credit: Barbara Siebert Shutterstock

flowers form mostly on the current years growth, the pruning is done in a way to encourage this new growth.

If you are moving the container from outdoors for winter hibernation and protection from the cold, you can submerge the container in water for at least a few minutes to flush out any ants or other insects which you don't want inside.

Wash the upper part of the plant also and allow the plant to dry and drain well after soaking before moving inside.

In winter, when temperatures drop, it is best to reduce watering so the soil mix is just moist as excess water amplifies the cold effect around the roots.

Low light intensity in winter usually stops it flowering. This can be true in summer if indoors without sufficient light. The leaves may drop in winter if exposed to cold. If this happens reduce water to just moist.

ered Mandevilla, also called the Sun or Summer Parasol.

It originates from tropical Central America where it is a climbing plant. It was named after British explorer and diplomat Henry Mandevilla who first botanically identified it.

A Mandevilla needs plenty of sunlight or it will not flower profusely. It is very cold-tender so must be kept in a warm place above 10°C throughout winter. They will thrive in a large container with a good soil mixture and will grow over a

metre a year in good conditions and up to seven metres in length on maturity.

It will need a trellis or structure to grow up or along to give it support, unless you keep it very well pruned in autumn when flowers are less frequent.

Pruning is also recommended to encourage multiple stems to spread growth by creating more branching to have a more intensive flower display.

Prolific flowering can be further promoted by pinching off the spent flowers and as

Caring for orchids

KNOWN for their exotic looks and luminous petals; orchids are an increasingly popular indoor plant that require some extra care if you want to keep yours blooming for as long as possible.

You would think it would be tricky to identify what kind of orchid you have as there are around 30,000 species of orchids in the wild, and reportedly more than 100,000 hybrids.

However, most orchids commonly available for sale are either Phalaenopsis, (also known as moth orchids) or Dendrobium (cane orchids).

Your orchid will likely be in bloom when you first get it, and there are several things you can do to keep it that way.

Many orchids given as gifts are

potted in the wrong conditions to promote long-term growth.

They are often put in plastic pots with moss packed around the roots. Their roots need a good flow of fresh air to be healthy, as orchids with damp roots are vulnerable to root rot, as well as various other problems.

However, repotting the plant while in bloom could cause it to wilt, so instead water it less frequently.

Also make sure you don't keep it in a spot where it is exposed to direct sunlight or cool draughts.

The flowers will last longer if the plant is in a warm, mild and humid environment.

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David
THE Dogman



columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

Dogs' instinct

TRAINING dogs does not give the end product; dog's natural instinct plays a vital role.

Man first domesticated dogs because he had so many instincts which could be useful.

When we think that man has used the dog for many thousands of years for his own benefit, it is very difficult to understand why so few owners and trainers can differentiate between instinct and intelligence.

Instinct is an urge from within which makes a dog act in certain ways and has no connection with intelligence.

A dog's first instinct is to survive. When he is born the pup squirms about until he finds a teat and then sucks it. No intelligence or learning by any association plays a part in this process. The maternal instinct tells the female to clean up the foetal membrane etc and stir the puppy into action by licking it.



INSTINCTIVE: Dogs are wild at heart.

The female is not taught this, she has not seen another female do this. Most instincts provide pleasure to the dog and because the dog associ-

ates the action with pleasure the instinct grows stronger with usage.

In my opinion instinct is something which is either there or not

there. Instinct can be strengthened, weakened or diverted, it cannot be put there and it cannot be taken away, it might lie dormant, but once

developed it can never be weakened again. I always explain this when people want their dog to be trained for man work, once aggression is raised in this manner it cannot be reduced.

A dog with an obsession for chasing balls can be controlled by training and by providing other outlets for his energy, the same way if a young dog is diverted the first time he chases a car he may give up the idea, but if he is allowed to chase cars the hunting instinct becomes stronger, and in no time it will be very difficult, even impossible, to cure the habit.

Instinct covers survival, maternal, hunting, guarding pack and self-preservation.

Self-preservation makes dogs furtive and afraid of the unfamiliar, this is no use to man. This nervousness in the domestic dog is, in my opinion, one of the common causes of problems in present-day dogs.

This instinct of self-preservation has been weakened by simply breeding from bold dogs rather than nervous ones, but has never been entirely removed.

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I have nothing but GREAT things to share about HouseSitMatch!! From day one, they have responded, supported and made everything easy to accomplish. I definitely recommend this company and their professional staff.

Read more

~Linda ~ House and petsitter, USA (Reviews in Trustpilot)

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Puppy on board

THERE has been a fair amount of controversy recently when it comes to travelling with pets on aircraft.

A puppy recently died after a flight attendant on a United Airlines flight to New York allegedly forced a passenger to put their puppy in the overhead bin.

Then a family discovered that their German Shepherd had been accidentally flown to Japan instead of Kansas City when they were greeted with a Great Dane instead.

This has sparked a debate as to what rights passengers have when it comes to flying with their pets and whether airlines are responsible for making sure the animal arrives safely.

The British Airways website states 'It is your responsibility to take care of your dog's needs, cabin crew won't be able to offer any assistance to the dog during the flight' and only allows assistance dogs recognised by certain organisations free of charge in the cabin.

While BA also transports pets in the hold for a cost, neither Ryanair nor easyJet have this policy.

Although several US airlines also allow passengers to have emotional support animals on board, this trend has

yet to cross over most European airlines.

If you plan to bring your pet on a flight, get a sizeable, sturdy crate that is well-ventilated, with a waterproof bottom and spring-locked door to make sure it travels safely in the hold.



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M/Y Elaldrea + a 49 metre superyacht



AMAZING: THE M/Y Elaldrea + being transported to the water.

THE M/Y Elaldrea + a 49 metre displacement yacht lines designed by Horacio Bozzo and interiors by the Benetti Style Department has just been launched.

This sophisticated yacht with a contemporary design, was built and launched safely at the Benetti yard in Viareggio Italy.

The displacement yacht, part of the custom product line, was designed for an owner who has chosen Benetti for his previous boats and Horacio Bozzo, the multiple award-winning

yacht designer and naval architect said “The minimalism and purity of the lines are the heart and soul of this project, in which the demand for functionality embraces the design.”

The distinctive features of the yacht’s exterior lines include the spacious beach club with sauna, the 115-square-metre fly bridge with a four-metre swimming pool, and offers plenty of space for dining, along with sunbathing areas.

The owner’s suite area, occupies 60 square metres, has a balcony with an automatic sliding

door and huge glazed surfaces for natural lighting in order to establish a special relationship with the outdoor spaces. The suite has two walk-in wardrobes, a double bathroom and an office/study area.

The guest accommodation consists of six cabins covering a surface area of 90 square metres with the two spacious VIP cabins occupying 25 square metres each.

The yacht is certified in compliance with the LY3 Code and can therefore also be chartered

out, while the crew quarters contain four cabins, sleeping a crew of eight or 10 depending on how the boat is used, with an area set aside for the laundry and storeroom.

The main garage houses a 6.3-metre tender and the forward sea water pool contains a second 3.4-metre tender for the crew.

The engine room is equipped with a pair of 12V MTUs, driving the yacht to a top speed of 14.5 knots and a cruising speed of 13.5 knots (with the engines at 85 per cent power).



Credit: ©Pep Portas - FVCV

2018: Sees some great racing opportunities.

Regatta time in Valencia

VALENCIA will welcome a number of coastal events to the area over the next few months.

The RCN Torrevieja will host the regional government Valen-

ciana Trofeo on April 28 and 29 while the RCN Valencia will host the regatta on June 9 and 10.

The Autonomous Cruises, third scoring test for the regional

government Valenciana Trofeo, MJM Memorial Juan Moreno, will be held at the RCN in Calpe on May 19 and 20.

As an experiment in 2018, the scoring for the regional government Valenciana Trofeo MJM changes. To establish the score in each group the general classification in each of the scoring races will be taken into account, with participants having to complete at least one test in each regatta.

After these competitions, the Peñon de Ifach Trophy will take place at the RCN in Calpe from May 31 to June 2.

Disaster as crew member is lost at sea

AS just six yachts head towards Cape Horn in Leg 7 of the Volvo Ocean Race, one has withdrawn and is heading for Chile.

This is because of the sad loss overboard of John Fisher, the British sailor who was swept overboard from the Team Sun Hung Kai/Scallywag yacht.

Sadly, despite all efforts to recover the crew member, they were unsuccessful and it is now confirmed that he has been posted as lost at sea.

The owners of the yacht issued the following statement, “We are devastated by the news involving our crew member, John Fisher, following a man overboard incident early on Monday afternoon UTC.

“Witty and the Scallywag crew have been battling extremely treacherous conditions in the southern ocean and this tragedy is heartbreaking.

“The crew did everything they could to recover John, leading an extensive search and rescue operation in stormy conditions. Now, with the forecast worsening and night falling, the team has made the difficult decision to head for landfall, 1,200 nautical miles away in South America.

“Over our long passages, I have come to know John well. Despite the dangers of the sport he loved his sailing. He is one of our own, a long-standing member of the team. He is a



Photo Credit: Volvo Ocean Race Facebook

OVERBOARD: John Fisher RIP.

great and experienced sailor, the finest human being and a true Scallywag.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with John’s family and the crew at this most difficult time, and we are working with Volvo Ocean Race to provide all the support we can. Our focus now is getting the boat and crew to a safe harbour.”

No matter how experienced a sailor may be, the sea is a dangerous predator but man will continue to challenge it now and in the years to come.

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MOTORING FACT

In 1900, 40 per cent of American cars were powered by steam, 38 per cent by electricity, and 22 per cent by gasoline.



Yamaha electrifies the competition

YAMAHA MOTORS has announced that its new TY-E electric trial bike will compete for the first time in the 2018 FIM Trial-E Cup.

Designed to optimise the unique advantages of electrical power, the TY-E is scheduled to race at Auron in France on July 14-15, and at Comblain au Pont in Belgium on July 21-22.

Featuring advanced new technology, the TY-E has come straight from Yamaha's 'Evolving R&D' programme, where employees have the opportunity to work outside conventional frameworks.

They can devote up to 5 per cent of their working hours developing new concepts, and a beneficiary of that has been the development of a trial model for competition that can overcome typical EV obstacles.

Key progress in the design can be seen in the harnessing of high torque output from small



Credit: Yamaha Group

ROCKING RIDE: The Yamaha TY-E combines power and style.

sized and lightweight components, creating an easy, responsive and controllable riding character.

The high rotation electric motor achieves strong off-road performance with powerful low speed torque and extended acceleration.

Sophisticated motor control technology achieves an excellent response and the optimised flywheel ensures top class traction.

There is a newly designed high output battery pack and a light monocoque frame that adds to the dynamic rider experience.

The FIM Trial E-Cup is the only sanctioned event where electric trial machines alone can compete.

Kenichi Kuroyama, who is currently competing in the IA Super class of the All Japan Trial Championship, will represent the Yamaha Factory Racing Team in 2018.

ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

Lexus NX300h Premier

THE NX300h is the first compact crossover from luxury brand Lexus and the latest version features more muscular styling, equipment upgrades and is a full hybrid available with front wheel or all-wheel drive.

New crossover/SUVs seem to be launched almost every other week - they are the current 'hot' product on the motoring scene - yet even so, the NX300h still stands out with true visual presence.

Beneath the bonnet is a 2.5-litre petrol en-

gine with electric motor and battery pack giving 195 hp. The car can run on electric power alone, helping keep emissions down to 121 g/km, and saving fuel. Top speed is 180 kph (112 mph), the 0-60 kph 9.2 seconds and fuel economy is 19.2 kpl (54.3 mpg).

The NX300h has silky driving dynamics with minimal noise intrusion. Electric CVT transmission provides smooth gearshifts and the suspension set-up gives a compliant and comfort-

able ride.

With diesel in gradual decline, sales of hybrids are increasing and NX300h prices start at €39,373 (£34,895) for models which are well equipped across the range. All models get touch-screen infotainment system, with sat-nav, Bluetooth, CD player/digital radio, plus dual-zone climate control and alloy wheels. My Premier test model added much more kit including upgraded sat-nav with 30cm screen and surround-sound audio system, enhanced connectivity services, 360-degree camera, intelligent parking

sensors and various other convenience features, taking the price to €50,092 (£44,395).

The cabin has a quality look and feel, seating is comfortable and all models get a front armrest and electric seat adjustment. The dashboard layout is very good, with most of the control buttons set high up for easy view and touch.

Four adults can be accommodated with ease and a fifth if necessary. There is good rear headroom and the rear seats recline for greater com-

fort. The boot offers 475 litres of space, and with rear seats folded (they don't go quite flat) there is a substantial 1,520 litres.

It is hard to fault the NX300h. Certainly there are SUVs which offer more sporty handling, but overall, this eye-catching Lexus holds a strong hand, scoring well for low emissions, fuel-efficiency and generous equipment levels.



LEXUS NX300H: A small luxury.



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La Liga Preview

Barcelona aiming for 30 game unbeaten mark

SEVILLA host Barcelona as La Liga returns after the international break looking to halt Barcelona's unbeaten season.

Las Sevillistas are looking to bounce back from two consecutive defeats, a run that has seen them sit in sixth place, just two points above Girona and Real Betis in seventh and eighth.

Champions-elect Barcelona however, come into the match yet to lose a La Liga game this season and will be looking to hit the 30 games unbeaten mark in the league as they travel to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

Despite making the quarter finals of the Champions League, Sevilla could find themselves outside the top six before kick off if Girona get past Levante in the early kick off.



UNBEATEN: Barca made it 29 games unbeaten with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

La Liga's surprise outfit this season, Girona suffered their first defeat in four games as they went down 6-3 to Real Madrid last time out.

Four from Cristiano Ronaldo

added to with goals from Lucas Vazquez and Gareth Bale saw Girona fall to defeat despite a noble effort to get back into the game.

And they will now be looking to get straight back to winning ways

with a win against lowly Levante, who find themselves in the middle of a relegation battle and sitting just one place above the bottom three.

Real Madrid will look to continue their good run of form as they travel to relegation threatened Las Palmas.

Madrid have lost just one in their last six, while red-hot Cristiano Ronaldo took his tally to 17 goals in his last eight games with four, and will be confident of adding to that against the Gran Canarian side who find themselves six points adrift of safety.

On Sunday, second placed Atletico Madrid host relegation threatened Deportivo La Coruña.

Atletico were dealt a huge title blow before the international break as they lost 2-1 to Villarreal and

moved 11 points behind Barcelona, but will look to get back on track as they welcome 10th placed Celta Vigo.

Elsewhere, bottom of the table Malaga host Villarreal as they seemingly head towards relegation from La Liga.

Las Malaguistas, who have picked up just 14 points all season, snatched a rare point against Celta Vigo last time out but have now gone 14 games without a win since they beat Real Sociedad 2-0 on December 10.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Athletic Bilbao play Celta Vigo on Saturday before on Sunday, Eibar host Real Sociedad, Leganes face Valencia, Espanyol take on Alaves while Getafe are against Real Betis on Monday.

Premier League preview

Chelsea host Spurs in London derby as race for top four heats up

THE Premier League officially returns this weekend as Chelsea host Tottenham in the London derby.

Tottenham can all but put Champions League football out of reach for Chelsea with a win as they look to cement their place in this season's top four.

Spurs, who will be without the injured Harry Kane for the trip to Stamford Bridge, currently sit on 61 points in the final Champions League spot and a win will move them eight points clear of fifth placed Chelsea with just eight games left to play.

League leaders Manchester City head to Everton on Saturday, knowing that a win will give them the opportunity to be crowned Premier League Champions if they beat rivals Manchester United at the Etihad on April 7.

However, it will not be all plain sailing for the league leaders as Everton have found a recent resurgence of form of late.

The Merseysiders are looking for their third successive victory on Saturday following wins against Brighton and a 2-1 win over Stoke before the International break.

Elsewhere, Manchester United begin the era without Zlatan Ibrahimovic as they host Swansea City at Old Trafford.

The Swede officially completed his move to LA Galaxy late last week having not played for the Red Devils since Boxing Day.

In a battle at the bottom, West Ham host Southampton with both teams sitting dangerously close to the drop-zone.



INJURED: Spurs will be without injured top-scorer Harry Kane.

West Ham, who gave life-time bans to 'at least five' supporters last week after crowd trouble and pitch invasions against Burnley, sit just one point above the relegation zone, while FA Cup semi-finalists Southampton dropped into the bottom three thanks to Crystal Palace's win against Huddersfield.

Crystal Palace themselves face a tough fixture as they host free-scoring Liverpool at Selhurst Park in Saturday's early kick off.

The Reds put five past Watford in their last game, with in-form Mo Salah grabbing four for himself as he moved clear of the injured Harry Kane in the race for this season's golden boot.

The weekend's other fixtures will see Brighton host Leicester, Huddersfield travel to Newcastle, West Brom are against Burnley, Watford face Bournemouth and Arsenal take on Stoke on Sunday.



TEMPERS: Spanish players lost their heads and confronted the referee following the final whistle.

Rugby Europe's decision on qualifier imminent

By Benjamin Park

RUGBY EUROPE is set to make a decision later today (Thursday) on whether the Spain vs Belgium Rugby World Cup Qualifier should be replayed.

In a game full of controversy, Spain lost to bottom side Belgium 18-10 in a game refereed by Romanian Vlad Iordachescu and two Romanian assistants; with the result meaning that Romania automatically qualified for next year's World Cup instead of Spain.

The Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) had asked for the referees to be changed prior to

the match and is believed to feel aggrieved by an estimated 19 different decisions against them and have since asked for the game to be replayed.

Following the match, Rugby Europe's referees' selection committee had an initial meeting in Poznan on Friday with the information then given to a conference call between the Board of Directors on Monday, at which FER President Alfonso Feijoo was present.

And in a statement following Monday's meeting, Rugby Europe confirmed that the board needed 'additional information' before taking an 'accurate decision' on the matter.

The statement read: 'Rugby

Europe Board of Directors held a conference call this evening (Monday) to share and discuss the elements related to the Spain / Belgium game, Rugby World Cup 2019 Qualifier.

'Rugby Europe General Secretary recalled the facts and submitted the reports of the different people and groups who have been consulted.

'Board members unanimously requested additional information (in particular those provided straight ahead of the meeting to World Rugby) before taking an accurate decision.

'A new meeting has been planned for Thursday March 29 in the afternoon.'

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LIONEL MESSI has admitted this summer's World Cup could be his last. He told Fox Sports: "After this (World Cup), an important generation is going to leave and many players are going to change."

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Griezmann on the move?

Striker seeks summer solution

By Benjamin Park

ATLETICO MADRID forward Antoine Griezmann has admitted that he wants his future resolved before he travels to the World Cup with France in the summer.

The French international has been continuously linked with a move away from Madrid over the past few seasons, with runaway La Liga leaders Barcelona reportedly favourites to secure his signature in the

summer transfer window.

However, some outlets maintain that the 27-year-old will be offered a bumper new contract in a last-ditch effort to keep him at the Wanda Metropolitano.

And the forward himself has now confirmed that he wants his future sorted, one way or another, before he boards the plane for this summer's World Cup in Russia.

Griezmann told *L'Equipe*: "I want to travel to Russia without this concern.

"It's not about knowing where I'll play, but about having the peace of mind if I'm still in one place or another.

"It may be boring, but I have told my sister that,

whether I stay or not, this will have to be resolved beforehand.

"What bothers me the most is that everyone asks me about this issue."

RESOLVED: The Frenchman wants his future resolved before this summer's World Cup.



Valverde cruises to Cataluña title

SPANIARD Alejandro Valverde has won his second consecutive Tour of Cataluña after his closest competitor crashed out in the final stages.

Valverde held a 16-second advantage over Colombian Egan Bernal heading in to Sunday's final stage but cruised to victory when Bernal fell towards the end of the race.

The Colombian landed awkwardly after falling less than 10 kilometres from the finish line, as he was unable to avoid contact with another rider who had fallen just in front of him.

He was unable to continue following medical treatment on the track of the 155-kilometre stage and was later taken away by an ambulance for treatment on a nasty looking shoulder injury.

Thirty-seven-year-old Valverde eventually finished ninth on Sunday, managing to secure a 29-second overall lead over Movistar teammate Nairo Quintana and 47 seconds ahead of Frenchman Pierre Latour in third.

The final stage was won by Briton, Simon Yates, and after the race, he told British media: "It was very difficult from the beginning.

"I decided to try and go early, and it paid off. I wanted to try to get on the (final) podium but I fell a little bit short."

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