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Kingpin's gym closure Firm says site will reopen after refit

by Joe Gerrard

THE Cursach Group-owned Megasport gym has closed while the company undertakes a refit to make it compliant with regulations.

The firm said in a statement public bodies would have to approve changes before the



members of Megasport took to the streets to protest the closure of the Palma gym.

Turn to page 3 »

CLOSED: Protestors demonstrated in Palma against the closure of the Megasport gym (inset).

See us on page 25



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Just beachy!

SPAIN has maintained its status as the nation with the most blue flag beaches on the planet.

It comes after the Association for Environmental Education and the Consumer (ADEAC) handed the coveted award to 590 sandy strips across the country.

The Blue Flag is given to beaches meeting high standards of hygiene, sanitary conditions, safety, and accessibility.

And Spain's total has increased by 11 this year, with the sun-drenched hotspot having topped the world ranking since the awards began in 1987.

gym, which has more than 9,000 members, could reopen.

It had previously said the site would close permanently and it did not give precise dates for the completion of works in the latest announcement.

Jose Hila, Palma City Council's planning

spokesperson, has reportedly refused to meet with company head Bartolome Cursach to discuss the closure.

Cursach has also attempted to appeal against a ruling ordering the partial closure of the Group's Megapark leisure venue.

More than 500 workers and



See us on Page 39

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By Matt Ford

ONE of Britain's most wanted fugitives will not fight extradition after being held in Spain, it has been confirmed.

It comes after former Stephen Lawrence murder suspect Jamie Acourt was arrested as he ate lunch following a workout at Metropolitan Sagrada Familia Gym in Barcelona.

Reports suggest he tried to impersonate an Italian tourist but was unable to fool armed undercover officers who had spent days posing as fitness fanatics while keeping tabs on the 41-year-old from Eltham in South East London.

Acourt went on the run three years ago amid allegations that he was involved in a €4.5 million UK cannabis smuggling ring. Scotland Yard said in a statement he had been remanded in custody by Spanish police on a European Arrest Warrant at the close of an operation involving the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA).

Dramatic images released in the wake of the swoop show the handcuffed suspect in a Barcelona police station.

It's a fair cop

UK's 'most-wanted' fugitive accepts fate

And a court appearance in Madrid has reportedly been cancelled after the Spanish High Court heard via video link that he will accept his extradition.

Ian Cruyton, Head of International Operations for the NCA, said: "Acourt thought he could evade capture but as a result of an intelligence-led operation his days on the run have ended.

"We were able to direct the Spanish authorities to his location in Barcelona.

"Our ability to share information and work at speed with our international partners ensures there is no safe haven for fugitives. We will never stop pursuing these individuals."

A Crimestoppers appeal to find Acourt was launched in October 2016, when he was

described as one of Britain's Top 10 fugitives.

It is believed he regularly returned to the UK using a false passport to raise money for his life on the run.

A Met Police statement said: "Spanish authorities arrested Jamie Acourt, 41, in Barcelona

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BARCELONA ARREST: Jamie Acourt was held in the Catalan capital.

on a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service.

"The EAW was issued as part of the Met's efforts to trace Acourt in relation to an investigation into the unlawful supply of controlled sub-

stances.

"This relates to an investigation launched in 2016 by detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Command.

"Extradition proceedings now await."

Acourt's arrest follows re-

cent reports that he had been spotted living a party lifestyle in glamorous Costa del Sol resort Marbella.

He was alongside his brother Neil named among the five prime suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder enquiry, but was not convicted and has always maintained his innocence.

Stephen was aged 18 when he died on April 22, 1993 after a racially motivated attack at a London bus stop.

Gary Dobson, now 42, and David Norris, 41, were found guilty of his murder and handed life prison sentences in 2012.

Acourt is the 81st of 96 British fugitives to be traced by Operation Captura, a joint scheme between the NCA, Crimestoppers and Spanish authorities.

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Suspect held over 'arson'

A MAN who allegedly set fire to his own house after an argument with his mother has been arrested by Local Police in Palma. Neighbours called out officers to the area and they were able to put out the blaze before it spread, with firefighters not needed to help extinguish it.

Hen party frenzy

TEN hen party holidaymakers from Dublin have been rescued from a Magaluf hotel lift after it got stuck on the way down. A video has since been released online showing the outfit clad partygoers burst into laughter as they were pulled to safety by hotel staff.

Blazing brawl

A SQUATTER has set fire to a Palma house, destroying the kitchen. The man set ablaze a piece of furniture during an argument with another resident but no one was hurt. It took firefighters more than an hour to extinguish the fire in the ground floor house on Miguel Angel Riera street.

Rubble fall

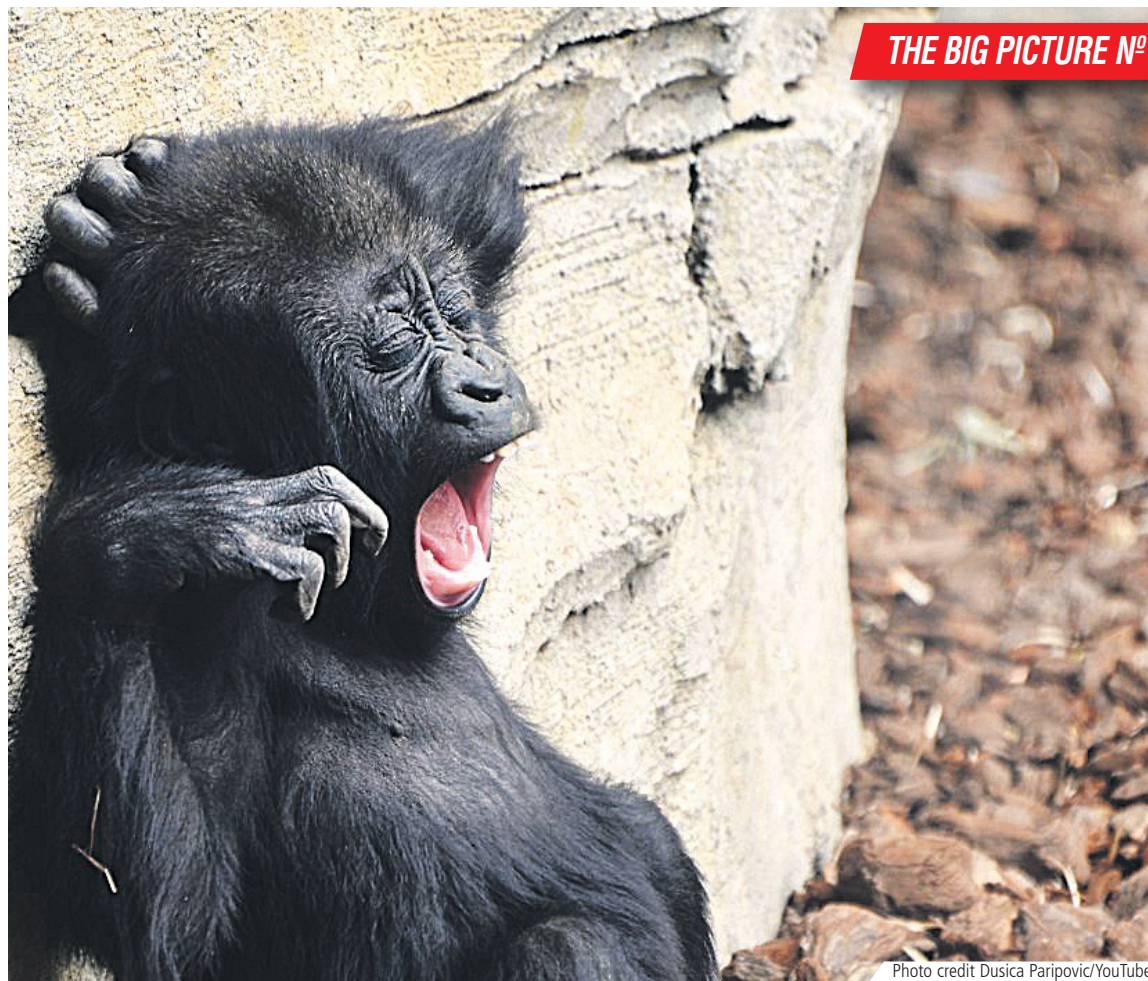
FIREFIGHTERS and Local Police officers were called out to the Plaza Quadrado after debris fell from the front of a building on Calle Posada de Lluç. Emergency services personnel blocked traffic coming onto the road from the Plaza de la Artesania while waiting for inspectors from local authorities to examine the building.

Beach awards

A TOTAL of 32 beaches in Mallorca have been handed blue flag status, according to data from an environmental association. Beaches in Andratx, Calvia, Capdepera, Felanitx, Muro, Santanyi, Santa Margalida and Ses Salines were awarded with the marker, which is given to coastlines with excellent water, environmental, health and safety standards.

Mystery Coffin

AN unused coffin has showed up next to rubbish bins in the Inca industrial park not far from the town's cemetery. Police are now holding the mysterious coffin containing old objects including a father Christmas hat and several lightbulbs, giving the impression it served as a storage box.



THE BIG PICTURE Nº 13

GOING APE: The young primate unleashes an almighty yawn.

Planet of the naps!

THIS is the adorable moment that a baby gorilla was captured on camera as it hung loose at a Spanish zoo.

The at-ease ape was snapped by Bosnian photographer Dusica Paripovic, 32, during a visit to Bioparc Valencia.

The zoo has maintained a population of critically endangered western gorillas since 2007, and the group started breeding in 2012.

Named Mbeli, the youngster pictured here will be a year old this summer.

Dusica said: "The baby gorillas are so adorable and expressive. They play with twigs or whatever they can find, they stumble and fall, they playfully wrestle with other gorillas."

"When you photograph animals, you never know if you are going to get any good photos. They will not

stand in the best light for you or give you the best angle.

"But when I saw this baby gorilla yawning, I knew there had to be at least one good photo there. I was excited."

She added: "Animals are my favourite subject to photograph - it's challenging and fun. They are unpredictable, fast, can't be posed and there's no need for retouching."

from Front page »

Rallying to stop closure

Protestors marched from the Plaza de España to the headquarters of prosecutors. They were joined by members of the 27N Movement who have been campaigning against an ongoing probe into Bartolome Cursach in connection with separate criminal allegations.

Tomas Ibarz, a spokesperson for the Cursach Group, said Megasport would reopen and take workers back on as soon as possible.

"Work is being done to get the gym reopened and make it even better if possible," he said.

The company previously said a decree from author-

ities had resulted in the closure of the site. It claimed Palma City Council's order for a partial closure left 'no margin' to keep Megasport open.

The council has since said they would allow the gym to reopen if works were undertaken to bring it in line with regulations.

Workers and members of the gym have started a petition calling for the site to be reopened. It has already been signed by more than 5,400 people and it has a target of 7,000.

Jose Hila refused to meet Bartolome Cursach and company representatives to discuss the closure be-

cause he did not meet with people who have an open disciplinary file, the official said.

"When they submit new proposals the council will process them. Even if they met with me now they would not solve anything," he said.

The Megasport closure comes as Bartolome Cursach lodged an appeal against a ruling on licences for his Megapark venue causing parts of it to shut their doors.

Palma's council ordered the partial closure after it claimed Cursach's company ran the leisure complex on one licence when it was effectively two operations.

Do you have news for us?

Email: newsdesk@euroweeklynnews.com or call 951 38 61 61 and ask for the EWN news team.

115

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1713 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 79 local stories.

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- 2017 Best free publication in Spain - Premios AEEPP XI edition
- 2015 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall
- 2014 Diploma of Honour - Premios AEEPP
- 2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards
- 2010 I Love Marbella - Professionalism award
- 2005 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall

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Photo credit: Experimento Stuka/Suica Films

'WE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY THEY HAD CHOSEN US': A Nazi soldier among buildings destroyed during one of the attacks and (inset) survivor Angel Beltran in the film.

80-year riddle

A MOVING new documentary film has revealed why four small villages in rural Valencia were targeted by Nazi bombers.

In May 1938, three Junkers 87-A dive-bombers, dubbed stukas by Nazi Germany's Condor Legion, dropped their payloads on the hamlets of Benassal, Albocasser, Ares del Maestre and Vilar de Cane in Castellon Province.

Many buildings were reduced to rubble and 38 people died.

"It was the first plane I saw in my life. It was like a great bird, but different," remembers Obdulia Mir in Experimento Stuka (Stuka Experiment), which this week opened at the Docs Valencia international documentary festival.

Entirely lacking strategic or military value to the Germans, locals for decades believed that the attacks were ordered by Republicans fighting for General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War, which ended a year later.

Others blamed Franco's troops themselves, since some of the villages briefly fell within Republican territory.

"My father heard that the Reds [Republicans] had destroyed the village and the church," added

Angel Beltran, the son of a Republican militant.

But 80 years later, modern-day residents have finally learned the truth.

University physics professor Oscar Vives, who was born in Benassal, travelled to Freiburg in Germany to study local archives after finding a clue in a Spanish Civil War book.

A short passage revealed that the Condor Legion used the Spanish villages as a testing ground for Second World War operations, and in the German archive Vives found a folder containing 66 photographs of the attacks.

The images show Nazi soldiers driving to the bomb sites and studying the devastation before returning to an airbase in La Senia, Tarragona, and drinking beer together on the beach.

The film reveals the Nazis were testing whether their dive-bombers were able to transport and drop 500-kilo bombs, double the standard weight.

Rafa Moles, who directed the documentary alongside Pepe Andreu, says that the raids were among the world's first "surgical military strikes."

The film is a follow-up to the pair's Five Days to Dance, an award-winning documentary about a school dance performance.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you agree that Spain has the best beaches in the world after it topped the global blue flag ranking?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 In the wake of the 'La Manada' court ruling do you think sexual assault laws in Spain should be reformed?
Yes 92% **No 08%**

EWN online this week

159,815 Page views

TOP 5 stories



TENERIFE VOLCANO: Mount Teide and (inset) earthquakes recorded in the past 10 days.

- 15,536** views: Volcano eruption fears as almost 300 earthquakes rock Spanish holiday hotspot
- 8,741** views: MAGALUF DEATH PROBE: Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head' by trio
- 8,369** views: Brain tumour boy abducted from UK hospital to Spain 'clear of cancer'
- 5,353** views: Hundreds of flights cancelled by pilots' strike in Spain
- 5,310** views: Internet cafe owner on Costa del Sol faces fine and prison for pirated software

*For week 2- 8 May 2018

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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Holiday death probe

Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head'



Photo credit Facebook/Twitter

ALLEGED BEATING: Magaluf's Punta Ballena, where Aaron Henderson (inset) reportedly suffered severe head injuries.

By Matt Ford

MALLORCAN police are probing the death of a British man in Mallorca.

Aaron Henderson, from Coleraine, Northern Ireland, was on holiday with his partner and children when he was allegedly assaulted on Magaluf's Punta Ballena party strip.

The dad-of-two, 30, was found lying on the corner of Calle Martin Ros Garcia in critical condition after suffering a severe head injury in the early hours of the morning, and investigators initially believed he had fallen.

But a witness, described

as 'foreign' in local media, has since come forward to claim that he saw three men beating Aaron. According to reports, he was pushed to the ground before being kicked in the head, and later died of his injuries in capital Palma's Son Espases Hospital after medics failed to revive him. The precise cause of his death has not yet been confirmed.

Detectives say they are now scouring CCTV footage recorded on the night of his death while quizzing hotel customers and staff as they try to trace his attackers.

It is believed he decided

to continue partying after partner Daniella Baxter returned to their accommodation.

She paid an emotional tribute to him on social media as she wrote: "I love you Aaron Hendy Henderson always and forever, you've made me the happiest I've ever been in my entire life.

"Life is cruel... Love and miss you always... My babes xxxxxxxx."

Tributes have also been flooding in to the Facebook page of his family business Paul Henderson Wholesale, which has attracted more than 400 messages of condolence.

Masseur fined for sex assault

A DEFENDANT found guilty of sexually abusing a client at his massage parlour has been fined a total of €2,620 by a court.

The Venezuelan man was handed the fine after pleading guilty to the charges and reaching an agreement with prosecutors.

The prosecution had originally sought two years and three months in prison for the accused, as well as his deportation from Spain.

The defendant has been ordered to pay €1,000 in compensation to the victim, with the rest of the money going to authorities, according to reports.

The court heard during the trial the victim went with her friend to the defendant's massage parlour in Palma in June 2017.

The women, both around 20 years old, were in the same room as one another receiving massages from the defendant and another employee.

Prosecutors said the defendant took advantage of the fact the victim was wearing a mask to grope her without her consent.

He touched her breasts and buttocks 'intensely.' When her friend left the room he asked her to open her legs with a view to groping her there.

The victim then slapped the defendant to stop him before leaving and reporting him to police, the court heard.

Prosecutors reached a plea bargain agreement with defence lawyers acting for the man last week. The previous payment of €250 to the victim was taken as a factor in the defendant's favour.

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Ova the moon!

SHE'S currently ranked number 52 in the world after a recent return from a drugs ban. But tennis star Maria Sharapova, 31, appeared at ease with life after posting a series of photos of herself enjoying the sights of Madrid, where she is competing in a tournament. And she was clearly amused by the local custom of late eating as she captioned one of the snaps: 'First ones at the restaurant...9pm #SpanishStyle.'



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Maria has this week been in Madrid (inset).

Sheer outrage

BRITISH singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has angered a fan who travelled from Spain to watch him perform.

As the Shape Of You hitmaker kicked off his Irish tour at Cork's Páirc Uí Chaoimh stadium, the irate concertgoer tweeted: 'Just travelled from Spain to Cork. Ticket in my friend's name. Xmas present.'

"Told at box office I can't get in. WTF ED. After costing me €800 I can't get in. Screw you."

HE'S the former One Direction singer who has struck out alone.

But Liam Payne, 24, was joined by Mexican songstress Sofia Reyes on stage in Madrid as he performed at the LOS40 Primavera POP Festival.

The pair belted out his hit For You, which he originally sang with Rita Ora for the racy film Fifty Shades Freed.

Liam's relationship with ex-Girls Aloud star Cheryl Tweedy, 34, has reportedly been under strain since his solo career took off.

Liam heads in own direction

The couple's son Bear recently celebrated his first birthday, but widespread reports have suggested he is more committed to his pop career than family.

However the pair insist all is fine after a recent 'make or break' getaway at an undisclosed location.



PAYNE ATTRACTION: Liam on stage in Madrid.

The former X Factor contestant said in a magazine interview Cheryl's bond with the baby left him feeling 'desperate' as he tried to "get through fatherhood."

Dan in the dumps over split rumour

Jacqueline and Dan. THEY have broken things off following 'a string of heated rows.'

And new reports have claimed that former The Only Way Is Essex star Dan Osborne, 26, failed to get in touch with wife Jacqueline Jossa, 25, while on a 'holistic bootcamp' in Marbella.

The ex-Eastenders actress - who is pregnant with their second child - is said to have been left furious after he failed to return her messages while on the sun-soaked break with Hollyoaks actress Stephanie Davis and Love Island's Gaby Allen, among others.

But Dan took to Twitter to vent his frustrations, as he wrote: 'Whenever a relationship goes through tough times etc... why is it always the man that gets stick...?'

And Jacqueline appeared to back him as she added: 'Daniel and I are dealing with things privately as a team, there is always two sides to every story. Stop with the nasty comments, no one deserves them.'

Sexy Sadie

ENGLISH actress and fashion designer Sadie Frost has been enjoying a sunshine break in Mallorca.

And the Bram Stoker's Dracula star, 52, shared a cheeky snap of herself after slipping into a black and orange bikini, posing in the doorway of her luxury suite at Belmond La Residencia, near Deya.



FUN IN THE SUN: Sadie in Mallorca.

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OUR VIEW

Black start to summer bodes badly for resort

AS the summer party season begins and thousands of Britons jet to Magaluf, the resort already has its first casualties.

And the death of young father Aaron Henderson plus an unnamed Scottish teen in recent days should trigger alarm bells for local authorities who have for years been promising to tighten regulations and curb drinking practices.

But Magaluf's reputation continues to plummet, with reports of balcony falls, rapes and muggings on the increase.

At what point does enough become enough?

Holiday death probe - page 5

Have we brought it on?

THE alleged abandonment of a British man by a Benidorm ambulance crew who were high on drugs and alcohol has rightly sparked outrage.

And it is arguably a sad indictment of the professional standards rife in private firms drafted in to provide cheaper alternatives to 'expensive' public services in Spain and the UK alike.

Perhaps just as worrying is that the two men accused of negligence were not even trained paramedics, but cut-price technicians.

But perhaps the question is, why do the general public allow such moves to happen without apparently batting an eyelid? Have we truly become so apathetic?

Ambulance blunder - page 15

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Got his number

Brit playboy probed for false plates

by Matt Ford

A SELF-STYLED 'maverick tycoon' who drove his €300,000 supercar through the front window of a Mallorca shop has escaped with a €500 fine.

But playboy millionaire Jody Sanders, 39, is now being quizzed for illegally modifying the licence plate of the convertible Rolls Royce Dawn involved in the accident.

Investigators believe he has substituted the number 1 with a letter J, so that it reads JODY, as the vehicle remains impounded in Calvia.

The new probe comes after the property magnate turned up to a police station in Palma five hours after reversing through the façade of a Portal Nous tobaccoist while two bikini-clad women took selfies on the back seat of the car.

He told the shop owner his

flip-flop got stuck under the accelerator pedal during a phone call in the wake of the smash, with the pricey motor 'narrowly missing' around 20 people dining on a terrace.

A well-placed source told UK media: "He passed a breath test although several hours had elapsed since the crash and he was reported for reckless driving.

"Because he paid up there and then, he got a 50 per cent discount so ended up handing over €250.

"The damage he's caused to his car and the tobacco shop is another matter and bound to run into thousands of pounds but that's a matter for him, the shop owner and the insurance people.

"He put [the five-hour delay]

down to one of the women he was with being injured so his first concern was to get her to hospital."

It has also emerged that the trio were accompanied by a second man who popped into a nearby chemist just prior to the accident, and that Jody may have lost control while reversing the wrong way up the road to pick him up.



ROLL WITH IT: The Rolls Royce owned by Jody Sanders in the wake of the smash, before which he was partying with two bikini-clad girls.



Photo credit: Policia Local Calvia/YouTube/Facebook

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Poisoning 'scam' arrests

A BRITISH businesswoman is among six people who are under investigation for allegedly defrauding hotels out of compensation for false holiday sickness claims.

Authorities suspect her and five others of encouraging holiday-makers to place false claims against hotels over food poisoning in order to get payouts.

The number of people claiming to have fallen ill while holidaying in Spain has risen by 500 per cent in the last three years, according to data.

Britain's Ministry of Justice recently unveiled changes to regulations to help curb the amount of fraudulent claims made, saying they had cost Spanish hotels 'millions'.



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NEWS EXTRA**Sixth floor fall death**

A WOMAN who fell from the sixth floor of a building on Calle Bisbe Moncadas in Palma died while in Son Espases hospital, with police having opened an investigation into the cause of the fall.

Road fatality

A 45-YEAR-OLD woman has died after a car crashed into hers on the crossing of Avenida de Llop and Calle Gira Sol in S'Illot, with the driver and passenger of the other vehicle reportedly unharmed.

Court call

A PARTIDO SOCIALISTA (PSOE) senator from the Balearic Islands has submitted proposals to the Spanish Parliament to create a third court in Palma dealing specifically with gender violence.

By Joe Gerrard

HOLIDAYMAKERS arriving in Mallorca last week have been hit with a tourist tax rate that has doubled with the start of the summer season.

The levy, which is added to the price of hotels for tourists staying on the island, rose on May 1. Some holidaymakers have claimed they were not told about the increase until they arrived to check in at their lodgings.

A group representing Mallorca hotels said they blamed the Balearic Government for the outcry following the rise. They claimed authorities did not provide tourists with enough warning that the tax would increase.

One group of holidaymakers refused to pay the extra charge, claiming they had not been informed, according to reports in British media.

The Balearic Government said the tax was well-received and being paid without issue. The tax will return to its previous rate on October 31 at the end of the tourist season.

Authorities reportedly



RATE RISE: Holidaymakers staying in Mallorca will pay double the off-season tourist tax until October 31.

Tourist tax hike

hope the levy, which now also applies to cruise ship passengers, will net an extra €120 million for the Balearic Government's coffers.

Javier Vich, president of the Palma and Cala Major Hoteliers Association, said the rate of increase was a significant one.

He added this was more the case when comparing the prices of Mallorca hotels to those in competing destinations.

"Receptionists and hotel directors had to explain the new charges to guests and many repeat clients couldn't understand the reason for the increase," he said.

The new rates range from €2 per day in one to three-star hotels to €4 per day in five-star accommodation. A flat rate of €2 per day has been applied to other sites such as hostels, rural hotels and campsites.

A couple staying in a five-star hotel for seven nights would face a bill for €56 under the new rate.

The Balearic Government has said it plans to launch a campaign aimed at tourists to show them what their money was being spent on.

The public relations drive is reportedly set to see leaflets issued in Catalan, English, German, Italian and Spanish explaining the environmental benefits of the tax.

Tax-funded projects including the ongoing recovery of elm groves and improving Bellver forest pathways are also set to be signposted so tourists can see where their money is being spent.

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Puigdemont back in running

Lawmakers pass measures to restore former leader

by Joe Gerrard

FORMER Cataluña President Carles Puigdemont could return to the post after regional parliamentarians backed rule changes which would allow him to be sworn in remotely.

Supporters of the ousted leader said they aimed to return him to power by Monday. Eduard Pujol, a spokesperson for Puigdemont's Junts Per Cataluña party, added they did not want fresh regional elections as a result.

The new measures were passed by Cataluña's legislature by a margin of 70 for and 64 against last Friday. They stated Puigdemont would not have to

appear in person to be sworn in to office.

Ines Arrimadas, the leader of the pro-unionist Ciudadanos party, said Puigdemont's time had passed and that power should not be in the hands of those who want to 'break Spain.'

"The 'Puigdemont Law' is tailor-made for a fugitive escaping from justice and it is a challenge to democratic rules that will not get him anywhere," she said.

The government in Madrid plans to fight the passage of the new rules in the Constitutional Court, with the Council of Ministers approving appeal efforts on Monday.

Previous attempts to return Puigdemont to the presidency were scuppered by Spain's Constitutional Court. It ruled he would have to be present in the region's Parliament to be legally sworn in.

Puigdemont remains in Germany on bail in connection with an extradition request from Spain after being charged over last year's independence referendum and declaration.

The former president would likely face trial for sedition, rebellion and corruption if he returned to Spain. A court turned down the request to extradite Puigdemont back to the country on rebellion charges on the grounds there was no equivalent



CREDIT: Shutterstock/Cataluña Parliament, via Twitter

COMEBACK: Carles Puigdemont (inset) could become Cataluña's president again in the wake of a new ruling.

offence in German law.

He could still be sent back to

Spain on lesser charges of corrup-

tion, with the government in

Madrid claiming funds were

misused to hold the referendum.

Dicing with death

Brit expat thrill-seekers held

FOUR British expatriates face fines of up to €300,000 after being caught trying to leap from a 33-floor skyscraper on the Costa Blanca.

The unnamed thrill-seekers were reportedly surprised by police as they prepared to launch themselves off the 120-metre Torre Levante building on the Benidorm seafront with parachutes strapped to their backs.

Their arrests follow a brief probe after investigators were tipped off about a series of internet videos filmed by the BASE jumping quartet.

An official revealed that the daredevils are

suspected of performing several illegal jumps in the area, before confirming that their parachutes, helmets and other equipment have been seized.

BASE jumping is the practice of parachuting from a fixed structure or cliff and is considered much more dangerous than sky diving from a plane due to the relatively low height of the jumps.

The abbreviation stands for building, antenna, span, and earth (cliff), the four types of object from which fans of the extreme sport typically hurl themselves.



BASE STUPIDITY: The daredevils were caught trying to parachute off Torre Levante.

Police sting 'boozer salons'

PALMA Local Police officers have uncovered a swathe of hairdressing salons moonlighting as drinking spots and clothes shops in the Son Gotelu area.

After several neighbours complained, police investigated the suspected salons as part of the larger ongoing operation 'peluafter.'

Police busted multiple salons. In one establishment, they found people drinking alcohol and selling food and shoes. Its owners reportedly said it was a way to boost income.

Police also busted a mass drinking session outside salons near Francesc Julià street, according to reports. The boozers reportedly ran off, leaving behind bags full of marijuana buds ready for sale.

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Plane drunk

Man's legs give way as he steps off flight

by Matt Ford

THIS is the embarrassing moment a plastered passenger had to be helped off a Mallorca flight because he was too drunk to stand by himself.

In the footage, tweeted by PMR, a firm helping travellers with reduced mobility at Palma airport, a woman can be heard asking: "But what is wrong with this guy?"

A male colleague answers "he is drunk" as the giggling man slumps to the ground while holding onto a pal's hand before staggering to his feet.

The ground staff then force the pair to wait as they call security, with one indicating with his hands as he adds that "he drank 'this' bottle, I saw the bottle," before the man's legs buckle under him again as he tries to remain upright.

It remains unclear where the two men had arrived from.

PMR complained about being left to deal with drunk passengers with the caption 'sort it out', disguising the issue as a 'medical emergency.'

"The staff are fed up with taking these risks," they said.

Union official Jairo Fernandez reportedly told a local TV channel: "I've seen people arrive in such a state that if you'd told me they were dead I'd believe you."

"People who couldn't stand up and had wet themselves and could have consumed anything and everything."

"All the airlines are interested in is getting them off the plane as quickly as possible so they can get it cleaned and refuelled and turned round as quickly as possible."

"It's not our job to be doing this sort of thing. There are doctors, security people, police and Guardia Civil, staff from AENA and the airline firms."

"Airlines should be dealing with these sorts of problems when they've had people in this state on their planes."

'WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS GUY?': The plastered passenger collapses to the ground.



Photo credit PMR/PMR/Twitter

Jailed for baby mistreatment

THE owner of a Palma nursery who confessed to leaving babies tied up in a locked bathroom without light has been handed a six-month prison sentence.

The defendant pleaded guilty in the court in Palma to mistreating and humiliating the children, who were between 10 and 30 months old.

The court also fined her €300 and ordered her to pay €1,000 in compensation to one of the babies' mothers.

The court heard the 47-year-old woman took advantage of her position and of the babies not being able to resist or explain to their parents what happened.

Prosecutors claimed the defendant shouted at

the children, insulted and physically mistreated them.

The woman made one child eat until they vomited as a punishment for turning down food.

Four babies aged between 18 and 22 months were locked in the bathroom of the nursery tied to highchairs in the dark for at least two hours.

This was done if the babies cried or behaved badly.

Three of the babies reportedly developed fears of going to the nursery as a result of mistreatment.

The defendant reportedly reached a plea bargain arrangement with prosecutors, who originally sought six years in prison for the charges.

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NEWS EXTRA

Toilet waste call passed

PALMA'S City Council has passed a motion detailing waste that should not be thrown down the toilet in a bid to curb blockages in the city's sewage system, with wet wipes and others deemed unsuitable.

Thief admits

A 42-YEAR-OLD man who allegedly robbed €128 and a purse from a woman on Calle Velazquez in Palma was later arrested after he called Local Police confessing, claiming he felt remorse.

Opening set

A NEW €8.4 million retirement home will open in Marratxi in 2020 according to authorities, with the contract for building the site now being put out to tender and work set to begin next summer.

Ambulance blunder

Brit assault victim found in roadside ditch

by Staff Reporter

ALICANTE COLLEGE OF NURSING has claimed that two ambulance crew members who tested positive for drugs after 'losing' a British attack victim on the way to hospital were not paramedics.

The institution released a statement in the wake of the pair being held by police in which it said it wanted to 'make clear' that the men were 'emergency health technicians,' and that no nursing professionals had been involved in the shocking incident.

It comes after the unnamed victim was found lying unconscious in a ditch a few hundred metres from La Villajoyosa Regional Hospital.

He had allegedly suffered serious injuries during a brawl between four Britons

in central Benidorm, with National Police officers calling for an ambulance after attending the scene.

But when they called the hospital several hours later in order to write their report, they were told that no one in emergencies knew anything about the man, and it transpired that he never arrived.

According to Spanish media, the ambulance workers had returned to their depot, and when contacted by investigators said that the victim 'woke up in the middle of the journey' and started to attack one of them.

And when the driver stopped the vehicle and opened the back door the injured party 'escaped.'

Police launched a search for the Briton, and called the ambulance back out when they found him, at



MEDICAL SHAME: The brawl took place in central Benidorm and (inset) an ambulance operated by ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group.

which point they noticed that the two crew members were behaving strangely.

A Guardia Civil traffic patrol was drafted in and local media confirmed they

tested positive for cocaine, cannabis and alcohol before being held and charged with failing to assist a person in danger.

The Valencian Health Department has requested a full report of the incident, while sources reportedly told local media that the two men had been suspended without pay but could soon return to work.

Rosa Louis Cereceda, manager of the directorate of the local health department, claimed no knowledge of the incident when quizzed, pointing out that the ambulance service is subcontracted to a private company.

The ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group, the temporary union for the firm providing the service, did not respond to a comment request.

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By Karl Smallman

LAST year more than one in five Brits holidayed abroad without any, or inadequate, travel insurance, according to travel agents' trade body ABTA.

And of those who did take out cover more than a quarter of them risked invalidating their policies for failing to declare pre-existing medical conditions or by taking part in activities that were not covered.

The most common reason people gave for not buying travel insurance was that people felt it wasn't needed and their European Health Insurance Card would provide sufficient cover. But the EHC scheme only provides access to state medical care and does not in-

Cover your hols

Brits lacking travel insurance warned



GET PROTECTED: Make certain you are insured if you take part in activities.

clude repatriation to the UK.

This could cost you thousands should you require an air

ambulance. Around a third of the people surveyed said the cost of insurance put them off

buying it. The Association of British Travel Agents is now urging people to avoid costly medical bills should something go wrong by doing their homework before they go on their summer holiday.

Chief executive Mark Tanzer said, "Every year we see cases of people falling into difficulty.

"While not declaring existing medical conditions or taking part in activities that aren't covered are easy mistakes to make, they can leave holidaymakers with medical bills that run into thousands of pounds."

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Photo credit Policia Nacional/Shutterstock

BOOZE BLUES: Playa de Ingles and (inset) one of the revellers after being cuffed by police.

Drunk let off

Irish pair cleared of robbery rap

By Staff Reporter

A CANARY ISLANDS judge has cleared two 26-year-old Irish revellers of theft after ruling they broke into a holiday flat by mistake because they were too drunk.

Two Spanish women who had rented the accommodation in the popular resort of Playa del Ingles, Gran Canaria, claimed they had lost €280 in cash and a pair of sunglasses after finding one

of the men asleep on their bed and the other on the sofa.

But a local court in San Bartolome de Tirajana heard there was 'no evidence' to suggest the unnamed pair - who were staying in the same complex - stole the items, concluding that they mistook the flat for their own after a night partying.

An official statement said that the holidaymakers "had been drinking a lot and do

not remember how they accessed the apartment... in fact they thought they were in their own room."

A police report confirmed they were 'extremely intoxicated,' and that it took officers '20 minutes' to wake them up.

The ruling added that the door to the property had not been forced and that the accused only had €22 in their pockets when they were arrested.

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FRANCE

Caught off-guard

AUTHORITIES plan to beef up security after police were caught ill-prepared in May Day demonstrations after 1,200 hooded anti-capitalists torched cars in the capital.

Steely response

FINANCE MINISTER Bruno Le Maire has struck back at Donald Trump's planned US steels tariffs and threatened to shut down talks with Washington if France isn't exempted, the government said.

€5bn boost

THE government has announced a €5 billion master project to transform 222 decaying city centres by building new



Image Credits: Flickr

ON FIRE: A fireman hoses down a burning car after it was overturned in May Day riots.

stores, offices and renovated housing.

Uprising marked

FRANCE is commemorating half

a decade since the Paris student and worker uprising, a key moment in France's modern history which almost toppled General de Gaulle's government in May 1968.

GERMANY

Heat record

LAST month saw Germany's highest April temperatures since records began in 1881 with an average of 12.4°C, a whopping 5°C more than the 1961-1990 equivalent, according to the German weather service.

Search again

BRITISH investigators are excavating the Alme's riverbanks near Paderborn

in a renewed search for Katrice Lee, a British toddler who disappeared from the area in 1989, police have revealed.

Refugees resist

AROUND 200 African migrants in refugee accommodation in the town of Ellwangen stopped a 23-year-old man from being deported to Central Africa by outnumbering police who

arrived to take him away.

Fair share

GERMAN ministers are concerned about 'fair budget sharing' after the European Commission unveiled its post-Brexit finance plan last week, adding all member states should pull their weight to strengthen the European Union.

NETHERLANDS

Growth stunt

ELECTRICITY shortages in key areas are holding back growth of data centres, especially in Amsterdam where it is not possible to expand the grid further, the Dutch Data Centre Association said.

Goodbye London

CONSUMER GOODS giant Unilever has voted to 'strategically' relocate its headquarters from London to the Netherlands and its chairman Marijn Dekkers said the decision had 'nothing to do' with protectionism.

Left behind

FORMER soldiers' children from the Maluku Islands contingent - who migrated to the Netherlands in 1951 - want a state apology for not bringing over 300 other youngsters.

Video passes

THE Dutch public prosecution department will not stop the anti-Islamic PVV Party from broadcasting a propaganda video about the Muslim religion ahead of local elections.

BELGIUM

Be nice Belgium

EUROPEAN Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker asked Brussels to grant British EU officials with citizenship, telling Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel 'they deserve it' during a European parliament debate.

Abortion ahead

BELGIAN MPs will debate the decriminalisation of abortion after a survey showed public support for the move which would see Belgium join France in approving the procedure, according to reports.

Farage outrage

NIGEL FARAGE has caused uproar in Brussels' European Parliament claiming 'Belgium is not a nation' but an artificial creation, while slating EU leaders for ignoring Brexit.

Russian 'block'

A RUSSIAN government-run website has hinted the recent blockade of Air Belgium flights in Russian airspace is a Moscow backlash against the EU, according to a statement.

SWEDEN

Card please

SWEDEN could be the world's first cashless country as more of its citizens have access to a payment card than to cash - and 85 per cent use on-line banking - the central bank said in a report.

School's out

STUDENTS from Sturenskolan School in Boden have enjoyed a month free of tests and homework which were shelved because they cause stress and make "children feel bad," headteacher Petronella Sirkka said.

Meatball moan

SWEDISH meatballs are actually Turkish not Swedish and based on a recipe King Charles XII brought back from a visit to 18th century Turkey, according to Sweden's official Twitter account.

Access denied

THE mother of Mahmoud Alizade - a 17-year-old stabbed to death at a school in Soderort - has been refused the visa she needs to attend her son's funeral, according to local media.

NORWAY

Stargazing huts

THE Snohetta design studio will build a planetarium next to Norway's largest solar observatory in Harestua by 2020 allowing travellers to observe the 'magical' night skies, local astronomer Vegard Lundby said.

Better idea

SCOTTISH judges are interested in Norway's 'child home' method of interviewing child sexual assault victims at locations away from police stations, hoping it might increase convictions, the BBC reports.

Eastern robes

TOP Pakistani fashion designers are set to showcase their best designs and jewellery at the 'Colours of Pakistan' fashion show which is being held in Oslo later this month.

€17.5bn loss

THE country's state pension fund lost €17.5 billion in the first quarter of 2018 due to rocky global equity and bond markets according to Norges bank, which manages the money.

DENMARK

Rare wolf

A FILM which captured the illegal shooting of a wolf - one of the first to freely roam the county in 200 years - has sparked outrage among nature lovers, according to national media.

Sirens sound

EIGHTY per cent of the population heard alarm bells when the defence ministry ran its annual emergency siren tests preparing Danes for their use in major disasters, media sources report.

Tax lingo

THE government has released tax guidelines in five different languages to make it easier for newcomers to navigate the country's 'complicated' tax system, official Anne Dorte Erstad Jorgensen said.

Faking first

A Malaysian court has sentenced a Danish resident to jail for 'fake news' after complaining on YouTube about an ambulance team's 'slow response' to a Palestinian's shooting in Kuala Lumpur.



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The amount owed in unpaid community fees across Spain, with up to 40 per cent of Communities of Property Owners affected, according to the latest government data.

Countries show united tax front

FRANCE and Spain have agreed on the need for 'financial harmonisation' in the European Union to clamp down on tax havens and unfair competition between member states.

It comes as French Minister of European Affairs, Nathalie Loiseau, and Spanish Secretary of State for European Affairs, Jorge Toledo, attended a debate organised by the Faculty of Law at Madrid's Complutense University.

Both officials also insisted that 'Euroscepticism must be fought against,' with citizens becoming 'more invested in the European project'.

Norwegian rejects IAG bids

by *Matt Ford*

LONG-HAUL budget airline Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS) says it has unanimously rejected two takeover offers from the owner of British Airways.

International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns 4.6 per cent of Norwegian, is reportedly aiming to increase its share of the market amid fears of competition from low-cost rivals.

But the NAS board said in a statement that it had rejected IAG's 'conditional proposals' because they 'undervalued NAS and its prospects.'

The rapidly-expanding carrier

added that the board 'would remain fully committed to delivering on its stated strategy.'

Shares in the airline plummeted by up to 10 per cent in the wake of the failed bid before a slight recovery.

IAG last month announced that it had acquired a minor stake in NAS 'intended to establish a position from which to initiate discussion, including the possibility of a full offer for the firm.'

But in an analyst presentation the company confirmed it had failed to

strike a full takeover deal as it said: "IAG confirms that it has had contact with the Norwegian board regarding a possible offer, without reaching an agreement."

"IAG is currently considering its options in relation to Norwegian."

The company - which also owns Spanish flag-carrier Iberia - also revealed a jump in operating profits in the first quarter of 2018, with underlying earnings before exceptional items up to €280 million compared to €160 million over the same period last year.

Economy cheer as hike goes on

THE General Council of Economists has revised its growth forecasts for Spain.

According to the national body, gross domestic product is expected to rise by 2.6 per cent in 2018 and 2.4 per cent in 2019.

The figure represents an increase of one 10th compared to earlier predictions.

It comes after the country's economy expanded by 0.7 per cent from January to March.

And it is expected to shoot up by a further 0.7 per cent over the next three months.



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€60m VAT conmen held in clampdown



Photo credit: Policia Nacional

VAT'S UNBELIEVABLE: The gang reportedly laundered money via luxury car dealers.

THE Spanish tax agency, National Police and Europol have busted the country's biggest VAT fraud scheme, with the culprits accused of cheating the state out of at least €60 million.

Raids across the country saw 58 people held in Madrid, Elche, Malaga, Cordoba, Murcia, the Basque Country and Navarra, with €400,000 in cash and 52 high-end sports cars seized.

It comes in the wake of a three-year probe during which the gang's ringleaders, two men of Indian ori-

gin holding Spanish passports, were found to have built an elaborate racket after setting up 100 bogus companies.

The pair reportedly fled to the United States after realising that the authorities were investigating them, from where they continued to direct the scam.

Detectives said that the group specialised in the import and sale of undeclared electronic goods before laundering much of the proceeds via luxury car dealerships in Galicia.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

€2.1bn tech tax scheme

SPAIN hopes to raise €2.1 billion by 2019 by slapping 'certain electronic transactions' with a new digital tax and using the cash to boost state pension hikes, Economy Minister Ramon Escolano has revealed.

Good job

THE Spanish Ministry of Employment has revealed that the number of jobless people across the country fell by 86,683 in April with more than 18.6 million now in paid work, the most for almost a decade.

Fuel's gold

MADRID-BASED global energy firm Repsol has announced an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in adjusted first-quarter profit after higher oil and gas prices helped the company rake in €616 million in January-March this year.

Uranium miner's list plan

LONDON-BASED mining firm Berkeley Energia has announced it is to apply for admission to the main board of the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and its Spanish equivalents in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia.

The company - currently listed on the Alternative Investment sub-market of the LSE - owns a controversial uranium mine in Salamanca.

Managing Director Paul Atherle said the

move "represents a major strategic move forward."

"It will allow us to build support amongst European institutional investors whilst we advance activities on site," he added.

Last summer, Berkeley received €100 million from Oman's sovereign wealth fund to help finish construction of the Spanish mine, with production set to start in early 2019.

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New scheme just the ticket

EUROPEAN AIRLINES TO AXE CREDIT CARD CHARGES

THE global airline industry is set to wage war against credit card firms.

Working with German financial services company Deutsche Bank, carriers aim to save billions of Euros in transaction fees using a new electronic real-time payment system for web-based ticket sales.

The scheme, which does not yet have a brand name, is earmarked to be trialled in Germany before being rolled out across Europe by the end of 2018. Spaniard Javier Orejas, senior banking manager for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, said: "We are developing an industry-wide payment solution that is an alternative to credit cards."

According to IATA, credit card payment processing costs the industry up to €6.7 billion per year, with credit card companies including Visa and Mastercard charging between 1 and 3 per cent for each transaction.

But the new system will employ a fixed rate which will be "a matter of cents," Orejas added.

It has been made possible by a new



FARE ENOUGH: The new scheme will be trialled in Germany and has already gained the support of the country's biggest carrier Lufthansa.

European Union ruling that forces banks to hand third parties access to customer data and trigger payments.

Customers will enter their bank account details before Deutsche checks their balance in real time, collecting

the fees and transferring the money to the relevant airline once it sees that sufficient funds are available.

"Most banks view this in a defensive manner and only reluctantly open their data," said Shahrokh Moinian,

global head of cash products at Deutsche. "For us, it's an opportunity for change. We have asked ourselves: why can't we behave like a tech company?"

But introducing new payments systems can be tricky, because companies will only buy into schemes that their clients are willing to use, and vice versa.

IATA and Deutsche believe that convincing Europe's biggest airlines to adopt the system will see them break through this barrier.

"We are currently in talks with large carriers," Orejas told the *Financial Times*, noting that there is "a lot of appetite among airlines."

Meanwhile, travellers will be lured in with offers of flight discounts or extra loyalty miles.

Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa said in a statement that it is in favour of modern payment initiatives, adding: "We believe that competition in payment and distribution systems is a basic factor for decreasing cost while improving customer experience."

Tourists splash record amount in first quarter

MORE than 13.7 foreign tourists spent almost €14.4 million in Spain during the first quarter of 2018, according to the National Institute of Statistics.

The record figures represent increases of 6 and 7.7 per cent on the same period in 2017, respectively.

In March alone more than 5.4 million holidaymakers flocked to the country as visitor numbers soared by 9.6 per cent compared to last year.

The average tourist stayed for 7.5 days and spent €1,064, with Britons (2.8 million), Germans (1.85 million) and French (1.69 million) travellers topping the rankings in terms of numbers.

And the destinations raking in the most cash were the Canary Islands (€4.5 million), Cataluña (€3.1 million) and Andalucía (€2.2 million).



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Pat

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LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



SO, there he stood.

Rick the Roo Boy, 6.30am, outside my hotel room, dangling some bewhiskered rodent up to the spy hole and asking 'if I was ready?'

For those who missed last week's introduction to this Australian saga, I was touring the great 'down under' and while appearing in Melbourne had recently mentioned in a radio interview that I had 'yet to see a kangaroo.' A local character had phoned in and offered to 'show me all the kangaroos I wanted.'

I had completely forgotten the incident and suddenly here he was, at my hotel room, raring to go, about 10 minutes after I personally had actually staggered into bed! His broad Australian 'rasp' once more penetrated my befuddled senses.

"Come on Leapy," he shouted through the door, "don't wanna be late.

"Freddy the ferret here wants to get him a few rabbits." What!?! Having very little choice I fumbled with the door and as he burst in I turned and moved hastily to the bedroom, calling over my shoulder for him to take a seat and that 'I wouldn't be a minute'.



AUSSIE RULES: Nurses, 'uppers' and bunny bashing.

I shut the bedroom door and flopped down onto the bed. Oh my God, I thought, what am I going to do? Well one thing was for sure, if I was going 'kangaroo hunting' I wasn't going on my own. Quickly downing a couple of 'wake up' pills, kindly donated by a couple of thoughtful young nurses, (who had only actually left around half an hour before!) I lifted the phone and began to ring

around the group.

The first member, my drummer, didn't answer at all. The next two mumbling musos blearily uttered hardly discernible 'no ways,' even under the threats of getting an early flight back to Blighty.

Mike, my guitarist was next. Mike was just a big old softy really and after extreme begging and pleading, plus the promise of a couple of 'uppers,'

he finally, very reluctantly, agreed to accompany me on the 'hunt.'

One hour later Mike, me, Rick the Roo Boy and Freddy the ferret were bouncing across the Australian outback in a jeep. We pulled up in the middle of nowhere. Rick leapt from the vehicle, clutching the wriggling Freddy in a sack and gleefully exclaiming that first, we were going to catch us a few rabbits for supper.

"Take these two clubs," he enthused, "and go over and stand on that hillock. I'll put Freddy down these burrows and when the rabbits pop out over there just hit 'em over the head!"

Oh really! Mick and I, both utterly 60's peace and love, further enhanced by the effects of the 'uppers' wandered reluctantly over to the distant, rabbit-holed mound, and just stood there, looking at each other. At that point those Australian rabbits were the safest animals on earth. There was no way in the world that either of us could have bashed their heads in as they emerged from the ground on that sunny morning. So, there we stood and waited... And I'm afraid that's what all of us will have to do 'til I round it all off next week. Back to my old 'telling it all as I see it' soon. Promise.

*Keep the Faith,
Love Leapy*

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

Take back (digital) control

The week after next, Terence Kennedy will insist that Facebook deletes his digital indiscretions

TECH FOR THE TIMID



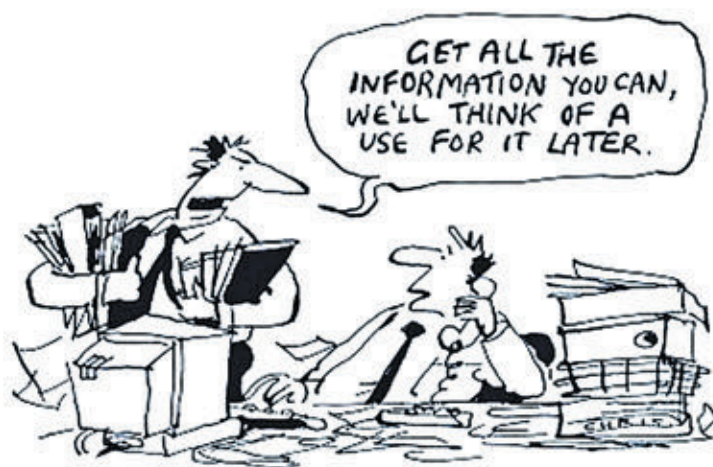
SOON the world's digital overlords will apparently hold 40 zettabytes of information on us.

No I don't know what that means either, but when a colleague recently asked Facebook for all the information it held on him, he got nearly a gigabyte back.

That's the equivalent of 200 copies of the Bible in plain text, if you're interested. Or not, if you're an atheist.

Most alarming of all was that it listed every call he had ever made and every message he had ever sent. The good news is that this changes in a fortnight. At least it does for we Europeans, thanks to the acronym of the moment: GDPR.

From May 25 the General Data Protection Regulation means that organisations may no longer treat us unilaterally as just so much advertising fodder, to be milked of every possible bit of personal information



GDPR: Keep calm and comply.

for their nefarious or even non-nefarious purposes. If they do, it's goodbye €20 million or more in fines.

The likes of Facebook, Amazon, Google or that popular anatomical research site Pornhub may not harvest our personal data without asking us, may not hit us with 40 screens of terms and conditions we cannot understand as an excuse, may not refuse to tell us what they know about us,

and must delete it if we insist. I certainly do.

If they get hacked they have to 'fess up' within 72 hours.

Not only may they merely store our details for a 'reasonable' time, but we will have the hitherto denied 'right to be forgotten' if we want to opt-out of any part of our brave new digital world.

It's not just our direct personal da-

ta which is affected. Anything which could be identified directly back to us may not be collected without our explicit consent. That includes the 'IP address' which pinpoints your specific computer or phone even if you think you operate online anonymously.

The good news for non-Europeans is also that the GDPR will reverberate far beyond the old world's borders. Any company has to comply when doing business with Europe (here's lookin' at you Facebook and Google).

So: The Empire Fights Back? Will it all make a difference where online privacy has devalued more than a Zimbabwean dollar?

A recent survey revealed that 32 per cent of the respondents intend to ask at least one organisation exactly what information it holds on them.

I will certainly be asking Google to delete details of all those searches I did back then on performance-enhancing substances undetectable by local Scrabble clubs. Purely for scientific purposes, you understand.

Trackdown

WE'VE all seen those ads which mysteriously track us right across the internet - irritatingly offering to sell us the very item we just bought.

But it's not just GCHQ, the NSA or even the former KGB who'd like to track us physically too. Soon we might pass the supermarket and our phone might entreat us to buy today's special on biodegradable crumpets.

The GDPR doesn't (yet) tackle the thorny issue of surveillance, but it's coming. Proposed legislation hopes to take the next step: banning surveillance unless you agree.

Would anyone, other than 'helicopter' parents obsessing where their children are 24/7? Or a nurse keeping tabs on someone like my granddad, whose 105th birthday we celebrated this week? (Though sadly he died at 62).



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Trigger-happy 'generation snowflake' forever in Neverland

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

AN over-praised and narcissistic generation of university students is persistently trying to negotiate better grades - or 'grade grubbing' as it's called - academics recently reported.

When university education was free, most students were grateful for what they got and wouldn't have considered complaining. But now students have to pay high fees, they're the customer and, understandably, expect to receive good grades in return for their financial investment.

But they argue frequently and aggressively about low grades, even when some of them haven't attended lectures, aren't particularly clever or just plain lazy.

Universities are scared stiff of getting low Student Satisfaction scores, which would lead to a lower student intake the following year and therefore loss of income. So, fundamentally students can do almost anything



SNOWFLAKES: Over-praised and narcissistic university students.

they please and they know this.

Basically, too much 'Aren't you clever, darling' and not enough 'naughty step!' from their parents?

Newsflash: 'The University of Neverland' acknowledges that law students are required to study topics in the criminal law module that may distress them, specifically murder, manslaughter, assault, rape and other sexual offences. At the start of lectures, relevant trigger warnings will be given and any student needing to leave may do so then.

'If an appeal is made without delay to the university indicating which parts of the course cause discomfort or anxiety, examination questions on these topics will be replaced with substitute questions on fraud, theft, corporate liability or other non-trigger topics.'

I made this up but you get the idea. Heck! I need trigger warnings for stories like this because my blood pressure spikes whenever I read about what a collection of girl's blouses young people have become.

Whatever next? A trigger warning at the beginning of a crime novel that someone, maybe even another person, will be dead by the close? Phew! As the author of crime thrillers perhaps I'd better shift gears and focus solely on fairy tales... set in Neverland!

Nora Johnson's 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) from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Do they need a tax adviser?

Q. My partner and I have lived in Spain for seven years. We have lifetime residency and NIE. We live on our pensions and do not pay tax in the UK, as we do not earn enough.

Some people tell us we must register for tax in Spain and some tell us we don't have to. A website tells us that if we earn less than €22,000 per year, we do not have to register in Spain. We are now confused.

I have recently begun earning from buying shares in properties with a Spanish company, and so I agree I must now register. Can you please clear up the matter?

N K (Costa Blanca)

A. YES you must declare for Spanish tax. Here is a simple rule: if you reside officially in Spain, your worldwide income is subject to Spanish tax.

In your case, you want to find a Spanish tax consultant who speaks English so you can understand. Ask your friends. The limit of €22,000 applies only when the income received has been subject to Spanish withholding tax during the year. Clearly, this does not apply to a UK pension.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



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

Advertising Feature

How to choose the right ceiling fan

COMPARED to buying a car, shopping for a ceiling fan doesn't seem to be that complicated.

But nevertheless you have to consider many factors, such as your budget, the size of your room and what style suits you. The fan you choose should provide your room with good airflow, but also be silent, easy to operate and pleasing to look at.

Motor quality

Ceiling fans are an electrical appliance. The type of motor will dictate how powerful but yet silent the fan is and how long it will last. While you can get a cheap model that looks similar to the more expensive ones, you will face some issues if you go with a lower quality ceiling fan as they tend to be noisier and not as durable.

Size and style

The fan sizes range from 36 inches to 60 inches. There are many different styles of fans and it is advisable to consult an expert at Casa Bruno. The showroom boasts ceiling fans for any taste, style and room size.

Downrods and accessories

Depending on the height of your ceiling, you may need a longer downrod or a hugger



A WHOLE RANGE: Of different fans are available at Casa Bruno.

fan if your ceiling is quite low. Casa Bruno provides several hugger fans which sit directly beneath the ceiling. Downrods and other accessories are available too.

Light

Ceiling fans may come without or with incorporated light kits, eg LED and dimmable. Getting a ceiling fan with an

attached or included light gives you the bonus of getting two appliances in one.

How to operate the ceiling fan?

Besides the standard pull chain, the most convenient option is a remote control operated ceiling fan. This means you can turn your fan on or off from your sofa or bed. Casa Bruno offers standard remote controls but also one with an app to operate your ceiling fan and light kit with your smartphone.

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If only someone could come up with a solution

MOST of us retirees enjoy a wonderful life here in Spain - the weather's amazing, the lifestyle is great, the people are friendly, our pensions go further etc.

However, the nagging thing that is always there in the background, and spoils it is we are all inevitably 'getting older' and what this may entail. Who will look after us?... especially if we lose our 'other halves.' It isn't fair to just plonk yourself on your family, or near, unless they want you of course. Perhaps you do not have any family...?

So many decide, reluctantly, they will have to go back to the UK as there are Retirement Homes, Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages etc to choose from. Most do not want to but feel there is no alternative.

Why can't we have Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages, Retirement Homes here with an in-house warden or nurse or both (hopefully who speak English as so many of us just cannot master Spanish). Maybe a DIY man on call, a gardener, a weekly driver to run us to Gibraltar, Sabinillas, Estepona or wherever.

Check the rates when changing cash

I WAS very interested to read the letter from Helen Stretch regarding unfair exchange rates in Benidorm. A similar thing happened to me in January this year at an exchange shop in the Old Town area. Again there was a large sign outside the shop offering the daily rate on a variety of currencies with no mention of minimum amounts for the rate shown.

I fortunately went into the shop with my husband and, as there was already a customer at the counter, was able to see his transaction. He was changing £100 and the woman behind the counter started to count out some coins but the rate advertised outside would have only needed notes. I would point out that I did change my money with an exchange shop on the main road in Benidorm and received the correct amount for my pounds. The moral of this is check before you hand over any money!!

Sylvia Stevens, Torrevieja



Credit: Nomading Shutterstock

EXCHANGE: Read the small print first.

More on motorhomes

I READ with annoyance Messrs May (La Marina), article regarding motorhome freeloaders.

Obviously they have annual problems in their small village with the convergence of motorhomes. Unfortunately, there are always bad apples in any basket. It is stated photos have been taken with motor homers emptying their sewage in and around the parkland.

If this is true, why were the local authorities not notified, and action taken? How do Messrs May think motor homers stock up with food and drink, if they do not contribute to the economy? Visitors to Spain do not pay taxes for emptying their rubbish, or the refilling of water, however, we do patronise local businesses. All items are taxed!

You are tarring us all with the same brush, and I object! If people abuse the law, then they should expect to be dealt with (including the Spanish). We are NOT all free loaders, because we choose to avoid campsites (another Issue)!

Dave Turre, on the road

This is what we need, a solution to the problem and then... WE CAN ALL STAY HERE!!

Sandy Avis, Marina de Casares *who advertise with us in Costa Blanca so your idea could hopefully become reality across Spain.*
 Editor's note. Thank you Sandy and there are already homes just like this

HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters by email or post should carry the writer's address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published. Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: www.euoweeklynews.com.

RAILWAY RACE ROW: Asian teen appeals for help

I find it unbelievable that no-one on the train stood up for this poor girl during what is, without doubt, a racist attack. Had I been on that train I would have spoken out vociferously. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing!

Suzanne

Notice all those people standing by and doing nothing. Shame on them all. Poor innocent defenceless girl on her own. Shocking!

Anne Nancy Traynor

Where was the security guard?

Janette McEwan

WATCH: 'Reckless' driver of Brit-plated car strikes wrong chord with police in Spain

He shouldn't worry. Their courts recently gave an American who was over the limit a one-year suspended sentence after he ran down and killed a 46-year-old British father of three. I guess the young American hot footed it out of Spain and will never return.

Saya Sendiri

Drivers like this add to our insurance costs, and, more importantly, they add to the carnage on the roads.

Ron Curtis

Comments from EWN online

Another Brit car not taxed, mot'd and then that makes insurance if they had any void... Crush them all...

Samantha Bartlett

BnB website for naturists launches with holiday listings in Spain

These beaches attract all the old recycled teenagers! Puke! Brighton, England. I don't want my kids to see these unsightly crews on the beach. If that is what they want then put up 10-foot screens and keep them inside and charge them an indecency fee!

Anne Nancy Traynor

I used to be a beach seller in the south of France which I did in summer and went on to the nudist beach to sell and they weren't all old but seemed weird. No-where to keep their money haha!

Caroline Baldwin

Who the hell wants to see anyone's bits out ... honestly the older the him and hers gets, the more gross it looks.

Marje Turner

The Germans are most prolific nudists. You can walk around there in a mixed sauna in your birthday suit but you can't mow your lawn on a Sunday.

Michael Hearne

UNMASKED: 'Hot cop' police officer at centre of Twitter meltdown in Spain identified

Have to say most of the police in Spain are hot lol.

Mary Teresa Mc Donnell-Keogh

Vet arrested in Spain for trafficking drugs inside puppies to stand trial

Disgusting thing for a vet to do, unbelievable. x

Pam Hooker

Defies belief, just pure greed, I trust he'll be struck off!

Susan Poole

That's awful how low can some people go makes me sick

Myra Craven

Gran's tips

CLEANING out some cupboards, I came across old tubes of glue, super-glue, shoe polish and such.

The tops were completely stuck and the glue as hard as hell. I remembered my grandmother telling us to put these items in boiling water, leave for a few minutes and hey presto. The glue still has a life and also the shoe polish. I believe it also works on paint lids stuck.

Anyone got other handy old fashioned tips for 'green' remedies?

Thanks for the crosswords and other letters.... love 'em.

Ena Amengual, Calvia, Mallorca

We all agree

Hi Leapy

Many thanks for your splendid article 'How many...' You may be 'awaiting slings and arrows' but you won't be getting any from me. I brought your article back to the UK with me and distributed it to my many UKIP friends: they all agree with you.

Russ Smith, Cabo Roig and Bournemouth

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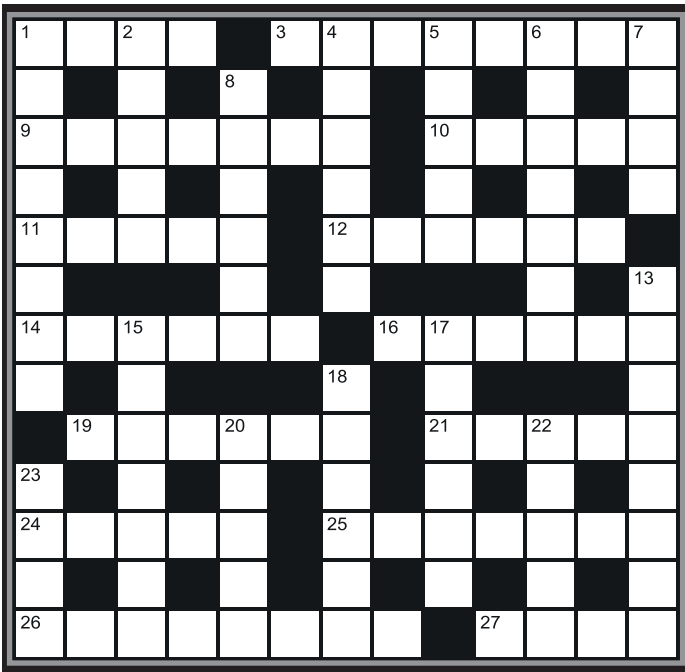


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Across

- 1 Lady before time produced fat (4)
- 3 Prepared props etc to search for gold (8)
- 9 Unusual icon in urn depicting legendary beast (7)
- 10 Escapes from parasites, one hears (5)
- 11 Amber cooked a fish (5)
- 12 Paint two women (6)
- 14 Arrange roster for holiday location (6)
- 16 Hate a hotel that's disorganised (6)
- 19 Hardy companion in bush (6)
- 21 Discredit fake Earl (5)
- 24 Loosen international organisation's neckwear (5)
- 25 Can eels somehow purify? (7)
- 26 Being defeated must be a change for harsh Ted (8)
- 27 Before exercises we cried (4)



Down

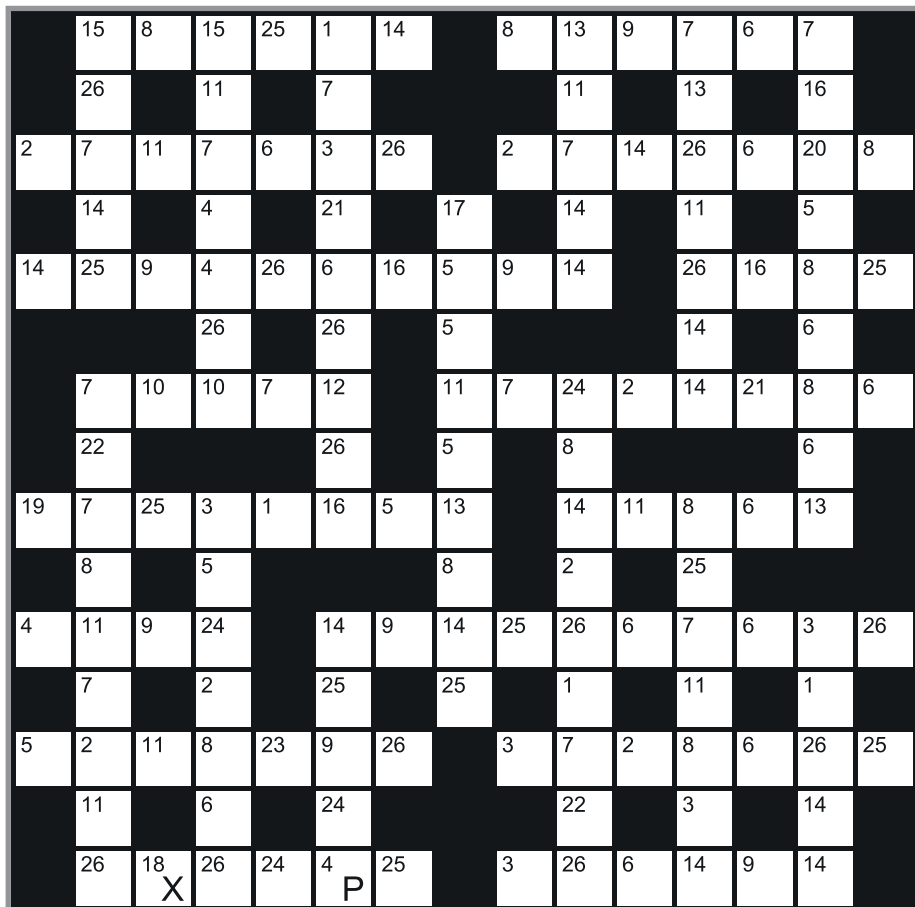
- 1 Counterfoil delivered is inflexible (8)
- 2 Former international the French deport (5)
- 4 A forged tenner for curdled milk (6)
- 5 Capital I invested in settee (5)

- 6 Pele mentioned part of kettle (7)
- 7 One may win it by a head (4)
- 8 Ex producer (6)
- 13 Most serious Sherpas start on mountain (8)
- 15 Crush the star characters (7)
- 17 Evicted, but used to moving (6)

- 18 Protection for plants? That's old hat (6)
- 20 Revolvers smuggled in somewhere else (5)
- 22 Making a comeback in White Horse Inn, a musical heroine (5)
- 23 Mouldiness is a requirement (4)

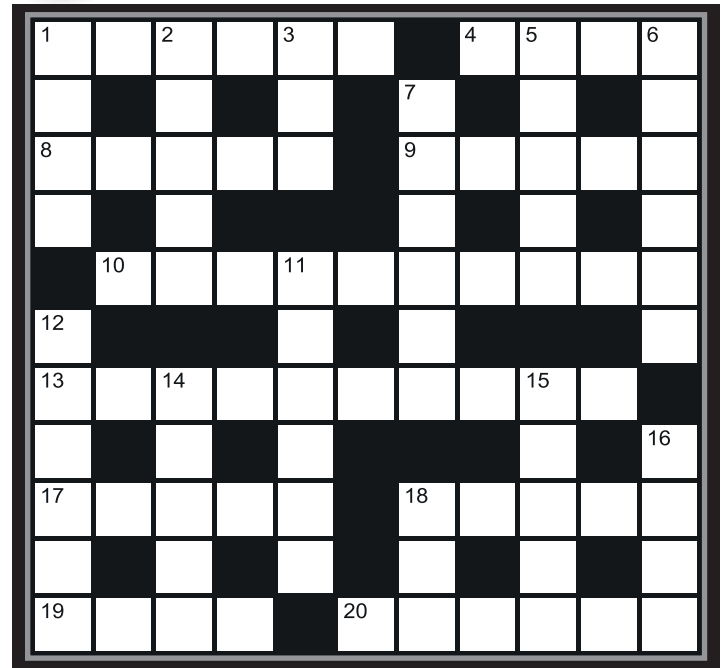
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents P and 18 represents X, so fill in P every time the figure 4 appears and X every time the figure 18 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 Thinly scattered (6)
- 4 Cut into pieces (4)
- 8 Moving quickly and lightly (5)
- 9 Motionless (5)
- 10 Disperse widely (10)
- 13 Lacking orderly continuity (10)
- 17 Courageous (5)
- 18 Have sovereign power (5)
- 19 Not difficult (4)
- 20 Stick fast to (6)

Down

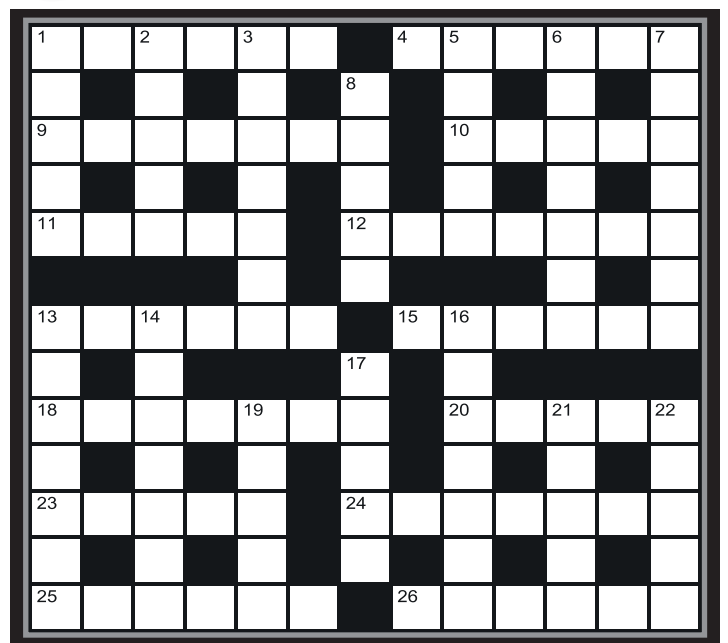
- 1 Counterfeit or pretence (4)

- 2 Plea in a criminal charge of having been elsewhere at the relevant time (5)

- 3/18 Become angry (3,3)
- 5 Japanese poetry form (5)
- 6 Steal in small quantities (6)
- 7 Allocate a task to a person (6)
- 11 Gardener's tool (6)
- 12 Suitable for use as food (6)
- 14 Complete duration of something (5)
- 15 Group or class of persons enjoying superior intellectual or social or economic status (5)
- 16 Joint between the thigh and shin bones (4)
- 18 See 3

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Cubo (balde) (6)
- 4 Alicates (6)
- 9 To bet (gamble) (7)
- 10 Daughter-in-law (5)
- 11 Sábana (de cama) (5)
- 12 Witness (7)
- 13 Keys (typewriter/piano) (6)
- 15 Delantales (6)
- 18 Moth (7)
- 20 Parrots (5)
- 23 Granddaughter (5)
- 24 Limpiadora (persona) (7)
- 25 Asustado (6)
- 26 Teller (in a bank) (6)

Down

- 1 Latón (metal) (5)
- 2 Cerrar (5)
- 3 Statue (7)
- 5 Pulmones (5)
- 6 Elected (7)
- 7 Estaciones (partes del año) (7)
- 8 Verdad (5)
- 13 Plugs (in bath, basin, barrel, for leak) (7)
- 14 Beehive (7)
- 16 Bracelet (7)
- 17 Salsa (5)
- 19 Irse de (5)
- 21 Enjuagar (de ropa) (5)
- 22 Deaf (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE



TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THERE are an increasing band of TV celebrities who have a fan base so loyal (or sheep-like, you choose) that with the protection of social media have become somehow un-touchable.

Do I dare share some thoughts? Of course! Piers Morgan, Jane McDonald, and Jeremy Clarkson to name just three.

So with the return of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* this week (ITV1, until May 11) I paused before deciding if I should include something, or not, but here goes.

The show is celebrating 20 years with a run of seven shows with Mr Clarkson trying, oh he is trying so hard, to fill



WELCOME RETURN: *Friday Night Dinner*.

Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

**TRYING
SO
HARD:
Jeremy
Clarkson
on
Who
Wants
To Be
A Millionaire.**

Chris Tarrant's shoes.

ITV has introduced a new 'Ask the Host' option for contestants, that's useful if there is a question about cars or having a temper and taking it out on your co-workers.

Jeremy started out by making an obviously scripted off the cuff remark about winners being able to live like The Queen, with an old Greek upstairs, which Clarkson fans loved and fans of the show probably thought didn't need to be there.

Jeremy hasn't (yet) been overly

supportive to contestants who struggle with the earlier/easier questions, but the viewing figures aren't too bad, after all you can get Top Gear on catch up.

My view, if you like Jeremy you will love it, if you like the show, you will probably put up with the new host, while most of us will dip in and out as the feeling takes us.

Thankfully Jeremy wasn't invited to dine with the Goodmans when *Friday Night Dinner* returned to Channel 4 last Friday and a good job too. Jackie and Martin have bought a hot tub so there would have been a risk of Mr Clarkson in budgie smugglers, think I will leave that one there.

This is series 5 so there is a risk that Adam and Jonny turning up for dinner on Friday and something going wrong will start to look stale. The first episode of the new series shouldn't have disappointed fans of the show, Jim and Wilson are back and the 'nippy-nippy' sequence surely had anyone watching with a family member squirming in their seat.

Jackie's mum returns later in the

run, so that should keep things bumping along nicely and what did you make of Jim's potential new girlfriend, more this week?

I'm really not trying to keep the image of Jeremy in swimming trunks alive, but thankfully he didn't make it to the Levante beach (hi to all our readers in the Costa Blanca) for the final episode of Benidorm last week. Most of us probably agree that the show has gone off the boil recently, but I will miss the antics around the pool in this smashing part of Spain.

There was a nice guest appearance for the creator of the show when Derren Litten launched a possible takeover bid as Elvis from Skegness and Claire Sweeney, Bobby Ball and Holly Johnson all pitched in to push the show to a conclusion. I think I will be a little bit sad not to have the cast doing their thing anymore.

It's the *Eurovision Song Contest* this Saturday (BBC1, for over three hours). Watch out for Cyprus, but Israel, Spain and the UK are not expected to make the top 10.

Happy viewing.



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Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I'VE been reading lately that shopping online is killing high street, bricks and mortar, shopping. This in my opinion is due to many reasons. Of course, the biggest one is the convenience - you don't have to get off your backside; you just click a couple of buttons.

Another is the massive shopping centres like Westfield. I've just got back from a few days in the UK and the thing is the high streets just haven't moved with the times. I was staying in Borehamwood. It has a nice high street but most of the shops are eateries - you can buy every type of food you want.

There is an abundance of nail places and estate agents but no 'shop' shops. At the back of the high street there is a mini shopping park where there are some of the big name stores but they are all closed up by 6pm.

Why? I remember when I had my first shop, we opened at 9.30am and closed at 5.30pm and had half-day closing on a Thursday. Remember those days?

This was 1980 and I had just opened my first video rental shop. After the first few weeks I realised that this couldn't work be-

cause the only customers I was getting were people who didn't work those hours or local workers who nipped in during their lunch break, so I changed my hours to be open 10am-7pm and no half-days and I opened Sundays too.

Business boomed, even though I had to fight the council tooth and nail not to be fined. Back to Borehamwood - I wanted to buy a pair of shoes. I got to the shop at 6.02pm and everything was locked up and gone. I'm sure if everyone opened later they would have a better chance of survival.

Of course they won't because you can't cover those opening hours with one shift. For us living here in Spain we are spoilt - we can shop from 10am till 10pm.

Sure we have some stores that still take a siesta but you don't half miss the longer hours when you are in the UK. Plus, here we still have thriving high streets with a great selection of independent retailers.

OK stand up Jet2 and take a bow. I used them for the first time this trip and they are head and shoulders above Ryanair. Their staff were so helpful and it's the little things like having a pocket on the back of the seat to put a paper and more legroom - give them a try.

So there you go I was temporarily happy this week.

mikesenker@gmail.com



EUROPE DAY

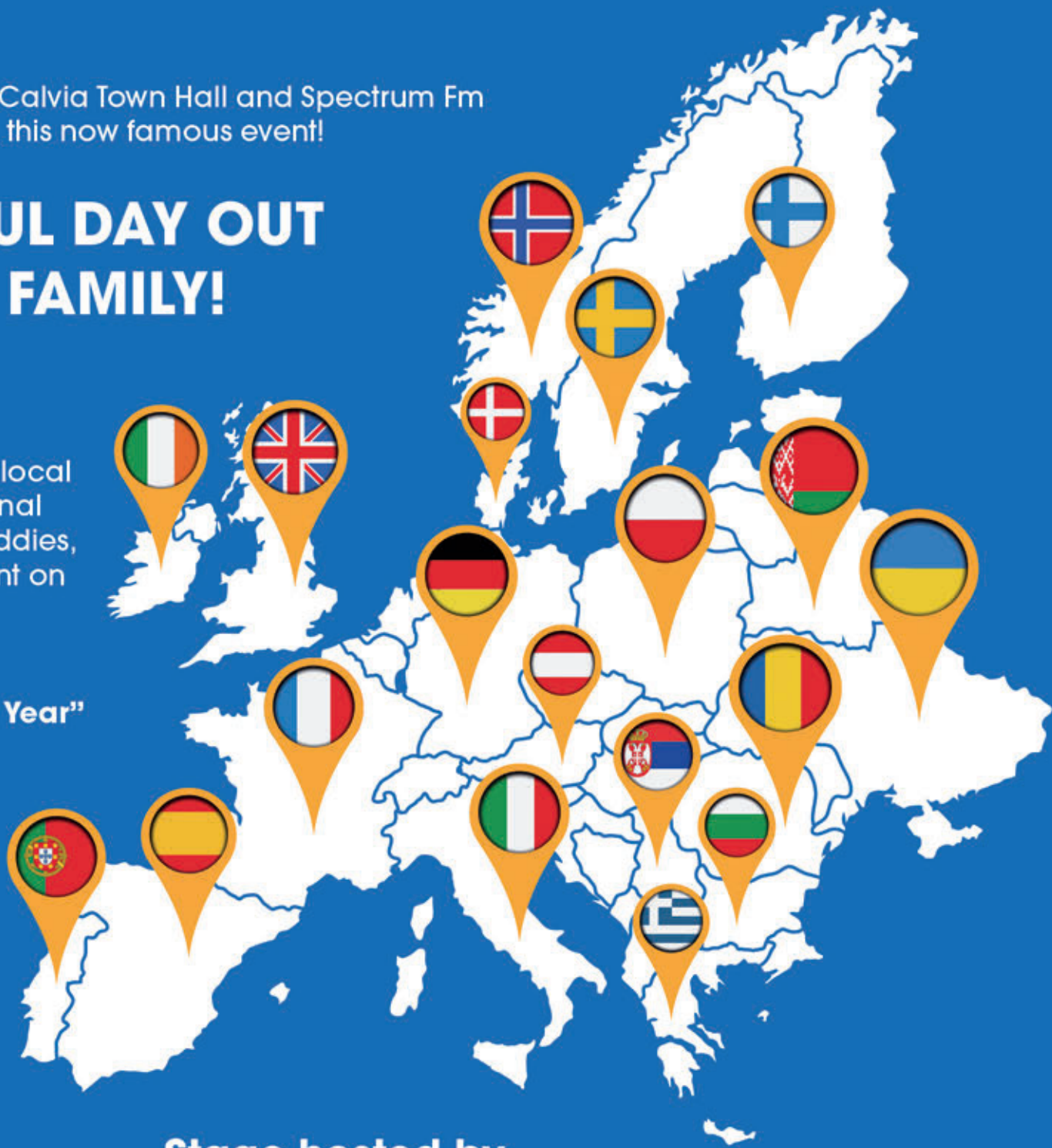
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Brits prefer blondes

RECENT research from Mintel reveals that blonde is the nation's most popular dyed hair colour of choice. So why not keep the nation happy and freshen up your locks. But don't be restricted in your choice.

Even though blondes are said to have much more fun, other colours can offer their own delights.

According to the research, 42 per cent of Brits choose to go blonde, hot on the heels of trendsetters such as Kim Kardashian and Cara Delevingne.

However, why not break the mould and be a bit more adventurous.

Of those who coloured their hair, a courageous 25 per cent were bold enough to go for non-natural choice, such as pastels and bright colours.

Nor is this advice just for women. As many as one in five men have dyed their hair in the comfort of their own home. This peaks at 38 per cent for 16-24 year olds.

And once they start, they just can't stop. A staggering 57 per cent of men who reach for the bottle do so once a month or more, compared to just 28 per cent of women.

If variety is the spice of your life then opt for a temporary hair colour or choose to have extensions put in.

Temporary hair colouring products have seen a boom in sales of 48 per cent in the last year alone. And if you decide you don't like it - or it doesn't match your new weekend outfit - then just wait a week and after a few washes you'll be back to your natural self again.

Alternatively, choose an option which will allow you to both experiment with colour and add length to your locks. Hair extensions are additional synthetic or natural locks of hair which are usually clipped, glued or sewed onto your own natural hair.

The great thing about hair extensions, particularly synthetic

ones, is the scope you have to change your look. Because of their synthetic nature, these additional locks can allow you to have straight and silky hair or go for a deep wave look. Or you can be a buxom brunette one night, and a bubbly blonde the next.

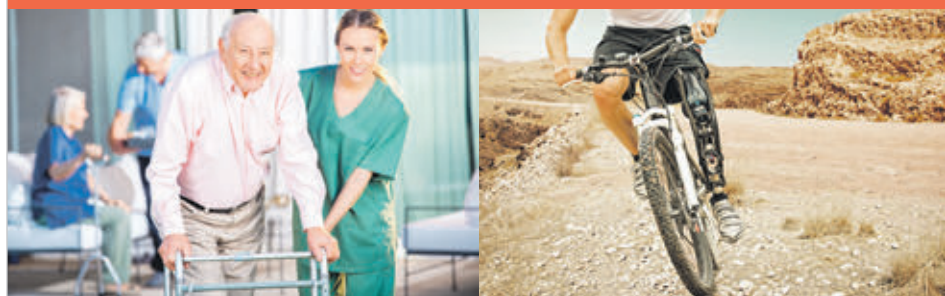
Now, you really have no reason not to go for gold.



BLONDE, BOUNCING AND BUBBLY: Even Kim prefers blondes.

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Pampered pleasures

SOMETIMES we need to retreat from the world and pamper ourselves a bit. And surely there is no better way than to escape for a few hours into the secluded world of a spa.

Heading to a spa for the day or even a few hours lets us disengage from work, family and friends. The experience allows us to slow down and re-generate the body. The waters improve our blood circulation which sends more oxygen and nutrients through the body and cells.

Time at a spa, can include more than just lounging in a

range of bubbling waters of differing temperatures. There are often a range of therapeutic therapies available to relax and relive chronic pain, such as arthritis or sciatica.

Such therapies can also cause serotonin to be released by the body creating a 'feel good' factor. Certain massages can stimulate the lymphatic system which helps the body to get rid of toxins. Other treatments such as body exfoliation can cleanse the skin, refining pores and offering much-needed relief.

The investment isn't just for the day either. These ben-

efits remain even after the spa. With a body renewed and recharged with nutrients and elements, the mind too will feel rejuvenated and relaxed for days to follow. If the price of a spa visit is too prohibitive for you, don't fret. There are other options out there to have a near-spa experience.

Spain has some of the most beautiful outdoor hot natural springs on the planet. Apart from the natural beauty of these outdoor springs, their real beauty is that they are free.

And many of them offer more than just piping-hot, mineral-rich thermal waters. The natural mud residue that lines many of these natural spas is just the thing that your body is aching for.

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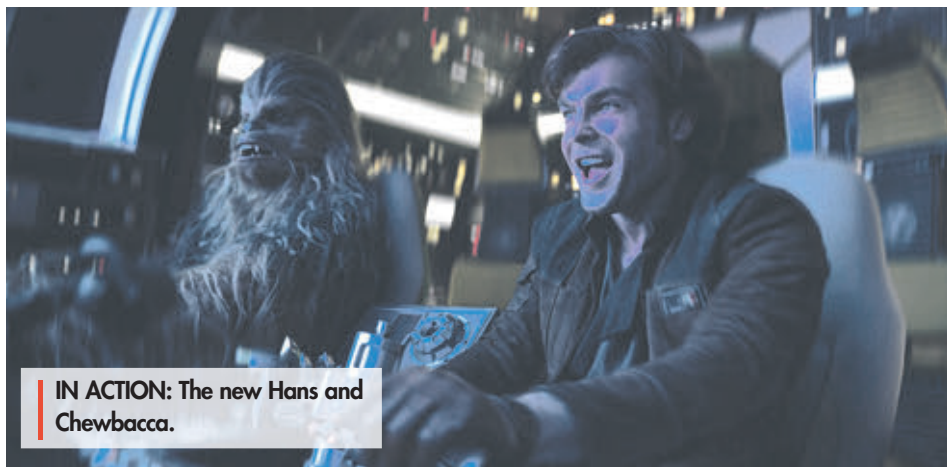
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Cannes, highlighting more than just films as women strive for recognition



IN ACTION: The new Hans and Chewbacca.

by **Michel Euesden**

ONE of the world's most important film festivals, the 71st Cannes Festival is underway and will run until May 19.

With all of the publicity given to the excesses of certain movie moguls, directors and actors, this will be an important pointer to how the film industry is actually trying to change for the better.

Although the jury which is to be chaired by Australian Oscar winner Cate Blanchett and includes actress Kristen Stewart as well as three other women, female directors are not greatly represented in the competition.

There are just three films out of 21 direct-

ed by women and they are France's Eva Husson, Alice Rohrwacher from Italy and Lebanon's Nadine Labaki and this year, Netflix is absent from the judging as it has refused to guarantee that their films will be screened in French cinemas.

One major change will be the instruction that those on the red carpet will not be permitted to take selfies and if they do, they run the risk of being refused entry to the screenings as this activity is considered vulgar.

May 15 is an important date in many Science Fiction fans' diaries as the first showing of Solo: A Star Wars Story, starring Alden Ehrenreich and directed by Ron Howard will take place in Cannes.

The Worldwide Tribe Film Screening

THE Worldwide Tribe is a not for profit organisation which raises funds to assist those in trouble around the world.

From Stories, part of a company producing environmentally friendly women's clothing, is presenting a film about the charity at the Cine Ciutat in Palma this evening (Thursday) which will run from 7pm to 9pm.

Tickets which can be reserved at <http://cineciutat.org> cost €11 and all profits will be donated to The Worldwide Tribe Charity.

On Saturday, there is an Instagram Workshop entitled Grow Your Business, Find Your Tribe running from 10am to 5pm in Port Soller. For more information about the

event, please call 675 451 094.

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A quick and easy spicy meal

Eat Well to Live Well
by **Andrew Harding**



THAI THIS AT HOME: Red curry is a quick and easy meal.

Thai Red Chicken Curry serves 2

- 400 grams chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 whole garlic clove, skinned and chopped
- 1 whole onion, chopped
- 1 Packet Thai Red Curry Paste
- 1 cube of ginger chopped (optional)

- 1 (or more) sliced and seeded red or green chillis
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 can of coconut milk
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1 whole aubergine, cubed
- 1 whole red bell pepper, sliced
- 2 teaspoons chopped Thai basil leaves

Fry the chicken, onion and garlic until chicken sealed and garlic and onion have become transparent.

Add the Thai red curry paste and fry for two more minutes.

Add all remaining ingredients, except for the basil and simmer until chicken cooked through and aubergine and red pepper are soft, add the basil and serve with boiled rice or noodles.

ANOTHER exotic but very easy and cost-effective recipe this week.

Thai red curry paste can be bought in most of the supermarkets in Spain, Mercadona have a good one for €1.

My jar of Thai basil was bought in the UK and frozen, but Italian basil is a perfectly good alternative, or coriander can be used if the taste of basil is not to your liking.

Ginger and chilli are optional and add heat to the curry, the former to a much lesser extent than the latter.

Tip: Choose chillis wisely, some are extremely spicy and contact lens wearers should get someone else to chop them otherwise bedtime will be a very painful experience! Wearing rubber gloves to chop them is always a good idea. Hand washing will not remove all the traces of the capsaicinoids that give the chillis their heat.

Tip: If as a family or couple, one or more like a hot curry and others don't, use green chillis that are not too finely chopped so they can be easily identified in contrast to the red pepper and removed from individual plates.

Tip: Any vegetable oil can be used but not olive oil. Ideally choose peanut or coconut, but rapeseed or sunflower also work well in this dish.

Tip: A cheap cut of beef can be used instead of chicken, it would need cooking slowly for about three to four hours (a slow cooker would be ideal) just add the aubergine and red pepper when the beef is tender. Prawns or fish can also be used and added just before serving so they are not overcooked. Use beef or fish stock instead of the chicken.

Rental revolution hits the Continent

A RECENT report from the Resolution Foundation has suggested that up to a third of young people in the UK face living in private rented accommodation all their lives.

The think tank said that 'generation rent' needs more help, with more affordable homes and better protection.

At this point it may be worth taking a look at other European countries to see how they compare:

Spain

Spain has historically had a

high rate of home ownership, reaching 80 per cent in 2008 before the financial bubble burst and the building boom ended.

The figure has slipped to 78 per cent but is likely to decline further with unemployment remaining high and mortgages difficult to obtain.

As a result, demand for rentals has risen, boosting Airbnb and other platforms, while pushing up prices.

According to online real estate agency Idealista, rents in

Barcelona have risen 55 per cent since 2012, and 23 per cent in Madrid over the same period.

Rental contracts tend to be for one or three years, after which they may be terminated, or renewed and the rent renegotiated.

Increasingly landlords in tourist areas are demanding excessive rents to force tenants out, so that they can turn apartments into lucrative holiday rentals.

Eviction also continues to be a serious problem, with lenders reluctant to negotiate terms.

France

French tenants benefit from much stricter rules on landlords, with rents on unfurnished dwellings only allowed to be increased by an index, called the IRL.

The rise was close to zero for much of 2016 and 2017, with an increase of 0.51 per cent permitted for this year.

Those renting an unfurnished property as their main



BUILDING BARCA: New apartment blocks are springing up across Catalonia.

residence are given a minimum three-year tenancy with an automatic right of renewal after three years.

If the landlord wants the tenant to leave, they must warn them six months in advance, (tenants only have to give three months' notice).

Landlords must also give the tenant a first right of refusal if they wish to sell, while evictions are forbid-

den in the winter months.

Germany

Only 46 per cent of Germans own their own homes, the lowest figure in Europe.

However, culturally there is nothing like the drive to want to own as there is in other European countries, with many downsizing once the children leave and wage-related pensions covering monthly payments.

Wartime bombing destroyed about 20 per cent of residential areas in towns and cities, and many refugees arrived in the country who had lost everything.

Banks do not help by demanding deposits that are a fifth of the purchase price, while estate agent fees and stamp duty charges do little to help those dreaming of their own home.

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Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

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Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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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.



Sunny Spain is best for British

NEW figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal that Spain is still the number one choice for British retirees in Europe.

The data confirms Spain as their 'most desirable location,' with Brits drawn in by sun, sea, leisure activities and tasty Mediterranean cuisine.

Three-quarters of a million British citizens live on the continent, and 37 per cent of them have made Spain their home, making it comfortably the most popular destination.

While two thirds of Brits living in the EU fall between the ages of 15 and 64, Spain is well-known for attracting an older demographic with some 41 per cent of British expats aged 65 and above.

Swimming and golf are believed to be the favourite activities for those living in warmer nations, which will



Credit: Shutterstock, Kapustin Igor

HOT SPOT: Spain has long been a favourite for Brits of all ages.

come as no surprise.

Moreover, a recent study carried out by the University of California indicated that the elderly who regularly walk longer distances suffer 50 per cent less cognitive impairment than those who

are less active.

Sales and Marketing Director of Taylor Wimpey España, Marc Pritchard, said:

"The Mediterranean climate and diet are well suited to those looking for a healthy lifestyle, while the

medical system here is also superb.

"As Spain remains the top choice in Europe for Brits living overseas, it's important to provide accommodation that suits their preferences and budgets."



Lifestyle Properties

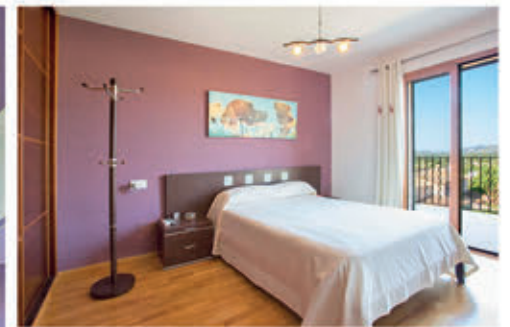
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Gardeners get going - it's spring

GRAEME TYRRELL

THE spring growth is a great opportunity to gain a wonderful garden.

It is a very busy time for gardeners with the warmer temperatures and longer days creating an explosion of growth which needs to be managed to make the most of the season. To get them off to a quick start, it is the perfect time to plant your summer annual flowers and vegetables.

Established plants will also start growing rapidly now and the new growth will make them look wonderfully healthier than usual.

Of course weeds and excess growth of even your favourite plant will need attention to keep the garden in the way you prefer it. Fortunately it is so good to be able to get out into the garden, with the beautiful spring sunshine making it one of the best times of the year for the avid gardener.

Annual summer flowers can provide a beautiful display. Many favourite annuals from northern European regions require a lot of water to do well though. I usually plant a small number of summer annuals in planter boxes with trays to catch any excess water from being lost and use a good potting mix that retains water well.

The Mediterranean climate with long, dry, hot



Credit: Blacktheep Shutterstock

SPRING: A time of rapid growth.

summers is not ideal for large plantings of cooler climate summer annuals in the garden. If you have a balcony or terrace with planter pots or window boxes, annuals can be a really good way to brighten them up.

If you are planting a vegetable garden, make sure that you enrich the soil with plenty of moisture-holding compost to reduce watering needs in

summer. After planting your tomatoes, capsicum, summer squash and other summer varieties ensure that you mulch the garden with coarse compost, straw or any other suitable material which will reduce evaporation and keep soil temperatures cooler.

Keeping the soil temperature lower is important in summer as plant growth will slow when

the roots get too hot. Insulating with mulch keeps soil temperatures closer to spring conditions so growth will continue to thrive for longer.

There is the inevitable weed growth which always seem to grow faster than anything else in spring. It is a good idea to learn more about these spontaneous plants as many do have attractive flowers. If the garden is not a formal design, many weeds can be left to flower and then be removed.

Even in my vegetable garden I allow certain plants normally classed as weeds, such as poppies and borage, to add colour to the garden with no extra work.

Many people are also finding that there are many weeds which are actually edible and even the flowers can be added to salads and in cooking. Many of these wild plants were actually a normal part of the diet before explorers centuries ago brought back vegetable varieties from around the world to replace the native food sources of the Mediterranean.

The shrubs and perennials which are normally planted in autumn (so they establish their roots over winter) start to grow with the warmer spring weather. It is a good idea to lightly trim the ones that you want to grow thick and bushy now while growth is active and before the sun becomes too intense for pruning.



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WITH rising temperatures, you might feel the heat is on to finally install a central air conditioning system. However, if your budget is already stretched, there are other less expensive options to keep you cool under the collar at home.

The three most popular

are portable units, window units and traditional fans.

Portable or window units can be cheap and easy to install. Both systems allow

you to cool a specific room, rather than waste energy and money cooling your entire home.

The benefit of a portable unit is that it can be moved easily from room to room. This is different to a window unit which is fixed to a window, or through the wall. Of the two, portable units are more expensive to buy and tend to use a lot more energy. Whereas window units are extremely energy efficient and don't take up any valuable floor space.

However, if you want to keep expenses to a minimum, the traditional air fan is always a trusted option. Installation is easy - you simply plug it in - and it can be moved from room to room with ease.

Of course, do bear in mind that most air fans don't actually 'cool' the air. They simply circulate air around you, giving the sen-

sation that you are being cooled off.

These fans might provide some much-needed instant relief from the heat, but if your budget can

stretch that far, opt for a portable or window unit to keep your home comfortable over the months ahead.

Hot under the collar



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COOLING DOWN: Portable fans can easily be moved from room to room.



David
THE Dogman

columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

Bringing the baby home

MOST people treat their dog like a baby and often problems will occur when a real baby is brought home. You must plan for the new baby's arrival.

Acquaint the dog with a friend's children. Let them feed it some of its favourite treats. Stay calm and keep the dog on a lead. If at this stage the dog is showing any signs of aggression, then professional help is needed.

If the dog is used to sleeping in a bedroom, place the dog bed outside the room in its basket or on its blanket. If necessary, put the dog on a lead and restrict it to an area.

Consider walking around with a stuffed doll. Even talk to it in a baby voice as if it is a real baby. When changing the baby's nappy - both the real one and the toy one - always put your dog in the Sit-Stay command.

Let it sniff and watch, for

this is the time to accustom it to baby sounds and praise it for being good. Use different phrases and voices for the dog and the baby.

For safety reasons and hygiene, dogs must not be allowed on the furniture near the new baby. Start the new house rules by taking the dog by the collar and lead and taking it to its bed. Move the bed around the home to every room (except bedrooms) in the house. The dog must learn to stay where it is put.

Start getting a little more removed from the dog in three 20-minute intervals. First, go into another room for 20 minutes. Close the door behind you so that it cannot follow you. Then come out for 20 minutes before returning for another 20 minutes. Stop all tug-of-war games, wrestling and all games involving chasing.

Babies have to be fed several times a day so, to prevent jeal-



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES: You must train your dog around the new baby.

ousy, give the dog four very small meals a day... the same amount split into four.

Toys are a big headache. You don't want a dropped toy to be licked. No more shoes, socks,

slippers, and plastic or stuffed toys for the dog. Now is the time to take away all its toys from the floor. Train it to play with one at a time. Paint the others with a mouthwash

which dogs do not like. If your dog goes for it, pick up the toy and shout at the toy. Very soon the dog will keep away from anything smelling of mouthwash.

Babies like to grab and pull but dogs don't like it at all. Start getting the dog used to this treatment by gently pulling it and grabbing its tail and then, within three seconds, hug it and give plenty of praise.

When the baby is born, ask a maternity home nurse for some bed sheets from the baby's nursery. Have these put in the new nursery at home and around the area of the home where the baby will be nursed. Let the dog sniff around the house at the new smells and praise it.

Plan your homecoming and let the dog welcome the baby by sniffing while on a lead.

Keep the lead trailing on the floor for the first week so that it can be used to correct all mouthing and jumping. Praise when the dog does not jump or mouth.

Your dog should now accept the new house rules and the new arrival.

Stop dogs pining while you're away

KEEPING dogs at home with dog-sitters can have many advantages.

Along time ago I had a dog who was very much an only dog. And when he lost sight of me he would howl for a long time, sometimes very loudly. Even when I popped into a shop tying him outside he would howl until I returned acting as if I had deserted him.

This same dog was put in kennels for three weeks during our holidays and when we returned he had lost his voice and was emaciated. He just lost his appetite. It became apparent that he absolutely would need to stay at home with a sitter to ensure he was as comfortable as possible, and would experience the least stress possible if there was companionship and a familiarity to his surroundings.

We then used dog-sitters to

stay in our home.

It may be no surprise to those of you who know I have been running HouseSit Match.com for five years now to help other pet owners keep their pets at home in order to minimise pet anxiety when the owners go on holiday.

What is more I have structured our business so that the costs remain low for all members. Both owners and sitters join as 'members' of our network paying an annual fee but no other money should change hands.

It is a win win, with sitters benefiting from a new location, and owners benefiting from free pet care at home!

Why join a network like HouseSitMatch?

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bers on joining, and police check all sitters. We believe this transparency is safer for everyone.

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How you do join?

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Cats, kittens and claws

IF you are tired of your cat destroying your furniture, there are a few things you can do to prevent your feline friend from tearing your home to pieces.

And the solution is as simple as introducing a comparable alternative into your shared surroundings.

Cats scratch to get rid of the dead layers of tissue from their nails and keep their claws in top shape.

They also do it to mark their territory and as a means to stretch and release stress.

Put simply, all cats need to scratch. It is an instinctive aspect of their natural behaviour.

The best compromise for you both, is to introduce one or two scratchers into your home.

Before you do so, however, observe your four-legged friend to identify where and how they like to scratch.

Then, place a scratcher beside the object that you want the cat to leave alone. Remember to replace it with a material that offers a comparable experience for the cat.

So, if the cat likes to scratch

the hard vertical side of your sofa in the living room, then simply place a vertical scratcher of a hard material beside it.

Your cat will soon move its attention away from your

prized furniture and towards the scratcher.

Once this has been achieved, move the scratcher away from the furniture, little by little, to the more desirable location.



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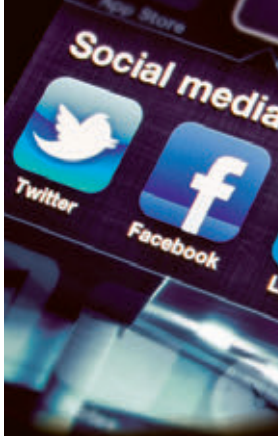
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Palma Vela Regatta comes to an end

LAST week saw the 15th PalmaVela Regatta take place in the Bay of Palma with action in all 14 competing classes.

The wind was erratic to say the least, with speeds varying from two to 20 knots and some of the four days enjoying glorious sunshine whilst other days saw heavy rain.

A total of 132 vessels from 26 different countries made the journey to Palma which resulted in a total of 20 champions crowned when taking into account the different classes and sub-divisions.

This is the first of the major annual sailing regattas in the



NAUTOR SWAN: Vessels taking part in the PalmaVela.

Mediterranean and with the true international flavour of the compe-

tion, it sets a high standard for other regattas to follow.

Champions of this, the 15th PalmaVela were: Magic Blue (Wally class), Selene (IRC), Azzurra (TP52), Earlybird (ClubSwan 50), Elena Nova (Swan 45), Selene Alifax (ClubSwan 42), Inga from Sweden (Melges 40), Dktegoria (ORC 1), Petrouchka III (ORC 2), Airlan Aermecc (ORC 3), Mestral Fast (ORC 4), Fehurihi (ORC E), Opera Season (J80), Dottore Falafel (Dragon), Speedy Gonzales (Flying Fifteen), Marigan (Cangreja), Cippino (Bermudiano), Legolas (Spirit of Tradition), Team CVP Andratx 1 (Hansa 303) and Team CVPA 1 (Hansa 303 Doble).

Although his father is best known as a yachtsman, it has been reported in the Spanish press that King Felipe VI has taken delivery of a ClubSwan50 from the Finnish shipyard Nautor Swan and it was shipped in part to the naval base of Puerto Pi where it was completed and competed as part of its test in the PalmaVela under the title of A5.

It is intended that it will take part in the Copa del Rey in Palma later this year with His Majesty on board and will be named, like earlier yachts, the Aifos (the name of his mother, Sofia, spelled backwards).

Special offer for entry at Southampton Boat Show

ANY lovers of the sea who are thinking of visiting the UK for a holiday in September may be interested in a special offer from the organisers of Britain's biggest and best festival of boating.

The rather awkwardly named Yacht-Market.com Southampton Boat Show is back for its 50th anniversary, celebrating the finest the marine world has to offer from over 600 global brands with the chance to view 330 boats at your leisure.

The show promises to be the most eco-friendly as it looks to turn the tide on plastic.

As a bonus, visitors can see groundbreaking technology from the National



FLASHBACK: All the fun of the 2017 show.

Oceanography Centre, exploring the wonders which lie beneath the waves.

The show runs from September 14 to

23 in Southampton and advance tickets saving up to 30 per cent, may be purchased on the show website.

Jet Ski Marbella

MARBELLA hosts this Friday to Sunday the Second Jet Ski Championship of Spain and Andalucia. Up to 90 contestants are expected to take part in the waters off the Fontanilla Beach (under the Skol building) and whilst it may be noisy, it will certainly be an exciting few days.

All are encouraged to visit the area and Saturday's race will be aimed at technique, whilst Sunday's will take particular note of skill at speed.

This is a regular event which has visited Marbella every year since 2013 (except for 2016) and the council and organisers intend to expand participation in this type of



WATER FUN: Popular.

competition in the future.

There is no question that the combination of speed and skill is attractive to international audiences and it is expected that the various races will be broadcast across some 70 TV channels across the world.

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MOTORING FACT

“ American inventor Ralph Teetor, who in 1945 invented cruise control aged 55, had been blind since an accident he suffered at five years old.

BRITISH carmaker Aston Martin has unveiled its latest €4.5 million luxury vehicle, but it doesn't have any wheels.

A joint project with underwater specialist Triton, the bizarre-looking James Bond-style pod is a submarine code-named Project Neptune, and it made its debut at this week's LYBRA Superyacht Show in Barcelona.

Initial images of the futuristic machine emerged last year, but now the manufacturers have released new photos with details of the 'exclusive, strictly limited edition'

Live and let dive

Aston Martin unveils €4.5m sub

vehicle's specifications.

Featuring a three-seat design offering near 360-degree visibility, it can dive to 500 metres below the surface and accelerate to just over five knots (9.6kph), four times faster than Triton's 'flagship' 3300/3 submersible.

One of the positions is designed to be occupied by a trained and qualified pilot, who will control the craft using a special joystick, although owners are able to sign up for a month-long training course during which they will also learn how to launch and

bring it back to deck using a crane which is sold separately.

The incredible gadget can stay underwater for up to 10 hours and has powerful LED headlights to navigate in the murky depths.

Aston Martin has said that Project Neptune is heavily-influenced by its upcoming €2.8 million Valkyrie track car.

And chief creative officer Marek Reichman said that the interior design was a greater challenge than that of the 200mph behemoth.

"Unlike a sports car where the interiors are installed into an open-sided cabin before the doors are fitted, everything you see inside will be lowered through the upper-hatch and assembled within the completed sphere of the hull," he said.

John Ramsay, chief technical officer at Triton Submarines, added: "The prototypes look incredible, being simultaneously functional and beautiful.

"The interior is quintessentially Aston Martin - a luxurious mix of hand-stitched leather and high-performance carbon fibre, assembled without obstructing the panoramic sight lines that Triton submersibles are famous for."

A range of colours and trims plus personalised extras will also be available.



ASTON-ISHING: The submarine can descend to a depth of 500 metres.

Photo credit Aston Martin

ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

Skoda Karoq Edition

SKODA'S Yeti compact SUV was a big seller and its replacement, the larger Koroq, is set for even greater success with enhanced space and versatility giving it wider appeal.

The SUV sector is jammed with alluring models and while some of them have perhaps a more sporty feel than the Koroq, they do not have its overall blend of driving comfort and refinement and its day-to-day family practicality.

Offering more striking and classy styling than

the Yeti, with more of an off-roader look, most Karoq models will be 2WD - a 4WD system is available only with the 2.0-litre diesel engine.

With prices starting at €23,767 (£20,875), Koroq is keenly priced and offers a good range of engines, including a 1.6 diesel and 1.0-litre and 1.5-litre turbo petrol units.

There are three trim lev-

els, with the starter SE model well-kitted with alloys, DAB radio, Bluetooth, smartphone connectivity and dual-zone climate control among its features.

My flagship Edition version adds much more, including larger touchscreen and upgraded satnav with voice and gesture control, leather upholstery, panoramic sunroof and rear seats with variable positions to

enlarge

load space or allow more legroom for occupants. In 2.0-litre 148 hp 4WD form, and with seven-speed auto gearbox, this version costs €36,438 (£32,005).

Top speed is 195 kph (121 mph), the 0-100 kph time 9.3 seconds, and fuel economy 19.2 kpl (54.3mpg). The emissions figure is 138 g/km.

The exterior style of the Karoq is forceful and impressive and while the dashboard design is rather ordinary it has a quality appearance. It is perfectly functional, with an excellent layout of dials and

switchgear.


On the road, the car immediately impresses with its accurate steering, excellent handling balance and better ride comfort than you get in most SUV models.

Five occupants will have ample space, and the big 520-litre boot expands to 1,800 litres with rear seats folded.


Plenty of cabin stowage places and aircraft-style tables for rear seat passengers help underline the family-friendly aspect of the new Karoq.



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La Liga Preview

Barca are the Real deal

BARCELONA maintained their incredible undefeated run in La Liga this season despite having a man sent off in a spiky 2-2 draw with Real Madrid on Sunday.

Luis Suarez volleyed Barca into the lead after 10 minutes, only for Cristiano Ronaldo to quickly bundle in an equaliser.

Sergi Roberto was shown a straight red card at the end of the first half for catching Marcelo around the face, before a clinical Lionel Messi finish and a sublime Gareth Bale curler left honours even in the contest.

Barca will travel to Levante on Sunday and it will require something special to end their 13-month unbeaten league record, while Real Madrid will host Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Villarreal moved to within touching distance of qualifying for the Europa league after Mario Gaspar headed a



MARCHING ORDERS: Sergi Roberto received a red card in an ill-tempered El Clasico.

late winner at Estadio de la Ceramica to edge rivals Valencia 1-0.

They will travel to relegated Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday, while Valencia will head to mid-tableers Girona.

Girona were comprehensively thrashed 4-1 by

Eibar, who themselves are aiming for a top-half finish.

Real Betis saw their eight-match undefeated league run end in a 2-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, ensuring a top-four spot for Valencia.

Bilbao will be heading to Alaves on Saturday, who

dispatched bottom placed Malaga 3-0.

Other fixtures this weekend will see Atletico Madrid travel to Getafe, Real Sociedad entertain Leganes and Eibar host Las Palmas on Saturday, while Malaga heads to Espanyol on Sunday.

Premier League preview

Blues stay in Champions League hunt

OLIVIER GIROUD was the match-winner as Chelsea kept their top-four hopes alive with a 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge.

The Frenchman expertly headed in Victor Moses' cross in the first-half after the visitors had dominated possession and failed to capitalise.

Chelsea have now moved to within two points of Tottenham in fourth and just three behind third-placed Liverpool with two games remaining.

Manager Antonio Conte said Chelsea were "putting pressure" on their rivals, and as things stand Liverpool need to beat Brighton at home next Sunday to guarantee Champions League football.

Chelsea themselves will host Huddersfield Town on Wednesday, before travelling to Newcastle for their season finale on Sunday.

Newcastle slipped to a third successive defeat at Watford on Saturday, with the Hornets securing Premier League survival in a 2-1 win thanks to first-half goals from Roberto Pereyra and Andre Gray.

According to manager Rafael Benitez, Newcastle's players looked like they were already "on holiday," while goalscorer Ayoze Perez described it as "embarrassing."

Elsewhere, Jake Livermore's last-gasp goal handed West Brom a 1-0 victory over Tottenham, keeping their slim hopes of survival alive.

Just hours later, the Baggies were seconds from relegation when Southampton were denied victory over Everton by a 96th minute Tom Davies equaliser.

The Saints moved out of the bottom three and above Swansea despite conceding a heart-breaking stoppage time goal to make it 1-1.



FRENCH FLAIR: Giroud's deft header means the top-four battle will go to the wire.

Everton, who stay eighth in the table, were booed at the final whistle of their final home game of the season, and the result means they can no longer overhaul seventh-placed Burnley who have qualified for the Europa League.

Swansea's 1-0 loss at Bournemouth leaves them in real danger, and winless in seven games, while Stoke's 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace ended their 10-year stay in the top flight.

Arsene Wenger said his farewell to the Emirates Stadium with a 5-0 thrashing of Burnley, before being treated to a guard of honour from Arsenal and Burnley players alike.

Other fixtures this weekend will see Swansea host Stoke, Arsenal travel to Huddersfield and Crystal Palace entertain West Brom on Sunday.

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • Barcelona	87	35	26	9	0	89	23
2 • Atlético	75	36	22	9	5	55	20
3 • Real Madrid	72	35	21	9	5	84	39
4 • Valencia	67	36	20	7	9	62	37
5 • Betis	59	36	18	5	13	56	56
6 • Villarreal	57	35	17	6	12	50	41
7 • Getafe	52	36	14	10	12	41	32
8 • Sevilla	51	35	15	6	14	43	54
9 • Girona	48	36	13	9	14	48	57
10 • Eibar	47	36	13	8	15	41	48
11 • R. Sociedad	46	36	13	7	16	63	56
12 • Celta	46	36	12	10	14	55	52
13 • Alavés	44	36	14	2	20	37	48
14 • Athletic	43	36	10	13	13	40	45
15 • Espanyol	43	36	10	13	13	31	41
16 • Levante	43	36	10	13	13	37	50
17 • Leganés	40	36	11	7	18	29	46
18 • Deportivo	29	36	6	11	19	35	70
19 • Las Palmas	22	36	5	7	24	23	71
20 • Málaga	20	36	5	5	26	23	56

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • M. City	94	36	30	4	2	102	26
2 • M. United	77	36	24	5	7	67	28
3 • Liverpool	72	37	20	12	5	80	38
4 • Tottenham H.	71	36	21	8	7	68	32
5 • Chelsea	69	36	21	6	9	61	34
6 • Arsenal	60	36	18	6	12	72	48
7 • Burnley	54	37	14	12	11	35	37
8 • Everton	49	37	13	10	14	43	55
9 • Leicester City	44	36	11	11	14	49	54
10 • Newcastle United	41	36	11	8	17	36	46
11 • Crystal Palace	41	37	10	11	16	43	55
12 • Bournemouth	41	37	10	11	16	43	60
13 • Watford	41	37	11	8	18	44	63
14 • Brighton	40	36	9	13	14	33	47
15 • West Ham Utd.	38	36	9	11	16	45	67
16 • Huddersfield Town	36	36	9	9	18	27	56
17 • Southampton	33	36	6	15	15	36	55
18 • Swansea City	33	36	8	9	19	27	53
19 • West Bromwich	31	37	6	13	18	31	54
20 • Stoke City	30	37	6	12	19	33	67

Fergie's battle

By Staff Reporter

MESSAGES of support have been flooding in for former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who remains in intensive care after undergoing emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage.

It comes after the 76-year-old was said to be awake and 'asking about his results' in the wake of the life-threatening incident.

He was reportedly taken to Salford Royal Hospital with a police escort after falling ill at his Cheshire home over the weekend.

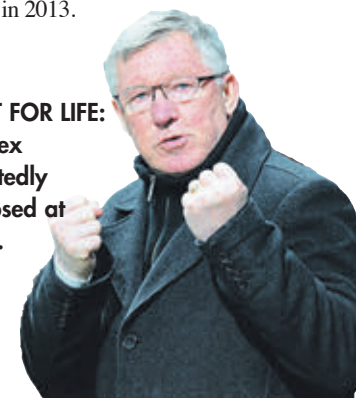
Manchester United said in a statement: "Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain haemorrhage. The procedure has gone very well but he

needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy in this matter."

The legendary Scot won 49 trophies as a manager, including 13 Premier League titles, five FA Cups and two Champions Leagues.

He retired from club football in 2013.

FIGHT FOR LIFE: Sir Alex reportedly collapsed at home.



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LIONEL MESSI and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored in the drawn El Clasico last weekend, and their goals mean they have hit a staggering combined total of 1,000 goals for Barcelona and Real Madrid.

orca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Proper champion Yorkshire in race to host Vuelta

SPAIN'S most prestigious cycling race could soon start in Yorkshire.

It comes as director of the Vuelta a España, Javier Guillen, jetted to the UK for talks with sheep farmer turned Chief Executive of the Welcome to Yorkshire tourism agency, Gary Verity.

La Vuelta, also known as the Tour of Spain, is one of the world's three most important cycling tour events alongside the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

It was last year won by Team

Sky cyclist Chris Froome, who became the first Briton to pick up the title after bagging his fourth Tour de France just weeks earlier.

Mr Verity led the successful campaign for the 2014 Tour de



France to start in the northern English county, when the first two stages saw the competitors race from Leeds to Harrogate and York to Sheffield.

And speaking at the start of the Tour de Yorkshire's third stage, he confirmed that discussions to bring the Spanish event to Britain are underway.

"We would love to start the Vuelta here, it's kind of Spanish weather isn't it?" he said. "It would work really well, we've got a great relationship with Javier Guillen who's the director of the Vuelta."

Yorkshire will next year host the UCI Road World Championship, the first UK venue to do so for 37 years.

TOUR DE FORCE: British cyclist Chris Froome wins stage nine on his way to victory in last year's Vuelta a España.

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FA Cup final preview

Locking horns in FA Cup

WITH the Premier League drifting towards its foregone conclusion, the FA Cup final on May 19 now stands as the biggest fixture left in the 2017-18 season.

It will be the 137th grand finale of the tournament, and a chance for two heavyweights of English football, Chelsea and Manchester United, to salvage something from their disappointing seasons.

It will also mark the first final between Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho, two bitter rivals whose verbal spats this season descended into vicious personal attacks.

Eden Hazard, man of the match in Chelsea's semi-final win against Southampton and who has shone in the competition this year, can expect much closer attention from Mourinho's side.

United themselves can take much confidence from absorb-



BEST OF ENEMIES: Mourinho and Conte will not give an inch in the final.

ing Tottenham's blistering pace and pressing in the semi-final, fighting back from a goal down to claim victory.

A goal which saw Paul Pogba's perfect cross athletically converted by Alexis Sanchez was a sign of the weapons that Mourinho has at his disposal.

Chelsea are back in the final after losing to Arsenal a year ago, and winning the FA Cup might not be enough to convince either Conte or Chelsea

owner Roman Abramovich that their two-year partnership should be extended.

Meanwhile Jose Mourinho has claimed that his critics will 'kill' him if his team fail to lift the trophy.

However, victory over Chelsea would yield the fourth trophy of Mourinho's two-year reign as United manager, following last season's Europa League, League Cup and Community Shield successes.

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